Archaeological Evaluation Report

Rugby Sustainable Urban Extension Rugby Radio Station Warwickshire

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Rugby Sustainable Urban Extension, Rugby Radio Station, Warwickshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

In May 2010, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at the site of Rugby Sustainable Urban Extension. The work was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting which was commissioned by Rugby Radio Station Limited Partnership.

The evaluation consisted of 17 trenches comprising 3 x 20m trenches; 1 x 50m trench; 1 x 60 m trench and 12 x 30 m trenches. The trenches were largely targeted on geophysical anomalies which had indicated the presence of archaeological features during an earlier survey. A number of trenches were also located in order to test the efficacy of the geophysical survey, by targeting areas in which no geophysical anomalies had been recorded. The trenches were dispersed over a wide area, and the site consequently subdivided into five distinct investigation areas.

In Area 1 at the eastern edge of the site, two trenches were excavated to investigate the nature of possible alluvial deposits.

In Area 2 to the south of the site, the evaluation revealed a Middle Iron Age enclosure with at least one Middle Iron Age pit and two undated post holes in the interior. The enclosure ditches were not fully excavated but appeared to be very substantial, suggesting a defensive function, despite the fact that the enclosure occupied a low lying area. A further Middle Iron Age ditch extended to the west of the enclosure and may have marked a more extensive boundary associated with it. A second ditch on a similar alignment produced a single sherd of possible Bronze Age pottery, which may indicate a Bronze Age precursor to the possible Iron Age boundary.

A Roman pit was revealed in Area 3 in the north-west of the site. This lay within an enclosure indicated on the geophysical survey, although limited evidence was recovered for the enclosure itself. Other features in this area related to Post-Medieval field boundaries shown on some of the cartographic sources.

A trench in Area 4 to the north of the site investigated the relationship between surviving ridge and furrow and an earthwork which appeared to cut it. The trench revealed that two of the furrows had been re-cut to form two sides of the enclosure, whilst the remaining two sides consisted of ditches cutting across the ridges. The ridge and furrow within the enclosure was significantly less pronounced, suggesting it had been levelled. Two possible walls were revealed along the top of what was left of the ridges within the enclosure. Whilst the function of these possible walls was not clear; they may have formed part of an animal pen within the enclosure.

Area 5 - also to the south of the site - revealed evidence for Roman activity, possibly dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries. This comprised a series of inter-cutting ditches which appeared to mark a boundary which had been subject to numerous phases of re-cutting. Other ditches, dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries are likely to represent field boundaries, possibly paddocks. There was also evidence for light industrial activity of a similar date, in the form of possible pits with rudimentary stone lining and fills containing iron slag and significant quantities of charcoal.

The features revealed in Areas 2 and 5 may relate to an extensive area of both Iron Age and Roman settlement previously recorded from the DIRFT site to the east of these evaluation trenches.

The remaining features revealed across the site related to medieval ridge and furrow, or later field drains and boundaries.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 CgMs Consulting was commissioned by Rugby Radio Station Limited Partnership to organise an archaeological field evaluation of land at Rugby Radio Station, Rugby, Warwickshire and adjacent landowners as part of the wider Sustainable Urban Extension of Rugby (SUE) (Fig. 1). CgMs Consulting in turn appointed Oxford Archaeology (OA) to undertake the evaluation.

1.1.2 The site is centred on NGR SP 551 746, and is approximately 522 hectares in extent. It is bounded to the north-east by the A5; to the south-east by fields where DIRFT 2 (Daventry Rail Freight Terminal) has planning permission; to the south by the A428 Crick Road and fields beyond; to the south-west by the London-Rugby railway line and the Oxford Canal, and to the north-west by fields with Clifton Upon Dunsmore beyond. A previous geophysical survey, analysis of aerial photographs, and a desk-based assessment (CgMs 2010) had identified a number of areas with archaeological potential, and the evaluation was targeted on five of these areas as indicated on Figures 2 and 3.

1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which detailed how OA would implement the requirements of the archaeological field evaluation as laid out in the CgMs Specification for an Archaeological Field Evaluation (CgMs 2010) which has been endorsed by the Warwickshire Archaeological Officer.

1.1.4 The background and baseline material from the specification is reproduced below, figures and references pertaining to the following two sections can be found in that document (CgMs, 2010).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The solid geology of the site is shown by the Institute of Geological Sciences (IGS 1979) comprising Lower and Middle Lias deposits of Lower Jurassic date.

1.2.2 Further detail is provided by the 1:50,000 series Geological Survey (Sheet 184 and 185: Warwick and Northampton) which indicates that a band of glacial sands and gravels underlain by Middle Lias deposits follows the south-western boundary of the study site. Within the central part of the site, with the exception of an isolated area of Boulder Clay, Lower Lias deposits outcrop while alluvium overlies Lower Lias deposits within the north-eastern part of the site.

1.2.3 A geotechnical investigation was undertaken in order to establish the nature of the copper mat associated with the transmitter station. The logs indicated that parts of the site are underlain by between 0.6m and 1.55m of alluvium, comprising light grey brown mottled orange clay within the upper horizons and a light yellow brown gravelly sandy clay within the lower horizons. The logs show the solid geology at between 0.9 and 1.7m AOD as Charmouth Mudstone Formation.

1.2.4 The site comprises a large shallow bowl drained by Clifton Brook and its tributary. The site drains into Clifton Brook which crosses the site in an artificial cut and drains north-west through the site to join an unnamed tributary, which then flows west, then north into the River Avon at a point north of Rugby Station. The western part of the site is crossed by the Oxford Canal with a flight of locks at Hillmorton marking a rise out of the valley of Clifton Brook onto the southern flank of Normandy Hill. To the north of the site, beyond Clifton Brook, a ridge occupied by Clifton Upon Dunsmore and the road east from Clifton to Lilbourne forms the skyline at c.120m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum). To

the south-east land rises towards the M1 and Crick, and south of DIRFT a ridge of land extends between Crick and Kilsburgh at 120m to 150m AOD. To the south-west and within the site, a ridge known as Normandy Hill rises to 110m and the embankment of the London-Rugby Railway line forms a man-made topographic feature, with Hillmorton and Rugby beyond.

1.2.5 Geological and topographic factors appear to be significant influences on past exploitation and land-use within the site. Settlement (of presumed prehistoric/Romano-British date) avoids the alluvium and heavier mudstones and appears to be concentrated on the better drained, higher glacial sands.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A draft archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared in March 2008 and has been updated prior to the exact application boundary being fixed. This section provides a brief summary of the sites' archaeological potential and rationale behind the evaluation trenching and other baseline studies.

1.3.2 Examination of data in the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Historic Environment Records (HERs), in the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire County Record Offices and published sources, indicated that the study area lies within an area containing ridge and furrow. In addition, the site is bounded to the north-east by Watling Street, a major Roman road, and immediately south of the site archaeological excavations at DIRFT recorded an extensive area of Iron Age and Roman settlement.

1.3.3 The archaeological desk-based assessment also identified a number of features within the site from historic maps and aerial photographs. However, only two features lie within areas where development is anticipated; these include a NW-SE earthwork interpreted as a possible headland at SP 557 737 (DBA Site 1: see Appendix 1) and a rectangular earthwork SP 542 748 (DBA Site 2: see Appendix 1).

1.3.4 Following the preparation of the draft desk-based assessment, a specialist interpretation of aerial photographs was undertaken for the scheme and the proposed DIRFT 3.

1.3.5 In summary, the air photo (AP) interpretation identified earthwork ridge and furrow across large parts of the SUE site. In addition, the interpretation identified a system of probable water meadows and a possible moated site at Hillmorton, the remains of hangars at the former site of a WWI Airfield (Lilbourne Airfield) and earthworks possibly associated with the shrunken medieval settlement at Hillmorton. The AP interpretation also identified the rectangular enclosure at SP 542 748 mentioned at paragraph 1.3.3 above and the remains of a possible WWI shelter, which was identified during the walkover survey.

1.3.6 Following the completion of the AP report, a phased geophysical survey was undertaken on the SUE site. Stage 1 comprised 27 sample areas, the majority of which measured approximately one hectare in area (area totalling 31.25ha). The survey targeted the rectangular enclosure at SP 542 748, the remains of hangars at the former site of a WWI Airfield (Lilbourne Airfield) and earthworks possibly associated with the shrunken medieval settlement at Hillmorton. In addition to testing the Watling Street frontage, a number of survey areas were randomly placed (whilst avoiding masts and mast anchors, etc) to test areas on alluvium, mudstone and glacial sand in areas of unknown archaeological potential.

1.3.7 The Stage 1 survey identified two sides of a possible sub-rectangular prehistoric ditched enclosure containing two roundhouses and numerous pits. A second possible

prehistoric enclosure was detected on the proposed transport link in the north-west of the site. The survey of Lilbourne Airfield was found to contain large-scale anomalies indicating possible roads, hangars and other structures. A number of pits and two sides of a possible enclosure were identified northeast of Hillmorton. In addition, extensive evidence of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was detected amongst the masts and supporting structures within a number of the survey areas.

1.3.8 The Stage 2 survey comprised nine survey areas totalling 11.7 ha. The Stage 2 survey was targeted on areas adjacent to probable archaeological features in Stage 1. In addition, based on the findings of the Stage 1 survey, which indicated an absence of probable archaeological features on/under the alluvium, seven additional survey areas were targeted on areas considered to have at least some archaeological potential (i.e. areas off the alluvial on Lower Lias, boulder clay or glacial sands and gravels). The sampling technique used survey squares typically 100m by 100m in order to avoid the many masts, mast anchors, telegraph poles and fences.

1.3.9 The Stage 2 survey focussed around Areas 20 and 21 and confirmed that the two sides of an enclosure formed part of a sub-rectangular ditched enclosure. With the exception of extensive evidence of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and evidence of masts and supporting structures, no probable archaeological features were identified in the seven additional survey areas.

1.3.10 The Stage 3 survey was undertaken on areas which had been included within the emerging masterplan at a late stage. Survey Areas 35 and 36 were targeted to test the potential for features associated with the shrunken medieval settlement at Hillmorton and Survey Area 37 was targeted on land east of Eastfields Farm, to test the potential for Iron Age and Roman remains extending into the southern part of the site from the adjacent DIRFT 2 site. No possible archaeological features were identified within Survey Areas 35 and 36. However, a number of geophysical anomalies were identified in Area 37, which could evidence Iron Age and Roman settlement extending into the site. The total survey area comprised 37 areas covering a total of 44.5ha.

1.3.11 The probable archaeological features identified by desk-based assessment, aerial photographic interpretation and geophysical survey formed the basis for the trenching strategy, which specifically targeted features which would be impacted by the proposed development. In addition, a number of trenches were targeted on the alluvium covered areas and blank areas near known archaeological targets.

2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

General aims

2.1.1 To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.

2.1.2 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered.

Specific Aims

2.1.3 To clarify the impact of Medieval (and any Post-Medieval) ploughing on sub-surface horizons and hence assess archaeological survival conditions of buried deposits.

2.1.4 To examine a small sample of Medieval ridge and furrow.

2.1.5 To determine the presence or absence of late prehistoric, Iron Age and Roman settlement remains and related evidence.

2.1.6 To determine the presence or absence of settlement associated with the Iron Age occupation found on the DIRFT site to the south.

2.1.7 To establish the presence/absence/potential for significant environmental deposits.

2.1.8 To establish the potential for other archaeological evidence.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The probable archaeological features identified by desk-based assessment, aerial photographic interpretation and geophysical survey are listed in the specification. The programme of trial trenching targeted these features. However, only features which would be impacted by the proposed development were targeted for trial trenching. In addition, a number of trenches tested alluvium-covered areas and blank areas near known archaeological targets.

2.2.2 The evaluation comprised 17 trenches located in five separate investigation areas. Trench 12 from the original proposal of 18 trenches was not dug as it now lies outside the development impact. Figures 2 and 3 show the trench locations. The trenches, with the exception of Trenches 1, 2 and 10 (20 m), Trench 11 (50 m) and Trench 18 (60 m) were 30 m long by 1.6 m wide. The position of Trenches 8 and 3 was altered slightly from the original trench location plan due to the presence of overhead cables.

2.2.3 Mechanical excavation was undertaken under the direct supervision of an appropriately experienced archaeologist, until either the top of the first archaeological horizon or undisturbed natural deposits were encountered. All trenches were excavated using a standard toothless ditching bucket fitted to a JCB.

2.2.4 Those areas of the site where visual inspection suggested the presence of features or possible features were hand-cleaned to ensure features were properly defined, sufficient to produce a base plan. All discrete features were cleaned sufficiently to enable identification and recording. Spoil was scanned for artefacts both visually and with a metal detector. Archaeological features were sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them.

2.2.5 On completion of recording, all trenches were backfilled with excavated material. Trenches in Area 2 were de-turfed prior to excavation, and re-turfed following backfilling.

Recording

2.2.6 Context sheets included all relevant stratigraphic relationships, although no complex stratigraphy was encountered. A stratigraphic matrix for each trench was completed.

2.2.7 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was in accordance with the established OA Fieldwork Manual (Wilkinson 1992). All contexts, and any small finds and samples from them were allocated unique numbers. Bulk finds were collected by context. Colour digital and black-and-white negative photographs were taken of all trenches and archaeological features.

2.2.8 Site plans were drawn at an appropriate scale (normally 1:50 or 1:100) with larger scale plans of features as necessary. Plans of archaeological features were drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Section drawings of features and trenches were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 depending on the complexity of the feature.

2.2.9 All trench positions were accurately tied into the site and national grid. Plans indicating the location of the excavated trenches and the location of all archaeological features encountered were drawn at an appropriate scale.

Finds Procedures

2.2.10 Spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector to assist in the recovery of dateable material. Spoil was placed adjacent to trenches and searched for pottery.

2.2.11 Bulk finds were collected by context and any small finds were allocated unique numbers and individually recorded in three dimensions when appropriate. All identified finds and artefacts were retained, although certain classes of building material or post-medieval pottery were sometimes discarded after recording subject to the retention of an appropriate sample. However, no finds were discarded without prior approval of the archaeological officer.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 Detailed context descriptions, including the thickness of deposits, are presented in the context inventory (Appendix A), and within the descriptive text in Section 3.2 where they are integral to the interpretation of the context in question.

3.1.2 Finds reports are presented in Section 3.7. A discussion and interpretation of this evidence can be found in Section 4.

