



# Land South of Grange Road, Hugglescote, Leicestershire

## Archaeological Evaluation, Strip-Map-and- Record and Watching Brief Report

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**Land South of Grange Road, Hugglescote, Leicestershire**  
***Archaeological Evaluation, Strip-Map-and-Record and***  
***Watching Brief Report***

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## Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Nexus Heritage, on behalf of Harworth Estates (Agricultural Land Ltd), to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation on land south of Grange Road, Hugglescote, Leicestershire (centred on SK 4391 1255). The investigation included archaeological trial trenching, a strip-map-and-record excavation and an archaeological watching brief. This work was completed in order to fulfil an archaeological planning condition for the construction of a service road and roundabout, linked to the southern side of Grange Road, and two associated attenuation basins to the south, close to the River Sence. The fieldwork was undertaken between 9<sup>th</sup> July and 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

The investigations recorded a range of archaeological remains. These included some limited evidence for Mesolithic/Early Neolithic activity, represented by a single flint blade. Evidence for later prehistoric activity was also present in the form of a pit, which contained pottery that was possibly Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age in date. Next to Grange Road, the remains of a later Iron Age sub-rectangular enclosure, 0.35ha in size, were also excavated, the northern boundary of this enclosure being recorded during the strip-map-and-record excavation, approximately three-quarters of its internal area was stripped. No features were evident within the enclosure's interior, however, suggesting that it was used as a livestock corral, or that domestic structures were confined to its unexcavated south-western corner. Other later Iron Age features included a boundary ditch and fence-line/palisade, associated with Iron Age ceramics, and residual Iron Age ceramic artefacts recovered from later features. Several Roman-period ditched boundaries and a gully were also excavated, probably relating to a mid-late Roman-period field/enclosure system. It is also possible that an undated palisade and adjacent hearth, that post-dated the Iron Age enclosure, formed other elements associated with Roman-period activity. In addition, the partial remains of a roundhouse were evident, in the form of a drip/ring gully. This c 10m-diameter structure is undated, but probably formed part of a later prehistoric or Romano-British unenclosed settlement. In addition, several later remains were also recorded, including a post-medieval boundary ditch and a furrow, probably relating to medieval/early post-medieval ridge and furrow ploughing.

This report contains an account of the excavated remains encountered across the site, recorded during the different phases of investigation. It also provides details of the small assemblage of prehistoric and Romano-British artefacts that were recovered, along with the results of a palaeoenvironmental study of four bulk soil samples derived from archaeological features.

## Acknowledgements

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Paul Dunn. The fieldwork was directed by Ashley Strutt, who was supported by George Gurney, Bj Ware, Jack Traill, Belle Neilson, Tom Oliver and Elanor Stanley. Survey and digitising were carried out by Ashley Strutt, George Gurney and Conan Parsons. The prehistoric and Romano-British ceramics were assessed by Adam Tinsley, whilst the lithic was considered by Antony Dickson. Denise Druce and Richard Palmer assessed the palaeoenvironmental remains. The report was compiled by Steve Morgan, Ashley Strutt, and Richard Gregory, who also edited the report. Mark Tidmarsh and Charles Rousseaux compiled the illustrations.



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Nexus Heritage, on behalf of Harworth Estates (Agricultural Land Ltd), to undertake a scheme of intrusive archaeological investigation at the site of Grange Road, Hugglescote, Leicestershire (Fig 1; centred on NGR: SK 4391 1255). The work was undertaken to fulfil an archaeological planning condition for the construction of a service road and roundabout, on the southern side of Grange Road, and two associated attenuation basins further to the south.
- 1.1.2 Following discussions with Leicestershire County Council, Nexus Heritage agreed a scope of works and produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Nexus Heritage 2019) detailing the archaeological works required to discharge the archaeological planning condition. OA North was subsequently commissioned to undertake the archaeological works, which comprised evaluation trenching, a programme of 'strip-map-and-record' (SMR) investigation and archaeological watching briefs across two areas. The fieldwork was undertaken between 9<sup>th</sup> July and 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

### 1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site forms an H-shaped area, covering some 3637m<sup>2</sup>, which incorporates the proposed position of a new roundabout on Grange Road, an adjoining north/south service road corridor, and, further south, the proposed site of two attenuation basins on the northern side of the River Sence (Fig 1). The ground containing the roundabout and road corridor are fairly level, lying at c 150m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), though the sites of the attenuation basins are at a slightly lower level, where the ground falls towards the river. At the start of the archaeological works, the area lay within a broader zone of undulating pastoral farmland.
- 1.2.2 The solid geology comprises Mudstone of the Gunthorpe Member, deposited in the Triassic period (BGS 2020). This is overlain by various superficial deposits, which include Diamicton of the Oadby Member in the northernmost part of the site, mid-Pleistocene Sand and Gravel Glaciofluvial Deposits further southwards, and Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel Alluvium, dating to the Quaternary period, in the vicinity of the River Sence (*ibid*). The solid and superficial deposits are in turn covered by seasonally wet, base-rich, loamy and clayey soils (Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute 2020).

### 1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 Prior to the archaeological work detailed in this report, several earlier archaeological investigations had been undertaken across, or immediately adjacent to, the site area. One of these was a geophysical survey completed as part of an Environmental Statement, which considered the site as part of a larger scheme of archaeological investigation that examined other areas of proposed redevelopment to the east of Hugglescote (Nexus Heritage 2012; Phase Site Investigations 2013). Importantly, this survey identified several linear and curvilinear anomalies at the Grange Road site, which were aligned differently from the modern field boundaries, and as such were considered to hold some archaeological potential. Significantly, immediately south of the road, in the area of the proposed roundabout, these anomalies seemed to define

a sub-rectangular ditched enclosure, measuring c 55 x 65m, with a possible entrance on its eastern side (Fig 2). To the south of this, two parallel linear anomalies were also recorded, which might represent other early ditches/boundaries.

- 1.3.2 Following the geophysical survey, a scheme of archaeological trial trenching was completed in 2014 by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). This evaluation comprised the excavation of 38 trenches across five parcels of land to the east of Hugglescote, one of which (Area 4), contained the Grange Road site (Speed 2014). In this area, four archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated (Tr31-3, and Tr35; Fig 2) and two of these (Tr31 and Tr32) confirmed the existence of the sub-rectangular enclosure that had been detected by the geophysical survey (*Section 1.3.1*), and indicated that it had been established during the Iron Age. The ditched boundaries of the Iron Age enclosure were revealed in both trenches, the boundary ditch in Tr31 forming the southern side of the enclosure. This was 1.8m wide and 0.45m deep, whilst that in Tr32, which defined its eastern side, and was also next to the presumed entrance, was a much more substantial feature, measuring c 4m wide and over 1m deep. Following silting, this ditch had also been recut as a 3m-wide boundary. Both the primary and recut ditches in Tr32, and the boundary ditch in Tr31, produced Iron Age pottery. An arcing gully was also recorded in Tr31, which, although undated, might represent the remains of a structure (roundhouse?) contained within the Iron Age enclosure.
- 1.3.3 The two other ULAS evaluation trenches (Tr33 and Tr35) at the Grange Road site lay to the south of the enclosure, on either side of the service road corridor, one (Tr33) being positioned across two parallel linear anomalies detected by the geophysical survey (*Section 1.3.1*). Within this trench, the southernmost of the linear anomalies was discovered to relate to an undated ditch, which measured 0.8m wide and 0.8m deep which, following silting, had been recut. Although no evidence for the northern linear anomaly was present, another ditch was identified (which was undetected by the geophysical survey) 8m to the north, parallel with the southern ditch, and that measured c 0.6m wide and 0.35m deep. An undated posthole was also located in between the two ditches. The other trench (Tr35) was positioned across the southern linear anomaly; however, the only feature recorded in this trench was an undated posthole.
- 1.3.4 Across the wider area surrounding the Grange Road site, several other archaeological desk-based studies, surveys (fieldwalking and geophysics), and archaeological evaluations and watching briefs have been undertaken since the 1980s (*inter alia*; Hartley 1984; Shore 1995; John Samuels Archaeology 1998; 2000a; 2000b; Witham Archaeology 2003; Heritage Network Ltd 2007; Nexus Heritage 2010; Stratascan 2010; Northamptonshire Archaeology 2011a; 2011b; 2011c; Roseveare and Roseveare 2012). These studies, along with the wider programme of ULAS trial trenching completed in 2014 (*Section 1.3.2*), clearly indicate that the landscape surrounding the Grange Road site contains a range of archaeological evidence relating to prehistoric activity, in the form of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Neolithic/Bronze Age lithics collected during fieldwalking (*cf* John Samuels Archaeology 1998; Witham Archaeology 2003), and a potential area of Iron Age settlement immediately north-east of Hugglescote (*cf* Speed 2014). Fieldwalking and evaluation trenching close to the site have also

recovered evidence for mid-late Roman activity, in the form of pottery and boundary ditches (*cf* John Samuels Archaeology 1998; Northamptonshire Archaeology 2011a; Speed 2014). However, much of the identified archaeology in the environs of the site seems to relate to the medieval landscape. This evidence includes the remains of Hugglescote Grange, to the east, surviving as earthworks surrounding Grange Farm (Hartley 1984; Fig 1), along with numerous areas of ridge-and-furrow cultivation that was once within the open medieval fields of the parish of Hugglescote (*cf* John Samuels Archaeology 2000a; Heritage Network Ltd 2007).

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims were outlined in detail in the WSI (Nexus Heritage 2019). In essence, however, the fieldwork was designed to locate, record, and determine the character and date of any archaeological remains present at the site. Following completion of the fieldwork, the project then aimed to disseminate effectively the results of the investigations and enable the findings to be readily accessible.

### 2.2 Fieldwork methodology

2.2.1 The project entailed three separate components. One of these was a strip-map-and-record (SMR) across the area of the proposed roundabout, immediately south of Grange Road (Fig 2). This area also covered much of the Iron Age sub-rectangular enclosure that had been detected by the geophysical survey and ULAS evaluation trenching (*Sections 1.3.1-2*). The second component was the excavation of three evaluation trenches (Tr1-3), across the proposed sites of the attenuation ponds, close to the River Sence. The third component was an archaeological watching brief, which observed two areas that were subjected to topsoil stripping. One of these formed the service road corridor, that led from the area of the roundabout to the attenuation pond area. The other covered the westernmost of the attenuation ponds, surrounding evaluation Tr1, which had uncovered a small number of archaeological features. The watching brief in this area was therefore designed to record any additional archaeological features that might exist.

