



Swinford Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

February 2017

**Client: Orion Heritage
on behalf of Hallam Land Management**


Issue No: 1
NGR: SP 54870 83880



Client Name: Orion Heritage on behalf of Hallam Land Management
Client Ref No.: QU-0344
Document Title: Swinford Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire
Document Type: Evaluation Report
Grid Reference: SP 54870 83880
Planning Reference: Pre planning investigation
Site Code: X.A134.2016
Invoice Code: LUTSREV
Receiving Body: Leicestershire Museum Service
Accession No.: X.A134.2016

OA Document File Location: \\Projects\\LUTSREV_Lutterworth_Leics\002Reports
OA Graphics File Location: \\invoice codes i thru q\L_codes\LUTSREV

Issue No: 1
Date: 2nd February 2017
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Swinford Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the east of Swinford Road, south of Lutterworth, Leicestershire between 5th-16th December 2016. The evaluation was preceded by a magnetometer geophysical survey that provided clear evidence for archaeological activity across the southern and western part of the site. The trial trench evaluation was targeted to specifically investigate the geophysical survey results and to establish the presence/absence of remains across the northern part of the site.

A total of 19 trenches were excavated, confirming the presence of a large, single-phase, rectangular enclosure measuring approximately 112m by 70m occupying the former high ground across the southern part of the site. Pottery assemblages recovered from the ditch securely date this to the late 2nd century AD.

A series of ditches, gullies and pits were investigated within the enclosure area, although these lacked artefact assemblages. A clear association between the enclosure and other features was not established, although the propensity of these to be within the enclosure and the absence of similar features beyond suggests a link.

Some ferrous metalworking activity (smithing) was undertaken at the site as evidenced by hammerscale and burnt clay fragments recorded in Trench 3.

The topographical levels across the northern part of the site bordered by the M1 Junction 20 slip road and the A4303 had been substantially raised during the 20th century. Here made ground soil depths of up to 2m were recorded, probably related to the M1 construction, although the deposition of these had not been preceded by truncation.

Archaeological features across the northern part of the site were limited to more sparsely arranged linear features that are likely to represent field boundaries peripheral to settlement activities.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Orion Heritage and Hallam Land Management for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Teresa Hawtin, Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council Historic and Natural Environment Team, for her advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Steve Lawrence. The fieldwork was directed by Mariusz I. Gorniak, who was supported by Christof Heisterman, Martin Locker, Robert McIntosh, and Chris Richardson. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Conan Parsons. Thanks are 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 Project commission and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Orion Heritage on behalf of Hallam Land Management to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land off Swinford Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken as a pre-planning investigation with the results intended to inform the determination of any future application with regard to the archaeological potential within the site boundary. A formal brief was not issued by Leicestershire County Council (LCC) Historic and Natural Environment Team. However, the scope of work was advised by Orion Heritage based upon a reasonable requirement to adequately evaluate the site following discussions with Teresa Hawtin, Senior Planning Archaeologist at LCC. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by OA outlining how it would undertake the evaluation in accordance with local and national archaeological evaluation recording guidelines (OA 2016). The WSI was approved by Teresa Hawtin prior to commencement of the fieldwork.
- 1.1.3 The evaluation as outlined in the WSI comprised 21 trenches, each measuring 40m x 2m, representing a 4% sample of the site by area (approximately 4ha). These were arranged to provide a good spatial coverage of the whole site whilst also targeting features identified by a geophysical magnetometer survey undertaken in 2014 (Stratascan 2014) (Fig. 2). The scope was revised during the course of the fieldwork to 19 trenches following the identification of deep soils across the northern part of the site (see Sections 2.2 and 3.2).
- 1.1.4 The fieldwork was completed between 5th-16th December 2016.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 At the time of the fieldwork the evaluation area comprised an arable field bounded by the A4303 Lutterworth Road to the north, the western side of the M1 cutting to the east, Swinford Road to the south and a former railway line cutting to the west. The site is centred on NGR SP 5483 8874.
- 1.2.2 The site is situated on relatively flat ground between approximately 128-126m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) near Swinford Road before sloping down towards the northern boundary of the site. The site is on high ground overlooking the course of the River Swift to the north and west at about 110m aOD.
- 1.2.3 The solid geology comprises Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formations overlain by Till (Diamicton) (BGS website).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site and the surrounding landscape has been described in detail in a Desk-based Assessment (DBA) undertaken by CgMs Consulting in 2013 (CgMs 2013). The following section includes a summary of the information provided by the DBA relevant to the current site boundary along with the results of subsequent investigations.

Desk-based assessment

- 1.3.2 The DBA examined the known heritage assets for two parcels of land either side of the A4303 including the present site south of the road. This concluded that, on the basis of the available information, the site is considered to have high potential for Bronze Age remains. A quantity of prehistoric flintwork, presumed to be of Bronze Age date, has been recorded within the parcel of land to the north of the A4303 and a cropmark of a Bronze Age ring ditch has been recorded toward the southern end of the southern block of the site. The cropmark of an enclosure of possible Iron Age origin has also been recorded within the southern block of the site (see geophysical survey results below). The Misterton/Lutterworth area has been extensively fieldwalked by a local archaeological society recording a quantity of prehistoric flint artefacts. This suggests that the area has been occupied/exploited throughout the prehistoric periods. The DBA concluded that the study site is considered to have low potential for remains of all other archaeological periods.

Geophysical survey

- 1.3.3 A magnetometer survey was carried out by Stratascan in 2014, prior to the evaluation of the land parcel north of the A4303. This identified buried remains across the southern half of the site south of the A4303. The main feature was a large rectangular enclosure with dimensions of approximately 100m NW-SE by 77m NE-SW. A single linear ditch was also recorded aligned NW-SE parallel to Swinford Road with numerous, possibly associated, features arranged within the enclosure. Although the date of the enclosure and the other remains was uncertain, the enclosure bears some resemblance to the remains of Iron Age settlements/activity within the surrounding landscape, most notably at DIRFT, to the south of the site and west of Crick, Northamptonshire. No clear evidence of a ring ditch as noted from cropmark records was encountered and it is likely that the internal features of the enclosure account for this.

Archaeological evaluation

- 1.3.4 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken in 2014 on the parcel of land to the north of the A4303 Lutterworth Road (ULAS 2014). This recorded a mill leat associated with the medieval St. John's Hospital to the west of the site, in the form of several shallow parallel linear features. Artefactual dating evidence from these channels supports cartographic evidence for this feature continuing as an open water channel into the post-medieval and modern periods, with environmental evidence suggesting possible food preparation activity in the vicinity. There were no further indications of archaeological activity recorded at the site. No features were encountered that might have been contemporary with the lithic material recovered from the fieldwalking.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

General

2.1.1 The aim of the evaluation was to identify any archaeological remains and the potential impacts upon these. To do this the general aims as specified in the WSI were to:

- i. establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains,
- ii. determine and confirm the character of any remains present, without compromising any deposits that may merit detailed investigation or preservation,
- iii. determine or estimate the date range of any remains from artefacts or otherwise, characterise any underlying archaeological strata down to undisturbed geology without significantly impacting upon significant younger (overlying) deposits where possible,
- iv. determine the geo-archaeological and palaeo-environmental potential of any archaeological deposits encountered,
- v. recover suitable materials for scientific dating where appropriate,
- vi. establish what archaeological remains/deposits may be affected by any proposed development,
- vii. make available the results of the investigation to inform subsequent mitigation strategies,
- viii. produce a factual report, full archive and HER data submission,
- ix. disseminate the results of the investigation at a level appropriate to their importance.

Specific aims and objectives

2.1.2 The site specific aim of the evaluation was to:

- x. investigate and characterise the features identified by the geophysical survey through excavation,
- xi. identify remains that have the potential to address research questions as specified in the East Midland Regional Research Agenda for the periods encountered.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Immediately prior to the start of the fieldwork each trench location was set out using GPS equipment. Following survey, topsoil and other overburden deposits were removed using mechanical plant equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.

2.2.2 Overburden was removed in spits of approximately 100-200mm down to the level of significant archaeological remains or to natural subsoils/bedrock, whichever was encountered first. When archaeological remains were encountered, all subsequent examination and excavation was done by hand, except where deep trenches were excavated that could not be accessed easily and safely. In these circumstances limited

machine excavation was permitted following consultation and discussion with the Planning Archaeologist.

- 2.2.3 Where possible the excavation of linear features was completed in 1m minimum lengths to maximise the potential for artefact recovery. In all other circumstances, sections were excavated with a view of recovering as much information as possible. All revealed features were recorded in plan and, where excavated, in section. Where dense archaeological remains or multiple exposures of the same feature such as the enclosure ditch were encountered, only a sample of these was excavated to fulfil the aims of the investigation.
- 2.2.4 Where substantial deposits of made ground or colluvium were encountered, machine excavation was undertaken to establish the depth of the potential archaeological horizon. Deep trenches were recorded at surface level with no requirement to enter these. Limited machine excavation of selected features revealed within inaccessible trenches was also undertaken to establish if these were of archaeological or geological origin, following discussions with the Planning Archaeologist. All deep trenches or test pits were backfilled immediately following recording on the same day as they were opened.
- 2.2.5 Spoil from the trenches was stored at a safe distance from the trench during excavation and used for the backfilling on completion of the recording and following approval from the Planning Archaeologist. Each trench was backfilled and levelled by machine to existing ground level using the excavated material.
- 2.2.6 The original scope of the evaluation comprised the excavation of 21 trenches. In the event, deposits of agricultural soils and modern made ground up to 2m deep were encountered across the northern half of the site. This coincided with a comparatively lower occurrence of well-defined archaeological features and it was agreed, in consultation with the Planning Archaeologist, to omit two trenches (15 and 16) from the evaluation within the north-eastern part of the site and to only part excavate another (Trench 17) (compare Figs 1 and 2).

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 which contained archaeological remains. Where relevant, the trench descriptions also make reference to associated artefact and ecofact evidence. Summary reports on the individual artefact groups and environmental remains follows the main trench descriptions. The full details of all trenches with dimensions, depths, artefact occurrences and spot dates are presented in tabulated form in Appendix A. Detailed artefact and environmental reports are presented in Appendices B and C.
- 3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated. For example, pit 102 is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence recorded across the southern half of the site covered by Trenches 1-10 and 21 was fairly uniform (Fig. 3). The geological till deposits comprised loose silty sand with poorly sorted pebble and gravel inclusions overlain by a friable brown sandy silt subsoil horizon with fewer similar inclusions. The existing ploughsoil, comprising a humic dark greyish brown sandy silt with similar inclusions to the subsoil, completed the sequence. The depth of the geology below the existing ground level varied between 0.4-0.6m in these trenches.
- 3.2.2 The soil sequence encountered in the northern part of the site covered by Trenches 11-14 and 17-20 differed from that to the south, with substantial levels of made ground present (Fig. 4). Here the same geological till deposits were encountered, overlain by buried subsoil and ploughsoil horizons comparable to those to the south. However, mixed soil deposits including compact bands of sandy silt sealed the former arable field deposits. The made ground included modern debris items such as plastic and metal fragments. The made ground was overlain by the current ploughsoil. The depth of the natural geology in the northern part of the site varied from 0.65m to 1.95m below the current ground level, increasing in depth from south to north.
- 3.2.3 The fills encountered within the archaeological features were generally unremarkable. These mostly comprised naturally-derived silting deposits composed of sand, silts and stone/pebble inclusions from the till material that the features were cut into. There was minor variation in the colour and quantity of inclusions across the site but few features displayed other characteristics. Due to the similarity of the fill deposits across the site, these are not described in further detail within the descriptive text below unless pertinent and obvious exceptions were recorded.
- 3.2.4 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation fieldwork were generally good, and the trenches remained dry, aided by the free-draining characteristics of the loose sand and pebble/gravel till deposits. Archaeological features, where present, were relatively easy to identify against the natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in sixteen of the nineteen excavated trenches with no archaeological features encountered in Trenches 9, 12 and 17. The features encountered in Trenches 18 and 19 could not be characterised by hand excavation due to the significant depth of the trench excavation, although limited machine excavation of the linear features in Trench 19 suggests that these were archaeological rather than of natural origin.
- 3.3.2 The distribution of well-defined archaeological features matched that suggested by the geophysical survey results with the majority recorded across the southern part of the site. These reflect the identification of a large rectangular enclosure with possible associated internal features. A more sparsely distributed collection of linear features was identified within the northern part of the site (Figs 2, 3 and 4).

3.4 Trench 1

- 3.4.1 Trench 1 was located within the southern corner of the site targeting a strong linear feature aligned NW-SE identified by the geophysical survey (Figs 2 and 3). Excavation of the trench revealed four archaeological features: two ditches (102 and 109), a gully (107) and a possible pit (105). It is possible that a subsoil may survive partly within this trench with the features cut into this, with apparent feature and fill 'shadows' showing at this level during machine excavation.
- 3.4.2 The gully (107) was aligned ENE-WSE and measured only 0.35m wide and 0.2m deep. This contained a single sterile fill.
- 3.4.3 The ditches were both aligned NW-SE and approximately 6m apart with ditch 102 being the feature that produced a strong geophysical response. Ditch 109 within the southern end of the trench was well defined being 1.2m wide and 0.4m deep, although this only contained two rather unremarkable sterile fills (Fig. 5 section 102).
- 3.4.4 Ditch 102 was a substantial feature measuring 3.2m wide at the surface and 1.58m deep (Fig. 5 section 100 and Plate 1). This truncated the fill of gully 107 and displayed a broad profile with steep lower side and a concave base, although, as with ditch 109, it contained a sequence of unremarkable sterile silting fills. A single sherd of probable late prehistoric pottery was recovered in association with the upper levels of the ditch although it is unclear if this was from the subsoil horizon or the ditch.
- 3.4.5 A shallow pit (105) was recorded to the north of the ditches and gully. This was oval-shaped in plan and 0.2m deep. The single fill of this yielded Roman pottery dating from the 2nd - 3rd century.

3.5 Trench 2

- 3.5.1 Trench 2 was located to investigate the south-eastern side of the large rectangular enclosure and the adjacent interior area (Fig. 2). Excavation revealed three features: the enclosure ditch (204), a ditch within the enclosure (209) and a single posthole (207) (Fig. 3).
- 3.5.2 The enclosure ditch (204) was a relatively substantial feature measuring 2.8m wide and 1.6m deep, with a sharp, well-defined profile (Fig. 5 section 201 and Plate 2). The

main fill (205) of the ditch produced a sizeable assemblage of Roman pottery dated to the late 2nd century along with a piece of tegula roofing tile. The basal fill also contained Roman pottery sherds from mid-late 2nd century.