3.1.3 Locations of areas are shown on Figure 2, trench locations on Figure 2 (Area 1) and Figure 3 (Areas 2-5).

3.2 Area 1

Trenches 1 and 2

3.2.1 The location of Trenches 1 and 2 was determined by the identification of alluvial deposits during the geotechnical survey. The trenches were intended to investigate the

nature of the alluvial deposits, a geophysical anomaly and the potential for evidence associated with the Romano-British settlement at DIRFT and how it related to any archaeological remains. The composition of these deposits was summarised as *"light grey brown mottled orange clay",* although some variation was noted in the geotechnical logs. Trenches 1 and 2 were excavated to the top of a mid orangey brown clay with bluey grey mottling (101 and 201 respectively) that is likely to correlate to the deposits identified in the geotechnical survey. Sondages were excavated through this deposit in the eastern end of Trench 1 and the western end of Trench 2. The mottled clay was between 1.2 m (Trench 1) and 1.6 m (Trench 2) thick and overlay a mid-dark bluish grey clay (100 and 200) which is likely to represent the Charmouth Mudstone (ref. 1.2.3).

3.2.2 Deposit 101/201 was encountered at between 99.33 m OD (Trench 1) and 99.46 m OD (Trench 2) and was overlain by a *c* 0.3 m thick layer of mixed subsoil of predominantly mid orangey brown clay sand, with concentrations of gravel and flint where the composition was more clay rich (102 and 202). The subsoil was overlain by a *c* 0.28 m thick layer of existing topsoil and turf (103 and 203).

3.2.3 In Trench 2, a vaguely curvilinear spread of pale grey sandy silt (204) corresponded with a possible feature identified during the geophysical survey. However, this proved to be very ephemeral and was not well defined in plan. It seems likely that this either represented a variation in the composition of clay deposit 201, or the base of an animal burrow.

3.3 Area 2

Trench 3

3.3.1 The primary aim of Trench 3 was to test the efficacy of the geophysical survey. The trench was located in an area in which no geophysical anomalies were recorded, although it was adjacent to an area which produced strong responses.

3.3.2 Natural sand and gravel (302) was encountered at between 104.88 m OD (in the east end of the trench) and 106.88 m OD (in the west end), and was directly overlain by the existing topsoil and turf (301) which was approximately 0.25 m thick. No archaeological features were encountered.

Trench 4

3.3.3 Trench 4 was located to investigate three possible linear features identified during the geophysical survey.

3.3.4 A friable light brown sand (402) was encountered at approximately 0.25 m below ground level and was overlain by the existing topsoil and turf (401). Deposit 402 was approximately 0.1 m thick and overlay a deposit very similar in composition, although slightly redder in colour and with charcoal flecking throughout (403). These layers appeared to correspond to a deposit through which archaeological features were cut in a number of other trenches (i.e. Trench 5, see below). However, similar deposits also appeared to overlie some of these features, and consequently there was some uncertainty as to the correct horizon to machine to. As such, for the majority of the trench initial mechanical excavation was to the top of deposit 403, the surface was inspected for features and if none were present deposit 403 was also removed by machine. This overlay a third sandy deposit (404), slightly darker in colour, but also with charcoal flecking throughout. As no features were apparent in the top of Deposit 404, this was also removed by machine to a maximum depth of 1.2 m below ground level. At

between 101.27 m OD (in the NW end of the trench) and 103 m OD (in the SE end), Deposit 404 appeared to overlie a sterile yellow brown sand (405), which is likely to represent the natural sand. The deposits overlying the sterile sand have been tentatively interpreted as colluvial layers, but their origin and inter-relationships are discussed in greater detail in Section 4.

3.3.5 Two possible features appeared to cut through Deposit 403 (407 and 409). One of these (407) roughly corresponded to to the NW-SE aligned geophysical anomaly (Fig. 3 – Area 2 trench plan), and may represent the base of a furrow. However, both 'cuts' were poorly defined and far from convincing as genuine features.

Trench 5 *(Fig. 4)*

3.3.6 Trench 5 was located over three linear geophysical anomalies, including two parallel linear features which were interpreted as defining a possible trackway. A NW-SE aligned 'non archaeological' linear anomaly was also identified on the geophysical survey.

3.3.7 The stratigraphic sequence in Trench 5 was similar to that recorded in Trench 4. In the southern end of the trench, a fairly sterile sandy deposit with patches of gravel (505) was encountered at approximately 103.8 m OD (0.65m below ground level) and may have represented the natural sand and gravel and corresponded with Deposit 405. However, Deposit 505 appeared to dive away sharply to the north, where it was overlain by a friable light brown sand with occasional charcoal flecks (512), which was in turn overlain by a friable mid brown sand (504), also with charcoal flecking. It is possible that these deposits represent a disturbed layer of natural sand (512) where it is overlain by a possible colluvial layer (504) which may correspond with Deposit 404.

3.3.8 Deposit 504 and 'natural sand' 505 were cut by a roughly east-west aligned linear feature (511) (Fig.4, section 502), one of the fills of which (509) produced a single abraded sherd of possible Bronze Age pottery. Given the distance from the southern end of the trench (*c* 5 m), it is likely that this feature corresponds with the southernmost of the anomalies identified during the geophysical survey.

3.3.9 Further to the north, but on a similar alignment, and also cutting Deposit 504, was a second east-west aligned linear feature (507) (Fig.4, section 501), the fill of which (506) produced a significant quantity of Middle Iron Age pottery. No corresponding feature was apparent on the geophysical survey.

3.3.10 The fills of these features, and Deposit 504, were overlain by a second friable mid brown sand deposit (503), almost identical in composition to Deposit 504, but clearly overlying the fills of the features which cut the latter. Consequently, it seems likely that this deposit is either a later phase of deposition of this sandy material, or represents the re-worked upper element of a single layer and may correspond with Deposit 403. The interface between these deposits also dropped away to the north at the northern end of the trench, possibly reflecting the surface of the underlying sandy natural.

3.3.11 Also in the northern end of the trench, Deposit 503 was overlain by a relatively clean yellow brown sand (502). The origin of this deposit is unclear, although it may represent a re-deposition of the underlying sandy natural, and is likely to be the origin of the 'non archaeological' anomaly identified in the geophysical survey. The two potentially parallel ditches suggested by geophysics were not apparent.

3.3.12 Deposits 502 and 503 were overlain by the existing topsoil and turf (501).

Trench 6 *(Fig. 5)*

3.3.13 Trench 6 was located over an area of strong geophysical responses, which were interpreted as representing a prehistoric ditched enclosure containing round houses and numerous pits.

3.3.14 The trench was initially machined to the top of a friable, mid brown sandy silt (602), which was similar to a deposit in Area 5 which was cut by archaeological features, and may correspond with the 'colluvial' deposits described above (504/404). As no features were observed at this level, the trench was re-machined to the top of the underlying sand and gravel (603). At the SE end of the trench, this was encountered at 108.17 m OD, but dropped away to the NW, reaching 107.56 m OD *c* 9.5 m from the NW end of the trench. At this point, the deposits in the NW end of the trench appeared to comprise the sterile, homogeneous fills (624) of a series of intercutting features. A slot through this deposit revealed a number of cuts (615, 617, 620, 623), which may represent some of the pits suggested by the geophysics, particularly as a number of them (617 and 615 in particular) were relatively regular in plan and profile (Fig.5, section 605 & 606). However, the lack of artefactual material and the sterility of the fills may indicate geological features or bioturbation. The fills of these possible features were overlain by the sandy deposit described above (602).

3.3.15 A number of features could be seen cutting the underlying sand and gravel, and further cleaning and examination of the trench edges suggested that these also cut the sandy 'colluvial' deposit. These features roughly corresponded to the results of the geophysical survey and comprised:

- A NE-SW aligned ditch (605), *c* 5 m wide and in excess of 1.2 m deep (not bottomed) which corresponded to the suggested eastern ditch of the enclosure. The excavated fills of this feature comprised fairly sterile sandy deposits (604) which produced Middle Iron Age pottery (Fig.5, section 601).
- A Middle Iron Age pit (609) *c* 1.1 m in diameter and 0.9 m deep which roughly corresponds to one of the pits shown on the geophysics (Fig.5, section 602).

3.3.16 In addition to these features, two undated post holes were also excavated, 613 cutting the sand and gravel, and 611 cutting the 'fills' of the possible features at the NW end of the trench (624). The relationship between these post holes and the sandy 'colluvium' (602) was unclear.

3.3.17 Deposit 602 and the fills of the features which cut through it were overlain by the existing topsoil and turf (601). Unlike Trenches 4 and 5, no evidence for a second phase of deposition, or reworking of the upper part of the deposit was apparent.

Trench 7

3.3.18 Trench 7 was located in order to test the absence of geophysical anomalies to the east of the concentration of features in Trench 6.

3.3.19 Natural sand and gravel was encountered at an average depth of 109.17 m OD, and was overlain by a sandy deposit (706) which is likely to equate to the possible colluvial deposit(s) described above. Mechanical excavation was initially to the top of the sandy deposit. As no features were apparent at this depth, this deposit was subsequently removed by machine to the top of the underlying sand and gravel.

3.3.20 Two possible features were excavated but almost certainly represented a tree throw (701) and a geological variation (704).

Trench 18

3.3.21 Trench 18 was added at the request of the Warwickshire Archaeological Officer and was intended to investigate the suggested northern ditch of the enclosure, and to test the absence of geophysical anomalies to the north.

3.3.22 At the northern end of the trench, the existing topsoil and turf (1808) appeared to directly overlie an orange brown sandy deposit (1811) which is likely to represent the sand and gravel natural. However, where this dropped away significantly to the south, it appeared to vary in composition and comprised gravel rich layers (1806/1813) interspersed with sandy deposits (1800, 1811), possibly reflecting horizontal bands of sand and gravel which have subsequently been eroded to create the north-south slope.

3.3.23 Where the sand and gravel deposits began to drop away significantly (approximately 34 m from the northern end of the trench), they were overlain by mid brown sandy deposit (1807) which is likely to correlate to the possible colluvial deposits noted elsewhere within Area 2. Mechanical excavation was initially to the top of this deposit, but no features were apparent. Consequently, the deposit was also removed by machine to the top of the underlying sand and gravel deposits. At this level, a NW-SE aligned ditch (1804) could be seen to cut the sand and gravel (deposits 1800 and 1813).

3.3.24 The ditch measured 2.8 m wide and correlates to the northern ditch of the enclosure identified on the geophysics. The relationship with the possible colluvium (1807) is unclear, although if it is the same as the deposit encountered in Trench 6, the ditch is likely to cut it. If this is the case, the ditch is in excess of 1.3 m deep (not bottomed).

3.3.25 A sondage was excavated through the deposits which were cut by the northern edge of the ditch (see below). This revealed a deposit similar in composition to Deposit 1800, but with localised variations with considerably more clay content and some charcoal flecks (1801). Deposit 1801 was overlain by an east-west aligned linear spread of mid grey sandy silt (1802). These layers either represent further variations in the geological deposits, or more sterile, earlier fills along the northern edge of the ditch (or an earlier configuration of the ditch (1803), subsequently re-cut by 1804). The latter interpretation is certainly possible, particularly given the comparison in the width of the ditch in Trench 6 (5 m) and the width of the suggested wider ditch in Trench 18 (4.8 m as opposed to 2.8 m). The fills of the suggested wider ditch may also reflect sterile sandy deposits being eroded from an external bank upslope.

3.4 Area 3

Trench 8

3.4.1 Trench 8 was located over two geophysical anomalies: a north-south aligned linear feature, and a possible linear feature to the west. The trench was moved south 5 m due to the presence of overhead cables. Consequently, a suggested intersection between the ditches would lay outside the trench, but the possible curvilinear feature would still lay within it.

3.4.2 Natural sand was encountered at an average depth of 94.23 m OD, and was cut by a roughly N-S aligned post-medieval linear feature (803), which corresponded to the geophysical anomaly described above.

3.4.3 A number of irregular spreads of residual topsoil (802) were noted to the west of this feature, which may have represented animal burrows. It is possible that these have been interpreted on the geophysical survey as a possible curvilinear feature.

3.4.4 The sand and the fill of the linear feature were directly overlain by modern ploughsoil (801).

Trench 9

3.4.5 Trench 9 was located to investigate the interior of a possible prehistoric enclosure, a possible internal division within the enclosure, and a 'non archaeological' feature, all of which were identified on the geophysical survey.

3.4.6 The natural geology comprised an orange brown sandy clay (903) which was encountered at an average depth of 96.85 m OD. At the western end of the trench, this deposit was cut by a roughly N-S aligned linear feature (909) which corresponded to the possible internal division identified on the geophysics. Feature 909 was at least 1.1 m wide and 0.6 m deep, although only the eastern edge was revealed within the trench and consequently a complete profile was not seen. This feature had a very sterile fill (908), from which no artefactual material was recovered.

3.4.7 To the east of Feature 909, approximately 9 m from the western end of the trench, was a sub-rectangular pit *c* 2.4 m long by at least 1 m wide (911). The pit was 0.3 m deep and contained a concentration of limestone rubble (912) in the base. The stone formed no discernible structural configuration, and appeared to be a dump in the base of the pit. Deposit 912 was overlain by a silty clay fill (910) which produced a significant quantity of Roman pottery (possibly 2nd century).

3.4.8 Two fairly ephemeral linear features (905 and 907) are likely to represent furrows, one of which (907) is probably the 'non archaeological' anomaly shown on the geophysics. The second furrow (905) was cut by a north-south aligned ditch (914), which produced a sherd of Roman pottery. This was certainly residual as modern artefacts, including a piece of plastic, were also recovered from the fill (913) but not retained.

3.4.9 The natural geology and the fills of all these features were directly overlain by the modern ploughsoil (901).

Trench 10

3.4.10 Trench 10 was located over an E-W aligned linear anomaly shown on the geophysical survey.

3.4.11 Natural geology (1000) was encountered at an average depth of 96.4 m OD, and was cut by an east-west aligned ditch (1001) with modern finds visible throughout the fill (1002). A north-south aligned linear spread of compacted gravel and stone (1003) was present to the east of the trench, and overlay the fill of the ditch.

3.4.12 The deposits described above were directly overlain by the modern ploughsoil (1004).

3.5 Area 4

Trench 11

3.5.1 Trench 11 was excavated in order to investigate a square enclosure which can be seen to cut the upstanding ridge and furrow.

3.5.2 Natural geology comprised an orange brown sandy clay (1103) and was encountered at an average depth of 96.2 m OD on the top of the ridges although, as the fills of the furrows were removed, this did vary significantly.

3.5.3 The NE-SW aligned 'northern' and 'southern' ditches of the enclosure could clearly be seen to cut the NW-SE aligned ridge and furrow. Two NW-SE aligned ditches (1105 and

1107) revealed within the trench suggested that two of the furrows had been re-cut to a significantly greater depth to form the 'eastern' and 'western' ditches of the enclosure. The westernmost ditch (1107) also contained a land drain, which was probably a later insertion. On the top of the ridge immediately to the west of the easternmost ditch (1105) was a linear spread of brick and stone rubble (1109). On the top of the next ridge to the west was a single course of stone with a linear configuration and some evidence for facing (1108). It is possible that these represent the bases of rudimentary walls within the enclosure.

