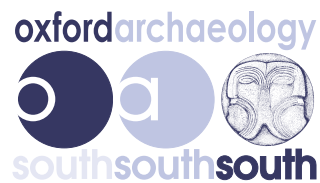


Land off
Stablebridge Road
Aston Clinton
Buckinghamshire



**Archaeological
Evaluation Report**




March 2011

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Land off Stablebridge Road, Aston, Clinton, Buckinghamshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between 14th February and 18th February 2011, Oxford Archaeology undertook a programme of evaluation on behalf of CgMs Consulting on land off Stablebridge Road, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire.

A total of 19 trenches were excavated revealing a number of archaeological features, particularly in the north-western half of the site. The evidence suggests that a settlement of late Iron Age/early Roman date lies within or close to the site. Pottery recovered from a smaller number of features indicates that such activity continued into the Roman period, at least until the 2nd century AD.

There was little evidence of activity of earlier or later periods, although a small quantity of residual worked flint was recovered from later features. In addition, two undated ditches in the south-western corner of the site may form part of a post-medieval trackway recorded during an earlier watching brief at the site.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In February 2011, Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook a programme of evaluation on behalf of CgMs Consulting on land off Stablebridge Road, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire (centred on SP 889 116). As part of this work, Oxford Archaeology was previously commissioned to carry out a geophysical survey of the site (Archaeological Surveys 2011). The current phase of work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (OA 2011), approved by Buckinghamshire County Council's Archaeological Planning and Conservation Officer.

1.1.2 The area of proposed development currently consists of open agricultural land (see Fig. 1) and covers an area of c 3.5 ha.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The geology of the area is Lower Chalk (BGS Sheet 238).

1.2.2 The ground level varies from 113 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) on the northern boundary to 123 m AOD at the south-western corner.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been described in detail in the *Heritage Assessment: Land off Stablebridge Road, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire* (CgMs Consulting 2010), and only the salient points are reproduced here.

1.3.2 A watching brief conducted on the site in 2004 (Fig. 2) recorded five ditches, one dated to the Bronze Age and four of probable post-medieval date (John Moore Heritage Services 2004).

1.3.3 Iron Age finds discovered in proximity to the site, including surface finds of pottery found during the construction of the Aston Clinton bypass, suggests that the site had potential to contain Iron Age remains.

1.3.4 The site lies c 70 m to the south of the Roman road of Akeman Street. Due to this proximity there was potential for the site to contain agricultural remains, quarry pits and stray finds from the Roman period.

1.3.5 A detailed magnetometer survey (Archaeological Surveys 2011), carried out in 2011 as a first stage of this evaluation, identified features of agricultural origin spread across the site and a concentration of positive linear anomalies on part of the north half of the site (see Fig. 2).

1.3.6 The site has been identified as having a moderate to high potential for late prehistoric settlement and a moderate potential for Roman activity. Little potential for evidence from other periods was identified.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 Oxford Archaeology would like to acknowledge the support and advice received from Sally Dicks of CgMs Consulting and Eliza Alqassar of Buckinghamshire County Council during the project. The fieldwork was managed by Ken Welsh and directed in the field by Brian Dean, who was assisted by Ben Atfield, John Boothroyd, Hannah Kennedy and Lee Sparks.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general aims of the project were as follows:

- (i) To determine the extent, date, location, character and state of preservation of any archaeological features on the site;
- (ii) To determine the environmental and ecofactual potential of the site;
- (iii) To produce a report detailing the results of the investigation.

2.1.2 The specific aims of the project were:

- (i) To determine the extent, date, character and state of preservation of the anomalies identified through the magnetometer survey;
- (ii) To inform the requirements for further archaeological investigation

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The evaluation consisted of 19 trenches each measuring 30 m by 2 m laid out as shown in Figure 3.

2.2.2 Given the relatively limited archaeological potential indicated by the geophysical survey, it was proposed to excavate trenches 1 – 15 initially. As a result of these investigations, and following consultation with the Buckinghamshire County Archaeologist, it was decided to excavate a further four of the remaining trenches. Trenches 19 and 21 were not excavated.