2.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the duration of the programme of work were generally good. However, identifying archaeological features against the natural soils was difficult at times and heavy rain during the latter stages of the fieldwork made impossible accessing, and excavating within, the north-eastern part of the site.

2.2.3 During the archaeological work, the project methodology, set out in the WSI (*ibid*), was adhered to in full, and was fully compliant with current guidelines and industry best practice (ClfA 2014a: 2014b: 2014c: 2019: Historic England 2015). The locating of the areas to be excavated and service checks were undertaken by OA. Topsoil and subsoil were removed by mechanical excavator and stored immediately adjacent to the excavations, and then identified archaeological features and deposits were manually cleaned and excavated.

2.2.4 All information identified during the site works was recorded stratigraphically, using a system adapted from that used by the former English Heritage Centre for Archaeology, with an accompanying pictorial record (plans, sections, and digital photographs). Primary records were available for inspection at all times. Results of all field investigations were recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. The site archive includes a photographic record, and accurate large-scale plans and sections at appropriate scales (*ie* 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10).

## 2.3 Archive

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive was compiled in accordance with the WSI (Nexus Heritage 2019), and with current professional guidelines (CifA 2014d: Historic England 2015). The archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums, under the accession number X.A49.2019.

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This section presents a summary of the fieldwork results derived from the stip-map-and-record area, evaluation trenching, and watching briefs within the road corridor and western attenuation pond. It comprises a stratigraphic narrative (*Section 3.2*), relating to each individual area/trench examined, which discusses the most pertinent features and deposits encountered in each area, whilst more detailed stratigraphic descriptions of all recorded features are contained in *Appendix A*. The stratigraphic narrative is followed by a discussion of the prehistoric and Romano-British artefacts that were retrieved during the fieldwork (*Section 3.3*), and the results derived from the assessment of palaeoenvironmental samples recovered from several of the excavated features (*Section 3.4*).

### 3.2 Stratigraphic narrative

3.2.1 **Geology and soils:** across all areas examined, the natural geology was a mix of compact and semi-compact areas of mid-brown-reddish clay, with occasional patches of light grey clay and outcrops of sand and clay. This was overlain by a reddish-brown sandy loam subsoil, which in turn was overlain by mid-brown/grey sandy-silty-loam topsoil.

3.2.2 **Stip-map-and-record:** this covered c 2700m<sup>2</sup> (Fig 2), and was stripped of topsoil and subsoil in preparation for the construction of the roundabout. A range of features and deposits was recorded that, based on their positions and the artefactual evidence, seemingly relate to three broad phases of activity. These included: possible activity pre-dating the Iron Age enclosure; activity relating to the establishment and life of the Iron Age enclosure; and activity that post-dated the enclosure.

3.2.3 **Possible early (pre-enclosure) features:** potentially one of the earliest features encountered was a shallow natural depression, **445** (c 3.8m wide and 0.15m deep; Fig 2), towards the west of the site, filled with silt (Fig 3: S1), that was probably a tree throw. Although this represents a natural feature, it contained a Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flint blade (*Section 3.3.2*), suggesting either that a tree was uprooted/felled/utilised during this period, or that the tree throw contained residual material relating to early, low-level activity in this part of the site.

3.2.4 In contrast, pit **515** seems to have been one of the earliest man-made features in the area (Fig 2). This had an oval plan (c 1.6 x 1.3m) and was 0.3m deep, filled with brownish-grey sandy clay, **516**, which contained frequent large stones, overlain by grey-brown sandy clay **517**, which yielded fragments of possible Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery (*Section 3.3.6*).

3.2.5 **Iron Age enclosure and associated features:** one of the more prominent features was an east/west-aligned ditch, **471**, which extended for c 60m before curving southwards at both its eastern and western ends. This represents the northern side, and north-eastern and north-western corners, of a sub-rectangular enclosure, identified and dated by the 2014 geophysical survey and evaluation trenching (*Sections 1.3.1-2*). Excavation across boundary **471** indicated that it measured between c 2m and 2.5m



wide, had a broad U-shaped profile, and was 0.9-1.3m deep (Plate 1; Fig 3: S2 and S3). Its fills were suggestive of natural infilling, comprising mostly grey/brown silty clays, though a section of the ditch (**484**) along the northern side of the enclosure contained a layer of stones (**486**), which may have been deliberately dumped into the feature. No evidence for any recutting of the boundary was present, nor was any dating evidence recovered from the silts contained within. Although no dating evidence was recovered from the ditch sections excavated through this feature during this phase of works, dating evidence, comprising a small number of Iron Age ceramic sherds, was recovered from the eastern and southern elements of this feature during the ULAS trial-trenching works (Speed 2014). It is also worth noting that, whilst a considerable portion of the interior lay within the excavation, no internal features (such as roundhouses, four-post structures, pits *etc*) were identified within the enclosure.



Plate 1: Ditch **471** (Section 3; Fig 3), facing south-west (scale 2m)

- 3.2.6 Beyond the enclosure, in the north-western part of the site, several features were recorded which, based on artefactual evidence, might date to the later Iron Age, and hence be contemporary with the enclosure. These included an east/west-alignment of postholes (**400**, **405**, **407** and **409**; Fig 2) forming a probable fence-line or palisade. These postholes had diameters of between 0.32m and 0.45m, were 0.1-0.27m deep, and were filled with grey silty clays. Significantly, the fill of posthole **405** contained a single sherd of probable later Iron Age pottery (*Section 3.3.13*).
- 3.2.7 Another feature in the north-western part of the site that might have been contemporary with the enclosure was a north/south-aligned ditch, **421** (1.5m wide and 0.6m deep). Following silting, this potential boundary was recut as a much shallower (0.1m deep) gully (**419**; Fig 3: S4), measuring 0.54m wide, which contained

silt and two sherds of Iron Age pottery (*Section 3.3.13*). It may also be significant that this boundary seems to have been aligned parallel with the western side of the Iron Age enclosure.

- 3.2.8 ***Later (post-Iron Age enclosure) features and undated features:*** late features in the area, established following the abandonment of the Iron Age enclosure, were numerous, and included a possible hearth or bonfire that lay on top of the infilled Iron Age enclosure ditch. This was defined by a shallow cut (**475**; Fig 2b), filled with charcoal, a sample of which was subjected to palaeoenvironmental assessment (*Section 3.4*). It is also possible that this feature was contemporary with an adjacent group of stone-filled postholes (**478**) that formed a north/south alignment which extended for c 20m. Significantly, these posts were closely spaced, suggesting that the alignment related to a palisade. The postholes were generally sub-circular in plan, with diameters of 0.62-0.8m, and their depths were between 0.22m and 0.46m. All also contained similar backfilled deposits, comprising mid-brown/orange sandy clays at the base, covered by an upper deposit of medium to large-sized stones, mixed with mid-brown/orange silty clay, representing post-packing (Plate 2). Bulk samples extracted from two of the postholes (**455** and **458**) were subjected to palaeoenvironmental assessment and, significantly, these produced cultivars that are typically associated with Romano-British (or later) plant assemblages (*Section 4.3.2*).



*Plate 2: Posthole 439, part of possible palisade 478, facing south-east (scale 0.5m)*

- 3.2.9 Two features were also present that, based on the artefacts recovered, more firmly date to the Roman period. These both lay in the north-western part of the site (Fig 2) and comprised a silt-filled ditch/boundary, **447** (1.12m wide and 0.52m deep), which



- produced a sherd of Romano-British pottery (*Section 3.3.13*) and a gully (**411**) to the west. Perhaps, significantly, the ditch was aligned north/south and thus seemed to be parallel with the western side of the Iron Age enclosure, and also followed potential Iron Age boundary **421/419** (*Section 3.2.7*) c 10m to the east. This seems to suggest that these features were still partly visible when ditch **447** was created. The other possible Roman-period feature formed an east/west-aligned short, 2.5m-long, gully (**411**), which contained silt and two sherds of Romano-British pottery (*Section 3.3.13*).
- 3.2.10 A scattering of much later features was also recorded. These included an east/west-aligned ditch (**477**) immediately to the north of the Iron Age enclosure, parallel with Grange Road. This extended across most of the site, was 1.16m wide, and its shallow (0.09m) depth suggested that it may have been associated with medieval/early post-medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation.
- 3.2.11 A tree-throw (**413**) was encountered in the north-west of the site, which seems to have truncated the putative Iron Age fence-line (*Section 3.2.6*). This irregular-shaped feature was 0.18m deep and filled with reddish-grey silty clay, containing Iron Age briquetage and Romano-British ceramic building material, including a fragment of an imbrex tile (*Section 3.3.11*); however, these fragments are likely to be residual, as two pieces of a post-medieval iron horseshoe were also recovered from the feature.
- 3.2.12 The terminus of a north-east/south-west aligned ditch, or furrow, (**415**; Fig 2), to the east of the tree throw, measured 0.36m wide and 0.04m deep. It was filled with brown-grey sandy clay **416**, which contained a single sherd of post-medieval pottery, along with residual fragments of briquetage dating to the Iron Age (*Appendix B*). A sub-oval (1.1 x 0.92m) and steep-sided pit (**435**; Fig 2) was also present to the east, which was probably a modern feature.
- 3.2.13 **Service-road watching brief:** the area examined as part of the service-road watching brief followed the road corridor, which had a north/south alignment, being 7m wide and 150m in length. Although very little archaeology was observed (Fig 2), a ditch forming the southern side of the Iron Age enclosure was identified, forming a continuation of ditch **471** (*Section 3.2.5*), though this was not excavated.
- 3.2.14 Further to the south, the western half of a shallow ring gully, **529**, was identified and excavated, which probably represents the remains of a c 10m-diameter drip gully for a roundhouse. The gully was between 0.38m and 0.45m wide, and c 0.1m deep, had steep sides and a flat base, and contained silty clay (Plate 3).



