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Whittington Way, Bishop's Stortford 'Education Zone'

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between the 7th and 25th November 2019 Oxford Archaeology East undertook a 15-trench evaluation on land to the south of Whittington Way, Bishop's Stortford.

Evidence for prehistoric activity was present across the site, with a small worked flint assemblage, one possible Bronze Age ditch and one Iron Age ditch terminus. Roman cultivation rows on three different alignments were present in the north-western part of the field. Later activity was characterised by an alignment of post holes and trackway dated to the Late Anglo Saxon-early medieval period, along with a modern field boundary ditch that extended across the south-western edge of the site.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council to undertake a trial trench evaluation at Whittington Way, Bishop's Stortford, the site of a new secondary school and associated landscaping and development.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. PL/0095/19) to inform the Planning Authority in advance of a submission of a Planning Application. A brief was agreed with the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Advisory Service (HHEAS) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by OA (Spoerry 2019) detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies on the southern edge of Bishop's Stortford (Fig. 1; TL 48230 19015). It is bounded by Whittington Way to the north and other fields to the south, west and east. A curvilinear, small watercourse runs along the south-western limit of the site. Two public rights of way border the field that the site is located in (along the northern and southern edges).

1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of a ploughed arable field. It is situated to the west of the River Stort on a gently sloping terrace, between 80m OD in the north-west of the site to 56m OD in the south-east.

1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as Thanet Formation and Lambeth Group clay, silt and sand, overlain by superficial Lowestoft Formation diamicton (British Geological Suvery online map viewer, accessed 31/10/2019, <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A full archaeological and historical background can be found in the WSI (Spoerry 2019) and will not be included here.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The evaluation sought to establish the character, date and state of preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The scheme of works detailed aims were:

- i. To ground truth geophysical results, by testing a range of anomalies of likely archaeological origin, and areas where no anomalies registered.
- ii. To establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and environmental remains.
- iii. To provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits.
- iv. To provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits.
- v. To provide – in the even that archaeological remains are found sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

2.1.2 Site specific research objectives of this evaluation were:

- i. Assess the presence/absence of settlement-related remains associated with the Iron Age to Romano-British site known immediately to the north-east and provide data to enable mitigation decisions to be made.
- ii. Assess potential for field system of both Bronze Age and Romano-British date in this location.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of 12 trenches measuring 50mx4m and three trenches of 20mx4m were machine excavated using a 20 tonne 360° tracked excavator under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were positioned so they did not cross a known electricity cable running approximately north to south between Trenches 8, 11, 13 and 15 at the western limit of the site and Trenches 7, 9, 10, 12 and 14. The trenches were excavated to the depth of geological horizons or the upper interface of archaeological features, whichever was encountered first.

2.2.2 All archaeological features were excavated, except in a small number of cases where the same feature was found to be in more than one trench or there were other examples of the feature in the same trench.

2.2.3 Metal detectors were used to scan spoil and features to aid in the collection of artefacts.

2.2.4 Environmental samples were taken for processing to look for any charred or mineralised plant remains, and a monolith series was taken for future pollen analysis. These features were taken from all feature types and all alignments in the case of ditches or cultivation rows. Any samples with a charcoal rich fill were also sampled.

- 2.2.5 All excavated features were drawn and photographed, and all finds were retained unless identified as being modern in date. Photogrammetric recording was used on one trench section.
- 2.2.6 Site survey was carried out using a survey-grade differential GPS (Leica 1200) with SmartNET.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The two trenches that did not contain any archaeological remains (4 and 7) will not be described. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B and the results from environmental sampling can be found in Appendix C. Trench plans and selected section drawings can be found in Figures 2-7 and photographs are presented in Plates 1-7.
- 3.1.2 Fifteen trenches were excavated around the western and south-western perimeter of the site. Twelve of the trenches were 50m long and three were 20m long, all with widths of 4m. These were positioned on various orientations, avoiding an underground power cable running north to south across the western side of the site, and to investigate the areas not covered by the previous evaluation (Williams and Heale 2008). The depth of the trenches varied greatly over the site, due to differences in elevation across the field, with the hill sloping downwards towards the south-western edge of the field (Fig. 2). Five trenches were located at the lower elevation, seven at the higher elevation and three extending across the slope.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform, although a layer of colluvium was present in those trenches along the south-western edge of the field (at the base of the hill). The natural geology varied slightly over the site, with a light yellow chalky clay at higher elevations and a light yellowish brown clay at lower levels. This was overlain by the mid brown colluvium, measuring up to 0.74m thick, where present. Sealing this was a shallow mid yellowish brown subsoil, measuring between 0.09m and 0.21m thick, which in turn was overlain by a dark brown topsoil, varying in thickness between 0.19m and 0.4m. Coverage of soil near the top of the hill is very shallow compared to at the bottom, explaining the variation in depths.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology. Only Trench 8, proved difficult for identifying any features; however, after a week of weathering, archaeology became more visible.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in 13 of the 15 trenches (Fig. 2). The remaining two trenches were devoid of archaeology (Plate 1).
- 3.3.2 Cultivation rows on three different alignments were identified in Trenches 9, 10, 12, 14 and 15. Only five continued between trenches: **916=1011**, **914=1009**, **912=1007**, **910=1005**, **908=1003**, in Trenches 9 and 10 respectively. A group of post holes were present in Trench 11 which formed a line roughly north-west to south-east orientated

alignment along the centre of the trench. A post-medieval or modern field boundary ditch aligned north-west to south-east, extended along the southern edge of the site and appeared in Trenches 3 and 6.

3.4 Results

Trenches 1 and 2

- 3.4.1 These two contiguous trenches formed a 'L' shape (Fig. 3). Trench 1 contained a north-east to south-west aligned gully (**103**) which ran along the trench and petered out before reaching Trench 2. It measured 0.62m wide and 0.2m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. The single clay fill was mid grey, with occasional small stones, that contained no finds (104).
- 3.4.2 At the north-western end of Trench 2 there was a ditch terminus (**203**), aligned approximately north to south. It measured 1.31m wide and 0.55m deep, with steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 6, S.117). The basal fill (204) was a mid reddish brown clay and did not produce any finds. This was overlain by an indurated dark grey clay (205) with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions, which contained two sherds (24g) of Early-Middle Iron Age pottery and 82g of animal bone. The environmental sample (100) was sterile.

Trench 3

- 3.4.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 3) revealed a north-west to south-east aligned ditch (**304**). The continuation of this ditch was identified in Trench 6 (**606/608**) and therefore it was agreed with HHEAS that it would not be investigated in this trench. Ditch **304** measured 1.73m wide and contained a dark brownish grey fill (305), with one sherd (10g) of 19th century pottery and 173g of ceramic building material (CBM).
- 3.4.4 A layer of colluvium (302) was also identified across the south-western half of the trench, extending approximately 34m (Fig. 7). This overlay the natural geology (303) and was covered by the subsoil (301) and topsoil (300). At its thickest it measured 0.74m and consisted of a mid brown silty clay.

Trench 5

- 3.4.5 Trench 5 (Fig. 3; Plate 2) contained a north to south orientated ditch (**503**), with gently sloping sides, a flat base and measuring 3.6m wide by 0.44m deep. Ditch **503** contained three fills (504, 506 and 507) and layer 508, a stone surface, probably placed over the partially infilled ditch and later sunk into. The 0.06m thick lower fill of the ditch (504) consisted of mid reddish brown clay with occasional small stones and was overlain by layer 508. This was 0.12m deep, consisted of abundant rounded stones in a mid grey silty clay, and contained 613g of CBM, 104g of worked flint and 136g of animal bone. This, in turn, was overlaid by a 0.11m deep dark grey clay, charcoal rich tip of material (507) on the western edge of ditch **503**. This fill contained two sherds (33g) of Late Saxon-early medieval pottery, 9g of fired clay and 12g of animal bone. The environmental sample taken from fill 507 (117) contained moderate amounts of cereal seeds, legumes and charcoal. Above this was the final mid greyish brown, silty clay fill (506), 0.28m thick, which had occasional sub-angular stone inclusions. This fill

contained one sherd (9g) of Roman pottery, two sherds (19g) of Late Saxon-early medieval pottery, 23g of oyster shell, 132g of animal bone, 192g of CBM, a Late Saxon-early medieval iron knife blade and an iron nail.

- 3.4.6 Layer 509 lay immediately to the west of ditch **503** and consisted of abundant rounded stones in a mid grey silty clay. This was likely the equivalent to layer 508, and together they would have made the stone surface of a north to south aligned trackway.
- 3.4.7 Another stone surface layer (510) was located directly to the west of layer 509. This had a very similar consistency to 508=509, except the stone inclusions were smaller. This may be the remains of another trackway converging with the first (alignment not clear) or it could be a stone surface adjacent to the road with an unknown function.
- 3.4.8 Layers 509 and 510 were covered by a 0.05m thick, mid brownish grey, silty clay (511).
- 3.4.9 These features were all truncated by four field drains on various alignments.