2.2.3 A summary of OA's general approach to excavation and recording is contained within the Written Scheme of Investigation (Oxford Archaeology 2011).

2.2.4 Site specific methodologies were as follows:

- (i) The trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision by a suitable mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching/grading bucket. Excavation proceeded to the natural geology or the top of the first archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first;
- (ii) Archaeological features were hand sampled. All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was in accordance with established OA practices as detailed in the OA Fieldwork Manual (Oxford Archaeology 1992). Bulk finds were collected by context. Black-and-white negative and digital photographs were taken of all trenches and archaeological features. Trench plans, where appropriate, were drawn at a scale of 1:50. Section drawings of features and sample sections of trenches were drawn at a scale of 1:20.



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 Section 3.2 describes the overall soil and ground conditions, Section 3.3 describes the general distribution of archaeological deposits, and a detailed description of the archaeology is presented in Sections 3.3 and 3.4. Full trench specific details are presented in tabular form in Appendix A.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The site sloped downward from the south-east towards the north-west. The topsoil consisted of a moderately firm dark brown silty clay. The thickness of this deposit varied between 0.14 m and 0.38 m. An underlying deposit of firm mid-dark grey silty clay ranged in thickness from 0.2 m to 0.46 m. These deposits were generally thicker towards the lower part of the site to the north and sealed all the archaeological features recorded other than a modern pit in Trench 15.

3.2.2 The underlying natural geology was varied in nature with a firm light grey silty clay forming the main component but giving way in areas to a more chalky clay. Occasional areas of more stony chalk material were observed in Trenches 1 and 12.

3.2.3 The ground conditions during the excavation were dry overall with no ground water encountered.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 The archaeological deposits were distributed across the whole site with the exception of the eastern and south-eastern trenches where there was a general paucity of archaeological features. Within the north-western part of the site there was a clear focus of activity with a much lower concentration of activity observed elsewhere.

3.4 Trenches 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 12, 18 and 20 (Fig. 3)

3.4.1 These trenches lay in the eastern part of the site. Only two trenches (9 and 10) revealed archaeological features. The remaining trenches were devoid of archaeology.

3.4.2 **Trench 9** contained a small sub-circular feature, 902, at its south-eastern end. This shallow feature had slightly concave sides and a flat base. Its fill, 903, was a soft, dark grey silty clay from which a single fragment of animal bone was recovered.

3.4.3 **Trench 10** contained a single anomalous feature at its north-eastern end. This ditch, 1002, was aligned approximately north-east to south-west and had very irregular edges. The fill, 1003, was a soft mid-dark grey silty clay with moderate chalk inclusions. A fragment of roof tile of probable medieval date and a single iron object were recovered from it.

3.5 Trenches 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 (Figs 4 and 5)

3.5.1 **Trench 1** contained three features. A NE-SW orientated ditch, 103, was located towards the north-western end of the trench. It had moderately steep, slightly concave sides and a slightly concave base. The fill, 104, was a firm, mid grey silty clay. A second, less substantial, linear feature, 105, shared the same alignment as 103. It had shallow, sloping moderately straight sides and a flat base. The fill, 106, consisted of a firm, mid-grey silty clay. A small fragment of animal bone was recovered. Further towards the south-west a shallow circular feature, 107, was located. This had shallow



sloping sides and a flat base. The fill, 108, was a soft, dark grey silty clay and from which single fragment of animal bone was recovered.