3.6 Area 5

Trench 13 *(Fig. 6)*

3.6.1 Trenches 13 and 14 were located over a suggested group of small enclosures identified on the geophysical survey.

3.6.2 In Trench 13, the natural geology comprised an orangey brown sandy clay with reddish brown mottling (1331) and was encountered at approximately 110.2 m OD. Only 3 m of this deposit was visible in the base of the trench, with features cutting through a mid brown clay silt deposit to the north (1334), and a series of intercutting ditches to the south. The majority of the excavated features in Trench 13 produced Roman pottery, possibly dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries.

3.6.3 Of the intercutting ditches in the southern end of the trench only the southern half of the sequence was investigated. Four distinct cuts were recorded (1330, 1323, 1325 and 1327) (Fig.6, section 1304).

3.6.4 In the northern end of the trench, the features cutting through Deposit 1334 comprised three possibly rectangular features (1314, 1311, 1309), the latest of which (1309) showed evidence of a rudimentary stone lining (1308) (Fig.6, section 1301). The fills of all three of these features contained charcoal and iron slag. An assessment of an environmental sample taken from the primary fill of the stone lined feature is presented below.

3.6.5 These features were only partially revealed within the trench, and consequently appeared linear in plan. This may suggest that they correspond to the 'non archaeological' linear anomaly suggested by the geophysics. However, the nature of the fills, together with the stone lining, suggests that they are more likely to represent discrete features.

3.6.6 Immediately to the north of the sequence of intercutting charcoal rich features was an east-west aligned linear configuration of stone (1303). This corresponded with a curvilinear anomaly on the geophysics, and it is possible that it represents the base of a wall defining the northern limit of the area in which the charcoal rich 'pits' are located.

3.6.7 At the southern limit of Deposit 1334 and cutting both that deposit and the natural geology was a subcircular pit (1316) which was in turn cut by the north-eastern terminus of a NE-SW aligned gully (1318) and a very shallow and ephemeral east-west aligned linear feature (1320).

3.6.8 The origin of Deposit 1334 is unclear. It is possible that it represents a geological variation, although given the similarity between this deposit and the fills of the intercutting ditches in the south of the trench, it may represent fills of earlier features. If this is the case, the stratigraphy through which the later features (i.e. the 'pits') were cut would suggest that the earlier features are quite shallow, as the bases of the features appeared to be cut through the sandy clay geology seen elsewhere.

3.6.9 The fills of the features and the natural geology were overlain by *c* 0.1 m of subsoil (1302) (which may represent the upper elements of the fills) which was in turn overlain by the existing topsoil and turf (1301).

Trench 14 *(Fig. 7)*

3.6.10 As with Trench 13, natural geology also comprised orangey brown sandy clay with reddish brown mottling (1419) and was encountered at *c* 109.55 m OD.

3.6.11 The natural geology was cut by a series of linear features which roughly corresponded to those suggested by the geophysics. The majority of these features contained possible 2nd century pottery and comprised:

- The intersection of a very shallow NW-SE aligned gully (1407) and a NE-SW aligned return (1409) – these were not seen on the geophysics
- A NW-SE aligned ditch (1403) with a post hole in the base (1401) (Fig.7, section 1400); the former had been re-cut by ditch 1405
- The intersection between a NW-SE aligned ditch (1417) and a N-S aligned ditch (1415) (Fig.7, section 1404)
- The north-western terminus of a NW-SE aligned ditch (1411), which appeared to have been re-cut and extended to the north-west by gully 1413 (Fig.7, section 1402 & 1403).

3.6.12 Additionally, a number of shallow linear features on a NW-SE alignment were excavated which are likely to represent plough scars.

3.6.13 The fills of these features and the natural geology were overlain by the modern topsoil and turf (1400).

Trench 15

3.6.14 Trench 15 was targeted on a NW-SE aligned geophysical anomaly.

3.6.15 A mid orangey brown clay sand (1500) was encountered at an average depth of 106.66 m OD and was overlain by the existing topsoil and turf (1501)

3.6.16 The geophysical anomaly proved to be a *c* 1.6 m wide ditch (1503) with a ceramic field drain in the bottom. This may represent a field boundary between two areas of ridge and furrow on a perpendicular alignment to the ditch. Alternatively, it may post-date the ridge and furrow and represent a later boundary.

Trench 16

3.6.17 Trench 16 was excavated to test the absence of geophysical anomalies in the area of the trench. No features were recorded, with the exception of a roughly north-south aligned ceramic field drain, which had been cut into the base of a furrow.

3.6.18 A mid orangey brown clay sand (1601) was encountered at an average depth of 107.18 m OD and was directly overlain by the existing topsoil and turf (1602). A sondage through deposit 1601 revealed it to be approximately 0.2 m thick and to overlie the lower lias (1600).

Trench 17

3.6.19 Trench 17 was excavated to test the absence of geophysical anomalies to the east of Trenches 13 and 14. No features were recorded. For the majority of the trench, natural geology comprised the orangey brown sandy clay with reddish brown mottling (1702)

recorded in Trenches 13 and 14, although gravel was recorded at the eastern end of the trench (1703). A sondage through Deposit 1702 revealed it to be approximately 1 m thick and to overlie the gravel.

3.7 Finds summary

Pottery *by Paul Booth*

3.7.1 The evaluation produced some 142 sherds (1456 g) of pottery. With the exception of single small sherds of possible Bronze Age and post-medieval/modern date (from contexts 509 and 804 respectively) this material fell entirely into two groups, middle Iron Age pottery from Trenches 5 and 6 and early-middle Roman pottery from Trenches 9, 13 and 14 (with stray sherds from Trenches 4 and 5). The pottery was in variable condition. The mean sherd weight was almost identical for both Iron Age and Roman groups. Some fairly large sherds were present, but many were small and quite abraded. Surface condition was generally poor - the surfaces on three samian ware sherds were partly lost and there was no burnish survived on any of the other sherds. This can be attributed to soil conditions, exacerbated in some cases by a degree of redeposition.

3.7.2 The pottery was scanned, and recorded by context in terms of fairly broad fabric (prehistoric) or ware (Roman) groups, as set out in the Oxford Archaeology recording system. Overall quantities of pottery by context by period are listed in Table 1 below.

CONTEXT	NOSH	WT	NOSH	WT	NOSH	WT	FABRICS/FORMS
	Prehistoric		Roman or Later				
402			1	11	R30	RB	Fabric uncertain
406			1	1	R30	RB	Abraded
503			1	3	B11?	2C?	Abraded
506	27	195			All shell, 3 jar rims	MIA	12 scored ware sherds
509	1	3			Quartz/clay pellets	BA?	Abraded
604	1	18			Shell, jar rim	MIA	
606	1	15			Organic/sand	MIA	
607	25	314			Mostly shell (1 jar rim), occasional sand	MIA	4 scored ware sherds
608	1	12			Shell	MIA	Scored ware
618	1	1			Shell/sand?	MIA?	
804			1	2	White 'china'	18C+	
904			1	12	R30	RB	
910			29	158	S30(Drag 42), R10,R30(bowl),R40, O10, O80	2C?	
913			1	3	R30	RB	
TR13 US			1	60	R30 bowl rim	2C?	
1305			2	6	R30, B30?	2C+	
1310			3	39	R30, R90	2C+?	
1315			2	3	R10, R30	RB	
1317			1	1	O10?	?	Possibly not pottery
1319			1	19	R30 ?dish rim	late 1C+	Or possibly a lid

CONTEXT	NOSH	WT	NOSH	WT	NOSH	WT	FABRICS/FORMS
1321			11	85	R30, R90	late 1-2C?	
1322			8	78	O10, O20, O30, R30 jar/bowl rim)	late 1-mid 2C?	
1326			3	46	O80, C10 (jar rim)	2C+	
1329			1	3	R30	RB	
1404			2	113	R30	2C+	
1406			8	99	R30 (1 jar/bowl rim)	2C+	
1414			2	34	S30, C10	2C	
1418			5	122	O80, R30, R90	2C+	
	57	558	85	898			

Table 1: Spot dates of pottery

Prehistoric

3.7.3 A single small sherd (3 g) from context 509 was in a fabric tempered with grog and quartite and is likely to be of Bronze Age date. The remaining material (56 sherds, 555 g) was almost entirely in leached shell-tempered fabrics, sometimes supplemented with sand. One sherd (context 606) had organic material as its principal inclusion. Five rim sherds from simple jars were present, along with a handle fragment. The rim forms were simple, slightly inturned or slightly beaded. The most distinctive characteristic of the assemblage was the presence of scoring, noted on at least 17 sherds (ie almost one third of the assemblage), including one of the simple rims. Some intersecting scoring was present - the technique was not confined to simple vertical scoring.

Roman

3.7.4 The generalised ware codes used (see Table 1 above) are as follows:

S30. Central Gaulish samian ware.

O10. Fine oxidised `coarse' wares.

O20. Coarse sandy oxidised wares.

O30. Fine sandy oxidised coarse wares.

O80. Coarse- (usually grog-) tempered oxidised wares.

R10. Fine reduced `coarse' wares.

R30. Sandy reduced coarse wares.

R40. Grog and sand tempered reduced coarse wares.

R90. Coarse- (usually grog-) tempered reduced wares.

B11. Dorset black-burnished ware (BB1).

B30. Wheel-thrown black-burnished type wares.

C10. Shell-tempered fabrics, undifferentiated.

3.7.5 The assemblage was dominated by sandy reduced coarse wares in a variety of fabrics here grouped as R30. These and other reduced and oxidised coarse ware fabrics are of local/regional origin, but no attempt was made to assign vessels to specific sources. The only extra-regional pieces were three sherds of samian ware and a single possible fragment of Dorset black-burnished ware. A shell-tempered jar might perhaps have

been a Northamptonshire product, but this is not certain. Relatively few rim sherds were present and even fewer of these were chronologically diagnostic. A complete absence of white wares and mortaria is notable.

Chronology and spatial distribution

3.7.6 The scored ware tradition has a wide chronological range. The present small assemblage is therefore simply assigned to the middle Iron Age (?mid 4th-1st centuries BC), although refinement of this range should be possible with further work. This material is confined to Area 2 (Trenches 5 and 6)

3.7.7 Pottery in a late Iron Age/early Roman 'Belgic' tradition is absent here, which may suggest a break in the occupation sequence between adjacent settlement areas. Close dating of the Roman coarse wares is not possible, though it was thought that some material could perhaps have been as early as later 1st century in date. No characteristic late Roman material was present, and it is possible that the entire assemblage is of broadly 2nd century date, but more extended activity through the middle Roman period (ie 2nd-3rd centuries) may also be represented. The assemblage is too small to allow certainty on this point. There is no discernible difference in chronology between the material from Area 3 (Trench 9) and Area 5 (Trenches 13 and 14). Stray Roman sherds from Trenches 4 and 5 of Area 2 may suggest the existence of further Roman activity in the vicinity, but probably to the west of this area.

Animal Bone *by Rebecca Nicholson*

3.7.8 Four bones were recovered by hand during the excavation, from context 913 (Trench 9, Area 3) and context 1101 (Trench 11, Area 4). Bones were identified with the aid of the Oxford Archaeology bone reference collection. The bone from context 1101, a sheep/goat tibia (distal end and shaft) was well preserved although incomplete, while the three fragments from 913 were all in fairly poor condition, exhibiting some thinning of the cortical bone with flaking and root etching to the surface. One was identified as a sheep/goat humerus shaft and distal fragment while the other two included a rib fragment from a large mammal, probably cattle or horse and a bird bone shaft fragment.

ELEMENT	***SHEEP/GOAT***	***LARGE MAMMAL***	***BIRD***
Humerus	1		
Rib		1	
Tibia	1		
Long bone shaft frag			1
Indeterminate			
Total			

Table 2: Quantities of animal bone

3.7.9 With so few mammal bones present it is not possible to draw any useful conclusions regarding husbandry practices. However, the bones should be considered alongside material from any further excavations at the site, should bone of similar date be retrieved.

Charred Plant Remains and charcoal *by Rebecca Nicholson and Wendy Smith*

3.7.10 Five samples, each of 37-40L were collected during the evaluation. Four of the samples were processed using the standard OASouth flotation methods and were rapidly scanned in order to ascertain if the remains within them (including charred plant remains, either seeds or charcoal) were present and if they were of interpretable value.

3.7.11 Sample 1 (1307) came from a charcoal-rich fill of a stone-lined pit. The sediment comprised a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) sandy silt with red part-fired clay and abundant slag inclusions.

3.7.12 Sample 2 (1406) was from a Roman ditch fill. The sediment was a brown sandy silt loam (10YR 4/3) with 20% subangular stones and occasional slag inclusions.

3.7.13 Sample 3 (608) was from a charcoal-rich fill within an Iron Age pit. The sediment comprised a brown (10YR 4/3) sandy silt loam with c 40% subrounded and subangular gravel (<10mm) and stones (10-60mm).

3.7.14 Sample 4 (1805) from an Iron Age ditch fill and also comprised a brown (10YR 4/3) sandy silt loam, with subangular gravel (10% >10mm, 15-20% <10mm).

3.7.15 Sample 5 (506) was deemed too insecure to be worth processing, although the context has been spot dated to the Middle Iron Age; the sample came from a ditch fill.

Methods

3.7.16 The flots and heavy residues were scanned by eye and under a low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x12.5 and x20. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for indigenous taxa and Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cultivated species. The traditional binomial system for the cereals is maintained here, following Zohary and Hopf (2000, 28, table 3; 65, table 5).

3.7.17 Comparative material was not consulted for this evaluation, and therefore all identifications presented here should be seen as provisional. In addition, the quantification of the plant remains in flots/ sorted material is subjective and likely to under-represent smaller items which may be overlooked during rapid scanning.

3.7.18 All charcoal identifications were made using low-power microscopy at magnifications up to x35 and utilising existing breaks on the transverse section. Although this method is adequate for the identification of oak charcoal, identification of other taxa is less secure, since it normally requires high-power magnification and examination of cell patterns from all three planes (transverse, tangential and radial) of a charcoal fragment (e.g. Gale and Cutler 2000, 4–15; Hather 2000, 13–14). As a result, identifications other than oak (Quercus sp.) presented here should be treated as extremely tentative.

Results

Iron Age (sample 3/ 608 and sample 4/ 1805)

3.7.19 Two Iron Age samples, both provisionally phased as Middle Iron Age on the basis of pottery spot dating were examined. Sample 4 was largely unproductive, but sample 3 has generated an interpretable assemblage.

