Gill Mill Quarry Extension Area 3

and Regrade Area, Ducklington, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Gill Mill Quarry Extension Area 3 and Regrade Area, Ducklington, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

The evaluation of Gill Mill Quarry Extension Area 3 and Regrade Area comprised the excavation of 39 30m x 2m trenches in two parts of the area, divided by the quarry haul road. The evaluation was intended to provide information on features (mainly concentrated in the south-west half of the site) identified by a previous geophysical survey, and to test areas with no geophysical survey anomalies to see if archaeological features were present in these areas.

A small flint assemblage from the south-west half of the site suggested activity in this area in the Mesolithic period and also in the Neolithic and Bronze Age. The principal settlement focus, as located by the geophysical survey, was continuously occupied from the middle Iron Age (possibly no earlier than *c* 200 BC) up to the early Roman period, perhaps going out of use by about AD 100. The middle Iron Age settlement included ditched enclosures and at least one probable roundhouse location defined by a circular gully (in Trench 26). Associated finds consisted mainly of pottery in local traditions, and the economy was probably based on mixed agriculture, although herding of sheep may have been the most important component of this.

A late Iron Age-early Roman settlement covered the area of its middle Iron Age predecessor, but in addition occupation of this period extended further to the south-east and was also encountered in the north-east half of the site, where a small ring gully, perhaps surrounding a fodder stack, was probably of this date, and a post-built structure (in Trench 12) almost certainly of this period. The main elements of the late Iron Age-early Roman settlement were again boundary and enclosure ditches, but their overall layout is unclear. The location of probable (undetected) structures is once more indicated by circular or oval gullies (eg in Trench 18). More pottery was dated to this period (380 out of a site total of 567 sherds); it suggests a fairly typical lower status rural community, with a similar economy to that seen earlier.

No later Roman features were identified. Two small pits in the north-eastern half of the site were of medieval date. Medieval (and probably also later) plough furrows from a ridge and furrow system were widespread across the site, most obviously in the north-eastern half and lying north-east of a substantial NW-SE-aligned ditched boundary of post-medieval date, but also south-west of that boundary.

The prehistoric and Roman elements of the site can be interpreted in the context of the wide ranging archaeological work previously undertaken in the Gill Mill quarry, and they make an important contribution to understanding of the development of this landscape from the Mesolithic period onwards, but particularly in the middle Iron Age to early Roman periods. The site is a good example of those where occupation ends by the

early part of the 2nd century AD as part of a widespread pattern of reallocation of landholding at that time.

Correlation of features in the evaluation trenches with the results of the geophysical survey shows that the latter located the most prominent ditched features of later prehistoric and Roman date, and some of the elements of the ridge and furrow system, thereby providing a useful general outline of the archaeological features on the site. Features are, however, more widely and densely spread than the survey reveals. The overall extent of both middle Iron Age and late Iron Age-early Roman settlement may therefore have been greater than the geophysical survey would suggest, and many components within these settlement, such as pits and smaller ditches and gullies, were not identified by the geophysical survey. Elements of the late Iron Age-early Roman settlement certainly extended into the north-eastern half of Area 3 where, for example, important structural features and associated ditches in Area 12 were completely undetected by the geophysics.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Paul Booth with initial work by Stuart Foreman. The fieldwork was directed by Robin Bashford and Bob Mackintosh, who were supported by Chris Richardson, Christof Heistermann, Liz Kennard, Caroline Souday and Ashley Strutt. Survey and digitizing were carried out by Ashley Strutt, Ben Brown and Anne Kilgour. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the management of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicky Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Orion Heritage Ltd on behalf of Smith and Sons (Bletchington) Ltd to undertake a trial trench evaluation in Area 3 of the current gravel quarry (referred to below as the Extension Area) at Ducklington, Oxfordshire to provide further evidence on the archaeological potential of this part of the site in advance of potential quarrying.

1.1.2 Planning permission for the current gravel quarry at Gill Mill has already been granted by Oxfordshire County Council and works commenced in 2015. The planning consent is subject to implementation of a Section 106 agreement, which includes conditions (44 and 45) relating to a programme of archaeological works to be carried out in advance of the successive stages of development of the new quarry.

1.1.3 A design brief (the Brief) setting out the requirements for an overall programme of work was provided by Hugh Coddington, Archaeology Team Leader for Oxfordshire County Council (OCC 2014). This requires preparation of written schemes of investigation (WSI) for the archaeological work, to be presented in two stages; first, a generic WSI covering the overall approach to the archaeology of the quarry extension, and secondly, a series of area specific WSIs reflecting the particular conditions and requirements of each component of the site.

1.1.4 The generic WSI (OA 2014), outlining how OA, as the current archaeological contractor for Smith and Sons, would implement the requirements of the Brief, was agreed in June 2014. The present work was undertaken within this framework, but in contrast with recent practice at Gill Mill involved evaluation trenching of an area of known archaeological potential as a means of further assessing this potential to inform decisions about the viability of gravel extraction in this part of the quarry. A site-specific WSI for this work was produced by OA and agreed with Oxfordshire County Council. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements of the WSI.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The Extension Area of the existing Gill Mill quarry site covers an area of *c* 97ha (Fig. 1) within a larger complex comprising existing workings, the plant complex and areas of as yet unextracted reserves covered by the terms of conditions established by earlier planning consents. While the quarry is known as Gill Mill, Ducklington, the Extension Area lies entirely within the modern civil parish of South Leigh. It extends both east and north-west of the existing working centre of the quarry, overall with a roughly north-west to south-east alignment parallel to the line of the River Windrush, with a maximum length of almost 2.4km. The Extension Area lies wholly on the north-east side of the more easterly arm of the River Windrush, which in this part of the valley has two main channels. The river valley and its associated gravel terraces are quite narrow at this point (less than 1.5km wide); ground rising to the north-east (Plate 1) lies immediately outside the limits of the Extension Area, defined on this side by the modern road known as Tar Lane/Cogges Lane.

1.2.2 The Extension Area generally covers level ground at *c* 73-77m aOD (Plate 2), and currently comprises a number of fields in agricultural use. Its north-western limit is formed by the A40 immediately south of Witney and its long north-eastern boundary by Tar Lane/Cogges Lane as mentioned above. At the northern end its south-western side is defined by the line of the eastern channel of the Windrush, and the remaining boundary adjoins different parts of the existing works and already extracted areas.

1.2.3 Area 3 lies at the north-eastern end of the Gill Mill Extension Area and comprises a large, slightly trapezoidal field at the north-eastern corner of the quarry (Fig. 2). It is bounded to the west by the eastern branch of the River Windrush, to the east by Stanton Harcourt Road, and to the north and south by fields that form part of the quarry extension, and is centred at SP 366 084. The majority of the field is level, but on its eastern side it lies on the lower slopes of ground rising to the north-east at the margin of the Windrush valley.

1.2.4 Just north of Gill Mill at Witney the solid geology of the area is Middle Jurassic Forest Marble and Cornbrash (limestones) but downstream from there those outcrops are overlain by Upper Jurassic Kellaways Beds and Oxford Clay, and it is these which form the higher ground of the Windrush valley sides around Gill Mill. Localised deposits of Fourth (Hanborough) Terrace gravels are found above the Oxford Clay on the higher ground, but the gravel of the valley bottom, the subject of extraction at Gill Mill, is of the First (Northmoor or Floodplain) Terrace of the Thames Valley system (IGS 1982), consisting of rolled tabular limestone gravels. A significant feature of these deposits at Gill Mill is the very localised occurrence of what is colloquially termed 'rag rock', concreted ferruginous gravel which typically forms in localised horizontally-bedded linear arrangements. This coarse material is sufficiently hard to have been used as building stone in the Roman settlement.

In the vicinity of Gill Mill much of the gravel on the valley floor is covered with a blanket of alluvial clay, most of which is probably of medieval/post-medieval date, although traces of earlier alluvial deposits have also been encountered. The alluvium often forms a subsoil up to 0.2-0.3m thick. Deposits of this character are likely to be present in parts of the Extension Area, but probably concentrated towards its south-western margins closest to the River Windrush. Their thickness here is uncertain.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The wider archaeological and historical background of the site was set out in detail in the WSI and is not repeated here. Extensive archaeological work on earlier phases of the quarry (from 1988-2014) located south-east of the present site is the subject of a report now in the advance stages of preparation (Booth and Simmonds forthcoming). The Extension Area has already been subject to several phases of archaeological work carried out in addition to the original desk-based reviews and prior to the determination of the planning application. In the south-eastern half of the area (covering Areas 5-8 of the Extension Area extraction scheme) this took the form of a geophysical (magnetometry) survey (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2011), followed by evaluation trenching (OA 2011). The north-western part of the Extension Area (Areas 2a-4) became available for investigation rather later and was therefore only

been subject to geophysical (magnetometry) survey (Stratascan 2013) prior to mitigation work.

1.3.2 In this north-western part of the quarry the most significant geophysical anomalies were located in Area 3. Here, an area of curving and sub-circular linear anomalies already known from aerial photographs and characteristic of later prehistoric settlement was given better definition. It is notable that the apparent overall extent and general character of these Area 3 features compare very closely with those of the middle Iron Age settlement at the extreme south-eastern end of the quarry excavated in 2012.

1.3.3 Evidence of medieval cultivation in the form of ridge and furrow is clearly revealed by the geophysical surveys in the north-eastern half of Area 3. Related anomalies may extend into the south-western part of this area, which is divided by a substantial NW-SE-aligned linear feature representing a field boundary of relatively recent date. The one obvious substantial modern magnetic anomaly is formed by the remains of the Witney branch line built by the Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway Company in 1861 (subsequently forming part of the line to Fairford operated by the Great Western Railway) and finally closed in 1970, which runs through much of the area.

1.3.4 Several areas at the north-western end of the new quarry have already been examined archaeologically. These include work related to the stripping of the line of the haul route (which follows the line of the 1860s railway through Area 3) and work in Area 2A north-west and west of and immediately adjacent to Area 3. In Area 2A the principal features, to the north-west of Area 3 (in 2015), were a pair of ring gullies in the north central part of the area, with an unusual concentric semicircular arrangement of small pits or postholes to the east, and occasional scattered features elsewhere. Dating evidence was scarce, but such pottery as was associated with these features was of Iron Age date. The part of Area 2A lying west of Area 3 (examined in 2016 and 2017), however, contained no significant features of any date.

1.3.5 A working area at the south-eastern margin of Area 3 was examined in 2015 in association with work on the quarry haul road. A moderate density of features was encountered here. These included the substantial NW-SE post-medieval boundary ditch mentioned above, but otherwise comprised ditches and curvilinear gullies, with smaller numbers of pits. Dating evidence where present seemed to be entirely of middle Iron Age date. Features identified in the main haul route adjacent to this area were less well dated.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The overall aims of archaeological work relating to the Gill Mill quarry extension, and the research agenda informing them, have been set out in the general WSI for the project (OA 2014) and are not repeated here. Site specific aims and methods are set out below and were based on consultation with the County Archaeological Officer. There is no site-specific Brief for this piece of work as the necessary approaches were considered to be covered by the main project Brief and associated documentation (OCC 2014; OA 2014). All work set out here was carried out within this established framework.

2.1.2 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation (OA 2017) were to:

i. establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposal area;
ii. determine and confirm the character and depth of any remains present, without compromising any deposits that may merit detailed investigation under full area excavation;
iii. determine or establish the date range of any remains from artefacts or otherwise;
iv. characterise any underlying archaeological strata down to undisturbed geology without significantly impacting upon significant younger (overlying) deposits where possible;
v. determine the geo-archaeological and palaeo-environmental potential of any archaeological deposits encountered;
vi. test the results of the geophysical survey;
vii. define any research priorities should further investigation be required.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The trenching provided a 2% sample of the site. As envisaged this took the form of 40 trial trenches, measuring 30m by 2m, 27 of which were to be located within the area of the quarry extension (in the south-western part of Area 3) and 13 in the area to the north-east to be regraded during landscape restoration. The two areas are separated by the principal haul road through this part of the quarry.

2.2.2 The trench layout was designed to give coverage of features currently known or suggested on the basis of the geophysical survey evidence, as well as taking account of archaeological features revealed in adjacent fieldwork. Apparently 'blank' areas were also sampled.

2.2.3 In the south-western part of the site Trench 36 was not excavated because it was located within the working area already examined (see above). In the north-eastern area the presence of two substantial topsoil bunds necessitated adjustment of the positions of three trenches. In relation to their projected locations Trench 6 was

moved 15m to the west, Trench 7 was moved 22m north and Trench 11 was moved 4m to the south-west.

2.2.4 Standard fieldwork methodologies were followed, as set out in the appendices of the WSI (OA 2017).

2.2.5 The trenches were excavated with a 360° tracked excavator with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to the first significant archaeological horizon or the top of the natural geological horizon, in successive, level spits.

2.2.6 Hand excavation was undertaken of an agreed proportion of the linear and discrete features, with finds recovered and environmental samples taken in line with the agreed methodology.

2.2.7 Plans were drawn at 1:50 or 1:20 and sections at 1:20. A full photographic record was maintained.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a summary 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 along with a summary of the finds associated with each context, together with dating where appropriate. Finds categories are described and discussed in Appendix B and environmental data in Appendix C.

3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated: eg pit 102 would normally be a feature within Trench 1, and ditch 304 a feature within Trench 3. Note that for present purposes all number sequences have been prefixed with 30 to avoid record number duplication at a later stage of work at Gill Mill. The above quoted numbers are therefore 30102 and 30304.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The natural geology and soil sequence varied from area to area of the site. In the north-eastern part of the site the natural geology in Trenches 2, 5 and 9, in a north-south band, was brown or grey clay. To the west (in Trenches 1 and 4) and to the south-east (Trenches 10, 13 and 16) the natural subsoil comprised clayey sands and silts (see Plate 6). South and west of these areas the natural subsoil in Trenches 3, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14 and 15 consisted of gravel or sandy gravel, occasionally with clay patches, which were more pronounced at the western margin of this part of the site in Trench 6. South of the haul road the trenches in the western half of the south-west part of the site lay on gravel (Trenches 17-19, 21-29 and 33; eg Plate 10), while to the east and south-east the natural subsoil was more mixed, either of gravel with clay patches or partly overlain by clay deposits (Trenches 20, 30-32, 34, 35 and 37-39; eg Plate 15). A band of ragrock was noted in Trench 38. In the southernmost trench in the site (Trench 40) the natural subsoil was an orange grey clay of alluvial character.

3.2.2 The natural geology (and usually, where present, the archaeological features) was overlain by a subsoil in a number of trenches. The subsoils are typically of brown clay which can be sandy or silty, at least partly reflecting the character of the underlying geology. Their distribution shows some patterning. Apparently absent in the more elevated parts of the north-eastern half of the site, they are noted in the southern part of this area in Trenches 6, 11 and 13-16, while widespread subsoils were also recorded at the south end of the south-western half of the site, in Trenches 35, 37, 38 and 40. Less obviously, subsoil was also present in Trench 27 on the part of the site with the most clearly defined natural gravel. Localised subsoils were noted in Trenches 17, 18, 23 and 26 just west and north-west of this trench, and in Trenches 33 and 34 further south. Subsoil depths ranged from *c* 0.05-0.20m. Topsoils/ploughsoils, typically brown to grey-brown silty clays or clay loams, were mainly 0.26-0.30m deep, but were occasionally up to *c* 0.36m or as little as 0.20m. Where subsoils were present the combined depth of topsoil and subsoil typically ranged from 0.30-0.40m but was occasionally deeper in the north-eastern half of the

site, reaching up to 0.60m in Trench 6 and perhaps as much as 0.72m in Trench 14 where, exceptionally, two separate subsoils, the lower of gravelly clay and perhaps colluvial in origin, were present. These were examined in a secondary machine-excavated slot (Plate 8).

3.2.3 The fieldwork took place over a period of three weeks from 31st July to 18th August. Ground conditions throughout the course of the evaluation were variable, but generally good, except at a few times of heavy rain. A remarkable characteristic of the site, however, was the extreme hardness of many of the feature fills, which were often of gravelly clay. This was remarked upon by all the site staff and stands in marked contrast to experience elsewhere in the Upper Thames Valley, including during the extensive excavations at Gill Mill from 2001 onwards. The reason for this characteristic remains uncertain, but it had a marked effect on the progress of the evaluation and, with the agreement of the project monitors, resulted in a lower level of sampling in some trenches than would have been desirable.

3.2.4 Archaeological features, where present, were usually easy to identify against the underlying natural geology, although this was less the case in those trenches where the natural subsoil was of sandy clay rather than gravel.

3.2.5 A further notable characteristic of the site was the appearance of 'cropmarks' at ground level. The whole of the field had been planted with clover, which was of notably stronger growth and darker colour where it overlay the fills of many features. As such this characteristic provides a further view of the site to compare with that based on the geophysical survey. A series of drone photographs was taken to illustrate aspects of this (see Plate 3). Although the clover cropmarks were clearest in the south-western part of the field (Plates 4 and 5) they were also noticeable to the north in Trenches 14-16.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features other than those probably related to medieval/post-medieval cultivation were present in Trenches 3, 7, 11, 12 and 14-16 in the north-eastern half of the site and in all trenches in the south-western half except Trenches 38 and 40 at the extreme southern end. (Trench 36 was not excavated.) Features (usually few in number) in Trenches 3, 15, 19, 24 and 30 were not dated by any associated material.

3.3.2 Contexts containing pottery of middle Iron Age date were concentrated in the focal area of cropmarks and geophysical survey anomalies in the south-western half of the site, particularly in Trenches 18, 23, 25-29 and 31. Iron Age pottery also occurred in Trenches 17, 20, 32, 34 and 37, peripheral to the focal area, but in all of these cases except Trench 20 the few sherds present were residual in contexts of later date. Equally peripheral to this focal area was Trench 14 in the north-eastern half of the site, which produced a single small sherd of possible middle Iron Age date.

3.3.3 The distribution of pottery of Late Iron Age-early Roman date was basically similar to that of the middle Iron Age material, though in view of the greater quantities of this material the slightly wider distribution is unsurprising. With the exception of Trench 14 all the Trenches with middle Iron Age pottery also produced late Iron Age-early Roman pottery, usually in greater quantity. In addition, the latter material also came

from Trenches 7 (one uncertain sherd) and 12 in the north-eastern half of the site and from Trenches 22, 33, 35 and 39 in the south-western part. Pottery dated mid-late 1st century or later had a more restricted distribution, mainly in the focal settlement area (Trenches 23 and 26-29), but also occurred further south-east in Trenches 32, 37 and 39.

3.3.4 Medieval sherds came from one feature in Trenches 11 (one sherd) and two features in Trench 16. A total absence of medieval and post-medieval pottery associated with plough furrows is notable. The latter features were known from the geophysical survey to cover most of the north-eastern part of the site (including a small area lying south of the quarry haul road), in a field originally defined on its south-western side by a substantial ditched boundary of post-medieval date, already partly examined (in 2015) in the working area within Area 3 and encountered in Trenches 6 and 20 here. However, a number of features in the south-western half of the site, mostly on a similar roughly NE-SW alignment to those further north-east, were also interpreted as plough furrows. Such features were noted in Trenches 17-19, 21-25, 28-30 and 32-34, and perhaps in Trench 35.

3.4 Trenches in the north-eastern part of the site

3.4.1 A dearth of archaeological features was evident on the clay and clayey sand geology in the northern part of the area. Elsewhere, features were mostly scattered and poorly dated or undated so their significance is uncertain. No middle Iron Age features were identified in this part of the site. A large pit (300701) in Trench 7 was probably of late Iron Age-Roman date, but this was based on a single sherd of pottery, and an adjacent NW-SE aligned ditch (300702) was not dated. To the south-east, Trenches 12, 14 and 15 contained significant features. In Trench 15 a small gully, probably a ring gully with an external diameter of about 6m, was cut by a later pit. Both features were undated, but the character of the gully is comparable to features interpreted as drainage ditches around haystacks, which are particularly characteristic of the late Iron Age-early Roman period in this region. A NE-SW aligned ditch and later pits in Trench 14 were also undated.

3.4.2 Trench 12 contained ditches at right angles, aligned *c* SW-NE (301215 and 301217) and NW-SE (301224), an alignment slightly different from that of the furrows encountered in this trench. Adjacent to ditch 301224, and within the angle formed by the junction of these ditches (assuming that they were contemporary) was a group of six postholes (group 301202), four in a SW-NE line and two very roughly at right angles to the NE end of the line. These suggest a rectangular or subrectangular structure (Plate 7). None of the postholes was dated. The only finds came from feature 301217, probably the terminal of a second phase of the SW-NE ditch alignment, which produced three sherds of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery. Given the regularity of the feature alignments it is most likely that all were broadly contemporary, including those relating to the structure, although this cannot be certain.

3.4.3 The only dated medieval features on the site were located in this area, comprising an oval pit (301103) in Trench 11 and a vertical sided pit (301604) and a further possible pit (301608) in Trench 16.

3.5 South-western half of site: Trenches 17-20 (Figs 8-10, 14 and 15)

3.5.1 Trench 17 in the northern corner of this part of the site contained two north-south aligned linear features, neither identified on the geophysical survey. The more substantial of these (301705) at the east end of the trench contained early Roman pottery.

3.5.2 Trench 18 contained two north-south aligned ditches (301820 and 301810) which can be correlated with a circular feature identified by the geophysical survey, with a diameter of *c* 14m. The sampled ditch (301810, Plate 9) produced late Iron Age-early Roman pottery from its upper fill, and post-dated two pits (301803, 301807), the former of which contained middle Iron Age pottery. A later pit (301814) cut these features and ditch 301810.

3.5.3 Trench 19, further east, was at the northern edge of the main focus of Iron Age and early Roman activity. It contained seven linear features, all on a closely similar NE-SW alignment, none of which had been located by the geophysical survey. Four of these, with centre to centre spacings of 7.0-7.5m, are interpreted as furrows. Of the three ditches, 301903 was 0.45m deep and therefore clearly not another furrow. It was undated.

3.5.4 Trench 20, also peripheral to the main settlement focus, intersected the substantial NW-SE post-medieval field boundary (here 302003 at least 2.25m wide and 0.60m deep) at the eastern end of the trench. An adjacent parallel ditch (302010), undated, may have been an earlier version of this boundary. At the western end of the trench another feature on the same alignment (302007) was described as a furrow, but the alignment is anomalous and the interpretation uncertain. Between the linear features was a group of intercutting pits (in sequence 302016, 302018 and 302013). Pit 302018 produced middle Iron Age pottery. An extensive layer overlying 302016 and 302018 and cut by 302013 produced two small late Iron Age-early Roman sherds. The location of this spread corresponds very approximately with a short length of curvilinear feature on the geophysical survey interpretation plot.

3.6 South-western half of site: Trenches 21-25 (Figs 8, 9, 16 and 17)

3.6.1 Trench 21 at the western edge of the site contained three linear features (one a terminus) on roughly east-west alignments corresponding fairly well with the interpretation of the geophysical survey. The ditch terminus (302104) contained late Iron Age-early Roman pottery.

3.6.2 Trench 22, just east of Trench 21, contained eight or nine linear features on various alignments (plus three furrows). Two of the more substantial ditches were identified in the geophysical survey (including one which may have curved westwards to join with one of the features in Trench 21), but the slighter linear features were not. Pottery from interventions in ditches 302204 and 302206, and from the surface of a large north-south ditch 332018, was all of late Iron Age-early Roman date. The closely comparable character of the fills of all the features suggests that they are likely to be of similar date, although at least two phases of activity are represented at the western end of the trench where ditch 302204 cut ditch 302206.

3.6.3 Trench 23 contained four roughly north-south aligned linear features and a number of intercutting pits. At the west end of the trench a curving gully (302303) contained a single sherd of middle Iron Age pottery, while at the east end a similar single sherd came from the fill of a shallow pit (302319), part of a complex including unexcavated features 302317 and 302321. At the western edge of this complex a further pit (302310) produced mid-late 1st-century pottery from its main fill. Three linear features were unexcavated – 302323, aligned ENE-WSW, was only partly located at the extreme east end of the trench. Two north-south features (302306 and 302308) were both cut by furrows. The former of these, towards the west end of the trench, corresponds to a feature identified on the geophysical survey, but was the only example of such correspondence.

3.6.4 Trench 24 lay south of Trench 21 at the south-western margin of the site. A ditch/gully terminus (302402) contained no dating evidence. Four ENE-WSW-aligned features were not excavated but were interpreted as probable furrows.

3.6.5 Trench 25, contained three substantial NW-SE aligned ditches, all of which correspond to prominent linear features on the geophysical survey, apparently forming part of a system of subrectangular enclosures. Two of these features (302505 and 302510) were sampled and produced late Iron Age-early Roman pottery. A similar date can be inferred for the intervening ditch (302512). An unnumbered NE-SW-aligned feature just projecting into the extreme north-east corner of the trench may correspond with a further geophysical survey anomaly linked to the other three ditches and to curvilinear enclosures in the vicinity of Trench 26.

3.7 South-western half of site: Trenches 26-29 (Figs 9 and 17-19)

3.7.1 These trenches lay at the heart of the focal settlement area and contained a relatively high proportion of features dated to the middle Iron Age. In Trench 26 these were represented by linear features 302610 and its counterpart to the east, 302612, which formed opposite sides of a circular enclosure *c* 16m in diameter clearly shown by the geophysical survey. Ditch 302610 was cut by a curvilinear ditch/gully (302608) which the geophysical survey suggests was linked to elements of the enclosure system to the south-west seen in Trench 25. This feature is dated to the late Iron Age-early Roman period, as was an isolated pit (302606) at the west end of the trench.

3.7.2 The geophysical survey identified five ditches on different alignments (from north-south to NE-SW) in the area of Trench 27 and all were located in the trench. All are likely to have been of middle Iron Age date. Ditches 302705 and 302709 in the western part and 302719 at the south-east end of the trench all produced middle Iron Age pottery. Ditches 302713 and 302715, close together in the middle of the trench, were not sampled, but the geophysical survey projects 302713 on a curvilinear alignment southwards through Trench 28, where ditches in the appropriate area were all of middle Iron Age date. The geophysical survey did not locate a north-south gully, parallel to and just east of ditch 302709, or a further ditch /gully (302707/302717) on an irregular alignment which cut features 302705, 302709 and 302711. This feature was dated to the late Iron Age-early Roman period.

3.7.3 Trench 28 contained a minimum of seven linear features (plus two identified furrows), of which three are located on the geophysical survey. An east-west ditch (302837), marginally located in the extreme north-east corner of the trench, was undated but aligned perpendicular to two adjacent north-south ditches (32806 and 32812) both containing middle Iron Age pottery. Ditch 302812 cut another substantial ditch (302814), the earlier of two ditches aligned NE-SW (302814 cut by 302817). These also contained middle Iron Age pottery, although the uppermost fill of 302817 produced pottery of mid-late 1st-century date. In the south-eastern half of the trench were three slighter ditches/gullies on east-west to ENE-WSW alignments (302834, 302835 and 302805), respectively dated middle Iron Age, late Iron Age-early Roman and mid-late 1st century. An undated gully terminus (302829) and an unexcavated pit (302836) were located in the same area.

3.7.4 Trench 29 lay adjacent to and east of Trench 28 (although the only clear link between the two trenches was provided by furrow 302919), and was positioned to intersect components of an irregular complex of linear features revealed by the geophysical survey, on which four features are shown. These were located, the principal elements (corresponding to three of the geophysical anomalies) being a complex of intercutting features towards the centre of the trench. The alignment of the linear elements here and also at the north-west and south-east end of the trench was NE-SW, the same as that of a furrow which cut the central complex. Within that complex a wide shallow ditch (302913) produced middle Iron Age pottery, and also a fragment of iron sheet from its upper fill, but adjacent features (a possible ditch and pit (302910 and 302925 and a later substantial NE-SW ditch (302923) were not sampled, though a middle Iron Age date is possible for all of these. North-west of this complex a group of intercutting gullies on varied alignments (in sequence 302931, 302933 and 302935, and the discrete feature 302927) were not sampled. A small pit or posthole lying between these features (302929) contained no dating material. At the south-east end of the trench one or both of a pair of parallel ditches (302907 and 302921) corresponded in location to the fourth geophysical survey liner feature recorded here. The larger of these features, 302907, produced pottery of at least mid-late 1st century date. An adjacent pit (302903) was similarly dated.