- 3.5.2 **Trench 4** contained two linear features and eight circular/sub-circular features. Ditch 404 was aligned NE-SW and extended across the width of the trench. It had steep slightly concave sides and a slightly concave base (Fig. 6, section 400). The single fill, 405, was a firm, mid-dark grey silty clay. Two fragments of Iron Age (possible late Iron Age) pottery were recovered from it. Ditch 418, was similarly aligned and had shallow concave sides and a slightly concave base. Its fill, 419, was a firm, light-mid grey silty clay. Features 402 (cut by 404), 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416 and 420 were all very similar in character with shallow concave sides and concave bases. The fills were similar too, consisting of soft, greyish brown silty clay with occasional chalk fragments. Only one feature, 420, differed in that it was slightly more substantial and more asymmetrical in profile.
- 3.5.3 **Trench 5** contained a single sub-circular feature, 503. The sides were steep and the base was uneven. It contained two fills. The lower fill, 503, was a firm, light brownish grey silty clay that produced no artefactual evidence. The upper fill, 505, was a firm, dark brownish grey silty clay. A single fragment of animal bone was recovered from this fill.
- 3.5.4 **Trench 6** contained three linear features and three sub-circular features. A shallow ditch, 606, was aligned north-south with shallow slightly concave sides and a wide flat base. The single fill was a soft, mid brownish grey silty clay and contained fragments of animal bone. Ditch 612 was orientated NE-SW and had moderately steep sides and a slightly concave base. The fill, 613, was a soft, mid brownish grey silty clay. Ditch 604 (Fig. 6, section 601) was V-shaped and was aligned NE-SW. The fill, 605, was firm, mid greyish brown silty clay with rare chalk inclusions. Two pottery sherds of early Roman date, a single piece of flint and fragments of animal bone were recovered from it. Feature 608 was only partially revealed and appeared sub-circular in plan. It had steep sides and a concave base. The fill, 609, was a firm, mid greyish brown silty clay. Feature 602 was also only partly revealed. It was filled by a soft, mid brown silty clay, 603, from which fragments of animal bone were recovered. Feature 610 was circular in plan with shallow moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, 611, was a loose, mid yellowish brown silty clay.
- 3.5.5 **Trench 7** contained five ditches and a single feature which may be another ditch. Ditch 703 was orientated NE-SW. It had moderately steep concave sides and a concave base (Fig. 7, section 700). The single fill was a firm, mid-dark greyish brown silty clay. A single fragment of mammal bone was recovered. A NW-SE orientated ditch, 705, was partially revealed the trench. It had a concave sides and a flat base. The fill, 706, was a firm, dark greyish brown silty clay. A pottery sherd, of late Iron Age/early Roman date, and a piece of flint were recovered from it. A soil sample from this fill produced occasional poorly-preserved cereal grains. Ditch 707 was orientated NE-SW with a stepped north-western side and a slightly convex south-eastern side (Fig. 7, section 702). The base was regular but sloped downward from south-west to north-east. The lower of the three fills, 708 was a moderately firm, light brownish grey silty clay. The middle fill was a light greyish brown silty clay. The upper fill, 710, was a firm, mid brown silty clay. It contained 25 sherds of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and two flint fragments of possible Neolithic date.
- 3.5.6 Parallel to and cutting this was Ditch 711. This had moderately steep concave sides and a concave base with a narrow step at its north-eastern side (Fig. 7, section 702). The lower of the two fills, 712, was a moderately firm, light greyish brown silty clay. The



upper fill, 713, was a firm, mid brownish grey silty clay. A pottery sherd of Roman date was recovered from the latter. Feature 714 was partially revealed in the trench. It had steep straight sides with a flat base (Fig. 7, section 703). The single fill, 715, was a firm, dark brownish grey silty clay. Five sherds of pottery, of 2nd century date, were recovered from it. Ditch 716, cut by Feature 714, was aligned NE-SW with steep slightly convex sides and a flat base ((Fig. 7, section 703). The lower of its two fills was a firm, dark greyish brown silty clay. The upper fill, 718, was a softer mid brownish grey silty clay. This fill contained a sherd of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery. Ditch 719, aligned NE-SW, had steep straight sides and a slightly concave base (Fig. 7, section 704). The lower of the two fills, 720, was a firm, mid greyish brown silty clay. The upper fill, 721, was a firm, light-mid greyish brown silty clay. A single pottery sherd of Roman date was recovered. An ENE-WSW orientated ditch, 722, was observed at the north-western end of the trench. The sides were shallow and concave and the base was also concave. The single fill, 723, was a firm dark brown silty clay. Animal bone was recovered from this fill.