Plate 3: Ring-gully 529, facing south-east (scale 0.5m)

- 3.2.15 The only other features recorded in this area were an east/west-aligned ditch, and a small oval-shaped pit immediately south. The feature was not excavated, but it was a continuation of an undated ditch recorded at the southern end of an evaluation trench (Tr33) excavated in 2014 (*Section 1.3.3*). The pit (**524**) was, however, examined and was found to be 1.50 x 1.44m, 0.2m deep, and contained clayey silts.
- 3.2.16 **Evaluation trenching and attenuation pond watching brief:** of the three evaluation trenches excavated across the sites of the attenuation ponds (*Section 2.2.1*), only one (Tr1) contained archaeological remains (Fig 2). Therefore, during a later phase of topsoil stripping, an 82m east/west by 52m north/south area surrounding this trench was subjected to a watching brief, and this clarified the nature of some of the remains in this part of the site.
- 3.2.17 Relatively few features were recorded in the evaluation trench and watching brief area, and only one contained datable material. This was a north-east/south-west-aligned ditch, **110**, which was recorded at the south-eastern end of Tr1. Although this feature had been truncated by a field drain, it was evident that it had a c 1.2m width, was 0.24m deep and contained dark brown-grey silty sand. A single sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from this fill (*Section 3.3.11*), and a bulk sample extracted from this deposit was also subjected to palaeoenvironmental assessment (*Section 3.4*).
- 3.2.18 The other features in this area lay to the west and included a circular pit (**106**), with a diameter of 0.43m and 0.22m depth, which contained silty clay. This pit was adjacent to a narrow meandering gully (**104**) that was probably a natural channel flowing down



towards the River Sence, to the south (*Section 1.2.1*). To the west of this channel, a north-west/south-east-aligned ditch was encountered, which was recorded in both the evaluation trench (as **102**) and watching brief area (as **530**). This had a maximum width of 1.3m and depth of 0.48m. In the evaluation trench, this ditch had steep sides and contained a dark grey-brown sandy silt (Plate 4), whilst another section of this ditch, recorded during the watching brief, contained a lower deposit of slumped material, overlain by loamy silty-clay. Significantly, this lower slumped deposit (**531**) contained a sherd of Romano-British pottery (*Section 3.2.12*).



Plate 4: Ditch **102**, facing south-west (scale 1m)

### 3.3 Prehistoric and Romano-British artefacts

- 3.3.1 A small collection of prehistoric and Romano-British artefacts was retrieved during the fieldwork, comprising a single struck lithic and several ceramic fragments, which were subsequently assessed; but no further study of these artefacts is recommended. In addition, a single sherd of post-medieval pottery (*Section 3.2.12*) and a post-medieval horseshoe (*Section 3.2.11*) were also recovered; details relating to the post-medieval pottery sherd can be found in the catalogue contained in *Appendix B*.
- 3.3.2 **Lithics:** a single piece of struck stone was found in the northern part of the site, in the fill (**446**) of tree-throw **445** (*Section 3.2.3*). This was examined macroscopically and its technological and diagnostic attributes recorded.
- 3.3.3 **Description:** the object comprises a grey-brown, fine-grained flint with a shiny lustre and no inclusions, and, in this respect, it appears to be made from a good-quality raw material. The cortex is thin, smooth and worn, suggesting that the original nodule was procured from secondary sources, most likely till deposits or riverine contexts. The lateral edges and the distal end of the piece have light edge-scarring, probably derived from post-depositional contexts.
- 3.3.4 The lithic is a blade (with a maximum width of 14mm and thickness of 5mm), missing its proximal tip; therefore, nothing can be said about platform features. The dorsal face

has a small patch of cortex remaining on its left lateral margins, indicating that the blade was removed from a core during the intermediate stages of the reduction process. In addition, several narrow, linear scars are present on the dorsal face, which suggests that the item was probably produced as part of a blade-based reduction strategy. Moreover, all the dorsal scars follow the same orientation as the blade, implying that it was removed from a single-platform core. The curving long profile of the piece implies that the core was probably of small dimensions and could have been based on a flint pebble. The distal end of the blade is characterised by a feathered termination, indicating that a certain level of skill was attained during reduction. These traits suggest that the blade has technological affinities with reduction strategies predominantly employed during the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods (Butler 2005).

- 3.3.5 It is of note that a patch of black/red residue adheres to the dorsal face of the blade, at the distal end. Without microscopic analysis, it is unclear what this material represents, though it could be derived from post-depositional processes.
- 3.3.6 **Pottery and ceramic materials:** the excavations retrieved a total of 21 prehistoric/Romano-British ceramic fragments, including several pieces of probable briquetage and ceramic building material (CBM), with a collective weight of 278.48g. These items were recovered from gully **419** (Section 3.2.7), pit **515** (Section 3.2.4), ditch **110** (Section 3.2.17), posthole **405** (Section 3.2.6), ditch **415** (Section 3.2.12), tree-throw **413** (Section 3.2.11) ditch **102/530** (Section 3.2.18), ditch **447** (Section 3.2.9) and gully **411** (Section 3.2.9); a full catalogue of these items is contained in *Appendix B*.
- 3.3.7 Examination of the material was conducted according to relevant guidelines relating to the analysis and reporting of ceramic assemblages, issued by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 2011), and jointly by the PCRG, Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) and Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP; PCRG *et al* 2016). The material is discussed relative to the key features identified within those guidelines.
- 3.3.8 **Quantity and quality:** the assemblage includes up to 15, fresh to moderately abraded, plain body sherds, and a single heavily abraded rim fragment, deriving from up to nine parental vessels, based upon differences in sherd width, colour and fabric type. By and large, the quality of this material is relatively poor, lacking many key diagnostic traits, and there is only one example of conjoining sherds, these deriving from pit **515** (Section 3.2.4). The assemblage also includes two fragments of CBM, as well as several large amorphous fragments of probable briquetage (*Appendix B*).
- 3.3.9 **Fabric:** the fabric of each sherd was subject to a cursory examination using a handheld x10 magnifying glass, with any obvious inclusions noted as potential temper agents. Variation in the type, quantity and size of temper agents formed the basis of divisions among the fabric groups (Table 1). According to such relatively crude divisions, the assemblage comprises a mixture of fabric types, divided between the use of sand and quartz sand, and calcined flint as probable temper agents, with a portion of the material also showing few if any signs of visible temper. Where present, in the majority of cases, individual temper fragments are well sorted and frequently erupt from the

surface of the sherds, with little or no attempt to mask their presence (*ie* with the application of a slip or smoothing of the surface).

<b>Fabric Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
QS1	Rare <2% quartz pebbles (> 3mm), Occasional <5%, rounded quartz sand, <1mm
F1	Common >10% calcined flint, angular moderately well sorted >4mm
F2	Occasional <5% calcined flint, well sorted <2mm
S1	Rare sand and mica flecks
N	No visible inclusions

Table 1: Ceramic fabric types

- 3.3.10 Where there are clear and visible temper agents, such fabric types are fairly typical of a range of prehistoric pottery traditions from the Neolithic period to the Iron Age (PCRG *et al* 2016). In this regard, flint-tempered fabrics are relatively ubiquitous among most prehistoric ceramic forms, but particularly among earlier traditions, such as Carinated Bowl and Impressed Wares, both nationally and on a more local basis (*ie* Cleal 1995; Gibson 2002). Within the assemblage, the collection of sherds from pit fill **517** (Section 3.2.4) appears particularly crude, with abundant angular temper inclusions erupting profusely from the surface, and a hard, but slightly friable, fabric. By contrast, the remainder of the tempered assemblage appears more refined, with fewer visible inclusions, and the sherds are relatively robust, with hard and well-fired fabrics. The assemblage of exclusively sand-tempered fabrics appears coarse to the touch, but uniform in appearance, and are very well and evenly fired, suggesting production within a kiln. This may indicate a distinction within the assemblage, perhaps along chronological lines. On this basis, while fabric alone is a notoriously difficult feature upon which to base diagnostic appraisals, it is suggested that the crudely tempered material may be Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age in origin, more refined fabrics being probably later Iron Age, and the sandy well-fired fabrics probably Romano-British in origin. This suggestion finds some support from the one ceramic fragment possessing diagnostic value in terms of form (Section 3.3.11).
- 3.3.11 **Form:** most sherds within the assemblage provide no clear evidence of the original form of the parental vessels, being too small and devoid of key diagnostic features. A single relatively heavily abraded rim sherd (from ditch **110**; Section 3.2.17) is, however, among the sherds executed in a sandy fabric. The rim is inverted, with a wide and flat external edge, and is probably Romano-British in form. One fragment of CBM (from tree-throw **413**; Section 3.2.11) indicates a thick-walled and curving profile, which may suggest it derives from a possible imbrex tile, a Roman form of roofing material (Brodrigg 1987).
- 3.3.12 **Decoration:** there are no examples of decorated fragments within the assemblage. All sherds are therefore plain and are also devoid of any form of surface treatment, including slips or burnishing.
- 3.3.13 **Conclusion:** the diagnostic value of much of the assemblage is relatively restricted, comprising mainly small, plain and often sometimes abraded body sherds, with only a single heavily abraded rim sherd otherwise represented. This said, based largely upon differences in fabric type, and limited aspects of form in relation to the rim and a

probable CBM fragment, the assemblage may tentatively contain material from up to three chronologically distinct periods. A component of crudely tempered sherds certainly derives from prehistoric activity, possibly Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age in origin; all of these sherds were recovered from pit **515** (Section 3.2.4). Several fragments with more refined fabrics may also derive from later Iron Age activity, including those pottery sherds from gully **419** (Section 3.2.7) and posthole **405** (Section 3.2.6). Sand-tempered sherds, from ditch **102/530** (Section 3.2.18), ditch **447** (Section 3.2.9) and gully **411** (Section 3.2.9), including the rim fragment and imbrex tile (Section 3.3.11), probably date to the Roman period.

### 3.4 Palaeoenvironmental residues

- 3.4.1 A targeted programme of palaeoenvironmental sampling was implemented in accordance with OA guidelines (OA 2017). Four samples (1-4) were taken during the fieldwork, which came from ditch **110** (Section 3.2.17), postholes **455** and **458** (Section 3.2.8), and possible hearth/bonfire **475** (Section 3.2.8). To comply with accepted professional guidelines (English Heritage 2011), 40-litre samples, or the entirety of a deposit, were taken to assess their potential for containing palaeoenvironmental remains, including those suitable for radiocarbon dating.
- 3.4.2 **Methodology:** the samples were processed in their entirety using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine. The flots were collected in a 250µm mesh and heavy residues in a 500µm mesh, and dried. The residue fractions were sorted by eye and with the aid of a magnet, while the flot material was sorted using a low power (x10) binocular microscope to extract cereal grains and chaff, smaller seeds and other quantifiable remains. Nomenclature follows Stace (2010).
- 3.4.3 Any surviving fruits/seeds were provisionally identified using the modern reference collection held at OA North, and with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* (Cappers *et al* 2006). The presence of modern roots, earthworm eggs and modern seeds was also noted to ascertain the likelihood of any contamination. The remains were quantified on a scale of 1–4 where: 1 is rare (one to five items); 2 is frequent (6-50 items); 3 is common (51–100 items); and 4 is abundant (greater than 100 items). The results were recorded in a *pro-forma* database, which will be kept with the site archive. The potential of each sample for any further work and for radiocarbon dating was also noted.
- 3.4.4 Charcoal fragments over 2mm in size were quantified and scanned to assess preservation and wood diversity. Wood maturity was also noted to assess wood type (*ie* heart wood, sap wood, or roundwood) and to identify suitable material for radiocarbon dating. Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*), which are anatomically similar in transverse section, were not separated during assessment. Similarly, hawthorn-type (Maloideae) may include hawthorn, apple, whitebeam, rowan and wild service tree, and blackthorn-type (*Prunus* sp) may include blackthorn, wild plum, wild cherry and bird cherry. Identification and classification of the charcoal was aided by Hather (2000).
- 3.4.5 **Results:** charred material in variable quantities and condition was recovered from each of the samples (Table 2).



