Doverdale Solar Farm, Droitwich, Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Doverdale Solar Farm, Droitwich, Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by JBM Solar Projects 3 Ltd to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a consented solar farm development at Doverdale, Droitwich, Worcestershire. The work comprised the excavation of 63 trenches distributed across the development area. The fieldwork was undertaken in late August and early September 2022.

A preceding geophysical survey undertaken in 2020 detected a group of anomalies of probable archaeological origin in the south of the site. These were interpreted as a rectilinear enclosure with several internal features and an associated L-shaped enclosure to the south. The geophysical survey also identified historic field boundaries and other indications of post-medieval/modern agricultural activities across the site.

The evaluation trenching identified archaeological remains dating to the middle Iron Age in the southern part of the site, next to a confluence of two small streams. Enclosure ditches were revealed in four trenches which corresponded closely with the plotted rectilinear and L-shaped anomalies identified by geophysical survey. A ditch that appeared to reflect a small sub-enclosure was also revealed extending into the interior of the rectilinear enclosure, in addition to three shallow pits and a posthole. A further undated posthole was identified *c* 0.8m east of the rectilinear enclosure. A series of rectilinear anomalies to the east of the enclosure were not identified during evaluation but their comparable alignment suggests that, if real, they could reflect an eastwards extension of the enclosure complex.

The finds assemblage comprised a small collection of middle Iron Age Malvernian ware and three fragments of fired clay; minimal animal bone was recovered. Overall, the area around Trenches 15-21 appears to have been a focus of settlement activity during the middle Iron Age.

The remainder of the site was largely devoid of archaeological remains and apart from two highly abraded sherds of Roman and medieval pottery, the site showed only widespread evidence for agricultural activity from the medieval period onwards.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank JBM Solar Projects 3 Ltd for commissioning this project and their consultant, Elizabeth Pratt (Principal Heritage Consultant, Pegasus Group) who oversaw the work on behalf of the client. Thanks are also extended to Aidan Smyth (Archaeology and Planning Advisor) who monitored the work on behalf of Wychavon District Council.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Stuart Foreman. The fieldwork was directed by Gary Evans, who was supported by Kieran Sherlock and Tomasz Neyman. Survey was carried out by Tomasz Neymann and digitizing by Gary Noble and Magda Wachnik. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by JBM Solar Projects 3 Ltd to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed solar farm and battery station at Doverdale, Droitwich, Worcestershire.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (planning ref. 21/01363/FUL). Although the local planning authority did not set a brief for the work, discussions between Elizabeth Pratt (Principal Heritage Consultant at Pegasus Group) and Aidan Smyth (Archaeology and Planning Advisor for Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils) established the scope of work required. A trench plan was prepared by Pegasus Group and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OA (2022). This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014) and local and national planning policies.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies to the north-west of Doverdale in the Wychavon District of Worcestershire, centred on NGR SO 8573 6713 (Fig. 1). It lies at a height of between 42m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and 54m aOD, sloping gently from the north-west to the south-east, and covering an area of *c* 60.5ha. It comprises three large fields currently under both arable cultivation and pasture. The eastern field of the site is undulating, with two ridges of slightly higher ground running WNW to ESE. The western field of the site slopes from east to west and south. A strip of woodland separates the eastern half of the site from the western field, which slopes from north to south.

1.2.2 A stream flows from north to south through the woodland that divides the site. It joins another stream flowing east along the southern boundary of the western field of the site, at the south-eastern corner of that field. The merged watercourse feeds into Hadley Brook at Doverdale.

1.2.3 A smaller satellite portion of the development is located *c* 700m to the south-west of the western field, on the south-east edge of the village of Dunhampton. Currently under arable cultivation, this portion of the site slopes gently from north to south and is bounded to the south by Doverdale Lane. This part of the site was originally to be included in the trenching. However, it was agreed between the client and Aidan Smyth that the footprint will instead be subject to 'strip, map and sample' excavation in the initial stages of the development.

1.2.4 The geology in the eastern half of the site is mapped as Mudstone of the Sidmouth Mudstone Formation. To the west of the stream, the geology is recorded as Sandstone of the Helsby Sandstone Formation. No superficial deposits have been recorded in the areas to be evaluated but alluvium is present along the line of the watercourse (BGS online).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in a heritage statement prepared by Pegasus Group (2021) and this forms the basis of the summary provided below.

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43) and Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

1.3.2 The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) identifies zones of Palaeolithic potential to the east and south of the site, at Sneads Green and around Hill Farm, *c* 100m to the east and *c* 75m south-east of the site respectively. These correspond to mapped superficial deposits of sand and gravel of the Kidderminster Station Member and the Holt Heath Sand and Gravel Member. Although no superficial deposits are recorded for the site there is evidently potential that such deposits, if present, may yield Palaeolithic material.

1.3.3 The HER records that unstratified finds of Mesolithic to Iron Age date have been found in Ombersley parish, within which the western field of the site lies, but no precise locations or any further details are provided.

1.3.4 To the north of the dismantled railway line in the northern part of the study area, cropmarks suggestive of a circular enclosure of possible Neolithic or Bronze Age origin are visible on certain recent Google Earth satellite images. At the southern edge of the study area, a cropmark suggestive of an Iron Age enclosure is visible on an aerial photograph taken in 2000.

Early medieval (AD 410 – 1066) and medieval (1066 – 1539)

1.3.5 There is no recorded archaeological evidence of early medieval activity within the site. However, Doverdale and Elmley Lovett had been established by the Norman Conquest as they were recorded by the Domesday Survey of AD 1086. At this time, they comprised 10 and 30 households respectively.

1.3.6 The HER suggests that a watermill referred to in the Index to the Court Rolls from 1371 may have been located at the north-western boundary of the site crossed by the watercourse, since the fields on either side are named ‘Cut Mill Field’ and ‘Cut Mill Meadow’ on the tithe map from 1840 and a leat is shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1888. No above-ground structural remains are known to survive in relation to these records.

Post-medieval (1540 – present)

1.3.7 Evidence of post-medieval and modern activity within the vicinity of the site is limited to agricultural practices, including areas of ridge-and-furrow cultivation from historic ploughing, former osier (withy) beds beside streams, and 18th- and 19thcentury farms and cottages. Ridge-and-furrow earthworks were apparently formerly present in the central part of the western field of the site and in the southern part of the eastern field of the site. An early-19th century parish map of Ombersley apparently identifies osier beds along the watercourse crossing the site.

1.3.8 The tithe maps show two ponds in the northern part of the site, two ponds in the central part of the site, and two ponds in the southern part of the site. The first edition Ordnance Survey maps from 1888 show most of these features, though the easterly of the two ponds in the northern part of the site is depicted as an earthwork resembling a former quarry or marl pit. Later editions of the Ordnance Survey chart the removal of field boundaries within the site.

Geophysical survey

1.3.9 In 2020, Magnitude Surveys undertook a geophysical survey of the site. In the south-eastern corner of the western field of the site, near the confluence of two streams, they detected various rectilinear and curvilinear anomalies consistent with at least two conjoined enclosures, the largest containing internal ditches and other discrete features, of possible later prehistoric origin. They also recorded various anomalies of agricultural origin, including traces of ridge-and-furrow cultivation, drainage features, former field boundaries and infilled former ponds (Magnitude Surveys 2020).

1.3.10 The interpretation plots of the geophysical anomalies are shown in Figures 3 and 4.

1.4 Potential

1.4.1 The heritage statement produced by Pegasus Group concluded that the probable enclosures and associated features in the south-eastern part of the western field of the site could be of some archaeological and/or historic interest. Within the ditch fills may be palaeoenvironmental and archaeological deposits pertaining to the construction, use and abandonment of these features. Meanwhile, it was considered that evidence of historic agricultural activity, such as plough furrows, drainage channels, infilled ponds, and former field boundaries would typically retain insufficient archaeological and/or historic interest to be considered heritage assets.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 General

2.1.1 The general aim of the evaluation was to record the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and features within the proposed development site and to enable a suitable mitigation strategy for any remains to be devised and implemented before development takes place.

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

i. to determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present;
ii. to determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains;
iii. to determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
iv. to determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains;
v. to determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy;
vi. to determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present;
vii. to determine the potential of the site to provide paleoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive;
viii. to determine the implications of any remains with reference to the economy, status, utility and social activity of or at the site; and
ix. to disseminate the results of the evaluation through the production of a fieldwork report; and
x. to enable the LPA Archaeological Advisor to make an informed decision as to the requirement of any further archaeological work required on site.

2.2.2 The programme of trial trenching was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by *The Archaeology of the West Midlands, a Framework for Research* (Watt 2011).

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 The initial scope of works allowed for the excavation of 67 trenches across the site to provide a 0.9% sample of the area (Fig. 2; OA 2022). The majority of these (57) measured 50m x 1.8m in plan and were distributed evenly throughout the arable fields. The remaining 10 trenches were 25m x 1.8m and were positioned to target geophysical anomalies previously identified in the south of the western field (Figs 3-5).

2.3.2 Following discussions with Aidan Smyth, Trenches 1–4 in the smaller satellite portion of the development to the south-west were not excavated during the evaluation. This area will be investigated as part of a future programme of mitigation work.

2.3.3 The majority of trenches were located in accordance with the trench plan detailed in the WSI (OA 2022) and laid out using a GPS with sub-15m accuracy. Minor alterations were made to the positions of trenches 39, 41, 42, 59 and 63 to avoid on-site

constraints. Trench 22 was extended by *c* 3m on its eastern edge perpendicular to the main axis of the trench.

2.3.4 Trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist with spoil stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from, the trench edges. The machining was undertaken in even spits of no more than 100mm thickness down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon depending upon which was encountered first.

2.3.5 The exposed surface was sufficiently cleaned to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains and a sample of each feature or deposit type was hand excavated and recorded.

2.3.6 Spoil produced from machine excavation, as well as exposed surfaces, archaeological features and spoil from hand excavation was scanned by a metal detector to enhance finds retrieval.

2.3.7 Environmental sampling was undertaken to characterise the modes of preservation and concentration of assemblages of biological material from different periods, areas and context types in order to inform the sampling strategy during any further mitigation works. Bulk soil samples, of 40L or 100% of a deposit if less is available, were collected from a variety of features to assess the paleoenvironmental potential of the site.

2.3.8 A full photographic record of all archaeological features, deposits, trenches and the works in general was also generated during the investigations.