3.8 South-western half of site: Trenches 30-34 (Figs 9 and 20-22)

3.8.1 These trenches were located in the south-eastern part of the main concentration of cropmarks and geophysical survey anomalies. Trench 30 was located to examine a north-south linear feature identified by the geophysical survey. This was not certainly located; a feature at the relevant point extending from the south side of the trench (303016) was described as a possible ditch terminal but was not sampled. A NNE-SSW-aligned gully to the west was not dated, while further west again was another unexcavated ditch (303012), on an alignment very similar to that of a feature identified as a furrow (303006) in the eastern part of the trench. Just east of this was a pair of probable postholes (303002 cut by 303004); like feature 303010 these were not dated.

3.8.2 Trench 31 contained a variety of linear features distributed across the trench on different alignments, whereas the geophysical survey identified a single north-south linear feature in the middle of the trench. The approximately corresponding feature

(303120) was an unexcavated gully only 0.50m wide. To the south-west were three further linear features, one (30118) not dated, apparently heavily disturbed by an animal burrow and cut by unexcavated feature 30122 on a NE-SW alignment contrasting with that of other features in the trench. South-west again the fill of a narrow gully (303116) produced late Iron Age-early Roman pottery. Features at the north-east end of the trench, ditches/gullies 31312, 3313105, 313109 and a later gully 303107, were probably also of that date, though the relevant pottery came mainly from 303102. An adjacent circular pit (303114) produced three sherds of middle Iron Age pottery from its only fill.

3.8.3 Trench 32 intersected two linear geophysical anomalies which are shown as linked (though not necessarily contemporary) on the survey interpretation plot. Both were located in the trench as substantial ditches. To the south were NE-SW-aligned ditch 303203 and a recut 303220, dated late Iron Age-early Roman, while the corresponding feature to the north, NW-SE-aligned ditch 303216, produced pottery dated mid-late 1st century. Between these features were two smaller ditches (303210, 303212) and a furrow (303214) while at the north and south ends of the trench were two much narrower gullies aligned NW-SE (303218 and 303208 respectively, the former with a marked change of alignment at its south-eastern end). None of these features was sampled.

3.8.4 Trench 33 intersected one of two NNE-SSW aligned linear features identified in this area by the geophysical survey towards the south-west margin of the site. The feature (303308) was examined but was only 0.10m deep and was interpreted as a furrow, although a single sherd of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery was recovered from its fill. Further north-west in the trench were two or three closely related curving ditches/gullies (303304, 303306 and possible earlier gully 303312), overall on a roughly similar alignment to the possible furrow. The fill of 303306 also produced a single late Iron Age-early Roman sherd. A small posthole (303302) in the middle of the trench was undated.

3.8.5 Trench 34 was located towards the southern edge of the main cropmark/geophysical anomaly concentration, and contained a significant number of features. Four linear geophysical anomalies were targeted by this trench, but did not all correlate closely with excavated features. Dated features, all assigned to the late Iron Age-early Roman period, were mostly on a broadly NE-SW and NW-SE alignment, though the alignment of a large slightly curving ditch (303421) at the north end of the trench was less certain. This feature was cut by an undated east-west ditch 303425. In the middle of the trench was an undated ENE-WSW aligned (and unnumbered) feature originally interpreted as a furrow, though this was almost certainly not the case. Immediately south of this a NW-SE ditch (303427) was joined at right angles from the south by a narrower, steep-sided gully (303430) which turned to the south-west to follow the line of 303427, cutting its upper fill. more intercutting gullies (303409, 303411 and later 303413) and a probable ditch terminus (303404) lay further south again. The absence of features of Iron Age date is notable.

3.9 South-western half of site: Trenches 35 and 37-40 (Figs 11 and 23)

3.9.1 These trenches in the southern corner of the site contained relatively few or (in some cases) no features. Trench 35 intercepted a single east-west geophysical anomaly. This feature was present in the centre of the trench (303504); its fill contained two tiny fragments of late Iron Age-early Roman pottery. Eight metres north and on a parallel alignment a slighter ditch or gully (303507) was remarkable for containing an eroded 1st-2nd-century coin as well as a single sherd of early Roman pottery. South of ditch 303504 an irregular undated feature (303509) was possibly an animal burrow.

3.9.2 Trench 37, located in a blank area of the geophysical survey, contained two ditches, both aligned roughly east-west. Ditch 303703 was at least 1.40m wide and 0.68m deep. A localised third fill of the ditch contained late Iron Age-early Roman pottery, while sherds from the top two fills were dated mid-late 1st century. A possible ditch 3m to the south was not examined.

3.9.3 Trench 39 was located to intersect three linear anomalies revealed by the geophysical survey, in an approximately H-shaped formation. The two NNE-SSW elements of this arrangement were located, but the east-west one was not seen. To the south-east, ditch 303903 produced late Iron Age-early Roman pottery from its upper fill, while to the north-west, ditch 303907 contained pottery dated mid-late 1st century in its main fill and the only sherds of fabric R30 from the site, perhaps of 2nd-century date, in its upper fill. An undated gully or possible animal burrow lay just south-east of ditch 303903.

3.9.4 Trenches 38 and 40 contained no archaeological features.

3.10 Finds summary

3.10.1 A small assemblage of 29 struck flints was recovered from secondary contexts in the south-western half of the site. Despite the low numbers, the distribution of the flint suggests slightly different patterns of activity, with Mesolithic material concentrated slightly to the south of a spread of Neolithic and later flint located in the area occupied by the probable focus of the middle Iron Age and later settlement. The condition of some of the flint suggests that it may derive from immediately adjacent activity, rather than simply reflecting 'background noise'.

3.10.2 The principal artefact category recovered was pottery, totaling 567 sherds (6069g), of which 183 sherds were of middle Iron Age date, 380 were late Iron Age-early Roman and 4 sherds were medieval. The middle Iron Age material consisted almost entirely of simple jar forms, principally in calcareous-tempered fabrics, with a smaller component of sand-tempered sherds including fragments of at least one globular bowl. The late Iron Age and early Roman assemblage was dominated by sherds in the 'Belgic type' tradition, mainly on grog-tempered fabrics, which was in use from about the beginning of the 1st century AD up to the AD 70s, from which time sand-tempered reduced 'Romanised' coarse wares became dominant. The pottery suggests continued occupation up to about the end of the 1st century and possibly, but not necessarily, later. Both middle Iron Age and late Iron Age-Roman assemblages comprise material paralleled elsewhere in the region and particularly in the adjacent

contemporary sites excavated elsewhere in the Gill Mill quarry. The assemblages lack exotica and suggest that the site was occupied by a fairly low-status rural community.

3.10.3 Other finds comprised a small quantity of fired clay, usually from contexts containing Iron Age and/or Roman pottery. This was probably mostly derived from features such as domestic hearths and ovens, but none of the fragments was large enough to be attributed to a specific object type. Metal finds consisted of three fragments of iron (two of them nails, one of which may have been of post-medieval date) and a single Roman copper alloy coin of 1st-2nd-century date but too eroded for close identification.

3.10.4 The animal bone assemblage, totaling 881 fragments, was in relatively poor condition, and relatively few of the bones were from dated contexts. The majority that were came from contexts of middle Iron Age rather than late Iron Age-early Roman date, and amongst these sheep/goat was the dominant domestic species. Cattle, horse and pig were also present. Cattle and large mammal fragments (cattle or horse) were better represented amongst the undated material. It is possible that many of these were from contexts of late Iron Age-early Roman date, since cattle dominated the Roman assemblages in the adjacent excavated areas of the quarry.

3.10.5 Charred plant remains including charcoal were recovered from ten out of 11 samples processed for this material (one of middle Iron Age date, two from undated but possible middle Iron Age features and the rest from late Iron Age-early Roman contexts). The quantities of material recovered were generally small and amongst them cereal remains were rare. The remains were typically not in good condition, but this was attributed to damage from burning rather than reflecting post-depositional conditions. A sample from ditch 303203 in Trench 32 was notable for a relatively large quantity of charred weed seeds. Overall, however, the quantity of material recovered suggests that the sampled features lay at some distance from areas of crop or food processing.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The results of the evaluation are considered to be reliable in most respects. Feature visibility was good (reflected, for example, in the fact that where geophysical survey anomalies were targeted they were almost invariably located). As is often the case, substantially more features were present than indicated by the interpretation of the geophysical survey.

4.1.2 Limitations on interpretation result from the fact that (with agreement) fewer features were sampled than was originally intended, mainly as a consequence of the exceptional hardness of the feature fills. An additional complication was the coincidence of the alignment of furrows with a number of other linear features. Together these factors have limited the number of features that can be dated with confidence.

4.1.3 Conversely, however, a combination of the excavated evidence with that of some of the linear features identified in the geophysical survey allows phasing to be extrapolated from one trench to another in a number of cases. In addition, quantities of finds were sufficient to allow some unexcavated features to be dated at least roughly on the basis of material collected from their surfaces.

4.1.4 Overall, the evaluation has provided good characterisation of the main phases of activity on the site including, on the basis of the finds, identification of periods of activity not known to be represented here prior to the evaluation.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were set out above (section 2.1.2). These are now addressed in turn.

4.2.2 The presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposal area (aim i) has been clearly established, with identification of areas of intensive past activity on the site, areas with lower levels of activity and areas where archaeological features are apparently absent.

4.2.3 The character and depth of archaeological remains (aim ii) is also clearly established. Features lay beneath topsoil/ploughsoil and sometimes also beneath a subsoil. The combined depths of these overlying deposits vary depending on location within the site. Localised variation in topography is occasionally important in this respect, especially on the slightly sloping ground of the north-eastern half of the site. Generally, however, combined topsoil/ploughsoil and subsoil depths range from *c* 0.30-0.40m. Most features, therefore, have probably suffered a degree of truncation from generations of agricultural activity, as is characteristic of sites in the region on gravel geologies. There is thus no evidence for the survival of vertical stratigraphy (see aim iv – 'characterise any underlying archaeological strata down to undisturbed geology'). The identified remains are therefore those of cut features, pits and postholes, ditches and gullies. Excavated features range in depth from approximately 0.10m to about 1m and can be considered, despite truncation, to be at least

moderately well preserved. The fact that plough furrows, potentially of medieval origin, were frequently observed, and where sampled typically survived to a depth of 0.10-0.15m, indicates that truncation by more recent agricultural activity, which might have completely removed this evidence, is not particularly severe.

4.2.4 The date range of activity on the site (aim iii) is clearly established, despite the number of individual features which were not dated. Early prehistoric activity is indicated by artefactual material. Sampled features range in date from the middle Iron Age to the early Roman period and the great majority of undated features will have fallen within this range. In addition, two probable medieval pits were located. The date of the numerous plough furrows remains unclear. These are presumed to be medieval in origin, but continuation of the related agricultural processes into the post-medieval period is also likely.

4.2.5 The geoarchaeological potential of the site (aim v) is limited. The excavated features concentrate in areas of fairly straightforward geology and do not, for example, have complex relationships with sequences of alluvial deposits such as are encountered in the adjacent quarry Area 2a. Palaeoenvironmental potential (aim v) is higher. Animal and charred plant remains are reasonably well preserved, as elsewhere at Gill Mill, though the animal bone from the evaluation was relatively fragmented – in part a consequence of the difficult recovery conditions – and the quantities of charred material recovered were generally small. Waterlogged conditions were not encountered in any part of the site, so survival of waterlogged plant remains is unlikely (except in the event that deeper features such as wells or waterholes are encountered – none of the evaluated features was of this character). Charred plant remains (including charcoal) and animal bone have significant potential for understanding the nature of the agricultural economy of the prehistoric and Roman settlements revealed here.

4.2.6 As noted above, a fairly close correlation between the excavated results and the results of the geophysical survey is noted (aim vi). Almost all of the features identified on the geophysical survey interpretation plot were identified. Where they were not the interpretation of the plot might be questioned (as eg in the case of Trench 39, see above), though it is possible that occasional features were not seen in the trenches. What is clearer is that many more features were present than were identified by the geophysical survey. Such features were recognised in 7 of the 16 trenches in the north-east part of the site and in 16 of the 23 trenches in the south-western part. The geophysical survey typically located the more substantial linear features. Slighter ditches and gullies and discrete features such as pits and postholes were not identified, though it is accepted that identification of individual discrete geophysical anomalies as archaeological features is often impossible. Identification of structural evidence in geophysical surveys is particularly problematic. Here it is notable that no geophysical survey features at all were identified in Trenches 15 and 12 (except for two furrows in the latter), trenches which contained respectively a small ring gully and a posthole structure with associated ditches. Some of the more substantial circular features in the south-west part of the site may have contained roundhouses, but in the absence of such features structural evidence in sites of this character will not be identified by geophysical survey. Overall, the results of the geophysical survey provide a good general guide to the main concentrations of

archaeological features (where these include substantial ditches), but are otherwise more restricted both in terms of providing reasonable definition of the margins of settlement and indicating overall densities of features.

4.2.7 Research priorities in the event of further investigation (aim vii) focus on the potential of the site to enhance understanding of settlement evolution from later prehistory into the early Roman period in a regional context (see also section 4.4 below). While the outlines of this sequence are clear in a regional context, and have been established at a number of other sites, the present site appears to be a particularly good example of this type, with a slightly longer occupation sequence than is seen at some of the other similar sites. Moreover, the great majority if not the entirety of the evolving settlement complex lies within Area 3. Research priorities would therefore include establishment of the overall plan of the settlement in its successive phases, with attention paid to defining the margins of the settlement and their relationships with peripheral features. It will be important to establish if structural features in Trenches 12 and 15 form part of the main late Iron Age-early Roman settlement. Further significant areas of interest include identification of the number of domestic units and the spatial and social relationships between them in successive phases. Definition of change (if any) in the agricultural regime of successive phases is also a priority. The site has the advantage that its interpretation can be set against the substantial dataset already recovered during previous phases of work in the Gill Mill quarry.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 Aspects of the interpretation of the results of the evaluation have been indicated above. In overall terms the evaluation reveals a sequence of activity concentrated but not confined to the south-western half of the site, largely centred on the area of river terrace gravel geology and avoiding the peripheral areas of the site (mainly its northern and southern extremities) where the dominant underlying geology is of clay.

4.3.2 A small quantity of flint was recovered from Iron Age and Roman features. Despite the size of the assemblage it clearly concentrates in the southern part of the main later prehistoric and Roman settlement area, with material in Trenches 24, 28, 29, 31, 33-35 and 37. This distribution overlaps with, but is more restricted than, that of the later settlement. Despite the small size of the assemblage a potential distinction between the distribution of Mesolithic flint and Neolithic and later flint was noted.

4.3.3 Prior to the evaluation it was suggested that the features revealed by aerial photography and geophysical survey were likely to relate to a settlement of middle Iron Age date, comparable in character and extent to that excavated in Tar Farm Area 6 at the southern end of the Gill Mill quarry in 2011. That settlement activity proved to continue through the late Iron Age-early Roman period and perhaps as late as the late 1st or early 2nd century was unexpected, but fits a well known regional pattern.

4.3.4 As noted above, contexts containing pottery of middle Iron Age date were concentrated in the focal area of cropmarks and geophysical survey anomalies in the south-western half of the site, particularly in Trenches 18, 23, 25-29 and 31. Iron Age

pottery also occurred in Trenches 17, 20, 32, 34 and 37, peripheral to the focal area, but in all of these cases except Trench 20 the few sherds present were residual in contexts of later date. Trench 20 was positioned just west of a current working area where further features of middle Iron Age date were recorded in 2015 (in an area where the geophysical survey reveals no features apart from furrows and a post-medieval boundary). Together this evidence suggests that middle Iron Age settlement extended in a broadly NW-SE aligned zone parallel to the line of the Windrush for at least 250m.

4.3.5 Aspects of the form of the middle Iron Age settlement, based on the combination of excavated and geophysical survey evidence, are clearest towards the north-western end of this zone, where curvilinear ditches in Trenches 23 and 26-28 perhaps suggest an irregular oval enclosure with a north-south dimension of *c* 70m, containing a potential roundhouse gully *c* 13m across (as seen in Trench 26) on its western side. The density of probable middle Iron Age ditches in Trench 28, however, makes it clear that this is a very simplified view. North of this potential enclosure complex another circular ditch, comparable in character to that in Trench 26, was sampled in Trench 18. This is likely to have been of late Iron Age-early Roman date, but a middle Iron Age ditch adjacent to the late Iron Age-early Roman one on the east side of the circle might suggest that this feature had a middle Iron Age phase.

4.3.6 South-east of the postulated oval enclosure complex the correlation between middle Iron Age features and geophysical anomalies of readily interpretable character is less clear. While settlement related activity was certainly fairly dense its form is uncertain.

4.3.7 The character of the middle Iron Age pottery assemblage is closely matched in areas of the Gill Mill quarry previously excavated. Commencement of the middle Iron Age in this region is dated *c* 350 BC. It is possible that the present assemblage covers the whole of the range of this period, up to the turn of the millennium (the exact date of the earliest appearance of typologically late Iron Age pottery is debated), but a later start date for settlement here, perhaps as late as *c* 200 BC, is equally possible. Intensification of ditch digging associated with settlement is a characteristic of the later part of the middle Iron Age, and the frequency of Iron Age ditches here might suggest that more of the occupation dates from the 2nd century BC onwards than earlier.

4.3.8 A feature of some middle Iron Age settlement in the region is that it may represent seasonal occupation of the floodplain rather than permanent occupation. This model has been suggested for sites at Farmoor on the right bank of the Thames only 7km due east of Gill Mill, where three small settlement groups were located on the floodplain, as opposed to the adjacent first gravel terrace (Lambrick and Robinson 1979). These sites have some similarity to a group of sites termed by Lambrick 'house, pen and paddock settlements' (Lambrick with Robinson 2009, 109-115), many of which do lie on the first terrace, often on small gravel islands where they were for the most part safe from flooding, as for example at Port Meadow, Oxford (see also Lambrick 2013, 41-44). Lambrick, however, draws a distinction between this group and the Farmoor sites which he sees as seasonally-occupied, isolated, single-family units lacking the ditched paddocks of the larger group (Lambrick with

Robinson 2009, 115). A site in Gill Mill Area 10, excavated in 1988 and 1989 (Booth and Simmonds forthcoming), appears to have been comparable to the Farmoor sites and like them was situated on the floodplain. The present site, however, while in a similar location, is altogether more extensive and seems likely to have been permanently occupied, with a mixed agricultural regime. The limited animal bone evidence suggests that sheep/goats were the main domestic species exploited at this time.

4.3.9 Continuity of occupation from the middle Iron Age into the late Iron Age-early Roman period seems almost certain. It is likely to have been maintained broadly across the same location in contrast, for example, to the situation at nearby Gravelly Guy (Stanton Harcourt) where the late Iron Age occupation involved major reconfiguration of the settlement layout (Lambrick and Allen 2004).

4.3.10 The pottery distribution suggests that occupation in the late Iron Age-early Roman phase was more extensive than earlier, though very much focused on the area previously occupied, except perhaps in the vicinity of Trench 20 and the area of known middle Iron Age activity to the east that trench examined in 2015 (although late Iron Age-early Roman features were located in Trench 39, just south of this area). Late Iron Age-early Roman features in Trenches 22, 33 and 35 in the south-western part of the site perhaps indicate slight expansion of the occupied area in the direction of the river. The occurrence of late Iron Age-early Roman features in Trench 12 in the north-east half of the site is notable. This wider distribution notwithstanding, since this phase (in ceramic terms) is unlikely to have lasted more than *c* 80 years the volume of material is therefore comparatively much greater than in the longer middle Iron Age phase.

4.3.11 The settlement layout in this phase, however, is very unclear since the correlation of excavated features with coherent geophysical survey anomalies is, if anything, even less apparent than in the middle Iron Age. Most apparent, perhaps, is a group of features forming a subrectangular enclosure in Trench 25, with related elements to the east cutting the large middle Iron Age oval enclosure and its internal roundhouse gully in Trench 26.

4.3.12 Some of the ditch alignments suggest elements of possible fairly regular rectangular layouts (such as the intersecting ditches in Trench 34), but most of the alignments do not appear to be particularly regular. A site plan incorporating small irregular oval and sub-oval enclosures would be quite typical of this period. A more regular layout is hinted at by the approximately perpendicular ditch alignments in Trench 12, though the contemporaneity of these features is not certain. This location is particularly notable for the presence of a posthole structure, perhaps of rectangular form, and presumed to be contemporary with the ditches on the basis of their common alignment. Structural evidence from this period is rare in the region. A small circular gully, perhaps representing a ‘stack ring’, in Trench 15 was undated but on typological grounds is very likely to be of this period. It is uncertain if these features formed part of the main spread of late Iron Age-early Roman settlement or were marginal or outlying elements.

4.3.13 A relatively small amount of pottery indicates continued settlement through the 1st century AD and perhaps as late as the early 2nd century. Cessation of activity at this

time is a widely-observed trend in the region, probably reflecting widespread reorganization of land holding in the region in the early 2nd century. Sites abandoned at that time were either drastically reconfigured or replaced by newly established sites in the same general locality. Local examples include sites at Gravelly Guy (Stanton Harcourt; Lambrick and Allen 2004) and Old Shifford (Hey 1995). In immediately local terms a similar pattern is seen in Area 13 of a previous phase of Gill Mill quarry development, lying only *c* 400m south-east of the present site, although the overall balance of activity there was slightly different from that in the present site. In Area 13 the early Roman phase was better represented compared to earlier periods, and also seems to have continued slightly later, perhaps up to the middle of the 2nd century. Such subtle variations in chronology reflect the realities of changing settlement patterns more realistically than broader scale periodisation. The wider local picture is that settlements that went out of use in the early 2nd century were superseded by the substantial nucleated settlement established at about this time with its focus in the vicinity of present day Gill Mill House (Booth and Simmonds forthcoming).

4.3.14 The late Iron Age-early Roman (and later) pottery assemblage indicates a low-status settlement characteristic of the region and period (Booth 2004; Booth and Simmonds forthcoming). This is consistent with the tentative conclusions about the site layout set out above. As before, this will have been an agricultural settlement, perhaps with an emphasis on stock rearing.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The site is important as another element in a well-studied later prehistoric and Roman landscape. It makes a useful contribution to understanding of developing patterns of exploitation of that landscape, and in turn its interpretation benefits considerably from what is already known about adjacent sites previously investigated in the region, but most particularly those examined in earlier phases of work at Gill Mill.

4.4.2 The evaluation provides further evidence of Mesolithic activity in this stretch of the Windrush valley, complementing that previously recovered from Gill Mill Area 13 but otherwise conspicuously absent in the Gill Mill quarry.

4.4.3 The evidence for middle Iron Age to early Roman settlement complements that from the adjacent Gill Mill sites. The sequence is comparable to those observed in various components of the previously excavated Gill Mill complex, but is subtly different from them. It therefore contributes to a more nuanced understanding of the development of this landscape.

4.4.4 Within this framework the Area 3 site, without being in any particular way exceptional in regional terms, is valuable because it contains, in spatial terms, complete or almost complete examples of successive settlements of middle Iron Age, late Iron Age-early Roman and mid-late 1st-century settlements. Potential excavation, with full examination of associated artefactual and environmental assemblages, would provide particularly useful data on the evolution of such settlement sequences which can be analysed against a relatively well established local and regional picture.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Note that dates given in the finds column are of the material mentioned (mostly pottery dates) and may not be the same as the date assigned to the feature containing the finds. Abbreviated ceramic dates are MIA (middle Iron Age), LIA (late Iron Age) and LIR (late Iron Age/early Roman). Pottery and fired clay quantities are in the form number of fragments/weight in grammes.