Trench 6

- 3.4.10 Positioned just to the south-west of the centre of the trench were two ditches – ditch **608** and later recut **606**, which equates to ditch **304** in Trench 3 (Fig. 3). Ditch **608** measured 1.6m wide and 0.28m deep with gently sloping sides, a concave base and was orientated north-west to south-east. It was filled by a mid greyish brown silty clay (609), which contained occasional stones, one sherd (2g) of pottery possibly dating to the Middle Iron Age, 29g of worked flint and 4g of animal bone. This was truncated by ditch **606**, which had steep sides, a concave base and measured 0.8m wide and 0.34m deep. This contained a very similar fill to ditch **608** – silty clay of a mid greyish brown colour with occasional stone inclusions (607), however, this fill did not produce any finds.
- 3.4.11 Trench 6 also contained a single pit (**604**) located to the north-east of ditches **606** and **608**. This pit was sub-circular in shape with steep sides and a flat base. It measured 1.8m by 0.7m and had a depth of 0.07m. This was filled by a mid greyish yellow silty clay (605) and contained charcoal and one flint flake (12g). The environmental sample (109) taken from this fill contained 2ml of charcoal.
- 3.4.12 The colluvial layer (602) was also present in Trench 6, extending over the south-western half of the trench. It consisted of a mid brown silty clay and measured 0.3m at its thickest.

Trench 8

- 3.4.13 Trench 8 contained a single ditch (**804**) which extended along the length of the trench on a broadly north to south alignment (Fig. 3; Plates 3 and 4). The full width of the ditch was not identified in the trench, but measured at least 2.2m wide and it was 0.7m deep. It had steep sides with a concave base and contained two fills. The lower fill (805) was a light brownish yellow silty clay, containing charcoal and flint. This was overlain by a dark greyish brown, clayey silt upper fill (806), which contained charcoal, flint, seven sherds (23g) of Roman pottery and 109g of animal bone. The environmental sample (110) taken from this fill contained a single cereal grain and a fragment of a legume.

3.4.14 This trench also contained a layer of colluvium (802), which was mid yellowish brown in colour and measured 0.3m at its thickest.

Trench 9

3.4.15 Trench 9 contained seven cultivation rows along the length of the trench (Fig. 4; Plate 5). Two, in the eastern half of the trench, were on a north-east to south-west alignment, spaced approximately 8m apart (**904** and **906**). The other five were located to the west (**908**, **910**, **912**, **914** and **916**). These were orientated north-northeast to south-southwest and were spaced roughly 5.5m apart. The dimensions for these can be seen below in Table 1. Cultivation rows **904**, **910** and **914** were not excavated, but it is presumed they have a similar profile to the others in Trench 9. They all had steep sides with flat bases, except for cultivation row **916**, which had a concave base. The north-east to south-west aligned cultivation rows contained a mid greyish brown clay whilst the remainder were filled with a mid brown clay. Both contained chalk and rare sub-angular stones. Cultivation row **906** contained one sherd (2g) of pottery dating to c. AD1550-1800. An environmental sample was taken from cultivation row **906** (115) and **916** (116), and both were sterile.

Cut	Fill	Width (m)	Depth (m)
904	905	0.74	-
906	907	0.78	0.12
908	909	0.54	0.1
910	911	0.49	-
912	913	0.53	0.1
914	915	0.61	-
916	917	0.66	0.21

Table 1: dimensions of the cultivation rows in Trench 9

3.4.16 A relationship slot was excavated between cultivation rows **906** and **908** (Plate 6) to determine a stratigraphic sequence for the different alignments. It suggested that the north-east to south-west aligned cultivation rows (**906**) were preceded by the north-northeast to south-southwest aligned ones (**908**).

3.4.17 The five north-northeast to south-southwest aligned cultivation rows were also present in Trench 10.

3.4.18 Colluvium (902) was identified at the western limit of the trench and was truncated by cultivation row **916**. It was a mid greyish brown clay, contained rare large sub-angular stones and measured 0.14m at its thickest point.

Trench 10

3.4.19 Five cultivation rows (**1003**, **1005**, **1007**, **1009** and **1011**) spaced approximately 5.5m apart were recorded in Trench 10 (Fig. 4-5). These were also present in Trench 9 and the equivalents can be seen in Figure 4. They had a concave base and moderately sloping sides, except for **1009**, which had steep sides. Cultivation row **1005** was not excavated, but it is presumed that its profile is similar to others in the trench. The dimensions can be seen in Table 2 below.

Cut	Fill	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1003	1004	0.6	0.12
1005	1006	0.59	-
1007	1008	0.65	0.17
1009	1010	0.55	0.13
1011	1012	0.52	0.1

Table 2: dimensions of the cultivation rows in Trench 10

3.4.20 The fills of all the cultivation rows consisted of a mid brown clayey silt with chalk and stones inclusions. Cultivation row **1003** contained one sherd (8g) of undated pottery. An environmental sample was taken from cultivation rows **1003** (114) and **1009** (113), which was sterile.

Trench 11

3.4.21 Trench 11 contained twelve post holes (Fig. 4-5; Plate 6). They all had steep sides with concave bases, except for post hole **1120**, which had gently sloping sides. The fills of these post holes showed evidence of burning, containing black (1123), dark grey (1101, 1103, 1105, 1113, 1115 and 1117) or mid greyish brown silty clays (1107, 1109, 1111, 1119 and 1121) and a high proportion of charcoal. The relative similarity of these fills suggests that they are contemporary, and they appeared to form a line orientated north-west to south-east. The dimensions for these post holes are presented in Table 3 below. Fired clay was recovered from post holes **1100** (21g), **1102** (10g), **1104** (10g), **1106** (22g), **1108** (3g), **1118** (15g) and **1120** (10g). One sherd (3g) of abraded pottery was found in post hole **1122**. Environmental samples were taken from five of the post holes – **1100** (101), **1106** (102), **1116** (103), **1120** (104) and **1122** (105). All contained frequent cereal (wheat and barley) and weed seeds, charcoal and legumes, except for samples 103 and 104, which did not contain any weed seeds.

Cut	Fill	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1100	1101	0.3	0.13
1102	1103	0.25	0.13
1104	1105	0.15	0.07
1106	1107	0.45	0.28
1108	1109	0.23	0.12
1110	1111	0.26	0.14
1112	1113	0.13	0.04
1114	1115	0.2	0.07
1116	1117	0.4	0.2
1118	1119	0.35	0.09
1120	1121	0.4	0.1
1122	1123	0.2	0.18

Table 3: dimensions of the post holes in Trench 11

Trench 12

3.4.22 Three cultivation rows were recorded in Trench 12 (Fig. 4-5). Cultivation rows **1203** and **1211** were aligned east to west spaced 16.7m apart. Cultivation row **1203** measured 0.41m in width and was not excavated. It is assumed that it has a similar profile and comparable fill to **1211** (1212). Cultivation row **1211** had steep sides and a flat base, with a width of 0.5m and depth of 0.27m. The fill (1212) consisted of mid reddish brown clayey silt and contained chalk and stone.

- 3.4.23 The third cultivation row had two slots excavated along its length (**1207** and **1209**). This truncated the other two cultivation rows (shown in a relationship slot between **1209** and **1211**) and extended north-east to south-west along the length of the trench. It was slightly curvilinear in nature, gently disappearing beyond the baulk about halfway along the trench. It had a shallow profile with gentle slopes and a concave base. The maximum width was 0.7m and the maximum depth was 0.17m. The fill consisted of a mid reddish brown clay, with chalk inclusions.
- 3.4.24 Environmental samples were taken from cultivation rows **1208** (106), **1210** (107) and **1212** (108), which were all sterile.
- 3.4.25 Directly to the north-east of cultivation row **1203** lay an amorphous natural feature (**1205**). It measures 2.1m by 0.82m and had a depth of 0.23m. The profile was irregular, with a silty, mid yellowish red fill (1206). This suggests that it may be geological.

Trench 13

- 3.4.26 Trench 13 contained a single ditch (**1304**), aligned north to south (Fig. 5). This had gently sloping side and concave base, measuring 0.49m in width and 0.12m in depth. The sole fill (1305) consisted of mid greyish brown clay, with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions, and did not produce any finds.
- 3.4.27 A layer of mid brown coloured colluvium (1302) overlay the natural geology (1303). This was shallower than elsewhere on site, measuring 0.35m at its thickest point.

Trench 14

- 3.4.28 Trench 14 contained six west-northwest to east-southeast aligned cultivation rows, all of which were excavated except for **1410** (Fig. 5 and Fig. 6, S.101; Plate 7). These were spaced approximately 6m to 6.5m apart, with the exception of the distance between **1410** and **1405**, which was 13.7m. All had steep sides, concave bases and fills consisting of silty clay either mid brownish grey (1404, 1406 and 1411) or mid greyish brown (1413, 1415 and 1417) in colour, and containing chalk and occasional medium sub-angular stones. The measurements for these can be seen in Table 4. Cultivation rows **1403** and **1412** are both examples of cultivation row terminals (the only two on revealed on site). One sherd (less than 1g) of undatable pottery was found in cultivation row **1405** and nine sherds (27g) of Roman pottery was found in **1414**. Environmental samples were taken from cultivation rows **1403** (111) and **1414** (119), which were both sterile.

Cut	Fill	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1403	1404	0.68	0.09
1405	1406	0.77	0.16
1410	1411	0.56	-
1412	1413	0.91	0.1
1414	1415	0.79	0.29
1416	1417	0.72	0.08

Table 4: dimensions of cultivation rows in Trench 14

- 3.4.29 Immediately to the south of cultivation row **1410** was a sub-circular pit (**1407**). It measured 1.03m by 0.93m and was 0.2m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. A slump on the northern edge of the pit comprised light brownish yellow silty

clay and was 0.16m in depth (1408). This was overlain by a 0.2m thick, light brown, silty clay with rare angular stone inclusions (1409).