2.3.9 Upon completion of the works the trenches were backfilled with the arisings in reverse order of excavation. This was only undertaken following approval from Aidan Smyth.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of compact red clay was overlain by a subsoil that extended across the site and was in turn overlain by ploughsoil. The overall depth of the overburden was typically 0.4m although it varied between as little as 0.2m and as much as 0.6m.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good. Several episodes of rainfall did not adversely impact the identification of features/deposits within the trenches. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in 11 of the 63 trenches excavated. These comprised the following trenches:

- Trenches 15, 16, 20, 21, 30, 40, 41, 45, 58, 60 and 63

3.3.2 The majority of features were concentrated in the southern section of the western field where geophysical anomalies had previously indicated a focus of archaeological activity. The features present comprised ditches, pits and postholes in trenches 15, 16, 20 and 21. In the remainder of the site, archaeological features were more widely dispersed and typically comprised isolated field boundary ditches.

3.3.3 A number of plough furrows and modern drainage ditches/gullies were also recorded across the site but otherwise, the remainder of the trenches were devoid of archaeological remains.

3.4 Western field: trenches 15, 16, 20 and 21 (Figs 4 and 5, Plates 1-9)

3.4.1 This group of trenches was located in the southern part of the western field and was targeted on a concentration of geophysical anomalies interpreted as a three-sided rectilinear enclosure with an associated L-shaped enclosure extending to the south and various internal features.

3.4.2 **Trench 15** was positioned to the south-west of this group, on an ENE-WSW alignment to target the south-western corner of the rectilinear enclosure at the point that it intersected with the northern extension of the L-shaped enclosure. Two ditches were revealed in the north-eastern end of the trench, 1503 and 1505.

3.4.3 Ditch 1503 measured 0.9m wide by 0.25m deep and had a single sandy silt fill (1504) from which no finds were recovered (Plate 1; Fig. 6, s.1500). The ditch lay on a NNW-

SSE alignment and corresponded closely to the plotted alignment of the L-shaped enclosure.

3.4.4 Ditch 1505 lay immediately adjacent to 1503 running WNW-ESE across Trench 15 (Plate 2; Fig. 6, s.1501). Ditch 1505 was larger than 1503 at 1.4m wide and 0.5m deep, with steep sides and a V shaped profile. The single fill (1506) comprised light brown sandy silt and, in common with ditch 1503, it appears that ditch 1505 filled through natural silting processes. The position of ditch 1505 corresponded closely with the alignment of the south-western corner of the rectilinear enclosure identified by geophysics, confirming the accuracy of the survey results.

3.4.5 The relationship between the ditch 1503 and 1505 could not be determined in Trench 15 as the point of intersection was outside the boundaries of the trench, approximately 0.5m north of its northern edge.

3.4.6 **Trench 16** was located to the south-east of Trench 15 on a NNW-SSE alignment. In the centre of the trench was a V-shaped ditch (1603) measuring 1.4m by 0.6m (Plate 3; Fig. 6, s.1600). The ditch contained a single silty fill (1604) from which a sherd of middle Iron Age pottery of Malvernian fabric Peacock Group A (1968) was recovered. A bulk sample was recovered from the ditch (Sample 1) which contained a small quantity of heavily fragmented charcoal and charred material including a bedstraw seed (*Galium* sp.).

3.4.7 Ditch 1603 ran on an east-west alignment and its position correlated directly with the plotted location of the southernmost extension of the L-shaped enclosure identified by geophysical survey. The survey data tracks the ditch as turning a sharp 90^{o} corner approximately six metres west of Trench 16 before running NNW. It was picked up in Trench 15 where it was recorded as Ditch 1503.

3.4.8 **Trench 20** was located to the north-west of Trenches 15 and 16 on a NE-SW alignment. It was positioned to investigate the eastern extent of the rectilinear enclosure documented by geophysical survey and several possible internal features. The trench contained five features distributed across the length of the trench, including a ditch, pits and a posthole.

3.4.9 Ditch 2013 was located in the north-eastern section of the trench and measured 1.3m wide by 0.58m deep (Plate 4; Fig. 6, s.2003). The position and alignment of the ditch corresponded closely with the eastern side of the rectilinear enclosure, the southernmost side of which was recorded as Ditch 1505 in Trench 15. A single piece of pottery recovered from the fill (2014) of Ditch 2013 was dated to the middle to late Iron Age, while 20 fragments of animal bone were also recovered. Bulk Sample 3, also recovered from fill 2014, produced a small quantity of charcoal and two charred speedwell seeds (*Veronica* sp.). Two pieces of daub were also present in the fill as were cracked, possibly heat-affected, stones and a small amount of charcoal.

3.4.10 To the south of ditch 2013 three pits were recorded (2003, 2009 and 2011). The southernmost pit (2003) was flat-bottomed with vertical sides and three silty fills which appear to reflect the natural infilling of the pit over time (Plate 5; Fig. 6, s.2000). The pit measured 1.2m wide by 0.34m deep and contained three fills (2004, 2005, 2006). A single sherd of middle Iron Age Malvernian 'duck stamped' pottery was

recovered from fill 2005. Sample 2, which was recovered from upper fill 2004 produced a small quantity of charcoal and two heavily clinkered cereal grains, probably wheat (cf. *Triticum* sp.).

3.4.11 Pit 2003 appeared to truncate posthole 2007 which was located centrally in the base of the pit but could not be dated due to the lack of finds from its single fill (2008) (Plate 5; Fig. 6, s.2000). No packing material or post-pipe were noted within the posthole.

3.4.12 Approximately 1m north-east of pit 2003 lay shallow pit 2009, which was 0.09m deep with an undulating base affected by rooting (Plate 6; Fig. 6, s.2001). A large piece of friable Malvernian pottery that had fragmented by the time of analysis was recovered from the single fill (2010). Although the feature appeared regular in plan, it is possible that it represented a tree-throw hole rather than a pit due to its shallow, irregular profile with clear evidence of rooting. The location of pit 2009 corresponded to the position of a geophysical anomaly interpreted as a short curvilinear feature in the survey report.

3.4.13 Pit 2011 lay approximately 0.7m north of pit 2009 (Plate 7; Fig. 6, s.2002). It was also fairly shallow, measuring 0.19m deep and with a somewhat irregular profile. The pit was filled by a single deposit (2012) that contained inclusions of stone, some of which may have been heat-affected. No dating evidence was recovered but the pit was considered to be contemporary with pits 2003 and 2009 due to its proximity and location within the rectilinear enclosure.

3.4.14 Posthole 2015 was located in the northern end of Trench 20 and was 0.62m in diameter and 0.53m deep (Plate 8; Fig. 6, s.2004). The posthole contained a single silty clay fill (2016) from which no finds were recovered. It was located *c* 0.8m east of the plotted course of the rectilinear enclosure ditch and, if contemporary, would therefore have been located in close proximity to the exterior of the enclosure.

3.4.15 **Trench 21** was the most northerly in the group, located approximately 17m north-west of Trench 20. The trench was placed to investigate a curvilinear geophysical anomaly extending eastwards into the rectilinear enclosure, which was interpreted as a possible smaller sub-enclosure. Ditch 2103, located in the western end of the trench corresponded to the plotted position of this possible sub-enclosure (Plate 9; Fig. 6, s.2100). A sherd of middle to late Iron Age Malvernian pottery was recovered from the ditch, which was 1.8m wide. The ditch was not bottomed during the evaluation for safety reasons as it was over 1m deep. It had a regular profile with sloping sides and contained two fills (2104, 2105), with the upper stony fill (2104) producing the sherd of Iron Age pottery. The basal fill contained frequent specks of charcoal within the silty sandy deposit.

3.5 Eastern fields: Trenches 30, 40, 41, 45, 58, 60 and 63 (Fig. 3, Plates 10-12)

3.5.1 These trenches were located in the eastern field, to the east of the small watercourse that runs north-south and bisects the central and eastern fields. The trenches contained possible pits, tree-throw holes, ditches, gullies and field boundaries. Most features were considered to be post-medieval or modern in date. Trenches that were

placed to investigate geophysical anomalies revealed that the majority were natural or agricultural features.

3.5.2 **Trench 30** contained a possible pit, a tree-throw hole and a linear feature that may have represented a field boundary or a plough furrow. All features were concentrated at the south-western end of the trench within *c* 4.1m of each other. Possible pit 3003 was sub-circular, 0.6m long, 0.8m wide and 0.2m deep and contained a single sterile fill. It is possible that the pit was a tree-throw hole, considering its shallow profile and lack of anthropogenic material within the fill. Tree-throw hole 3005 was identified only c 0.3m to the north, indicating that both features could be of natural origin.

3.5.3 Linear feature 3007 ran northwest-southeast through Trench 30 and cut tree-throw hole 3005 on its northern edge. The linear feature was shallow at 0.15m deep, 1.5m wide and contained no finds. It appeared to be either an agricultural gully or ditch associated with drainage or field divisions, or possibly a plough furrow.

3.5.4 **Trench 40** was positioned on the extreme eastern margin of the site and was aligned east-west (Plate 10). A single gully (4003 was identified, also running east-west and terminating at its eastern end within the trench. The gully was narrow and shallow, measuring 0.37m wide and 0.13m deep, with a rounded profile. A very small body sherd of Malvern Chase glazed ware dating to between AD 1250–1550 was recovered from the single fill (4004), although the highly fragmentary and abraded nature of the sherd indicates that it is probably residual and cannot be relied upon as dating evidence.

3.5.5 **Trench 41** was located *c* 120m north-west of Trench 40 and contained ditch 4103. The ditch was 1.12m wide, 0.4m deep and was aligned NNW-SSE. It had a single silty clay fill (4104) that contained a highly abraded sherd of Roman pottery which is likely to be residual and cannot be used to date the feature.

3.5.6 **Trench 45** was positioned in the centre of the eastern fields, on an east-west alignment, to investigate a north-south aligned geophysical anomaly interpreted as a possible plough furrow. Ditch 4503 corresponded with the anomaly and had a regular shallow profile, measuring 0.7m wide by 0.2m deep. Of the two fills (4504 and 4505) the uppermost contained a possible piece of ceramic building material (CBM) or daub, which could easily be residual and cannot be relied upon as dating evidence. The ditch contained no other finds and is thought most likely to represent a medieval or post-medieval plough furrow.

3.5.7 **Trench 58** was located in the northern part of the eastern fields on a northeast-southwest orientation. Ditch 5803 was recorded in the centre of the trench and was 1.4m wide by 0.35m deep, containing a single fill (5804) and running on an east-west alignment. No artefactual material was recovered and a modern ceramic drain ran along the length of the ditch. It is likely to represent a modern drainage ditch, or possibly a former field boundary.

3.5.8 **Trench 60** was located in the north-east of the eastern fields and contained a narrow, shallow gully (6003) which was aligned north-south, and containing no finds. The single silty clay fill (6004) suggests that this is a drainage feature of unknown date.