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying two natural deposits of reddish brown clayey sand. Two field drains (not numbered).					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300100	Layer	-		Natural subsoil	-	-
300101	Layer	-	0.26-0.83	Natural subsoil		-
300102	Layer	-	0.28-0.32	Topsoil/ploughsoil		-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of grey clay with yellowish brown patches. Two furrows (not numbered).					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300200	Layer	-		Natural subsoil	-	-
300201	Layer	-	0.30-0.32	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench consists of topsoil overlying natural gravel. One undated posthole. Three furrows (not numbered).					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.36-0.46
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300300	Layer	-		Natural subsoil	-	-
300301	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
300302	Cut	0.44	0.25	Posthole cut	-	-
300303	Fill	0.44	0.25	Mid grey brown clay silt fill of posthole 300302	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 4

General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench consists of topsoil overlying two natural sand deposits. Three furrows (not numbered).					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38-0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300400	Layer	-		Natural subsoil, yellow brown sand at N end of trench	-	-
300401	Layer	-		Natural subsoil, reddish brown clayey sand		-
300402	Layer	-	0.28-0.38	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of mid brownish grey and orange/grey clay. Two furrows (not numbered).					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30-0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300500	Layer	-		Natural clay subsoil	-	-
300501	Layer	-	0.24-0.29	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of gravel and a partly underlying brown clay. Large post-medieval boundary.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55-0.80
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300600	Layer	-	-	Natural gravel subsoil	-	-
300601	Layer	-	-	Natural clay subsoil partly overlain by 300600	-	-
300602	Layer		0.20-0.30	Grey brown silty clay subsoil		
300603	Layer		0.05	Gravel lens between 300602 and 300604 at W end of trench		
300604	Layer		0.30-0.45	Topsoil/ploughsoil		
300605	Layer			As 300602, residual subsoil above interface between 300601 and 300600		
300606	Cut	4.0+	0.40+	Very wide cut with gently sloping sides		

				aligned *c* NW-SE. Post-medieval boundary as 302003		
300607	Fil	4.0+	0.40+	Mid brown grey clay with a little gravel. Fill of 300606		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consists of topsoil overlying a single large pit and a ditch, the latter on an alignment roughly perpendicular to two ?medieval furrows (not numbered). Features cut natural gravel subsoil.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300700	Layer	-	-	Natural gravel subsoil	-	-
300701	Cut	2.50	0.65+	Sub-round fairly steep-sided pit	-	-
300702	Fill	1.40	0.58	Brownish grey gravelly silty clay, lowest excavated fill of 300701	Pottery 1/7 LIR?; Fired clay 8/20	
300703	Fill	1.50?	0.08	Dark grey clay, second excavated fill of 300701		
300704	Fill	2.0?	0.14	Mid grey silty clay/gravel, third excavated fill of 300701		
300705	Fill	2.50	0.07	Grey brown silty clay, upper fill of 300701		
300706	Layer	-	0.26-0.28	Topsoil/ploughsoil		
300707	Cut	1.60	0.20	NW-SE aligned shallow ditch		
300708	Fill	1.60	0.20	Greyish brown silty clay with gravel, fill of 300707		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying mixed natural geology of gravel with sand and clay patches.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44-0.50
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300800	Layer	-	-	Natural gravel subsoil	-	-
300801	Layer	-	-	Yellow sand	-	-

300802	Layer	-	-	Grey brown clay		
300803	Layer	-	0.12-0.18	Reddish brown silty clay subsoil		
300804	Layer	-	0.26-0.28	Topsoil/ploughsoil		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of mid brownish grey and orange/grey clay. Natural cut by three field drains aligned NE-SW, perhaps in base of medieval furrows (not numbered), but these were not certainly detected.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.36-0.38
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300900	Layer	-		Mid brown grey clay natural subsoil	-	-
300901	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of reddish brown clay silt with gravel and clay patches. There is a single furrow 2.45m wide (not numbered) aligned NE-SW with an adjacent field drain.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40-0.46
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
301000	Layer	-	-	Reddish brown clay silt natural subsoil	-	-
301001	Layer	-	0.30-0.31	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
301002	Layer	-	-	Gravel patches in natural subsoil	-	
301003	Layer	-	-	Mid grey clay patches in natural subsoil	-	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					**Orientation**	ESE-WNW
Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a single pit and three possible/probable furrows, two cut by field drains. All cut natural gravel.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40-0.52
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
301100	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
301101	Layer	-	0.30	Orange brown silty	-	-

				clay subsoil		
301102	Layer			Natural gravel subsoil		
301103	Cut	1.40	0.40	Flat bottomed ?oval pit		
301104	Fill	1.40	0.40	Grey brown silty clay, fill of 301103, cut by 301111	Pottery 1/9 medieval	
301105	Fill	4.50	?	Grey brown silty clay gravel, fill of 301109		
301106	Fill	7.50	?	Grey brown gravelly silt clay, fill of 301110, cut by field drain		
301107	Cut			Cut for field drain, cuts subsoil 301101		
301108	Fill			Grey brown silty clay fill of 301107		
301109	Cut	4.50	?	Furrow		
301110	Cut	7.50	?	Furrow		
301111	Cut	1.40+	0.10	Possible furrow, cut by field drain 301107		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					**Orientation**	*c* E-W
Trench consists of topsoil overlying ditches aligned roughly NE-SW (of three phases) and NW-SE. Adjacent to the latter a group of postholes forms part of a structure, probably rectilinear and on a comparable alignment. Two NE-SW furrows are also present. Apparent hollows in the natural gravel are filled with possible colluvial material.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30-0.60
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
301200	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
301201	Layer	-	0.10	Brown clay natural subsoil	-	-
301202	Group			Group of six postholes (301203, 301205, 301207, 301209, 301211, 301213), four in a NE-SW line and two to east, total E-W spread *c* 3m		
301203	Cut	0.32	0.10	Circular posthole with rounded profile		
301204	Fill	0.32	0.10	Mid reddish brown clayey silt, fill of 301203		
301205	Cut	0.34	0.05	Very shallow base of circular posthole		
301206	Fill	0.34	0.05	Mid reddish brown		

				clayey silt, fill of 301205		
301207	Cut	0.42	0.20	Circular posthole with rounded profile		
301208	Fill	0.42	0.20	Mid greyish brown silty clay, fill of 301207		
301209	Cut	0.43	0.24	Circular posthole with rounded profile		
301210	Fill	0.43	0.24	Mid orange brown silty clay, fill of 301209		
301211	Cut	0.44	0.16	Circular posthole with rounded profile		
301212	Fill	0.44	0.16	Mid orange brown silty clay, fill of 301211		
301213	Cut	0.34	0.14	Circular posthole with rounded profile		
301214	Fill	0.34	0.14	Mid orange brown clayey silt, fill of 301213		
301215	Cut	1.0	0.28	Flat bottomed ditch		
301216	Fill	1.0	0.15	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, upper fill of 301215	Fired clay 1/8	
301217	Cut	0.85	0.41	Terminal of rounded profile ditch aligned roughly NE-SW, cuts 301219		
301218	Fill	0.85	0.16	Dark reddish brown clay silt, upper fill of 301217	Pottery 3/52 LIR; Fe ?nail fragment	
301219	Cut	1.10	0.26	Ditch on same alignment as 301217 and largely removed by it		
301220	Fill	0.30	0.26	Mid greyish brown clay silt, fill of 301219		
301221	Fill	0.70	0.29	Dark greyish brown silty clay with 30-40% limestone. Main fill of 301217		
301222	Fill	1.0	0.16	Dark greyish brown clayey silt with limestone, secondary fill of 301215		
301223	Fill	0.58	0.08	Limestone fragments in mid greyish brown clayey silt matrix, primary fill of 301215		
301224	Cut	0.70	0.27	Fairly steep sided and flat bottomed ditch		

				aligned *c* NW-SE, cuts ?colluvial layer 301226 so E edge not seen clearly in plan		
301225	Fill	0.70	0.27	Mid reddish brown clay silt, fill of 301224		
301226	Layer	4.0+	0.36	Mid orange brown silty clay, possible colluvium collected in hollow in underlying gravel		
301227	Cut	1.50	?	Furrow aligned *c* NE-SW, not excavated		
301228	Fill	1.50	?	Mid reddish brown clayey silt, fill of 301227		
301229	Cut	1.0	?	?circular pit or area of bioturbation cutting ditch 301215 near terminus of 301219, not excavated		
301230	Fill	1.0	?	Mid reddish brown clayey silt, fill of 301229		
301231	Cut	1.80	?	Furrow aligned *c* NE-SW, not excavated		
301232	Fill	1.80	?	Mid orangey brown silty clay, fill of 301231		
301233	Layer	-	-	Orange sandy gravel natural subsoil		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					**Orientation**	*c* E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology except for three furrows aligned *c* NNE-SSW. It is notable that subsoiler scars are at a distinct angle to the lines of the furrows (NE-SW). Topsoil and subsoil overlie natural geology of yellowish clay silt.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.48-0.56
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
301300	Layer	-	0.22-0.38	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
301301	Layer	-	0.19-0.30	Yellow clay silt colluvial subsoil	Fe nail, possibly post-medieval?	-
301302	Layer	-	-	Yellowish clay silt natural subsoil		
301303	Fill	3.50+	?	Mid pinkish brown clay silt, fill of furrow 301306		
301304	Fill	2.90	?	Mid pinkish brown		

				clay silt, fill of furrow 301307		
301305	Fill	1.80+	?	Mid pinkish brown clay silt, fill of furrow 301308		
301306	Cut	3.50+	?	Furrow, *c* NNE-SSW, not excavated		
301307	Cut	2.90	?	Furrow, *c* NNE-SSW, not excavated		
301308	Cut	1.80+	?	Furrow, *c* NNE-SSW, not excavated		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contains topsoil and two deep subsoil deposits over archaeological features. Secondary machine slot dug through deposit 301416 etc in centre of trench. NE-SW-aligned ditch and pit complex (undated) in western third of trench, but no other significant features. Natural gravel at base of sequence.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.70-0.80
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
301401	Layer	-	0.24-0.30	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
301402	Layer		0.15-0.18	Mid reddish brown sandy silt subsoil		
301403	Layer		0.14-0.29	Mid brown gravelly clay subsoil		
301404	Layer	-	-	Natural gravel subsoil		
301405	Cut	2.10+	0.60	Wide shallow ditch with very gently sloping sides, aligned NE-SW		
301406	Fill	1.20	0.36	Mid brown clayey gravel, basal fill of 301405		
391407	Fill	1.70	0.20	Mid brown clayey gravel, second fill of 301405		
301408	Fill	1.90	0.18	Mid reddish brown clayey sand, third fill of 301405		
301409	Fill	1.20	0.19	Mid brown clayey silt, upper fill of 301405	Pottery 1/3 MIA?	
301410	Cut	0.60	0.21	Small rounded ?pit cutting E edge of 301405		
301411	Fill	0.40	0.16	Dark brown clayey sand, lower fill of 301410		
301412	Fill	0.30	0.07	Mid brown clayey		

				sand, upper fill of 301410		
301413	Cut	0.80	0.24	Shallow round profile ditch, NE-SW, cutting		
301414	Fill	0.80	0.24	Mid brown clayey silt, fill of 301413		
301415	Cut?	0.50+	0.08	Possible furrow, cuts 301413, only W edge seen		
301416	Fill	0.50+	0.08	Mid brown clayey gravel, fill of 301415 and probable continuation of subsoil 301403		
301417	Layer			Mid brown silty gravel, possible variation in natural subsoil		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 15

General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying an undated ring gully and later pit at the S end of the trench. Towards the N end the subsoil is not clearly present. An irregularly shaped quarry pit is cut by a NE-SW-aligned furrow. A further furrow may be present in the middle of the trench. Sandy gravel natural subsoil.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
301501	Layer	-	0.13-0.28	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
301502	Layer	-	0.10-0.12	Reddish brown silty sand and gravel subsoil		
301503	Layer	-	-	Natural sandy gravel subsoil		
301504	Cut	0.60	0.38	Segment of curvilinear (ring?) gully with internal diameter of >4m, at S end of trench		
301505	Fill	0.50	0.10	Mid reddish brown silty sand, basal fill of 301504		
301506	Fill	0.50	0.08	Mid reddish brown silty sand, fill of 301504		
301507	Fill	0.50	0.28	Mid reddish brown silty sand, fill of 301504, overlies 301505 and 301506		
301508	Cut	1.30	0.20	Shallow		

				subrectangular pit cuts gully 301504		
301509	Fill	0.80	0.08	Mid reddish brown gravelly silt, lower fill of 301508		
301510	Fill	0.95	0.12	Mid reddish brown sandy silt, upper fill of 301508		
301511	Cut	4.0+	0.20+	Probable quarry pit with irregular outline and almost vertical edges, extends 1.50m from W side of trench		
301512	Fill	4m+	0.20+	Mid reddish brown sandy silt, fill of 301511		
301513	Cut	1.40	0.18	Furrow aligned NE-SW		
301514	Fill	1.40	0.18	Mid brown silt, fill of 301513		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying two pits, one not clearly defined. Two linear features between the two pits are identified as cutting the subsoil and may represent variations in this deposit. Natural subsoil of gravel at S end of the trench, but mostly overlaid by sandy clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35-0.42
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
301600	Layer	-	0.22-0.24	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
301601	Layer	-	0.16	Orange brown sandy clay subsoil	-	-
301602	Fill	1.05	0.48	Reddish brown sandy clay with gravel, upper fill of 301604		
301603	Fill	1.05	0.42	Light yellow brown sandy clay, lower fill of 301604, not fully excavated	Pottery 2/10 medieval	
301604	Cut	1.05	0.64+	Vertical sided pit partly revealed (1.05 x 0.95m) in extreme SW corner of trench. Not fully excavated		
301605	Fill	0.90	0.26	Mid reddish brown sandy silt, fill of 301606		
301606	Cut	0.90	0.26	WNW-ESE-aligned ditch with sloping		

				sides and flat base. Cuts subsoil 301601		
301607	Fill	2.50	0.10+?	Mid brown sandy clay, fill of 301608. Excavated to depth of 0.10m – at this point indistinguishable from natural subsoil	Pottery 1/3 medieval	
301608	Cut	2.50	?	Large pit projecting from W side of trench.		
301609	Fill	0.70	?	Mid reddish brown sandy silt, fill of 301610		
301610	Cut	0.60-0.70	?	Ditch aligned c NW-SW, cuts subsoil 301601		
301611	Layer	-	-	Natural subsoil of gravel with patches of orange sandy clay		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 17

General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench consists of topsoil and localised subsoil overlying two N-S aligned linear features and three NNE-SSW-aligned 'furrows' and a wider similarly aligned feature that may be an earlier version of one of these. A small rectangular pit at the W end of the trench may be a modern test pit. Natural gravel subsoil.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30-0.38
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
301700	Layer	-	0.20-0.30	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
301701	Layer	-	0.02-0.14	Yellowish clay subsoil in E half of trench	-	-
301702	Layer	-	-	Pale grey natural gravel subsoil		
301703	Cut	0.60	0.16	N terminus of N-S ditch extends 0.90m into trench		
301704	Fill	0.6	0.16	Yellowish grey silty clay, fill of 301703		
301705	Cut	0.90+	0.24	Shallow N-S ditch at E end of trench, E edge beyond trench limits, cut by 301708		
301706	Fill	0.74	0.14	Dark grey silty clay, basal fill of 301705		
301707	Fill	0.86+	0.22	Mid-light brownish grey silty clay, upper fill of 301705	Pottery 11/109 mid 1C	
301708	Cut	0.66	0.18	NNE-SSW-aligned cut,		

				steep sided on E and shallow on W, furrow		
301709	Fill	0.66	0.18	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay, fill of 301708		
301710	Cut	1.30	?	NNE-SSW-aligned ditch or furrow, not excavated		
301711	Fill	1.30	?	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay, fill of 301710		
301712	Cut	0.90x0.60	?	Sub-square pit, not excavated, possible modern test pit		
301713	Fill	0.90	?	Mid grey-brown silty clay, fill of 301712		
301714	Cut	0.30-0.50	?	NNE-SSW-aligned furrow, not excavated		
301715	Fill	0.50	?	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay, fill of 301714		
301716	Cut	0.45-0.55	?	NNE-SSW-aligned furrow, not excavated		
301717	Fill	0.55	?	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay, fill of 301716		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 18

General description					**Orientation**	*c* E-W
Trench consists of topsoil and a localised subsoil overlying a complex of intercutting pits and ditches aligned N-S in the centre of the trench with a further ditch and possible ditch terminal to the W. Two probable furrows, but close together. Natural gravel subsoil.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.32-0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
301800	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
301801	Layer	-	0.02-0.20	Grey brown silty clay subsoil	-	-
301802	Layer			Natural gravel subsoil		
301803	Cut	1.10+	0.72	?Pit, cut by 301814 and possibly by 301807		
301804	Fill		0.10	Gravelly silt. Basal fill of 301803		
301805	Fill		0.38	Gravelly silt. Middle fill of 301803	Pottery 4/19 MIA; field drain frag 6g PMED (intrusive)	

301806	Fill		0.20	Gravelly silt. Upper fil of 301803		
301807	Cut	1.10+	0.70	Pit, cut by 301810		
301808	Fill		0.21	Gravelly silt. Basal fill of 301807		
301809	Fill		0.18	Silty gravel. Upper surviving fill of 301807		
301810	Cut	2.10	0.76	Large N-S ditch, cut by 301814		
301811	Fill		0.30	Sandy silt and gravel. Basal fill of 301810.		
301812	Fill		0.22	Sandy silt and gravel, second fil of 301810		
301813	Fill		0.28	Sandy silt and gravel. Upper fill of 301810	Pottery 4/41 LIR	
301814	Cut	1.80	0.54	Shallow pit, cuts fills of 301803, 301807 and 301810		
301815	Fill	1.80	0.54	Dark grey sandy gravel. Sole fill of 301814. Very similar to 301813	Pottery 2/12 LIR	
301816	Cut	1.40	0.16	Furrow, cuts 301813 and 301815		
301817	Fill	1.40	0.16	Silty clay fill of 301816		
301818	Cut	1.10	?	Pit or ditch terminus, unexcavated		
301819	Fill	1.10	?	Fill of 301818		
301820	Cut	2.10	?	Ditch, N-S, unexcavated		
301821	Fill	2.10	?	Silty clay fill of 301820, cut by furrow (unexcavated)		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 19

General description					**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench consists of topsoil overlying three probable undated ditches and four (3 unnumbered) furrows, all on similar NE-SW alignments. Natural gravel subsoil.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
301900	Layer	-	-	Natural gravel subsoil	-	-
301901	Cut	1.50	0.20	Furrow	-	-
301902	Fill	1.50	0.20	Silty clay fill of 301901		
301903	Cut	0.95	0.45	Steep-sided ditch		
301904	Fill	0.95	0.45	Silty clay with gravel fill of 301903		
301905	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil/ploughsoil		

301906	Cut	1.0	?	Ditch, unexcavated		
301907	Fill	1.0	?	Silty clay with gravel fill of 301906		
301908	Cut	1.10	?	Ditch, unexcavated		
301909	Fill	1.10	?	Silty clay with gravel fill of 301908		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 20						
General description					**Orientation**	*c* E-W
Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a complex of pits in the centre of the trench. At the E end a NW-SE-aligned ditch predates but parallels a substantial post-medieval boundary ditch. The latter, and an approximately parallel furrow at the W end of the trench, both cut the subsoil layer 302002. Natural gravel subsoil.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.58-0.93
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
302000	Layer	-	-	Natural gravel subsoil	-	-
302001	Layer	-	0.03+	Natural, light brownish grey sandy clay	-	-
302002	Layer		0.20-0.30	Subsoil		
302003	Cut	2.25+	0.60+	Wide NW-SE post-medieval boundary ditch, cuts subsoil 302002		
302004	Fill		0.08	Thin gravel lower fill of 302003		
302005	Fill		0.60+	Silty clay main fill of 302003		
302006	Layer		0.18-0.23	Topsoil/ploughsoil		
302007	Cut	0.70+	0.24	Furrow at extreme W end of trench		
302008	Fill		0.24	Clay-silt lower fill of 302007		
302009	Fill		0.20	Clay silt fill in NE side of 302007, above 302008		
302010	Cut	1.20	0.23	Shallow ditch parallel with, immediately E of and cut by 302003		
302011	Fill	0.85	0.16	Clay basal fill of 302010		
302012	Fil	1.20	0.09	Clayey gravel upper fill of 302010		
302013	Cut	1.25	0.43	Circular pit		
302014	Fill	0.90	0.09	Clayey gravel basal fill of 302013	-	
301015	Fill	1.25	0.34	Clay silt upper fill of 302013	-	

301016	Cut	0.70+	0.60	Irregular profiled pit		
302017	Fill		0.50	Clayey gravel fill of 302016, cut by 302018		
302018	Cut	2.20+	0.74	Large oval pit		
302019	Fill		0.18	Clayey gravel basal fill of 302018		
302020	Fill	2.20+	0.38	Sandy clay principal fill of 302018	Pottery 2/14 MIA	
302021	Fill	1.10	0.23	Silty clay fill of 302018 above 302020	Pottery 2/7 MIA; fired clay 4/14	
302022	Layer	5.0+	0.24	Dark brown silt overlying/filling top of pit 302018 and extending beyond. Cut by 302013	Pottery 2/4 possibly LIR	
302023	Fill	1.0	0.09	Silty clay localised fill in 302013	Fired clay 7/47	
302024	Fill			Same as 302004		
302025	Fill			Same as 302005		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 21

General description					**Orientation**	*c* N-S
Trench consists of topsoil overlying two parallel roughly E-W-aligned ditches, one adjacent to the terminal of a third ditch on a slightly different alignment. One NE-SW furrow. All cutting natural gravel.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.25-0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
302100	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
302101	Layer	-	-	Natural sandy gravel subsoil	-	-
302102	Fill	0.62	0.18	Silty clay gravel. Upper fill of 302104	Pottery 12/130 LIR	
302103	Fill	1.0	0.23	Sandy clay lower fill of 302104	Pottery 11/134 LIR	
302104	Cut	1.0	0.40	Rounded V-shaped ditch terminal, roughly E-W		
302105	Fill	1.10	0.30	Silty clay fill of 302106	Pottery 1/3 LIR	
302106	Cut	1.10	0.30	Very steep sided and flat bottomed ditch, *c* E-W		
302107	Fill	0.75	?	Silty clay fill of 302108		
302108	Cut	0.75	?	NW-SW ditch, unexcavated		
302109	Fill	0.80	?	Silty clay fill of 302110		
302110	Cut	0.80	?	Furrow, unexcavated		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 22						
General description					**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench consists of topsoil overlying complex arrangements of ditches and gullies on varying alignments, cut by three NE-SW-aligned furrows. Natural sandy gravel subsoil.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
302200	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
302201	Layer	-	-	Natural sandy gravel subsoil	-	-
302202	Fill	0.90	0.30	Sandy silt upper fill of 302204	Pottery 12/108 LIR	
302203	Fill	0.60	0.13	Sandy silt primary fill of 302204	Pottery 4/86 LIR	
302204	Cut	0.90	0.40	Roughly N-S ditch cut, latest in local sequence		
302205	Fill	1.20+	0.38	Sandy clay fill of 302206	Pottery 3/38 LIR	
302206	Cut	1.20+	0.38	Roughly E-W ditch cut. Cut by 302204		
302207	Fill	0.58	0.18	Sandy clay fill of 302208		
302208	Cut	0.58	0.18	Roughly E-W ditch cut. Cut by 302204		
302209	Fill	1.0	0.15	Silty clay fill of 302210	Pottery 1/19 LIR	
302210	Cut	1.0	0.15	Furrow		
302211	Fill	0.80	0.12	Sandy silt fill of 302212		
302212	Cut	0.80	0.12	Shallow E-W ditch		
302213	Fill	0.35+	?	Silty clay fill of 302214		
302214	Cut	0.35+	?	Linear feature *c* 4.80m long parallel to alignment of trench (*c* NW-SE). Unexcavated		
302215	Fill	1.30	?	Silty clay fill of 302216		
302216	Cut	1.30	?	Furrow, unexcavated		
302217	Fill	1.70	?	Sandy silt fill of 302218	Pottery 1/60 LIR	
302218	Cut	1.70	?	Roughly N-S ditch. Unexcavated		
302219	Fill	0.60	?	Silty clay fill of 302220		
302220	Cut	0.60	?	Ditch terminal extends 0.85m into trench. Unexcavated		
302221	Fill	1.10	?	Silty clay fill of 302222		
302222	Cut	1.10	?	Furrow, unexcavated		
302223	Fill	0.55	?	Sandy silt fill of		

				302224		
302224	Cut	0.55	?	NW-SE ditch/gully, unexcavated. Cut by furrow 302222		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 23						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench consists of topsoil and a localised subsoil overlying natural gravel. Contains four ditches, a large area of intercutting pits and two furrows.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30-0.50
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
302300	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
302301	Layer	-		Yellow brown clay subsoil in E part of trench	-	-
302302	Layer	-	-	Natural gravel subsoil		
302303	Cut	0.70	0.24	Curving ditch at W end of trench		
302304	Fill	0.70	0.16	Gravelly clay basal fill of 302303	-	
302305	Fill	0.70	0.08	Clayey silt upper fill of 302303	Pottery 1/7 MIA	
302306	Cut	1.40	?	Ditch, unexcavated		
302307	Fill	1.40	?	Silty clay fill of 302306		
302308	Cut	1.30	?	Ditch, unexcavated		
302309	Fill	1.30	?	Silty clay fill of 302308		
302310	Cut	0.95+	0.46	Rounded? pit		
302311	Fill	0.90+	0.32	Dark grey silt, main fill of 302310	Pottery 13/197 mid-late 1C	
302312	Fill	0.95+	0.14	Dark grey brown silty clay, upper fill of 32310		
302313	Cut	0.80	0.19	Shallow pit, cutting pit 302315		
302314	Fill	0.80	0.19	Yellowish grey silty clay, fill of 302313		
302315	Cut	0.42	0.12	Small pit or posthole		
302316	Fill	0.42	0.12	Yellowish grey silty clay fill of 302315		
302317	Cut		?	Intercutting pits, unexcavated		
302318	Fill		?	Grey and yellow-brown clayey silt fill of 302317		
302319	Cut	1.12	0.22	Shallow pit		
302320	Fill	1.12	0.22	Greyish yellow clayey silt fill of 302319	Pottery 1/7 MIA	

302321	Cut	0.80	?	Pit, unexcavated		
302322	Fill	0.80	?	Greyish yellow clay silt fill of 302321		
302323	Cut	0.90+	?	Ditch, unexcavated		
302324	Fill	0.90+	?	Yellowish grey silty clay fill of 302323	-	-

Trench 24						
General description					**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench consists of topsoil overlying natural gravel cut by an undated ditch terminus and four roughly parallel linear features, possibly all related to post-Roman cultivation.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30-0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
302400	Layer	-	0.29	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
302401	Layer	-	-	Natural sandy gravel	-	-
302402	Cut	0.60	0.25	Terminus of ditch/gully with rounded profile		
302403	Fill	0.60	0.25	Brownish grey clay, fill of 302402		
302404	Cut	1.05	?	ENE-WSW ditch or furrow, unexcavated		
302405	Fill	1.05	?	Brown gravelly clay silt, fill of 302404		
302406	Cut	1.05	?	ENE-WSW probable furrow, unexcavated		
302407	Fill	1.05	?	Brown gravelly clay silt, fill of 302406		
302408	Cut	0.75	?	ENE-WSW probable furrow, unexcavated		
302409	Fill	0.75	?	Brown gravelly clay silt, fill of 302408		
302410	Cut	0.40	?	ENE-WSW gully or possible furrow, unexcavated		
302411	Fill	0.40	?	Brown gravelly clay silt, fill of 302410	-	-

Trench 25						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench consists of topsoil overlying natural gravel which is cut by three NW-SE aligned ditches and two furrows.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
302500	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
302501	Layer	-	-	Natural sandy gravel	-	-
302502	Fill	0.80	0.08	Dark grey brown silty	Pottery 11/93 LIR	

				clay, localised top fill of 302505		
302503	Fill	2.10	0.12	Mid brown silty clay, upper fill of 302505		
302504	Fill	1.50	0.32	Light brown silty clay, primary fill of 302505	Pottery 5/27 LIR	
302505	Cut	1.70	0.43	Flat bottomed ditch aligned NW-SE		
302506	Fill	2.30	0.14	Light brown silty clay fill of 302507	Pottery 5/35 LIR	
302507	Cut	2.30	0.14	Furrow		
302508	Fill	1.45	0.25	Light grey brown clay silt upper fill of 302510	Pottery 8/68 LIR; fired clay 4/60	
302509	Fill	0.44	0.15	Light grey brown silty clay, basal fill of 302510	Pottery 5/33 LIR	
302510	Cut	1.45	0.40	Ditch aligned NW-SE		
302511	Fill	1.60	?	Dark grey brown silty clay, fill of 302512		
302512	Cut	1.60	?	Ditch aligned NW-SE, unexcavated		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 26

General description					**Orientation**	ESE-WNW
Trench consists of topsoil and a localised subsoil overlying, in the middle of the trench, a wide ditch cut by a narrower curving ditch, with a posthole and an unexcavated ditch to the south and a probable pit to the north, cutting natural gravel.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
302600	Layer	-	0.24-0.32	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
302601	Layer	-	0.10	Orange-brown clay subsoil, localised	-	-
302602	Layer		-	Natural sandy gravel with pockets of brown clay		
302603	Fill	0.84	0.10	Grey brown silty clay, upper fill of 302606	Pottery 26/252 mid-late 1C; fired clay 1/9	
302604	Fill	0.80	0.24	Dark grey sandy silt, middle fill of 302606	Pottery 21/199 LIR	
302605	Fill	0.75	0.12	Silty clay gravel, primary fill of 302606	Pottery 3/46 LIR	
302606	Cut	0.85	0.43	Steep sided and flat bottomed pit		
302607	Fill	1.0	0.38	Grey brown silty clay, fill of 302608	Pottery 20/204 LIR	

302608	Cut	1.0	0.38	Curving ditch cuts ditch 302610		
302609	Fill	2.70	0.50	Light brown silty clay, fill of 302610	Pottery 4/38 MIA	
302610	Cut	2.70	0.50	Wide ditch, roughly NE-SW, cut by 302608		
302611	Fill	1.0	?	Dark grey sandy silt, fill of 302612	Pottery 20/219 MIA	
302612	Cut	1.0	?	Ditch *c* NNE-SSW, unexcavated		
302613	Fill	0.35	0.25	Grey brown sandy silt, fill of 302614		
302614	Cut	0.35	0.25	Posthole		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 27						
General description					**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a complex of ditches and gullies, some intercutting, on varied alignments, cut into natural gravel.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40-0.45
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
302700	Layer	-	0.23-0.30	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
302701	Layer	-	0.10-0.16	Orange brown silty clay subsoil	-	-
302702	Layer	-	-	Natural gravel subsoil		
302703	Cut	0.58	0.26	N-S aligned ditch terminal		
302704	Fill	0.58	0.26	Dark brownish grey silty clay fill of 302703	Pottery 1/15 MIA	
302705	Cut	1.45	0.18	Shallow N-S ditch, cut by 302707		
302706	Fill	1.45	0.18	Orange brown silty clay fill of 302705	Pottery 3/83 late 1-2C	
302707	Cut	0.90	0.28	Ditch, NW-SE, curving to W at both ends		
302708	Fill	0.90	0.12	Dark brown silty clay upper fill of 302707		
302709	Cut	1.30	?	NE-SW ditch cut by 302707, not excavated		
302710	Fill	1.30	?	Brownish black silty clay, fill of 302709	Pottery 3/53 MIA; fired clay 1/4	
302711	Cut	0.50	0.18	Gully, *c* N-S, cut by 302717		
302712	Fill	0.50	0.18	Dark brownish grey silty clay, fill of gully 302711		
302713	Cut	1.0	?	Ditch, NE-SW, not excavated		