3.7.20 The flot from sample 3 from context 608 was dominated by cereal grain, which was dominated by spelt (Triticum spelta L.) and indeterminate glume wheat (Triticum spp.) grains, but did include some barley (Hordeum spp.) grain. One bramble/ blackberry (Rubus section Rubus) pip was noted as well as a fragment of hazel (Corylus avellana L.) nutshell. A small quantity of poorly preserved indeterminate emmer/ spelt (Triticum dicoccum Schübl./ spelta L.) glume bases was also noted. A few weed/ wild plants were also noted in sample 3, such as indeterminate wild/ cultivated oat (Avena sp.) and orache (Atriplex spp.) noted. Numerous small roundwood fragments were noted in the flot including several fragments of possible birch/ hazel (Betula spp./ Corylus avellana L.) roundwood. The heavy residue of sample 3 was not available for evaluation, because it was still drying. Both the charred plant remains and the charcoal from this

flot are of interpretable value, providing information of cereal processing activities and wood fuels.

3.7.21 The residue from this sample included fragments of Middle Iron Age pot, occasional charcoal and slag.

Roman (sample 1/ context 1307 and sample 2/ context 1406)

3.7.22 Two Roman samples were examined. Sample 2 was unproductive. However, Sample 1 produced a rich assemblage of charred cereal grain and cereal chaff, with some accompanying weeds of crop. Spelt (Triticum spelta L.) grain and glume bases dominate this assemblage. However, small quantities of possible emmer (Triticum cf. dicoccum Schübl.) grain and a few hulled barley (Hordeum spp.) grains were noted as well. A very small portion of this flot was scanned, but weed/ wild plants are clearly also present.

3.7.23 The residue from sample 1 contained abundant slag.

Potential

3.7.24 The Iron Age and Roman deposits clearly demonstrate that well preserved and interpretable assemblages of charred plant remains and charcoal are present in the vicinity. Archaeobotanical work in eastern Warwickshire is to date quite limited (English Heritage http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/resources.html?eab_eh_2004), with only one potentially comparable result of Romano-British charred plant remains from Glebe Farm, Bubbenhall, Warwickshire (Monckton 1999) presently available. As a result, the collection and analysis of archaeobotanical remains from this area is of regional importance and should be a priority at any subsequent intervention in the vicinity.

4 Discussion

4.1 Interpretation

Archaeological Horizons and Geological Deposits

4.1.1 Although the first archaeological horizon was established with a reasonable degree of confidence within each of the trenches, the deposits which marked this horizon in Areas 1, 2 and 5 did not appear to correlate with the anticipated geological deposits (BGS Sheet 185).

Area 1

4.1.2 The information from the geotechnical logs suggested a significant build up of *"light grey brown mottled orange clay"* alluvium overlying the Charmouth mudstone in the area around the Radio Station C Building. However, based on the BGS (Sheet 185), the geotechnical pits were located to the south of the known alluvial deposits and within an area covered by Lower Lias. The sondages in Trenches 1 and 2 suggested a similar sequence to that revealed within the geotechnical pits, and it is possible that the deposits interpreted in the logs as alluvium are in fact the Lower Lias. Given their proximity, it is possible that the subsoil encountered within these two trenches (102 and 202) represents a thin layer of alluvium on the periphery of the alluvial deposits to the north. It is uncertain whether the first archaeological horizon is the top of the 'subsoil' or the underlying 'lias', given the lack of archaeological features within these two trenches.

Area 2

4.1.3 The deposits in Area 2 appeared to a certain extent to reflect the existing topography, with the ground sloping from the north, south and east to a low lying hollow on a roughly east-west alignment. On the high ground, the existing topsoil and turf overlay the anticipated sand and gravel deposits (BGS, Sheet 185), with the lower lying area being covered by a layer of 'colluvium' which increased in thickness towards the base of the hollow.

4.1.4 The relationship between this deposit and the features in Trench 5 suggested at least two distinct layers of colluvial material, one through which the features were cut (504), and a later deposit (503) which overlay the upper fills of the features. It is possible that Deposit 503 represents a later phase of colluvium, or that the upper element of the deposit – together with the fills of the features – have been re-worked, potentially by later ploughing (anecdotal evidence from the current landowner suggests that the field was ploughed during WWII, although probably not to a sufficient depth for this to be the origin of any re-working of this deposit). No obvious archaeological features were apparent in Trench 4, although the two colluvial layers were also noted (402/403 and 404).

4.1.5 However, the features in Trenches 6 and 18 appeared to be cut from directly below the topsoil, through a single layer of colluvium (602 and 1807 - although the relationship between these features and the colluvium was not visible in plan), with no evidence for later colluvial deposition or re-working of the deposit.

4.1.6 Ground level in the area of Trenches 4 and 5 is approximately 3 – 4 m lower than that around Trenches 6 and 18, and as such it is possible that the later deposit which overlay the fills of the features in Trench 5 is only present in the lowest lying area of the hollow.

Area 5

4.1.7 The BGS (sheet 185) suggested that the geology within Area 5 would comprise sand and gravel to the south of the A428 (Trenches 13, 14 and 17), and Lower Lias to the north of the road (Trenches 15 and 16). Gravel was observed in the eastern end of Trench 17, and within a sondage at the western end of the same trench. The Lower Lias was seen in a sondage in Trench 16. However, throughout Area 5, the archaeological horizon appeared to be a sandy clay deposit which overlay the natural geology. It may be that this deposit is a variation in the composition of the natural geology, at the interface between the sand and gravel and the Lower Lias. Although any interpretation of the origin of this deposit is necessarily tentative, it was clearly seen to be cut by 1st - 2nd century features in Trenches 13 and 14.

Archaeology

Area 2

4.1.8 The evidence from Area 2 would suggest that the geophysical survey is broadly accurate, although a number of anomalies identified on the survey did not appear to correlate with archaeological features. In particular, no evidence was recovered for the parallel ditches suggested in the northern end of Trench 5, and the NE-SW aligned linear anomalies in Trench 4.

Middle Iron Age

4.1.9 The northern and eastern boundary ditch of the enclosure identified on the geophysical survey were revealed within Trenches 18 and 6 respectively, and proved to be of Middle Iron Age date. The width and depth of these features does suggest a defensive function, although neither ditch was fully excavated and therefore the profile of the ditches is unclear. Evidence for a possible external bank was revealed within Trench 18, but only as a possible primary fill along the northern edge of the ditch, comprising re-deposited natural sand.

4.1.10 In Trench 6, the one well defined and dated pit within the enclosure also produced Middle Iron Age artefactual material, which suggests that at least some of the discrete anomalies identified within the enclosure are likely to represent pits associated with its use. Some of the geophysical anomalies may represent features which are similar to those in the western end of Trench 6, which may have been geological features or bioturbation. However, an archaeological origin for these features cannot be discounted, particularly given the regularity in plan and profile of a number of them.

4.1.11 It is possible that the Middle Iron Age ditch in Trench 5 represents a more extensive boundary associated with the enclosure to the east. The possible Bronze Age pottery from a second ditch on the same alignment may suggest a Bronze Age precursor to this boundary, although only one sherd was recovered and its Bronze Age origin was far from certain.

Post-Medieval

4.1.12 The origin of the sandy deposit in the northern end of Trench 5 is uncertain, although it is possible that it represents the 'non archaeological' anomaly identified on the geophysics.

Area 3

Roman

4.1.13 The possible ditch in the western end of Trench 9 may be associated with the enclosure suggested by the geophysics, and possibly represents an internal division within a larger enclosed area. Although no dating evidence was recovered, the sterile nature of the fills is not dissimilar to those of the features in Area 2. However, any comparison is very tenuous given the distance between these features, and the varying geology and topography of the site in general. Additionally, assuming that the stone-filled pit in Trench 9 is associated with the possible enclosure, it seems likely that the latter is Roman rather than prehistoric.

4.1.14 Despite this, a prehistoric origin for the possible enclosure cannot be discounted. If the possible enclosure is late Iron Age, it is feasible that it continued in use into the Roman period.

Post-Medieval (Fig. 8)

4.1.15 The two insubstantial linear features in Trench 9 (905 and 907) are likely to represent the base of furrows. The remaining linear features (803, 914, 1001) in these trenches appear to correspond with post-medieval field boundaries shown on the OS mapping. In Trench 10, the compacted gravel deposit (1003) was initially thought to represent the north-south return of this field boundary shown on the OS second edition (and other cartographic sources). However, as Figure 8 indicates, the trench is too far east for this to be the case. One possibility is that Deposit 1003 is consolidation of a gateway in the NW corner of the field. The deposition of gravel, stone and brick rubble at many of the existing gateways – particularly within the radio station compound – was observed during the evaluation.

Area 4

4.1.16 The prominent ridge and furrow in Area 4 was cut by the rectangular enclosure, which survives as an earthwork cutting across the ridges. The ditches within the trench clearly indicate that the furrows have been re-cut to form the remaining two sides of the enclosure. Within the enclosure (the internal dimensions of which are 29.6 m by 29.9 m), the ridge and furrow was significantly less prominent, possibly as the ridges have been levelled and used to backfill the furrows.

4.1.17 The function of the two possible walls is unclear. Neither seemed particularly substantial, and it seems unlikely that they would have formed part of a significant structure. It is possible that they represent a pen within the larger enclosure, although this is purely conjectural.

Area 5

4.1.18 The intercutting ditches in the southern end of Trench 5 appear to mark a boundary of some longevity, as the feature(s) appears to have numerous, and fairly substantial, re-cuts. The function of the boundary is unclear, although the fact that the historic mapping (CgMs 2010, figs 8 & 11) shows a rural district boundary following the edge of the field before continuing to the south-west may be of some significance (the application boundary also follows the rural district boundary at this point). Without further research, it is unclear whether this is a parish or hundred boundary, but in either case, these can be of some antiquity. Many parish boundaries were laid out in the Anglo-Saxon period and have altered little since that time and it is possible that an existing Roman

boundary could have been re-used. However, given the limited amount of evidence for the alignment and extent of the inter-cutting ditches in Trench 13, together with the fact that the dating evidence would suggest that it had gone out of use after the 2nd century, this is highly conjectural.

4.1.19 The function of the possible pits (1309, 1311, 1314) in the northern end of the trench is unclear, although the evidence for rudimentary stone lining, charcoal and iron slag seems to indicate industrial activity. The possibility that these features are linear, as suggested by the geophysics, should not be completely discounted – as they were only partially revealed within the trench – although nature of the fills and the configuration of the stone 'lining' would suggest that they are discrete features. It is possible that the stone wall (1303) in the northern end of the trench marks the northern limit of this activity.

4.1.20 The origin of the deposit (1334) through which these features are cut is also uncertain. It is possible that it represents a geological variation, although given the similarity between this deposit and the fills of the inter-cutting ditches in the south of the trench, it may represent fills of earlier features. If this is the case, the stratigraphy through which the later features (i.e. the 'pits') were cut would suggest that the earlier features are quite shallow, as the bases of the later features appeared to be cut through the sandy clay geology seen elsewhere.

4.1.21 The ditches in Trench 14 broadly correspond with those shown on the geophysics. It is possible that these represent field boundaries, potentially paddocks. The features in both these trenches are likely to be associated with nearby settlement – possibly that revealed during the recent works on the site of the DIRFT complex to the east.

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Sandy subsoil overlying lias clay over Charmouth mudstone. No archaeology					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.25
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	20
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**date**	**Soil description**
100	Layer	-	-	Charmouth mudstone	-	Dark grey clay, occasional limestone
101	Layer	-	1.2	?Lias clay	-	Predominantly mid greenish grey clay with blue grey mottling
102	Deposit	-	0.3	?Alluvial subsoil	-	Predominantly mid orangey brown clayey sand with concentrations of gravel and flint where the composition is more clay rich
103	Deposit	-	0.25	Topsoil and turf	-	Mid-dark grey sandy clay

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Sandy subsoil overlying lias clay over Charmouth mudstone. No archaeology					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.25
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	20
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**date**	**Soil description**
200	Layer	-	-	Charmouth mudstone	-	Dark grey clay, occasional limestone
201	Layer	-	1.2	?Lias clay	-	Predominantly mid greenish grey clay with blue grey mottling
202	Deposit	-	0.3	?Alluvial subsoil	-	Predominantly mid orangey brown clay sand-concentrations of gravel and flint where the composition is more clay rich
203	Deposit	-	0.25	Topsoil and turf	-	Mid-dark grey sandy clay
204	Deposit	-	0.04	?Animal burrow	-	Pale grey sandy silt

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Topsoil and Turf directly overlying natural sand and gravel. No archaeology					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.28
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**date**	**Soil description**
301	Deposit	-	0.28	Topsoil and turf	-	Friable mid grey brown silty sand
302	Layer	-	-	Natural sand and gravel	-	Reddish brown sand, 10% gravel

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Natural sand overlain by layers of colluvium. 2 unconvincing features, one of which may correspond with a possible furrow shown on geophysics					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.25
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**date**	**Soil description**
401	Deposit	-	0.27	Topsoil and turf	-	Friable mid brown silty sand 1% gravel
402	Deposit	-	0.08	Colluvium	-	Friable light brown sand 1% gravel
403	Deposit	-	0.4	Colluvium	-	Friable light reddish brown silty sand 1% charcoal flecks
404	Deposit	-	0.5	Colluvium	-	Friable mid brown sand 1% charcoal flecks
405	Layer	-	-	Natural sand and gravel	-	Light yellow brown sand
406	Fill	-	0.6	Fill of possible furrow 407	-	Friable mid brown silty sand 5% gravel
407	Cut	-	0.6	Base of possible furrow?	-	-
408	Fill	-	0.18	Fill of possible pit 409	-	Friable mid brown silty sand 1% gravel
409	Cut	1.6	0.18	Possible pit	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Natural sand and gravel overlain by layers of colluvium. 2 ditches cut through lower layer of colluvium but overlain by later deposit or re-worked upper element of colluvium					**Avg. depth (m)**	-
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**date**	**Soil description**
501	Deposit	-	0.28	Topsoil and turf	-	Friable mid grey brown silty sand
502	Deposit	-	0.18	Redeposited sand	-	Friable yellow brown sand 1% gravel
503	Deposit	-	0.35	Colluvium (?re-worked).	1 sherd of possible 2nd century pottery recovered	Friable mid brown snad 10% gravel pebbles; 1% charcoal flecks
504	Deposit	-	0.5	Colluvium	-	Friable mid brown sand 1% gravel; 1% charcoal flecks
505	Layer	-	-	Natural sand and gravel	-	Reddish brown sand 25% gravel
506	Fill	-	0.55	Fill of ditch 507	MIA	Friable dark brown silty sand 1% gravel; 2% charcoal
507	Cut	1.7	0.55	E-W aligned ditch	MIA	-
508	Fill	-	0.55	Fill of ditch 511	-	Friable mid brown silty sand
509	Fill	-	0.5	Fill of ditch 511	?BA	Friable light brown silty sand 5% gravel
510	Fill	-	0.3	Primary fill of ditch 511	-	Yellow brown sand 10% gravel
511	Cut	1.8	0.7	E-W aligned ?BA ditch	?BA	-
512	Deposit	-	0.25	Disturbed/'contaminated' natural sand at interface with colluvium?	-	Friable light brown sand occasional charcoal flecks