Trench 15

- 3.4.30 Trench 15 contained one ditch (**1504**) and two cultivation rows (**1506** and **1508**, Fig. 5). Ditch **1504** (Fig. 6, S.113) was located at the north-western end of the trench, truncating the colluvial layer (1502). It was orientated east-southeast to west-northwest and measured 0.74m wide and 0.46m deep. The sides were steep and the base was concave, with the single fill comprising indurated mid greyish brown clay (1505), with chalk and moderate sub-angular stone inclusions. This fill contained one sherd (9g) of Middle-Late Bronze Age pottery.
- 3.4.31 The two cultivation rows were located to the south-east of ditch **1504** and had a slightly different alignment of east to west. Cultivation row **1506** (Fig. 6, S.114) was the deepest on site, measuring 0.77m wide and 0.4m in depth, with near vertical sides and a flat base. Row **1508** had a similar profile, just with slightly shallower sides. It measured 0.96m wide and 0.3m deep. They both contained comparable fills (1505 and 1507), consisting of mid brownish grey clay, with chalk and sub-angular stone inclusions. Three sherds (6g) of early medieval pottery was found in cultivation row **1506** and two sherds (6g) of Roman pottery was found in **1508**. An environmental sample was taken from cultivation row **1506**, however, this was sterile.
- 3.4.32 A layer of mid brown colluvium (1502) was present across the length of the trench, with a maximum thickness of 0.33m at the north-western end.

3.5 Finds and environmental summary

- 3.5.1 Three pieces of metalwork were recovered from the site. A modern copper alloy button was found in the topsoil of Trench 11 and two iron objects (a Late Saxon to early medieval knife and nail) were recovered from ditch **503**, in Trench 5 (Appendix B.1).
- 3.5.2 A small assemblage of ten worked flints (19.2g) was recovered from across the site. Three of the worked flints were residual and recovered from pit **604** and ditch **608** in Trench 6, and the rest were either from the topsoil, subsoil or unstratified (Appendix B.1). The assemblage has a broad date, between the later Neolithic and Bronze Age, with a blade dating to the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic.
- 3.5.3 Pottery was recovered from ten of the fifteen trenches (Trench 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14 and 15) and consisted of 36 sherds (180g). This was a mixed assemblage, dating from the Middle-Late Bronze Age (1600-800BC) to the 19th century. Three sherds from cultivation rows **1003** and **1405** are not closely dated (Appendix B.1).
- 3.5.4 Post-medieval CBM (983g) was recovered from ditch **503** and layer 508 in Trench 5 and the surface of ditch **304** in Trench 3 (Appendix B.1). The post holes present in Trench 11 produced fired clay (9g), which could not be closely dated (Appendix B.1).
- 3.5.5 A small animal bone assemblage, of 14 fragments of countable bone (472g), was recovered from four ditches (**203**, **503**, **608** and **804**) across the site (Appendix B.1). Identification to species could be established on seven of the bone fragments and

consisted of cattle, horse and rabbit. Erosion was present on the surface of the bones, with a single example of gnawing from context 806.

- 3.5.6 Nineteen bulk samples were taken during the evaluation, with carbonised charcoal and seeds present in eight (Appendix C.1). The post holes (samples taken from **1100**, **1106**, **1116**, **1120** and **1122**) in Trench 11 contained moderate to frequent barley wheat and oat grains, as well as wild varieties of legumes. Ditch **503** in Trench 5 also contained a moderate assemblage of the same types of seed and ditch **804** in Trench 8 contained a single cereal grain and legume fragment. Pit **604** in Trench 6 contained a single grass seed. The samples taken from ditch **203** in Trench 2 and the cultivation rows in Trenches 9, 10, 12, 14 and 14 did not produce any charred plant remains.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Archaeological features were generally clearly visible in the trenches due to the light yellow clay natural geology. The only exception was in Trench 8, where the ditch was not visible until after a period of weathering. Weather conditions were good, and groundwater or water from flooding was not an issue. Therefore, the results of the evaluation trenching should be seen as reliable.

4.2 Interpretation

4.2.1 The terminus of an Early-Middle Iron Age ditch (**203**) was present in Trench 2. This could have the function of a boundary or enclosure ditch, however, only a short section was exposed in the trench and it is difficult to make any firm conclusions.

4.2.2 Three different alignments of cultivation rows were present in the north-western half of the site in Trenches 9, 10, 12, 14 and 15. Five cultivation rows were aligned approximately north to south in Trenches 9 and 10. Cultivation row **1207=1209** in Trench 12 was on a similar alignment and may be associated. A second, later alignment of cultivation rows could be seen in Trench 9. The third alignment was present in Trenches 12, 14 and 15. These cultivation rows lay to the north of the others and were orientated approximately east to west. These correlated with the north-west 'vineyard' and south 'vineyard' identified in the previous evaluation to the north-east (Williams and Heale 2008). It is unclear whether these different orientations indicate different phases of agriculture. Alternatively, they could be related to the topography of the field being on a gently sloping river terrace. The environmental samples taken were all sterile and, therefore, cannot provide any information as to what was being cultivated here. The dating evidence was mixed and found in only six of the cultivation rows. Roman pottery was found in three cultivation rows, and early medieval and post-medieval in another two. It is likely that the cultivation rows date to the Early Roman period (as has been identified elsewhere; see Appendix C.1) and that any later finds are intrusive.

4.2.3 Another Roman ditch (**804**) was encountered in Trench 8 to the south-west of the north to south orientated cultivation rows. This could have acted as a boundary for the agricultural activity in the vicinity.

4.2.4 A group of 12 post holes were identified in Trench 11. They were orientated north-east to south-west, with a couple of outliers, and could possibly have formed part of a 'structure'. The environmental and finds assemblages could indicate that the 'structure' functioned like an oven, drying various types of grains and legumes, and could date from the Anglo-Saxon period onwards. This is supported by the presence of Late Saxon to early medieval pottery nearby, in Trench 5.

4.2.5 A north to south aligned trackway, partially sunken into ditch **503**, was present in Trench 5. The material culture and environmental sample dates this to the Late Saxon to early medieval period. The pieces of post medieval CBM present can be considered intrusive, due to the feature being truncated by four field drains. Another stone surface lay to the west of the trackway surface 509. This is most likely contemporary,

and there is the possibility that it is another track converging with 509. It is difficult to establish this conclusively due to so little being exposed in the trench.

- 4.2.6 A modern field boundary ditch, orientated north-west to south-east, extended across the south-west of the field. This aligns with a former field boundary which is present on the 1888-1913 OS map. The possible Middle Iron Age pottery and worked flint from **606** and **608** are probably residual.
- 4.2.7 Five other features present in the evaluation were not able to be dated securely or their functions determined. Ditch **103** in Trench 1 and **1304** in Trench 13 did not contain any material culture. They did not appear to be associated with any other features and, therefore, their function cannot be determined. Ditch **1504**, in Trench 15, contained one pottery sherd dating to the Middle-Late Bronze Age and was orientated very closely to the cultivation rows present in this trench. It seems unlikely that this was a cultivation row as the profile was not typical of others excavated over the site. Pit **604**, excavated in Trench 6, contained two worked flint flakes which were likely residual and its proximity to ditch **606** may indicate some association. Pit **1407**, in Trench 14, and natural feature **1205**, in Trench 12, both contained sterile fills and are most likely geological features.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General description						Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench contains a single gully running NE-SW. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.						Length (m)	20
						Width (m)	4
						Avg. depth (m)	0.47
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	-	0.13	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
103	Cut	-	0.62	0.2	Gully	-	-
104	Fill	103	-	0.2	Primary fill of gully	-	-

Trench 2							
General description						Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench contains a ditch terminus. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	4
						Avg. depth (m)	0.42
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
203	Cut	-	1.31	0.55	Ditch terminus	-	-
204	Fill	203	-	0.24	Primary fill of ditch terminus	-	-
205	Fill	203	-	0.34	Secondary fill of ditch terminus	Animal Bone Pottery	- Iron Age

Trench 3							
General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contains a single modern ditch, not excavated here due to it being the same as ditch 606 in trench 6. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and colluvial layer on the south-west half of the trench overlying natural geology of clay.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	4
						Avg. depth (m)	0.84
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	0.74	Colluvial Layer	-	-
303	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
304	Cut	-	1.73	-	Ditch	-	-

305	Fill	304	-	-	Primary fill of ditch	CBM Pottery	Post-medieval 19 th c.
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Trench 4							
General description						Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and a colluvial layer overlying natural geology of clay.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	4
						Avg. depth (m)	1.02
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	-	0.19	Subsoil	-	-
402	Layer	-	-	0.51	Colluvial Layer	-	-
403	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 5							
General description						Orientation	E-W
Trench contains a N-S aligned ditch and two stone surfaces, one forms a trackway (N-S running) and the other may also form one, however the alignment is unclear. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of clay.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	4
						Avg. depth (m)	0.51
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	-	0.36	Topsoil	Flint	-
501	Layer	-	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
502	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
503	Cut	-	3.6	0.44	Ditch	-	-
504	Fill	503	-	0.06	Primary fill of ditch	-	-
506	Fill	503	-	0.28	Tertiary fill of ditch	Animal Bone CBM Fe Nail Fe Knife Pottery Pottery Shell	- Post-medieval - Saxon-Medieval Roman Saxon-Medieval -
507	Fill	503	-	0.11	Secondary fill of ditch	Animal Bone Fired Clay Pottery	- - Saxon-Medieval
508	Layer	503	-	0.12	Stone surface of trackway in ditch	Animal Bone CBM Flint	- 17 th -18 th c. -