302714	Fill	1.0	?	Orange brown silty clay, fill of 302713		
302715	Cut	1.40	?	Ditch, NE-SW, just S of 302713, not excavated		
302716	Fill	1.40	?	Grey brown silty clay, fill of 302715	Fired clay 2/24	
302717	Cut	0.50+	0.28	Same as 302707		
302718	Fill	0.50+	0.28	Same as 302708	Pottery 3/17 LIR; fired clay 1/10	
302719	Cut	1.27	?	Ditch, E-W at S end of trench, not excavated	Pottery 2/6 MIA?	
302720	Fill	1.27	?	Dark grey brown silty clay, fill of 302719		
302721	Fill	0.90+	0.26	Dark grey brown silty clay, secondary (main) fill of 302707	Pottery 1/7 LIR	
302722	Fill	0.56	0.20	Orange clay, primary fill of 302707		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 28						
General description					**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench consists of topsoil overlying multiple ditches, some intercutting, aligned N-S, E-W and NE-SW as well as two NNE-SSW furrows, all cutting natural gravel.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
302800	Layer	-	0.28-0.36	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
302801	Layer	-	-	Natural gravel subsoil	-	-
302802	Fill	1.0	0.04	Mid brown sandy clay, probably ploughsoil in top of ditch 302806	Pottery 3/19 LIR	
302803	Fill	1.30	0.17	Dark grey silty clay, an upper fill of 302806	Pottery 43/302 MIA; fired clay 2/23	
302804	Fill	1.10	0.24	Light grey silty clay, secondary fill of 302806	Pottery 6/74 MIA	
302805	Fill	0.90	0.15	Light brown sandy clay, primary fill of 302806	Pottery 2/8 MIA	
302806	Cut	1.30	0.60	Wide N-S ditch		
302807	Fill	1.10	0.08	Light grey sandy clay, fill of 302808	Pottery 1/26 LIR	
302808	Cut	1.10	0.08	Oval feature, possibly tree/animal disturbance		
302809	Fill	1.50	0.15	Light brown very gravelly clay, uppermost fill of		

				302812		
302810	Fill	1.20	0.20	Light reddish brown clay, an upper fill of 302812	Pottery 3/16 MIA?	
302811	Fill	1.50	0.55	Light grey sandy clay, main secondary fill of 302812	Pottery 5/21 MIA	
302812	Cut	1.60	0.88	Large N-S ditch, cuts 302814		
302813	Fill	1.20	0.06	Dark grey silty clay, an upper fill of 302814	Pottery 10/107 MIA; fired clay 7/46	
302814	Cut	2.0+	0.83	Wide round-profiled NE-SW ditch, earliest in a sequence of three		
302815	Fill	1.30	0.06	Light brown silty clay, uppermost fill of 302817	Pottery 5/29 mid-late 1C	
302816	Fill	1.50	0.13	Light grey brown silty clay, an upper fill of 302817	Pottery 3/16 mid-late 1C; fired clay 1/3	
302817	Cut	2.20	0.65	Wide flat-bottomed ditch NE-SW, cuts 302814		
302818	Fill	1.10	0.12	Mid brown silty clay with gravel, uppermost fill of 302814, cut by 302812		
302819	Fill	1.70	0.15	Light brown silty clay gravel, secondary (but upper) fill of 302814	Pottery 2/5 MIA; fired clay 3/17	
302820	Fill	0.90	0.15	Light grey gravelly sandy clay, primary fill of 302812		
302821	Fill	1.50	0.10	Light brown sandy clay with gravel, secondary fill of 302817	Pottery 2/26 MIA	
302822	Fill	1.40	0.30	Light grey brown sandy clay and gravel, primary fill of 302817		
302823	Fill	1.30	0.70	Light grey brown sandy clay gravel, primary fill of 302814		
302824	Fill	0.55	0.18	Dark grey sandy clay, fill of 302825	Pottery 14/113 mid-late 1C; fired clay 1/3	
302825	Cut	0.55	0.18	ENE-WSW ditch/gully		
302826	Fill	0.70	0.05	Light brown silty clay, fill of 302827	Pottery 1/4 LIR	
302827	Cut	0.70	0.05	Furrow, NE-SW		

302828	Fill	0.60	0.44	Light brown silty clay, fill of 302829		
302829	Cut	0.60	0.44	SW-NE steep-sided terminus projects 1.35 m from SW side of trench		
302830	Fill	0.90	?	Dark grey silty clay, fill of 302834	Pottery 2/10 MIA	
302831	Fill	0.90	?	Dark grey silty clay, fill of 302835	Pottery 3/13 LIR	
302832	Fill	1.20	?	Dark grey silty clay, fill of 302836	Pottery 1/3 MIA	
302833	Fill	1.10+	?	Light brown silty clay, fill of 302837	Pottery 1/2 mid-late 1C	
302834	Cut	0.90	?	ENE-WSW ditch, unexcavated		
302835	Cut	0.90	?	NE-SW ditch, unexcavated		
302836	Cut	1.20	?	Pit or ditch terminal, unexcavated		
302837	Cut	1.10+	?	E-W ditch in N corner of trench, unexcavated		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 29

General description					**Orientation**	*c* SE-NW
Trench consists of topsoil overlying a group of four small ditches/gullies (not excavated) and a pit at the NW end, a second group of larger NNE-SSW-aligned diches in the centre of the trench (cut by a medieval furrow) and a large pit and two further similarly-aligned ditches to the SE. All cut natural subsoil of gravel or a silty clay that overlies it in places.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
302900	Layer	-	0.26-0.28	Topsoil/ploughsoil	Pottery 1/8 mid-late 1C	-
302901	Layer	-	0.14-0.20	Yellow brown silty natural clay subsoil		-
302902	Layer	-	-	Natural gravel subsoil		
302903	Cut	1.57	0.38	?Circular pit in edge of trench		
302904	Fill	0.95	0.08	Yellowish brown clay gravel, basal fil of 302903		
302905	Fill	1.50	0.20	Dark grey gravelly silty clay, secondary fill of 302903	Pottery 3/28 mid-late 1C	
302906	Fill	1.55	0.17	Dark brown clayey silt, upper fill of 302903	Pottery 4/27 mid-late 1C	
302907	Cut	1.10	0.46	Wide V-profiled ditch,		

				NNE-SSW		
302908	Fill	0.90	0.35	Dark grey gravelly clay silt, main fill of 302907	Pottery 27/314 late 1-?early 2C; fired clay 1/12	
302909	Fill	1.10	0.11	Dark brown clayey silt, upper fill of 302907	Pottery 37/407 mid-late 1C; fired clay 2/18	
302910	Cut	1.05+	0.41	NW-SE southern edge of possible ditch, largely removed by later features		
302911	Fill	0.35+	0.15	Mid brown gravelly silty clay, primary fill of 302910		
302912	Fill	0.45+	01.4	Dark grey clayey silt, upper fill of 302910		
302913	Cut	2.25+	0.66	Wide shallow ditch *c* NNE-SSW, cuts 302910, obscured in plan by furrow 302919		
302914	Fill	0.55+	0.12	Dark yellowish-brown clay, primary fill of 302913		
302915	Fill	1.20	0.08	Dark brown gravelly silty clay, secondary fill of 302913		
302916	Fill	1.25+	0.26m	Dark greyish brown gravelly clayey silt, middle fill of 302913	Pottery 3/11 MIA	
302917	Fill	0.68+	0.11	Mid-dark grey silt, fill of 302913 above 302916	Fired clay 1/4	
302918	Fill	1.20+	0.14	Dark brownish grey clay silt, upper fill of 302913	Pottery 7/76 MIA; fired clay 4/44; Fe sheet fragment	
302919	Cut	1.18	0.10	Furrow aligned *c* NNE-SSW		
202920	Fill	1.18	0.10	Brown clayey silt, fill of 302919	Pottery 1/6 uncertain prehistoric	
302921	Cut	0.70	?	Ditch immediately W of and parallel to 302907, not excavated		
302922	Fill	0.70	?	Dark brown gravelly clay silt, fill of 302921		
302923	Cut	2.25	?	NNE-SSW-aligned ditch, not excavated		
302924	Fill	2.25	?	Black-brown clayey silt, fill of 302923		
302925	Cut	1.20+	?	Possible pit cut by		

				302923 on W side of latter, not excavated		
302926	Fill	1.20+	?	Black clayey silt, fill of 302925		
302927	Cut	0.45-0.70	?	Possible ditch aligned *c* NNE-SSW, not excavated		
302928	Fill	0.70	?	Mid brown gravelly clay silt, fill of 302927		
302929	Cut	0.63	0.19	Circular steep sided concave based pit or posthole		
302930	Fill	0.63	0.19	Dark brownish grey silty clay, fill of 302929		
302931	Cut	0.30	?	NE-SW-aligned gully at NW end of trench, not excavated		
302932	Fill	0.30	?	Dark greyish brown silty clay, fill of 302931		
302933	Cut	0.30	?	NNE-SSW-aligned gully, cuts 302931, not excavated		
302934	Fill	0.30	?	Blackish gravelly silt, fill of 302933		
302935	Cut	0.55	?	NW-SE-aligned ditch gully, cuts 302931 and 302933, not excavated		
302936	Fill	0.55	?	Blackish gravelly silt, fill of 302935		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 30						
General description					**Orientation**	*c* E-W
Trench consists of topsoil overlying intercutting pit and posthole at the E end, and a possible ditch terminal (unexcavated) and successive narrow gullies in the central area. The gullies are on a similar alignment to an excavated furrow and may be truncated by a second one, while at the W end of the trench is a further unexcavated ditch, possibly another furrow, all cutting natural gravel with patches of bioturbation.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
303000	Layer	-	0.26-0.30	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
303001	Layer	-	0.06	Reddish brown silty clay natural subsoil	-	-
303002	Cut	0.32	0.20	Small flat bottomed posthole		
303003	Fill	0.32	0.20	Dark brown-black silty clay, fil of 303002		
303004	Cut	0.49	0.20	Flat bottomed small		

				pit cutting 303002and with very similar fill		
303005	Fill	0.49	0.20	Dark brown black silty clay with burnt material, fill of 303004		
303006	Cut	1.30	0.14	Furrow aligned *c* NNE-SSW		
303007	Fill	1.30	0.14	Mid orangey brown clay silt, fill of 303006		
303008	Cut	0.4	0.09	NNE-SSW-aligned gully, recutting feature 303010		
303009	Fill	0.4	0.09	Mid brownish grey clay silt, fill of 303008		
303010	Cut	0.56	0.15	NNE-SSW-aligned gully, recut by 303008		
303011	Fill	0.56	0.15	mid orange brown gravelly silty clay, fill of 303010		
303012	Cut	0.90-1.0	?	NE-SW aligned ditch, unexcavated		
303013	Fill	1.0	?	Mid grey brown silty lay, fill of 303012		
303014	Fill	1.20	?	Mid grey clay silt, fill of possible feature 303016		
303015	Layer			Natural gravel subsoil		
303016	Cut	1.20	?	Possible ditch terminal extending 1.5m into trench from S side, not excavated		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 31

General description					**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench consists of topsoil overlying a pit and a group of related/intercutting gullies at the E end. A possible linear feature towards the W end, probably an animal burrow, was cut by one of three linear features on different alignments in the W half of the trench.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30-0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
303100	Layer	-	0.28-0.34	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
303101	Layer	-	0.06-0.10	Silty clay natural subsoil	-	-
303102	Cut	1.05	0.58	V-shaped ditch aligned *c* NNW-SSE		
303103	Fill	0.90	0.20	Dark greyish brown silty clay, upper fill of	Pottery 3/25 LIR	

				303102		
303104	Fill	0.94	0.57	Dark grey-black silty clay, main fill of 303102	Pottery 5/58 LIA; fired clay 5/16	
303105	Cut	0.35	0.19	Round profiled gully between ditches 303102 and 303109		
303106	Fill	0.35	0.19	Mid orange brown silty clay, fill of 303105		
303107	Cut	0.46	0.16	Round profiled gully between ditches 303102 and 303109, cuts 303105 and expands and curves to cut 303109		
303108	Fill	0.46-?0.90	01.6	Mid greyish brown silty clay, fill of 303107		
303109	Cut	0.56	0.59	Very steep sided narrow V-profiled ditch/gully E of and parallel to 303103, cut by gully 303107		
303110	Fill	0.55	0.26	Dark greyish brown silty clay, upper fill of 303109	Pottery 1/2 LIR?; fired clay 3/25	
303111	Fill	0.40	0.30	Mid brownish grey silty clay matrix with 70% limestone, third fill of 303109		
303112	Fill	0.22	0.16	Dark blackish grey clay, second fill of 303109		
303113	Fill	0.14	0.07	Mid orange brown gravel, with sandy silt, primary fill of 303109	Fired clay 1/3	
303114	Cut	1.16	0.25	Circular pit with steep sides and flat base		
303115	Fill	1.16	0.25	Greyish black clayey silt with burnt material, sole fill of 303114	Pottery 3/11 MIA	
303116	Cut	0.22-0.30	?	N-S gully at W end of trench, unexcavated		
303117	Fill	0.30	?	Dark greyish brown silty clay, fill of 303116	Pottery 2/15 LIR	
303118	Cut	1.0-1.05	0.36	Feature seen in plan as NW-SW aligned linear terminal, cut to SE by 303122. Heavily disturbed by a		

				probable animal burrow		
303119	Fill	0.60	0.36	Mid orange brown clayey silt, fill of 303118		
303120	Cut	0.50	?	NNE-SSW-aligned ditch/gully, unexcavated		
303121	Fill	0.50	?	Mid orange-brown silty clay, fill of 303130		
303122	Cut	0.70	?	ENE-WSW-aligned ditch runs obliquely across trench for 6.5m		
303123	Fill	0.70	?	Mid greyish-brown silty clay, fill of 303122		
303124	Layer			Sandy gravel natural; subsoil with clay patches		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 32						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consists of topsoil overlying a variety of linear features – NW-SE aligned ditch and gully at N and S ends, a substantial recut NE-SW ditch and two less certain E-W features in the central area. A further NE-SW feature was shown to be a furrow. All cut natural gravel or an overlying natural brown clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
303200	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
303201	Layer	-	0.04-0.24	Brown clay natural subsoil, overlies 303202	-	-
303202	Layer	-		Natural gravel subsoil		
303203	Cut	1.90	0.65	Wide shallow ditch aligned NE-SW		
303204	Fill	1.60	0.10	Yellowish brown clayey gravel, primary fill of 303203		
303205	Fill	1.45	0.30	Greyish brown gravelly clay, second fill of 303203	Pottery 4/47 LIR	
303206	Fill	1.60	0.22	Dark grey clayey silt, third fill of 303203	Pottery 27/350 LIR; fired clay 1/5	
303207	Fill	1.95	0.10	Brown silty clay filling hollow above fills of ditch 303203 and recut 303220	Pottery 15/280 LIR	
303208	Cut	0.25-0.30	?	NW-SE aligned straight gully, not excavated		

303209	Fill	0.30	?	Dark grey gravelly clay silt, fil of 303208		
303210	Cut	0.65	?	Possible ditch, *c* E-W, not excavated		
303211	Fill	0.65	?	Dark brown clay, fill of 303210		
303212	Cut	0.65	?	Possible E-W ditch adjacent to 303210, not excavated		
303213	Fill	0.65	?	Dark brown clay, fill of 303212		
303214	Cut	0.85	0.10	Furrow aligned NE-SW		
303215	Fill	0.85	0.10	Mid brown gravelly clayey silt, fill of 303215		
303216	Cut	1.45	?	Ditch aligned NW-SE, not excavated		
303217	Fill	1.45	?	Reddish brown gravelly clay silt, fill of 303216	Pottery 5/114 mid-late 1C	
303218	Cut	0.18	?	Gully, NW-SE with angled change of alignment		
303219	Fill	0.18	?	Fill of 303218		
303220	Cut	0.60	0.25	Narrow recut on S side of ditch 303203		
303221	Fill	0.60	0.25	Dark grey very gravelly silt, fil of 303220		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 33						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying two or three closely related curving gullies, a small posthole and a single furrow cutting natural gravel.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
303300	Layer	-	0.14-0.20	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
303301	Layer	-	0.02-0.06	Reddish brown clay silt subsoil	-	-
303302	Cut	0.28	0.13	Small posthole with sloping sides		
303303	Fill	0.28	0.13	Dark greyish-brown silty clay, fill of 303302		
303304	Cut	0.76	0.18	Roughly NNE-SSW slightly curving shallow ditch		
303305	Fill	0.76	0.18	Reddish brown silty clay, fill of 303304		
303306	Cut	0.82	0.20	Slightly curving ditch		

				adjacent to 303304 on similar alignment		
303307	Fill	0.82	0.20	Reddish brown silty clay, fill of 303306	Pottery 1/10 LIR	
303308	Cut	0.90	0.10	Furrow aligned *c* NE-SW		
303309	Fill	0.90	0.10	Mid orange brown sandy clay silt, fill of 303308	Pottery 1/7 LIR	
303310	Layer	0.40+	0.14	Clay, possibly natural patch, but probably fill of gully 303312 cut by 303306		
303311	Layer			Natural gravel subsoil		
303312	Cut	0.60+	0.12	Possible curving gully cut predating 303306		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 34						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consists of topsoil and a localised subsoil overlies multiple features. At the N end of the trench is a very large ditch, roughly NW-SE-aligned, cut by a much smaller E-W feature. A second NW-SE ditch crosses the middle of the trench and is joined by a slighter feature on a perpendicular alignment. To the south is a further NW-SE aligned feature, perhaps a ditch terminal, while between this and the central ditch is a complex of intercutting slightly curvilinear gullies aligned roughly E-W. Features cut natural sandy gravel with clay patches.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30-0.50
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
303401	Layer	-	0.20-0.30	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
303402	Layer		Locally 0.28	Brown clayey sand and gravel subsoil at N end of trench		
303403	Layer			Natural sandy gravel with clay patches		
303404	Cut	0.70	0.42	?Ditch terminus, aligned NW-SE		
303405	Fill	0.65	0.18	Mid greyish brown clay, basal fill of 303404		
303406	Fill	0.68	0.22	Dark greyish brown sandy clay, second (main) fill of 303404	Pottery 8/101 LIR	
303407	Fill	0.60	0.07	Dark greyish brown clayey gravel, third fill of 303404		
303408	Fill	0.40	0.06	Dark reddish brown clayey sand, top fill of		

				303404		
303409	Cut	0.40	0.26	V-profiled gully		
303410	Fill	0.30	0.24	Dark brown sandy clay, fill of 303409, same as 303417		
303411	Cut	0.30-0.50	0.24	Gully with rounded to V-shaped profile		
303412	Fill	0.30	0.16	Dark brown gravelly clay, fill of 303411, same as 303420	Pottery 2/10 LIR	
303413	Cut	0.54	0.09	Shallow slightly curvilinear gully, cuts 303409 and 303411		
303414	Fill	0.54	0.09	Dark brown gravelly clay, fil of 303413, same as 303419		
303415	Cut	1.80+	0.15	Furrow aligned NE-SW		
303416	Fill	1.80+	0.15	Mid brown silty clay, fill of 303415		
303417	Fill	0.40	0.24	Dark brown sandy clay, lower fill of 303409, as 303410	Pottery 1/16 LIR	
303418	Fill	0.40	0.08	Reddish brown clay silt, upper fill of 303409	Pottery 1/2 LIR; fired clay 1/10	
303419	Fill	0.30	0.08	Dark brown gravelly clay, fill of 403413, as 403414		
303420	Fill	0.50	0.24	Dark brown gravelly clay, fil of 303411 as 303412		
303421	Cut	3.0+	0.80	Large slightly curving ditch at extreme N end of trench		
303422	Fill	1.70+	0.23	Mid brown sandy clay, basal fill of 303421		
303423	Fill	1.60+	0.30	Light brown clay with frequent limestone, second fill of 303421		
303424	Fill	0.90+	0.28	Dark brown gravelly silty clay, third fill of 303421	Pottery 16/193 LIR; fired clay 3/22	
303425	Cut	0.89	0.20	Shallow round profiled ditch, cuts 303421 at an angle		
303426	Fill	0.89	0.20	Dark brown clayey silt, fill of 303425		
303427	Cut	0.94	0.28	Round-profiled ditch aligned NW-SE		
303428	Fill	0.78	0.20	Dark greyish brown	Pottery 7/108 LIR	

				gravelly clay, lower fill of 303427		
303429	Fill	0.94	0.22	Light brown sandy clay, upper fill of 303427		
303430	Cut	0.44	0.38	NE-SW aligned steep-sided ditch/gully, runs up to 303427 from SW and cuts the upper fill, turning to run on same alignment to SE		
303431	Fill	0.26	0.06	Light greyish brown sandy clay, lower fill of 303430	Pottery 1/89 LIR	
303432	Fill	0.44	0.31	Dark greyish brown gravelly clay, upper fill of 303430	Pottery 13/215 LIR; fired clay 6/49	
303433	Cut	1.50	0.20	NE-SW-aligned furrow		
303434	Fill	1.50	0.20	Mid yellowish brown clay, fill of 303433		
303435	Fill	2.0+	0.10	Mid yellowish brown clayey gravel, upper fill of furrow 303433		
303436	Fill	0.85+	0.10	Dark reddish brown silty clay, upper/overlying fill of 303421		
303437	Layer	1.0	0.07	Mid yellowish brown clayey gravel, overlies fills of 303409, 303411 and 303413		
303438	Cut	0.23	0.10	Short NW-SE length of gully projecting 0.62m from ditch terminus 303404		
303439	Fill	0.23	0.10	Light greyish brown clayey sand, fill of 303438		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 35						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying two E-W ditches c 7.5m apart. Features cut mixed gravel and clay natural. Two roughly NE-SW alignments of clay may represent furrows.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30-0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
303501	Layer	-	0.16-0.22	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
303502	layer	-	0.14-0.16	Reddish brown sandy clay and gravel subsoil		

303503	Layer	-	-	Sandy gravel and clay natural subsoil		
303504	Cut	1.20	0.38	E-W ditch with rounded V-shaped profile		
303505	Fill	0.60	0.10	Dark brown clayey gravel, primary fill of 303504		
303506	Fill	1.20	0.30	Dark brown clay, main fill of 303504	Pottery 2/4 LIR; fired clay 2/6	
303507	Cut	0.57	0.14	E-W aligned ditch/gully		
303508	Fill	0.57	0.14	Dark brown clay, sole fill of 303507	Pottery 1/5 mid-late 1C; Roman coin 1-2C	
303509	Cut	0.60	0.20	Irregular feature, probable animal burrow projects 1.15m into E side of trench		
303510	Fill	0.60	0.20	Mid brown clay, fill of 303509		
303511	Layer	-	0.11	Brown alluvial clay, natural, at N end of trench		
303512	Layer	-	?	Brown alluvial clay, natural, localised at S end of trench		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 37

General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a single large ditch at N end cut into natural gravel. Elsewhere the natural subsoil includes patches of sand and alluvial clay, the latter including the fill of a possible E-W aligned ditch (unexcavated) in the northern part of the trench.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30-0.65
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
303700	Layer	-	0.15-0.20	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
303701	Layer	-	0.06-0.16	Greyish brown clay silt subsoil	-	-
303702	Layer		0.02-0.17	Alluvial clay		
303703	Cut	1.40+	0.68	ESE-WNW-aligned ditch at extreme N end of trench		
303704	Fill	1.40+	0.18	Dark reddish brown clayey silt, top fill of 303703	Pottery 3/13 mid-late 1C	
303705	Fill	1.40+	0.20	Light brownish grey silty clay, an upper fill	Pottery 3/18 mid-late 1C; fired clay	

				of 303703	2/9	
303706	Fill	1.30+	0.20	Whitish grey silty clay with brown clay lens, fourth fill of 303703		
303707	Fill	0.80	0.08	Light brownish grey clay silt, a localised third fill of 303703	Pottery 2/30 LIR	
303708	Fill	0.24+	0.14	Mid yellowish-orange sand, second fill of 303703		
303709	Fill	0.60	0.10	Mid grey sandy silt, primary fill of 303703		
303710	Layer			Natural sandy gravel subsoil		
303711	Layer			White degraded chalk(?)		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 38						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a silty clay subsoil and natural geology of sandy gravel with local variations.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
303800	Layer	-	0.21	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
303801	Layer	-	0.09	Grey brown silty clay subsoil	-	-
303802	Layer			Natural subsoil. Sandy gravel with brown grey clay at E end of trench and 'rag-rock' at W end		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 39						
General description					**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench consists of topsoil overlying two similar ditches and a small linear feature, possibly an animal burrow, all on broadly NNE-SSW alignments. These cut natural gravel and an overlying silty clay subsoil.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30-0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
303900	Layer	-	0.26-0.28	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
303901	Layer	-	-	Grey brown silty clay natural subsoil	-	-
303902	Layer		-	Sandy gravel natural subsoil with clay patches		

303903	Cut	1.20	0.44	Ditch with fairly gently sloping sides and rounded base, aligned *c* NNE-SSW		
303904	Fil	0.30	0.04	Very compacted gravel in brownish grey clay matrix, primary fill of 303903		
303905	Fill	0.90	0.20	Compact mid brownish grey silty clay and gravel, second fill of 303903		
303906	Fill	1.20	0.26	Mid grey brown silty clay, upper fill of 303903	Pottery 5/21 LIR	
303907	Cut	1.35	0.50	Ditch with fairly gently sloping sides and rounded base, aligned *c* NNE-SSW		
303908	Fill	0.60	0.10	Very compact gravel in matrix of mid grey brown silty clay, localised basal fill of 303907	Pottery 1/24 LIR	
303909	Fill	1.25	0.32	Very compact dark brownish grey gravelly silty clay, primary/secondary fill of 303907	Pottery 6/146 mid-late 1C; fired clay 2/13	
303910	Fill	1.35	0.30	Compact mid grey brown silty clay, upper fill of 303907	Pottery 1/10 late 1-2C	
303911	Cut	0.50	0.10	NE-SW-aligned gully or animal burrow with irregular sides and base		
303912	Fill	0.50	0.10	Mid grey brown gravelly silty clay, fill of 303911		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 40

General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a silty clay subsoil and natural geology of orange/grey clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
304000	Layer	-	0.17	Topsoil/ploughsoil	-	-
304001	Layer	-	0.12	Yellowish brown silty	-	-

				clay subsoil		
304002	Layer			Orange/blue-grey clay natural subsoil		
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Paul Booth

Introduction

B.1.1 The evaluation produced a total of 567 sherds (6069g, 4.41 REs) of pottery, almost entirely of middle Iron Age to early Roman date. The material was recorded on an Excel spreadsheet using the established OAU recording system for Iron Age and Roman pottery (Booth 2014). Sherds were examined by context and recorded by fabric, with details of form and decoration noted where these could be determined and other characteristics recorded as necessary. Quantification was by sherd count and weight, with quantification of vessels by rim count and REs (rim equivalents, the most reliable method of quantification of vessel types). Recording is in line with recently-published standards (PCRG *et al*. 2016) and Roman pottery fabric codes are cross-referenced to the national fabric reference collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) where appropriate (in bold in Table B.1.1).

B.1.2 The pottery was in moderate condition. The overall mean sherd weigh (MSW) of 10.7g indicates a fairly high degree of fragmentation, particularly for the Iron Age material. Preservation of surfaces was generally fair, but a degree of erosion of surfaces (probably related to soil conditions rather than repeated redeposition) might be suggested by the lack of records of burnished surfaces, although these did occasionally survive. Heavily worn sherds were, however, extremely rare.

Iron Age

B.1.3 Prehistoric pottery, all handmade and probably all of middle and later Iron Age date, amounted to 183 sherds (1482g, 0.93 REs), of which a minimum of 46 sherds (358g) were redeposited in contexts of later date on the basis of associated pottery.