- 3.5.3 Ditch 209 was aligned NW-SE and appeared to be slightly curving (Fig. 3). Although being 1m wide at its surface level, the profile was shallow at only 0.1m deep (Fig. 5 section 202). This contained a single fill that yielded pottery dating to the 2nd century.
- 3.5.4 The small and apparently isolated posthole (207) had a diameter of 0.2m and was located between the ditches. This feature was not excavated and was recorded in plan only.

3.6 Trench 3

- 3.6.1 Trench 3 was located to investigate the south-western side of the large rectangular enclosure, the adjacent interior area and a well-defined linear feature representing the continuation of ditch 102 from Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3). Excavation revealed six features: the enclosure ditch (312), two parallel linear ditches (304 and 314) comparable to ditches 102 and 109 respectively, two curvilinear possible gullies (306 and 308) and part of a possible pit (310) (Fig. 3).
- 3.6.2 Ditch 312 corresponded with the expected location of the enclosure ditch. This was recorded in plan only, with excavation of the enclosure ditch being completed in Trenches 2, 7 and 21. Ditch 312 was 2.35m wide at its surface level, comparable to the enclosure ditches recorded the other trenches.
- 3.6.3 Ditches 304 and 314 were similarly comparable to ditches 102 and 109 recorded in Trench 1. These displayed similar dimensions, profiles and fill sequences with dating evidence also absent (Fig. 5 sections 300 and 302, Plates 3 and 4). The full profile of ditch 304 was not excavated due to the depth of the section against the edge of the evaluation trench (Plate 4).
- 3.6.4 The two curving possible gullies were exposed within the eastern part of the trench. These both displayed evidence of charred plant inclusions and burning or scorching within their fills prior to excavation (see Plate 5). Gully 306 was aligned approximately east-west with a distinct terminal ending in the west. The gully was 0.45m wide, 0.27m deep, with very steep sides, and a flat base. The single fill comprised a very mixed deposit of silty sand with frequent flecks of charcoal (in pockets and lenses) with pockets of red (burnt) and grey clay (Fig. 5 section 301 and Plate 5). An environmental sample of this deposit produced relatively large fragments of wood charcoal and some grain (wheat and oat). The pieces of burnt clay are identified as fragments of an oven or similar type of installation. A small assemblage of Roman pottery was recovered from this deposit and dates from the 2nd-3rd century AD.
- 3.6.5 The comparable feature (308) adjacent to gully 306 was also 0.45m wide and filled with a similar deposit. The feature was recorded in plan and not excavated. Although interpreted as gullies, it is possible that these features do not significantly extend beyond the limit of the trench excavation and these may also reflect small linear features, perhaps related to the character of the fill material.

3.6.6 A small possible pit (310) located between ditch 304 and gully 306 also displayed a similar charcoal-rich fill. This was recorded in plan and not excavated.

3.7 Trench 4

3.7.1 Trench 4 was located to the west of the large rectangular enclosure (Fig. 2). Excavation revealed a broad linear feature (403) within the southern end of the trench and a number of distinctive natural features (Fig. 3).

3.7.2 The large feature (407) was 5.1m wide but only 0.68m deep, with gently sloping sides and a slightly concave base (Fig. 5 section 402). It was recorded as a possible ditch, aligned NE-SW, but, given the limited exposure in this trench and its absence from Trench 5 to the NE, it could equally be interpreted as a pit. The feature contained two sterile fills.

3.8 Trench 5

3.8.1 Trench 5 was located to investigate the north-western side of the large rectangular enclosure and the adjacent interior area (Fig. 2). Excavation revealed the enclosure ditch (504) and a large natural feature (506) (Fig. 3).

3.8.2 Ditch 504 was comparable to that recorded at other locations around the enclosure. It measured 2.8m wide and contained a similar upper fill. Excavation at this location was limited to defining the upper 0.3m of the profile to confirm that this was of a similar character to ditch profiles that had been excavated in detail within Trenches 2, 7 and 21. No artefacts were present within the excavated portion of ditch fill.

3.9 Trench 6

3.9.1 Trench 6 was positioned wholly within the interior of the enclosure to evaluate a series of faint geophysical features (Fig. 2). Excavation revealed four features: two ditches (610 and 612), a pit (604) cut into the upper fill of 612, and a large tree-hole (606) (Fig. 3 and Plate 6).

3.9.2 Ditch 610 was aligned NNW-SSE across the trench with a rounded terminal at its northern end. This was a relatively well-defined feature measuring 0.75m wide and 0.38m deep, with a rounded profile that contained a single unremarkable and sterile silting fill (Fig. 6 section 603).

3.9.3 Ditch 612 was also aligned NNW-SSE and shared similar dimensions and fill characteristics to those ditch 610, suggesting that these may have formed a paired arrangement (Fig. 6 section 601). An environmental sample recovered from the fill of ditch 612 produced charred grains of wheat and oat.

3.9.4 Pit 604 was cut into the fill of ditch 612. This was relatively well-defined measuring 1.28m wide and 0.42m deep. The pit contained two fills, of which the upper yielded a single sherd of Roman pottery.

3.9.5 The possible tree-hole (606) was located between the two ditches and measured 4.2m wide by 0.95m deep, extending north and southwards beyond the limits of the excavated trench. It had a rather irregular profile with steep edges and an undulating base (Fig. 6 section 602). The feature contained five fills: a deposit very similar to

natural geology (614), two sterile fills that appear to be redeposited till (615 and 616), a 0.22m thick band of silty sand containing frequent charcoal inclusions (607), and an upper silting deposit (609) that yielded a small quantity Roman pottery dated to the 2nd century or later. It was not easy to interpret this feature within the confines of the evaluation trench, although it may be a large tree-hole.

3.10 Trench 7

3.10.1 Trench 7 was located to investigate the north-eastern side of the large rectangular enclosure and the adjacent interior area (Fig. 2). Excavation revealed two ditches (703 and 705) corresponding to the enclosure ditch location within an otherwise blank trench (Fig. 3).

3.10.2 A small intervention was excavated to outline basic characteristics of the ditches (Fig. 6 section 701). Ditch 703 was the larger of the pair and represents the enclosure ditch. This measured 2.1m wide at the surface level and was excavated to a depth of 0.4m revealing a single sterile fill. Ditch 705 was less substantial measuring 1.8m wide and 0.3m deep. This contained a single sterile fill.

3.11 Trench 8

3.11.1 Trench 8 was located to investigate the NW-SE aligned linear feature representing the continuation of ditch 102/304 from Trenches 1 and 3 (Figs 2 and 3). Excavation revealed three features: two ditches (802 and 803) and a possible pit (805).

3.11.2 Ditch 802 represents the continuation of ditch 102/304. This was not excavated and was recorded in plan only, measuring approximately 1.8m wide and being slightly narrower than the remains of the ditch to the south-east.

3.11.3 Ditch 803 was located to the west of ditch 802 and was aligned WNW-ESE suggesting that the two ditches would intersect just beyond the limits of the trench. Ditch 803 was 0.88m wide, 0.3m deep, with a U-shaped profile containing a single homogenous fill lacking artefacts (Fig. 6 section 800, Plate 7).

3.11.4 Within the western end of the trench, a portion of a possible pit or ditch terminal (805) was exposed. It measured 1.52m wide by 0.5m deep and extended to the south-east beyond the excavated limits of the trench. This contained three fills all consisting of a naturally derived sandy silt with pebbles (Fig. 6 section 801). The lower and the upper fills (806 and 808) yielded a small assemblage of early Saxon pottery.

3.12 Trench 10

3.12.1 Trench 10 was located to investigate a possible small square enclosure and internal features identified by the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). Excavation revealed two ditches (1004 and 1005) that broadly correspond to the geophysical survey results, suggesting an enclosure measuring approximately 12m by 12m (Figs 2 and 4). No internal features were identified.

3.12.2 Ditch 1004 forms the northern side of the enclosure and was aligned east-west. The excavated profile measured 1.45m wide and 0.7m deep (Fig. 6 section 1000). It contained a single sterile fill.

3.12.3 Ditch 1005 appears to define the eastern side of the enclosure although this differed considerably in appearance from 1004 measuring only 0.45m wide and 0.25m deep. It contained a single sterile fill (Fig. 6 section 1001).

3.13 Trench 11

3.13.1 As with the majority of the trenches in the northern half of the site Trench 11 was not targeted upon any geophysical features (Fig. 2). Excavation of this trench revealed a single possible pit and several natural features or variations within the till (Fig. 4). Trench 11 also marked the point that deposits of made ground were encountered that increased in depth substantially to the north. Within Trench 11 this was limited to a 0.2-0.3m thick layer of mixed silty clay sealing the former ploughsoil.

3.13.2 The only positively identified feature was a possible pit (1103). This was located in the northern part of the Trench 11 and measured 1.1m wide and 0.29m deep, extending south-west beyond the limit of the trench (Figs 4 and 7 section 1101). The pit contained two sterile fills lacking artefactual evidence.

3.14 Trench 13

3.14.1 Trench 13 was positioned in the central north part of the site (Fig 2). Two ditches (1305 and 1308) were encountered within this trench (Fig. 4). The soil sequence within this trench also included a 0.55m thick deposit of made ground overlying a former ploughsoil horizon from which a large fragment of modern plough was noted and recorded (Plate 8).

3.14.2 Ditch 1305 was located in the western part of the trench and was aligned east-west with a terminal end to the east. This was a relatively small ditch measuring 0.33m wide and 0.18 deep containing a single sterile fill (Fig. 7 section 1301).

3.14.3 A further ditch (1308) was aligned NW-SE across the north-eastern part of the trench. This was within a part of the trench that exceeded 1.4m in depth so the feature was only recorded at surface level prior to backfilling. The fill of the ditch had the same appearance as that filling ditch 1305.

3.15 Trench 14

3.15.1 Trench 14 was located alongside the eastern edge of the site (Fig 2). A similar soil sequence and depth to that of Trench 13 was encountered within this trench. Here modern made ground deposits up to 0.5m thick sealed a former ploughsoil horizon and were sealed by the current ploughsoil (plate 9).

3.15.2 One feature (1406) aligned east-west was recorded cut into the buried subsoil and possibly through the buried ploughsoil horizon at the southern end of the trench (Figs 4 and 7 section 1400). This is probably a ditch with a broad V-shaped profile measuring 2.65m wide and 0.95m deep, although no continuation of this feature was recorded in any of the trenches along its projected alignment. The ditch contained a single sterile fill.

3.16 Trench 17

3.16.1 Trench 17 was located within the northern limit of the evaluation area (Fig. 2). This trench was only excavated along 15m of its planned length due to the presence of a significant depth of made ground and ploughsoil deposits and an absence of any identifiable archaeological features (Fig. 4). The combined depth of the soil sequence was between 1.5-2m from the current ground level.

3.17 Trench 18

3.17.1 Trench 18 was located in the central northern part of the site (Fig 2). The same sequence of buried former ploughsoil, made ground and current ploughsoil was present to an average depth of 1.5m below the current ground level. Due to the depth, this trench was not entered and the revealed features were only recorded from the surface, prior to backfilling on the same day.

3.17.2 A variety of features were recorded comprising possible ditches and likely natural deposits/features (Fig. 4). Two probable ditches (1815 and 1817), both approximately 1m wide and aligned NE-SW, were present within the northern part of the trench.

3.17.3 Features 1805, 1811 and 1813 were difficult to interpret without hand excavation, although they appeared to be of natural origin.

3.17.4 Feature 1807 was tentatively interpreted as a possible ditch with a possible pit (1809) present alongside it. However, none of these features were evident in the surrounding trenches and their identification as archaeological features is not certain.

3.18 Trench 19

3.18.1 Trench 19 was located in the north-western corner of the site (Fig 2). Here a very deep sequence of buried former ploughsoil, made ground and current ploughsoil was present to an average depth of 2m below the current ground level. Due to the depth, this trench was not entered and the revealed features were only recorded from the surface, prior to backfilling on the same day. Targeted machine excavation was also undertaken during the backfilling of the trench to investigate some of the possible features.

3.18.2 Four features were revealed: a probable tree-hole (1905), a possible pit (1907), and two probable ditches (1909 and 1911) (Fig. 4).

3.18.3 Machine excavation of the probable ditches (1909 and 1911) during the backfilling established that these had reasonably regular profiles suggesting they are archaeological rather than naturally-derived features or deposits.

3.19 Trench 20

3.19.1 Trench 20 was located in the north-western corner of the site (Fig 2). Here the combined ploughsoil and made ground sequence was present to an average depth of 1m below the current ground level. Excavation of this trench revealed five features: a probable tree-hole (2006) and four ditches (2008, 2010, 21012 and 2014) (Fig. 4).

3.19.2 The ditches were each aligned NE-SW, although ditch 2008 appeared to be more to the east than the other three. Ditch 2008 was cut into the fill of the tree-hole. The

ditches shared similar dimensions, profiles and fills being between 1.2-1.4m wide and between 0.35m-0.6m deep (Fig. 7 sections 2000-2002). Each contained a single sterile fill lacking any artefactual evidence.

3.20 Trench 21

- 3.20.1 Trench 21 was positioned to investigate the north-eastern side of the large rectangular enclosure and an arrangement of other linear feature evident from the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). Excavation revealed the enclosure ditch (2109) truncating an earlier feature (2111) along with a further ditch (2103) corresponding to one of the linear features identified by the geophysical survey (Fig. 3). This truncated an earlier possible ditch (2103). A probable tree-hole (2112) was also recorded.
- 3.20.2 Feature 2111 was partly revealed within the western edge of the trench. This was interpreted as a tree-hole on site and detailed excavation was not undertaken. However, the feature location corresponds exactly to the line of a ditch shown on the geophysical survey results. It is likely that this feature is a ditch rather than a tree-hole.
- 3.20.3 The fill of 2111 was cut by the enclosure ditch (2109). This measured 2.2m wide and 1.05m deep, with a sharply-defined profile containing a sequence of three fills with varying amounts of gravel and pebble inclusions (Fig. 7 section 2102 and Plate 10). The central fill (2107) yielded a small assemblage of Roman pottery dated to the 2nd century or later.
- 3.20.4 Ditch 2103 was exposed within the southern limit of the trench. This was aligned NE-SW with excavation revealing a broad profile 1.3m wide that was 0.3-0.5m deep and filled with a single sterile deposit (Fig. 7 section 2101). The ditch was cut into the fill of an earlier feature (2104) although this was only exposed at the very edge and end of the trench and it is not clear if this was an archaeological feature or a natural deposit.