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Natural sand and gravel overlain by layers of colluvium. MIA enclosure ditch, associated pit and 2 undated post holes. Other possible features may be geological variations					**Avg. depth (m)**	
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**date**	**Soil description**
601	Deposit	-	-	Topsoil and turf	-	Friable mid grey brown silty sand
602	Deposit	-	0.25	Colluvium	-	Friable mid brown sandy silt 5% gravel
603	Layer	-	-	Natural sand and gravel	-	Light yellow brown sand 5% gravel
604	Fill	-	1.2+	Fill of ditch 605	MIA	Friable mid brown silty sand 5% coarse gravel
605	Cut	5	1.2+	MIA enclosure ditch – not fully excavated	MIA	-
606	Fill	-	0.28	Fill of pit 609	MIA	Friable dark grey brown silty sand 1% charcoal; 5% coarse gravel
607	Fill	-	0.31	Fill of pit 609	MIA	Friable light grey silty sand 1% charcoal; 5% gravel
608	Fill	-	0.4	Fill of pit 609	MIA	Friable dark grey silty sand 5% charcoal
609	Cut	1.1	0.9	MIA pit	MIA	-
610	Fill	-	0.19	Fill of post hole 611	-	Friable mid brown sandy silt 1% gravel
611	Cut	0.26	0.19	Post hole	-	-
612	Fill	-	0.19	Fill of post hole 613	-	Friable mid brown sandy silt 1% gravel
613	Cut	0.5	0.16	Post hole	-	-
614	Fill		0.45	Fill of possible pit 615	-	Friable mid brown sandy silt 3% gravel
615	Cut	1.7	0.45	Possible pit	-	-
616	Fill	-	0.75	Fill of possible pit 617	-	Friable light brown slightly sandy silt 1% gravel
617	Cut	1.2	0.75	Possible pit	-	-
618	Fill	-	0.31	Fill of possible pit 620	?MIA	Friable mid brown silty sand 5% gravel; occasional charcoal flecks

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	date	Soil description
619	Fill	-	0.5	Fill of possible pit 620	-	Friable light grey silty sand 1% gravel
620	Cut	1.3	0.8	Possible MIA pit – small fragment of pottery from fill 618 may be intrusive	?MIA	-
621	Fill	-	0.45	Fill of possible pit 623	-	Friable mid brown sandy silt 1% gravel; occasional charcoal flecks
622	Fill	-	0.4	Fill of possible pit 623	-	Friable light grey silty sand
623	Cut	1.6	0.8	Possible pit/feature	-	-
624	Deposit	-	-	Fills of unexcavated intercutting 'features'	-	Friable mid brown sandy silt 1% gravel; 1% charcoal flecks

Trench 7

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Natural sand and gravel overlain by possible colluvial deposit No archaeology	Avg. depth (m)	
	Width (m)	1.6
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	date	Soil description
700	Deposit	-	0.3	Topsoil and turf	-	Grey brown silty clay with flint inclusions
701	Cut	-	0.6+	Treethrow	-	-
702	Fill	-	0.6	Fill of treethrow 701	-	Firm brown silty clay small flint inclusions
703	Fill	-	0.5	Fill of treethrow 701	-	Firm orangey brown clay with occasional flint inclusions
704	'Cut'	2.3	0.22	Natural hollow/geological variation	-	-
705	Fill	-	0.22	Fill of natural hollow 704	-	Mid orangey brown silty sand
706	Deposit	-	0.23	Colluvium	-	Friable mid brown sandy silt

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Modern ploughsoil directly overlying natural sand/clay. North-south aligned post-med field boundary					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.3
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**date**	**Soil description**
800	Layer	-	-	Natural sand	-	Mid yellowish brown sand
801	Deposit	-	0.3	Modern ploughsoil	-	Mid brownish grey clay silt
802	Deposit	-	0.02	Irregular spreads of residual topsoil – bioturbation?	-	Mid brownish grey clay silt
803	Cut	1.7	-	Post-medieval field boundary on OS mapping	18thC	-
804	Fill	1.7	-	Fill of post med field boundary 803	18thC	Not excavated

Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Modern ploughsoil directly overlying natural sand. North-south aligned post-med field boundary; 2 north-south aligned furrows; 1 possible enclosure ditch; 1 stone filled Roman pit					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.4
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**date**	**Soil description**
901	Deposit	-	0.25	Modern ploughsoil	-	Friable mid grey brown clay silt
902	Deposit	-	0.15	Subsoil/bas of ploughsoil	-	Tenacious light brown silty clay
903	Layer	-	-	Natural clay	-	Orange brown clay
904	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of furrow 905	-	Tenacious light brown silty clay 1% gravel
905	Cut	1.6	0.2	Furrow	-	-
906	Fill	-	0.18	Fill of furrow 907	-	Tenacious light brown silty clay
907	Cut	1.5	0.18	Furrow	-	-
908	Fill	-	0.7	Fill of ditch 909	-	Tenacious light brown silty clay
909	Cut	2.5	0.7	Ditch cut	-	-

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	date	Soil description
910	Fill	-	0.32	Fill of pit 911	1st-2ndC	Tenacious light grey brown silty clay
911	Cut	2.45	0.45	Stone filled pit	1st-2ndC	-
912	Fill	-	0.3	Fill of pit 911	1st-2ndC	?limestone rubble
913	Fill	-	0.3	Fill of post med field boundary 914	18thC	Tenacious dark brown silty clay 1% pebbles
914	Cut	2.2	0.3	Post medieval field boundary on OS mapping	18thC	-

Trench 10

General description	Orientation	E-W
Modern ploughsoil directly overlying natural clayey sand. East-west aligned Post medieval field boundary	Avg. depth (m)	0.28
	Width (m)	1.6
	Length (m)	20

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	date	Soil description
1000	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	Mid orangey brown clayey sand
1001	Cut	_	-	Post medieval field boundary	Post med	-
1002	Fill	-	-	Fill of post med field boundary 1001	Post med	Not excavated
1003	Deposit	-	-	Gravel consolidation	Post med	Not excavated
1004	Deposit	-	0.28	Modern ploughsoil	-	Mid brownish grey silty clay

Trench 11

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Upstanding ridge and furrow cut by post-medieval enclosure. Two possible walls within enclosure may represent animal pen.	Avg. depth (m)	0.42
	Width (m)	1.6
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	date	Soil description
1101	Deposit	-	0.25	Topsoil and turf	-	Friable mid grey brown silty sand
1102	Deposit	-	0.50 (max)	Old cultivated soil	-	Tenacious light brown clay silt
1103	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	Tenacious orange brown sandy clay 10% gravel

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	date	Soil description
1104	Fill	-	0.5	Fill of ditch 1105	-	Tenacious mottled grey/reddish brown silty clay
1105	Cut	1.05	0.5	NW-SE aligned ditch forming 'eastern' side of post-med enclosure	-	-
1106	Fill	-	0.62	Fill of ditch 1107	-	Tenacious mottled reddish brown/grey silty clay 1% gravel
1107	Cut	1.72	0.62	NW-SE aligned ditch forming 'western' side of post-med enclosure	-	-
1108	Structure	0.42	0.13	Base of possible wall on top of ridge	-	Single course of clay bonded limestone blocks
1109	Structure	-	0.12	Possible remnants of wall on top of ridge	-	NW-SE aligned linear configuration of brick and stone rubble

Trench 13

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Orange brown sandy clay cut by intercutting ditches in the southern end of the trench, and intercutting pits with rudimentary stone lining and evidence for industrial activity (slag etc) to the north. Probable wall corresponding with curvilinear geophysical anomaly may mark northern limit of pits.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.5
	Width (m)	1.6
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	date	Soil description
1301	Deposit	-	0.21	Topsoil and turf	-	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt
1302	Deposit	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	Friable mid brown clay silt
1303	Structure	0.7	-	Possible wall foundation	-	Linear configuration of stone rubble
1304	Cut	0.7	-	Possible construction cut for wall foundation 1303	-	-
1305	Fill	-	0.25	Fill of pit 1309	2C+	Tenacious mid brown clay silt 5% slag; 10% 'cobbles'
1306	Fill	-	0.25	Fill of pit 1309	-	Tenacious mottled yellow/brown clay silt 10% 'cobbles'; 5% slag
1307	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of pit 1309	-	Tenacious dark grey silty clay 10% charcoal
1308	Structure	0.4	0.4	stone lining of pit 1309	-	-

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	date	Soil description
1309	Cut	1.8	0.65	Cut of stone lined pit (oven/kiln/metalworking?)	2C+	-
1310	Fill	-	0.6	Fill of possible pit 1311	2C+?	Friable mid grey brown clay silt 5% slag
1311	Cut	1.3	0.6	Possible pit, appeared linear in plan	2C+	-
1312	Fill	-	0.34	Fill of pit 1314	-	Tenacious grey brown silty clay 5% 'cobbles' 5% slag
1313	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of pit 1314	-	Tenacious dark grey clay silt
1314	Cut	1	0.6	Pit – possibly pre-cursor to 1309	-	-
1315	Fill	-	0.3	Fill of pit 1316	RB	Friable mixed grey and orange brown silty clay 1% pebbles
1316	Cut	1	0.3	A small pit	RB	-
1317	Fill	-	0.16	Fill of gully 1318	?	Friable light grey clay silt 1% pebbles
1318	Cut	0.43	0.16	Gully	?	-
1319	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of possible linear 1320	Late 1stC+?	Friable light grey clay silt
1320	Cut	0.95	0.1	Possible linear feature	Late 1stC+?	-
1321	Fill	-	0.25	Fill of ditch 1323	Late 1st-2ndC?	Friable mid brown slightly sandy silt 1% pebbles
1322	Fill	-	0.4	Fill of ditch 1323	Late 1st-Mid 2ndC?	Friable dark brown sandy silt
1323	Cut	1.75	0.65	Ditch cut	?Late 1st-Late 2ndC	-
1324	Fill	-	0.14	Fill of ditch 1325	-	Tenacious light grey clay silt
1325	Cut	0.7	0.14	Ditch cut	-	-
1326	Fill	-	0.55	Fill of ditch 1327	2C+	Friable dark brown sandy silt 1% gravel
1327	Cut	1	0.55	Ditch cut	2C+	-
1328	Fill	-	0.25	Fill of ditch 1330	-	Friable mid brown sandy silt 1% gravel
1329	Fill	-	0.35	Fill of ditch 1330	RB	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt 1% gravel
1330	Cut	1.2	0.55	Ditch cut	RB	-
1331	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	Orange brown sandy clay rd brown mottling

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	date	Soil description
1332	Deposit	-	-	Unexcavated fills of intercutting ?ditches at southern end of trench	-	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt
1333	?Cut	-	-	Northern limit of deposit 1332	-	-
1334	Deposit	-	-	Unexcavated fills of possible intercutting features at northern end of trench	-	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt

Trench 14

General description	Orientation	E-W
Orange brown sandy clay cut by 3 gullies and 5 ditches dating to 2ndC. 1 possible post hole in base of ditch.	Avg. depth (m)	0.4
	Width (m)	1.6
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	date	Soil description
1400	Deposit	-	0.4	Topsoil and turf	-	Friable mid brown silty sand
1401	Cut	0.5	0.2	Post hole	-	-
1402	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of post hole 1403	-	Orange grey silty clay
1403	Cut	0.7	0.2	Ditch cut	2ndC+	-
1404	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of ditch 1403	2ndC+	Firm mid grey silty clay
1405	Cut	1.2	0.46	Ditch cut	2ndC+	-
1406	Fill	-	0.46	Fill of ditch 1405	2ndC+	Grey brown silty clay
1407	Cut	0.2	0.06	Gully	-	-
1408	Fill	0.2	0.06	Fill of gully 1407	-	Firm mid grey brown silty clay
1409	Cut	0.2	0.1	Gully	-	-
1410	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of gully 1409	-	Brown grey silty clay
1411	Cut	0.7	0.1	Ditch terminus	-	-
1412	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of ditch terminus 1411	-	Firm brown grey silty clay
1413	Cut	0.4	0.25	Gully	2ndC	-
1414	Fill	-	0.25	Fill of gully 1413	2ndC	Firm grey silty clay
1415	Cut	1.5	0.25	Ditch cut	-	-
1416	Fill	-	0.25	Fill of ditch 1415	-	Firm mid grey silty clay
1417	Cut	1.9	0.32	Ditch cut	2ndC+	-
1418	Fill	-	0.32	Fill of ditch 1417	2ndC+	Firm grey brown silty clay

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	date	Soil description
1419	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	Orange brown sandy clay with red brown mottling

Trench 15		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Lias clay overlain by clayey sand deposit cut by field boundary ditch with ceramic drain in base	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.23
	Width (m)	1.6
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	date	Soil description
1500	Deposit	-	-	Clayey sand deposit overlying lias clay	-	Predominantly mid orangey brown clayey sand
1501	Deposit	-	0.23	Topsoil and turf	-	Friable mid grey brown silty sand
1502	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 1503	Post med	Mixed orangey brown clay sand and mid greenish grey clay
1503	Cut	-	-	Ditch cut	Post med	-

Trench 16		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Lias clay overlain by clayey sand deposit cut by field drain	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.2
	Width (m)	1.6
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	date	Soil description
1600	Layer	-	-	Lias clay	-	Mid greenish grey clay with orange brown mottling
1601	Deposit	-	-	Clayey sand deposit overlying lias clay	-	Predominantly mid orangey brown clayey sand with concentrations of gravel and flint where the composition of richer in clay
1602	Deposit	-	0.2	Topsoil and turf	-	Friable mid grey brown silty sand
1603	Deposit	-	-	Re-deposited Charmouth mudstone and Lias clay	-	Backfill of square cut modern feature

Trench 17						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Topsoil and Turf overlying clayey sand deposit overlying natural gravel No archaeology					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.3
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**date**	**Soil description**
1701	Deposit	-	0.3	Topsoil and turf	-	Friable mid grey brown silty sand
1702	Deposit	-	1 max	Clayey sand deposit overlying gravel	-	Friable mottled grey brown clayey sand
1703	Layer	-	-	Gravel	-	Natural gravel

Trench 18						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Variable natural sand and gravel overlain by colluvium in southern end of trench. NW-SE aligned northern side of MIA enclosure ?cuts colluvium (relationship uncertain) and underlying geology					**Avg. depth (m)**	
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	60
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**date**	**Soil description**
1800	Layer	-	-	Natural sand	-	Mid orangey brown sand
1801	Fill	-	0.6	Fill of possible ditch 1803	-	Mixed clayey sand and sand; occasional charcoal flecks
1802	Fill	-	0.5	Fill of possible ditch 1803	-	Mid grey sandy silt
1803	Cut	1.8	1.1+	Possible ditch cut; possibly interface between geological variations??	-	-
1804	Cut	2.6	1.2+	Cut of northern ditch of MIA enclosure	-	-
1805	Fill	-	0.6+	Fill of ditch 1804	-	Mid-dark brown sandy silt 2-3% charcoal; 2% gravel pebbles
1806	Layer	-	-	Natural gravel	-	Large pebbles in sandy matrix
1807	Deposit	-	0.6	Colluvium	-	Mid-dark greyish brown sandy silt 10% gravel pebbles
1808	Deposit	-	0.3	Topsoil and turf	-	Friable mid grey brown silty sand
1809	Fill	-	0.1	fill of ditch 1804	-	Charcoal rich lens

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	date	Soil description
1810	Fill	-	0.6	Fill of ditch 1804	-	Mid brown silty sand
1811	Layer	-	-	Natural sand	-	Mid orange brown sand
1812	Fill?	-	0.6	Possibly fill of ditch 1804. Very similar to colluvium 1807	-	Mid-dark greyish brown sandy silt 10% gravel pebbles
1813	Layer	-	-	Naturall gravel	-	Gravel pebbles in sandy matrix

Appendix B. Bibliography and References

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WEBSITES

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Appendix C. Summary of Site Details

Site name: Rugby Sustainable Urban Extension

Site code: RUGSUX10

Grid reference: centred on SP551746

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: May 2010, 12 days

Summary of results: In May 2010, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at the site of Rugby Sustainable Urban Extension. The work was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting which was commissioned by Rugby Radio Station Limited Partnership.