- 3.5.7 **Trench 8** contained three linear features (Fig. 6, section 801) and a single discrete feature. The discrete feature, 802, was sub-circular in plan with shallow slightly concave sides. The base could not be observed. The single fill, 803, was a firm, dark grey silty clay. Extending beyond this on a NE-SW alignment was ditch 804 which had shallow concave sides and a concave base. Its sole fill, 805, was a firm, mid grey silty clay. A very narrow ditch, 806, was orientated NE-SW along the centre of the trench. It had asymmetrical sides with a concave base. The single fill was a firm mid brownish grey silty clay. A second ditch also extended along the length of the trench on a NE-SW alignment. This ditch, 808, was slightly more substantial and contained a single fill, 809, a firm dark grey silty clay. A sherd of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery was recovered from it.
- 3.5.8 **Trench 13** contained a single linear feature, 1303. This was orientated NE-SW, with asymmetrical sides. The fill, 1304, was a firm, light-mid grey silty clay.
- 3.5.9 **Trench 14** contained two linear features which were both aligned NE-SW. The more substantial linear, 1402, had moderately steep, slightly concave sides and a narrow concave base. Two fills were observed within the feature. The lower fill, 1403, was restricted to the south-eastern side and consisted of a firm, light grey silty clay. The upper fill, 1405, was a firm, light-mid grey silty clay. The second ditch, 1405, had shallow concave sides and a concave base. The fill consisted of a firm light-mid grey silty clay.
- 3.5.10 **Trench 15** contained four linear features and a single feature of uncertain interpretation. The latter, 1502, was observed at the south-western end of the trench and was sealed by the topsoil. The sides were sloping and led to a narrow concave base. It contained seven fills and modern brick and other debris was present. This feature is clearly visible as an anomaly on the geophysical survey of the site (Fig. 2).
- 3.5.11 A short shallow ditch, 1503, was orientated NE-SW. It had steep slightly concave sides and a concave base (Fig. 6, section 1504). The fill, 1504, was a loose dark grey clayey silt. Forty-seven sherds of early Roman pottery were recovered from this fill along with four flint fragments and two bone pins. A small quantity of generally poorly preserved cereal grain was recovered from a soil sample taken from this feature.
- 3.5.12 Ditch 1505 was orientated NW-SE with very shallow concave sides and a flat base (Fig. 6, section 1501). The single fill, 1506, was a soft, mid grey silty clay. Ditch 1507 had steep, slightly concave sides and a flat base. Its fill, 1508, was a soft, mid grey silty clay



with rare chalk inclusions. A single pottery sherd of Roman date was recovered from it. Ditch 1516 was located at the north-eastern limit of the trench. This was orientated NW-SE with deep steeply concave sides and a concave base (Fig. 6, section 1505). The north-eastern side was beyond the limit of the trench. The single fill, 1517, was a firm, mid-dark grey silty clay. Eight pottery sherds of late Iron Age/early Roman date were recovered from it.

- 3.5.13 **Trench 16** contained two linear features which were both aligned NE-SW, and a single circular feature. Ditch 1602 had steep, slightly convex sides and a narrow concave base. The single fill, 1603, was a firm, mid-dark grey silty clay. Ditch 1606, had steep straight sides and a narrow concave base. The lower of the two fills, 1608, was a firm, mid-dark blueish grey silty clay. The upper fill, 1607, was a firm mid-dark grey silty clay. Thirteen sherds of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and a fragment of animal bone were recovered from the upper fill. The circular feature, 1604, was located between the two ditches. The sides were steep and slightly concave and the base was concave. The single fill, 1605, was a firm, mid-dark grey silty clay.
- 3.5.14 **Trench 17** contained two ditches, both of which were aligned NE-SW. A further amorphous feature was investigated. Ditch 1703 had shallow concave sides and a concave base. The single fill, 1704, was a compact, mid slightly orangey brown silty clay. Two fragments of animal bone were recovered from it. The second ditch, 1705, had moderately steep, straight sides and a narrow concave base. The fill, 1706, was a compact, mid greyish brown silty clay. A single feature, 1707, was observed in section to the south-west of the two ditches. This was not clearly defined and could only be viewed in section. Investigation strongly suggested that it was a geological deposit.

3.6 Finds summary

- 3.6.1 The artefacts and ecofacts recovered during the evaluation are briefly summarised below. A full discussion of the finds is provided in Appendix B.