3.21 Finds summary

- 3.21.1 Finds from the evaluation were not very abundant, although the quantities are sufficient to provide a reliable date for the infilling of the ditch of the main rectangular enclosure. Where excavated, the fills of the enclosure produced pottery consistently dating from the late 2nd century including a piece of Nene Valley colour-coated ware, a few pieces of white mortarium, sherds of fine oxidised wares and other more common coarse ware fabrics
- 3.21.2 More generally, all of the Roman pottery encountered appears to be mainly from the middle part of the period, with very early and very late material absent. Pottery was also generally absent from the features excavated beyond the limits of the main enclosure, which may partly explain the limited period range.
- 3.21.3 One notable exception is the presence of early Saxon pottery recovered from a small pit in Trench 8. No other comparable material was encountered elsewhere within the evaluation.
- 3.21.4 Tile fragments were limited to two items: a piece of tegula roofing tile recovered from the enclosure ditch in Trench 2 and a fragment of imbrex tile recovered from a tree-hole in Trench 4.

3.21.5 Apart from the pottery and tile, the only other artefacts of archaeological value were fired clay items possibly relating to part of an oven, and hammerscale, both recovered from a small feature in Trench 6.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The results of the investigation provide a reliable picture of the preservation, density, character, and depth of archaeological deposits throughout the site. The weather conditions were reasonable throughout the fieldwork and the soils were free-draining, all contributing to the good visibility of archaeological deposits. Although the features were generally infilled with deposits derived from the till that they were cut into, these were of a sufficiently different colour and appearance to be easily identified. There was also a good correspondence between the archaeological features seen in the trenches and the anomalies marked by the geophysical survey.
- 4.1.2 The evaluation across the northern part of the site was hampered slightly by the presence of thick deposits of made ground making access difficult within the limits of trench excavation. The depth of soil present certainly means that the geophysical survey results across this part of the site are not a true reflection of the presence/absence of features when compared to the excellent clarity of features across the southern and western part. However, most of the trenches were excavated to the archaeological/geological upper horizon across this part of the site and features were recorded and identified with a degree of confidence.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The evaluation has met its aims and objectives where the evidence reasonably allowed. This has established that a moderate density of archaeological features is present across the southern part as indicated by the geophysical survey results whilst sparser remains are present across the northern part. Where features were encountered these were sample-excavated, defining profiles and fill sequences, and artefact assemblages were recovered where present. Dating evidence was sparse and mostly limited to the large rectangular enclosure, although the presence/absence of artefacts may be equally informative with regard to understanding or interpreting the role and significance of the remains.
- 4.2.2 Organic material, in general, was very poorly preserved in the fills of the archaeological features. Only small pieces of an animal tooth were found in the fill of feature 2109 (part of the large rectangular enclosure). However, the charred remains from environmental samples provided more significant data with large fragments of charcoal recorded, along with more poorly preserved grains of wheat and oat and some hazelnut shells.
- 4.2.3 By establishing the depth, significance, and stratigraphic sequence of geological and archaeological deposit, the evaluation has provided information suitable to inform the design phase for any future development with regard to the potential impacts upon buried remains.
- 4.2.4 The identified remains also have the potential to address research questions as specified in the East Midland Regional Research Agenda for the Roman period. Whilst it is not possible to identify a series of detailed questions based solely on these data,

it is reasonable to suggest that this site may address the themes under the headings of 'Rural settlement patterns and landscapes' and 'The agricultural economy'.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The geophysical survey data proved to be a reliable indicator for the presence/absence of features across the southern and western part of the site. The evaluation trenches confirmed the presence of the large rectangular enclosure measuring approximately 112m by 70m with the associated pottery assemblage suggesting a relatively short date range in the late 2nd century. This appears to have been a relatively consistent feature around its perimeter comprising a single phase, well-defined ditch surviving to a width of over 2m and a depth of 1m. This also appears to have been infilled relatively quickly, with significant weathering and broadening of the ditch profile absent. Defining the role of this enclosure is less straight forward. It currently appears to sit alone, although the possibility that associated remains either are or once were present beyond the site boundary to the east and south-east should not be excluded.
- 4.3.2 Features internal to the enclosure were identified, although the absence of firm dating evidence makes a direct association with the enclosure tentative and an earlier or later origin for these should not be ruled out. Possible metalworking (smithing) was identified in Trench 3 by the presence of hammerscale. This was encountered in association with scorched clay and charcoal. Therefore, it is possible that some specialised activities were being undertaken within the enclosure, assuming that these are contemporary. Smelting slag residues were not encountered, indicating that the metalworking activities may have been secondary, for example relating to the small scale reworking of iron.
- 4.3.3 The presence of smaller ditches within the enclosure such as within Trench 6 could also indicate the existence of a series of subdivisions which may be for livestock, if accompanied with fencing/hedges, or houses. The soft nature of the till and the long history of agricultural use that would truncate buried remains could account for the absence of structural remains such as postholes. Only a single posthole was recorded in Trench 2, but this does not necessarily exclude the possibility that features relating to structures may survive somewhere within the enclosure.
- 4.3.4 The alignment of the enclosure is worthy of note. This is aligned NW-SE mirrored by the line of ditch 102/304/802 and the current Swinford Road and historic field boundaries. It is possible that the current road represents a fossilised boundary and route layout that had its origin with the enclosure. Swinford Road is also parallel to the A5 (Watling Street) some 3.2km to the south-west.
- 4.3.5 The interpretation of the activity north of the enclosure is more difficult, in part due to the depth of modern made ground overlying features there. Here there does appear to be a general pattern of linear features favouring NW-SE and NE-SW alignments, suggesting possible field arrangements. Where it was possible to excavate these features, they did not produce any artefacts which also suggests that these were peripheral to settlement areas. It is possible that these features represent the field boundaries extending off the main enclosure, or boundaries of another phase either influenced by or influencing the enclosure layout.

- 4.3.6 The deep soils that cover the northern part of the site are clearly of modern origin. These are not initially topographically obvious when viewing the site. However, once identified it is clear that they flatten out what would have been a more marked slope down to the north from the high ground occupied by the enclosure to the south. This original topographic arrangement possibly supports the view that the features in the northern part of the site are peripheral to the activities focused on the enclosure that occupied the high ground.
- 4.3.7 The modern soils are most likely to have derived from the construction phase of the M1. These deposits were built up directly over the former ploughsoil horizons and there does not appear to have been significant truncation to the buried deposits prior to the deposition of these.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench set across two linear geophysical anomalies. It contained three ditches, one pit (with Roman pottery), and one large natural feature. A piece of late prehistoric pottery could be residual material in the upper part of the largest ditch's fill.					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
100	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil Dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small-medium sized, rounded and subrounded flint pebbles	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.17	Subsoil Medium greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small-medium sized, rounded and subrounded flint pebbles	Pottery sherd	Late prehistoric
102	Cut	5.2	1.58	Ditch – boundary Linear, aligned NW-SE, stepped sides – moderately steep and steep, gradual breaks of slopes, slightly concave base, cutting 101, 104, and 108, filled with 114 and 103	-	-
103	Fill	-	0.85	Friable, medium greyish brown sandy silt with moderate amount of small-medium sized flint pebbles, , overlain by 114, main fill of 102	Pottery sherd	-
104	Layer			Natural geology Friable, light yellowish brown sand with flint pebbles		
105	Cut	0.7	0.2	Pit Oval, moderately steep sides, slightly concave base, cutting 104, filled with 106		
106	Fill	0.7	0.2	Friable, soft, dark yellowish brown silty sand, fill of 105	Pottery sherds	Roman: 2nd – 3rd century AD
107	Cut	0.35	0.2	Narrow ditch Linear, aligned NE-SW, truncated by 102, filled with 108		

108	Fill	0.35	0.2	Medium grayish brown silty sand with occasional small-small/medium sized flint pebbles		
109	Cut	1.2	0.4	Ditch Linear, aligned NW-SE, steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes, flat base, filled with 110 and 111, cutting 112, 101, and 104		
110	Fill		0.3	Friable, medium grayish brown, silty sand with c 40% gravel pebbles, overlying 111, upper fill of ditch 109		
111	Fill		0.2	Friable, yellowish brown silty sand, with only occasional gravel pebbles, overlain by 110, lower fill of 109		
112	Fill	2.2	0.9	Compact, reddish brown silt, homogenous, fill of 113, cut by 109		
113	Cut	2.2	0.9	Natural feature Elongated, extending east and westwards beyond Tr 20, irregularly steeply stepped sides – gradual and imperceptible breaks of slopes, undulating base, filled with 112, cutting 104		
114	Fill	5.2	1.58	Friable, dark brown silty sand with moderate amount of flint and quartzite gravel, overlain by 100, overlying 103, upper fill of 102		

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench set across a linear geophysical anomaly (part of rectangular feature). It contained two ditches and one posthole.					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer			Number for unstratified finds	Pottery sherd	19th-20th century
201	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil Dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small-medium sized, rounded and subrounded flint pebbles	-	-

202	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil Medium greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small-medium sized, rounded and subrounded flint pebbles	-	-
203	Layer	-	-	Natural geology Friable, light yellowish brown sand with flint pebbles	-	-
204	Cut	2.8	1.6	Enclosure ditch Linear, aligned NW-SE, steep symmetric sides sharp breaks of slopes, flat base, cutting 203, filled with 205, 206	-	-
205	Fill	2.8	1.35	Friable, dark reddish brown sandy silt with moderate amount of small to medium sized pebbles of quartzite and flint, overlying 206, overlain by 202, fill of ditch 204	Pottery sherds CBM fragment (tegula roofing tile)	Roman: late 2nd century
206	Fill	1.6	0.27	Friable, medium yellowish brown sandy silt with small sized pebbles, overlain by 205, basal fill of 204	Pottery sherds	Roman: mid-late 2nd century
207	Cut	0.2	-	Oval, symmetric, cut into 203, filled with 208		
208	Fill	0.2	-	Friable, dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate amount of charcoal flecks, not excavated		
209	Cut	1.0	0.1	Linear – slightly curving, aligned N-S, steep sides, gradual breaks of slope, a flat base, cutting 203, filled with 210		
210	Fill	1.0	0.1	Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderate amount of small-medium sized quartzite pebbles, fill of 209	Pottery sherds	Roman: 2nd century or later

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench set across two linear anomalies – one forming a rectangular feature. Three ditches, two gully termini and a fragment of possibly a pit were exposed.					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
300	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil Dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small-medium sized, rounded and subrounded quartzite and flint pebbles	-	-

301	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil Friable, medium brown sandy silt with moderate amount of small-medium sized, rounded and subrounded flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural geology Friable, light yellowish brown sand with gravel composed of mostly subrounded flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-
303	Fill	3.03	0.45	Boundary ditch Friable, medium brown silty sand with frequent (c 15%) small-medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles, a few burnt stones and occasional charcoal flecks, overlying 315, fill of 304	Burnt stone	-
304	Cut	3.9	+1.15	Linear, aligned NW-SE, asymmetric sides – SW of c 45 degree, slightly convex, NE stepped - moderately steep and steep, base not exposed, cutting 302, filled with 302, 315, and 316		
305	Fill	0.45	0.27	Friable, olive brown silty sand with relatively frequent flecks of charcoal (In large pockets and lenses), red (burnt) clay overlain by grey clay at the southern part, also small pockets of burnt clay all within all the deposit, fill of 306	Pottery sherds Hammerscale Pieces of wood (charcoal) and grain (wheat and oat) Pieces of fired clay (oven fragments or similar installation)	Roman: 2nd-3rd century
306	Cut	0.45	0.27	Gully terminus Slightly curving linear, aligned E-W, with terminal part at the west, cutting 302, filled with 305. Feature of similar character to 308		
307	Fill	0.45	-	Dark brown silty sand with patches of burnt clay and pockets of charcoal, fill of 308, not excavated		
308	Cut	0.45	-	Gully terminus, aligned ENE-WSW, with terminal part at the		

				east, cutting 302, filled with 307, similar feature to 306		
309	Fill	0.3	-	Medium brown silty sand with moderate amount of pebbles, fill of 310, not excavated		
310	Cut	0.3	-	Ovoid, extending SE beyond Tr 3, cutting 302		
311	Fill	2.35	-	Medium brown silty sand with occasional pebbles, fill of 312, not excavated		
312	Cut	2.35	-	Enclosure ditch Linear, aligned NW-SE, filled with 311, not excavated		
313	Fill	1.1	0.55	Moderately firm, light brown silty sand with c 20% pebbles, fill of 314		
314	Cut	1.1	0.55	Linear, aligned NW-SE, V-shaped, cutting 302, filled with 313		
315	Fill	3.4	0.6	Moderately firm, medium orangey brown sandy silt with occasional quartzite pebbles, overlain by 303, overlying 316, fill of 304		
316	Fill	1.5	+0.5	Firm, dark brown sandy silt with frequent (40%) pebbles, not bottomed, sealed by 315, fill of 304		

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench with one large ditch and a few natural features (tree-holes)					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil Dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small-medium sized, rounded and subrounded quartzite and flint pebbles	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil Friable, medium brown sandy silt with moderate amount of small-medium sized, rounded and subrounded flint and quartzite pebbles	-	-

402	Layer	-	-	Natural geology Friable, light yellowish brown sand with gravel composed of mostly subrounded flint and quartzite pebbles		
403	Cut	+ 1.05	0.35	Natural feature (thee-hole?) Extending E, W, and S beyond Tr 4, asymmetric side, gradual break of slope, undulating base, cutting 402, filled with 404		
404	Fill	+ 1.05	0.35	Friable, greyish brown silty sand with occasional flint pebbles (c 2%), fill of 403	CBM fragment (imbrex roofing tile)	Roman
405	Fill	3.6	0.5	Friable, medium greyish brown silty sand with moderate amount of flint pebbles (c 10%), overlying 406, upper fill of 407		
406	Fill	3.6	0.6	Friable, light yellowish brown with reddish lenses sand, overlain by 405, fill of 407		
407	Cut	5.1	0.68	Ditch Linear, aligned NE-SW, gently sloping symmetric sides, imperceptible breaks of slopes, a slightly concave base, cutting 402, filled with 405 and 406		