3.5.9 **Trench 63,** located in the north-east corner of the eastern fields, was aligned northwest-southeast and contained a wide, fairly shallow ditch (6303, Fig. 6, s. 6300). The ditch was 2.5m wide and 0.36m deep and contained a single clay fill (6304) from which modern objects were recovered. The ditch is likely to represent a former field boundary or modern drainage feature.

3.6 Finds summary

3.6.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 25 sherds (262g). With the exception of a very small sherd of Roman pottery (1g) and a piece of medieval Malvern Chase glazed ware (1g), all the material dated to the middle to late Iron Age. The majority of the collection comprised sherds from a single middle Iron Age pot that was recovered from pit 2009.

3.6.2 A small assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM) amounting to 4 fragments (1834g) was recovered during the evaluation. All the fragments were recovered from ditches in trenches 57 and 63, which coincide with boundaries shown on later 19th century and earlier 20th century maps. They are therefore assumed to be of medieval or post-medieval date.

3.6.3 A small amount of fired clay (FC) amounting to 3 fragments weighing 24g was recovered from enclosure ditch 2013. One of the fragments had an impression which may have been made by a grass or straw stem. The other fragments were of indeterminate form, although the larger fragment was dark grey on one side, suggesting that it was located close to a heat source.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Generally favourable conditions prevailed during the fieldwork and archaeological remains were well-defined overall, which contributed to the reliability of the investigation. Trenches were extended where necessary to allow areas of interest to be further investigated.

4.1.2 The evaluation identified archaeological features corresponding to the geophysical anomalies apparent in the southern part of the western field. There were also some anomalies for which no corresponding features were found, specifically a series of possible rectilinear anomalies in the south-east of the western field, immediately east of the Iron Age features.

4.1.3 It should be noted that trial trenching may have limitations in identifying some aspects of archaeological evidence, particularly more ephemeral or discrete features such as smaller pits and posthole structures. Therefore, while the area of activity appears to be well defined, its full extent could be underestimated by trial trenching.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 When considered in conjunction with the results of the geophysics, the evaluation has successfully determined the general nature and extent of the archaeological remains present on the site. The only significant focus of activity was that identified in the south of the western field where a concentration of features has been dated to the middle Iron Age.

4.2.2 The evaluation revealed archaeological remains which appear to be characterised by simple features including pits, postholes and enclosure ditches. No complex archaeological features were revealed during the evaluation. Evidence for modern agricultural activities indicates that the archaeological horizon may have been truncated to some degree since the medieval period.

A.1.1 Few finds were recovered during the evaluation, although a small assemblage of fragmentary middle Iron Age pottery from the enclosure ditches and internal features provides dating evidence for the archaeological sequence. Economic evidence from the site was extremely limited. Only small amounts of poorly preserved animal bone were recovered, which could not inform environmental or economic interpretations. Little palaeoenvironmental evidence was recovered from the three bulk samples taken, with charred material scarce and of limited interpretive value.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 Middle Iron Age activity in the south of the western field appears to be focused on a three-sided rectilinear enclosure and a cojoined L-shaped enclosure identified by geophysical survey. A possible internal sub-enclosure extending into the rectilinear enclosure from the western edge, as well as discrete internal features comprising pits and postholes, were also identified by the trial trenching. This focus of archaeological activity is located on a small promontory above the confluence of two small watercourses, one running to the east and one to the south of the area.

4.3.2 The geophysical survey results indicate that the rectilinear enclosure was three sided, measured *c* 55m NNW-SSE and *c* 40m east-west and had an internal area of *c* 2150m^2. The southern extent of the enclosure was revealed in Trench 15 as ditch 1505 and its eastern extent in Trench 20 as ditch 2013. The western arm of the enclosure was not targeted during the evaluation.

4.3.3 Both ditches 1505 and 2013 contained single fills that were devoid of finds, although a small collection of animal bone recovered from ditch 2013 probably represents a single highly fragmented mammal scapula. Ditch 2013 was *c* 0.7m wider and *c* 0.1m deeper than ditch 1505, indicating that the eastern extent of the enclosure may have originally been excavated to a greater depth, or that it has been subject to less truncation by later farming practices. The ditches showed no evidence of having been recut, with the implication that their use may have been relatively short lived.

4.3.4 Of the two curvilinear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey as extending eastwards into the rectilinear enclosure from its western edge, the northernmost was identified in Trench 21 as ditch 2103. The survey results indicate that these anomalies may represent a small sub-enclosure with an internal area of *c* 115m^2. A single sherd of middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from ditch 2103, which may date the entire rectilinear enclosure if it is accepted that the ditches are contemporary. Ditch 2103 did not reveal any evidence that could illuminate the function of the sub-enclosure.

4.3.5 An L-shaped anomaly visible on the geophysical survey plot and extending *c* 25m south of the rectilinear enclosure was also identified during the evaluation. This appears to reflect part of a related enclosure and was revealed in Trenches 15 and 16 as ditches 1503 and 1603 respectively. Pottery recovered from both ditches dated the enclosure to the middle Iron Age. The stratigraphic relationship between the rectilinear and L-shaped enclosures could not be established during the evaluation as the two enclosure ditches converged north of Trench 15, beyond the limits of excavation.

4.3.6 A number of anomalies interpreted as possible discrete archaeological features were identified inside the rectilinear enclosure during geophysical survey. Trench 20 was positioned to investigate several of these features and revealed three pits and a posthole which co-located with geophysical anomalies, and a posthole on the eastern exterior which had not been identified by the survey. Trench 21 was also located to investigate anomalies of possible archaeological origin within the rectilinear enclosure, but no archaeological features except ditch 2103 were present in the trench.

4.3.7 The pits and postholes identified in Trench 20 revealed little in the way of dating evidence, although a sherd of middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from pit 2003. These features are considered to be associated with the rectilinear enclosure on the basis of their location inside the feature and the middle Iron Age pottery recovered from pit 2003. Their purpose is unclear, but storage pits located within rectilinear enclosures have been documented on multiple sites across the region (Moore 2006). Posthole 2015, located on the eastern exterior of the enclosure was relatively deep (0.5m). Its position may reflect the route of a fence-line surrounded the enclosure, but without further evidence this interpretation remains speculative.

4.3.8 A series of further rectilinear anomalies to the east of the rectilinear enclosure were not identified in the trenches but their comparable alignment suggests that they could, if real, reflect an eastwards extension of the enclosure complex. If this is the case, the complex could form part of an agglomerated settlement comprising a number of conjoined enclosures, a pattern witnessed at other rectilinear sites in the region including Frocester and Birdlip (Moore 2006). Understanding whether this reflected a pattern of abandonment and movement, or contemporary habitation by a larger community would be important.

4.3.9 In the eastern field, a number of trenches were positioned to investigate geophysical anomalies largely interpreted as agricultural features. The majority of features approximated the alignment of geophysical anomalies identified as linear trends and ferrous spreads typical of modern agricultural activity. Ditch 5803 appears to be aligned with a field boundary shown on the 1838 and 1840 tithe maps for Elmley Lovett and Doverdale as well as the 2nd Edition OS Map (Magnitude Surveys 2020, fig. 5).

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 Rectilinear enclosures form a notable part of the Iron Age settlement record from the West Midlands. These sites have often been seen as indicative of a move from more dispersed settlement patterns in the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age to a greater emphasis on enclosed communities in the middle to late Iron Age (Moore 2006). Recent developer-led excavations at Tibberton and Grimley have revealed evidence of two middle Iron Age enclosures within ten miles of Doverdale, and the publication of the double-ditched promontory enclosure at Blackstone adds to a picture of widespread enclosed Iron Age settlement in this part of the Severn Valley (Hurst *et al.* 2010; Lovett 2017; Webster 2017). Any further work at this site would therefore represent an important contribution to our understanding of settlement in the Severn Valley during the middle Iron Age.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 5

General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Firm mid reddish brown clay silt		
501	Layer		18	0.15	Subsoil. Compact light reddish brown silty clay		
502	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact red sandy clay with patches of light blue grey clay and yellow brown silty clay		

Trench 6

General description						Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	2.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Firm light reddish brown clay silt		
601	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Compact light reddish brown silty clay		
602	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact red clay with patches of light blue grey clay and brownish yellow sandy clay		

Trench 7

General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Firm light reddish brown clay silt		
701	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Compact light reddish brown silty clay		
702	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact red clay patches of yellow brown sandy clay		

Trench 8							
General description						Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.9
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Firm light reddish brown clay silt		
801	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Compact light reddish brown silty clay		
802	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact red sandy clay patches of yellow brown sandy clay		

Trench 9							
General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer			0.2	Topsoil. Firm light reddish brown clay silt		
901	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Compact light brown silt clay		
902	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact light red sandy clay patches of blue grey clay		

Trench 10							
General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Firm light reddish brown clay silt		
1001	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Compact light brown silty clay		
1002	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact brownish red sandy clay with patches of light yellowish brown silty clay		

Trench 11

General description						Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Firm light reddish brown clay silt		
1101	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Compact light reddish brown silty clay		
1102	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact light yellowish brown sandy clay with dark brown manganese mottled occasional patches light blue clay		

Trench 12

General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer		1.8	0.27	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy clay with organic material, friable		
1201	Layer		1.8	0.15	Subsoil. Light reddish brown, sandy clay, firm		
1202	Layer		1.8		Natural. Brownish red, silty clay, stiff		
1203	Void						

Trench 13

General description						Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Firm light reddish brown clay silt		
1301	Layer		1.8	0.3	Subsoil. Firm reddish brown silty clay		
1302	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact brownish red coarse sandy clay frequent manganese mottles patches of red and blue. grey clay		

Trench 14

General description						Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Firm light reddish brown clay silt		
1401	Layer		1.8	0.25	Subsoil. Compact brownish red silty clay		
1402	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact light reddish brown and yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent manganese mottles patches of red clays		

Trench 15

General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench revealed two ditches at the eastern end. Trench consisted of topsoil over subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	25
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	50
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer		1.8	0.3	Topsoil. Reddish brown silt.		
1501	Layer		1.8	0.3	Subsoil. Pinkish grey silty sand		
1502	Layer		1.8		Natural. Reddish brown silty sand.		
1503	Cut		0.9	0.25	Ditch. Linear ditch probably modern N-S orientation.		
1504	Fill	1503	0.9	0.25	Secondary Fill. Mid brown clayey silt.		
1505	Cut		1	0.45	Ditch. Curvilinear possible ditch.		
1506	Fill	1505	1	0.45	Secondary Fill. Light reddish brown sand.		