The evaluation consisted of 17 trenches comprising 3 x 20m trenches; 1 x 50m trench; 1 x 60 m trench and 12 x 30 m trenches. The trenches were largely targeted on crop marks and geophysical anomalies which had indicated the presence of archaeological features during an earlier survey. A number of trenches were also located in order to test the efficacy of the geophysical survey, by targeting areas in which no geophysical anomalies had been recorded. The trenches were dispersed over a wide area, and the site consequently subdivided into five distinct investigation areas.

In Area 1 at the eastern edge of the site two trenches were excavated to investigate the nature of possible alluvial deposits.

In Area 2 to the south of the site, the evaluation revealed a Middle Iron Age enclosure with at least one Middle Iron Age pit and two undated post holes in the interior. The enclosure ditches were not fully excavated but appeared to be very substantial, suggesting a defensive function, despite the fact that the enclosure occupied a low lying area. A further Middle Iron Age ditch extened to the west of the enclosure and may have marked a more extensive boundary associated with it. A second ditch on a similar alignment produced a single sherd of possible Bronze Age pottery, which may indicate a Bronze Age precursor to the possible Iron Age boundary.

A Roman pit was revealed in Area 3 in the north-west of the site. This lay within an enclosure indicated on the geophysical survey, although limited evidence was recovered for the enclosure itself. Other features in this area related to post-medieval field boundaries shown on some of the cartographic sources.

A trench in Area 4 to the north of the site investigated the relationship between surviving ridge and furrow and an earthwork which appeared to cut it. The trench revealed that two of the furrows had been re-cut to form two sides of the enclosure, whilst the remaining two sides consisted of ditches cutting across the ridges. The ridge and furrow within the enclosure was significantly less pronounced, suggesting it had been levelled. Two possible walls were revealed along the top of what was left of the ridges within the enclosure. The function of these possible walls was not clear; they may have formed part of an animal pen within the enclosure.

Area 5, also to the south of the site revealed evidence for Roman activity, possibly dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries. This comprised a series of inter-cutting ditches which appeared to mark a boundary which had been subject to numerous phases of re-cutting. Other ditches, also dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries are likely to represent field boundaries, possibly paddocks. There was also evidence for light industrial activity of a similar date in the form of possible pits with rudimentary stone lining and fills containing iron slag and significant quantities of charcoal.

Archaeology revealed in Areas 2 and 5 may relate to an extensive area of both Iron Age and Roman settlement previously recorded from the DIRFT site to the east of these evaluation trenches.

The remaining features revealed across the site related to medieval ridge and furrow, or later field drains and boundaries.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with an appropriate museum in due course.

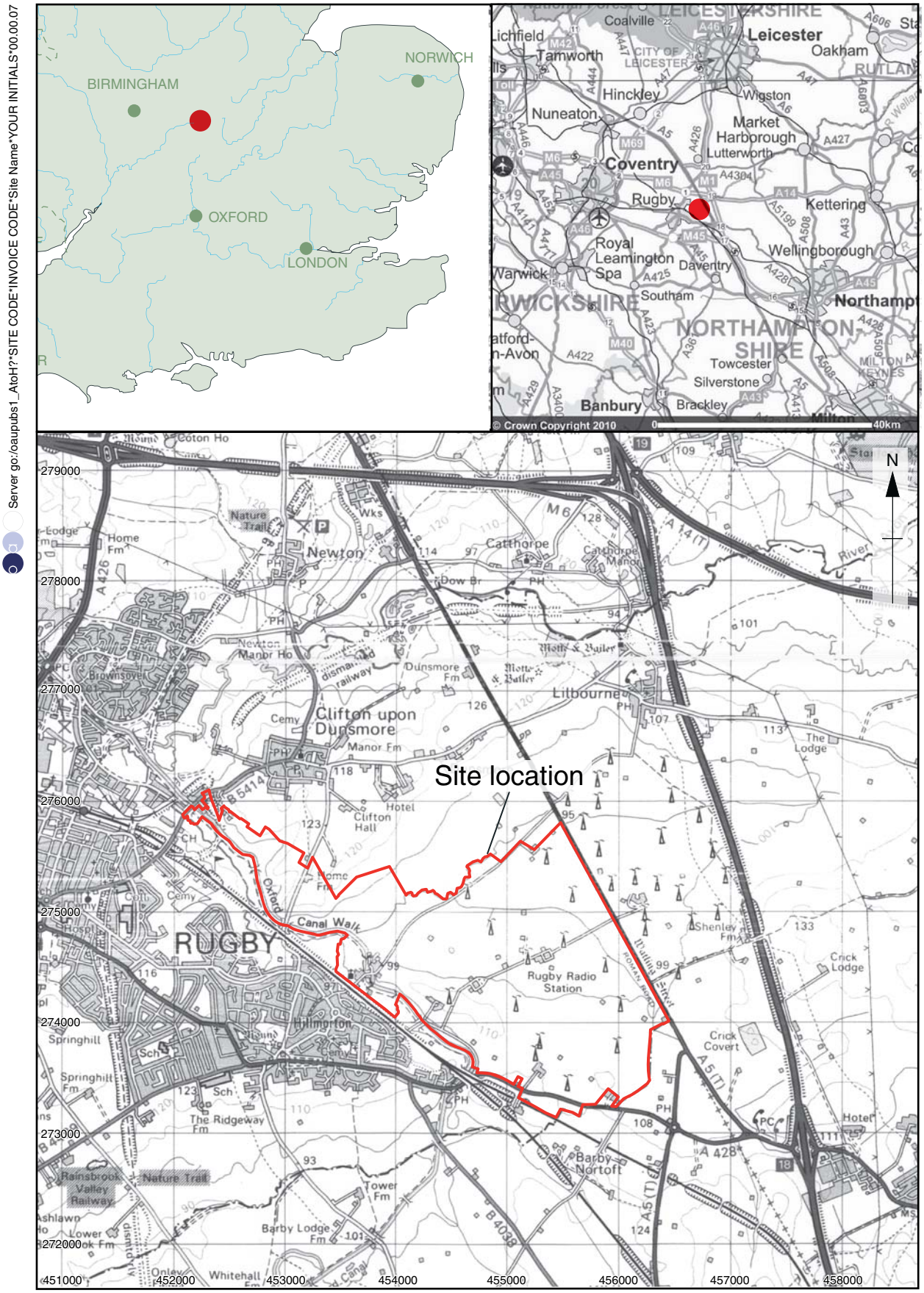
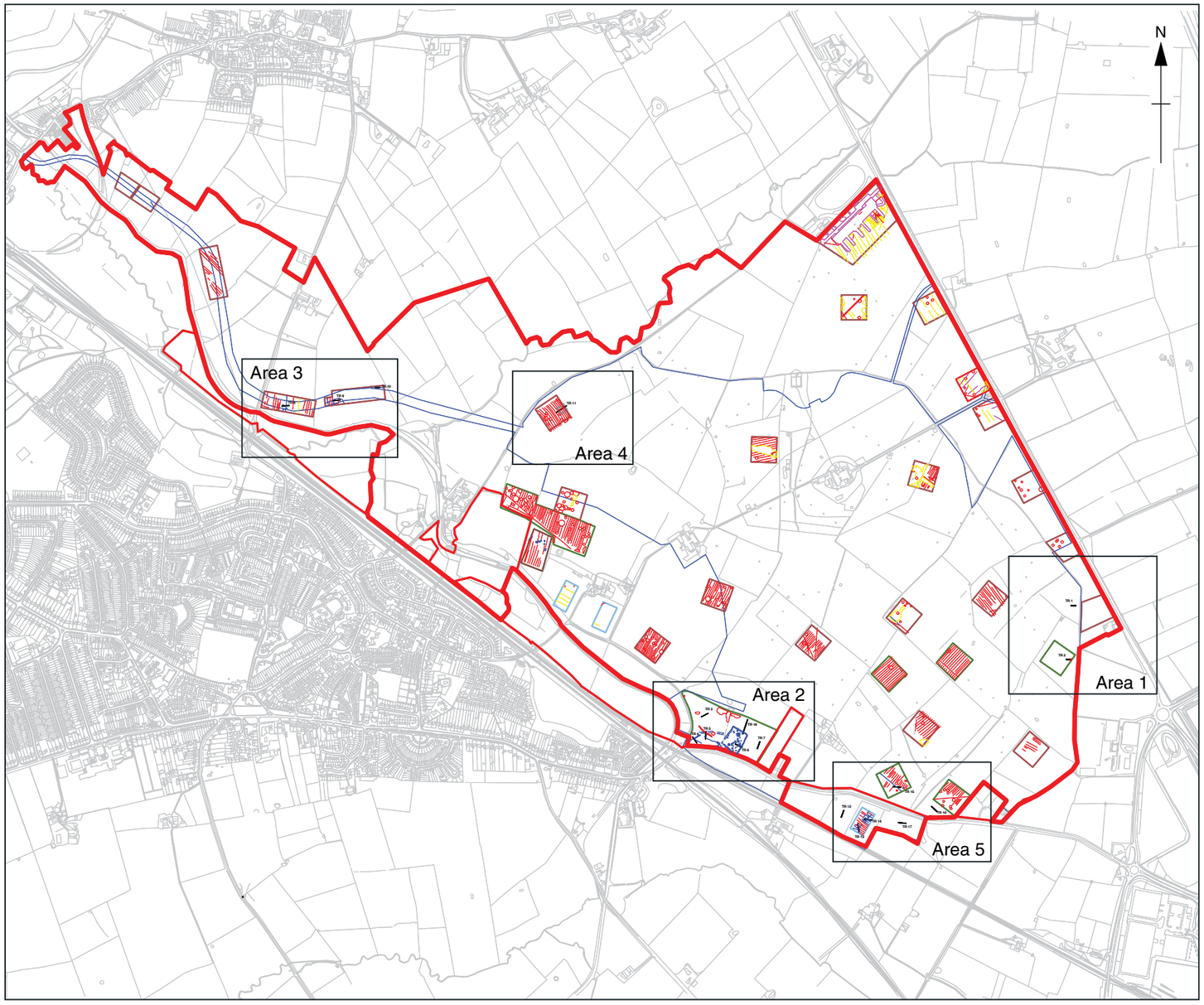
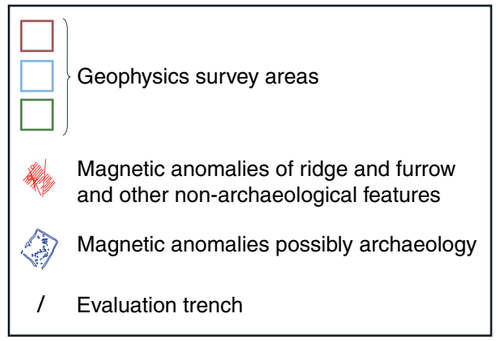
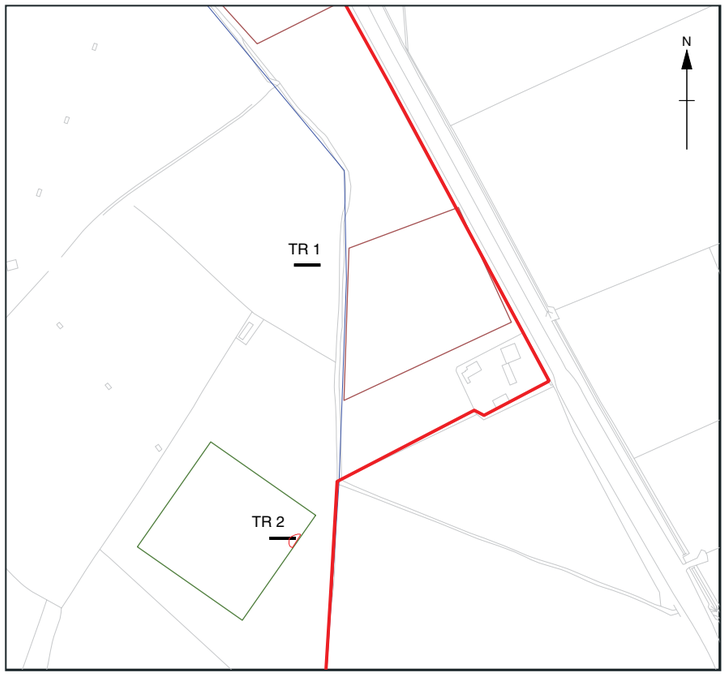