Sample	Context	Feature	Charred plant remains	Charcoal	Other remains
1	<b>457</b>	Posthole <b>455</b>	Cereal grains (1) cf <i>Triticum aestivum</i> -type, possible <i>Pisum sativum</i> (1)	<2mm (2), >2mm (1), <i>Quercus</i> sp	Modern roots (3), coal (3), havm (2)
2	<b>460</b>	Posthole <b>458</b>	Cereal grains (1) cf <i>Triticum aestivum</i> -type, weed seeds (1) cf small Fabaceae	<2mm (3), >2mm (1), <i>Quercus</i> sp	Modern roots (2)
3	<b>111</b>	Ditch <b>110</b>	Cereal grains (3) includes <i>Avena</i> sp and cf <i>Triticum aestivum</i> -type, weed seeds (2)	<2mm (4), >2mm (4) Poorly preserved, but includes <i>Quercus</i> sp and <i>Alnus glutinosa/Corylus avellana</i> roundwood	Modern roots (4), cbm (1)
4	<b>476</b>	Hearth/bonfire <b>475</b>	Bryophyte (1)	<2mm (4), >2mm (4) Abundant <i>Calluna/Erica</i> sp roundwood, with <i>Quercus</i> sp and <i>Alnus glutinosa/Corylus avellana</i>	-

Remains are quantified on a scale of 1–4 where: (1) is rare (one to five items); 2 is frequent (6–50 items); 3 is common (51–100 items); and 4 is abundant (greater than 100 items). havm = heat-affected vesicular material, cbm = ceramic building material

Table 2: Palaeobotanical assessment results

- 3.4.6 Sample 1 is from the fill (**457**) of posthole **455** (Section 3.2.8). Very few charred plant remains were recovered, but within the assemblage is a single bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*)-type cereal grain. A possible large pea (*Pisum sativum*) or large vetch (*Vicia* sp) was also identified, but no other seeds were present. The majority of the flot, however, comprised charcoal and heat-affected vesicular material (havm).
- 3.4.7 Sample 2 is from the fill (**460**) of posthole **458** (Section 3.2.8). A small amount of charcoal in fair to good condition was recovered, though some of the fragments were encrusted. The sample contained very little charred plant material, which comprised a single bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*)-type cereal grain and a single small pea (Fabaceae).
- 3.4.8 Sample 3 is from fill **111** of ditch **110** (Section 3.2.17). This sample produced a larger range of charred grain that was a mix of wheat (*Triticum* sp), including a possible free-threshing variety, such as bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), and oat (*Avena* sp), with oat being the more numerous. No floret bases were present, so it is uncertain as to whether the oat is wild (*Avena fatua*) or domesticated (*Avena sativa*). Several charred seeds/fruits were also noted, including dock (*Rumex* sp), wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*), stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) and nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*). All these taxa are common on disturbed and/or cultivated land; the latter is also common in open woods and hedgerows (Stace 2010). The sample also contained rare fragments of ceramic building material.
- 3.4.9 An abundant quantity of charcoal was also recovered from sample 3, much of which is sediment stained, hindering further identification. However, the better-preserved fragments suggest that both oak (*Quercus* sp) and alder/hazel (*Alnus glutinosa/Corylus*

*avellana*) roundwood are present, the latter providing suitable material for radiocarbon dating if warranted.

- 3.4.10 Sample 4 is from charcoal-rich deposit **476**, associated with hearth/bonfire **475** (Section 3.2.8). An abundant quantity of charcoal was recovered from this sample, including more than 100 well-preserved identifiable fragments. A cursory scan of the charcoal suggests that a variety of taxa is present, including oak (*Quercus* sp), alder/hazel (*Alnus glutinosa/Corylus avellana*), and abundant heather/heath (*Calluna/Erica* sp) roundwood, the latter representing suitable material for radiocarbon dating. Although many of the fragments were sediment stained, the sample contained abundant well-preserved pieces. Charred plant remains were poorly represented, though rare charred bryophyte is consistent with a heathland element.



## 4 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Prehistoric activity and settlement

- 4.1.1 The programme of works produced a variety of remains relating to prehistoric activity at the Grange Road site. A flint blade (*Section 3.3.2*) represents the earliest evidence for prehistoric activity, which might date to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period. Significantly, this blade was the only artefact recovered from a tree throw (*Section 3.2.3*), which may suggest that this feature also dates to this period. Indeed, this would not be particularly surprising, as the deposition of Mesolithic and Neolithic lithics in tree throws is attested in other parts of Britain, and has variously been interpreted as evidence for *in-situ* activity or the presence of nearby occupation (Evans *et al* 1999; Barclay *et al* 2011, 215). At a broader level, the flint blade from the Grange Road site also adds to similar lithic finds from the immediate vicinity and within the environs of Hugglescote, recovered during fieldwalking and evaluation trenching, which point to the presence of Mesolithic and Neolithic communities operating across the wider landscape (*Section 1.3.4*).
- 4.1.2 Activity dating to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age also seems to have been present at Grange Road. This includes a pit (*Section 3.2.4*), containing a small collection of ceramics dating to this period, seemingly derived from two separate vessels (*Appendix B*). These ceramics presumably reflect domestic activity, perhaps relating to a settlement at, or next to, the site.
- 4.1.3 A sub-rectangular enclosure was created during the later Iron Age, perhaps significantly in the same place as the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit (*Section 4.1.2*). This might therefore suggest that the enclosure was a direct successor to this potential earlier area of settlement. A geophysical survey across the site indicates that the Iron Age enclosure bounded a 0.35ha area, and its northern ditched boundary was exposed by excavation. This indicated that this feature was gradually filled with silt that was devoid of finds. Fortunately, however, an earlier programme of evaluation trenching did retrieve diagnostic pottery from the ditch defining its eastern and southern sides, the former of which, close to the possible entrance into the enclosure, had also been recut (*Section 1.3.2*). This pottery is informative, being sherds in the East Midlands scored-ware tradition, dating between the fourth/mid-third century BC and earlier first century AD (Cooper 2014), and these probably date the use of the enclosure. In addition, a, presumably residual, cordoned sherd was within this assemblage, which could date to the Late Bronze Age (*ibid*). Therefore, this might, in turn, provide further evidence for suspected Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age domestic activity/settlement at, or in the immediate vicinity of, the Grange Road site.
- 4.1.4 Iron Age rectangular ditched enclosures, with sizes generally under 0.5ha, are not unusual, in fact being very common features associated with the later Iron Age landscape of the East Midlands, and central Britain more generally (Willis 2006, 101, 107). These often enclosed settlements, which might contain one or more roundhouses, and ancillary structures (*ibid*). One striking feature, however, of the enclosure at Grange Road was the absence of internal features, even though approximately three-quarters of its interior lay within the area examined. This may therefore suggest that the enclosure did not have a domestic function, perhaps being

used as a livestock corral. Indeed, similar corrals, dating to the Iron Age, have been found elsewhere in the county, for example at Manor Farm, Humberstone (Thomas 2008). Another possibility is that domestic structures did exist, but that these were confined to that part of the enclosure which lay beyond the excavation. If this was the case, these structures would have been in the south-western quarter of the enclosure, with the remaining area (*ie* that contained in the SMR area) perhaps functioning as a yard. Tellingly, during the 2014 evaluation, one interior feature was uncovered in this south-western quarter, comprising an undated gully in Tr31 (*Section 1.3.2*), which might conceivably have formed a ring/drip gully associated with a domestic structure.

- 4.1.5 It also seems that the Iron Age enclosure did not sit in isolation, but was surrounded by other potentially contemporary features. Specifically, in the north-western part of the site, these comprised a fence-line or palisade, and a ditch, which was parallel with the western side of the enclosure (*Section 3.2.7*). The ditch probably represents a land boundary, which might also have functioned as a drainage feature, perhaps defining one side of a field, or large enclosure, which contained the fence/palisade. Background activity within this area is also evident through the recovery of Iron Age artefacts as residual items in later features (*ie* tree-throw **413** and ditch **415**; *Sections 3.2.11-12*).
- 4.1.6 Although the duration of use of the Iron Age enclosure is difficult to ascertain, there is a suggestion that its boundary at least had become largely filled during the later Iron Age. The evidence for this consists of the pottery recovered during the 2014 evaluation, which comprised only prehistoric wares, and nothing later in date (Cooper 2014). It seems then that the enclosure was a defunct feature by the start of the Roman period, though presumably it was still visible as a slight earthwork. Indeed, this may explain the siting of a hearth/bonfire on top of its infilled northern boundary (*Section 3.2.8*), which at this stage may have formed a convenient hollow that was slightly shielded from the wind. The charcoal from this hearth suggests that fuel was being sourced from both oak and alder/hazel woodland, and areas of heathland.

## 4.2 Romano-British boundaries

- 4.2.1 The site also produced some evidence for Romano-British activity. This included three ditches, seemingly boundaries, which could also have been used for drainage. One of these was in the north of the site (*Section 3.2.9*), parallel with the western side of the Iron Age enclosure, and might provide further confirmation that this enclosure, although probably abandoned by this time, was still visible as an earthwork (*Section 4.1.6*). In turn, it is quite likely that this boundary formed the eastern side of a large Roman-period field/enclosure. The northern, western, and southern boundaries of this field were identified during geophysical survey and evaluation trenching in the area west of the Grange Road site, and these produced pottery dating to the second to fourth century AD (Speed 2014).
- 4.2.2 The other ditched boundaries lay to the south, in the attenuation pond watching brief area/evaluation Tr1. One of these (*Section 3.2.18*) was orientated north-west/south-east and seemed to be a boundary/drainage ditch taking water towards the River Sence to the south of the site. The other ditch (*Section 3.2.17*) was probably set at a perpendicular angle, and together the two features may have defined a large

field/enclosure, that, in this instance, lay to the south of the then defunct Iron Age enclosure.