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench set across NE-SW aligned part of rectangular geophysical anomaly. It contained a ditch (not excavated) and a large natural feature					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
501	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil Dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small-medium sized, rounded and subrounded quartzite and flint pebbles	-	-
502	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil Friable, medium brown sandy silt with moderate amount of small-medium sized, rounded	-	-

				and subrounded flint and quartzite pebbles		
503	Fill	2.8	+0.26	Friable, medium brown silty sand with frequent flint pebbles (c 20%), fill of 504, not excavated		
504	Cut	2.8	+0.26	Enclosure ditch Linear, aligned NE-SW, cutting 502 and 507, filled with 503, not excavated		
505	Fill	5.4	-	Light yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent flint pebbles (c 25%), fill of 506, not excavated		
506	Cut	5.4	-	Natural feature ? Asymmetric, extending E and W-wards beyond Tr 5, cutting 507, filled with 506		
507	Layer	-	-	Natural geology Friable, light yellowish brown sand with gravel composed of mostly subrounded flint and quartzite pebbles		

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench set across two linear geophysical anomalies. It contained a narrow ditch terminus, a large natural feature with finds, a narrow ditch, and a small pit					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer		0.3	Topsoil/ploughsoil Friable, very dark brown silty sand with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying 601	-	-
601	Layer		0.3	Subsoil Friable, dark brown silty sand with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles, undulating character (reaching 0.3m thickness), overlain by 600, overlying 602	-	-
602	Layer			Natural geology Friable. yellowish brown sand with frequent flint and		

				quartzite gravel (various shapes of rock pieces)		
603	Fill	1.1	0.2	Friable, light brown silty sand with moderate amount of small sized rounded and subrounded pebbles. Overlain by 605, fill of 604		
604	Cut	1.28	0.42	Pit Oval, extending N-wards beyond Tr 6, steep sides, gradual breaks of slope, flat sloping down base, cutting 602 and 613, filled with 603 and 605		
605	Fill	1.28	0.24	Friable silty sand with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized rounded and subrounded pebbles, overlying 603, fill of 604	Pottery sherds	Romano-British (1st – 4th centuries)
606	Cut	4.2	0.95	Tree-hole Amorphous, extending NE and SW-wards beyond Tr 6, various sides – from steep to gently sloping, strongly undulating base, cutting 602, filled with 607, 609, 614, 615 and 616		
607	Fill	1.8	0.18	Friable, black silty sand with charcoal and moderate amount of small-medium sized rounded pebbles, overlain by 609, overlying 615, 614, and 616, fill of 606	Hazelnut shell fragments	
608	Fill			Context equal to 606		
609	Fill	1.42	0.22	Friable dark brown silty sand with frequent small-medium sized, rounded pebbles, overlying 607, fill of 606	Pottery sherds	Roman: 2nd century or later
610	Cut	0.75	0.38	Ditch terminus Linear with rounded northern end, extending southwards beyond Tr 6, steep and gently sloping sides, imperceptible break of slope, a flat base, filled with 611		
611	Fill	0.75	0.38	Friable, dark brown silty sand with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized		

				pebbles, homogenous, fill of 610		
612	Cut	0.65	0.38	Ditch Linear, aligned N-S, extending both directions beyond Tr 6, a steep sides, concave base, imperceptible breaks of slope, cutting 602, filled with 613		
613	Fill	0.65	0.38	Friable, medium and dark brown (mottled) silty sand with frequent small-medium sized rounded pebbles, cut by 604, fill of 612	Pieces of burnt bone Wheat and oat grain	
614	Fill	0.55	0.7	Friable, slightly silty sand with small-medium sized rounded pebbles – very similar to natural geology 602 – overlain by 615, 616, and 607		
615	Fill	2.1	0.58	Friable medium brown silty sand with frequent small-medium sized rounded pebbles, overlying 614, overlain by 607, fill of 606		
616	Fill	0.65	0.55	Friable dark brown silty sand with frequent small-medium sized, rounded pebbles, overlain by 607 – very similar to 606		

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench with two ditches					Length (m)	5
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer		0.28	Topsoil/ploughsoil Friable, very dark brown silty sand with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying 701	-	-
701	Layer		0.3	Subsoil Friable, dark brown silty sand with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles,	-	-

				undulating character (reaching 0.3m thickness), overlain by 700, overlying 702		
702	Layer			Natural geology Friable, yellowish brown sand with frequent flint and quartzite gravel (various shapes of rock pieces)		
703	Cut	2.1	+0.4	Ditch Linear, aligned N-S, steep side, base not exposed, cutting 702, filled with 704		
704	Cut	2.1	+0.4	Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderate amount of flint pebbles, cut by 705, fill of 703, not fully excavated		
705	Cut	1.8	+0.3	Ditch Linear, aligned N-S, steep sides, gradual breaks of slope, flat base, cutting 701, 702 and 704, filled with 706		
706	Fill	1.8	+0.3	Friable, medium brown silty sand with moderate amount of flint pebbles, fill of 705		

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench set across NW-SE running linear anomaly. It contained two ditches and a partly exposed pit					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer		0.26	Topsoil/ploughsoil Friable, very dark brown silty sand with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying 801	-	-
801	Layer		0.19	Subsoil Friable, dark brown silty sand with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles, undulating character (reaching 0.3m thickness), overlain by 800, overlying 809	-	-

802	Cut	1.82		Boundary ditch Linear, aligned NW-SW, not excavated		
803	Cut	0.88	0.3	Linear, aligned E-W, steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes, flat base, cutting 809, filled with 804		
804	Fill	0.88	0.3	Friable, medium reddish brown sandy silt with moderate amount of rounded-angular flint pebbles, fill of 803		
805	Cut	1.52	0.5	Pit/tree-hole? Suboval – extending NE and SW-wards beyond Tr 8, various sides – uneven and asymmetric, slightly undulating base, cutting 809, filled with 806, 807, and 808		
806	Fill	+1.3	0.12	Friable, light grey silty sand with occasional subrounded flint pebbles. Overlain by 807 and 808, fill of 805	Pottery sherds	Early Saxon
807	Fill	0.5	0.42	Friable, medium brown, sandy silt with occasional flint pebbles, overlying 806, overlain by 808, fill of 805		
808	Fill	+1.52	0.4	Friable, medium greyish brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded pebbles, overlying 806 and 807, fill of 805	Pottery sherds	Early Saxon
809	Layer			Natural geology Friable. yellowish brown sand with frequent flint and quartzite gravel (various shapes of rock pieces)		

Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench consisting of topsoil, subsoil overlying natural geology, One natural feature (tree-hole) exposed and explored.					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer		0.28	Topsoil/ploughsoil Friable, very dark brown silty sand with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized	-	-

				flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying 901		
901	Layer		0.35	Subsoil Friable, dark brown silty sand with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles, undulating character (reaching 0.3m thickness), overlain by 900, overlying 902	-	-
902	Layer			Natural geology Friable. yellowish brown sand with frequent flint and quartzite gravel (various shapes of rock pieces)		
903	Fill	1.32	0.35	Friable, light slightly brownish yellow sand, overlying 904, overlain by 902, fill of 905		
904	Fill	1.0	0.3	Friable, yellowish brown sand with frequent (c 30%) of flint and quartzite gravel, overlain by 903, fill of 905		
905	Cut	1.95	0.3	Natural feature (three-hole) Amorphous, extending NE and SW-wards beyond Tr 9, moderately steep sides, imperceptible breaks of slope, slightly undulating base, cutting 902, filled with 903 and 904		

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench with two ditches					Length (m)	36
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer		0.26	Topsoil/ploughsoil Friable, very dark brown silty sand with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying 1001	-	-
1001	Layer		0.10	Subsoil Friable, dark brown silty sand with moderate amount of	-	-

				small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles, undulating character, overlain by 1000, overlying 1002		
1002	Layer			Natural geology Friable. yellowish brown sand with frequent flint and quartzite gravel (various shapes of rock pieces)		
1003	Fill	1.45	0.7	Friable, medium brown silty sand with c 10% pebbles (mostly at the basal part), overlain by 1000, fill of 1004	Fired clay fragment (plug)	
1004	Cut	1.45	0.7	Ditch Linear, aligned E-W, steep slightly asymmetric sides, gradual breaks of slope, slightly concave base, cutting 1001 and 1002, filled with 1003		
1005	Cut	0.75	0.25	Linear, aligned N-S, steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes, a slightly concave base, cutting 1002, filled with 1006		
1006	Fill	0.75	0.25	Firm, medium greyish brown silty sand with moderate amount of flint and quartzite pebbles, fill of 1005		

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench did not target any geophysical anomalies. It consisted of ploughsoil, made up ground, and buried subsoil above natural geology. It contained one pit and a couple of natural features					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	1.0
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer		0.4	Topsoil/ploughsoil Friable, very dark brown silty sand with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying 1102	-	-
1101	Layer		0.4	Old topsoil and subsoil , overlying 1106, overlain by 1102, friable, dark brown silty sand with moderate amount	-	-

				of small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles		
1102	Layer		0.18	Made-up ground. Medium brown silty clay with c 5% rounded and sub-rounded flint pebbles, overlain by 1000, overlying 1101		
1103	Cut	1.1	0.29	Oval, extending NW-wards beyond Tr 11, asymmetric steep sides, gradual breaks of slopes, slightly concave base, cutting 1106, filled with 1104 and 1105		
1104	Fill	0.45	0.29	Friable, light greyish brown and medium greyish brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles, overlain by 1105, fill of 1103		
1105	Fill	0.8	0.29	Friable, medium reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles, overlying 1104		
1106	Layer			Natural geology Friable. yellowish brown sand with frequent flint and quartzite gravel (various shapes of rock pieces)		

Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology, consisted of current ploughsoil sealing made up layer above buried subsoil, which overlain natural geology					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer		0.15	Topsoil/ploughsoil Friable, very dark brow silty sand with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying 1201	-	-
1201	Layer		0.35	Made-up ground. Medium brown silty clay with c5% rounded and sub-rounded flint pebbles, overlain by 1200, overlying 1203	-	-
1202	Layer			Natural geology		

				Friable. yellowish brown sand with frequent flint and quartzite gravel (various shapes of rock pieces), overlain by 1203		
1203	Layer		0.15	Old topsoil and subsoil, overlying 1202, overlain by 1201, friable, dark brown silty sand with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles		

Trench 13

General description							Orientation	NW-SE
Trench with one ditch terminus and one ditch. It consisted of ploughsoil overlying made up layers, which sealed old subsoil with natural geology below.							Length (m)	40
							Width (m)	2
							Avg. depth (m)	0.95
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date		
1301	Layer		0.2	Topsoil/ploughsoil Friable, dark brown silty sand with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying 1302	-	-		
1302	Layer		0.35	Made-up ground. Dark brown silty clay with c 5% rounded and sub-rounded flint pebbles, overlain by 1301, overlying 1307	-	-		
1303	Layer			Natural geology Friable. yellowish brown sand with frequent flint and quartzite gravel (various shapes of rock pieces), overlain by 1304				
1304	Layer		0.3	Old/buried subsoil Firm, dark greyish brown slightly clayey silt with moderate amount of rounded flint pebbles, overlying 1303, overlain by 1307	A piece of lead pipe	Modern		
1305	Cut	0.33	0.18	Ditch terminus Linear with rounded end at northern side, asymmetric sides – gently sloping and steep, flat base, cutting 1303, filled with 11306				

1306	Fill	0.33	0.18	Friable, compact, yellowish grey silty sand with occasional flint pebbles, fill of 1305		
1307	Layer		0.2	Made up layer Firm, medium brown clayey sand with moderate amount of rounded pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks, , overlying 1304		
1308	Cut	0.6	-	Linear, aligned NW-SE, cutting 1303, filled with 1309, not excavated because of trench depth at this part		
1309	Fill	0.6	-	Medium brown sandy silt with occasional small-small/medium sized pebbles, fill of 1308, not excavated because of trench depth at this point		

Trench 14						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench did not target any geophysical anomalies. It consisted of ploughsoil, made up ground overlying old subsoil with natural geology below. One trench at its southern end uncovered.					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	1.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer		0.3	Topsoil/ploughsoil Friable, very dark brown silty sand with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying 1401	-	-
1401	Layer		0.28	Made-up ground. Very similar to 1400, but more compact. Very dark brown sandy silt with c 5% rounded and sub-rounded small-medium sized flint pebbles, overlain by 1400, overlying 1402	-	-
1402	Layer		0.21	Made-up layer Firm, very compact olive brown clayey sand with moderate amount of round and angular small-small/medium sized pebbles, occasional flecks of burnt		

				coal, overlain by 1401, overlying 1403 and 1405		
1403	Layer		0.36	Old topsoil and subsoil Friable, medium brown slightly silty sand with moderate amount of flint and quartzite pebbles. Slightly undulating base, overlying 1404		
1404	Layer			Natural geology Friable, light yellowish brown and light brownish yellow sand with sand and gravel, overlain by 1403		
1405	Fill	2.65	0.95	Friable, medium brown silty sand with poorly sorted moderate amount of rounded flint and quartzite pebbles and cobbles, very similar to 1403, except 1405 is slightly darker and contain more stones, fill of 1406		
1406	Cut	2.65	0.95	Linear, aligned ENE-WSW, moderately steep symmetric sides, gradual breaks of slopes, flat base, cutting lower part of 1403 and 1404, filled with 1405		

Trench 15		
General description	Orientation	
Trench not excavated because of considerable depth of natural geology in this part of the site (estimated 2m+)	Length (m)	
	Width (m)	
	Avg. depth (m)	

Trench 16		
General description	Orientation	
Trench not excavated because of considerable depth of natural geology in this part of the site (estimated 2m+)	Length (m)	
	Width (m)	
	Avg. depth (m)	

Trench 17						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench in the north-eastern corner of the site; only partially excavated due to considerable depth of natural geology; devoid of archeology, modern ploughsoil sealing made up modern layers, which overlain natural geology					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	1.5-1.8
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1701	Layer		0.3	Topsoil/ploughsoil Friable, very dark brow silty sand with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying 1702	-	-
1701	Layer		0.7	Made-up ground. Firm, dark brown silty sand with c 5% rounded and sub-rounded small-medium sized flint pebbles, overlain by 1700, overlying 1702	-	-
1702	Layer		0.5	Made-up layer Firm, very compact olive brown clayey sand with moderate amount of round and angular small-small/medium sized pebbles, overlain by 1701, overlying 1703		
1703	Layer			Natural geology Friable, light yellowish brown and light brownish yellow sand with sand and gravel, overlain by 1702		