Figure 1: Site location



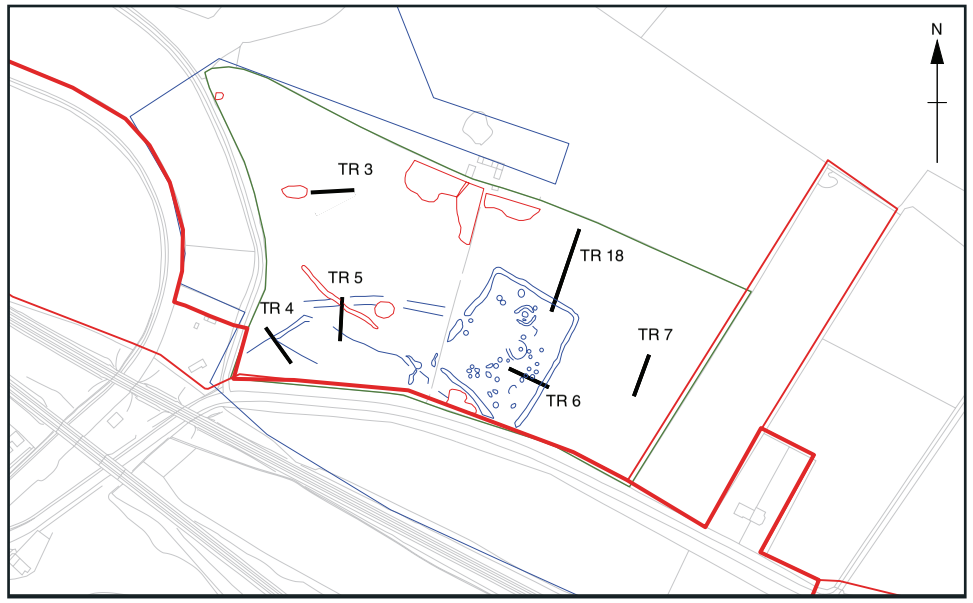
Area location plan





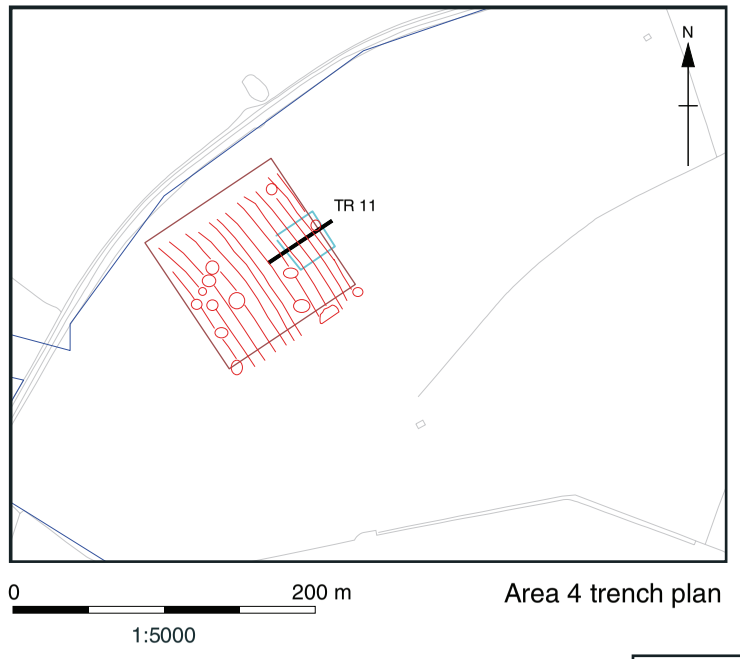
Area 1 trench plan

Figure 2 : Location of Areas 1-5 and plan of Area 1; Trenches 1&2

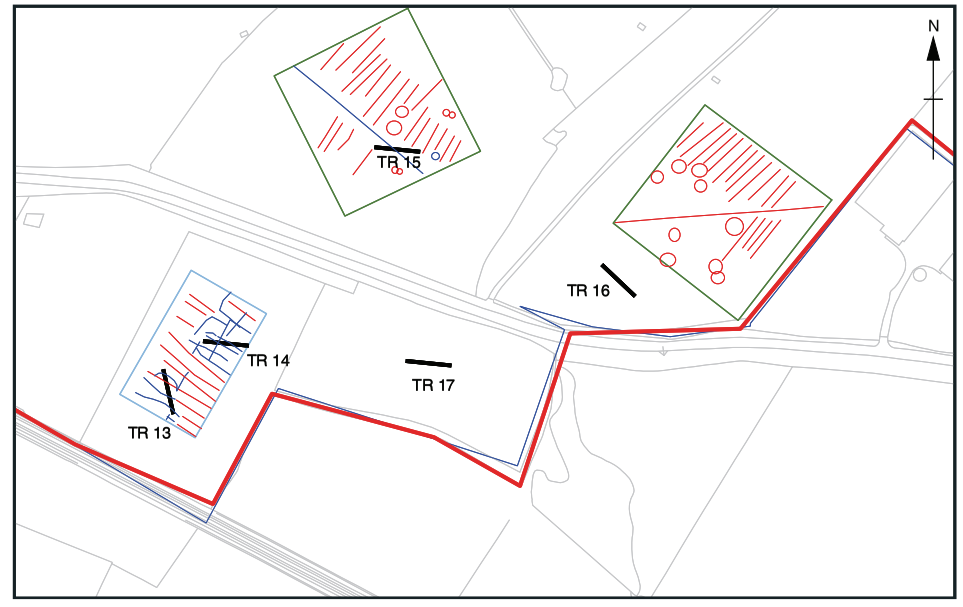


Area 2 trench plan

Area 3 trench plan



Area 4 trench plan



Area 5 trench plan

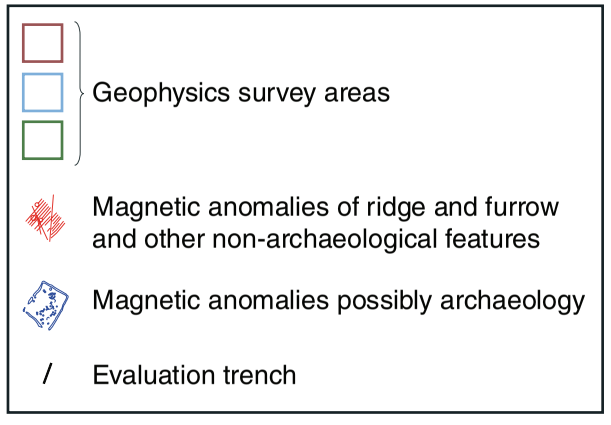


Figure 3 : Plan of Areas 2-5; Trenches 3-11 and 13-18

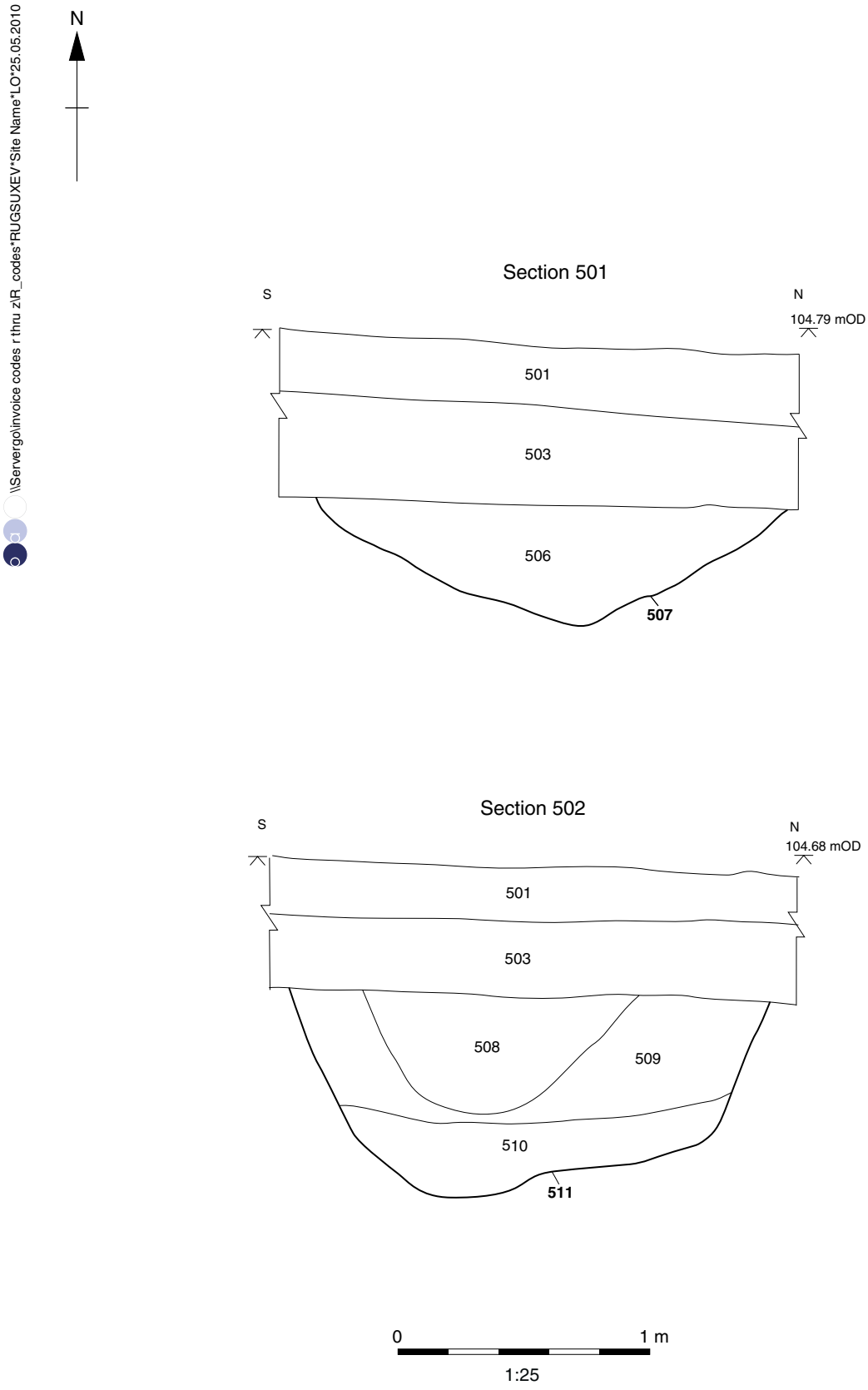
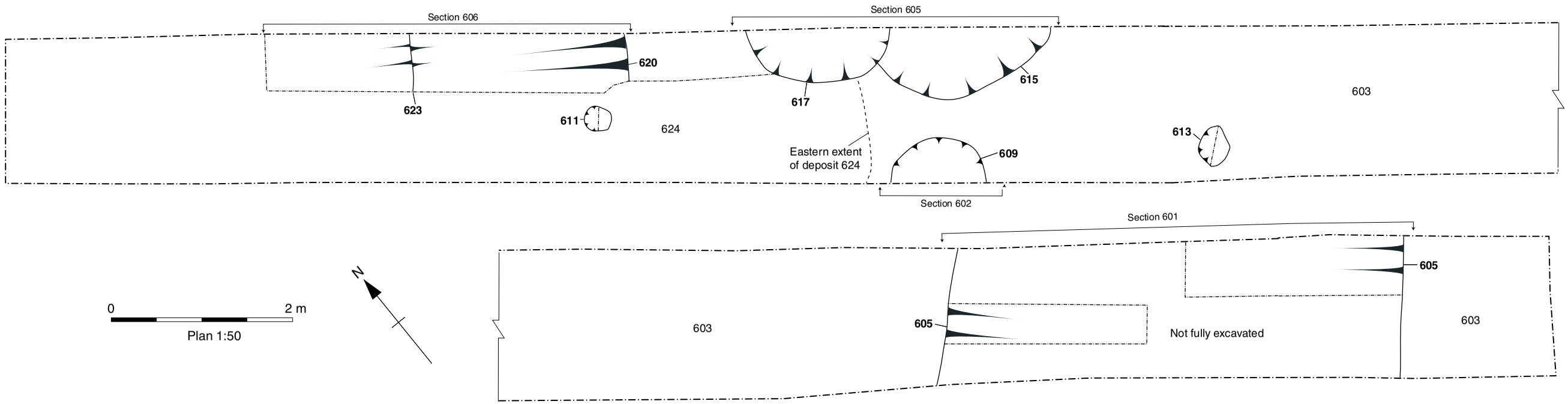
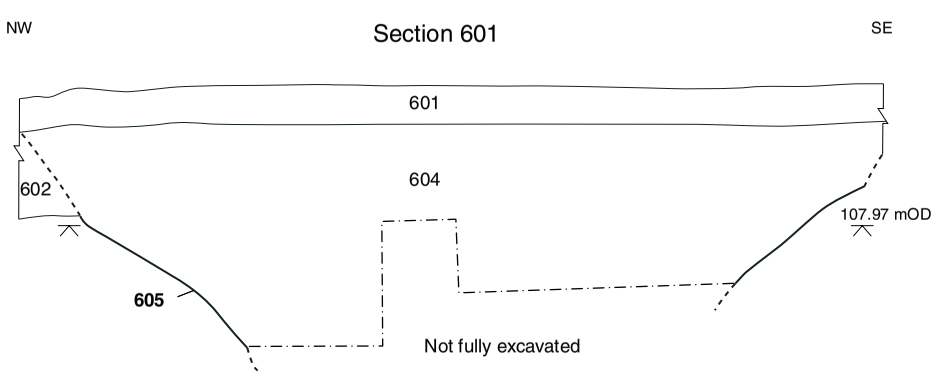
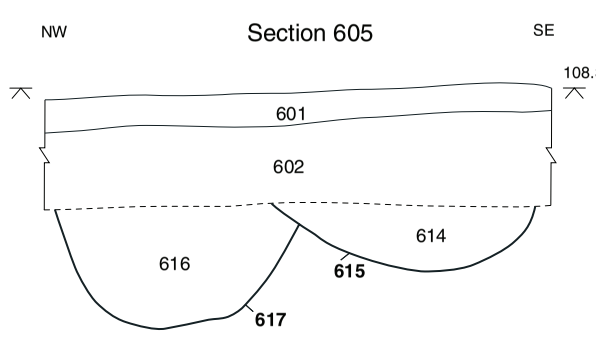
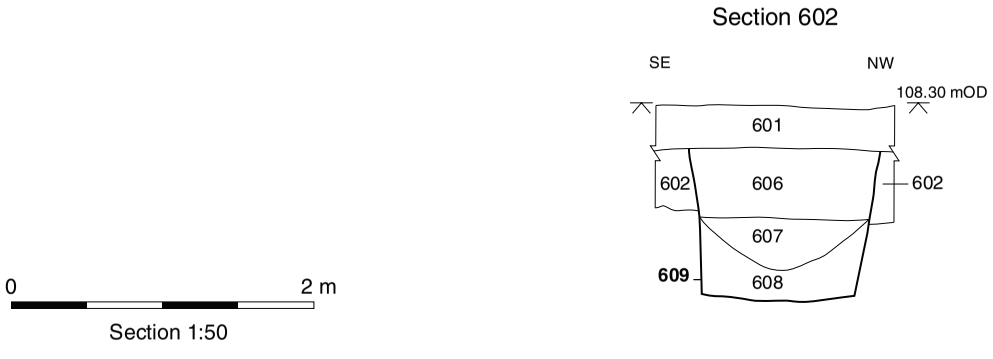