Pottery

- 3.6.2 A total of 109 sherds of pottery were recovered during the evaluation. These were recovered from thirteen features across the evaluation area. A wide variety of forms and fabrics were recorded. The assemblage included fine white and grey wares, sandy, gritty wares and grog tempered wares. A few forms were recognised including bowls, beakers, jars and a flagon. The pottery assemblage dated largely from the late Iron Age to early Roman period. The latest pottery was recovered from a single feature in Trench 7 and dated to between AD 120–200. The assemblage had a relatively high mean sherd weight reflecting large well-preserved sherds.

Flint

- 3.6.3 A total of five pieces of burnt unworked flint were recovered from two contexts (706 and 1504). A further nine pieces of flint were recovered from four contexts (605, 706, 710 and 1504). Of these eight provided evidence of having been worked with a single piece suggesting plough damage.

Ceramic Building Material

- 3.6.4 One fragment of ceramic building material was recovered from context 1003. This was assessed to be of medieval date.



Metal

- 3.6.5 A single metal object was recovered from context 1003. Its was purpose uncertain and it could not be accurately dated.

Animal Bone

- 3.6.6 An assemblage of 130 animal bone fragments was recovered from twelve contexts. Although small the assemblage was well preserved. Evidence of cut marks was observed in in four cases and a single example of dog gnawing was observed. The diagnostic bone represented cattle, sheep/goat, pig, frog/toad and fish.

Worked Bone

- 3.6.7 Two worked bone pins were recovered from the sample of 1504.

Plant Remains

- 3.6.8 A full description of the environmental evidence is provided in Appendix C below. Plant remains were recovered from two contexts (706 and 1504). The preservation was poor resulting in the cereal grains, in the main, being indeterminate, although a single grain of wheat and a single oat grain were identified from 1504. Weed seeds were observed within both contexts as were indeterminate glum bases and species of *Brassica*.

Snails

- 3.6.9 Snails were found in abundance with a large range of land species present.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The trench locations and orientations were designed to maximise coverage of the area under evaluation. The trenches were also targeted to target anomalies identified through magnetometer survey (Fig. 2). All anomalies, including geological features were examined to ensure the full recovery archaeological evidence.
- 4.1.2 The evaluation proved the magnetometer survey to be generally reliable in as much as over 50% of the anomalies attributed to archaeological activity were located as 'real' features within the trenches. The anomalies attributed to agricultural activity were not observed during the evaluation and may have largely resulted from minor variations in the topsoil or subsoil. In addition, a number of features, including both ditches and discrete features, were not identified in the geophysical survey.
- 4.1.3 The ground conditions on the whole remained good and allowed clear observation of the excavated trenches.
- 4.1.4 It is therefore felt that the results of the field investigation provide a reliable indicator of the extent and character of the archaeology present.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The objectives of the project, as outlined in Section 2.1, were successfully achieved in that the evaluation determined the general nature and extent of the archaeology present.
- 4.2.2 The results of the investigation allowed the archaeology to be broadly dated through the artefactual evidence recovered.