B.1.4 Fabrics were usually defined in terms of their two most common inclusion types (defined by letter codes) and an indicator of fineness on a scale of 1 (very fine) to 5 (very coarse). The definition of fabrics using this system does not necessarily serve to identify production sources, since these are generally unknown for Iron Age material within the region. Nor does it automatically follow that identically coded sherds were from the same (unknown) source, merely that their makers exploited very similar clay and tempering resources, indicating a uniformity of potting tradition. The range of inclusion types utilised was fairly broad, but most would have been widely available or have occurred naturally in common clay sources in the region. Few, therefore, and none of the most commonly occurring ones, are diagnostic of specific source areas within or outside the Upper Thames region, though local production can be assumed for most. The range of inclusion types present, and their identifying letters, were as follows:

A quartz sand.
C Calcareous sand/grit.

G Grog.
L Limestone.
N None visible.
S Shell (both alluvial and fossil).
U ironstone ooliths.
V Vegetable/organic (sometimes voids).
Z indeterminate voids.

B.1.5 Some 43 different combinations of inclusion types and degrees of fineness were recorded, mostly in very small quantities. These data are in the project archive. They have been combined here in terms of the principal inclusion types identified.

B.1.6 Table B.1.1 Quantification of Iron Age pottery by principal inclusion type

Principal inclusion type	No. sherds	% sherds	Wt. (g)	% weight	REs	Comment
A quartz sand	46	25.1	420	28.3	0.14	
C calcareous grit	103	56.3	834	56.3	0.53	
G grog	2	1.1	9	0.6	-	
L limestone	18	9.8	130	8.8	0.09	
S shell	13	7.1	87	5.9	0.17	
U ironstone ooliths	1	0.5	2	0.1	-	
Total	183		1482		0.93	

B.1.7 The assemblage is dominated by calcareous fabrics. The distinction between fabrics tempered principally with calcareous grit, limestone and shell is largely arbitrary because all of these (except for some of the shell) derive from similar oolitic limestone geology. In many cases these inclusion types were present in combination (eg fabrics CL4 and CL4/5, which together amounted to 34 sherds, contained larger subrounded or subangular limestone fragments alongside the rounded calcareous grits). In combination the calcareous fabrics accounted for 73.2% of all the Iron Age sherds (70.9% by weight). The only other significant component of the assemblage consisted of sand-tempered fabrics. Very occasionally these contained secondary calcareous inclusions, but in most cases sand was the sole inclusion type. The two grog-tempered sherds are too small for their character to be certain. The tiny ironstone oolith-tempered sherd is in a rare but distinctive fabric occasionally noted in the Upper Thames Valley (eg Booth 2011, 353-4).

B.1.8 Twenty vessels were represented by rim sherds (the fact that each on average forms less than 5% of the vessel rim is an indication of the degree of fragmentation of the assemblage). Nineteen of the rims are certainly or probably from basic jar forms, often roughly barrel-shaped. Rims are typically simple, upright or very slightly insloping, consistent with such forms. There was a single example of a globular bowl, in fabric AN3 – a typical fabric and form combination for the region. This vessel, from

context 303104, had fragmentary decoration of horizontal burnished lines and a row of fine vertical incisions below the rim. A small body sherd with similar incised decoration in the same fabric came from context 302803. These were the only decorated sherds of Iron Age date.

B.1.9 The rather undistinctive character of the Iron Age pottery is consistent with material of middle Iron Age date in the region and unsurprisingly is closely paralleled in the larger assemblage from the earlier excavations in the Gill Mill quarry south-east of the present site (Booth forthcoming). The principal ceramic traditions are local in character. Close dating of the material on intrinsic grounds is not possible, though the sand-tempered globular bowl(s) are thought to belong to the later part of the middle Iron Age (ie 2nd-1st centuries BC). The other pottery could all be of a similar date, but a longer date range is also possible. It is likely that use of the handmade pottery of middle Iron Age tradition continued up to (and probably partly overlapped with) that of the pottery assigned to the late Iron Age/early Roman period.

B.1.10 Contexts containing pottery of middle Iron Age date were concentrated in the focal area of cropmarks and geophysical survey anomalies in the south-western half of the site, particularly in Trenches 18, 23, 25-29 and 31. Iron Age pottery also occurred in Trenches 17, 20, 32, 34 and 37, peripheral to the focal area, but in all of these cases except Trench 20 the few sherds present were residual in contexts of later date. A single small sherd of possible middle Iron Age date came from Trench 14 in the north-eastern half of the site.

Late Iron Age-Roman

B.1.11 Pottery of this period, effectively 1st-2nd centuries AD, formed the majority of the overall assemblage, totalling 380 sherds (4565g, 3.46 REs). The late Iron Age and early Roman periods are combined because many of the fabrics, and particularly those of the E ware group (see below) which is very important here, were in production and use on either side of the Roman conquest of AD 43; division of the assemblage at this arbitrary date would be meaningless.

B.1.12 The fabrics are placed in a number of major ware groups, defined on the basis of significant common characteristics. The ware groups are usually combined to constitute two main classes of material, fine and specialist wares on the one hand, and on the other the rest of the coarse wares (cf Booth 2004). The fine and specialist ware groups (identified by the initial letter of the fabric code) are: samian ware (S), fine wares - colour-coated, lead glazed, mica coated etc - (F), amphorae (A), mortaria (M), white wares - other than mortaria - (W), and white slipped wares (Q). Only S and Q groups were represented here. The remaining coarse ware groups are: 'Belgic type' (in the sense of Thompson 1982, 4-5), usually grog-tempered, fabrics (E), 'Romanised' oxidised coarse wares (O), 'Romanised' reduced coarse wares (R), black-burnished ware (B – not present here) and calcareous (particularly shell) tempered wares (C).

B.1.13 Within these classes are hierarchically arranged subgroups, usually defined on the basis of inclusion type, and individual fabrics/wares are then indicated at a third level of precision, both levels of subdivision being expressed by numeric codes. Thus (for example) R20 is a general code for sandy reduced coarse wares, while R21 is a specific

sandy reduced Oxfordshire product. For the bulk of the present assemblage fabric identification was at the intermediate level of precision.

B.1.14 Initial sorting of fabrics was done by eye, with subsequent use of a binocular microscope at x20 magnification to assist identification/define the inclusion types of individual sherds. Only summary fabric descriptions are given here; more complete descriptions are contained within the pottery archive. The pottery was divided initially into major ware groups. Sherds were then assigned either to the principal subdivisions of the ware groups or to individual fabrics/wares. These are quantified below in the ware group sequence as set out in B.1.11.

B.1.15 Table B.1.2 Quantification of late Iron Age and Roman pottery

Ware	Description	No. sherds	% sherds	Wt. (g)	% weight	REs
S20	South Gaulish samian ware	2	0.5	6	0.1	
Q10	Fine oxidised white-slipped ware	1	0.3	3	0.1	
E10	Organic tempered 'Belgic type' fabrics	1	0.3	1	+	
E20	Fine sand-tempered 'Belgic type' fabrics	14	3.7	108	2.4	0.14
E30	Medium to coarse sand-tempered 'Belgic type' fabrics	46	12.1	467	10.2	0.58
E40	Shell-tempered 'Belgic type' fabrics	13	3.4	141	3.1	0.07
E50	Limestone-tempered 'Belgic type' fabrics	7	1.8	62	1.4	0.09
E80	Grog-tempered 'Belgic type' fabrics	199	52.4	2381	52.2	1.68
O10	Fine oxidised coarse ware fabrics (general)	7	1.8	64	1.4	
O18	Very fine, compact, sandy ware ranging in colour from white to pale brown, pink, orange or grey	2	0.5	3	0.1	
O20	Sandy oxidised coarse ware fabrics (general)	1	0.3	2	+	
O40	Severn Valley ware?	1	0.3	4	0.1	
O80	Coarse tempered (usually grog) oxidised fabrics, equivalent to R90	4	1.1	140	3.1	0.16
R10	Fine reduced 'coarse ware' fabrics (general)	8	2.1	51	1.1	0.08
R20	Sandy reduced coarse ware fabrics (general)	2	0.5	12	0.3	
R30	Medium/fine sandy reduced coarse ware fabrics (general)	1	0.3	10	0.2	0.06
R37F	Reduced fabric with distinctive light grey core and grey-to-black surfaces (fine	20	5.3	230	5.0	

	variant)					
R38	As R37 with the addition of sparse-moderate clay pellet inclusions	1	0.3	6	0.1	
R38F	Fine variant of R38	9	2.4	98	2.1	
R90	Coarse tempered (usually grog-tempered) reduced fabrics	5	1.3	215	4.7	0.08
R95	Savernake ware	3	0.8	90	2.0	
R96	Grey with moderate grog and occasional organic and rounded white ?limestone inclusions. Sparse quartz sand	32	8.4	464	10.2	0.52
C10	Shell-tempered fabrics (general)	1	0.3	7	0.2	
TOTAL		380		4565		3.46

B.1.16 The assemblage is dominated by the combined subgroups of the 'Belgic type' (E) ware class, which together account for around 70% of the total, most of the rest comprising the reduced wares; the two groups together constitute a remarkably consistent 95% of the assemblage by all measures.

B.1.17 The majority of the E ware sherds were in grog-tempered E80 fabrics, which alone comprised a little over half of the total late Iron Age-Roman assemblage. These ranged from quite coarse, sometimes handmade sherds to fine wheel thrown sherds from thin walled vessels. The reduced coarse wares were present in a range of fabrics, but were dominated by fabrics which were very common in the other excavated Gill Mill settlements (R37F, R38, R38F and R96) and for which a fairly local source is all but certain (Booth forthcoming). Sand-tempered reduced fabrics (R10, R20 and R30), as well as the grog-tempered R90, are all characteristic of the Oxford industry (Young 1977) but are insufficiently distinctive to be assigned to that source alone. In the early Roman period other (unknown) and perhaps more local sources are also possible.

B.1.18 The only non-local coarse wares were three sherds assigned with varying degrees of confidence to the Savernake (north Wiltshire) industry (R95) and a sherd of possible Severn Valley ware (O40). Both are found in the region in the early Roman period, though a pre-conquest origin has also been suggested for both (Timby 1990; 2001). None of the oxidised fabrics was represented by a rim sherd so little more can be said about them, but the fine fabric O18 is associated with so-called 'Abingdon type' early Roman fine wares (Timby *et al*. 1997) and it is possible that some of the sherds only defined as O10 were of the same character. These fabrics are characteristic of the pre-Flavian period and were used for beakers and other specialised vessel forms.

B.1.19 Fine and specialist wares were almost completely absent. They were represented by a single white-slipped sherd, probably from a flagon (in context 302815), and two

fragments of South Gaulish samian ware (a decorated bowl sherd, probably of Drag 29, from context 302603 and a fragment of Drag 27 cup from 302816).

B.1.20 The range of vessel types was more diverse than in the middle Iron Age assemblage but was still dominated by certain and probable jar forms (*c* 76% of REs) in a manner that is typical of the period. Jar types ranged widely in size, from small thin-walled vessels (particularly of squat high-shouldered forms) to large storage jars in fabrics E80, O80 and R90. Bowls, accounting for 17.6% of REs, were the only other significant vessel class represented. The more closely identifiable types were all carinated forms. Other vessel classes present in small numbers were dishes and a butt beaker.

B.1.21 The balance of the fabrics makes it clear that the majority of the pottery can be assigned to the 1st century AD before about AD 70/80. While some E ware vessels may have continued in use after this time their production will have ceased by then. Reduced coarse wares became the dominant ware class thereafter, but the relatively small quantities of this material strongly suggest that activity after the 1st century was limited at best. Complete certainty on this point is impossible because the date ranges assigned to most reduced coarse ware fabrics and their associated vessel forms are fairly broad. Nevertheless, the total absence of distinctive ceramic markers of the period after *c* AD 120 such as Central Gaulish samian ware and black-burnished ware, and, more significantly, the sandy fabric R37 which dominates all the other recorded Gill Mill assemblages from the later 1st century through to the end of the 3rd (Booth forthcoming), is completely consistent with the view that occupation of the site had ceased by about 120, if not rather earlier. Despite their potentially wider date range there is nothing in the more 'Romanised' components of the assemblage that would contradict this view.

B.1.22 Such a chronological pattern is a common, but not universal, feature of site assemblages in this part of the Upper Thames Valley. It is similar to the pattern recorded in the adjacent site in Area 13 of the previous phase of work in the Gill Mill Quarry. It is precisely mirrored at other local sites such as Hardwick with Yelford Smiths Field (unpublished, but see Booth 2004) and Old Shifford Farm (Timby 1995).

B.1.23 The distribution of pottery of Late Iron Age-early Roman date was basically similar to, but slightly broader than, that of the middle Iron Age material. With the exception of Trench 14 all the Trenches with middle Iron Age pottery also produced late Iron Age-early Roman pottery, usually in greater quantity. In addition, the latter material also came from Trenches 7 (1 uncertain sherd) and 12 in the north-eastern half of the site and from Trenches 22, 33, 35 and 39 in the south-western part. Pottery dated mid-late 1st century or later had a more restricted distribution, mainly in the focal settlement area (Trenches 23 and 26-29), but also occurred further south-east in Trenches 32, 37 and 39.

Medieval

B.1.24 Four sherds of medieval date (22g) were recovered, two each in fabrics OXAC and OXAQ (respectively early medieval west Oxfordshire ware (Mellor 1994, 44) and early-late medieval Wiltshire ware (ibid. 1994, 100); identifications confirmed by John Cotter). All were from the northern half of the site; one sherd from Trench 11

(context 301104) and three from Trench 16 (contexts 301603 (2 sherds) and 301607). None of the sherds is closely datable within the medieval period (12th-15th centuries).

B.2 Flint

By Michael Donnelly

Introduction

B.2.1 A moderate sized assemblage of 29 struck flints, one piece of natural flint and a single piece of burnt unworked flint weighing 3g was recovered from this evaluation. The flints tended to have an early character, most probably dating to the early Neolithic or Mesolithic period. There was one core that is likely to be late Neolithic in date and one or two tools and flakes that could belong to later industries.

The assemblage

B.2.2 The great majority of the flints were recovered as residual finds in Iron Age, Roman or later features. Ditch/gully fills yielded 23 of the flints and there were four more from furrows. The two remaining flints came from the topsoil and from the natural. All of the flints were recovered from the southern half of the evaluation area. There was a clear concentration of flints along the central part of the southern half with numerous pieces from Trenches 33, 34 and 35 and lesser amounts in nearby Trenches 27-29, 31 and 37.

B.2.3 The flintwork includes numerous early forms and it is very likely that the bulk of the flint dates to either the Mesolithic or early Neolithic periods. Finds of these ages included a possible burin on a snapped bladelet from Trench 35, as well as numerous blades and bladelets from a number of trenches (31, 33, 34 and 35). One blade tool from Trench 28 is likely to be early Neolithic in date. It was a microdenticulate on a distal trimming blade of Bullhead Beds flint (Dewey and Bromehead 1915). While these tools have a much longer period of use in prehistory, examples with well-defined regularly spaced teeth, often belong to the earlier part of the Neolithic and Bullhead Beds flint is also very commonly favoured by Neolithic knappers (Harding 2015, 127-8).

B.2.4 Later flintwork includes a probable burnt Levallois core from Trench 27. This piece is quite small but has a clear discoidal flaking pattern and it is difficult to see what else it could be; it is certainly not some form of core tool. This type of core is very common in late Neolithic assemblages. One end scraper on a core preparation flake from Trench 23 displays several characteristics that suggest a late date. It has a thermal platform, hard-hammer bulb, no platform preparation and is on a thick and quite squat flake. The retouch is also very poor and highly expedient in nature. All of these factors strongly suggest a middle-late Bronze Age or later date.

B.2.5 One other point of note is that the probable dates of the flints suggest two separate concentrations of material. Finds of Neolithic or later date were found in Trenches 23, 27 and 28 while the majority of the fine blade technology including the burin, indicative of Mesolithic knapping, was present in Trenches 31, 33, 34 and 35, very

slightly downslope of the area of probable Neolithic activity. While these finds may have originated in surface spreads/middens that have now been truncated away, there is also the possibility of encountering pit deposits of this age. Neolithic pit clusters are quite common in Oxfordshire.

Summary

B.2.6 Although most of the features were described as cutting natural gravels, truncation has certainly occurred here and it is probable that these features initially cut through alluvial deposits on the river terrace. These deposits and any overlying soil horizons would have almost certainly been the source of the residual flint. Given that surviving pockets of alluvium have been encountered before at Gill Mill and given that they have had surviving flint scatters associated with them, there is a good chance that similar *in situ* scatters may be encountered during any further works in this evaluation area. Additionally, the presence of Neolithic forms might also indicate a likelihood of encountering archaeology dating to this period.

Methodology

B.2.7 The artefacts were catalogued according to OA South's standard system of broad artefact/debitage type (Anderson-Whymark 2013; Bradley 1999), general condition noted and dating was attempted where possible. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto an Open Office spreadsheet. During the assessment additional information on condition (rolled, abraded, fresh and degree of cortication), and state of the artefact (burnt, broken, or visibly utilised) was also recorded. Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (eg Bamford 1985, 72-77; Healy 1988, 48-9; Bradley 1999). Technological attribute analysis was initially undertaken and included the recording of butt and termination type (Inizan *et al.* 1999), flake type (Harding 1990), hammer mode (Onhuma and Bergman 1982), and the presence of platform edge abrasion.

B.2.8 Table B.2.1: quantification of flint

CATEGORY TYPE	
Flake	15
Blade	3
Bladelet	3
Blade index	28.57% (6/21)
Irregular waste	3
Core levallois flakes	1
Burin	1
Microdenticulate	1
Notch	1
Scraper end	1
Total	29

Burnt unworked	1/3g
No. burnt (%)	10/29 (34.48%)
No. broken (%)	15/29 (51.72%)
No. retouched (%)	14/28 (13.79%)

B.3 Metal objects

By Paul Booth

B.3.1 Four metal objects, three of iron and a copper alloy coin, were recovered.

B.3.2 The iron objects were a tiny fragment, possibly the tip of a nail, from context 301218, the top fill of ditch 301217; a nail from 301301, a colluvial subsoil layer; and a small fragment 21 x 19mm of thin sheet with part of a rounded edge from context 302918, the top fill of ditch 302913.

B.3.3 The sole copper alloy find was a coin, a very heavily eroded *as* or *dupondius* (SF 300001), from context 303508, the fill of gully 303507. In view of its condition this cannot be dated more closely than 1st-2nd century.

B.4 Fired clay, ceramic building material and stone

By Paul Booth

B.4.1 Seventy-eight pieces of fired clay with a total weight of 527g were recovered from 29 contexts. The mean weight of 6.8g indicates well-fragmented material. This was scanned rapidly and the principal characteristics of the assemblage noted.

B.4.2 The majority of the fragments were in a dense, fairly fine and quite hard fired fabric with occasional inclusions of limestone and variable (typically sparse, but occasionally more common) amounts of organic material. A smaller proportion was in a slightly sandy fabric, also with sparse to moderate limestone inclusions and iron oxides, and occasionally quite micaceous.

B.4.3 None of the fragments could be certainly assigned to a recognisable object type, though two small pieces (one each in contexts 301216 and 303110) each had two flat faces meeting at a right angle. A single flat surface was seen on fragments from contexts 303908 and 302909 (probably from the same object), and a more undulating surface was present on pieces from contexts 302819, 303432 and 303909. All these were in the more common dense fabric.

B.4.4 A single subrounded fragment form context 302023 had a vesicular 'slaggy' texture and had clearly been subjected to considerable heat (though not necessarily associated with metalworking). Two fragments from context 302716 each with a heavily fired reduced surface perhaps derived from the wall of a kiln or oven.

B.4.5 Most of the fired clay fragments were from contexts where they were associated with pottery. These covered the range of dated contexts at the site, with material from contexts of middle Iron Age, late Iron Age/early Roman and mid-late 1st-century date. There was no clear correlation between the more distinctive pieces and a specific period. The majority of the material is likely to have derived from domestic hearths/ovens or similar features, but the size of the fragments means that other more specialised functions cannot be ruled out completely.

B.4.6 The only piece of ceramic building material from the site was a single small fragment from a field drain of post-medieval date from ditch fill 301805. The fragment, weighing 6g, must have been intrusive in this context.

B.4.7 Eighteen fragments of stone weighing 474g were retained from ten context groups. This material was scanned by Dr Ruth Shaffrey. None of the pieces was worked and all could have derived from the gravels and other local geologies.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

C.1.1 Twelve samples were taken during the evaluation. Of these, eleven were processed for retrieval of artefacts and charred plant remains (CPR). The twelfth sample was unprocessed due to disturbance of the feature.

Method

C.1.2 The samples were processed at Oxford Archaeology using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine. The flots were collected in a 250µm mesh and heavy residues in a 500µm mesh. The residue fractions were sorted by eye 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. Identifications were carried out using standard morphological criteria for the cereals (eg Jacomet 2006), and by comparison with modern reference material. Classification and nomenclature of plant material follows Stace (2010).

Results

C.1.3 Table C.1.1

Sample No	Context No	Feature	Trench No	Description	Date	Volume (L)	Flot Volume (ml)
300000	303705	303703	7	Upper fill of Ditch	Roman	40	50
300001	303103	303102	31	Upper fill of Ditch	LIR	8	25
300002	303115	303114	31	Single fill of Pit	MIA	40	60
300003	303003	303002	30	Single fill of Posthole	U/D	5	20
300004	303406	303404	34	Second fill of Ditch	LIR	25	40
300005	303412	303411	34	Single fill of Gully	LIR	5	10
300006	303418	303409	34	Single fill of Gully	LIR	3	10
300007	303432	303430	34	Upper fill of Ditch	LIR	10	35
300008	303428	303427	34	Lower fill of Ditch	LIR	3	<5

300010	303005	303004	30	Single fill of Pit	U/D	30	50
300011	303206	303203	32	Third fill of Ditch	LIR	20	20

C.1.4 Charred remains were fairly sparse in all flots, with the majority of flot volumes comprising modern roots with occasional other material such as uncharred seeds and insect fragments. Charcoal on the whole was in good condition, clean and un-encrusted, but small in size and not suitable in the main for wood species analysis, although samples <300003> <300004>, <300006> and <300007> all contained one or two fragments of charcoal which potentially are of sufficient size for identification.

C.1.5 Charred plant seeds and grain are rare. Samples <300000>, <300003> and <300004> contained no charred seeds or grain. Samples <300001> and <300008> contained a single unidentifiable cereal grain each, and samples <300005> and <300006> contained fragments of cereal grain which are likely to be from one or two broken grains at most.

C.1.6 Sample <300002> contains seven small glume base fragments, one wheat grain and two damaged cereal grains which are likely to be wheat (although exteriors were largely missing), one unidentifiable wild seed and four fragments of cherry fruit stone which are likely to be blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa)*.

C.1.7 Sample <300007> contains two unidentifiable cereal grain fragments and two broken legumes <2mm, and sample <300010> contains one unidentifiable wild seed.

C.1.8 The sample with the most charred material is <300011>, from the fill of a ditch in Trench 32. This contains over 90 wild seeds, the majority of which have not been identified at this time but which include 11 legumes (*Vicia/Lathyrus*) <4mm, 17 fragmented grass seeds (Poaceae), three possible henbane seeds (*Hyoscyamus niger*) with an additional eight seeds from the nightshade family (Solanaceae) that could not be further identified. There are seven small seeds from the pea family (Fabaceae), probably medicks/clover (*Medicago/Trifolium*), together with two clovers (*Trifolium* sp.) and four knotweed seeds (*Persicaria* sp.). All of these wild seeds were in poor condition as the result of burning and in many cases are fragmented or missing part of their exteriors although one or two are in a better state of preservation. In addition, two fragments of unidentifiable cereal grain and one small glume base fragment are also present within this flot.

C.1.9 The majority of seeds observed from all samples are in poor condition with exteriors largely damaged or missing entirely and many are partial, although this appears to be the result of damage from burning rather than a reflection on the site conditions.

Discussion and conclusions

C.1.10 The material observed for the majority of these samples is not unexpected from a site that dates from the late Iron Age and early Roman period. The cereal grain in best condition appears to be wheat and the supporting glume base fragments would seem to indicate the use of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) on site, which is usual on

sites of this period. The lack of material observed may be an indication that the features sampled were at a distance from areas of food or crop processing.

C.1.11 Sample <300011> appears to contain the results of a clearance of weeds on the site.

C.1.12 Further work on these samples is not required at present, but if further information is required in the future on environmental conditions and local flora the seeds from sample <300011> would merit full identification. There are insufficient charcoal fragments large enough to make wood species identification statistically meaningful (Keepax 1988).

C.1.13 Although the results of this evaluation have produced little additional crop or environmental data, it is known that this area has the potential for good results as seen in other work within the Gill Mill area (Booth and Simmonds forthcoming). Therefore, future excavations should incorporate a sampling policy in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (eg Oxford Archaeology 2005; English Heritage 2011).

C.2 Animal Bone

By Lee Broderick

Introduction

C.2.1 A total of 881 animal bones were recovered from the site, mostly from contexts which did not also yield ceramic finds, which were the basis for dating the assemblage. The most significant part of the assemblage that could be dated on this basis belonged to the middle Iron Age. The assemblage was in almost uniformly poor condition (Figure C.2.1) with most of the specimens being severely abraded and brittle, due to prevailing alkali soil conditions, which meant that many of them had suffered breakage either during excavation or shortly thereafter. In spite of these poor conditions, environmental sampling (sieved at 10mm, 4mm and 2mm fractions) did yield some material (*c* 8% of NSP) which broadly reflected the pattern of the hand-recovered assemblage.

C.2.2 The middle Iron Age assemblage was dominated by caprines (sheep [*Ovis aries*] and/or goats [*Capra hircus*]). Among these it is possible to say that sheep were definitely present and that no specimens from any phase of the site were identified as goat. Domestic cattle (*Bos taurus taurus*) and horse (*Equus caballus*) were also present on the site at this time, as was pig (*Sus scrofa domesticus*). Despite being the second most common species in the Early Iron Age component, this latter species formed a much smaller part of the overall assemblage than the others listed. This may reflect a genuinely smaller presence – as is true of the species on most Iron Age sites, including previous work undertaken at this site – or it may be due to the preservation conditions. Pig bones are much less dense than those of the other animals discussed here and so are more prone to destruction by taphonomic processes. The proportion of cattle, in particular, was much larger in the undated component and it may be that much of this material is actually contemporary with that that could be dated. Cattle and horse were far more common in the previously

analysed assemblage from Gill Mill (Strid forthcoming) than the small window afforded us here might suggest.

C.2.3 In general, taphonomic indices such as evidence for butchery or gnawing might appear to be slight (Table C.2.2), however, many of these marks may be obscured by the damage wrought by the alkali soils. As such, it seems better to discuss minimum presence than comparing the indices to other sites. A large amount of material had been burned – nearly a fifth of the total assemblage – suggesting that there may have been some sort of systematic or routine refuse disposal by burning. Rather fewer of the bones showed signs of having been gnawed but where they had been it was by canids, suggesting that domestic dogs were present on the site at the time. Most of the butchery marks that were identified were cut marks, although a domestic cattle pelvis had been chopped through.

C.2.4 In spite of the poor preservation, the assemblage was moderately large and so it is recommended for inclusion in the report and that it should be considered alongside any future material recovered from the site should further excavations take place.