509	Layer	-	-	-	Stone surface of trackway	-	-
510	Layer	-	-	-	Stone surface of the trackway	-	-
511	Layer	-	-	0.05	Layer covering stone trackway surfaces (509) and (510)	-	-

Trench 6							
General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contains a modern ditch and a pit of unknown function. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and a colluvial layer in the south-west half of the trench, overlying natural geology of clay.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	4
						Avg. depth (m)	0.72
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	-	0.31	Topsoil. topsoil of trench	-	-
601	Layer	-	-	0.27	Subsoil	Flint	-
602	Layer	-	-	0.3	Colluvial Layer	-	-
603	Layer	-	-		Natural	-	-
604	Cut	-	0.7	0.07	Pit	-	-
605	Fill	604	-	0.07	Primary fill of pit	Flint	-
606	Cut	-	0.8	0.34	Ditch	-	-
607	Fill	606	-	0.34	Primary fill of ditch	-	-
608	Cut	-	1.6	0.28	Ditch	-	-
609	Fill	608	-	0.28	Primary fill of ditch	Animal Bone Pottery Flint	- Iron Age? -

Trench 7							
General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and a colluvial layer in the south-west half of the trench overlying natural geology of chalky clay.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	4
						Avg. depth (m)	0.48
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	0.26	Colluvial Layer	-	-
703	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 8							
General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contains a single ditch running N-S. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and colluvial layer overlying natural geology of clay.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	4
						Avg. depth (m)	0.84
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer	-	-	0.55	Topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
802	Layer	-	-	0.26	Colluvial Layer	-	-
803	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
804	Cut	-	2.2	0.7	Ditch	-	-
805	Fill	804	-	0.3	Primary fill of ditch	-	-
806	Fill	804	-	0.38	Secondary fill ditch	Animal Bone Pottery	- Roman

Trench 9							
General description						Orientation	E-W
Trench contains five cultivation rows on a N-S alignment and two others on a NE-SW alignment. Four were excavated – three running N-S and one running NE-SW. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and a colluvial layer at the west end overlying natural geology of chalky clay.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	4
						Avg. depth (m)	0.42
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer	-	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	-	0.13	Subsoil	-	-
902	Layer	-	-	0.14	Colluvial Layer	-	-
903	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
904	Cut	-	0.74	-	Cultivation row – not excavated	-	-
905	Fill	904	-	-	Primary fill of cultivation row - not excavated	-	-
906	Cut	-	0.78	0.12	Cultivation row	-	-
907	Fill	906	-	0.12	Primary fill of cultivation row	Pottery	c.1550-1800
908	Cut	-	0.54	0.1	Cultivation row	-	-
909	Fill	908	-	0.1	Primary fill of cultivation row	-	-
910	Cut	-	0.49	-	Cultivation row - not excavated	-	-
911	Fill	910	-	-	Primary fill of cultivation row - not excavated	-	-
912	Cut	-	0.53	0.1	Cultivation row	-	-

913	Fill	912	-	0.1	Primary fill of cultivation row	-	-
914	Cut	-	0.61	-	Cultivation row - not excavated	-	-
915	Fill	914	-	-	Primary fill of cultivation row - not excavated	-	-
916	Cut	-	0.66	0.21	Cultivation row	-	-
917	Fill	916	-	0.21	Primary fill of cultivation row	-	-

Trench 10							
General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contains five cultivation rows running N-S – four were excavated. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalky clay.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	4
						Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	-	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
1003	Cut	-	0.6	0.12	Cultivation row	-	-
1004	Fill	1003	-	0.12	Primary fill of cultivation row	Pottery	-
1005	Cut	-	0.59	-	Cultivation row – not excavated	-	-
1006	Fill	1005	-	-	Primary fill of cultivation row – not excavated	-	-
1007	Cut	-	0.65	0.17	Cultivation row	-	-
1008	Fill	1007	-	0.17	Primary fill of cultivation row	-	-
1009	Cut	-	0.55	0.13	Cultivation row	-	-
1010	Fill	1009	-	0.13	Primary fill of cultivation row	-	-
1011	Cut	-	0.52	0.1	Cultivation row	-	-
1012	Fill	1011	-	0.1	Primary fill of cultivation row	-	-

Trench 11			
General description		Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contains twelve post holes, containing burnt material. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and a colluvial layer overlying natural geology of clay.		Length (m)	50
		Width (m)	4
		Avg. depth (m)	0.67

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
1100	Cut	-	0.3	0.13	Post hole	-	-
1101	Fill	1100	-	0.13	Primary fill of post hole	Fired Clay	-
1102	Cut	-	0.25	0.13	Post hole	-	-
1103	Fill	1102	-	0.13	Primary fill of post hole	Fired Clay	-
1104	Cut	-	0.15	0.07	Post hole	-	-
1105	Fill	1104	-	0.07	Primary fill of post hole	Fired Clay	-
1106	Cut	-	0.45	0.28	Post hole	-	-
1107	Fill	1106	-	0.28	Primary fill of post hole	Fired Clay	-
1108	Cut	-	0.23	0.12	Post hole	-	-
1109	Fill	1108	-	0.12	Primary fill of post hole	Fired Clay	-
1110	Cut	-	0.26	0.14	Post hole	-	-
1111	Fill	1110	-	0.14	Primary fill of post hole	-	-
1112	Cut	-	0.13	0.04	Post hole	-	-
1113	Fill	1112	-	0.04	Primary fill of post hole	-	-
1114	Cut	-	0.2	0.07	Post hole	-	-
1115	Fill	1112	-	0.07	Primary fill of post hole	-	-
1116	Cut	-	0.4	0.2	Post hole	-	-
1117	Fill	1116	-	0.2	Primary fill of post hole	-	-
1118	Cut	-	0.35	0.09	Post hole	-	-
1119	Fill	1118	-	0.09	Primary fill of post hole	Fired Clay	-
1120	Cut	-	0.4	0.1	Post hole	-	-
1121	Fill	-	-	0.1	Primary fill of post hole	Fired Clay	-
1122	Cut	-	0.2	0.18	Post hole	-	-
1123	Fill	1122	-	0.18	Primary fill of post hole	Pottery	-
1124	Layer	-	-	0.31	Topsoil	-	-
1125	Layer	-	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
1126	Layer	-	-	0.3	Natural	-	-
1127	Layer	-	-	-	Colluvial Layer	-	-

Trench 12

General description	Orientation	NNE-SSW
	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	4

Trench contains a natural feature, two cultivation rows running NW-SE and another running NE-SW. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalky clay.						Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer	-	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-
1201	Layer	-	-	0.16	Subsoil	Flint	-
1202	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
1203	Cut	-	-	-	Cultivation row – not excavated	-	-
1204	Fill	1203	-	-	Primary fill of cultivation row – not excavated	-	-
1205	Cut	-	2.1	0.23	Natural Feature	-	-
1206	Fill	1205	-	0.23	Natural feature	-	-
1207	Cut	-	0.7	0.1	Cultivation row	-	-
1208	Fill	1207	-	0.1	Primary fill of cultivation row	-	-
1209	Cut	-	0.7	0.17	Cultivation row	-	-
1210	Fill	1209	-	0.17	Primary fill of cultivation row	-	-
1211	Cut	-	0.5	0.27	Cultivation row	-	-
1212	Fill	1211	-	0.27	Primary fill of cultivation row	-	-

Trench 13

General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contains a single ditch on a N-S alignment. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and a colluvial layer overlying natural geology of clay.						Length (m)	20
						Width (m)	4
						Avg. depth (m)	0.7
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	-	0.33	Topsoil	-	-
1301	Layer	-	-	0.11	Subsoil	-	-
1302	Layer	-	-	0.25	Colluvial Layer	-	-
1303	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
1304	Cut	-	0.49	0.12	Ditch	-	-
1305	Fill	1304	-	0.12	Primary fill of ditch	-	-

Trench 14

General description						Orientation	N-S
Trench contains a single pit and six cultivation rows (five were excavated), two of which are terminuses. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalky clay.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	4
						Avg. depth (m)	0.39
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

1400	Layer	-	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
1401	Layer	-	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
1402	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
1403	Cut	-	0.68	0.09	Cultivation row terminus	-	-
1404	Fill	1403	-	0.09	Primary fill of cultivation row terminus	-	-
1405	Cut	-	0.77	0.16	Cultivation row	-	-
1406	Fill	1405	-	0.16	Primary fill of cultivation row	Pottery	-
1407	Cut	-	0.93	0.2	Pit	-	-
1408	Fill	1407	-	0.16	Primary fill of pit	-	-
1409	Fill	1407	-	0.2	Secondary fill of pit	-	-
1410	Cut	-	0.56	-	Cultivation row – not excavated	-	-
1411	Fill	1410	-	-	Primary fill of cultivation row – not excavated	-	-
1412	Cut	-	0.91	0.1	Cultivation row terminus	-	-
1413	Fill	1412	-	0.1	Primary fill of cultivation row terminus	-	-
1414	Cut	-	0.79	0.29	Cultivation row – not excavated	-	-
1415	Fill	1414	-	0.29	Primary fill of cultivation row – not excavated	Pottery	Roman
1416	Cut	-	0.72	0.08	Cultivation row	-	-
1417	Fill	1416	-	0.08	Primary fill of cultivation row	-	-