- 4.2.3 Of these, the north-west/south-east-aligned boundary also produced a small, but insightful, assemblage of charred plant remains, which by association date to the Roman period (*Section 3.4.8*). This assemblage indicates that wheat, possibly bread wheat, was cultivated at this time, a crop type that was largely cultivated from the mid-late Roman period onwards (*cf* Potter and Johns 1992, 87). Other species included weeds common in cultivated land, and oats, though these were probably wild, as generally oats were not cultivated until the medieval period (Greig 1991). It is also worth noting that another small assemblage of charred plant remains was recovered from one of the boundaries of the large Roman-period field/enclosure that lay to the west, which was trenched in 2014 (*Section 4.2.1*), and provided additional details on the crops that were cultivated in this area, during this period (Small 2014). This assemblage probably dates to the second to fourth century and indicated that glume wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta* L) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L) were cultivated, and that the processing of glume wheat and barley also occurred in the vicinity; the proportion of the processed grains indicates that glume wheat was the dominant crop. Other seeds in this assemblage derive from weeds commonly found within cultivated fields, and a charred hazelnut shell was also present.
- 4.2.4 One other feature at the Grange Road site might also date to the Roman period. This was a short gully, perhaps a cultivation trench, in the north-west of the excavation (*Section 3.2.9*), that would have been within the interior of the large Romano-British field that covered this part of the site (*Section 4.2.1*). Romano-British background activity was also evident in the form of residual Roman-period artefacts recovered from a post-medieval tree throw, again in the north (*Section 3.2.12*). Perhaps significantly, this included ceramic building material and an imbrex tile fragment (*Section 3.3.11*), which may suggest that Roman-period buildings, associated with a settlement, potentially lay close to, perhaps to the north of, the Grange Road site.

### 4.3 Additional later prehistoric or Romano-British features?

- 4.3.1 Several undated features were present that probably represent additional elements of later prehistoric or Romano-British activity/settlement. The more striking of these was a ring or drip gully for a c 10m-diameter roundhouse, in the road-service corridor (*Section 3.2.14*). This roundhouse probably indicates the position of an unenclosed settlement, that could either precede the founding of the Iron Age enclosure and perhaps, in turn, date to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age; or be later Iron Age in date and form part of a settlement that was contemporary with the Iron Age enclosure. Unenclosed settlements of this type were certainly present in the East Midlands during the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age and hence either date is possible (Willis 2006, 95, 111). Of course, another possibility is that the roundhouse relates to a settlement that was occupied at a similar time to the Romano-British field systems found around the site, as roundhouses were also a feature of rural settlement dating to that period (Taylor 2006, 146).

- 4.3.2 An undated palisade was also recorded directly adjacent to the northern boundary of the enclosure ditch. This possibly traversed this infilled boundary and may have been contemporary with a nearby hearth/bonfire that post-dated the filling of the enclosure ditch (*Sections 3.2.8 and 4.1.6*). Palaeoenvironmental samples from two of the postholes forming part of this structure produced grains of possible bread wheat and possible cultivated peas (*Sections 3.4.6-7*). Significantly, these cultivars are typically associated with domesticated plant assemblages dating to the Roman period and later (Greig 1991; *Section 4.2.3*), and hence it is possible that this palisade formed another element relating to Romano-British activity at the site.
- 4.3.3 Another feature that possibly related to early activity was an east/west-aligned boundary, to the south of the roundhouse, also perhaps associated with an undated pit close to its southern edge (*Section 3.2.15*). This feature was devoid of artefactual material but, based on its alignment, there is a good chance that it formed another element of the Romano-British field system that seems to have covered this and the wider area (*Section 4.2*). It is also possible that it defined a trackway, as another parallel ditch was found c 8m to its north, which was detected during the 2014 scheme of evaluation trenching (*Section 1.3.3*).

#### 4.4 Medieval and post-medieval activity

- 4.4.1 The Grange Road site produced a small collection of features that clearly post-dated Romano-British activity. One was a plough furrow, in the north of the site, that could relate to medieval or early post-medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation, perhaps being associated with Hugglescote Grange to the east (*Section 1.3.4*). Other features that could be securely dated to the post-medieval period included a tree throw (*Section 3.2.11*) and a ditch/furrow (*Section 3.2.12*).

#### 4.5 Conclusion

- 4.5.1 The archaeological investigations at Grange Road recorded a range of features relating to the progressive use of the landscape to the east of Hugglescote. These included evidence for low-level Mesolithic/Early Neolithic activity, and later prehistoric activity/settlement. Later prehistoric activity might initially date to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, which was then followed by the creation of a sub-rectangular enclosure dating to the later Iron Age. Other remains relate to land boundaries and a palisade, probably associated with a fairly extensive Romano-British field system. The partial remains of a roundhouse were also recorded, which could be later prehistoric in date, or date to the Roman period. A small collection of later remains was also present, reflecting medieval and/or post-medieval activity in the area.

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## APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1					
General description				Orientation	SE/NW
Trench 1 contained several archaeological features, which lay beneath the subsoil. These were cut into the natural geology, which comprised variable light reddish-brown sandy silt, with frequent gravel				Length (m)	50
				Width (m)	2.20m
				Average depth (m)	0.74m
Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
100	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil: mid-brownish-grey friable silty loam	
101	Layer	-	0.40	Subsoil: mid-reddish-brown clayey silt, soft with moderate small stone inclusions	
102	Cut	1.18	0.24	Ditch	
103	Fill	1.18	0.24	Friable, dark grey/brown sandy clay, frequent sub-angular stones, poorly sorted	
104	Cut	0.74	0.05	Channel	
105	Fill	0.74	0.05	Soft dark brownish-grey clayey silt. No inclusions	
106	Cut	0.44	0.22	Pit	
107	Fill	0.44	0.22	Friable mid-bluish-grey silty clay. No inclusions	
108	Layer	-	-	Natural: variable light reddish-brown sandy silt; soft with frequent gravel	
109	Layer	-	0.27	Palaeosoil: dark grey/brown sandy silt, moderate stone inclusions	
110	Cut	1.90	0.28	Ditch	
111	Fill	1.90	0.28	Friable dark brown/grey silty sand. Moderate quantity of sub-rounded, poorly sorted stones, with moderate quantity of charcoal	

Trench 2					
General description				Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of mid-greyish-red clay. Small rocks throughout, with patches of very stony silty clay				Length (m)	50
				Width (m)	2.20
				Average depth (m)	0.70
Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
200	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil: mid-blackish-grey silty loam	
201	Layer	-	0.40	Subsoil: mid-orange/red silty loam, no inclusions	
202	Layer	-	-	Natural mid-greyish-red clay, small rocks throughout	
203	Layer	-	-	Variation within the natural Very stony silty clay	



Trench 3					
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	SSW-NNE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of mid-greyish-yellow silty-clay, no inclusions, with patches of red clay.				<b>Length (m)</b>	50
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2.20
				<b>Average depth (m)</b>	0.85
Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
<b>300</b>	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil: mid-greyish-black loam	
<b>301</b>	Layer	-	0.50	Subsoil: mid-orange/brown silty clay, no inclusions	
<b>302</b>	Layer	-	-	Natural, mid-greyish-yellow silty clay, with patches of red clay within	

SMR and Watching Brief Areas					
Context No	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
<b>400</b>	Cut	0.37	0.39	0.17	Posthole
<b>401</b>	Fill	0.37	0.39	0.17	Fill of posthole <b>400</b> : friable mid-bluish-grey silty clay with occasional specks of charcoal
<b>402</b>	Layer	-	-	-	Ploughsoil: semi-soft-friable mid-brown/grey sandy loam, 2-4% sub-angular chert and other natural stone
<b>403</b>	Layer	-	-	0.15-0.22	Subsoil: semi-soft mid-reddish-brown silty loam. Approximately 3-10% semi-rounded natural stone
<b>404</b>	Layer	-	-	-	Natural: mid-reddish-brown silty clay with patches of light grey sand and clay mixed. Contains stone inclusions
<b>405</b>	Cut	0.41	0.22	0.11	Posthole
<b>406</b>	Fill	0.41	0.22	0.11	Fill of posthole <b>405</b> : slightly compact dark blackish-grey sandy clay, occasional poorly sorted, sub-angular stone and charcoal inclusions
<b>407</b>	Cut	0.32	0.27	0.10	Posthole
<b>408</b>	Fill	0.32	0.27	0.10	Fill of posthole <b>407</b> : slightly compact dark brown/grey sandy clay. Moderate sub-angular, poorly sorted sub-angular stones with modern inclusions
<b>409</b>	Cut	0.45	0.40	0.27	Posthole
<b>410</b>	Fill	0.45	0.40	0.27	Fill of posthole <b>409</b> : friable mid-bluish-grey silty clay. Occasional specks of charcoal
<b>411</b>	Cut	2.50	0.16	0.34	Ditch: east/west aligned
<b>412</b>	Fill	2.50	0.16	0.34	Fill of ditch <b>411</b> : soft light brownish-grey clay silt. Frequent charcoal flecks
<b>413</b>	Cut	3.3	1.54	0.18	Tree throw
<b>414</b>	Fill	3.3	1.54	0.18	Fill of tree-throw <b>413</b> : firm mid-reddish-grey silty clay, frequent medium-small stones
<b>415</b>	Cut	0.70	0.36	0.04	Pit