Trench 18						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench in the central northern part of the site, not targeting any geophysical anomalies; excavated with a machine, not explored by hand-tools, because of considerable depth of potentially archaeological deposits – two linear features, one ditch terminus/pit					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	1.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1800	Layer		0.4	Topsoil/ploughsoil Friable, very dark brow silty sand with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying 1801	-	-

1801	Layer		0.2	Made-up ground. Firm, mottled medium and dark brown silty sand with moderate amount of small sized flint pebbles, overlying 1802, overlain by 1801	-	-
1802	Layer		0.5	Made-up layer Firm, very compact dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate amount of round and angular small-small/medium sized pebbles, overlain by 1801, overlying 1803		
1803	Layer		0.4	Old topsoil and subsoil Medium brown silty sand with moderate amount of small-medium sized pebbles, overlain by 1802, overlying 1804	Pieces of glass Piece of slate Pieces of slag Clay pipe stem fragment Burin or short blade	17th-19th centuries and modern Flint – early prehistoric
1804	Layer			Natural geology Friable, light yellowish brown and light brownish yellow sand with sand and gravel, overlain by 1803		
1805	Cut	1.75		Geological horizon Widening from 1.0m at the southern part to 5.5 at Tr 18 northern edge. Feature filled with 1806 light brown silty sand		
1806	Fill			Light brown silty sand, fill of 1805		
1807	Cut	1.25		Ditch? Linear, aligned ENE-WSW, filled with 1808		
1808	Fill	1.25		Medium greyish brown silty sand with moderate amount of pebbles, fill of 1807		
1809	Cut	0.55		Ditch terminus/pit? Subcircular, extending eastwards beyond Tr 18		
1810	Fill	0.55		Medium greyish brown silty sand with flint pebbles, fill of 1809		
1811	Cut	2.0		Pit/geological horizon ?		

				Subrectangular, extending westwards beyond Tr 18, filled with 1812		
1812	Fill	2.0		Medium greyish brown silty sand with flint pebbles, fill of 1811		
1813	Cut	1.2		Ditch/geological horizon ? Linear, aligned NE-SW, wider at the eastern part, filled with 1814		
1814	Fill	1.2		Light grey sand with occasional pebbles, fill of 1813		
1815	Cut	1.0		Ditch ? Linear, aligned ENE-WSW, filled with 1816		
1816	Fill	1.0		Medium greyish brown silty sand with moderate amount of pebbles, fill of 1815		
1817	Cut	1.2		Linear, aligned ENE-WSW, filled with 1818		
1818	Fill			Medium greyish brown silty sand with flint pebbles, fill of 1811		

Trench 19						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench located in the NW corner of the site, excavated with a machine, not explored by hand-tools, because of considerable depth of the potentially archaeological deposits – two linear features, one possible pit, and one natural feature (tree-holes) exposed. The trench consisted of modern ploughsoil overlying made up deposits, which overlain old topsoil and subsoil with natural geology below.					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	1.9
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1900	Layer		0.3	Topsoil/ploughsoil Friable, very dark brown silty sand with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles, overlying 1901	-	-
1901	Layer		0.6	Made-up ground. Firm, mottled medium and dark brown silty sand with moderate amount of small sized flint pebbles, overlying 1902, overlain by 1901	-	-
1902	Layer		0.8	Made-up layer		

				Firm, very compact dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate amount of round and angular small-small/medium sized pebbles, overlain by 1901, overlying 1903		
1903	Layer		0.23	Old topsoil and subsoil Medium brown silty sand with moderate amount of small-medium sized pebbles, overlain by 1802, overlying 1804		
1904	Layer			Natural geology Friable, light yellowish brown and light brownish yellow sand with sand and gravel, overlain by 1803		
1905	Cut	1.5		Pit/tree-hole? Amorphous, extending SE-wards beyond Tr 19, filled with 1906		
1906	Fill	1.5		Light greyish brown silty sand with moderate amount of pebbles, fill of 1905		
1907	Cut	1.0		Suboval, extending NW-wards beyond Tr 19, filled with 1908		
1908	Fill	1.0		Light greyish brown silty sand with moderate amount of pebbles, fill of 1907		
1909	Cut	1.0		Linear, aligned NW-SE, filled with 1910		
1910	Fill	1.0		Medium greyish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles, fill of 1909		
1911	Cut	1.0		Linear, aligned NW-SE, filled with 1912		
1912				Medium greyish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles, fill of 1911		

Trench 20							
General description					Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench set across a weak geophysical anomaly in the north western corner of the site, containing three ditches/linear features and two natural features (tree-holes), the soil sequence consisted of modern ploughsoil overlying made-up modern ground on old topsoil/subsoil with natural geology below.					Length (m)	40	
					Width (m)	2	
					Avg. depth (m)	1.0	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date	
2000	Layer		0.27	Ploughsoil Very dark brown silty sand with small-small/medium sized rounded pebbles,	-	-	
2001	Layer		0.05	Made-up ground Light yellowish brown silty sand (redeposited natural?), overlain by 2000, overlying 2002	-	-	
2002	Layer	-	0.23	Made-up ground Firm, dark olive brown silty sand, very compact with small-small/medium sized rounded flint pebbles, occasional pieces of charcoal and a lens of material similar to 2001			
2003	Layer	-	0.2	Old topsoil Very dark brown, silty sand, compact, with pebbles			
2004	Layer		0.23	Old subsoil Medium brown slightly silty sand with flint and quartzite pebbles, overlain by 2003, overlying 2005			
2005	Layer			Natural geology Light yellowish brown sand with flint and quartzite gravel, overlain by 2004			
2006	Cut	0.6	0.38	Amorphous, sides varying – steep and gently sloping – base only partially exposed (flat and undulating), gradual breaks of slopes, truncated by 2008, cutting 2005, filled with 2007			
2007	Fill	0..6	0.38	Friable, medium yellowish brown silty sand with moderate amount of small-			

				small/medium sized pebbles, fill of 2006, cut by 2008		
2008	Cut	1.2	0.39	Ditch Linear, aligned WNW-ESE, moderately steep symmetric sides, gradual breaks of slopes, a flattish base, cutting 2005 and 2007, filled with 2009		
2009	Fill	1.2	0.39	Friable, medium greyish brown sandy silt with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles, fill of 2008		
2010	Cut	1.25	0.35	Ditch Linear, aligned WNW-ESE, moderately steep symmetric sides, imperceptible breaks of slopes, concave base, cutting 2005 and 2013, filled with 2011		
2011	Fill	1.25	0.35	Friable, medium greyish brown sandy silt with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles, fill of 2010		
2012	Cut	1.55	0.54	Suboval – truncated by by 2010, extending E and W-wards beyond Tr 20, cutting 2005, filled with 2013		
2013	Fill	1.55	0.54	Friable, medium greyish brown sandy silt with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles, fill of 2012		
2014	Cut	1.4	0.58	Ditch Linear, aligned WNW-ESE, steep symmetric sides, gradual breaks of slopes, flat base, cutting 2005, filled with 2015		
2015	Fill	1.4	0.58	Friable, medium greyish brown sandy silt with moderate amount of small-small/medium sized flint and quartzite pebbles, fill of 2014		

Trench 21						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SWW
Trench set across NW-SW running part of rectangular and one NE-SW aligned linear geophysical anomaly; it contained two ditches/linear features, one pit and two natural features (tree-holes) the soil sequence consisted of modern ploughsoil overlying subsoil with natural geology below.					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2100	Layer		0.23	Ploughsoil Very dark brown silty sand with small-small/medium sized rounded pebbles, overlying 2101	-	-
2101	Layer		0.25	Subsoil Medium greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small-medium sized, rounded and subrounded flint pebbles	-	-
2102	Layer	-	-	Natural geology Friable, light yellowish brown sand with flint pebbles		
2103	Cut	1.32	0.52	Linear, aligned NE-SW, gently sloping sides, gradual and imperceptible breaks of slope, flat base, cutting 2105, 2102, filled with 2114		
2104	Cut	0.6	0.4	Oval, asymmetric sides – gently sloping and steep, gradual breaks of slope, flat and concave base, truncated by 2103, cutting 2102, filled with 2105		
2105	Fill	0.6	0.4	Firm, orangey brown silty sand with occasional flint and quartzite pebbles, cut by 2103, fill of 2104		
2106	Fill	2.2	0.45	Friable, medium brown silty sand with occasional flint pebbles, overlying 2107, fill of 2109		
2107	Fill	2.0	0.6	Friable, medium brown silty sand with frequent rounded pebbles (c 50%), overlain by 2106, overlying 2108, fill of 2109	Pottery sherds, animal bone fragments (tooth)	Roman: 2nd century or later
2108	Fill	1.3	0.5	Friable, medium reddish brown silty sand with only		

				very occasional flint pebbles, overlain by 2107, basal fill of 2109		
2109	Cut	2.2	1.05	Ditch Linear, aligned NW-SE, very steep symmetric sides, imperceptible breaks of slopes, a slightly concave base, cutting 2102, filled with 2108. 2107, 2106		
2110	Fill	0.53	-	Medium brown silty sand with flint pebbles, cut by 2109, fill of 2111, not excavated		
2111	Cut	0.53	-	Recorded as a natural feature – tree-hole? However, probably a ditch as suggested by the geophysical survey results. Sub-oval, truncated by 2109, extending westwards beyond Tr 21, cutting 2102, filled with 2110		
2112	Cut	1.5	0.2	Tree-hole Amorphous, extending E and W-wards beyond Tr 21, asymmetric sides – gently to steep – gradual and imperceptible breaks of slopes, a slightly undulating base, cutting 2102, filled with 2113		
2113	Fill	1.5	0.2	Firm, medium greyish brown slightly clayey silt, fill of 2112		
2114	Fill	1.32	0.52	Friable, medium brown silty sand with moderate amount of flint pebbles, fill of 2103		

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Paul Booth

Introduction

B.1.1 The evaluation produced 87 sherds (2675g) of pottery, mostly of Roman date, from hand-excavated and topsoil contexts. For the most part the pottery was recorded using the generic codes set out in the Oxford Archaeology recording system for later prehistoric and Roman pottery (Booth 2014). The pottery was generally in good condition. Mean sherd weight of the Roman material was boosted by the presence of a few large mortarium sherds, but was quite high for other fabrics as well, while the surface condition of the pottery of all periods was typically moderate to good. The pottery is summarised by context and period in the table below.

Fabrics and forms

Prehistoric

B.1.2 Only two hand-made prehistoric sherds were present. A simple slightly outslipping rim in a sand and flint-tempered fabric came from context 101, and a further sand-tempered body came from Roman context 609. The character of the latter sherd suggests a middle Iron Age date, while the sand and flint-tempered piece is assigned a rather broader later prehistoric date range. This sherd was more abraded than average, consistent with its occurrence in a topsoil context, but neither sherd was heavily worn and they suggest later prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site.

Roman

B.1.3 The Roman pottery appears to be mainly from the middle part of the period (see further below), with very early and very late material apparently absent. The fabrics present are listed below in the sequence of ware groups commonly used in OA analyses, with fine and specialist ware groups preceding the principal coarse wares. Cross reference to codes in the national Roman fabric reference collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) are shown in bold.

S30. Central Gaulish samian ware (**LEZ SA 2**). 1 sherd, 2g.

S40. East Gaulish samian ware (**RHZ SA?**). 1 sherd, 83g.

F52. Nene Valley colour-coated ware (**LNV CC**). 1 sherd, 13g.

M23. Mancetter-Hartshill white mortarium (**MAH WH**). 6 sherds, 1130g.

O10. Fine oxidised wares. 4 sherd, 140g.

R20. Coarse sand-tempered reduced wares. 29 sherds, 418g.

R30. Medium sand-tempered reduced wares. 14 sherds, 289g.

R50. Medium sand-tempered black-surfaced reduced wares. 20 sherds, 460g.

R90. Coarse grog-tempered reduced wares. 1 sherd, 8g.

B.1.4 The only imports were single sherds of Central Gaulish and (probably) Rheinzabern samian ware, and the only fine ware a single Nene Valley colour-coated sherd. The

remaining pottery was probably all from local or regional sources. The Mancetter-Hartshill kilns were the source of mortaria, the fairly fine oxidised fabric O10 and, quite possibly, some of the reduced coarse wares as well (fabric R30 here can be equated with R19, a potential Mancetter-Hartshill product, in the Warwickshire Museum fabric series – see eg Booth 2006). Sherds assigned to fabric R30, however, are also reminiscent of the products of the Wappenbury kilns, a little over 20km distant to the south-west (Stanley and Stanley 1964). Three different mortaria were present in context 205, one with an incomplete stamp reading]CICVR.[. Apart from these, all the vessels represented by rim sherds were jars, while body sherds in fabric S30, S40 and F52 were from a bowl, a dish and a beaker respectively.

Anglo-Saxon

B.1.5 Sherds of this date came mainly from context 808, with related tiny fragments in 806. All were in a single fabric, tempered with coarse quartz sand and larger angular glassy quartz inclusions. A single vessel, a simple jar form, was represented by two joining rim sherds. A broad early Anglo-Saxon date (late 5th-7th century) is almost certain.

Discussion

B.1.6 The majority of the Roman pottery can be assigned to the middle of the period, and it is possible, though not demonstrable, that most if not all of the Roman contexts are of mid-late 2nd-century date. This is certainly the case with the largest single context group, from 205, which accounted for 41.3% of the total sherds from the site, and 72% by weight. The latter figure is clearly distorted by the presence of parts of three different Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria – a notable occurrence given that the group does not contain multiple examples of other vessel types. The mortaria, all with slightly different rim forms, support a later 2nd century date, and the date range of one could extend slightly later, as could that of the sherd of fabric F52 in this context. A date for the group later than the early 3rd century is very unlikely, however. All the rest of the Roman pottery from the site, almost entirely concentrated within and immediately around the enclosure in the southern part of the site, while not as closely datable as these pieces, would be entirely consistent with such a date range. Diagnostic late Roman (ie later 3rd-4th-century) material is clearly absent.