Trench 16

General description						Orientation	N-S
Trench revealed one ditch containing Iron Age pottery. Trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	25
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Firm mid reddish brown clay silt		

1601	Layer		1.8	0.25	Subsoil. Compact mid reddish brown silty clay		
1602	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact red sandy clay with patches of light yellow red silt clay with manganese flecks		
1603	Cut		1.2	0.6	Ditch. Linear 'v' shaped ditch on a E-W orientation with one fill which contained a probable piece of Iron Age pot.		
1604	Fill	1603	1.2	0.6	Secondary Fill. Mid greyish brown Sandy silt occasional rounded stones poorly sorted and contained a possible Iron Age pot fragment.		

Trench 17

General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	25
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1700	Layer		1.8	0.25	Topsoil. Firm mid reddish brown clay silt		
1701	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Compact mid reddish brown silty clay		
1702	Layer		18		Natural. Very compact light blue and reddish brown clay with soft Reddish brown sandy clay		

Trench 18

General description						Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	25
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1800	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Firm mid reddish brown clay silt		
1801	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Compact light reddish brown silty clay		
1802	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact light reddish brown clay with patches of light yellowish brown silty clay		

Trench 19							
General description						Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	25
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1900	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Firm Mid reddish brown clay silt		
1901	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Compact light reddish brown silty clay		
1902	Layer		1.8		Natural. Very compact light red clay with light yellowish brown		

Trench 20							
General description						Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench revealed three pits and a posthole in the south-western end and a ditch and a posthole in the north-eastern end. Trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	25
						Width (m)	2.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2000	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Firm light brown clay silt		
2001	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Compact light reddish brown silty clay		
2002	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact reddish brown sandy clay		
2003	Cut		1.2	0.34	Pit. Cut of pit		
2004	Fill	2003	1.2	0.17	Secondary Fill. Light reddish brown silty sand, soft		
2005	Fill	2003	1.2	0.19	Secondary Fill. Beige silty sand, soft		
2006	Fill	2003	0.56	0.16	Primary Fill. Light reddish brown silty sand, hard compaction		
2007	Cut		0.12	0.13	Posthole. Cut of posthole		
2008	Fill	2007	0.12	0.13	Post-pad. Reddish brown silty sand, hard compaction		
2009	Cut		1.07	0.09	Pit. Cut of possible pit		
2010	Fill	2009	1.07	0.09	Primary Fill. Beige mottled light reddish brown, silty sand, soft		
2011	Cut		1.06	0.19	Pit. Cut of pit		
2012	Fill	2011	1.06	0.19	Primary Fill. Beige mottled light reddish brown, silty sand, soft		
2013	Cut		1.7	0.58	Ditch. Cut of ditch		
2014	Fill	2013	1.7	0.58	Primary Fill. Light reddish brown, silty sand, hard compaction		
2015	Cut		0.3	0.53	Posthole. Cut of posthole		

2016	Fill	2015	0.3	0.53	Primary Fill. Dark olive brown, silty clay, hard compaction		

Trench 21

General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench revealed one ditch in the western end. Trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	25
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2100	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Firm light reddish brown clay silt		
2101	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Compact light reddish brown silty clay		
2102	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact light brownish red sandy clay with patches of light grey blue clay		
2103	Cut		1.55	0.6	Ditch. Cut of linear ditch containing two fills, the upper of which had one piece of possible Iron Age pot.		
2104	Fill	2103	1.55	0.4	Secondary Fill. Upper fill of ditch yellowish brown sand which contained one piece of Iron Age pot.		
2105	Fill	2103	0.8	0.2	Secondary Fill. Mid reddish brown with black speks, silty sand.		

Trench 22

General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	25
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2200	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Firm mid reddish brown clay silt		
2201	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Compact light reddish brown silty clay		
2202	Layer		1.8		Natural. Very compact light red kay with patches of.light yellow brown sandy clay		

Trench 23

General description						Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	25
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.46
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2300	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Firm mid reddish brown clay silt		
2301	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Compact light reddish brown silty clay		
2302	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact light reddish brown clay and yellowish brown sandy clay with manganese flecks throughout		

Trench 24

General description						Orientation	W-E
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	25
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2400	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Firm light reddish brown clay silt		
2401	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Compact light brownish red sandy silty clay		
2402	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact reddish sandy clay and light yellowish brown sandy clay		

Trench 25

General description						Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	25
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2500	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Firm mid reddish brown clay silt		
2501	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Compact light brown clay silt		
2502	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact light brownish red sandy clay		

Trench 26

General description	Orientation	N-S

Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2600	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Firm mid reddish-brown clay silt		
2601	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Compact light reddish brown silty clay		
2602	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact light brownish red fine sandy clay		

Trench 27

General description						Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

Trench 28

General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2800	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Compacted mid reddish brown clay silt		
2801	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Compact light reddish brown silty clay		
2802	Layer		1.8		Natural. Firm light yellowish brown silty clay with patches of reddish brown and light blue grey clays		

Trench 29

General description						Orientation	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2900	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Firm mid reddish brown clay silt		
2901	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Compact light reddish brown silty clay		

2902	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact red clay patches of light yellow sandy clay		

Trench 30

General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench revealed three features in the southern end, a pit, tree throw and ditch. One land drain noted. Trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3000	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Light greyish brown clayey silt.		
3001	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Reddish brown clayey silt.		
3002	Layer		1.8		Natural. Reddish brown Sandy clay.		
3003	Cut		0.9	0.2	Pit. Possible small pit but slightly irregular and could be a tree throw.		
3004	Fill	3003	0.9	0.2	Secondary Fill. Dark brown silt full of possible small pit.		
3005	Cut		2.8	0.17	Tree Throw. Linear but very irregular based feature most likely a Bush line which is cut on the North side by linear [3007].		
3006	Fill	3005	2.8	0.17	Secondary Fill. Fill of tree throw, soft, brownish red, silty sand		
3007	Cut		1.2	0.15	Ditch. Linear running on a E-W orientation possibly a shallow linear ditch or a plough furrow. Cut by a drain on North side.		
3008	Fill	3007	1.2	0.15	Secondary Fill. Light reddish greyish brown clayey silt fill of linear [3007].		

Trench 31

General description						Orientation	SNE-NSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3100	Layer		1.8	0.25	Topsoil. Light yellowish brown silt.		
3101	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Compact light reddish brown silty clay		

3102	Layer		1.8		Natural. Firm reddish-brown clause with patches of light blue clay		

Trench 32

General description						Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology. One land drain noted.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3200	Layer		1.8	0.15	Topsoil. Light greyish brown clayey silt.		
3201	Layer		1.8	0.14	Subsoil. Yellowish brown silty clay.		
3202	Layer		1.8		Natural. Reddish and yellowish brown clay.		

Trench 33

General description						Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology. Several areas of modern dumping noted.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3300	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Firm light greyish brown clayey silt.		
3301	Layer		1.8	0.14	Subsoil. Firm reddish brown silty clay.		
3302	Layer		1.8		Natural. Firm reddish brown Sandy clay.		

Trench 34

General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3400	Layer		1.8	0.1	Topsoil. Firm light reddish brown clay silt		
3401	Layer		1.8	0.25	Subsoil. Compact light reddish brown silty clay		
3402	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact red clay with patches of light blue clay		

Trench 35

General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3500	Layer		1.8	0.15	Topsoil. Form light grey brown clay silt		
3501	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Compact light reddish-brown silty clay		
3502	Layer		1.9		Natural. Compact red clay with small Patches of blue clay		

Trench 36

General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3600	Layer		1.8	0.15	Topsoil. Firm light grayish brown clay silt		
3601	Layer		1.8	0.15	Subsoil. Compact ligh reddish brown silty clay		
3602	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact red clay		

Trench 37

General description						Orientation	SNE-NSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3700	Layer		1.8	0.15	Topsoil. Firm light grey brown clay silt		
3701	Layer		1.8	0.15	Subsoil. Compact light reddish brown silty clay		
3702	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact red clay and red sandy clay		

Trench 38

General description	Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.3

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3800	Layer		1.8	0.15	Topsoil. Form light greyish brown clay silt		
3801	Layer		1.8	0.15	Subsoil. Compact light reddish brown silty clay		
3802	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact reddish brown clay patches of light yellowish brown sandy clay		

Trench 39

General description	Orientation	NW-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	5

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3900	Layer		1.8	0.15	Topsoil. Firm light grey brown clay silt		
3901	Layer		1.8	0.15	Subsoil. Compact light reddish brown silty clay		
3902	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact red clay and clay sand		

Trench 40

General description	Orientation	E-W
Trench revealed a gully running E-W in the western end. Trench consisted of a topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.55

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4000	Layer		1.8	0.35	Topsoil. Reddish brown, sandy clay with organic material, friable		
4001	Layer		1.8	0.15	Subsoil. Light reddish brown, sandy clay, firm		
4002	Layer		1.8		Natural. Brownish red, silty clay, stiff		
4003	Cut		0.37	0.13	Ditch. Cut of shallow ditch/gully		
4004	Fill	4003	0.37	0.13	Primary Fill. Dark reddish brown, silty clay, firm		

Trench 41

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench revealed a ditch running N-S in the centre of the trench. Trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.5

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4100	Layer		1.8	0.28	Topsoil. Reddish brown, sandy clay with organic material, friable		
4101	Layer		1.8	0.13	Subsoil. Light reddish brown, sandy clay, firm		
4102	Layer		1.8		Natural. Brownish red silty clay, stiff		
4103	Cut		1.12	0.4	Ditch. Cut of ditch		
4104	Fill	4103	1.12	0.4	Primary Fill. Yellowish brown mottled grey, silty clay, firm		

Trench 42

General description	Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.5

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4200	Layer		1.8	0.3	Topsoil. Fir.mlght grayish brown clay silt		
4201	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Firm light yellowish brown fine sandy clay silt		
4202	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact brownish red clay sand large patches of pebble rich light yellowish brown sandy clay		

Trench 43

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.35

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4300	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Reddish brown, sandy clay with organic material, friable		
4301	Layer		1.8	0.1	Subsoil. Light reddish brown, sandy clay, firm		
4302	Layer		1.8		Natural. Brownish red, silty clay, stiff		

Trench 44

General description	Orientation	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.45

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4400	Layer		1.8	0.25	Topsoil. Reddish brown, sandy clay with organic material, friable		
4401	Layer		1.8	0.1	Subsoil. Light reddish brown, sandy clay, firm		
4402	Layer		1.8		Natural. Brownish red, silty clay, stiff		

Trench 45

General description	Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench revealed a narrow ditch running N-S in the centre of the trench. Trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4500	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Firm light grayish brown clay silt		
4501	Layer		1.8	0.15	Subsoil. Firm light reddish brown silty clay		
4502	Layer		1.8		Natural. Compact reddish brown with patches of light blue clays		
4503	Cut		0.7	0.2	Ditch. N-S small linear ditch.		
4504	Fill		0.3	0.2	Primary Fill. Yellowish grey clay formed by the slipping of West side of ditch.		
4505	Fill		0.7	0.2	Secondary Fill. Mid/dark greyish brown clayey silt.		