SMR and Watching Brief Areas					
Context No	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
416	Fill	0.70	0.34	0.04	Fill of pit <b>415</b> : slightly compact dark brown/grey sandy clay. Moderate sub-rounded poorly sorted stone
417	Cut	1.00	0.26	0.04	Modern intervention
418	Fill	1.00	0.26	0.04	Fill of <b>417</b> : soft light brown/grey clayey silt, occasional sub-rounded poorly sorted stones and charcoal
419	Cut	4.00	0.54	0.10	Gully
420	Fill	4.00	0.54	0.10	Fill of gully <b>419</b> : soft light yellowish-grey silty clay, moderate pebbles
421	Cut	-	1.5	0.60	Boundary ditch
422	Fill	-	1.06	0.20	Primary fill of ditch <b>422</b> : firm light reddish-brown silty clay
423	Fill	-	0.54	0.30	Secondary fill of ditch <b>422</b> : soft light greyish-brown clayey silt, moderate manganese and iron panning
424	Fill	-	0.84	0.40	Secondary fill of ditch <b>422</b> : soft light brownish-grey clayey silt, moderate manganese and iron panning
425	Cut	5	1.06	0.08	Ditch: north-east/south-west aligned
426	Fill	5	1.06	0.08	Fill of ditch <b>425</b> : slightly compact dark grey/brown clayey sand, moderate sub-rounded poorly sorted stones
427	Cut	3	0.40	0.08	Ditch: north-east/south-west aligned
428	Fill	3	0.40	0.08	Fill of ditch <b>427</b> : slightly compact mid-grey/brown clayey sand, moderate sub-rounded poorly sorted stones
429	Cut	-	1.16	0.09	Furrow
430	Fill	-	1.16	0.09	Fill of furrow <b>429</b> : soft light reddish-brown silty clay, infrequent small stones
431	Cut	0.28	0.24	0.27	Modern borehole
432	Fill	0.28	0.24	0.27	Fill of borehole <b>432</b> : soft dark brown/grey clay, rare stones, sub-rounded, poorly sorted
433	Cut	-	1.25	0.09	Ditch: east-north-east/west-south-west aligned
434	Fill	-	1.25	0.09	Fill of ditch <b>433</b> : soft light reddish-brown silty clay with infrequent small stones and manganese
435	Cut	1.10	0.92	0.15	Pit
436	Fill	0.50	0.36	0.06	Primary fill of pit <b>435</b> : friable dark grey-brown clayey silt. Occasional poorly sorted, sub-rounded stones
437	Fill	1.10	0.92	0.15	Secondary fill of pit <b>435</b> : soft mid- brown/red clay, rare sub-rounded, poorly sorted stones
438	Fill	0.30	0.36	0.12	Upper fill of pit <b>435</b> : friable dark grey/brown clayey silt. Frequent sub-rounded, poorly sorted stones
439	Cut	0.76	0.66	0.46	Pit

SMR and Watching Brief Areas					
Context No	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
440	Fill	0.70	0.66	0.20	Lower fill of pit <b>439</b> : compact mid-brown/orange sandy clay, moderate sub-angular, poorly sorted stones
441	Fill	0.76	0.66	0.36	Upper fill of pit <b>439</b> : slightly compact mid-grey/brown clayey sand. Frequent sub-angular, poorly sorted stones
442	Cut	0.74	0.68	0.30	Pit
443	Fill	0.74	0.68	0.14	Primary fill of pit <b>442</b> : compact mid-brown/orange sandy clay, moderate sub-angular, poorly sorted stones
444	Fill	0.74	0.68	0.16	Secondary fill of <b>442</b> : slightly compact mid-grey/brown clayey sand. Frequent sub-angular, poorly sorted stone
445	Cut	3.95	3.86	0.18	Natural feature
446	Fill	3.95	3.86	0.18	Fill of <b>445</b> : moderate light grey/brown clay silt, occasional rounded stones
447	Cut	-	1.12	0.52	Ditch
448	Fill	-	0.33	0.18	Lower fill of ditch <b>447</b> : moderate light brown/grey clayey silt, moderate rounded stones
449	Fill	-	0.78	0.52	Upper fill of ditch <b>447</b> : moderate mid-brown/grey clay silt. Moderate rounded stones and very rare charcoal flecks
450	Cut	>10m	2.52	1.3	Enclosure ditch
451	Fill	-	1.0	0.46	Primary fill of ditch <b>450</b> : soft light reddish-brown silty clay, irregular small stones
452	Fill	-	0.4	0.18	Primary fill of ditch <b>450</b> : soft mid-yellowish-brown sandy clay, infrequent small stones
453	Fill	-	1.7	0.60	Secondary fill of ditch <b>450</b> : soft mid-greyish-brown silty clay, with frequent medium-large stones, well sorted
454	Fill	-	2.5	0.46	Secondary fill of ditch <b>450</b> : firm light greyish-brown silty clay, infrequent small stones
455	Cut	0.78	0.68	0.30	Pit
456	Fill	0.78	0.68	0.06	Lower fill of pit <b>455</b> : compact mid-brown/orange sandy clay. Moderate, sub-angular, poorly sorted stones
457	Fill	0.78	0.68	0.24	Upper fill of pit <b>455</b> : slightly compact mid-grey/brown clayey sand, frequently sub-angular, poorly sorted stones
458	Cut	0.88	0.66	0.34	Pit
459	Fill	0.88	0.66	0.06	Basal fill of pit <b>458</b> : compact mid-brown/orange sandy clay, moderate, sub-angular, poorly sorted stones
460	Fill	0.88	0.66	0.28	Secondary fill of pit <b>458</b> : slightly compact mid-brown/grey clayey sand, frequent, sub-angular, poorly sorted stones

SMR and Watching Brief Areas					
Context No	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
<b>461</b>	Cut	0.80	0.65	0.34	Pit
<b>462</b>	Fill	0.80	0.65	0.14	Lower fill of pit <b>461</b> : compact mid-brown/orange sandy clay. Moderate sub-angular, poorly sorted stones
<b>463</b>	Fill	0.80	0.65	0.20	Upper fill of pit <b>461</b> : slightly compact mid-grey/brown clayey sand. Frequent sub-angular, poorly sorted stones
<b>464</b>	Cut	-	0.14	0.1	Posthole
<b>465</b>	Fill	-	0.14	0.1	Fill of posthole <b>465</b> : firm light brownish-grey silty clay, no inclusions
<b>466</b>	Cut	-	2.02	0.92	Ditch
<b>467</b>	Fill	-	1.0	0.2	Primary fill of ditch <b>466</b> : soft mid-reddish-brown silty clay. No inclusions
<b>468</b>	Fill	-	0.96	0.18	Fill of ditch <b>466</b> : soft mid-reddish-brown sandy clay. Moderate small stones, well sorted
<b>469</b>	Fill	-	1.66	0.30	Fill of ditch <b>466</b> : mixed light whitish-grey and mid-reddish-brown sandy clay. Moderate mid-large stones
<b>470</b>	Fill	-	2.02	0.40	Secondary fill of ditch <b>466</b> : firm mid-grey-brown silty clay. Poorly sorted, infrequent small stones
<b>471</b>	Group	-	-	-	Enclosure ditch: comprising ditch cuts <b>450, 466, 484, 491</b> and <b>504</b>
<b>472</b>	Cut	0.62	0.56	0.26	Pit
<b>473</b>	Fill	0.62	0.56	0.04	Lower fill of pit <b>472</b> : compact mid-brown-orange sandy clay. Poorly sorted sub-angular stones
<b>474</b>	Fill	0.62	0.56	0.22	Upper fill of pit <b>472</b> : slightly compact mid-grey/brown clayey sand. Frequent sub-angular, poorly sorted stones. Moderate manganese
<b>475</b>	Cut	0.38	0.36	0.05	Circular cut for hearth/bonfire
<b>476</b>	Fill	0.38	0.36	0.05	Fill of <b>475</b> : friable dark grey-black, sandy silty. Rare sub-angular, poorly sorted stones and very high percentage of charcoal
<b>477</b>	Group	-	-	-	Shallow ditch running east-west across SMR area: consisting of cuts <b>425, 429, 433</b> and <b>479</b>
<b>478</b>	Group	-	-	-	North-south pit alignment: consisting of cuts <b>472, 439, 442, 455, 458, 498</b> and <b>511</b>
<b>479</b>	Cut	>10.00	0.72	0.05	Ditch
<b>480</b>	Fill	-	0.72	0.05	Secondary fill of ditch <b>479</b> : firm light brownish-grey silty clay. No inclusions
<b>481</b>	Cut	0.85	0.82	0.52	Pit
<b>482</b>	Fill	0.85	0.82	0.12	Lower fill of pit <b>481</b> : compact mid-orange/brown sandy clay. Rare, sub-angular, poorly sorted stones, with manganese
<b>483</b>	Fill	0.85	0.82	0.46	Upper fill of pit <b>481</b> : slightly compact mid-brown/grey clayey sand. Frequent sub-rounded, poorly sorted stones. Moderate manganese
<b>484</b>	Cut	-	2.52	0.98	Ditch

SMR and Watching Brief Areas					
Context No	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
485	Fill	-	0.51	0.30	Fill of ditch <b>484</b> : moderate light brown/yellow sandy clay. Rare rounded stone 10-150mm, and very rare charcoal and some large limestone boulders (>0.60mm)
486	Fill	-	0.49	0.37	Fill of ditch <b>484</b> : moderate mid-grey-brown, 60% sandy clay, 40% rounded stones (10-150mm). Moderate manganese
487	Fill	-	0.70	0.25	Secondary fill of ditch <b>484</b> : soft-sticky mid-grey/brown silty clay, occasional stone and frequent manganese
488	Fill	-	0.13	0.24	Fill of ditch <b>484</b> : moderate mid-brown/yellow sandy clay, rare rounded stone (10-100mm)
489	Fill	-	1.04	0.33	Upper fill of ditch <b>484</b> : moderate mid-brown-grey sandy clay. Occasional rounded stone (10-100mm)
490	Fill	-	2.04	0.53	Top fill of ditch <b>484</b> : moderate light brown-grey sandy clay. Occasional rounded stones (10-100mm) and some large granite/limestone boulders (>0.40mm)
491	Cut	1.00	2.10	0.92	Ditch
492	Fill	-	1.00	0.16	Secondary fill of ditch <b>491</b> : dark brownish-orange silty clay. Small sub-oval stones
493	Fill	-	1.12	0.10	Secondary fill of ditch <b>491</b> : firm, lighter orange/brown silty clay
494	Fill	-	1.50	0.18	Secondary fill of ditch <b>491</b> : firm compaction, mid- brownish-orange silty clay. Small to medium sub-oval stones
495	Fill	-	2	0.4	Secondary fill of ditch <b>491</b> : firm compaction, mid- brown silty clay. Small to large sub-oval stones
496	Fill	-	1.96	0.3	Secondary fill of ditch <b>491</b> : firm compaction, light brownish-grey, silty clay. Small to large sub-oval stones
497	Fill	-	1.6	0.41	Secondary fill of ditch <b>491</b> : friable bright greyish-brown silty clay. Small-medium sub-oval stones
498	Cut	0.68	0.65	0.30	Pit
499	Fill	0.68	0.65	0.30	Fill of pit <b>499</b> : moderate light brown/grey clayey silt. Frequent rounded stones (5-90mm)
500	Layer	-	0.69	0.05	Natural geological feature: firm, dark orange clay. Small sub-oval stones
501	Layer	-	0.5	0.04	Natural feature: firm mid-orange clay. Small sub-oval stones
502	Cut	0.76	0.8	0.22	Pit
503	Fill	0.76	0.8	0.22	Fill of pit <b>502</b> : firm, mid-brownish-grey clayey silt. Frequent medium-sized sub-rounded stones (poorly sorted) and flecks of manganese
504	Cut	-	2.3	0.9	Ditch