B.1.7 The assemblage is too small to allow assessment of the general character or status of the site, though the presence of several mortaria hints that this was not a rural settlement of the lowest echelon.

Context	Prehistoric	Roman	Anglo-Saxon	Post-Medieval	Context ceramic date	Notes
101	1/10				Later prehistoric	Sand and flint
106		17/272			2-3C	R20/jar
200				1/30	18-19C	
205		36/1926			Late 2C	F52, M23/mortarium x3, O10/jar, R20, R30, R50
206		12/138			Mid-late 2C	S40, O10, R20, R30/jar, R50
210		1/36			2C or later	R30/jar

Context	Prehistoric	Roman	Anglo-Saxon	Post-Medieval	Context ceramic date	Notes
305		2/69			2-3C	R20/jar
605		1/8			RB	R90
609	1/21	2/37			2C or later	R30
806			1/2		Early Saxon	Coarse sand
808			6/49		Early Saxon	Coarse sand/jar
2107		6/77			2C or later	R30/jar
TOTAL	2/31	77/2563	7/51	1/30		

B.2 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

- B.2.1 A total of 104 pieces of stone were retained and submitted for analysis. Most of this stone was recovered during sieving (102 pieces) and comprises a mixture of burnt (reddened) and unburnt pebbles ranging from 4-40mm in size. These can be discarded. A single tiny fragment of slate was recovered from context 1803 – this is too small to be identified as having been worked and can also be discarded.
- B.2.2 The only worked stone object is a tiny and complete slate pencil with one pointed and one flat end (903, 33mm in length). Slate pencils are typically of 18th century and later date, but could be as early as 15th century (Margeson 1993, 71).

B.3 Glass

By Ian R. Scott

- B.3.1 There are eight small pieces of glass from a single context recovered from the sieving of a soil sample.
- B.3.2 Context 1804
- (1) **Window glass.** Two small refitting pieces of colourless window glass, with very smooth regular surfaces. Probably modern. 32mm x 24mm. Th: 1.5mm. Sample <2>
 - (2) **Window glass.** One small piece of probably modern colourless window glass. 16mm x 9mm, Th: 1.2mm. Sample <2>
 - (3) **Window glass.** Tiny fragment of colourless window glass. Probably modern. Th: 1.5mm. Sample <2>
 - (4) **Window glass.** Tiny fragment of thin colourless window glass. Th: 1mm
 - (5) **Vessel glass.** Small curved colourless sherd. Undiagnostic, but probably 19th-century or later in date. 10mm x 11mm. Sample <2>
 - (6) **Thin flake or sliver** of colourless glass. Undiagnostic. Not measured.
 - (7) **Chip**, tiny, of olive green glass. Undiagnostic. Not measured. Sample <2>
- B.3.3 The five pieces of window glass (Nos 1 - 4) are all probably modern, or at the very least 19th-century or later in date. The other glass comprises a piece of colourless vessel glass probably also of 19th-century or later date (No. 5), and two small undiagnostic chips or slivers of glass (Nos 6 - 7).

B.4 Metalworking waste

By Ian R. Scott

- B.4.1 There are small quantities of metalworking waste recovered from the sieving of soil samples. These comprise a few small pieces of undiagnostic slag, and a quantity hammerscale. Both are probably the waste products of ironworking, and the hammerscale is a waste product of smithing.
- B.4.2 Context 305: **Hammerscale**. Spherical hammer scale recovered from sieving. Sample 1
- B.4.3 Context 1803 **Slag**. Six small pieces of slag. Undiagnostic.
- B.4.4 Neither object is closely datable, though both are hand wrought and not necessarily modern.

B.5 Ceramic Building Material

By Cynthia Poole

- B.5.1 Two fragments (80g) of ceramic building material were recovered from contexts 205 and 404. Though neither piece retained diagnostic characteristics, the fabric and general character of the finish suggests that both are Roman in date.
- B.5.2 The fragment from context 205 was made in a light pinkish orange fabric containing a high density of very uniform coarse quartz sand, very evenly distributed, and a single reddened flint pebble 13mm. It measured 24mm thick and had a very smooth slightly bevelled edge and the underside had been knife trimmed in a narrow margin alongside the edge. On the top surface was the end of a thin scored line, which could be the end of a graffito or a scored tally mark, though the latter normally occurs on the tile edge and has only been observed by the author on the upper surface on tile from Kent (Poole 2011, 335), so a graffito is more probable. The characteristics suggest this was a fragment of tegula roofing tile.
- B.5.3 The second piece from context 404 was made in an orange fabric containing mixed poorly sorted fine-medium sand. It measured 11mm thick and had a slightly rougher finish: it is probably a fragment of imbrex roofing tile.
- B.5.4 The small quantity of tile recovered is unlikely to be indicative of a building with a tiled roof on the site, but more probably has been brought in from outside to be used in ovens or hearths. Both pieces are from contexts containing pottery of 2nd-3rd century AD.

B.6 Fired Clay

By Cynthia Poole

- B.6.1 A small quantity of fired clay was recovered, the majority from context 305, apart from a single small fragment from context 1003. The fired clay is not intrinsically dateable but the group from context 305 is associated with Roman pottery of 2nd to 3rd century AD and the fired clay is likely to be contemporary. All the fired clay is likely to derive from oven structure.
- B.6.2 The fired clay from context 305 comprised 156 fragments (509g) recovered by sieving (sample 1) and a small amount (11 fragments, 41g) from hand excavation. It was associated with a large quantity of carbonised plant remains, especially well-preserved charcoal fragments (*infra* Cook), and likely to represent a primary deposit of oven debris and associated fuel. The fired clay was made in a mixed sandy clay fabric containing poorly sorted fine and medium quartz sand and fired to varying shades of red, brown and black. The material probably derived from an unmodified local clay source, possibly the local alluvial clay or clay weathered from the Blue Lias or Charmouth Mudstone deposits that outcrop in the area.
- B.6.3 Although much of the smaller material recovered from the sieved sample was amorphous, it was clear overall that the group derived from the lower oven walls and lining of a structure that was partly sub-surface. The fired clay included pieces that were much sandier and appeared to be fragments of natural subsoil that had been heated and reddened and presumably derived from the adjacent natural clay or subsoil into which the structure had been set. Other material derives from deliberately constructed floor and wall or lining. A number of fragments had a rough moulded surface and the largest piece had a concavo-convex surface suggesting that this derived from the stokehole arch or the curved edge of an opening in the structure. A number of heavily fired blackened fragments probably derive from the oven floor or lower flue walls close to the heat source. Other material was more oxidised and probably derives from higher in the structure. Most pieces were 15-16mm thick, but some as thin as 4mm may represent relining or areas of repair to the wall or floor surface. One fragment with a very smooth well-finished surface could derive from a piece of oven furniture rather than structure.
- B.6.4 The single fragment of fired clay from context 1003 was oval or circular measuring 36mm long and 4-12mm thick. It had an undulating moulded outer surface with a rounded curving edge and at the back a projecting nib of clay in the rough surface suggesting that this had been used to plug a hole or damage in the surface of an oven.

B.7 Artefacts recovered from sample 2 (context 1803)

Material	Description	Date
Pottery	3 small scraps of pottery: 1 small sherd transfer printed ware (TPW); 1 small foot ring scrap refined white ware (REFW); 1 small sherd black glazed ware (BLACK), 3g	1780-1900 18 th -early 19 th century 16 th -19 th century
Clay pipe	single very worn clay pipe stem fragment, 1g	18 th -19 th century
Flint	Burin on short blade, heavily rolled, hard hammer struck, possibly a dihedral burin, damage to distal end obscures point of removals, 2g	Early prehistoric

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

- C.1.1 Four soil samples were taken from the evaluation at Swinford Road, Lutterworth in Leicestershire during the evaluation in December 2016. Sample <1> (305) was 40 litres in volume and came from the terminus of a curvilinear gully within Trench 3. Sample <2> (1803), also 40 litres, came from a possibly modern build-up layer within Trench 18. Sample <3> (607) was a 40 litre sample taken from a pit or tree-hole within Trench 6 and sample <4> (613) was a 20 litre sample from a ditch fill also within Trench 6.
- C.1.2 The samples were processed in their entirety by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine. The flots were collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residues sieved to 500µm; both were dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye. The recovered finds are reported in the relevant specialist reports, together with the hand collected material. The dried flots were scanned for charred plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x10 magnification.
- C.1.3 Sample <1> (305) produced a flot of 700ml of which 100ml was scanned.
- C.1.4 Sample <2> (1803) produced a flot of 200ml of which 50ml was scanned.
- C.1.5 Sample <3> (607) has a flot of 75ml, 100% of which was scanned.
- C.1.6 Sample <4> (613) has a flot of 10ml which was also 100% scanned.

Results and interpretation

- C.1.7 The flot from sample <2> contains large quantities of modern material with a large proportion of clinker. Together with the finds retrieved from the residues this agrees with the modern date given on site.
- C.1.8 Sample <1>, which is mid Roman in date, produced a substantial quantity of charcoal. This is large and robust in appearance and very well preserved with potential for species identification if required. Nine fragments of cereal grain were observed within the scanned portion of the flot but are encrusted and in very poor condition and cannot be identified further. Two further grains are of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and two are oat/brome (*Avena/Bromus*).
- C.1.9 Sample <3> came from an undated feature. It contains a large proportion of hazelnut shell with over 50 fragments observed within the flot, many of which are large and very well preserved. Four fragments of cereal grain were observed but are in poor condition and not further identifiable. Six unidentified wild plant seeds are also present within this flot but as with the grain these have been crushed and heat distorted. A number of seeds of ivy leaved speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*) and goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.) are present but these are probably modern in origin. The charcoal is generally small in size but in good condition with some pieces probably large enough to be identified to species.
- C.1.10 Sample <4> also came from an undated feature. Eleven cereal grain fragments in poor condition were retrieved and while they are unidentifiable to species due to exterior damage the presence of four fragments of glume wheat chaff may indicate that these grains are wheat (*Triticum* sp.) A single grain is probably oat/brome but again the exterior is badly degraded.

Two fragments of legume are present and eight unidentified wild seeds, three of which are grass seeds. As with sample <3> a number of seeds of ivy leaved speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*) and goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.) are present but these are probably modern in origin. The charcoal is generally small in size but in good condition.

Conclusions

- C.1.11 Samples <1> and <4> contain charred remains which are not inconsistent with an Iron Age or Roman date. Sample <3> may be of an older date than the other samples since the inclusion of a large amount of hazelnut shell within the flot could indicate a prehistoric date, but this would need to be confirmed by radiocarbon dating.
- C.1.12 With the exception of sample <2>, which is clearly modern in origin, these samples show good preservation of charcoal and moderate preservation of other charred remains. Any future excavations should incorporate a sampling policy in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (Oxford Archaeology 2005 and English Heritage 2011).

C.2 Animal Bone

By Lee G. Broderick

- C.2.1 A total of 27 specimens were recovered from the site, all from context (2107). The context was dated to the Roman period on the basis of associated ceramics but unfortunately the specimens – likely all fragments of a single tooth – were not diagnostic enough to be identified to species.

APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

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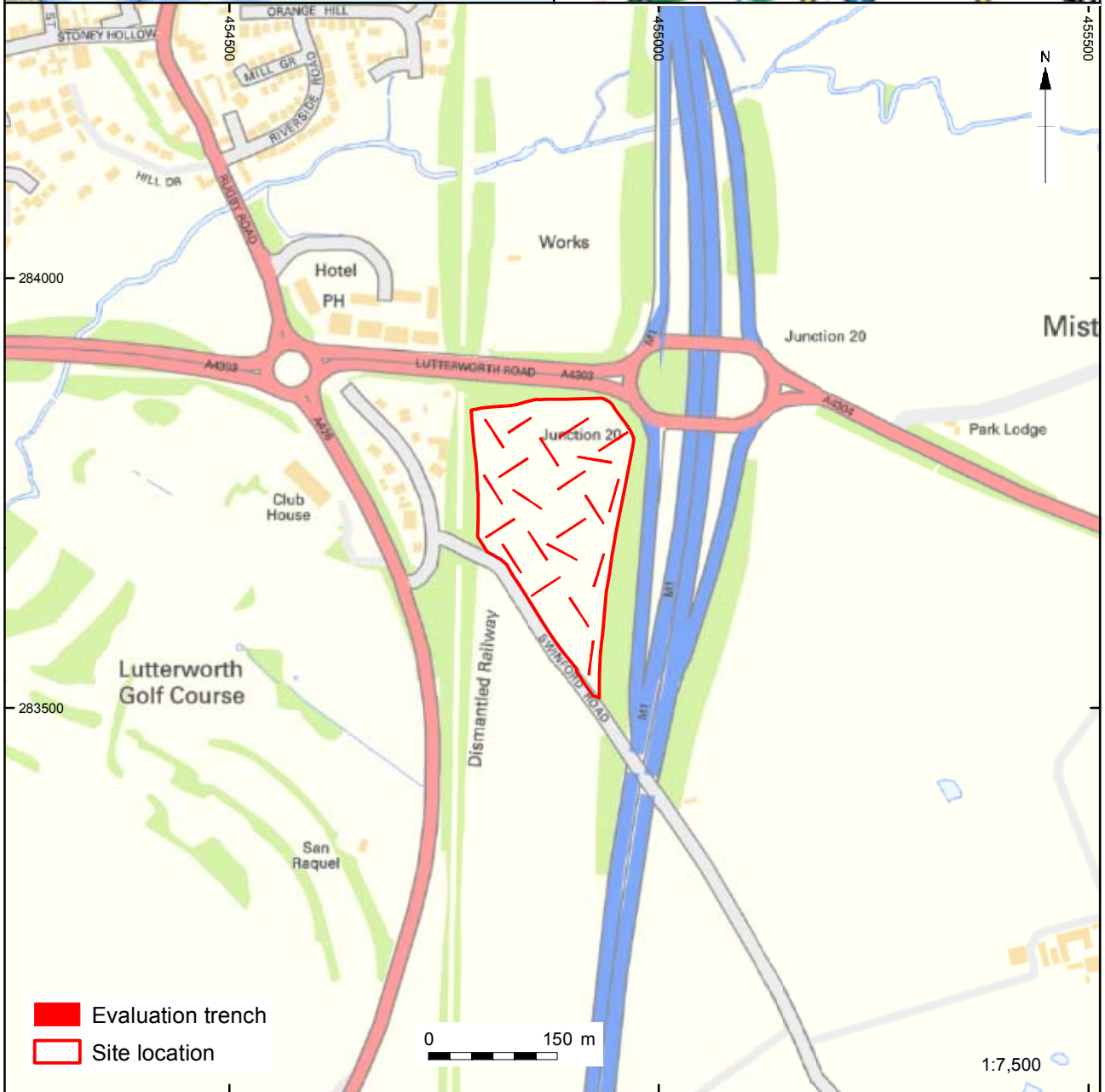
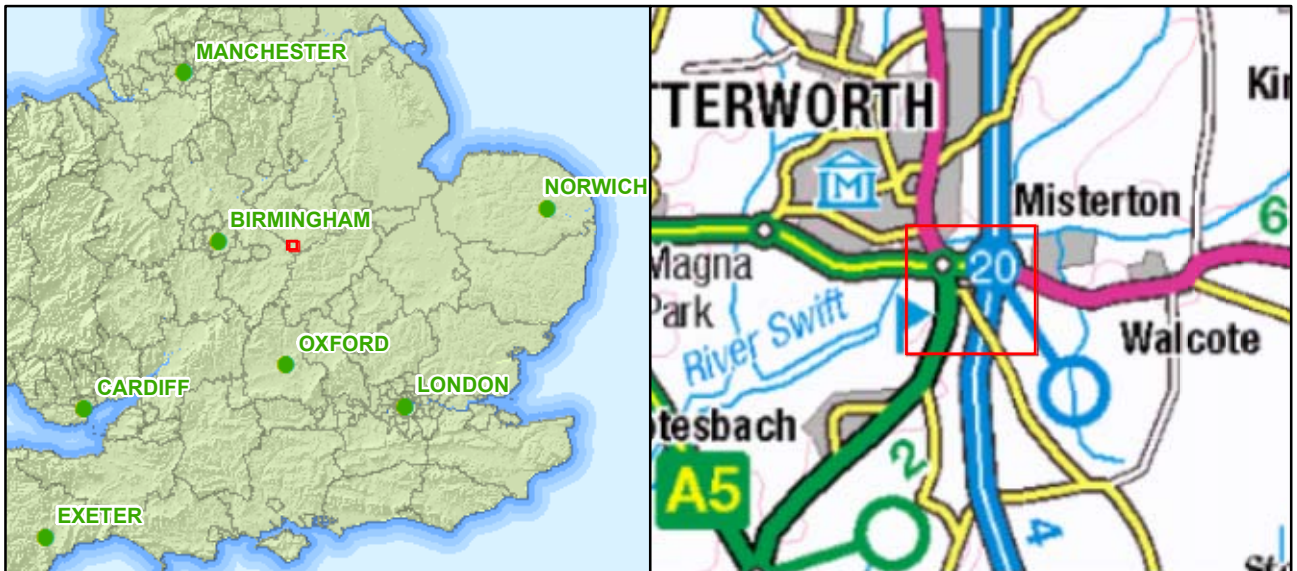
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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