Trench 46

General description	Orientation	SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.46

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4600	Layer		1.8	0.26	Topsoil. Reddish brown, sandy clay with organic material, friable		
4601	Layer		1.8	0.14	Subsoil. Light reddish brown, sandy clay, firm		
4602	Layer		1.8		Natural. Brownish red silty clay mottled yellowish brown sandy clay, stiff/firm		

Trench 47

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
	Length (m)	50

Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4700	Layer		1.8	0.3	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown, sandy clay with organic material, friable		
4701	Layer		1.8	0.12	Subsoil. Light reddish brown, sandy clay, firm		
4702	Layer		1.8		Natural. Brownish red, silty clay, stiff		

Trench 48

General description						Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4800	Layer		1.8	0.26	Topsoil. Reddish brown, sandy clay with organic material, friable		
4801	Layer		1.8	0.13	Subsoil. Light reddish brown, sandy clay, firm		
4802	Layer		1.8		Natural. Brownish red silty clay mottled yellowish brown sandy clay, firm /stiff		

Trench 49

General description						Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4900	Layer		1.8	0.27	Topsoil. Reddish brown, sandy clay with organic material, friable		
4901	Layer		1.8	0.14	Subsoil. Light reddish brown, sandy clay, firm		
4902	Layer		1.8		Natural. Brownish red, silty clay, firm		

Trench 50

General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.35

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5000	Layer		1.8	0.22	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown, sandy clay with organic material, friable		
5001	Layer		1.8	0.07	Subsoil. Reddish brown, sandy clay, firm		
5002	Layer		1.8		Natural. Brownish red silty clay, stiff, with rounded stones		

Trench 51

General description	Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.3

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5100	Layer		1.8	0.22	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown, sandy clay with organic material, friable		
5101	Layer		1.8	0.08	Subsoil. Light reddish brown, sandy clay, firm		
5102	Layer		1.8		Natural. Brownish red silty clay mottled, brownish orange sandy clay, firm		

Trench 52

General description	Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.38

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5200	Layer		1.8	0.27	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown, sandy clay with organic material, friable		
5201	Layer		1.8	0.1	Subsoil. Light reddish brown, sandy clay, firm		
5202	Layer		1.8		Natural. Yellowish brown sandy clay mottled brownish red silty clay, firm, with rounded stones		

Trench 53

General description	Orientation	SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	1

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5300	Layer		1.8	0.25	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown, sandy clay with organic material, friable		
5301	Layer		1.8	0.22	Subsoil. Light reddish brown, sandy clay, firm		
5302	Layer		1.8		Natural. Brownish red silty clay mottled blueish grey clay, stiff		

Trench 54

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology. One modern land drain noted.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5400	Layer		1.8	0.3	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown, sandy clay with organic material, friable		
5401	Layer		1.8	0.1	Subsoil. Reddish brown clayey silt.		
5402	Layer		1.8		Natural. Reddish brown clay.		

Trench 55

General description	Orientation	SE-NW
Trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology. A furrow running ENE-WSW was noted.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.38

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5500	Layer		1.8	0.26	Topsoil. Reddish brown, sandy clay with organic material, friable		
5501	Layer		1.8	0.12	Subsoil. Light reddish brown, sandy clay, firm		
5502	Layer		1.8		Natural. Brownish red, silty clay, stiff		
5503	Cut		1.5	0.14	Plough Furrow. Cut of plough furrow on an E-W orientation.		
5504	Fill	5503	1.5	0.14	Secondary Fill. Single fill of plough furrow.		

Trench 56

General description	Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5600	Layer		1.8	0.22	Topsoil. Light greyish brown silt.		
5601	Layer		1.8	0.18	Subsoil. Reddish brown clayey silt.		
5602	Layer		1.8		Natural. Reddish brown clay and yellowish grey banding.		

Trench 57

General description	Orientation	ESE-WNW
Trench revealed one ditch running N-S at the eastern end, possibly a modern field boundary ditch. Trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5700	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Mid reddish brown silt.		
5701	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Reddish brown clayey silt.		
5702	Layer		1.8		Natural. Reddish brown clay.		
5703	Cut		0.55	0.23	Ditch. Cut of modern ditch		
5704	Fill	5703	0.55	0.23	Primary Fill. Light reddish brown silty clay, firm		

Trench 58

General description	Orientation	SSW-NNE
Trench revealed one ditch running E-W across the centre, possibly a post-medieval field boundary. Trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.35

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5800	Layer		1.8	0.18	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silt		
5801	Layer		1.8	0.17	Subsoil. Reddish brown clayey silt.		
5802	Layer		1.8		Natural. Reddish brown clay.		
5803	Cut		1.4	0.35	Ditch. Ditch possibly marking an old field boundary running E-W. Contains a Modern drain.		
5804	Fill	5803	1.4	0.35	Secondary Fill. Fill of ditch dark brown silty clay. No finds.		

Trench 59

General description	Orientation	NEE-SWW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.45

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5900	Layer		1.8	0.25	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown, sandy clay with organic material, friable		
5901	Layer		1.8	0.12	Subsoil. Light reddish brown, sandy clay, firm		
5902	Layer		1.8		Natural. Brownish red mottled grey or yellowish brown, silty clay, stiff		

Trench 60

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.35

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6000	Layer		1.8	0.23	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown, sandy clay with organic material, friable		
6001	Layer		1.8	0.11	Subsoil. Brownish red sandy clay with rounded stones, firm		
6002	Layer		1.8		Natural. Brownish red mottled brownish yellow, silty clay, firm		
6003	Cut		0.4	0.12	Ditch. Possible small gully ditch on a N-S orientation in Trench 60.		
6004	Fill	6003	0.4	0.12	Secondary Fill. Light greyish brown silty clay.		

Trench 61

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.25

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6100	Layer		1.8	0.15	Topsoil. Compact mid grayish brown clay silt		
6101	Layer		1.8	0.1	Subsoil		
6102	Layer		1.8		Natural. Firm red clay		

Trench 62

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8

						Avg. depth (m)	0.25
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6200	Layer		1.8	0.1	Topsoil. Compact mid grayish brown clay silt		
6201	Layer		1.8	0.1	Subsoil. Light silty clay		
6202	Layer		1.8	0.05	Natural. Firm red clay with patches of light grayish blue and light yellow silty clay		

Trench 63

General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench revealed one ditch running E-W across the centre, possibly a modern field boundary ditch. Trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6300	Layer		1.8	0.3	Topsoil. Greyish brown clayey silt		
6301	Layer		1.8	0.4	Subsoil. Reddish brown silt		
6302	Layer		1.8		Natural. Reddish brown silty clay		
6303	Cut		2.5	0.36	Ditch. Modern boundary/drainage ditch on an E-W orientation.		
6304	Fill	6303	2.5	0.36	Secondary Fill. Reddish greyish brown, clay containing a few modern finds.		

Trench 64

General description						Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6400	Layer		1.8	0.25	Topsoil. Compact mid grayish brown clay silt		
6401	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Compact light reddish brown silty clay		
6402	Layer		1.8		Natural. Firm reddish-brown with patches of light blue clay		

Trench 65

General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6500	Layer		1.8	0.23	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown clayey silt.		
6501	Layer		1.8	0.35	Subsoil. Reddish brown silty clay.		
6502	Layer		1.8		Natural. Reddish clay.		

Trench 66

General description	Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.38

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6700	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Light greyish reddish brown silt.		
6701	Layer		1.8	0.18	Subsoil. Light reddish brown clayey silt.		
6702	Layer		1.8		Natural. Reddish brown clay.		

Trench 67

General description	Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.48

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6600	Layer		1.8	0.25	Topsoil. Reddish greyish brown silt.		
6601	Layer		1.8	0.15	Subsoil. Reddish brown clayey silt.		
6602	Layer		1.8		Natural. Reddish brown clay.		A615A1:L673

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Alex Davies

B.1.1 Some 25 sherds (262g) of pottery were recovered from six contexts across five trenches of the evaluation. The assemblage is mainly middle Iron Age (*c* 350–50/0 cal BC), although single small and abraded Roman and medieval sherds were also found. The assemblage is summarised in Table B1.

B.1.2 The pottery was assessed at context level, recording fabrics, spot-date, and further comments. All the recorded information is on Table B1, and there is no further data or metadata.

B.1.3 Four contexts produced pottery probably of middle Iron Age date. This was found in the south-western part of the excavation area, in Trenches 16, 20 and 21. All the sherds are in Malvernian fabric Peacock Group A (1968), deriving from the Malvern Hills. Although this fabric continues in use into the Roman period, sherds from contexts 2005 and 2010 are 'duck-stamped' below the rim, indicating a middle Iron Age date. The inclusions in the fabric are also poorly sorted with occasional large pieces of rock, also indicative of an Iron Age rather than Roman date. The vessel in context 2010 has a slightly out-turned flat rim with an internal bevel, features that are common on Iron Age duck-stamped vessels (Peacock 1968, 421). The Iron Age sherds have a reasonably high mean sherd weight (11.3g) and a fairly high proportion of the sherds have little abrasion, suggesting the assemblage is quite well-preserved. However, the sample is small.

B.1.4 A single highly abraded sherd of Roman pottery, weighing less than 1g, was found in context 4104 (identified by Kate Brady).

B.1.5 A single highly abraded sherd of medieval Malvern Chase glazed ware, weighing less than 1g, was found in context 4004 (identified by John Cotter). This dates to *c* 1250–1550.

B.1.6 The Roman and medieval sherds have limited use in dating the features they were found in given their fragmentary and highly abraded state, suggesting they had been redeposited multiple times after initial breakage.