SMR and Watching Brief Areas					
Context No	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
505	Fill	-	0.66	0.22	Secondary fill of ditch <b>504</b> : firm dark greyish-brown silty clay. Small oval stones
506	Fill	-	1	0.18	Secondary fill of ditch <b>504</b> : firm mid-orange/brown silty clay. Small-medium sub-oval stones
507	Fill	-	1.13	0.24	Secondary fill of ditch <b>504</b> : firm mid-orange/brown silty clay. Small sub-oval stones
508	Fill	-	1.96	0.22	Secondary fill of ditch <b>504</b> : firm mid-greyish-orange silty clay. Small sub-oval stones
509	Fill	-	1.61	0.12	Secondary fill of ditch <b>504</b> : firm mid-brown/grey silty clay. Small amount of charcoal inclusions
510	Fill	-	2.3	0.26	Secondary fill of ditch <b>504</b> : firm dark brown-grey silty clay with small sub-oval stones
511	Cut	0.72	0.66	0.20	Pit
512	Fill	0.72	0.66	0.20	Fill of pit <b>511</b> : firm mid-greyish-brown clayey silt. Frequent medium-sized sub-angular stones, mostly concentrated near the surface
513	Cut	0.56	0.29	0.12	Pit
514	Fill	0.56	0.29	0.12	Fill of pit <b>513</b> : moderate light grey/brown sandy clay. Moderate manganese and rare rounded gravel (10-50mm) at base
515	Cut	1.61	1.30	0.58	Pit
516	Fill	-	1.44	0.35	Lower fill of pit <b>515</b> : moderate mid-brown/grey, 50% sandy clay with 50% granite/limestone (0.20-0.70mm)
517	Fill	1.61	1.30	0.24	Top fill of pit <b>515</b> : moderate light grey/brown sandy clay. Occasional rounded gravel
518	Cut	-	0.45	0.14	Ring ditch
519	Fill	-	0.45	0.14	Fill of ring ditch <b>518</b> : firm dark brownish-grey silty clay with small sub-oval stones
520	Cut	-	0.43	0.10	Ring ditch
521	Fill	-	0.43	0.10	Fill of ditch <b>520</b> : firm mid-grey/brown silty clay with small sub-oval stones
522	Cut	-	0.38	0.11	Ring ditch
523	Fill	-	0.38	0.11	Fill of ditch <b>522</b> : firm mid-greyish-brown silty clay with small sub-oval stones
524	Cut	1.44	1.5	0.20	Pit
525	Fill	0.68	1.10	0.18	Upper fill of pit <b>524</b> : firm dark brownish-grey clayey silt. Frequent, medium to large stones, sub-angular, concentrated towards the middle of the pit
526	Fill	1.44	1.5	0.16	Lower fill of pit <b>524</b> : firm darkish reddish-brown sandy, silty clay. Occasional medium, sub-angular stones and flecks of manganese
527	Cut	-	-	-	Pit: not excavated
528	Fill	-	-	-	Fill of unexcavated pit: firm dark brownish-grey clayey silt

SMR and Watching Brief Areas					
Context No	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
<b>529</b>	Group	-	-	-	Ring ditch: consisting of cuts <b>520</b> , <b>518</b> and <b>522</b>
<b>530</b>	Cut	-	1.3	0.48	Ditch
<b>531</b>	Fill	-	0.82	0.14	Lower fill of ditch <b>530</b> : soft mid-brownish-grey silty clay. 10% sub-angular stones
<b>532</b>	Fill	-	1.3	0.36	Upper fill of ditch <b>530</b> : mid-brown-grey silty clay loam. 10% sub-angular stones

## APPENDIX B POTTERY CATALOGUE

Sherd No	Vessel No	Date	Context	Weight (g)	Thickness (cm)	Fabric Type	Form	Abrasion	Conjoins with	Colour	Decoration	Notes
1	1	LIA?	Gully 419 (fill 420)	25.17	0.9	QS1	Body	Fresh		Medium reddish-grey-brown external and internal surface, medium grey core	Plain body sherd	Hard, well-fired fabric
2	1	LIA?	Gully 419 (fill 420)	24.52	0.9	QS1	Body	Fresh		Medium reddish-grey-brown external and internal surface, medium grey core	Plain body sherd	
3	2	LBA-EIA?	Pit 515 (fill 517)	8.92	1.4	F1	Body	Moderate	4	Medium orange-brown external surface, dark grey internal surface and core	Plain body sherd	Slightly friable fabric, inclusions erupting on external surface
4	2	LBA-EIA?	Pit 515 (fill 517)	22.8	1.4	F1	Body	Moderate	3	Medium orange-brown external surface, dark grey internal surface and core	Plain body sherd	Slightly friable fabric, inclusions erupting on external surface
5	2	LBA-EIA?	Pit 515 (fill 517)	8.24	1.4	F1	Body	Moderate		Medium orange-brown external surface, dark grey internal surface and core	Plain body sherd	Slightly friable fabric, inclusions erupting on external surface
6	2	LBA-EIA?	Pit 515 (fill 517)	2.83	0.7	F1	Body	Moderate		Medium orange-brown external surface, dark grey internal surface and core	Plain body sherd	Slightly friable fabric, inclusions erupting on external surface



Sherd No	Vessel No	Date	Context	Weight (g)	Thickness (cm)	Fabric Type	Form	Abrasion	Conjoins with	Colour	Decoration	Notes
7	2	LBA-EIA?	Pit <b>515</b> (fill <b>517</b> )	1.67	1	F1	Body	Moderate		Medium orange-brown external surface, dark grey internal surface and core	Plain body sherd	Slightly friable fabric, inclusions erupting on external surface
8	2	LBA-EIA?	Pit <b>515</b> (fill <b>517</b> )	1.81	1	F1	Body	Moderate		Medium orange-brown external surface, dark grey internal surface and core	Plain body sherd	
9	3	LBA-EIA?	Pit <b>515</b> (fill <b>517</b> )	17.03	0.8	F2	Body	Moderate		Medium orange-brown external surface, dark grey internal surface and core	Plain body sherd	
10	4	RB?	Ditch <b>110</b> (fill <b>111</b> )	10.19	0.8	S1	Rim	Heavy		Medium orange throughout	Inverted rim with a flat external rim edge	Well-fired hard fabric
11	5	LIA?	Posthole <b>405</b> (fill <b>406</b> )	2.61	0.6	S1	Body	Fresh		Light orange surface, light grey core	Plain body sherd	
12		IA?	Ditch <b>415</b> (fill <b>416</b> )	20.29	2.1	QS1	Briquetage	Moderate		Light reddish-brown		Probable briquetage, variable angular and rounded inclusions
13		IA?	416	1.2	0.7	QS1	Briquetage	Moderate		Light reddish-brown		
14		IA?	Tree throw <b>413</b> (fill <b>414</b> )	20.53	2.3	QS1	Briquetage	Moderate		Light reddish-brown		
15		RB?	Tree throw <b>413</b> (fill <b>414</b> )414	14.88	1.3	S1	CBM	Moderate		Light reddish-brown		
16		RB?	Tree throw <b>413</b> (fill <b>414</b> )	34.33	2	S1	CBM	Fresh		Light reddish-brown		Probable tile fragment

Sherd No	Vessel No	Date	Context	Weight (g)	Thickness (cm)	Fabric Type	Form	Abrasion	Conjoins with	Colour	Decoration	Notes
17	6	RB?	Ditch <b>102/530</b> (fill <b>531</b> )	24.37	1	S1	Body	Fresh		Light grey external and medium grey internal surface	Plain body sherd	Hard, well-fired fabric, concretions on the external surface
18	7	RB?	Ditch <b>447</b> (fill <b>449</b> )	13.63	0.5	S1	Body	Moderate		Light orange throughout	Plain body sherd	Hard, well-fired fabric
19	8	PM	Ditch <b>415</b> (fill <b>416</b> )	1.51	0.3	N	Body	Fresh		Light grey/off white	Glaze external surface	Post-medieval, hard, well-fired fabric
20	9	RB?	Gully <b>411</b> (fill <b>412</b> )	14.39	0.3	N	Body	Fresh		Light grey/off white		Plain, thin-walled, hard fabric
21	9	RB?	Gully <b>411</b> (fill <b>412</b> )	7.56	0.3	N	Body	Fresh		Light grey/off white		Plain, thin-walled, hard fabric
<b>Total</b>				<b>278.48</b>								