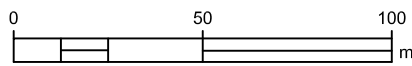
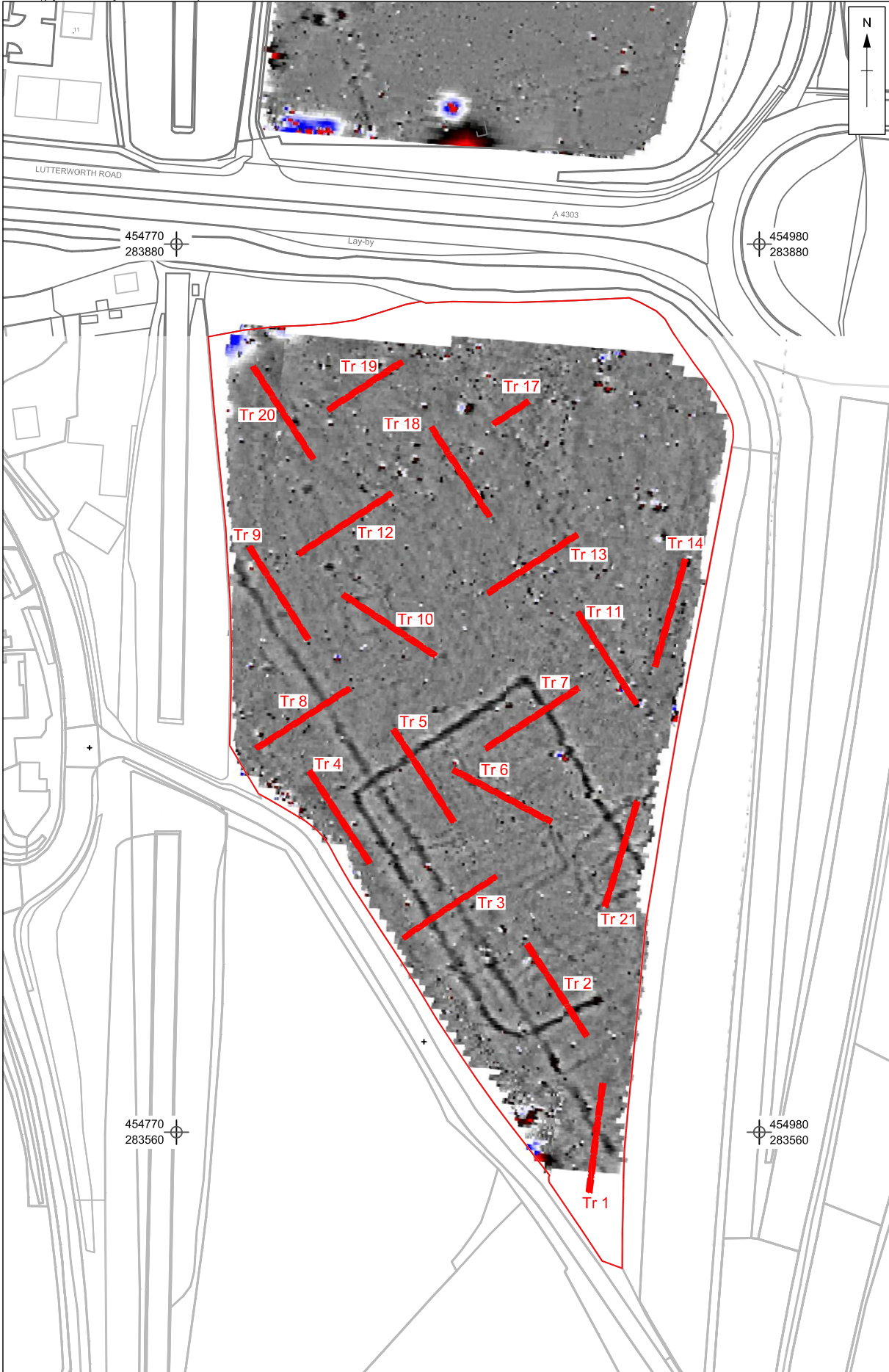
Site name:	Swinford Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire
Site code:	X.A134.2016
Grid Reference	SP 54870 83880
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	5th-16th December 2016
Summary of Results:	<p>Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the east of Swinford Road, south of Lutterworth, Leicestershire between 5th-16th December 2016. The evaluation was preceded by a magnetometer geophysical survey that provided clear evidence for archaeological activity across the southern and western part of the site. The trial trench evaluation was targeted to specifically investigate the geophysical survey results and to establish the presence/absence of remains across the northern part of the site.</p> <p>A total of 19 trenches were excavated, confirming the presence of a large, single-phase, rectangular enclosure measuring approximately 112m by 70m occupying the former high ground across the southern part of the site. Pottery assemblages recovered from the ditch securely date this to the late 2nd century AD.</p> <p>A series of ditches, gullies and pits were investigated within the enclosure area, although these lacked artefact assemblages. A clear association between the enclosure and other features was not established, although the propensity of these to be within the enclosure and the absence of similar features beyond suggests a link.</p> <p>Some ferrous metalworking activity (smithing) was undertaken at the site as evidenced by hammerscale and burnt clay fragments recorded in Trench 3.</p> <p>The topographical levels across the northern part of the site bordered by the M1 Junction 20 slip road and the A4303 had been substantially raised during the 20th century. Here made ground soil depths of up to 2m were recorded, probably related to the M1 construction, although the deposition of these had not been preceded by truncation.</p> <p>Archaeological features across the northern part of the site were limited to more sparsely arranged linear features that are likely to represent field boundaries peripheral to settlement activities.</p>
Area of Site	4 hectares
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Leicestershire Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number X.A134.2016.



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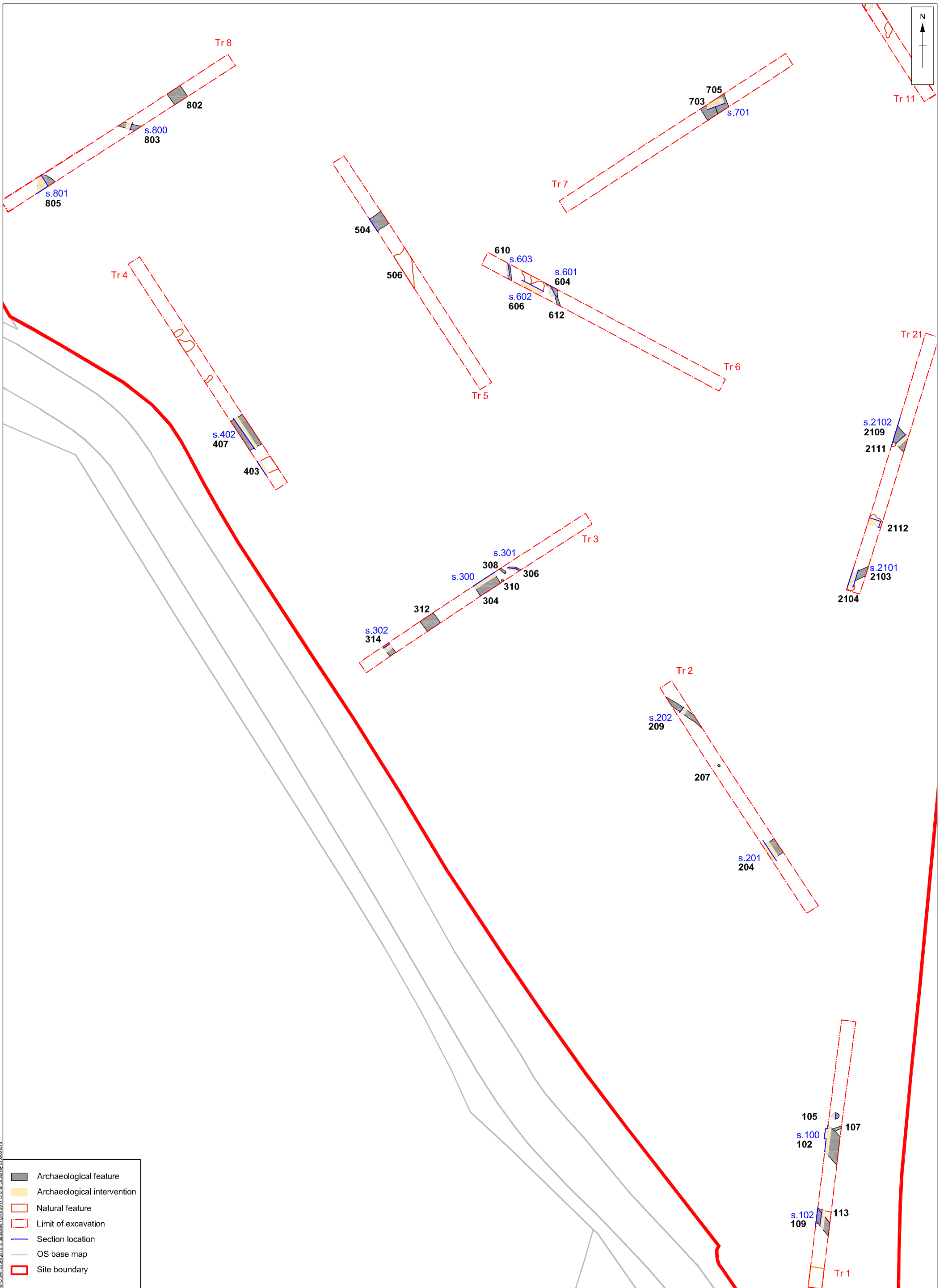
Figure 1: Site location

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Scale at A4 1:2000

Figure 2: Trench layout over the geophysical survey results



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Figure 3: Trenches 1 - 8 and 21