Table C.2.1: Total NISP (Number of Identified SPecimens) and NSP (Number of SPecimens) figures per period from the site

	MIA	**LIA/ERB**	**ERB**	**Undated**		**LIR samples**	**u/d samples**
domestic cattle	2	1		42			
domestic cattle?				5			
caprine	18	2	1	58		1	5
caprine?				2			
sheep	1			5			
pig	4	1		4			
horse	3			17			
dog				1			
red deer				1			
bank vole/field vole/common vole						1	
small mammal				1			
medium mammal	67			74		8	38
large mammal	42		2	282			8
Total Mammal	137	4	3	492		10	51
Total NISP	137	4	3	492		10	51
Total NSP	140	22	4	645		10	60

Table C.2.2: Non-species data recorded for specimens from the site

	Butchery marks	Pathologies	Gnawed	Burnt	Ageing data
domestic cattle	2	2	4	1	11
domestic cattle?			1		3
caprine	1	1	5		19
sheep					5
pig			1		2
horse		1	1		7
medium mammal				49	
large mammal	1			129	
indet.	1			9	
Total	5	4	12	188	47

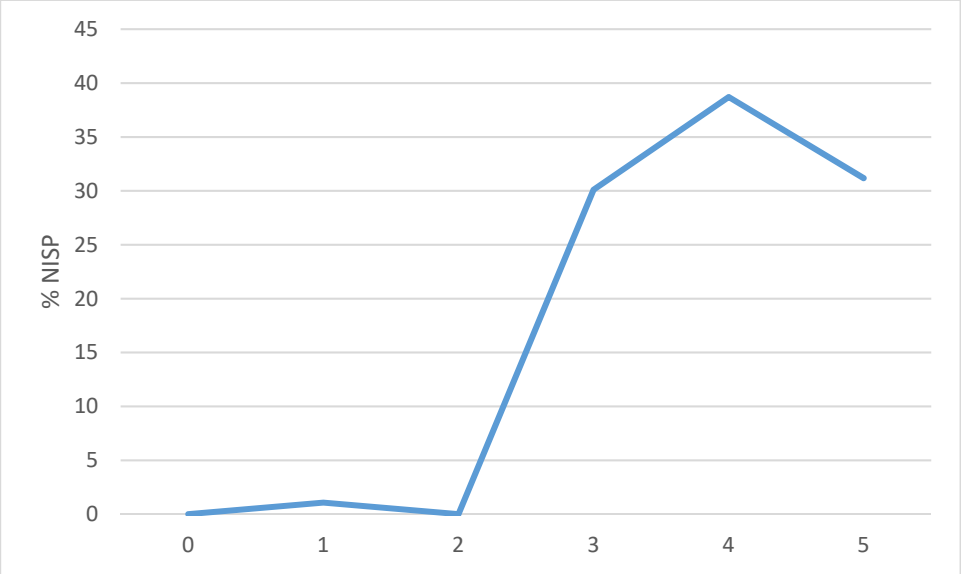

Figure C.2.1: Condition of identified specimens (following Lyman (1996)).

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Gill Mill Quarry Extension Area 3
Site code:	SL17
Grid Reference	SP 366 084
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	August 2017, three weeks
Area of Site	12.76ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with OCMS in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS 2015.130.
Summary of Results:	The evaluation of Gill Mill Quarry Extension Area 3 and Regrade Area comprised the excavation of 39 30m x 2m trenches in two parts of the area, divided by the quarry haul road. The evaluation was intended to provide information on features identified by a previous geophysical survey (mainly concentrated in the south-west half of the site) and to test areas with no geophysical survey anomalies to see if archaeological features were present in these areas. A small flint assemblage from the south-west half of the site suggested activity in this area in the Mesolithic period and also in the Neolithic and Bronze Age. The principal settlement focus, as located by the geophysical survey, was continuously occupied from the middle Iron Age (possibly no earlier than c 200 BC) up to the early Roman period, perhaps going out of use by about AD 100. The middle Iron Age settlement included ditched enclosures and at least one probable roundhouse location defined by a circular gully (in Trench 26). Associated finds consisted mainly of pottery in local traditions, and the economy was probably based on mixed agriculture, although herding of sheep may have been the most important component of this. A late Iron Age-early Roman settlement covered the area of its middle Iron Age predecessor, but in addition occupation of this period extended further to the south-east and was also encountered in the north-east half of the site, where a small ring gully, perhaps surrounding a fodder stack, was probably of this date, and a post-built structure (in Trench 12) almost certainly of this period. The main elements of the late Iron Age-early Roman settlement were again boundary and enclosure ditches, but their overall layout is unclear. The location of probable (undetected) structures is once more indicated by circular or oval gullies (eg in Trench 18). More pottery was recovered from features of this period (380 out of a site total of 567 sherds) and suggests a fairly typical lower status rural community, with a similar economy to

that seen earlier.

No later Roman features were identified. Two small pits in the north-eastern half of the site were of medieval date. Medieval (and probably also later) plough furrows from a ridge and furrow system were widespread across the site, most obviously in the north-eastern half and lying north-east of a substantial NW-SE-aligned ditched boundary of post-medieval date, but also south-west of that boundary.

The prehistoric and Roman elements of the site can be interpreted in the context of the wide ranging archaeological work previously undertaken in the Gill Mill quarry, and they make an important contribution to understanding of the development of this landscape from the Mesolithic period onwards, but particularly in the middle Iron Age to early Roman periods. The site is a good example of those where occupation ends by the early part of the 2nd century AD as part of a widespread pattern of reallocation of landholding at that time.

Correlation of features in the evaluation trenches with the results of the geophysical survey shows that the latter located the most prominent ditched features of later prehistoric and Roman date, and some of the elements of the ridge and furrow system, thereby providing a useful general outline of the archaeological features on the site. Features are, however, more widely and densely spread than the survey reveals. The overall extent of both middle Iron Age and late Iron Age-early Roman settlement may therefore have been greater than the geophysical survey would suggest, and many components within these settlement, such as pits and smaller ditches and gullies, were not identified by the geophysical survey. Elements of the late Iron Age-early Roman settlement certainly extended into the north-eastern half of Area 3 where, for example, important structural features and associated ditches in Area 12 were completely undetected by the geophysics.

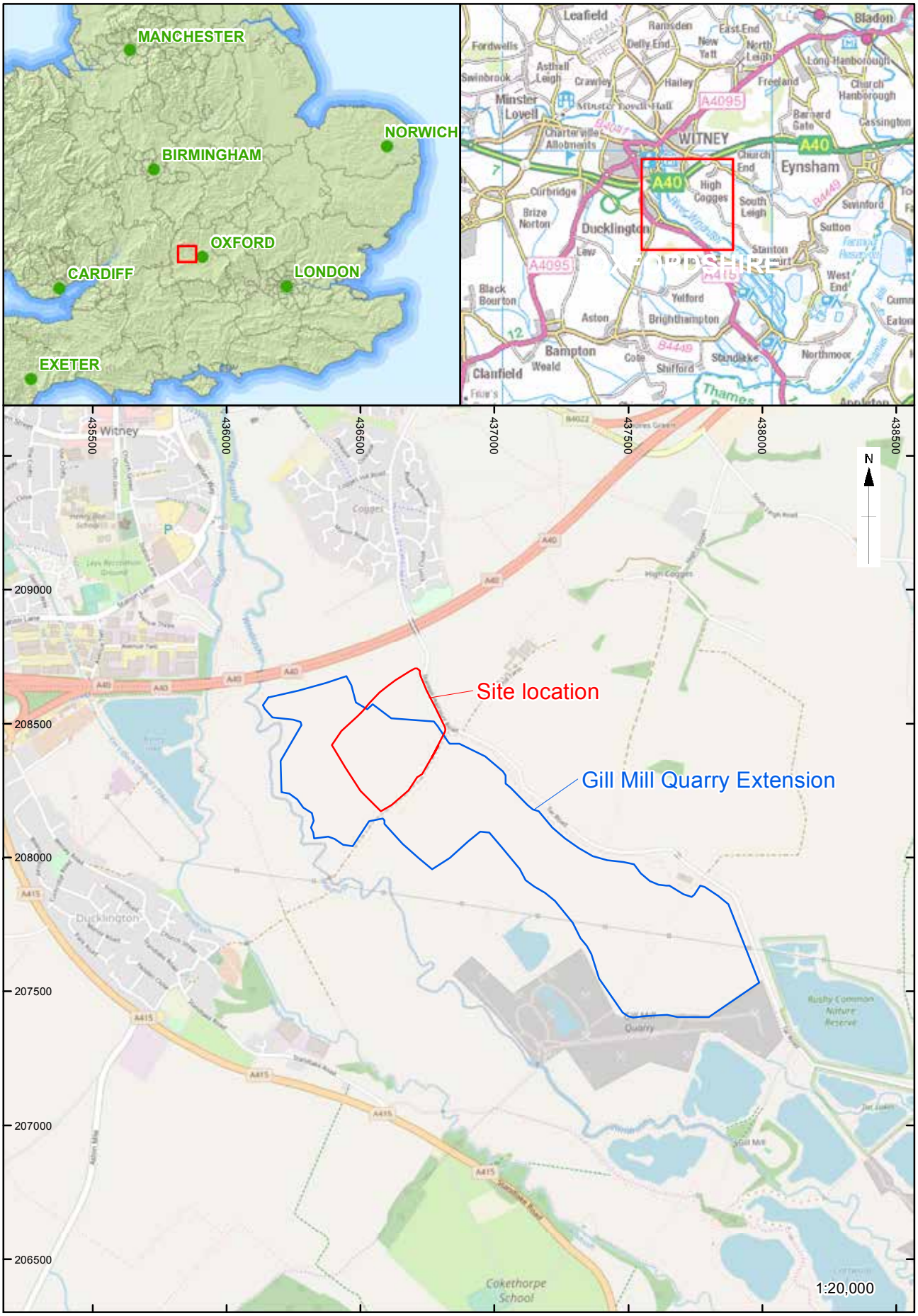

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Figure 1: Site location

FIELD 3

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0 100 m

Scale at A3 1:2000

Geophysics Key

PROBABLE ARCHAEOLOGY

- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - probable bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
- Linear anomaly probably related to a former field boundary not present on available mapping
- Widely spaced curving parallel linear anomalies - probably related to ridge-and-furrow

POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY

- Posttive anomaly / weak posttive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin

OTHER ANOMALIES

- Closely spaced parallel linear anomalies - probably related to agricultural activity such as ploughing
- Linear anomaly - probably related to pipe, cable or other modern service
- Magnetic disturbance related to dismantled railway line
- Linear anomaly - related to a former field boundary present on available mapping until 1960
- Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
- Strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground
- Scattered magnetic debris
- Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin
- Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object

Evaluation Key

- Archaeological Feature (Unphased)
- Excavated Intervention
- Furrow
- Section Line
- Evaluation Trench

Phases

- Middle-Late Iron Age
- Late Iron Age-Early Roman
- Early Roman
- Medieval

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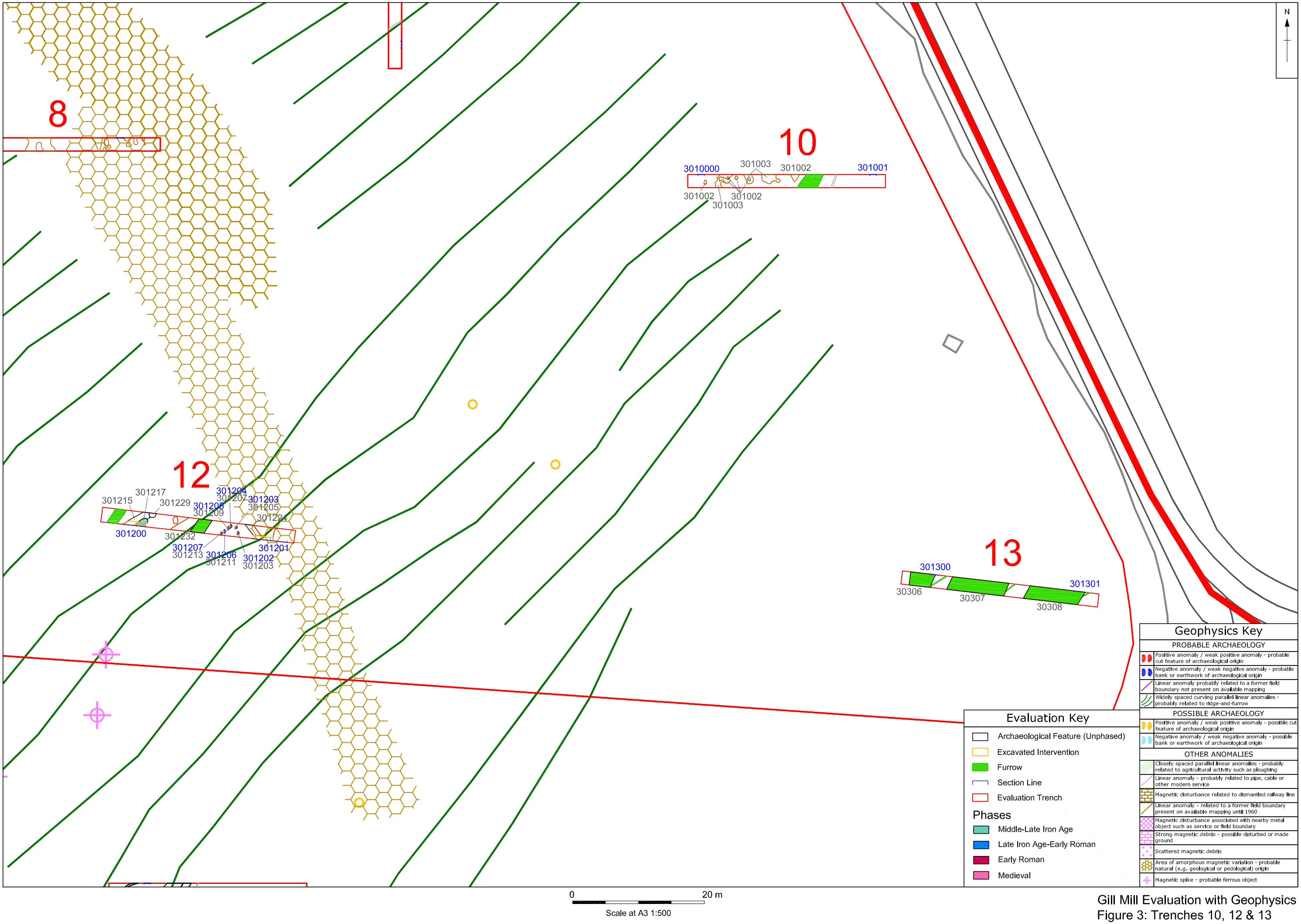
Gill Mill Evaluation with Geophysics
Figure 2: Overview



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Gill Mill Evaluation with Geophysics
Figure 3: Trenches 10, 12 & 13

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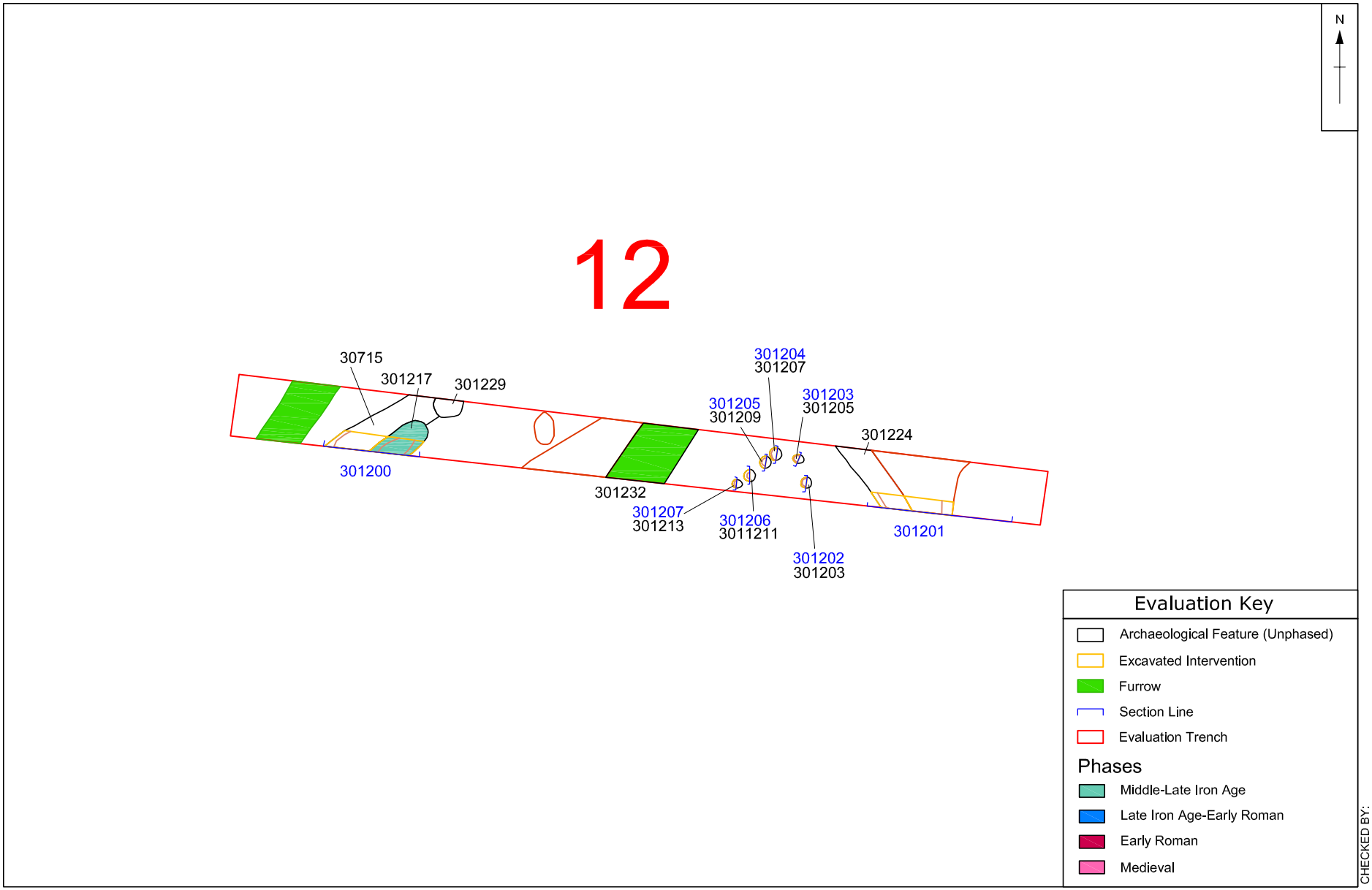

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Figure 4: Trench 12 Detail

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Geophysics Key

PROBABLE ARCHAEOLOGY

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- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - probable bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
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- Widely spaced curving parallel linear anomalies - probably related to ridge-and-furrow

POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY

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- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin

OTHER ANOMALIES

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- Linear anomaly - probably related to pipe, cable or other modern service
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- Linear anomaly - related to a former field boundary present on available mapping until 1960
- Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
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- Scattered magnetic debris
- Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin
- Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object

Evaluation Key

- Archaeological Feature (Unphased)
- Excavated Intervention
- Furrow
- Section Line
- Evaluation Trench

Phases

- Middle-Late Iron Age
- Late Iron Age-Early Roman
- Early Roman
- Medieval

CHECKED BY:

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Scale at A3 1:400

Gill Mill Evaluation with Geophysics
Figure 5: Trenches 3, 6, 7& 11

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Geophysics Key

PROBABLE ARCHAEOLOGY

- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
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POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY

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Evaluation Key

- Archaeological Feature (Unphased)
- Excavated Intervention
- Furrow
- Section Line
- Evaluation Trench

Phases

- Middle-Late Iron Age
- Late Iron Age-Early Roman
- Early Roman
- Medieval

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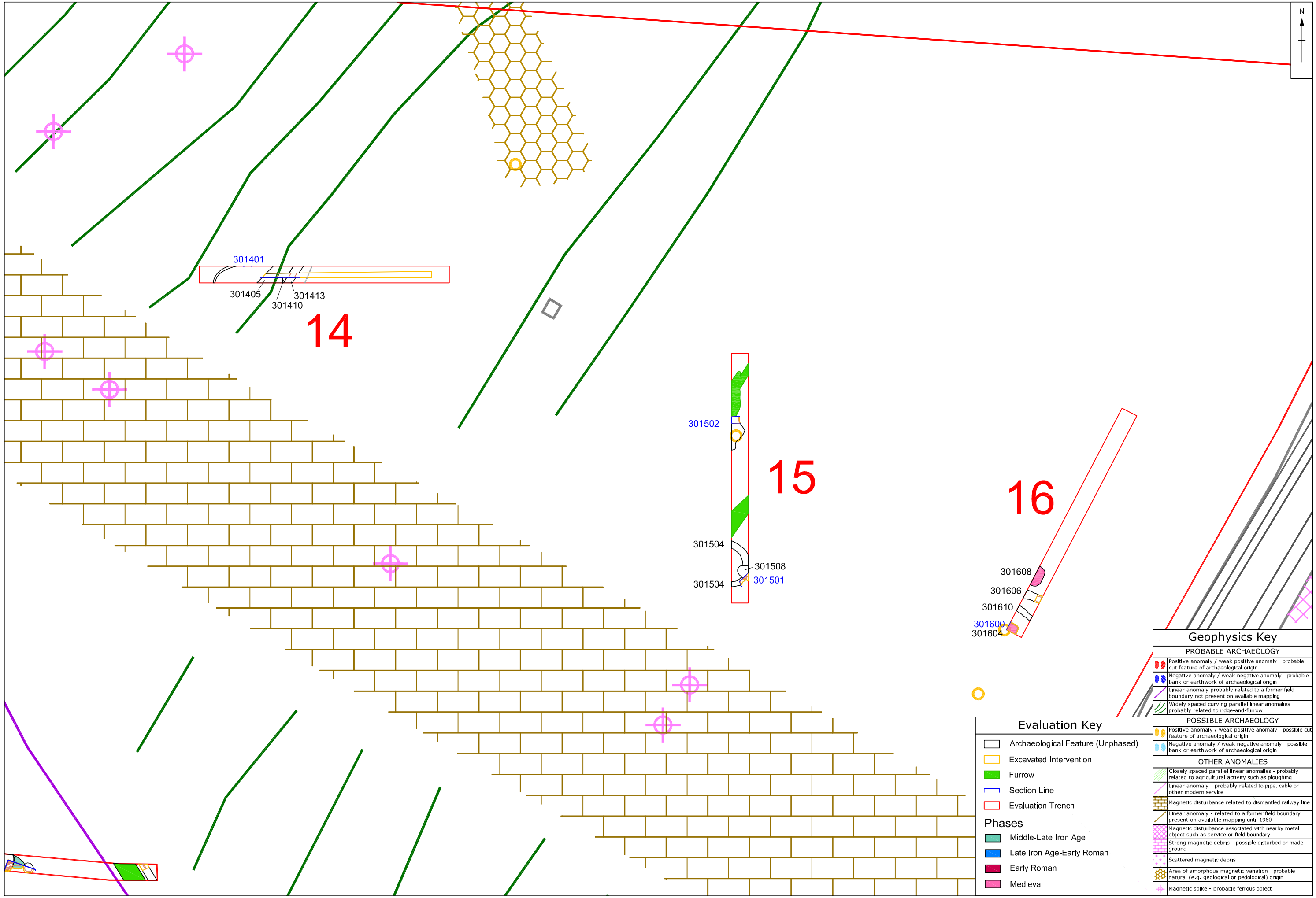
Scale at A3 1:400

Gill Mill Evaluation with Geophysics
Figure 6: Trenches 1,2,4,5,8 & 9



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Gill Mill Evaluation with Geophysics
Figure 7: Trenches 14, 15 & 16

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Evaluation Key

- Archaeological Feature (Unphased)
- Excavated Intervention
- Furrow
- Section Line
- Evaluation Trench

Phases

- Middle-Late Iron Age
- Late Iron Age-Early Roman
- Early Roman
- Medieval

Geophysics Key

PROBABLE ARCHAEOLOGY

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POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY

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- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin

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- Strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground
- Scattered magnetic debris
- Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin
- Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object

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Scale at A3 1:400

Gill Mill Evaluation with Geophysics

Figure 8: Trenches 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 25 & 26

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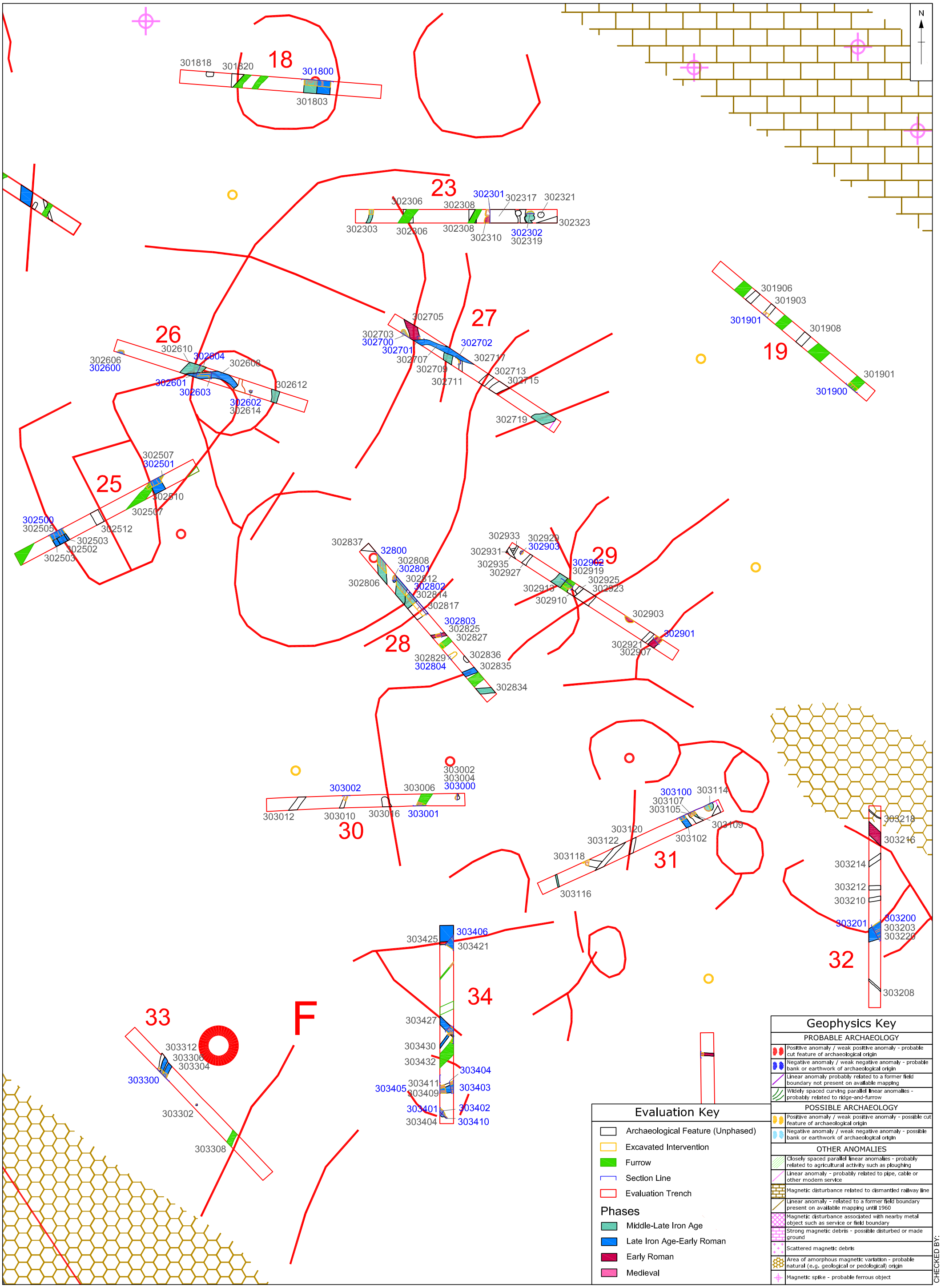

Gill Mill Evaluation with Geophysics

Figure 9: Trenches 18, 19, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 & 34

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Evaluation Key

- Archaeological Feature (Unphased)
- Excavated Intervention
- Furrow
- Section Line
- Evaluation Trench