## List of Figures

Fig 1	Site location
Fig 2	Site Plan
Fig 3	Sections

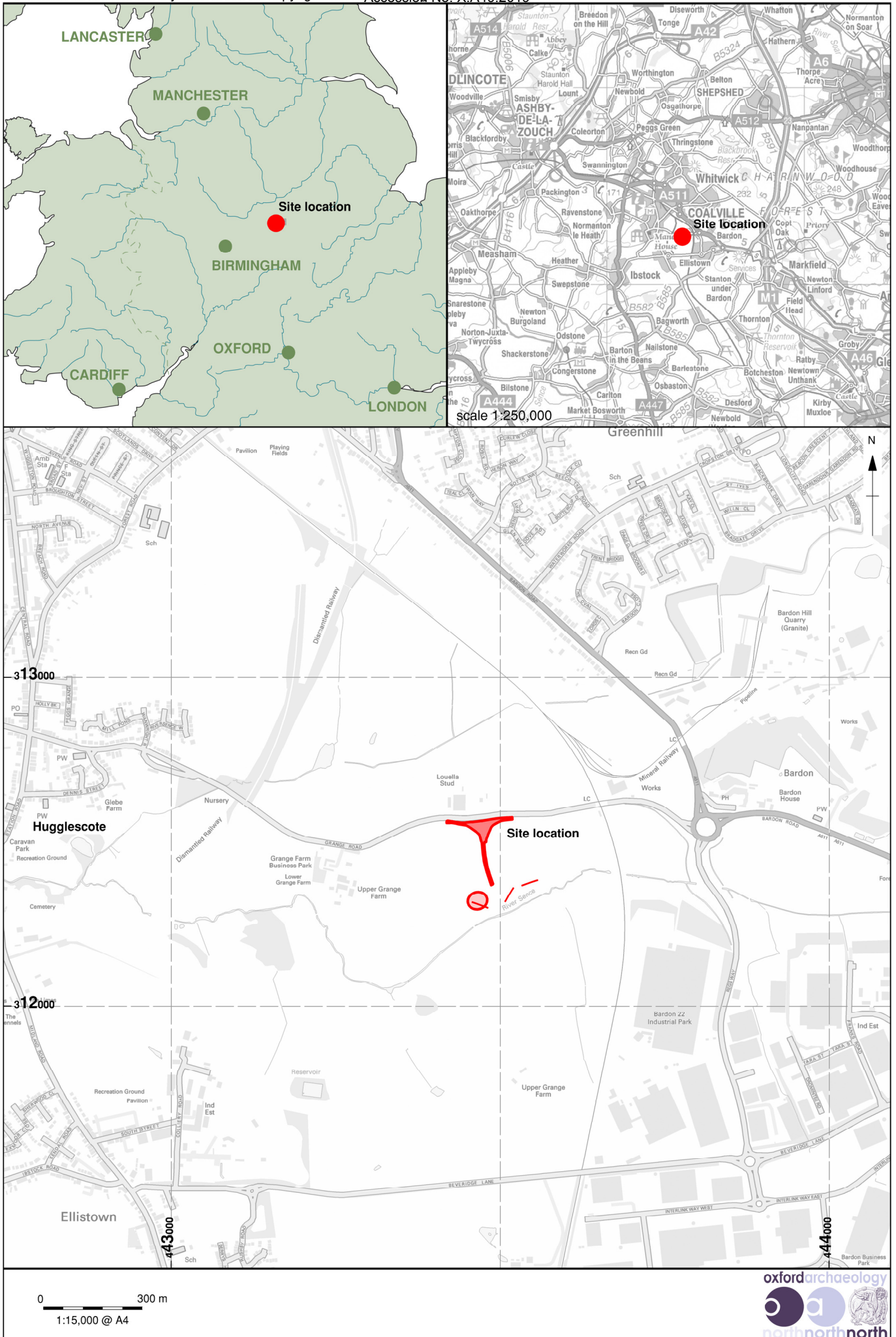


Figure 1: Site location

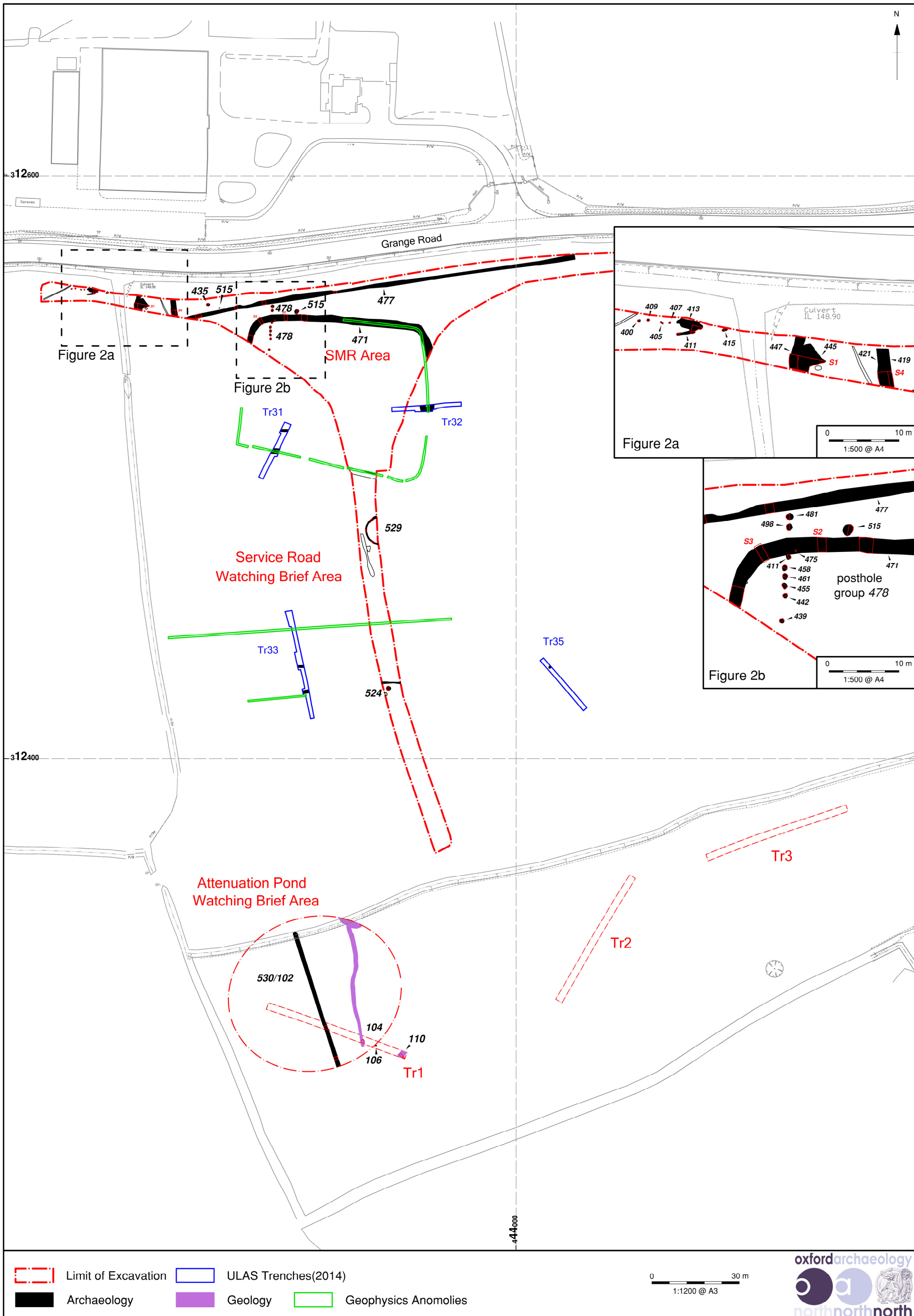
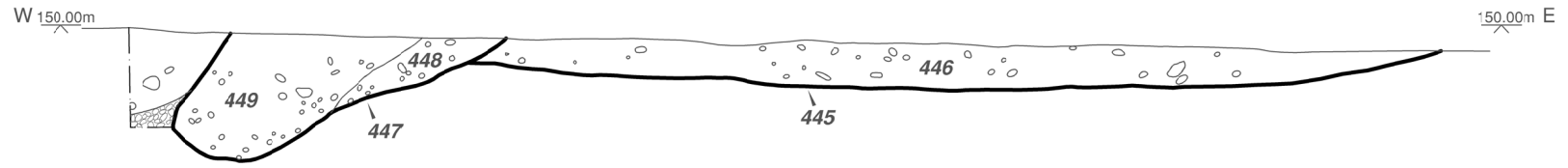
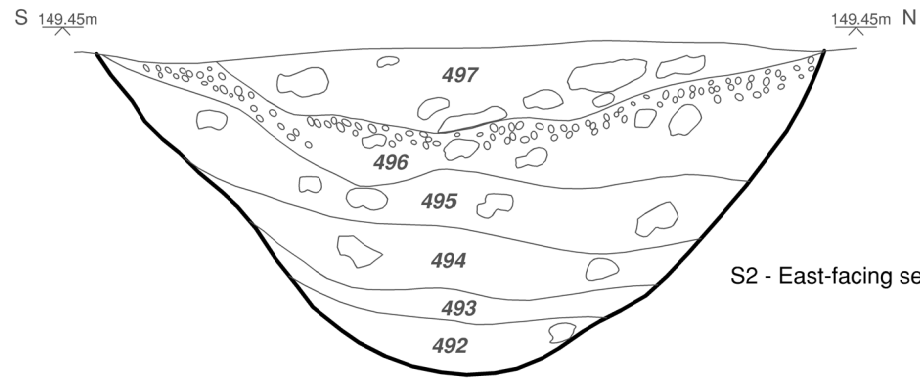


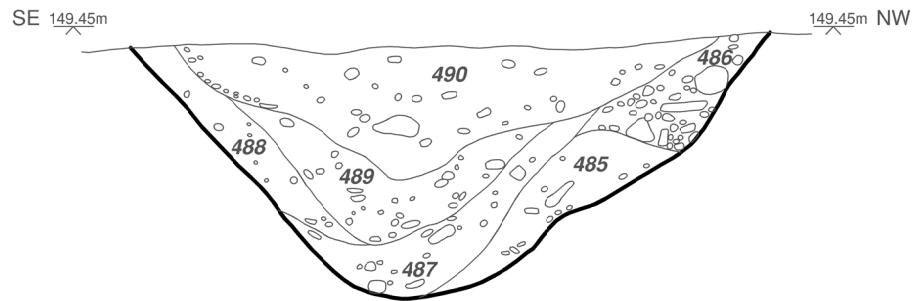
Figure 2: Site plan



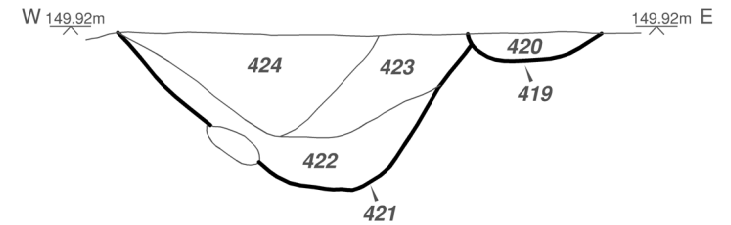
S1 - South-facing section of Ditch **447** and Depression **445**



S2 - East-facing section of Enclosure Ditch **471**



S3 - North-east-facing section of Enclosure Ditch **471**



S4 - South-facing section of Ditches **421** and **419**

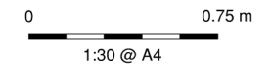
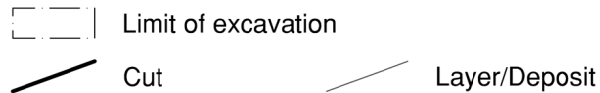


Figure 3: Sections





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