Trench 15

General description						Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench contains one ditch running ESE-WNW and two cultivation rows on a E-W alignment. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and a colluvial layer overlying natural geology of chalky clay.						Length (m)	20
						Width (m)	4
						Avg. depth (m)	0.65
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer	-	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
1501	Layer	-	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
1502	Layer	-	-	0.21	Colluvial Layer	-	-
1503	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
1504	Cut	-	0.74	0.46	Ditch	-	-

1505	Fill	1504	-	0.46	Primary fill of ditch	Pottery	Bronze Age
1506	Cut	-	0.77	0.4	Cultivation row	-	-
1507	Fill	1506	-	0.4	Primary fill of cultivation row	Pottery	Early Medieval
1508	Cut	-	0.96	0.3	Cultivation row	-	-
1509	Fill	1508	-	0.3	Primary fill of cultivation row	Pottery	Roman

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Finds

By Carole Fletcher with contributions by Denis Sami (Metalwork), Lawrence Billington (Flint), Matt Brudenell (Prehistoric pottery), Severine Bezie (Roman pottery) and Zoe Ui Choileain (Animal bone)

Introduction

B.1.1 The evaluation produced a multi-period assemblage of artefacts, from middle to late Bronze Age, through to the post-medieval period. The assemblage has been quantified on a context by context basis. The ceramic material, pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), metalwork and miscellaneous finds are summarised in Table 5, with worked flint in Table 6 and animal bone in Table 7.

Potter, CBM and Metalwork

- B.1.2 The earliest material was recovered from Trench 15, ditch **1504**, which produced a rim sherd from a flint-gritted vessel of the Middle-Late Bronze Age, c.1600-800BC.
- B.1.3 Ditch **203** in Trench 2 contained Early-Middle Iron Age (c.600-100BC) pottery, including a decorated rim sherd and ?Middle Iron Age pottery (c.350-100/50BC) was recovered from ditch **608** in Trench 6.
- B.1.4 Roman pottery, broadly dated from the 1st-4th century, was recovered from ditch **804** in Trench 8 and from cultivation rows **1414** and **1508** in Trenches 14 and 15 respectively.
- B.1.5 In Trench 5, a residual sherd of Roman sandy greyware (1st-4th century) was recovered from ditch **503**, which also produced Late Saxon-early medieval pottery, and a Middle-Late Saxon to early medieval complete knife blade, similar to Evison Type 3 blades (Evison 1987). The ditch also produced the only shell (oyster) recovered from the site and post-medieval brick and flat tile fragments. Brick recovered from the trackway layer (508) dates to the 17th-18th century.
- B.1.6 Abraded sherds of early medieval pottery were recovered from cultivation row **1506** in Trench 15.
- B.1.7 Trench 11 produced a modern copper alloy button from the topsoil and a small assemblage of fired clay from structural post holes **1100**, **1104**, **1106**, **1108** and **1120**, with small abraded sherds of not closely datable pottery recovered from post holes **1102** and **1122**.
- B.1.8 The latest material recovered was from Trenches 3 and 9. From Trench 9, cultivation row **906** produced a small sherd of Post-medieval Redware (1550-1800). In Trench 3, ditch **304** contained joining worn sherds of post-medieval floor tile and a piece from a 19th century Refined white Earthenware dish or plate with a blue transfer-printed decoration.
- B.1.9 Abraded sherds of not closely datable pottery were recovered from cultivation row **1003** in Trench 10 and **1405** in Trench 14.

Trench	Context	Cut	Material	Object Name	Weight in kg	Count	Comments/ dating
2	205	203	Ceramic	Vessel	0.024	2	Early-Middle Iron Age c.600-100BC
3	305	304	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.173	2	2 refitting pieces of floor tile (worn) post-medieval
			Ceramic	Vessel	0.010	1	19th century
5	506	503	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.192	5	3x post-medieval flat tiles and two amorphous post-medieval brick fragments
			Fe (iron) SF100	Nail (incomplete)		1	A tapering shaft with sub-square cross-section and possibly circular head. Early medieval
			Fe (iron) SF101	Knife (complete)		1	A knife with straight tang with rectangular cross-section splaying into a blade formed by a straight back, curved cutting edge and angled tip, similar to Evison Type 3 (Evison 1987). Middle-Late Saxon to Early medieval
			Organic	Shell	0.023	1	Oyster, incomplete left valve
			Ceramic	Vessel	0.007	1	Roman 1st-4th century
			Ceramic	Vessel	0.020	2	Late Saxon-early medieval, mid 11th-mid 13th century
			Ceramic	Fired clay	0.009	1	Chalk inclusions. Not closely datable
	507		Ceramic	Vessel	0.033	2	Late Saxon-early medieval, mid 11th-mid 13th century
	508		Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.613	4	2x post-med 17-18th century brick fragments, 2x post-medieval flat tile
	6	609	608	Ceramic	Vessel	0.002	1
8	806	804	Ceramic	Vessel	0.023	7	Roman 1st-4th century
9	907	906	Ceramic	Vessel	0.005	1	c.1550-1800
10	1004	1003	Ceramic	Vessel	0.008	2	Reduced silty, handmade. Not closely datable
11	1101	1100	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.021	1	Chalk inclusions. Not closely datable
	1103	1102	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.008	2	Chalk inclusions. Not closely datable
	1105	1104	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.010	1	Chalk inclusions. Not closely datable
	1107	1106	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.022	4	Silty. Not closely datable
	1109	1108	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.003	3	Chalk inclusions. Not closely datable
	1119	1118	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.015	2	Chalk inclusions. Not closely datable
	1121	1120	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.010	2	Chalk inclusions. Not closely datable
	1123	1122	Ceramic	Vessel	0.003	1	Quartz-tempered and abraded. Not closely datable
	99999		CuA (copper alloy)	Button (incomplete)		1	A circular button decorated with floral motives around a central five-petaled flower. Modern
14	1406	1405	Ceramic	Vessel	0.001	1	Not closely datable
	1415	1414	Ceramic	Vessel	0.012	5	Roman 1st-4th century
			Lithic	Stone	0.014	4	Fragments
15	1505	1504	Ceramic	Vessel	0.009	1	Middle-Late Bronze Age 1600-800BC, flint-gritted rim
	1507	1506	Ceramic	Vessel	0.006	3	Early medieval
	1509	1508	Ceramic	Vessel	0.006	2	Roman 1st-4th century and an abraded, not closely datable body sherd

Table 5: Summary quantification excluding flint and animal bone

Discussion

B.1.10 The assemblage is mixed, however, the various periods represented appear relatively discrete in their distribution across the trenches, with Trench 5 producing the most mixed period assemblage, ranging from Roman pottery to 17th-18th century brick. The exception is the Roman pottery, which was recovered from numerous trenches, sometimes alongside later material, flint and bone. The fired clay recovered from the post holes in Trench 11 may be structural, unfortunately no datable material was

recovered. Overall, with the exception of Trenches 3 and 9, which produced only post-medieval material, the trenches produced a small, yet interesting, assemblage of material.

Flint

B.1.11 A total of ten worked flints were recovered during the evaluation, from Trenches 5, 6 and 12 (Table 6). The flint was recovered in low densities from topsoil and subsoil deposits and from the fills of cut features and is moderate to poor condition, consistent with deriving largely from disturbed unstratified contexts or as a residual element from later features. The assemblage is multi-period and includes one Mesolithic/Early Neolithic blade (unstratified), alongside less diagnostic flake-based material. The only retouched piece is a short end scraper from the subsoil of Trench 6. This flake-based material is consistent with a broad later Neolithic/Bronze Age date.

Trench	Context	Cut	Context type	Primary flake	Secondary flake	Tertiary flake	Secondary blade	Core	Scraper	Totals
5	500		Topsoil			1				1
5	508		Layer	1	1			1		3
6	601		Subsoil						1	1
6	605	604	Pit		2					2
6	609	608	Ditch		1					1
12	1201		Subsoil		1					1
	99999		Unstratified				1			1
Totals:				1	5	1	1	1	1	10

Table 6: Quantification of the flint assemblage

Animal Bone

B.1.12 The evaluation produced 14 fragments (472g) of countable bone, from Trenches 2, 5, 6 and 8 (Table 7). All bone was identified using Schmid (1972). Preservation condition was evaluated using the 0-5 scale devised by Brickley and McKinley (2004 14-15).

B.1.13 Of the countable fragments, seven were identifiable to species: cattle horse and rabbit. The MNI (minimum number of individuals) for all species was one. Bone condition best fits a grade 2 on the scale devised by McKinley (*ibid*), meaning that some surfaces were partially masked by erosion. All observable epiphyses were fused. A single example of gnawing could be observed on a cattle metacarpus from context 806.

B.1.14 A summary of results is displayed in the table below. In total this is a small and fragmentary assemblage, providing little information about the site.