Table B1: Summary of the pottery

Context	Sherds	Weight (g)	Fabric	Spot-date	Comment
1604	1	29	Mal? - Peacock A	M-LIA	Malvernian? Mainly quartzite and quartz sand. Poorly sorted fabric suggests not Roman
2005	1	25	Mal - Peacock A	MIA	Duck-stamped
2010	20	190	Mal - Peacock A	MIA	Duck-stamped, out-turned flat rim, internal ledge/bevel below rim. Slack-sided. Rim dia: 22cm

2104	1	16	Mal - Peacock A	M-LIA	Poorly sorted fabric suggests not Roman
4004	1	1	MALV	*c* 1250–1550	Very small body sherd of Malvern Chase glazed ware fine light orange sandy ware with an external green glaze. The fabric contains abundant mica including brown mica – which is typical of medieval Malvernian fabrics. Possibly from a thin-walled jug but too small to be sure.
4104	1	1	O10	Roman	Oxidised fine fabric (Booth 2019)
	25	**262g**			

B.2 Ceramic building material and fired clay

By Kirsty Smith

Introduction

B.2.1 A small assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM) amounting to 4 fragments (1834g) was recovered from Trenches 57 and 63.

B.2.2 A small amount of fired clay (FC) amounting to 3 fragments weighing 24g was also recovered from Trench 20.

Fabrics

B.2.3 One of the roof tile fragments from Trench 63, and the fired clay fragments were made from an orange sandy clay fabric with red oxidised clay inclusions (less than 1mm long) with finer clear sand inclusions (less than 0.1mm long). The other roof tile fragment was made from a much denser orange red silty clay with rare black grit inclusions (around 1mm long). The brick was made from a dense burgundy fabric with multiple inclusions including fragments of stone (1-4mm), quartz (1mm) and black cinders.

Brick

B.2.4 Two fragments of the same brick (1796g) were recovered from ditch 5703. The NNW-SSE aligned ditch matches a field boundary shown on later 19th century and early 20th century OS maps.

B.2.5 The brick is 225mm long and 104mm wide (42mm + deep) and has been broken lengthways. The brick is machine made, with straight end edges and side edges. The brick is modern in date.

B.2.6 Two small fragments (38g) of medieval/post-medieval roof tile were recovered from ditch 6303 which was a boundary ditch shown on later 19th century maps. One fragment (17g) was 13mm thick and had a slight curve. This fragment had more inclusions (see above) than the other straighter fragment and could be medieval or post-medieval in date. The other fragment was 10mm thick and was denser with less inclusions. The thinner and denser fragment is later in date and may be later post-medieval/modern in date.

Fired clay

B.2.7 Three fragments (24g) of fired clay were recovered from ditch 2013, which formed part of a possible enclosure recorded by the geophysical survey. One of the fragments had an impression 20mm long and 1mm wide and this may have been made by a grass or straw stem. The other fragments were of indeterminate form although the larger fragment was dark grey on one side suggesting it was located close to a heat source.

Conclusions

B.2.8 The four fragments of CBM were retrieved from ditches shown on later 19th century and earlier 20th century maps and were infilled. The fired clay may come from a possible enclosure ditch recorded by the geophysical survey. The heat-affected fragment suggests there was a heat source in the vicinity.

Recommendations

B.2.9 The material has limited potential for further research and the modern brick can be disposed of. The roof tile and the fired clay should be retained and combined with any further work although it can be discarded if no further work is proposed.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Richard Palmer

Introduction

C.1.1 Three bulk samples were taken. The samples were recovered primarily for the retrieval and assessment of ecofacts and the recovery of artefacts. Dating for these samples is limited and based on spot dated artefacts: sample 1 is middle to late Iron Age while samples 2 and 3 are undated. As other contexts in trench 20 have been spot dated as middle Iron Age, samples 2 and 3 could also be of similar date.

Method

C.1.2 The samples were processed in their entirety at Oxford Archaeology using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine. The flots were collected in a 250µm mesh and residues in a 500µm mesh, both were dried in a heated room. The residue fractions (ie the material which did not float) were sorted by eye and with the aid of a magnet while the flot material was sorted using a low power (x10) binocular microscope to extract cereal grains and chaff, smaller seeds and other quantifiable remains.

C.1.3 Nomenclature for identified species follows (Stace 2010) and cereal and chaff identifications are made with reference to Jacomet (2006).

Results

C.1.4 Summary data for the samples and flots, including sample volume and brief soil description is presented in Table C1. Soil colouration follows the Munsell Soil Colour Chart with soil texture described using published guidelines (Historic England 2015).

Trench 16

C.1.5 Sample 1 from fill 1604 of ditch 1603 produced a poor flot. Charred material consists of a small quantity of charcoal, no fragments >4mm, and a charred bedstraw seed (*Galium* sp.). A large number of goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) seeds are also present and breaking open a few identified several modern and no charred examples so they are not recorded in Table C1. No artefacts were recovered from the residue.

Trench 20

C.1.6 Sample 2 from fill 2004 of pit 2003 produced a poor flot. A small quantity of charcoal was recovered and two heavily clinkered cereal grains, probably wheat (cf *Triticum* sp.) were identified. No artefacts were recovered from the residue.

C.1.7 Sample 3 from fill 2014 of ditch 2013 produced a poor flot. A small quantity of charcoal and two charred speedwell seeds (*Veronica* sp.) make up the charred assemblage. No artefacts were recovered from the residue.

Discussion

C.1.8 The charred material recovered from these samples is of limited interpretive value and suggests low potential for the recovery of material on site. It is possible that the charred remains derive from the middening of fields with domestic waste. Although charred material is present its quantity and quality means that radiocarbon dating would not be recommended since small quantities of charcoal and charred seeds could be intrusive, from later activity.

Recommendations for retention/disposal

C.1.9 The flots warrant retention until all works on site are complete and further work is not expected on the flots. The flots can be discarded as part of final project archiving unless alternative recommendations are made as part of post-excavation works.

C.1.10 The site appears to have low potential for recovery of charred material but all future sampling should follow national guidelines (Historic England 2011).

C.2 Animal bone

By Adrienne Powell

Introduction

C.2.1 The evaluation excavation produced 20 animal bone fragments via hand recovery from context 2014. The material is in moderately poor condition with cortical surfaces severely damaged by root etching. No identifiable specimens are present but many of the fragments may have come from the same bone, possibly a large mammal scapula.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

C.2.2 The bone may be discarded.

Table C1: Assessment of Bulk Samples

Sample no.	Context no.	Feature/Deposit	Trench	Date	Sample vol. (L)	Flot vol. (ml)	Charcoal >2mm	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Other Charred	Molluscs	Notes
1	1604	1603	16	M-LIA	38	25	++			+			5YR 5/6 loamy sand
2	2004	2003	20	U/D	40	10	++	+					5YR 4/4 sand
3	2014	2013	20	U?D	40	25	++			+			5YR 4/4 sand

Key: +=present (up to 5 items), ++=frequent (5-25), +++=common (25-100), ++++=abundant (100+).

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Doverdale Solar Farm, Droitwich, Worcestershire
Site code:	WSM78220
Grid Reference	SO 8573 6713
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	22 August – 21 September 2022
Area of Site	*c.* 60.5ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Museums Worcestershire in due course. The accession reference is WSM78220.
Summary of Results:	Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by JBM Solar Projects Ltd to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed solar farm development at Doverdale, Droitwich, Worcestershire. The work comprised the excavation of 63 trenches distributed across the proposed development area. The evaluation Identified archaeological remains dating to the middle Iron Age activity next to the confluence of two small streams in the southern part of the site. Enclosure ditches were revealed in four trenches which corresponded closely with plotted rectilinear and L-shaped anomalies identified by geophysical survey. A ditch that appeared to reflect a small sub-enclosure was also revealed extending into the interior of the rectilinear enclosure, in addition to three shallow pits and a posthole. A further undated posthole was identified *c* 0.8m east of the rectilinear enclosure. A series of rectilinear anomalies to the east of the enclosure were not identified during the evaluation but, if real, their comparable alignment suggests that they could reflect an eastwards extension of the enclosure complex. The finds assemblage comprised a small collection of middle Iron Age Malvernian ware and three fragments of fired clay, with minimal animal bone recovered. Overall, the site appears to have been a focus of settlement activity during the middle Iron Age.