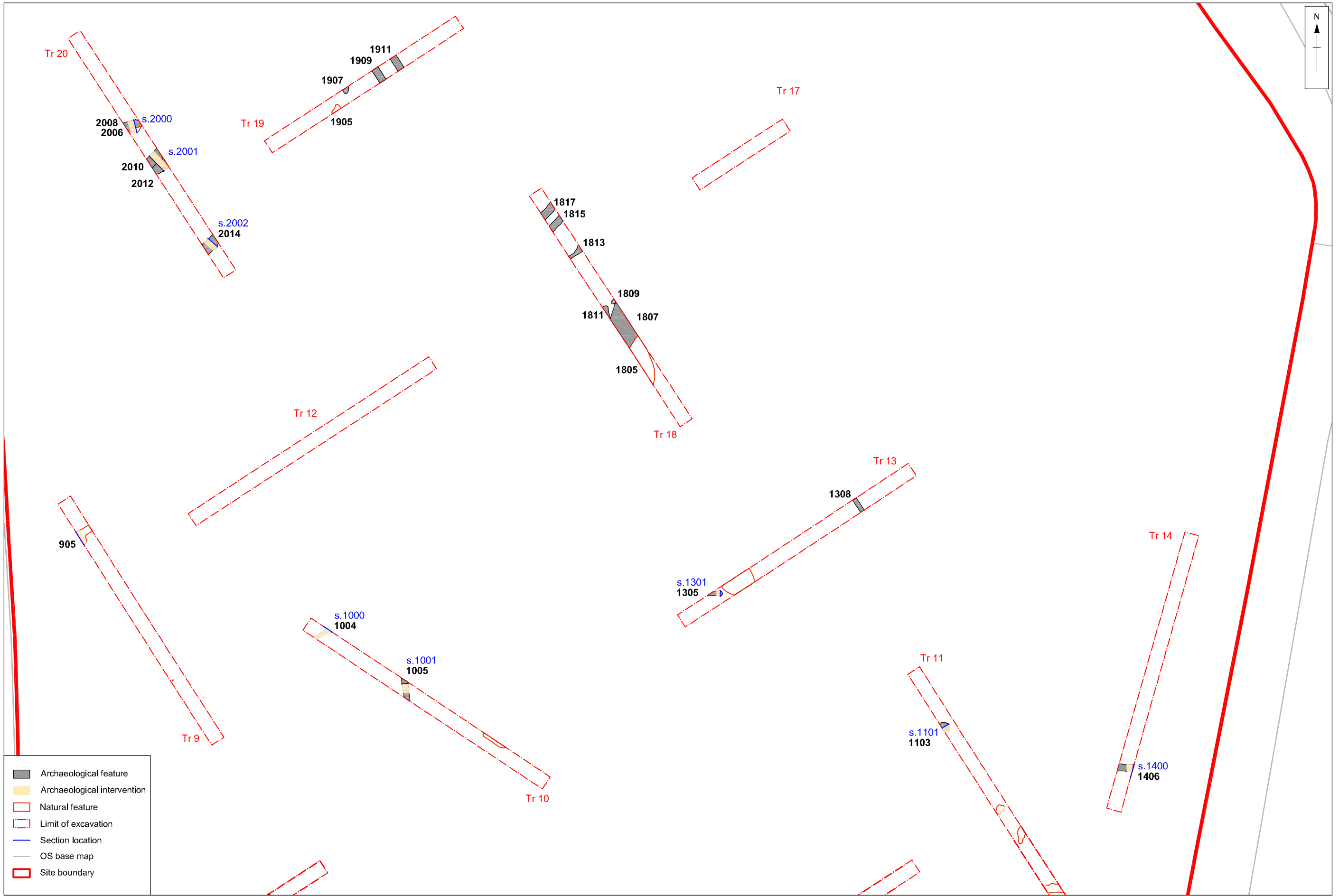


Figure 4: Trenches 9 - 14 and 17 - 20

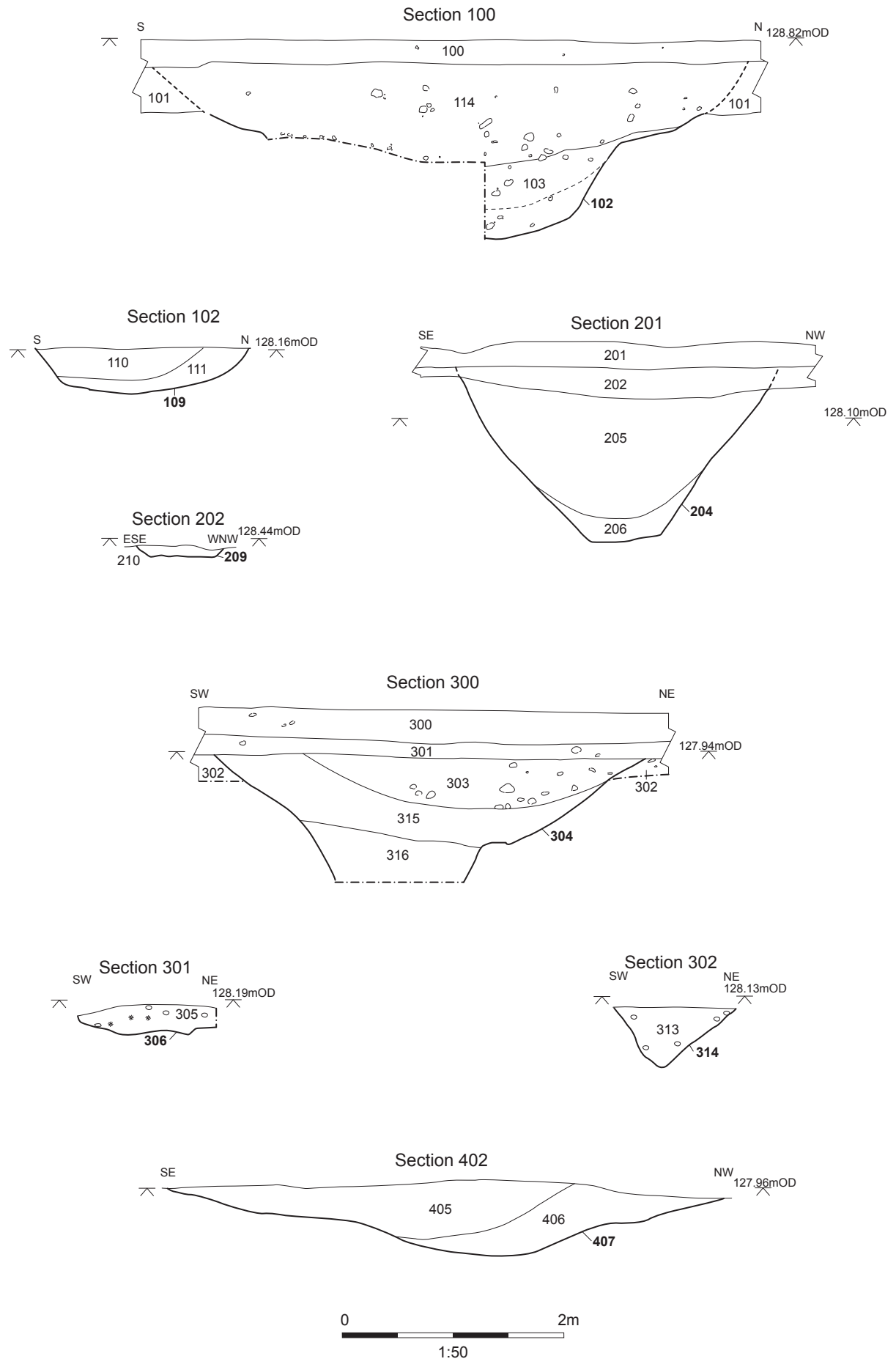


Figure 5: Sections of features 102, 109, 204, 209, 304, 306, 314, and 407

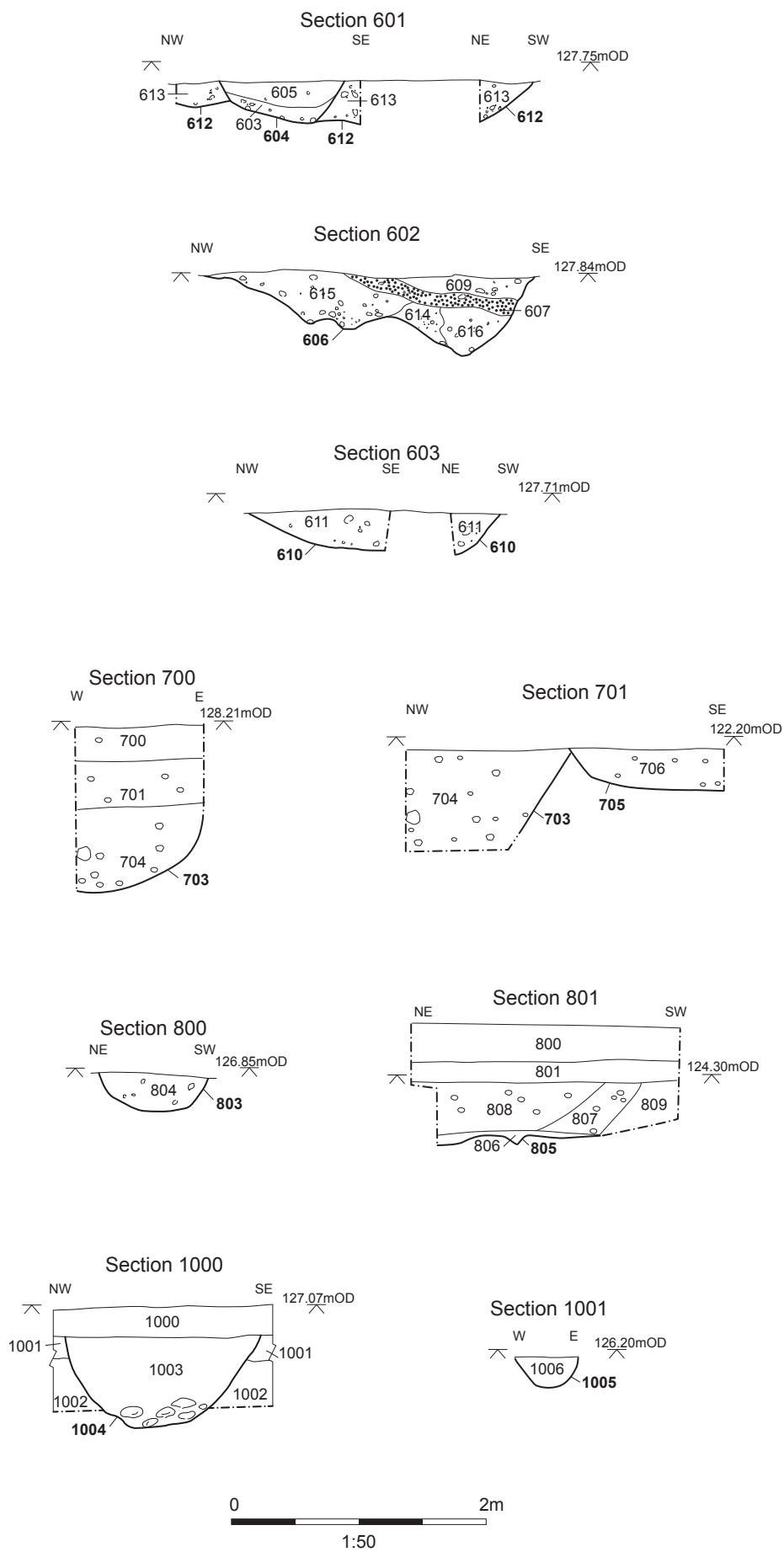


Figure 6: Sections of features 612, 604, 606, 610, 702, 703, 705, 803, 805, 1004, and 1006

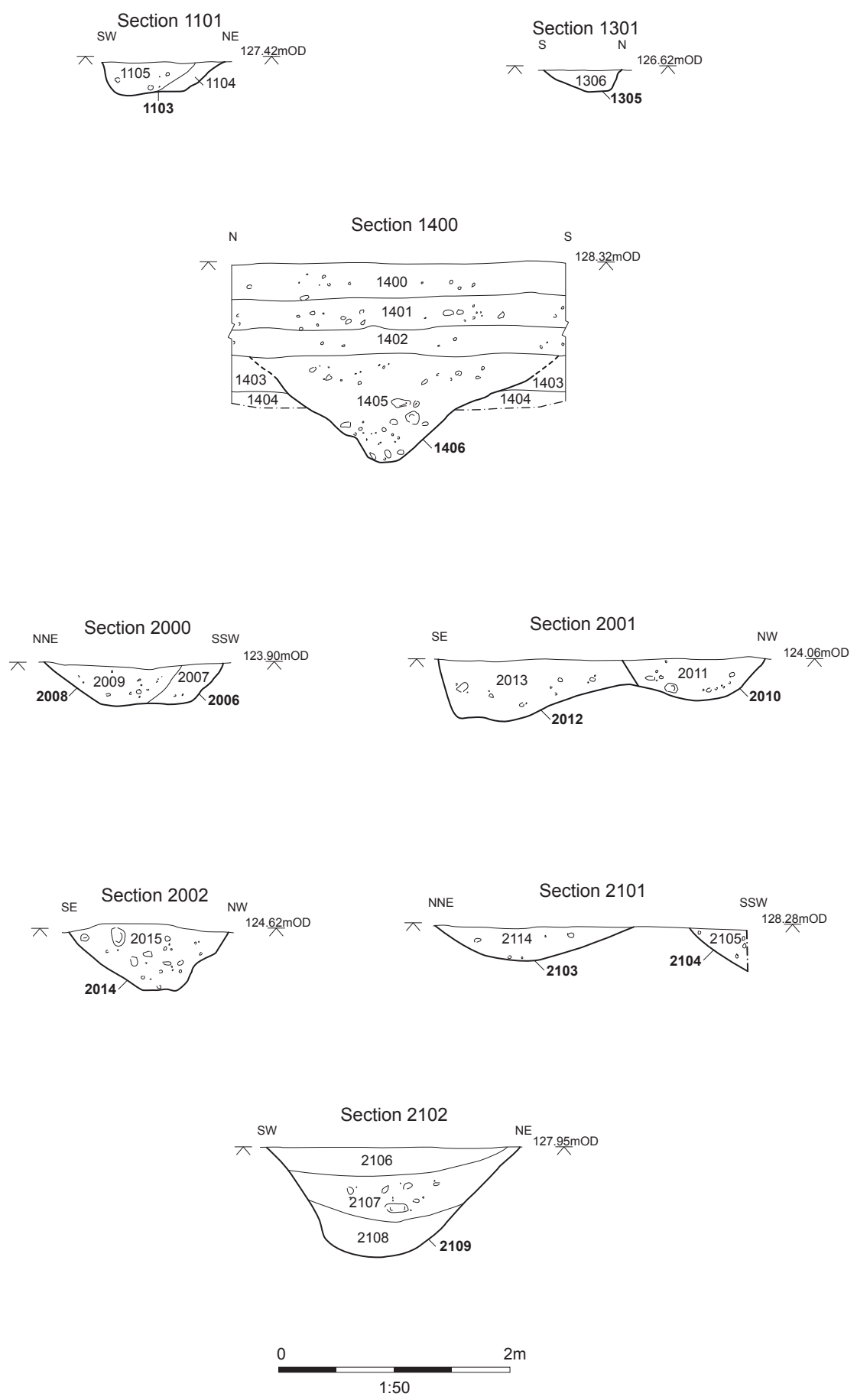


Figure 7: Sections of features 1103, 1305, 1406, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2103, 2104, and 2109



Plate 1: Ditch 102, east facing section, view west



Plate 2: Ditch 204, north-east facing section, view north-west



Plate 3: Ditch 314, north-west facing section, view south-east



Plate 4: Ditch 304, south-east facing section, view NNE



Plate 5: Features 306 and 308



Plate 6: Trench 6, features 606, 604, 612, and 610, view south-east



Plate 7: Ditch 803, west facing section, view east



Plate 8: Trench 13, sample section, view north-west



Plate 9: Trench 14, view north



Plate 10: Ditch 2109, south-east facing section, view north-west



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