Figure 4 : Trench 5, sections 501 and 502









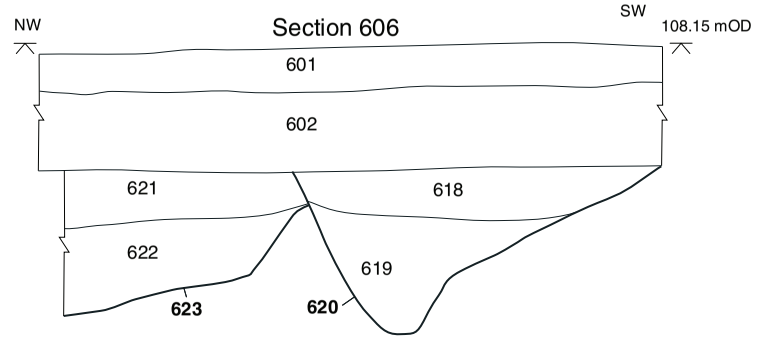
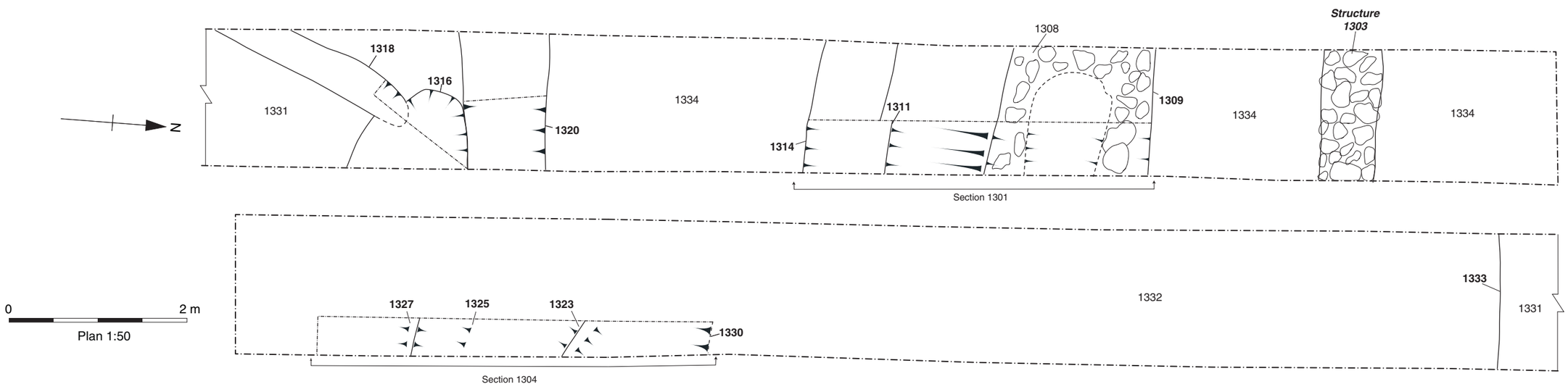
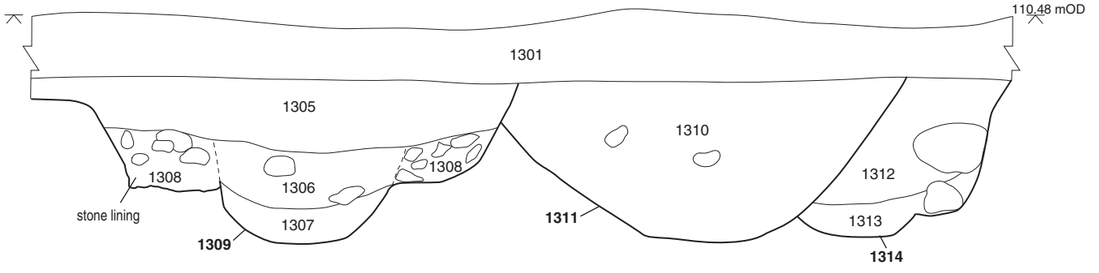


Figure 5 : Trench 6, plan and sections



Section 1301



Section 1304

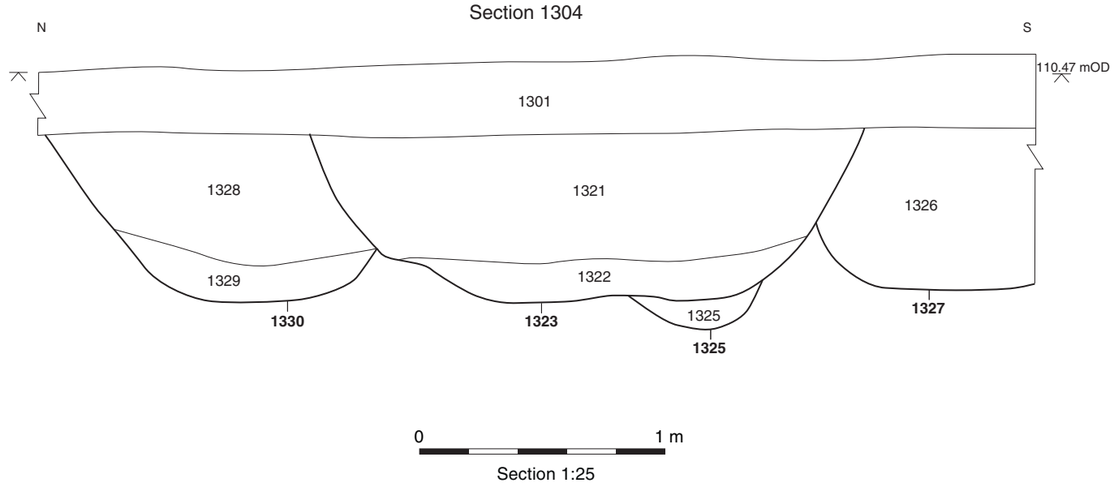
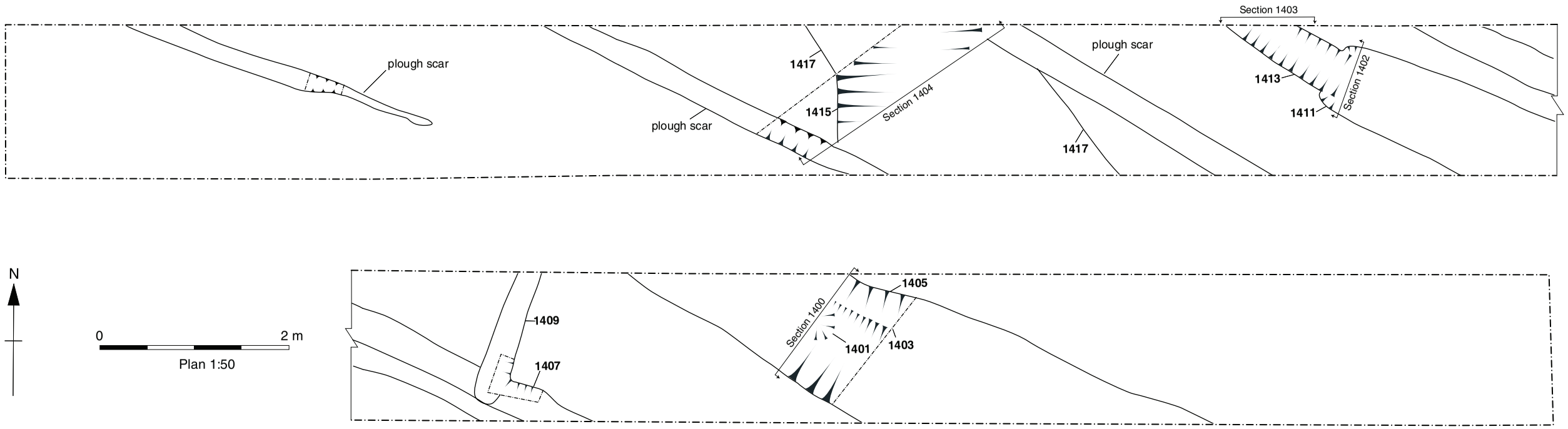
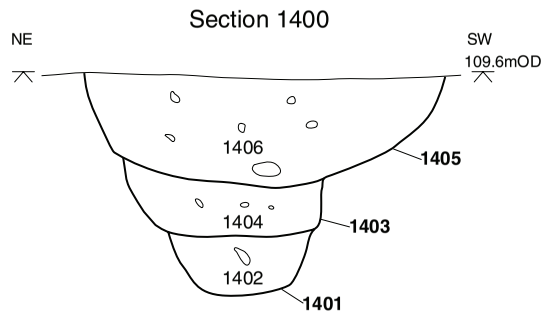
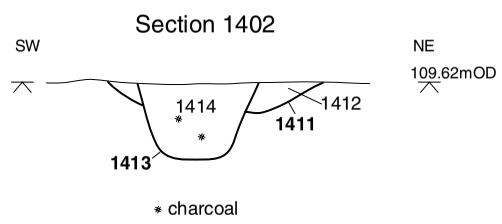
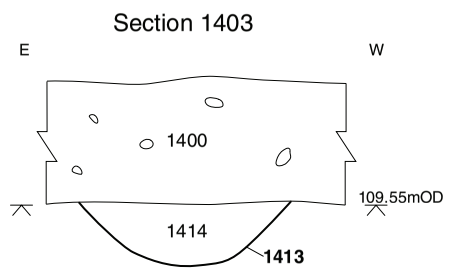


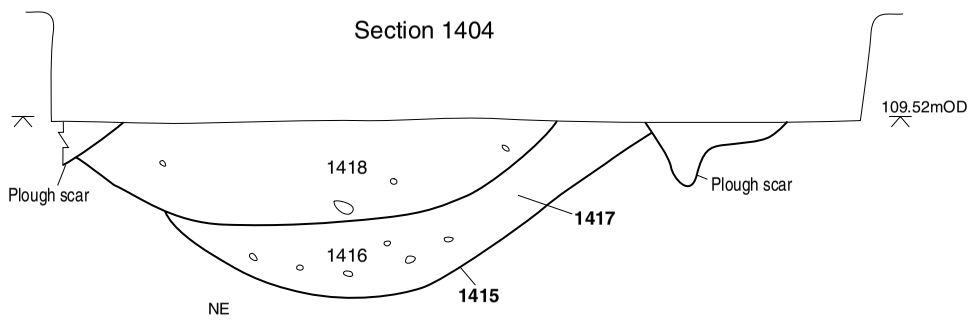
Figure 6 : Trench 13, plan and sections











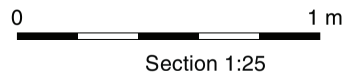


Figure 7 : Trench 14, plan and sections

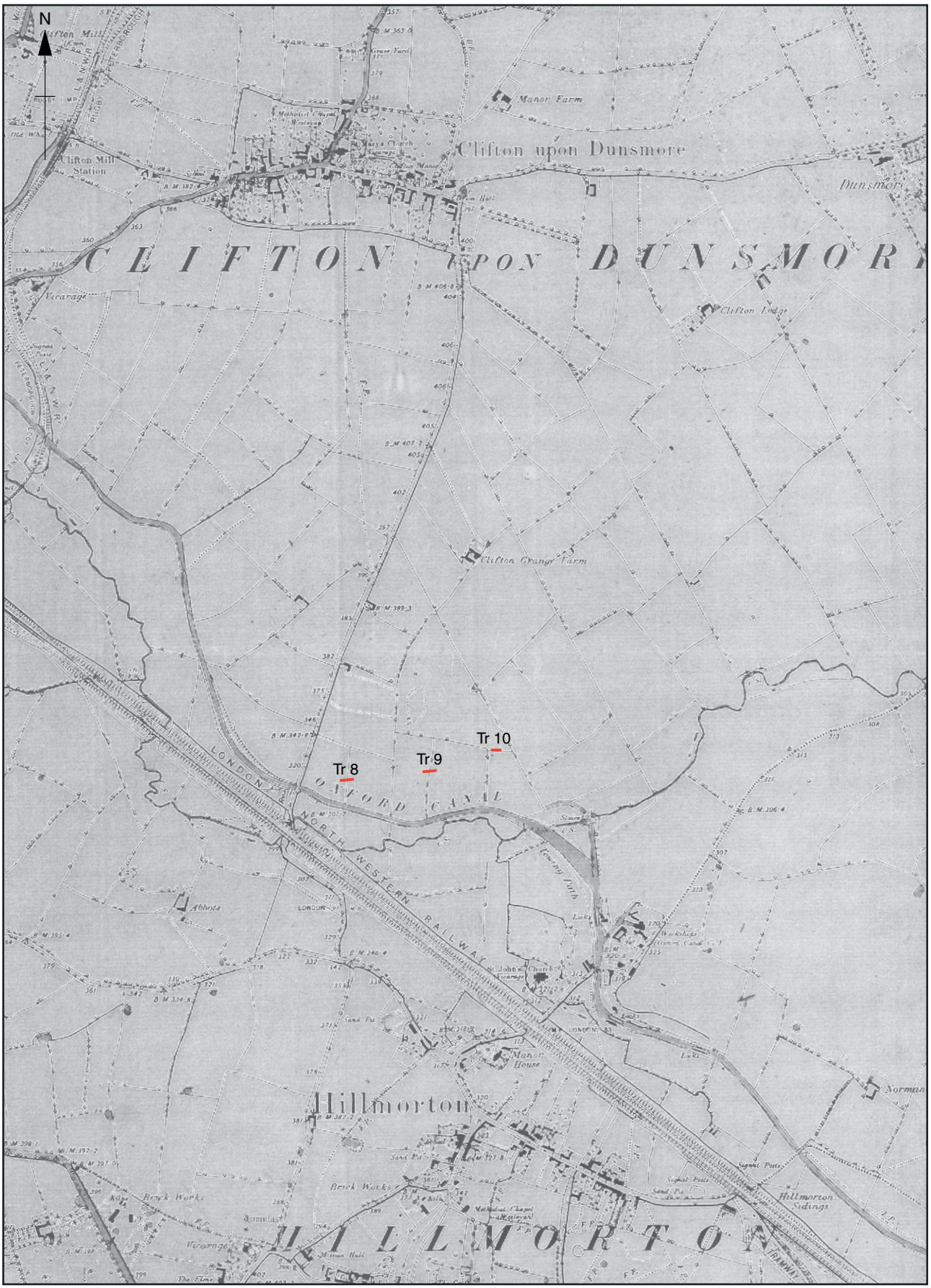


Figure 8 : Trenches 8, 9 and 10 on OS 1st edition 1887

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