Phases

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- Late Iron Age-Early Roman
- Early Roman
- Medieval

Geophysics Key

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Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
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Strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground
Scattered magnetic debris
Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin
Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object

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Scale at A3 1:400

Gill Mill Evaluation with Geophysics

Figure 10: Trenches 20, 32, 35, 36, 38 & 39

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Evaluation Key

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Scale at A3 1:400

Gill Mill Evaluation with Geophysics
Figure 11: Trenches 35, 37, 38 & 40

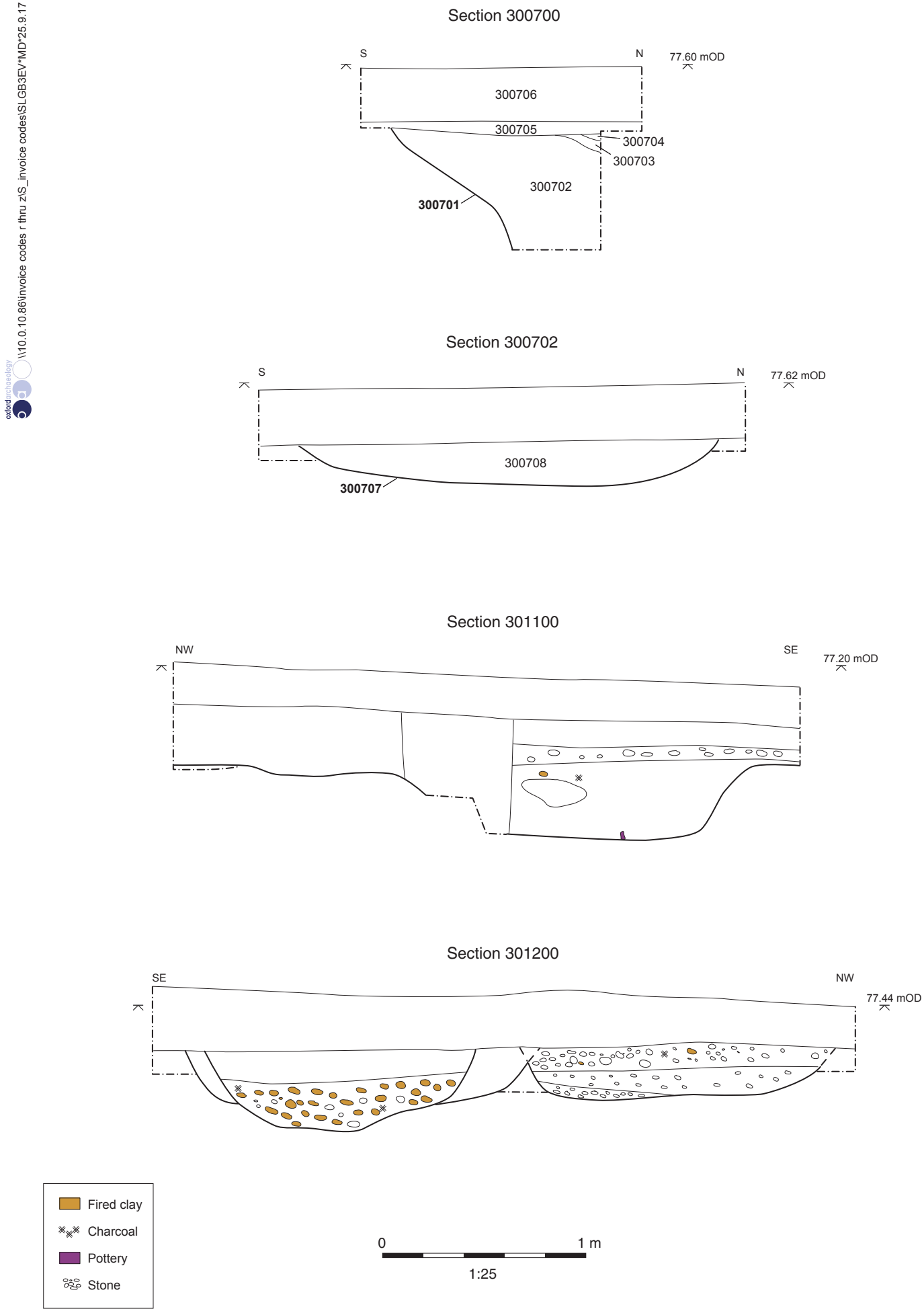
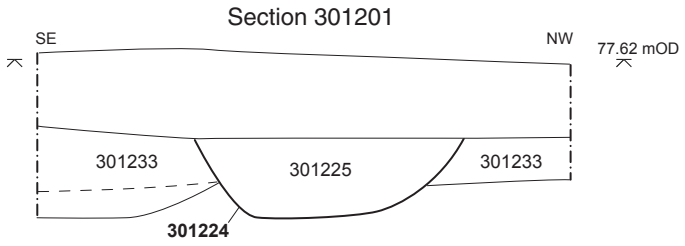
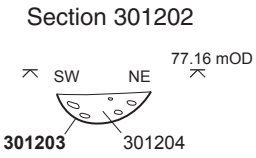
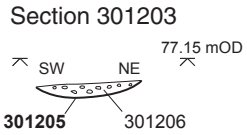
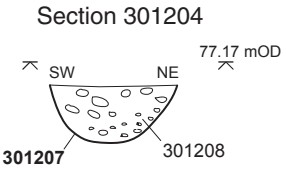


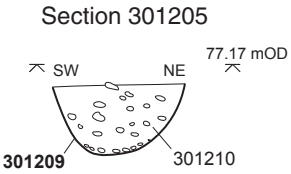
Figure 12: Sections

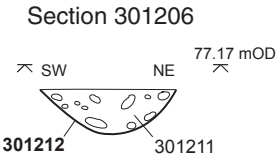


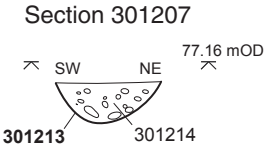












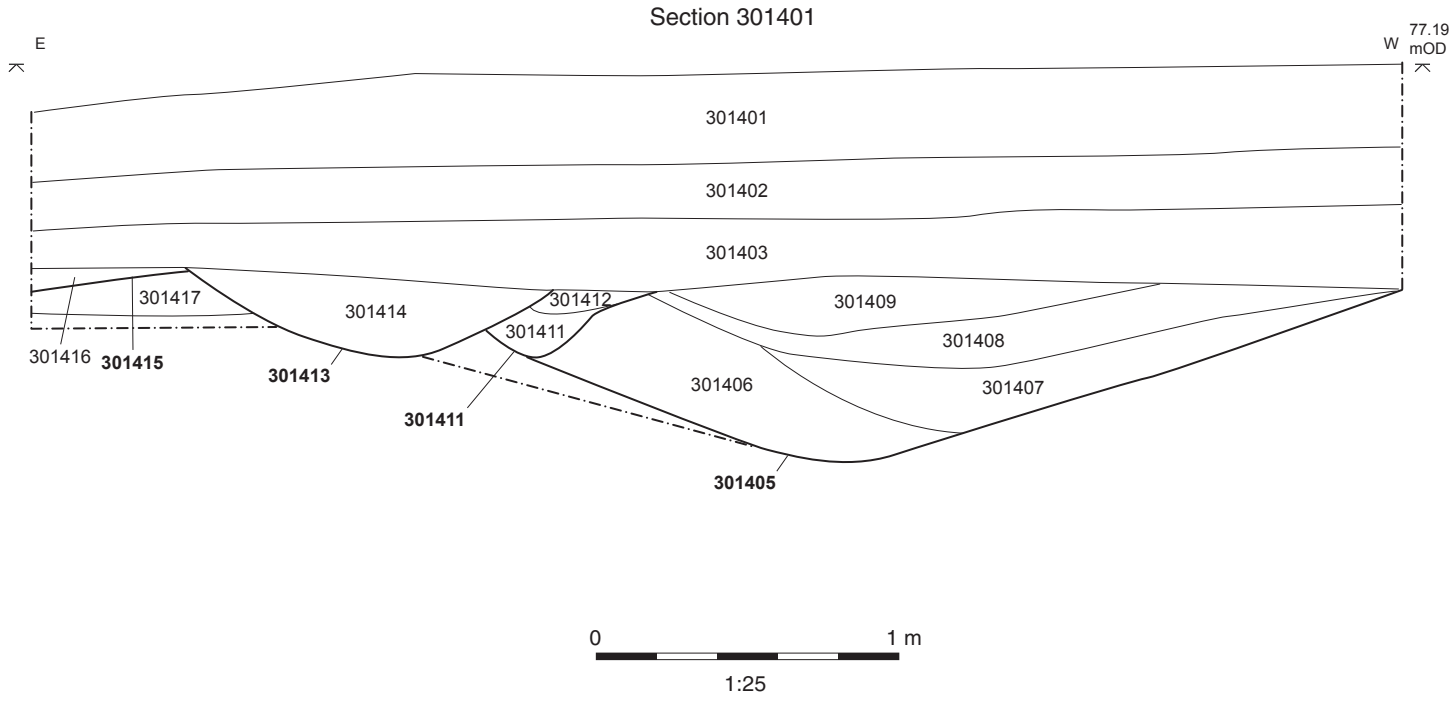
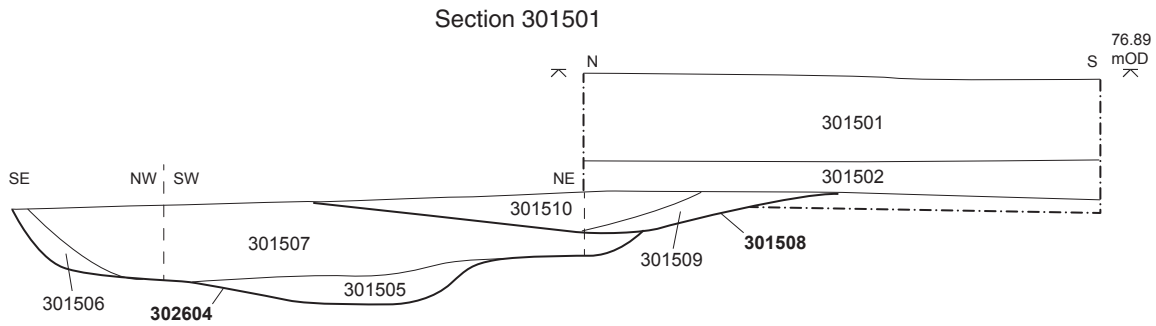
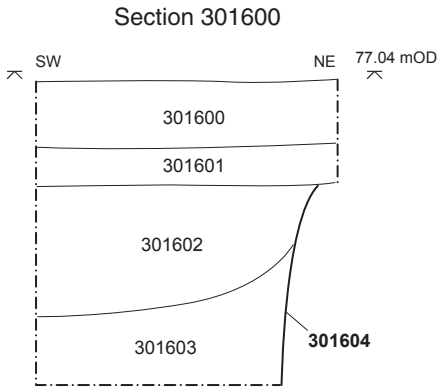
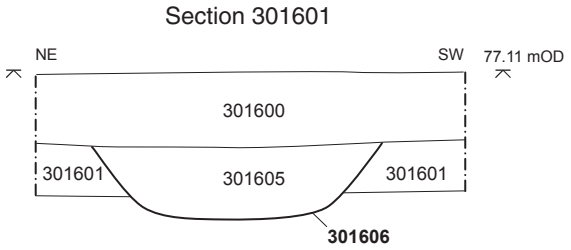
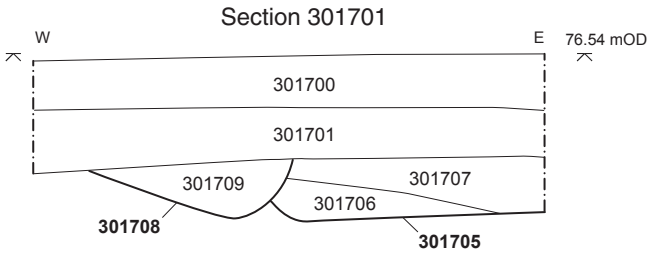


Figure 13: Sections









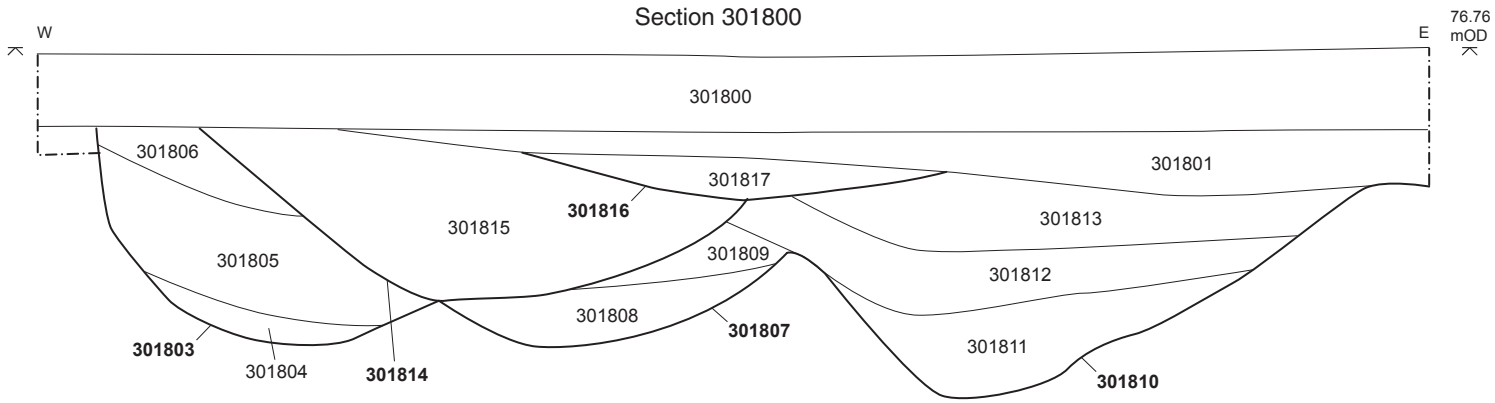
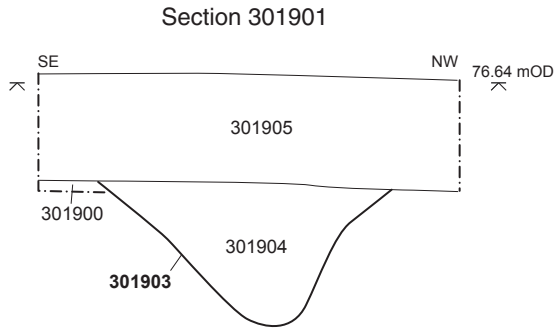
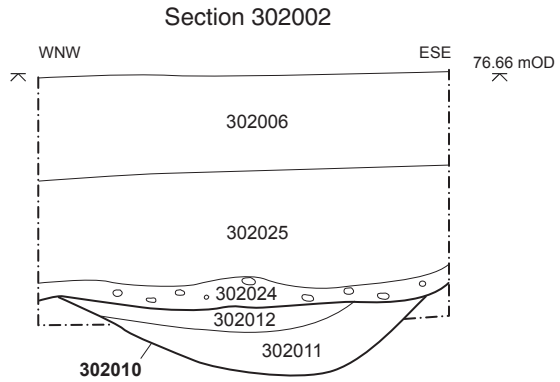
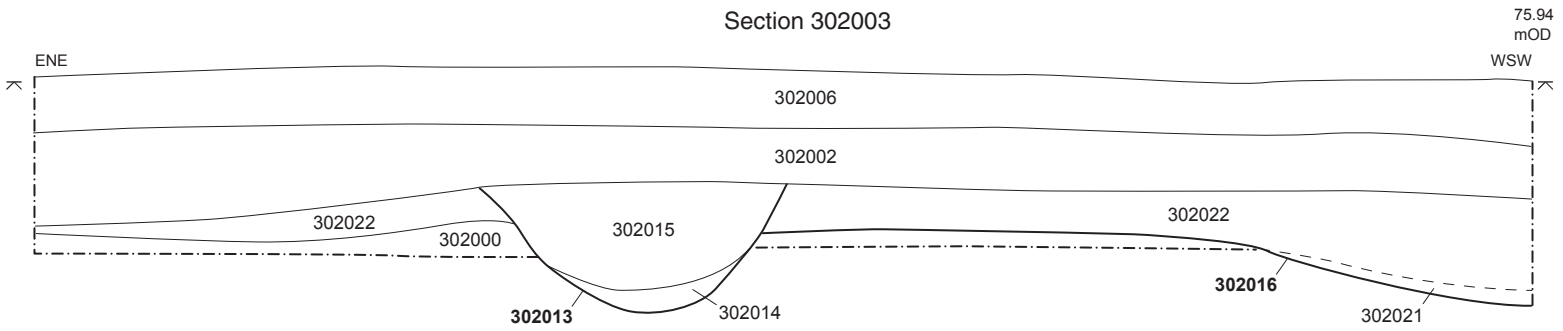