Trench	Context	Cut	Taxon	Element	Weight (g)	Count
2	205	203	Cattle	Mandible	83	1
5	506	503	Horse	Astragalus	81	1
			Large mammal	Scapula	32	1
			Large mammal	Long bone	32	2
	507		Medium mammal	Metapodial	1	1
			Medium mammal	Tibia	6	1

Trench	Context	Cut	Taxon	Element	Weight (g)	Count
	508		Cattle	Metatarsus	117	1
			Cattle	Ph1	12	1
6	609	608	Rabbit	Humerus	1	1
8	806	804	Cattle	Metacarpus	77	1
			Cattle	Ph2	5	1
			Medium mammal	Long bone	3	1
			Large mammal	Long bone	22	1
Totals:					389	13

Table 7: summary of Taxon and elements by trench and context

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.1.1 Nineteen bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area, Hertfordshire in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Samples were taken from features encountered within trenches located in the western and south-western perimeter of the site from deposits that are thought to be Iron Age, Early Roman and medieval in date. The features included cultivation rows encountered in several of the trenches that had been identified by geophysical analysis.

Methodology

C.1.2 The samples were soaked in a solution of sodium carbonate for 24hrs prior to processing to break down the sticky clay matrix. The total volume (up to 20L) of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation using modified *Siraf*-type equipment for the recovery of preserved plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve.

C.1.3 The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 8. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers *et al.* 2006) and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (2010) for other plants. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

C.1.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds and cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

= 1-5, ## = 6-25, ### = 26-100, #### = 100+ specimens

C.1.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as molluscs have been scored for abundance

+ = occasional, ++ = moderate, +++ = frequent, ++++ = abundant

Key to tables:

f = fragmented

Results

C.1.6 Preservation of plant remains is by carbonisation with charcoal and seeds present in eight of the samples. Most of the flots contain rootlets which may have caused movement of material between contexts and it is possible that some plant remains may be intrusive due to the movement of hill-wash due to the topography of the site. Snail shells are reasonably well preserved and occur in small quantities in many of the samples.

C.1.7 The results are presented by Trench.

Trench 2

C.1.8 No preserved remains

Trench 5

C.1.9 Sample 117, layer 507 within ditch **503** was observed as being charcoal-rich on excavation and produced a moderate assemblage of charred plant remains and charcoal. Free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/compactum*) grains predominate and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), oats (*Avena* sp.) and legumes (Fabaceae) are also present.

Trench 6

C.1.10 Sample 109 (pit **604**) contains occasional charcoal and a single charred grass (Poaceae) seed.

Trench 8

C.1.11 Sample 110, fill 806 of ditch **804** contains a single charred cereal grain and a fragment of a legume.

Trench 11

C.1.12 Samples 101 to 105 were taken from five (**1100, 1106, 1116, 1120, 1122**) of twelve post holes which were all noted as having charcoal-rich fills on excavation. All five samples contain charred plant remains with spatial variation observed. Sample 101, fill 1101 of post hole **1100** contains frequent barley grains with a moderate amount of free-threshing wheat and Sample 105, fill 1123 of post hole **1122** contains frequent free-threshing wheat with occasional oat grains, the samples from post holes **1106, 1116** and **1120** contain less frequent grains of wheat, barley and oats. All five samples contain legumes of various sizes which most likely represent vetches/tares (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) rather than cultivated peas (*Pisum sativum*) as several specimens are well-preserved with intact hila allowing identification of these wild varieties.

Trenches 9, 10, 12, 14, 15 (Cultivation rows)

C.1.13 Samples were taken from ten of the cultivation rows/ditches that were encountered in five trenches. The flots of these samples were all sterile apart from occasional small

snail shells. Small fragments of pottery recovered from the residues of Samples 115 (ditch **906**, Trench 9) and 106 (ditch **1207**, Trench 12).

Trench no.	Sample no.	Context no.	Feature no.	Feature type	Volume processed (L)	Flot volume (ml)	Cereals	Legumes	Weed seeds	Molluscs	Charcoal volume (ml)	Pottery	Flint debitage	Hammerscale
2	100	205	203	Ditch terminus	20	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	117	507	503	Ditch	19	30	###	#	0	0	15	#	#	0
6	109	605	604	Pit	17	20	0	0	#	0	2	#	#	0
8	110	806	804	Ditch	19	5	#	#f	0	0	<1	#	0	0
9	115	907	906	Cultivation row	19	20	0	0	0	+	0	#	0	0
9	116	917	916	Cultivation row	18	5	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+
10	113	1010	1009	Cultivation row	17	5	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
10	114	1004	1003	Cultivation row	20	10	0	0	0	+	0	0	#	0
11	101	1101	1100	Post hole	5	20	####	##	#	0	5	0	0	0
11	102	1107	1106	Post hole	17	20	###	##	##	+	2	#	0	0
11	103	1117	1116	Post hole	9	20	##	#	0	++	2	0	0	0
11	104	1121	1120	Post hole	5	5	##	#	0	+	<1	0	#	0
11	105	1123	1122	Post hole	4	40	####	###	###	+	11	0	#	0
12	106	1208	1207	Cultivation row	19	10	0	0	0	0	0	#	0	0
12	107	1210	1209	Cultivation row	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	108	1212	1211	Cultivation row	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	111	1404	1403	Cultivation row	18	20	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
14	119	1415	1414	Cultivation row	20	10	0	0	0	+	0	0	#	0
15	112	1507	1506	Cultivation row	15	5	0	0	0	+	0	0	#	0

Table 8: environmental samples

Discussion

C.1.14 The recovery of charred grain, chaff, weed seeds and charcoal indicates that there is good potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site, particularly in the areas represented by Trenches 5 and 11. Future excavation has the potential to recover larger, more meaningful assemblages that would contribute to the evidence of diet and economy at this site.

C.1.15 The most abundant charred plant assemblages were recovered from post holes in Trench 11. Charred cereal grains predominate with very few contaminating weed seeds and no evidence of cereal chaff (straw). There was no evidence of *in-situ* burning within the post holes and the recovery of such large quantities of grain from with the

features suggests the deposits accumulated after the posts had been removed. Fired clay was also recovered from the post hole fills and it seems likely that the deposits represent the demolition of ovens that had been used to dry fully-processed grain. The wheat grains mostly have a compact, rounded morphology that is suggestive of club wheat (*Triticum compactum*), a form of bread wheat that became a common cultivar from the Saxon period onwards that could have been sown as a winter crop on the local heavy clay soils. The barley is likely to have been a six-row variety that was sown in spring.

- C.1.16 The relatively high frequency of vetches and tares may indicate that these were also a cultivated crop to be used as fodder and/or for soil enrichment due to their nitrogen-fixing properties.
- C.1.17 A group of cultivation rows (also known as bedding trenches or 'lazy beds' are known to occupy a large proportion of the adjacent site continuing into the evaluation area. They are most likely Early Roman in date and comprised several narrow, parallel trenches. These field system arrangements appear to be very common (and restricted to) the eastern counties of Britain and are considered to relate to horticulture (Lodwick 2017, 73). Their use for viticulture has been suggested but plant macrofossil and pollen evidence has hitherto been elusive other than at Wollaston, Northamptonshire (Brown *et al.* 2001) and it is possible that these beds/trenches were used for the cultivation of vegetables that would not leave any biological trace.
- C.1.18 If further excavation is planned for this area, it is recommended that environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011) with a targeted approach, particularly with regard to the cultivation ditches. Bulk samples from these features are considered unlikely to be productive but pollen sampling from the ditch fills and from contemporary deposits, particularly if there is any evidence of waterlogging, may produce preserved grape (*Vitis vinifera*) pollen which would confirm their use as trenches for vineyards. It is also recommended that ditch slots of 1m are excavated in spits to allow for observation of soil staining from roots and posts that were observed in the vineyard trenches at Wollaston.

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-373294		
Project Name	Whittington Way, Bishop's Stortford 'Education Zone'		
Start of Fieldwork	07/10/2019	End of Fieldwork	25/10/2019
Previous Work	Yes	Future Work	Yes

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XHTWBS19	Planning App. No.	PL/0095/19
HER Number		Related Numbers	

Prompt	NPPF
Development Type	Secondary School
Place in Planning Process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography – interpretation | <input type="checkbox"/> Grab-sampling | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new | <input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-core | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch | <input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning | <input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Augering | <input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search | <input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling | <input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography | |

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Cultivation Row	Roman (43 to 410)	Animal Bone	Uncertain
Ditch	Late Bronze Age (- 1000 to - 700)	CBM	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Ditch	Roman (43 to 410)	Copper Alloy	Modern (1901 to present)
Ditch	Modern (1901 to present)	Flint	Late Prehistoric (- 4000 to 43)
Ditch	Uncertain	Iron	Early Medieval (410 to 1066)
Pit	Uncertain	Pottery	Bronze Age (- 2500 to - 700)
Post Holes	Uncertain	Pottery	Iron Age (- 800 to 43)
Trackway	Early Medieval (410 to 1066)	Pottery	Roman (43 to 410)
-	-	Pottery	Early Medieval (410 to 1066)
-	-	Pottery	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
-	-	Pottery	Modern (1901 to present)
-	-	Shell	Uncertain