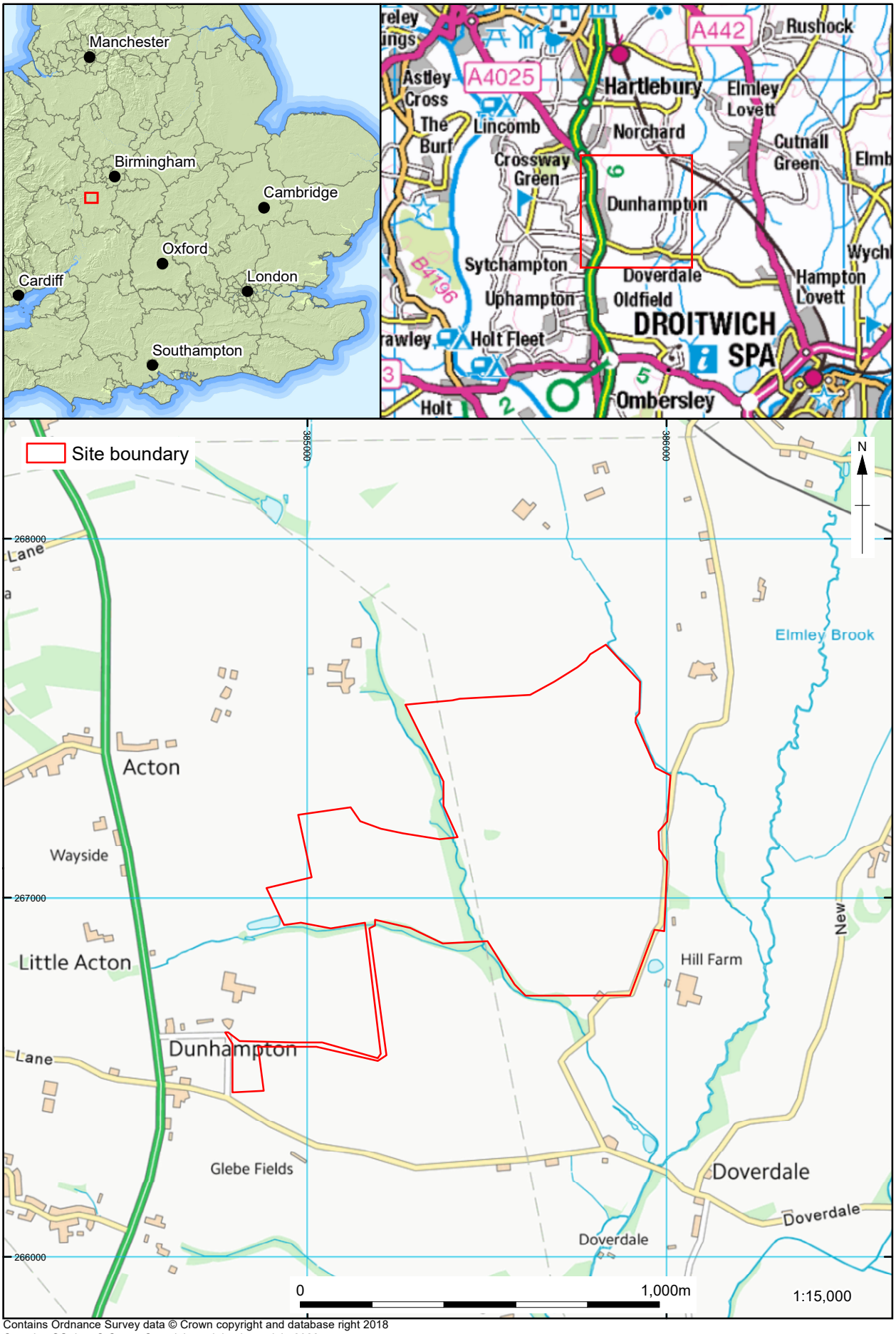

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Figure 1: Site location

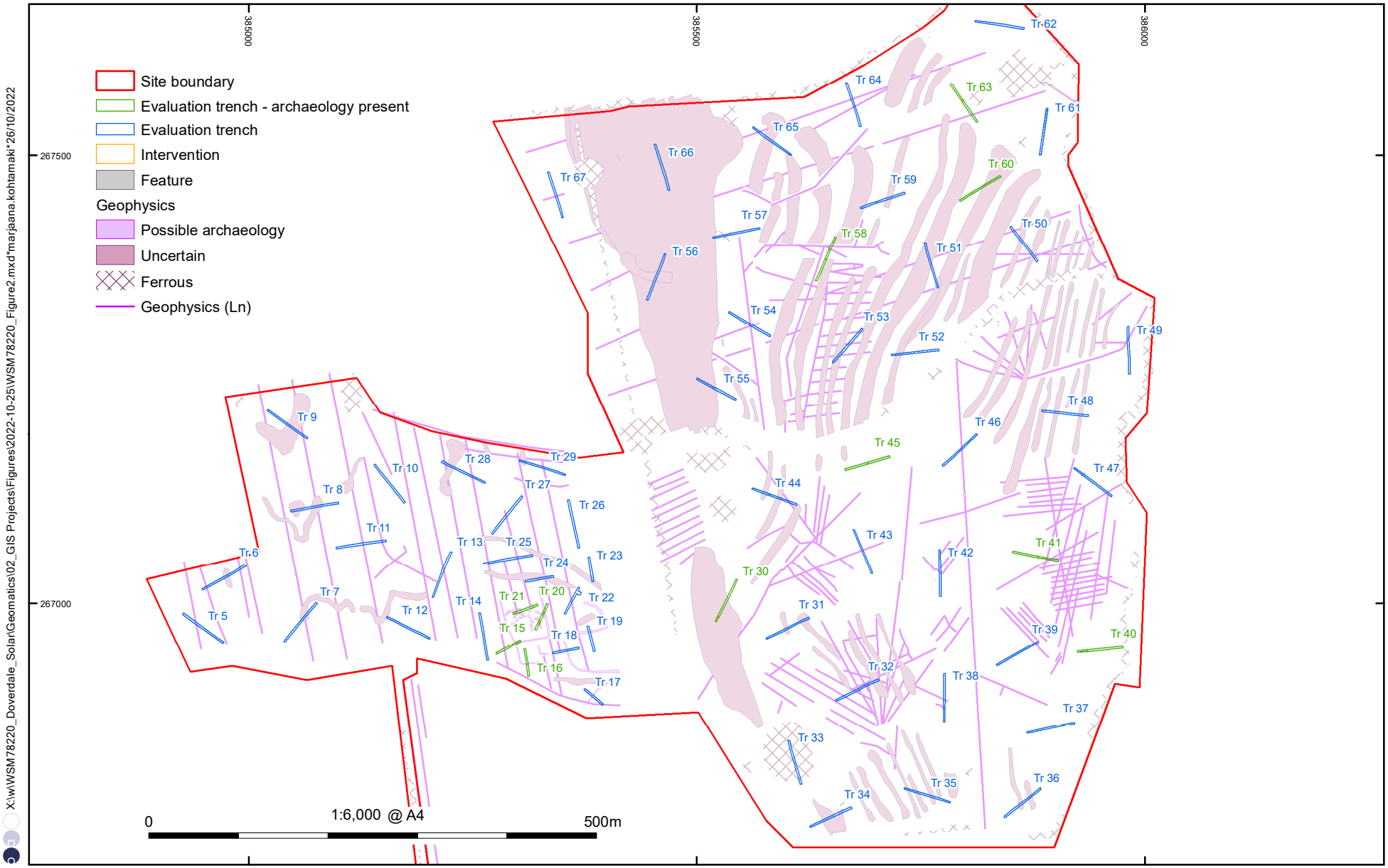

Figure 2: Trench layout

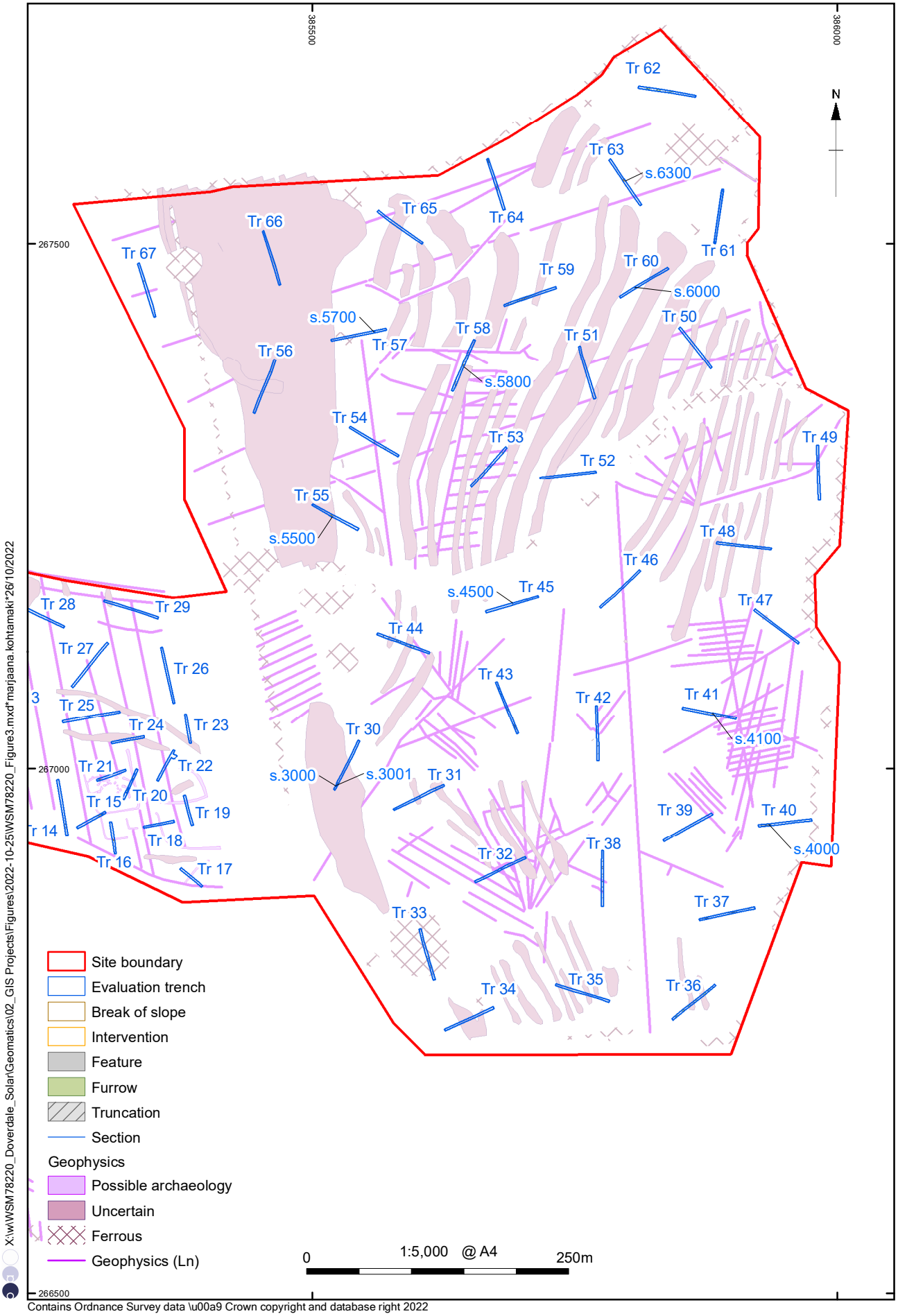

Figure 3. Geophysical survey interpretation in relation to trenches and archaeology in the eastern fields