Figure 14: Sections







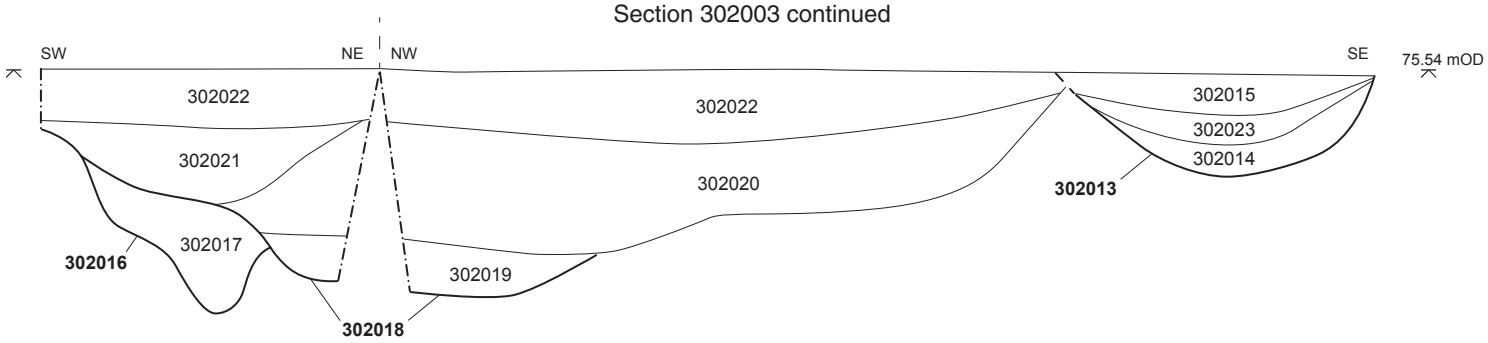


Figure 15: Sections

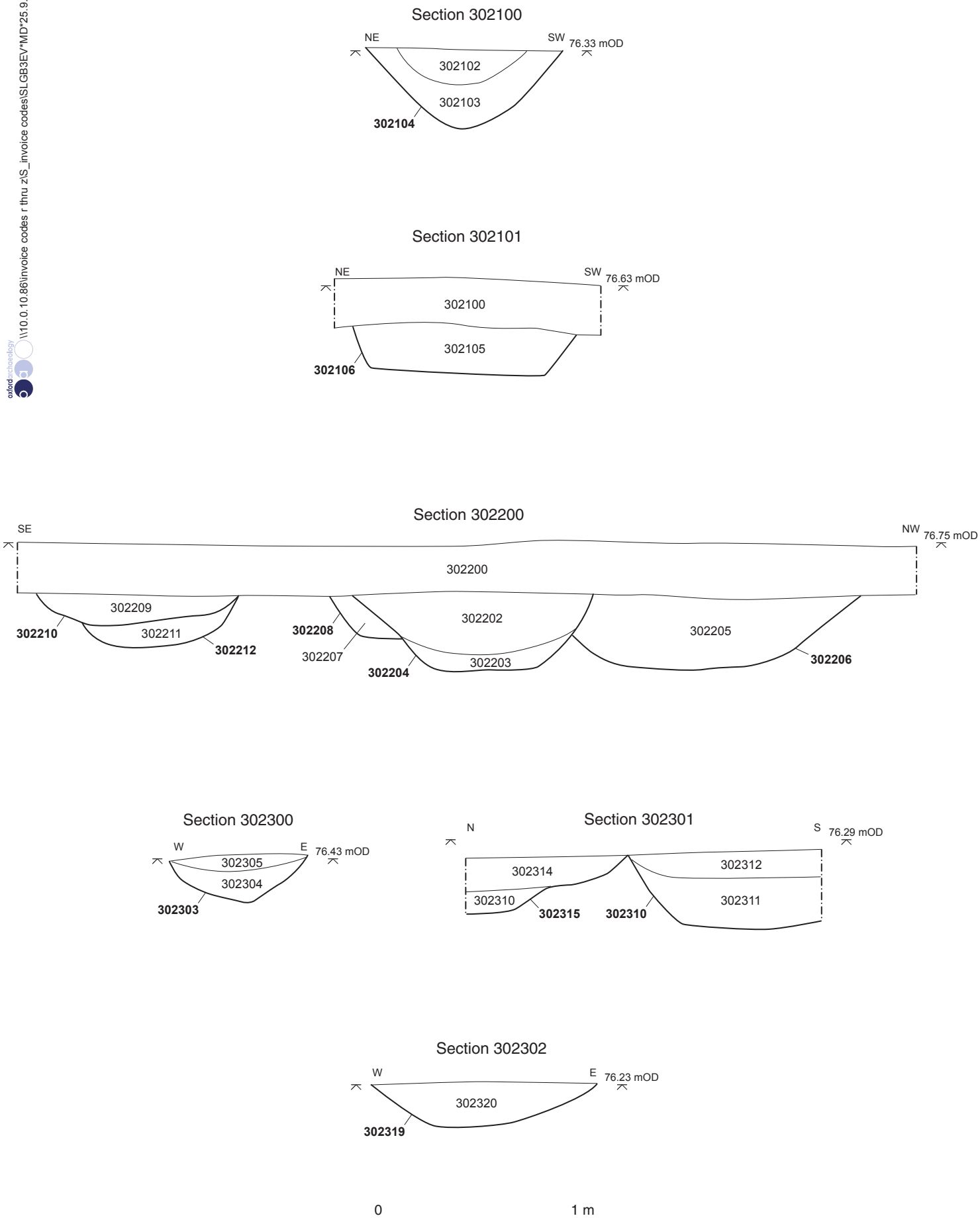


Figure 16: Sections

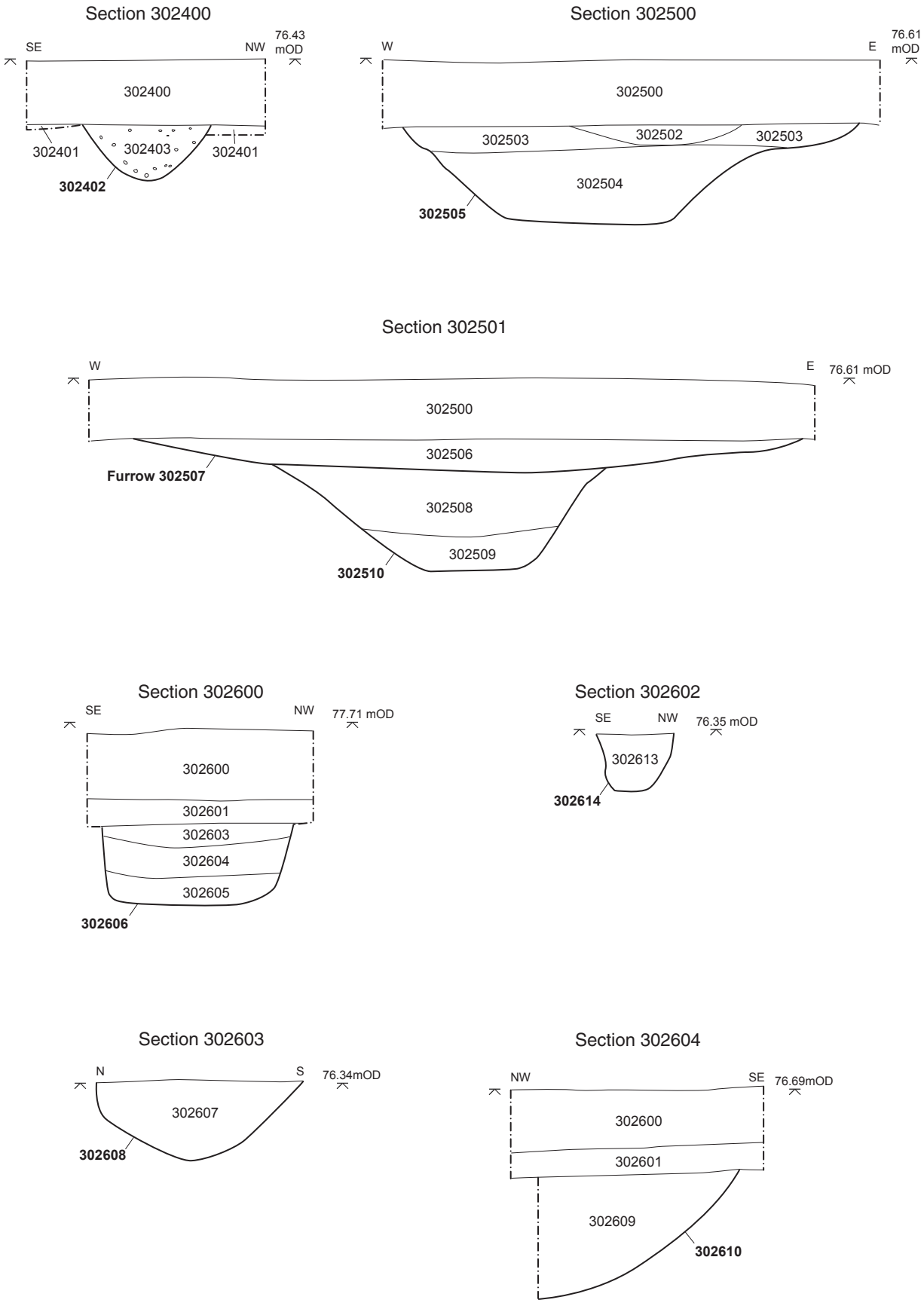


Figure 17: Sections

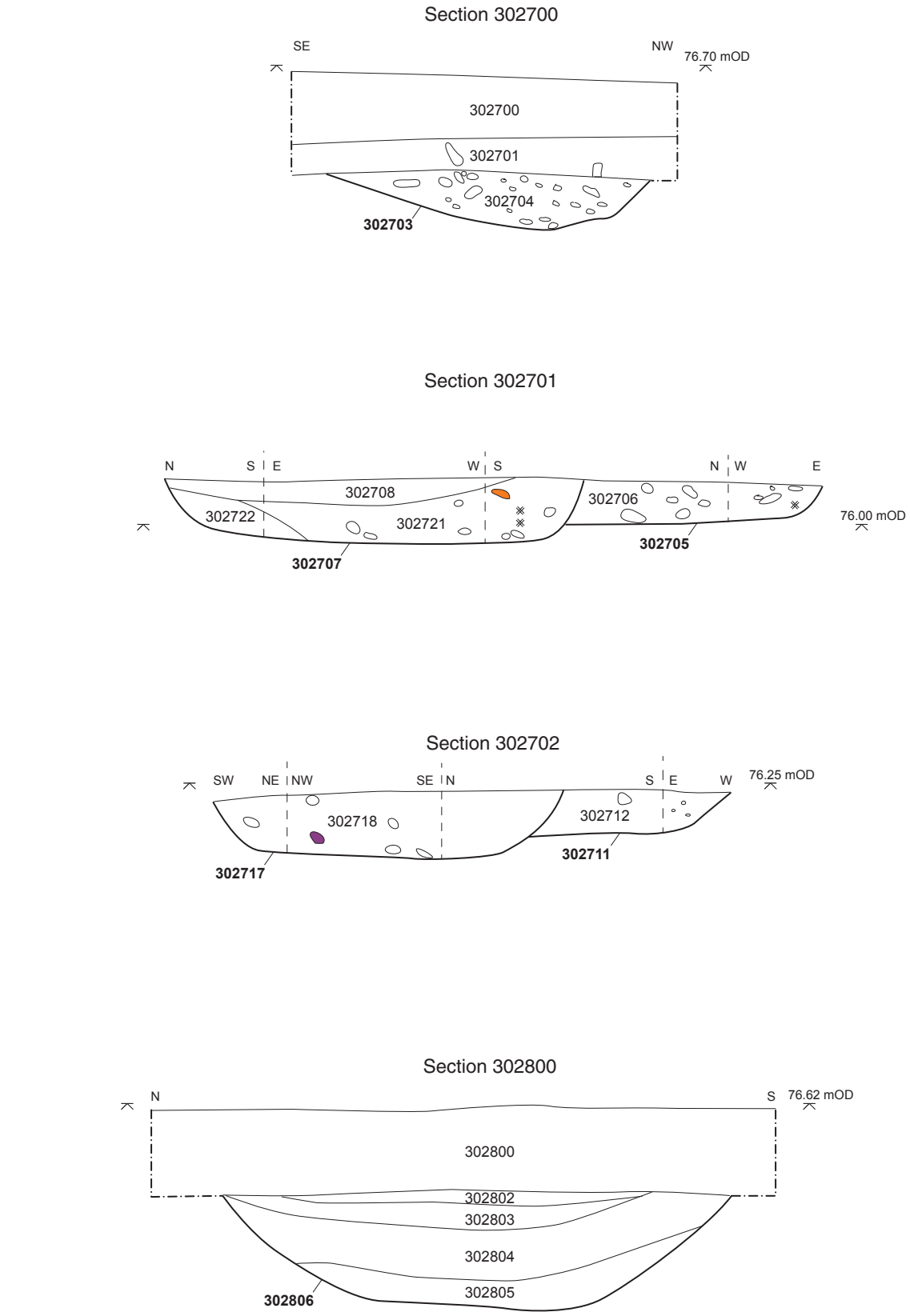


Figure 18: Sections

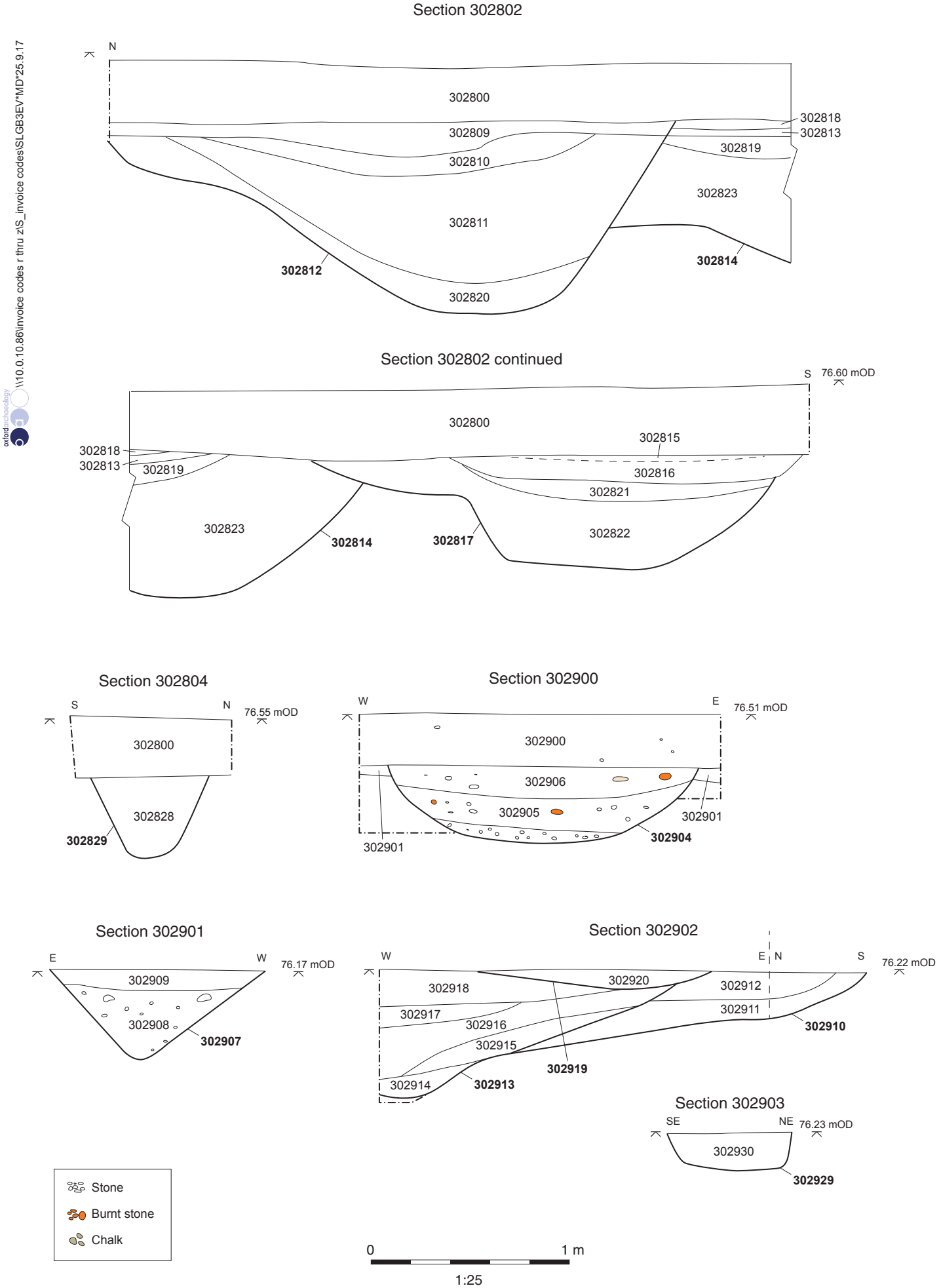


Figure 19: Sections

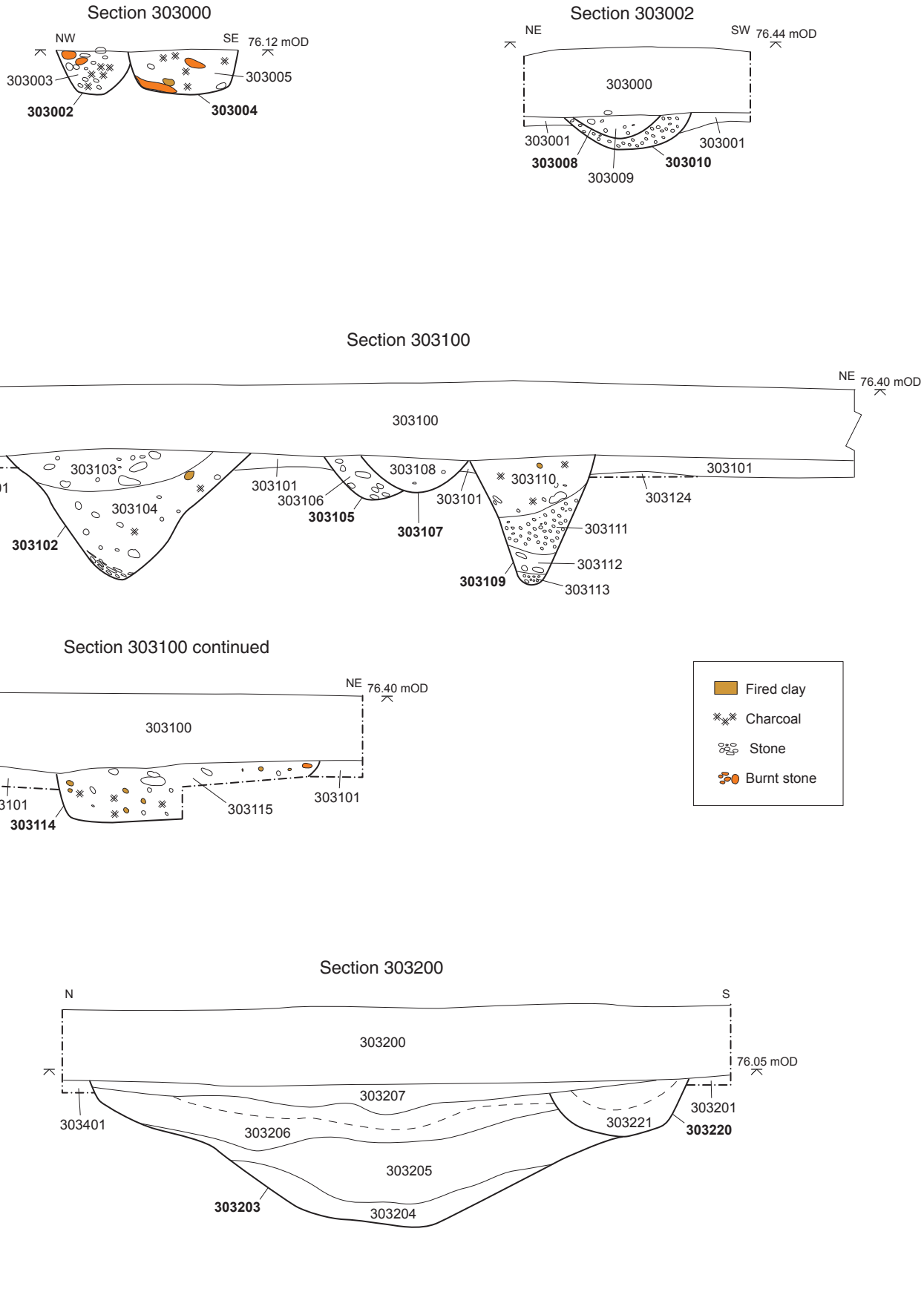


Figure 20: Sections

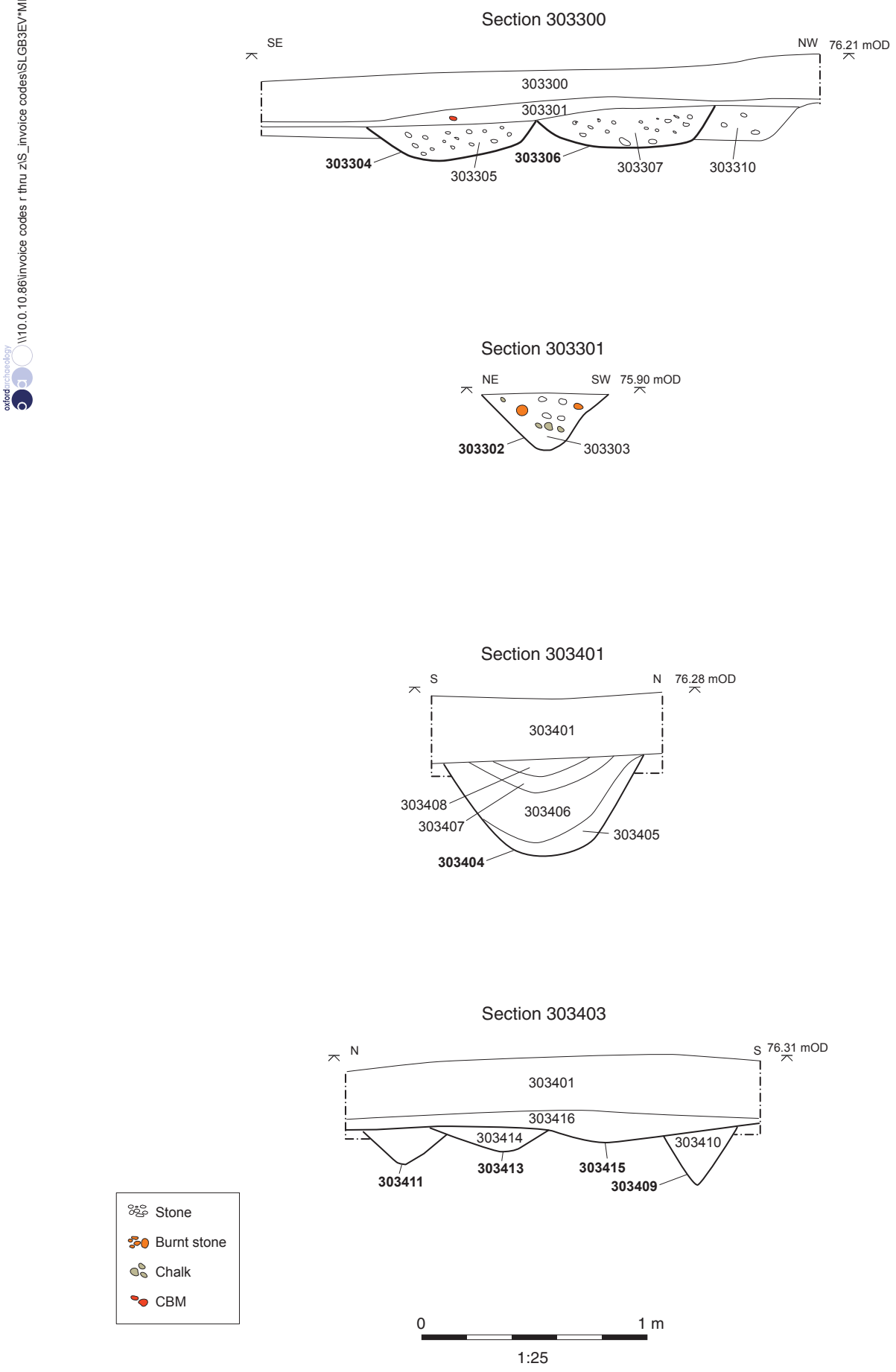
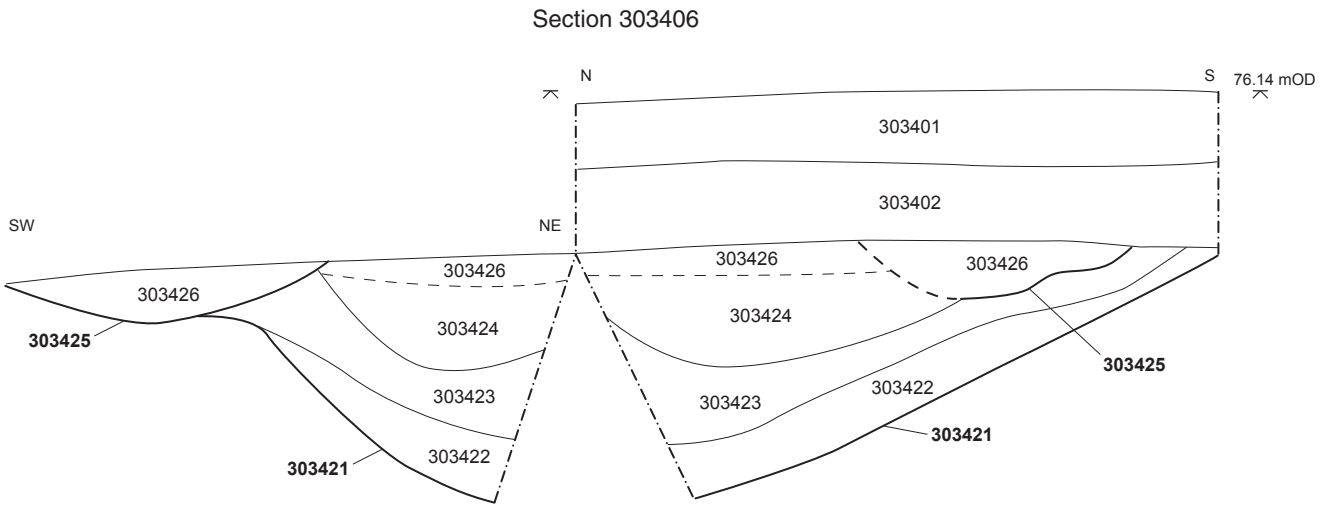
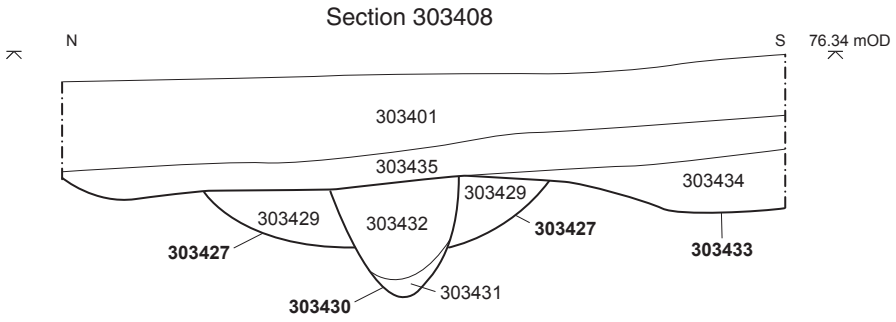


Figure 21: Sections





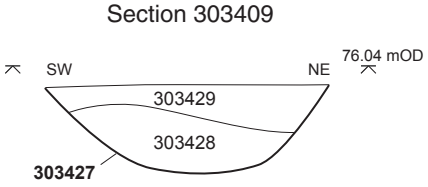
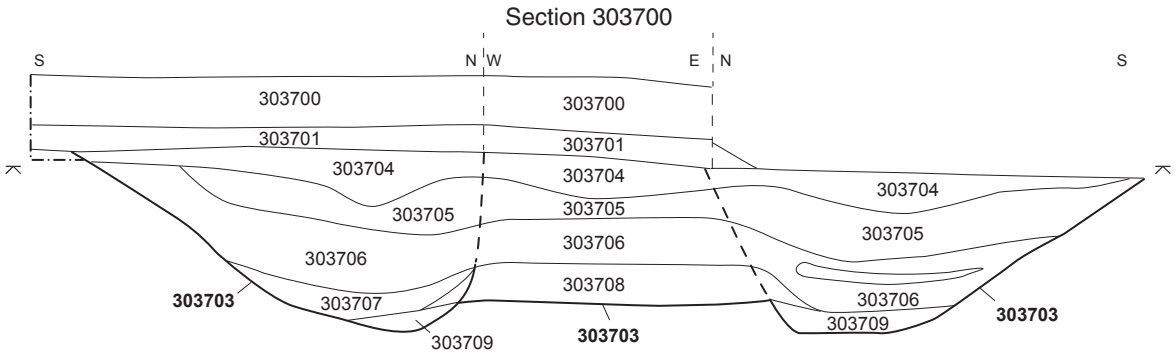
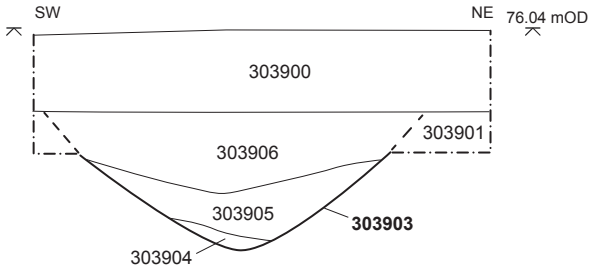


Figure 22: Sections





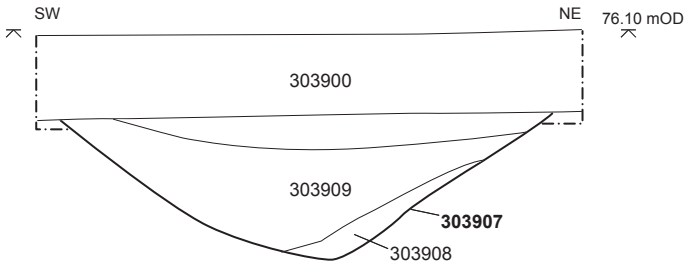


Figure 23: Sections

Plate 1: View north-east over part of north-eastern half of site showing higher ground to north. Trench 8 is centre foreground and Trench 4 to the left

Plate 2: View south-west showing flat topography of south-western half of site. Trench 23 is centre foreground

Plate 3: Aerial view (from drone) of part of site with Trench 19 centre top and quarry working area to right (east)

Plate 4: Trench 18 showing correlation of archaeological feature and clover 'cropmark'

Plate 5: Surface ‘cropmark’ in clover east of Trench 18

Plate 6: Trench 4 looking south. Silty clay geology and plough furrows

Plate 7: Trench 12, postholes of group 301202 with ditch 301224 beyond

Plate 8: Trench 14, view east showing secondary machine slot

Plate 9: Trench 18, section 301800

Plate 10: Trench 22 looking north-west

Plate 11: Trench 23 looking east

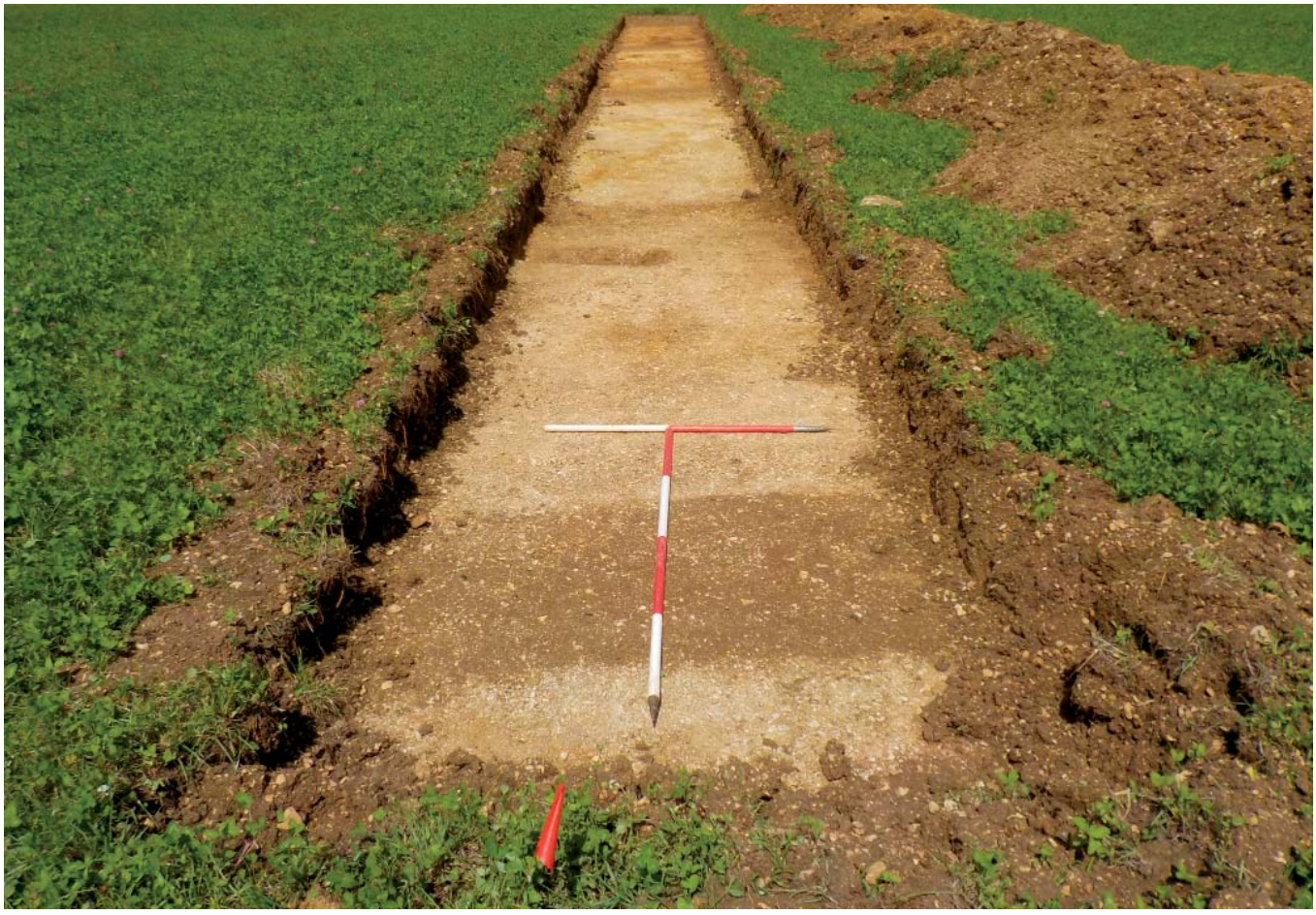


Plate 12: Trench 24 looking north-west showing probable furrows

Plate 13: Trench 29 looking east-south-east

Plate 14: Trench 31 looking south-west with pit 303114 in foreground

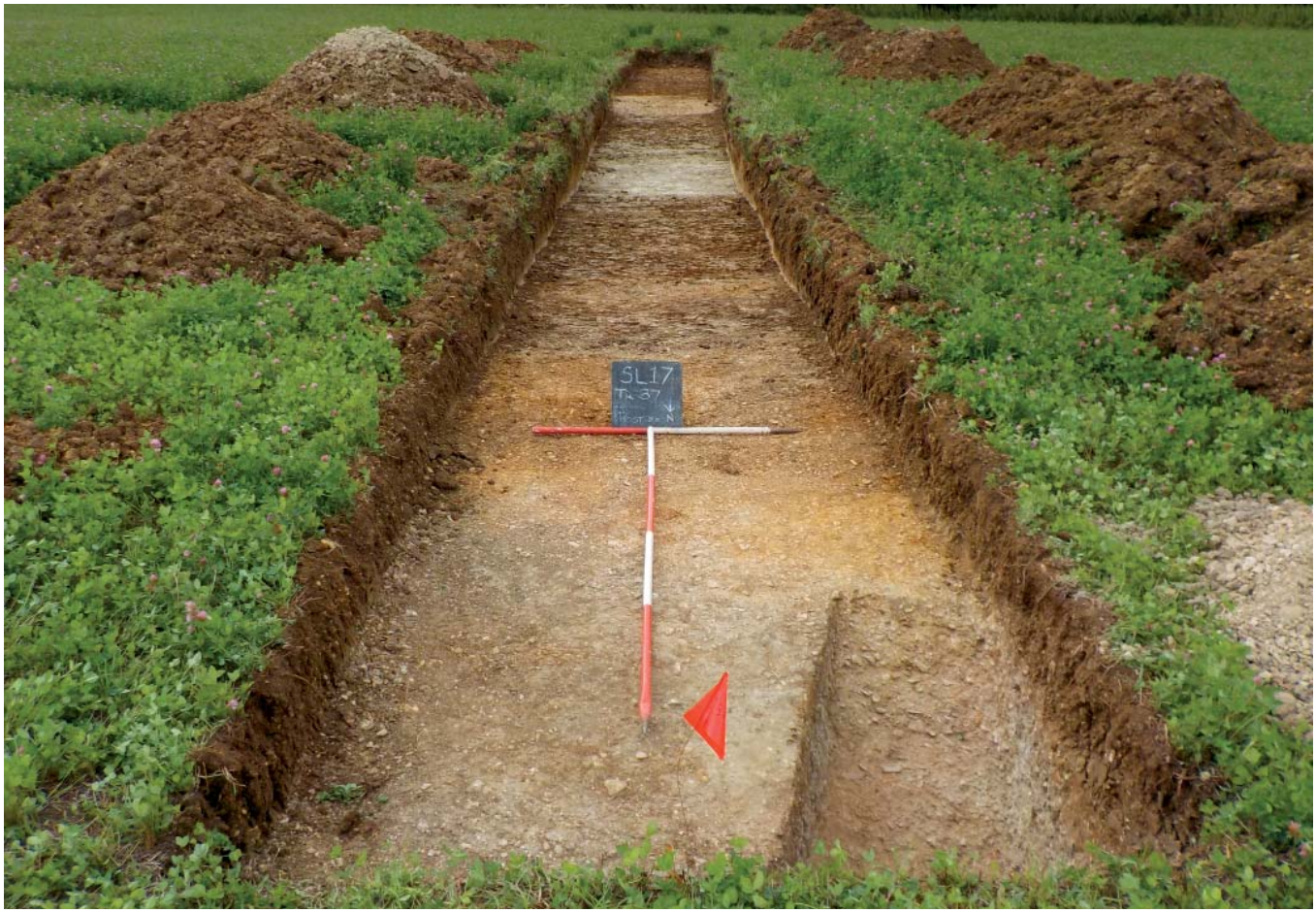


Plate 15: Trench 37 looking south

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