Project Location

County	Hertfordshire	Address (including Postcode) Land south of Whittington Way, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 4AE
District	East Hertfordshire	
Parish	Thorley	
HER office	HHEAS	
Size of Study Area	c. 4.5ha	
National Grid Ref	TL485190	

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Brief Originator	Alison Tinniswood (HHEAS)
Project Design Originator	Paul Spoerry (OA East)
Project Manager	Louise Moan (OA East)
Project Supervisor	Hannah Blannin (OA East)

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	HHEAS	
Digital Archive	OA East	
Paper Archive	HHEAS	

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Digital Media

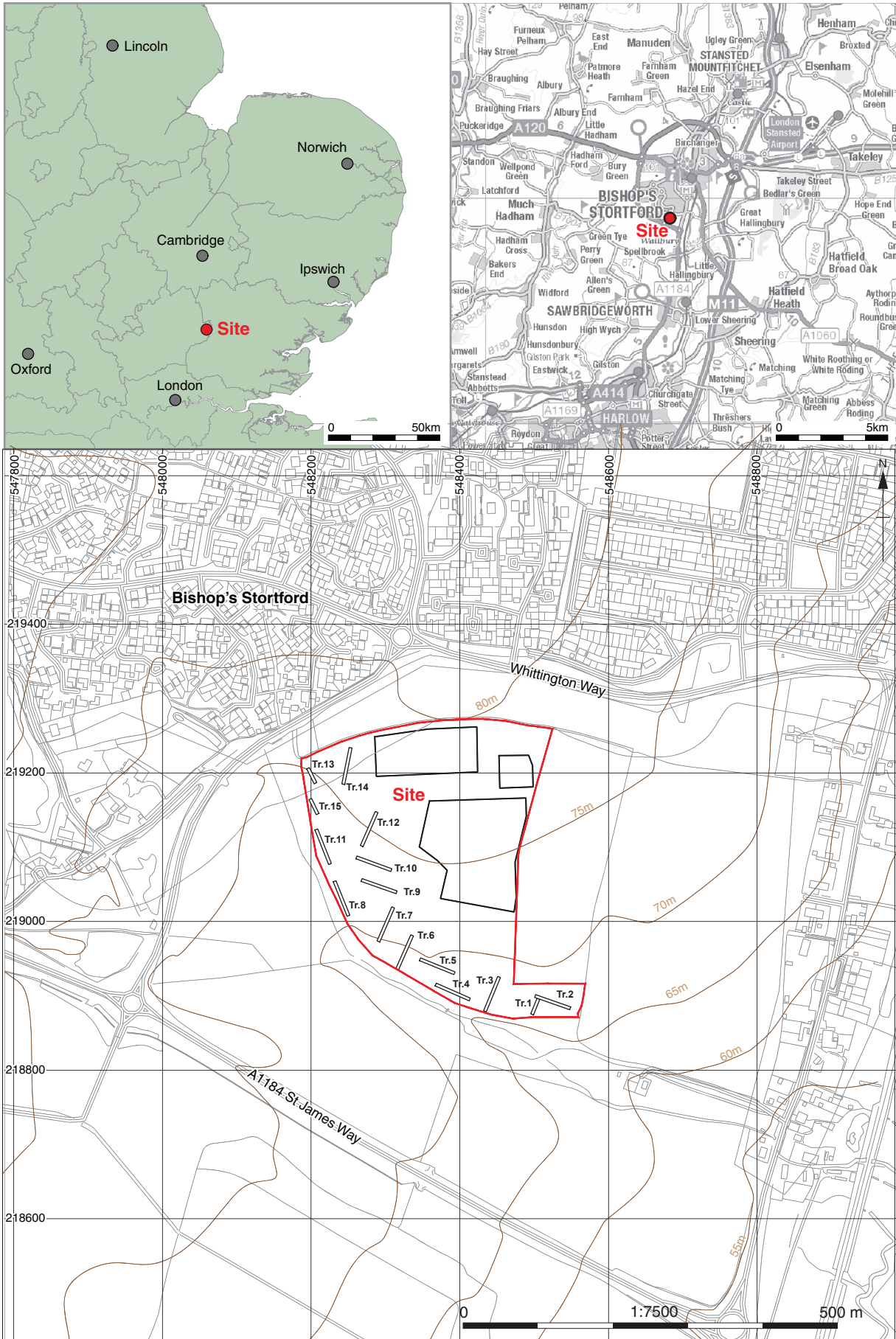
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Paper Media

Aerial Photos	<input type="checkbox"/>
Context Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Correspondence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drawing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/>	Manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/>	Map	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/>	Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Research/Notes	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Sections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Further Comments