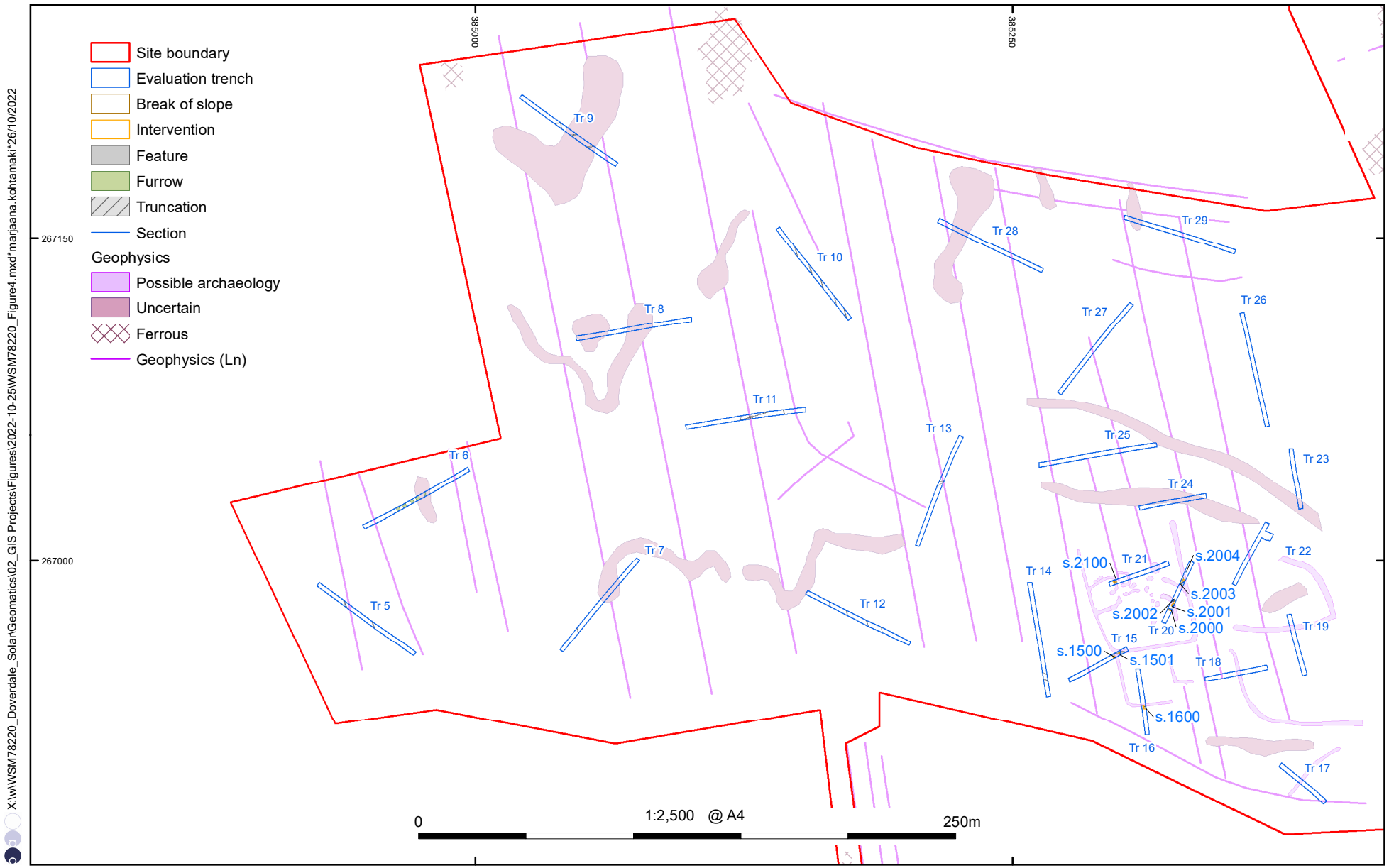

Figure 4. Geophysical survey interpretation in relation to trenches and archaeology in the western field

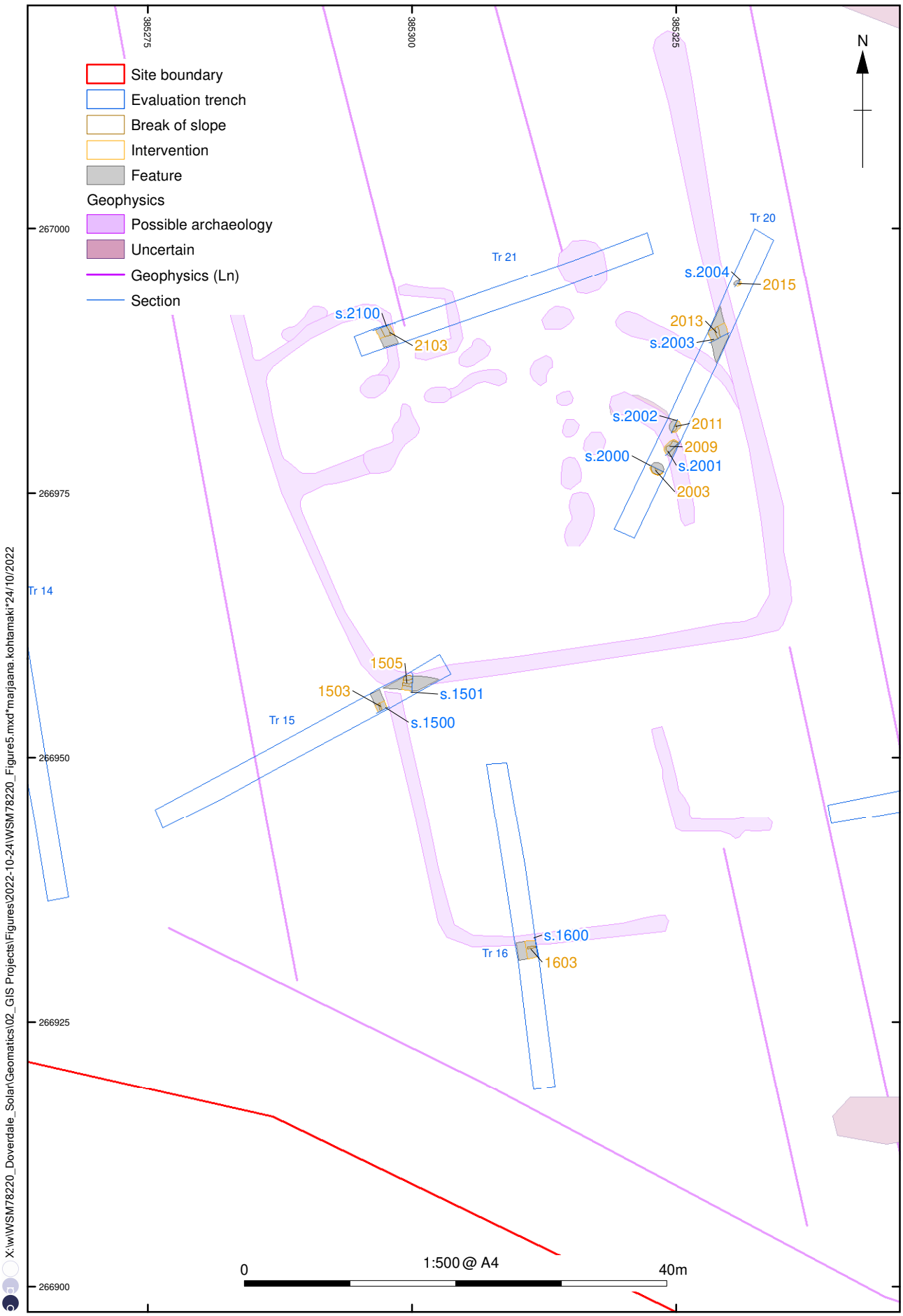

Figure 5: Detailed plan of trenches 15, 16, 20 and 21

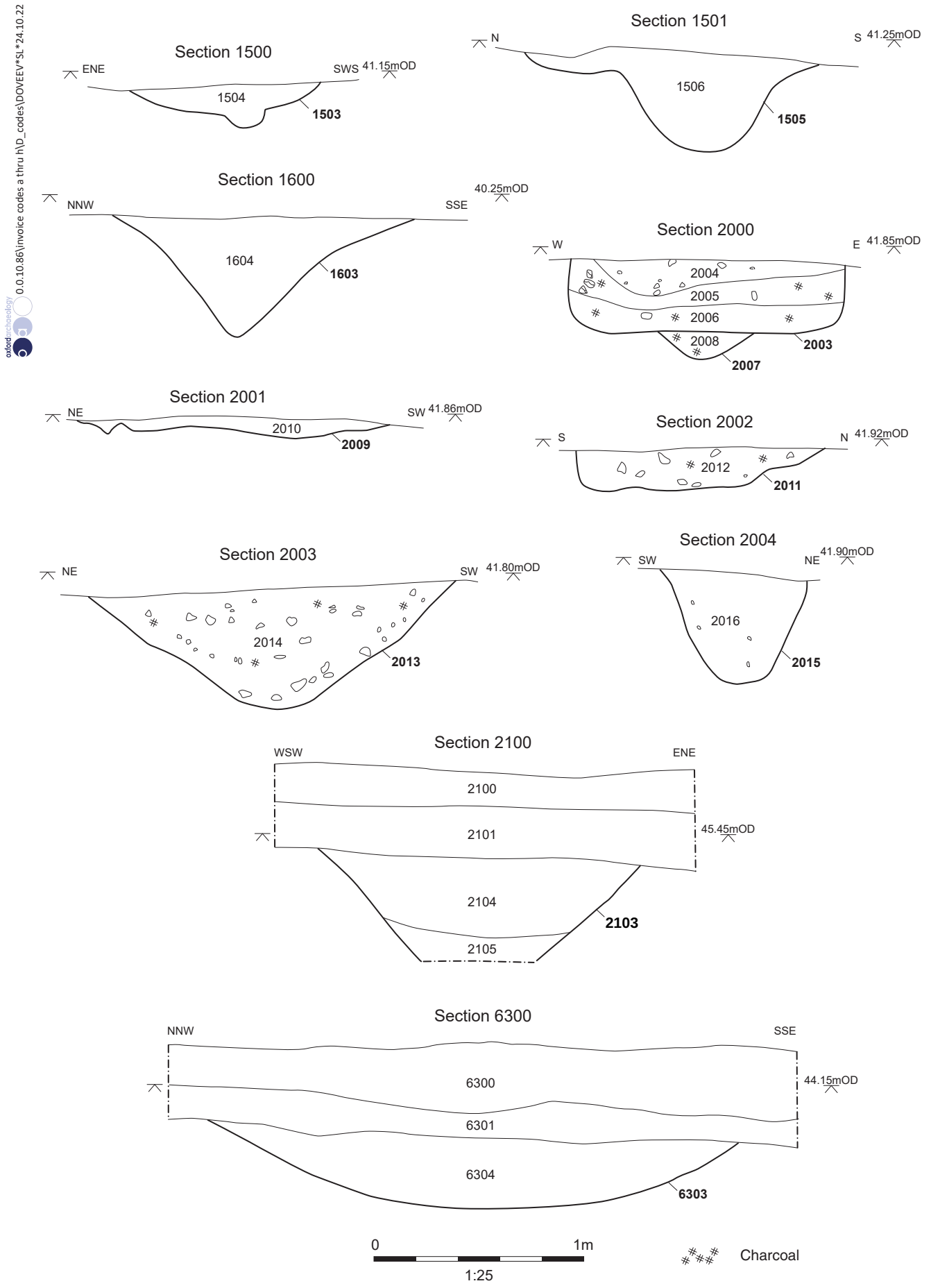

Figure 6: Sections 1500, 1501, 1600, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2100, 6300

Plate 1: Ditch 1503, looking south-east, 1m scale

Plate 2: Ditch 1505, looking east, 1m scale

Plate 3: Ditch 1603, looking east, 1m scale

Plate 4: Ditch 2013, looking south-east, 1m scale

Plate 5: Pit 2003 and posthole 2007, looking north, 1m scale

Plate 6: Pit 2009, looking east, 1m scale

Plate 7: Pit 2011, looking west, 1m scale

Plate 8: Posthole 2015, looking north-west, 0.3m scale

Plate 9: Ditch 2103, looking north, 1m scale

Plate 10: Trench 40, looking west, 1m and 2m scales

Plate 11: Trench 52, looking west 1m and 2m scales

Plate 12: Trench 57, looking south-west, 1m and 2m scales

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