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Figure 1: Site location

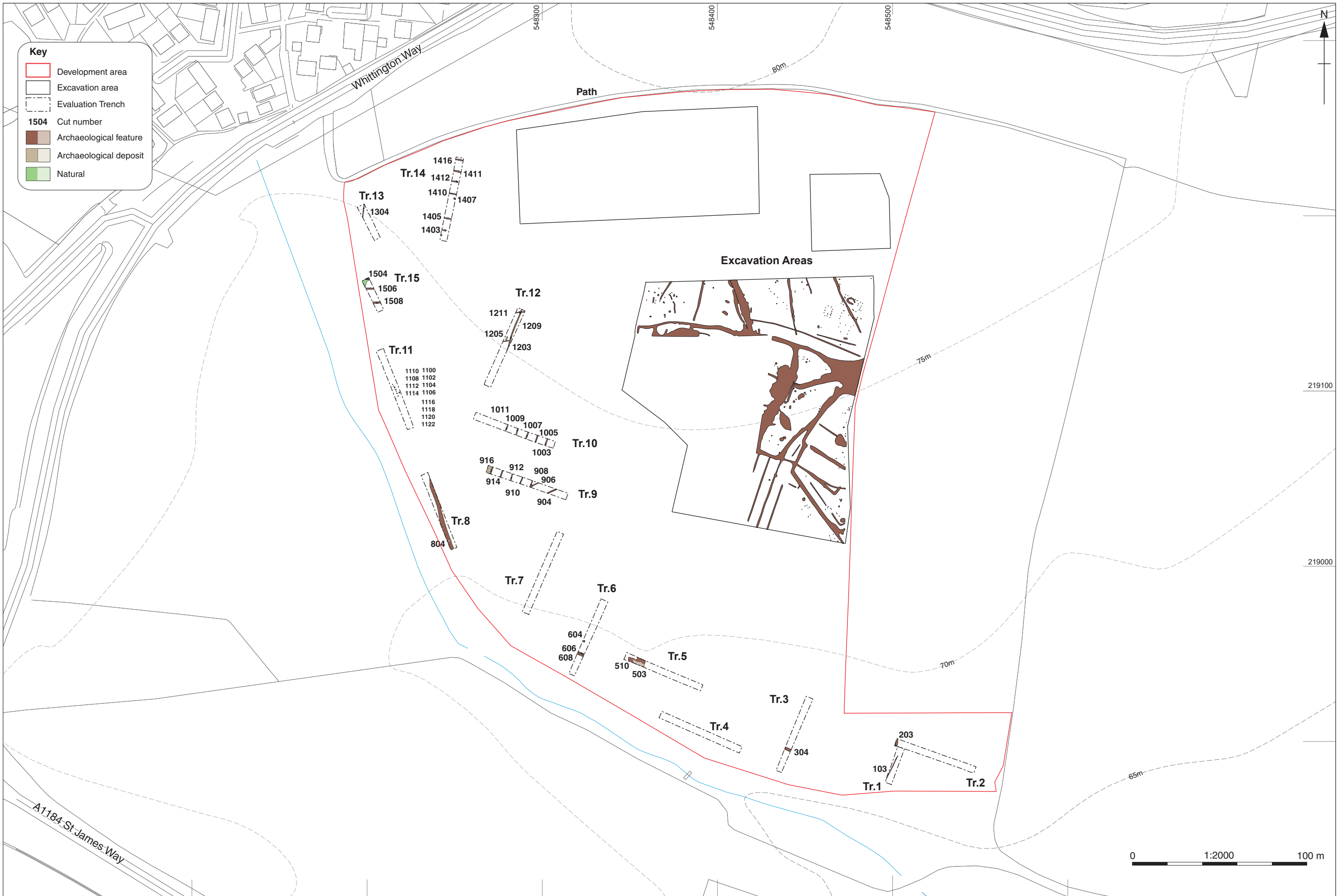


Figure 2: Site plan



Figure 3: Detail of trenches 1-8

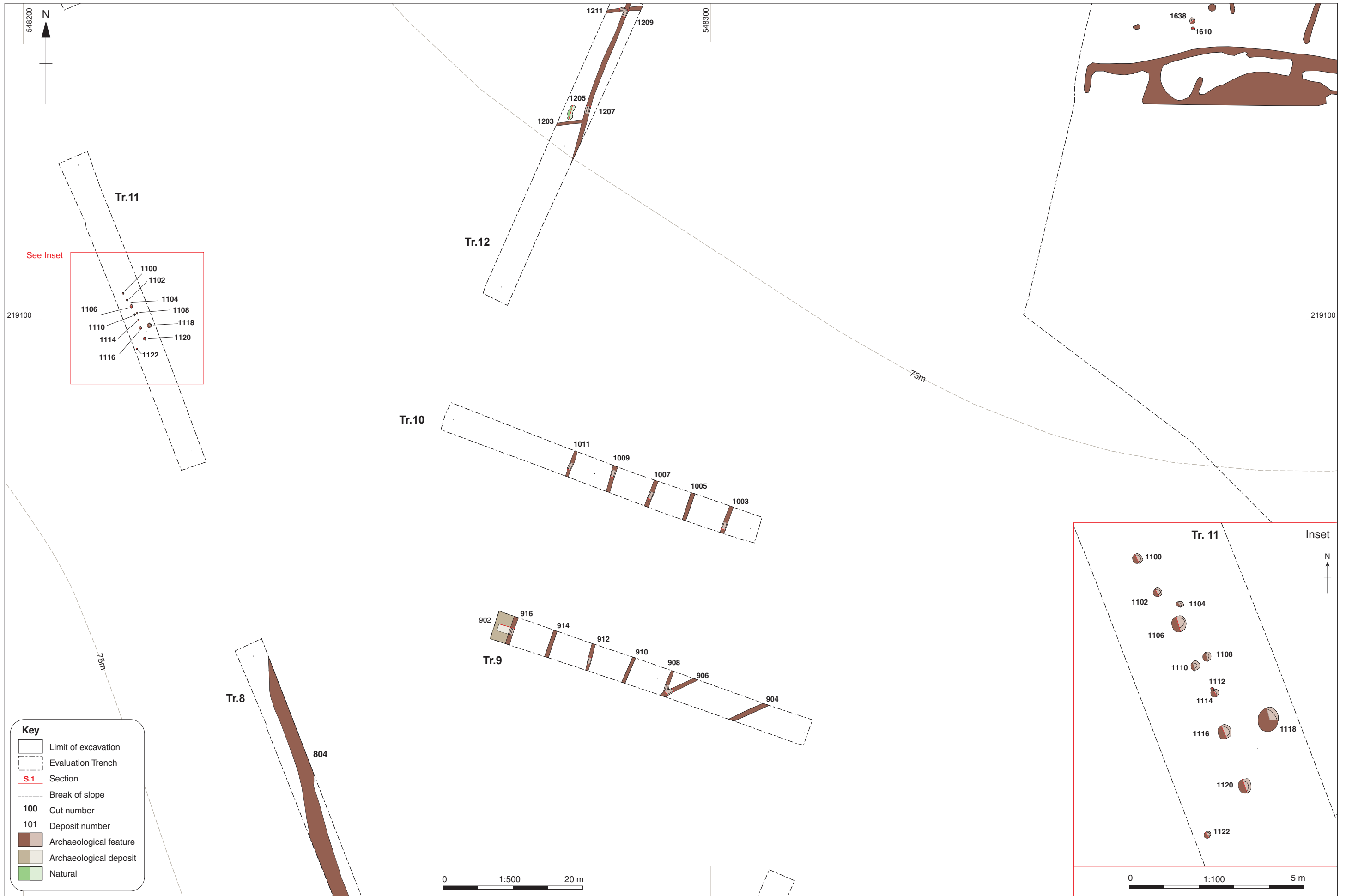


Figure 4: Detail of trenches 9-12

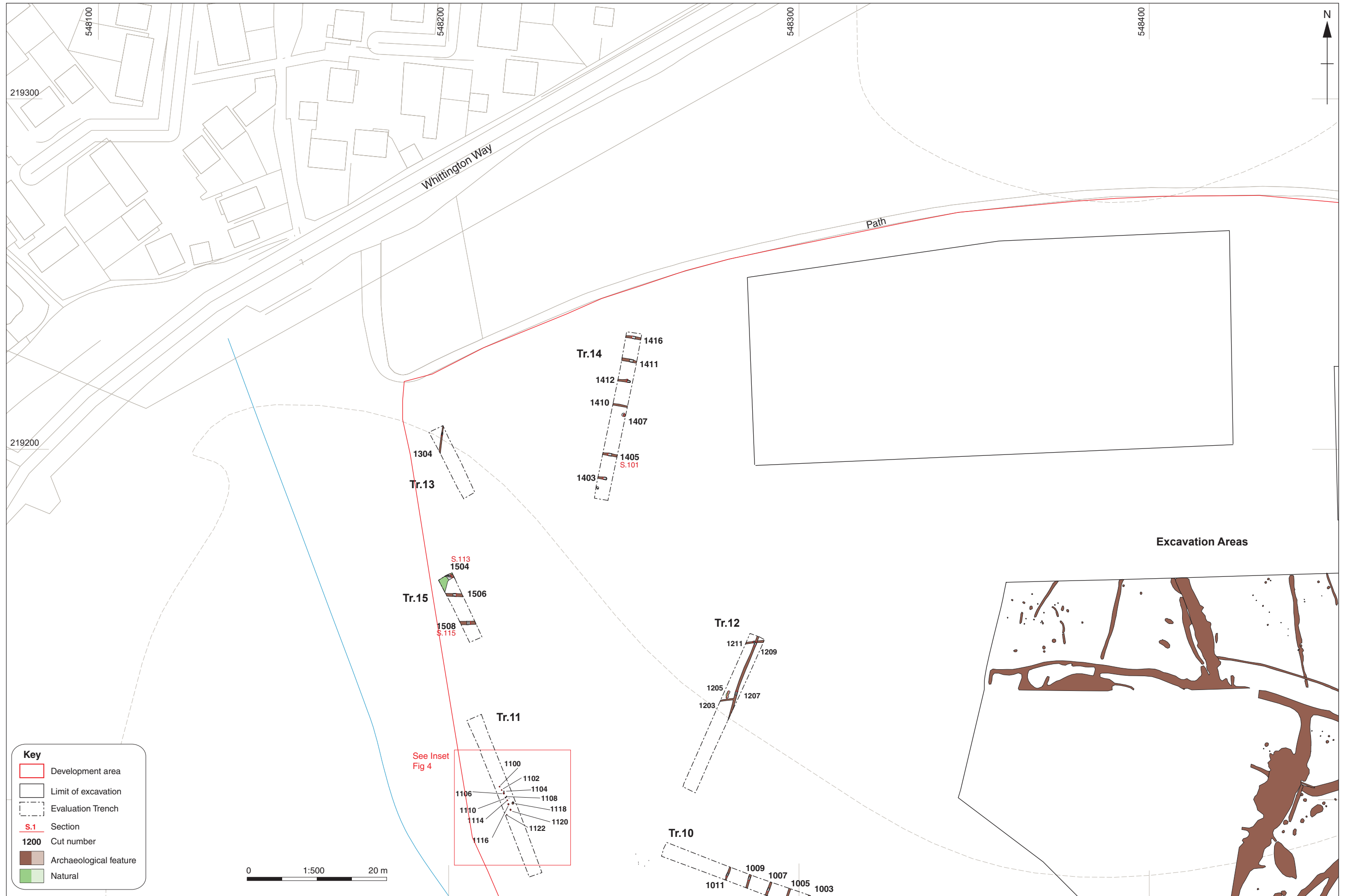
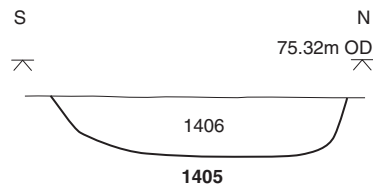


Figure 5: Detail of trenches 10-15

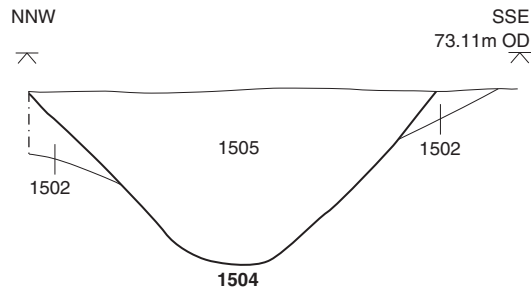
Trench 14

Section 101



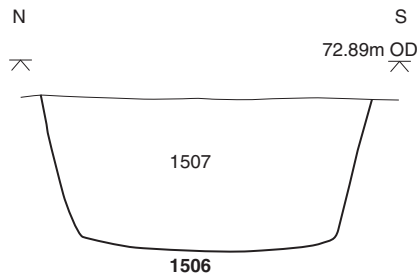
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Section 113



Trench 15

Section 114



Trench 2

Section 117

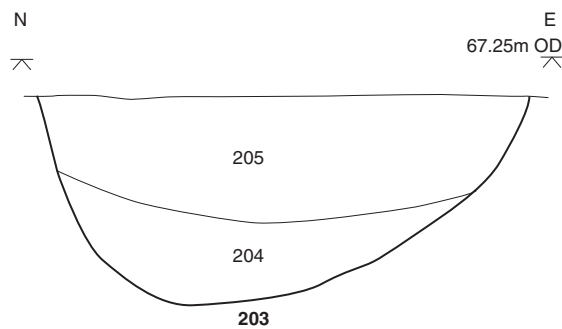


Figure 6. Selected sections

Trench 3



Figure 7: Section of Trench 3



Plate 1: Blank Trench 7, looking north-east



Plate 2: Trench 5, looking east



Plate 3: Ditch 805, Trench 8, looking north-west



Plate 4: Trench 8, looking north-west



Plate 5: Cultivation rows 906 and 908, looking west



Plate 6: Post holes 1108, 1110, 1112 and 1114, looking west



Plate 7: Trench 14, looking south



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