4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 During the previous watching brief undertaken along the south-western edge of the site, a ditch of likely Bronze Age date along with pottery sherds recovered from later features was recorded (John Moore Heritage Services 2004). However, other than two small sherds of possible late Iron Age pottery in Trench 4, and a small number of worked flints from later features, no evidence of activity pre-dating the late Iron Age/early Roman period was recovered during the current work.
- 4.3.2 Within the north-western half of the site, a series of NE-SW aligned ditches may be parts of a field system or settlement boundaries of generally late Iron Age or early Roman date. The quantity and state of preservation of the pottery, along with the presence of well-preserved animal bone, some with butchery marks, suggests that a settlement of this date lies in close proximity to the site, and may indeed extend into it. However, other than occasional post-holes, including a small undated group in Trench 4, no structural evidence was recorded.
- 4.3.3 Evidence for continuity of settlement into the Roman period proper was also found in Trenches 7 and 15 in the central part of the site, and from Trench 6 in the western part of the site. Although from a limited number of contexts, the quantity of pottery recovered, along with the presence of two bone pins and possible bone-working waste, suggests that settlement activity continued at the site into the 2nd Century AD.
- 4.3.4 The date range of the settlement activity overlaps with that recorded at Site B on the Aston Clinton Bypass (Masefield 2008), approximately 1 km to the north. However, in that case, ceramic evidence indicated that the activity continued into the later Roman period. No such evidence for later Roman occupation was found here.
- 4.3.5 Little evidence of later activity was recorded at the site, although a pair of ditches in Trench 1 probably form the continuation of ditches recorded a short distance to the south-west in the earlier watching brief (John Moore Heritage Services 2004) where they were interpreted as forming a possible post-medieval trackway.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation	NW - SE	
The natural was a firm light grey silty chalky clay. Three archaeological features were observed in the form of a ditch and a posthole. A possible gully was also identified.				Avg. depth (m)	0.35	
				Width (m)	1.9	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.2	Sub-soil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
103	Cut	0.8	0.32	Cut of ditch	-	-
104	Fill	0.8	0.32	Fill of ditch 103	-	-
105	Cut	0.8	0.14	Cut of gully	-	-
106	Fill	0.8	0.14	Fill of gully 105	Bone	-
107	Cut	0.34	0.06	Cut of posthole	-	-
108	Fill	0.34	0.06	Fill of posthole 107	Bone	-

Trench 2						
General description				Orientation	NNE-SSW	
The natural was a light greyish white silty clay with abundant chalk inclusions. No archaeological features were observed.				Avg. depth (m)	0.4	
				Width (m)	1.9	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
200	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.29	Sub-soil	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-



Trench 3						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
The natural was a greyish white silty clay with abundant chalk inclusions. No archaeological features were observed.				Avg. depth (m)		0.6
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
300	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.3	Sub-soil	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
303	Layer	-	0.1	Deposition layer	-	-

Trench 4						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
The natural was a light grey silty clay with frequent small chalk inclusions. Nine archaeological features were observed comprising six postholes, two ditches and a pit. A furrow of more recent origin was also observed.				Avg. depth (m)		0.74
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
400	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.46	Sub-soil	-	-
402	Cut	0.6	0.22	Cut of pit	-	-
403	Fill	0.6	0.22.	Fill of pit 402	-	-
404	Cut	1	0.3	Cut of ditch	-	-
405	Fill	1	0.3	Fill of ditch 404	Pottery	IA (poss. LIA)
406	Cut	0.19	0.04	Cut of posthole	-	-
407	Fill	0.19	0.04	Fill of posthole 406	-	-
408	Cut	0.28	0.06	Cut of posthole	-	-
409	Fill	0.28	0.06	Fill of posthole 408	-	-
410	Cut	0.2	0.05	Cut of posthole	-	-
411	Fill	0.2	0.05	Fill of posthole 410	-	-
412	Cut	0.32	0.08	Cut of posthole	-	-
413	Fill	0.32	0.08	Fill of posthole 412	-	-
414	Cut	0.3	0.06	Cut of posthole	-	-
415	Fill	0.3	0.06	Fill of posthole 414	-	-
416	Cut	0.48	0.1	Cut of posthole	-	-
417	Fill	0.48	0.1	Fill of posthole 416	-	-
418	Cut	1.25	0.2	Cut of furrow	-	-



419	Fill	1.25	0.2	Fill of furrow 418	-	-
420	Cut	0.4	0.16	Cut of pit	-	-
421	Fill	0.4	0.16.	Fill of pit 420	-	-
422	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 5						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
The natural was a light-mid grey silty clay. A single pit was observed.				Avg. depth (m)		0.59
				Width (m)		1.8
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
500	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.37	Sub-soil	-	-
502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
503	Cut	1.3	0.3	Cut of pit	-	-
504	Fill	1.04	0.19	Lower fill of pit 503	-	-
505	Fill	1.3	0.17	Upper fill of pit 503	Bone	-

Trench 6						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
The natural was a light-mid grey silty clay. Five archaeological features were observed comprising four ditches, a posthole and a pit/ditch terminus. A furrow of more recent origin was also identified.				Avg. depth (m)		0.58
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
600	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.3	Sub-soil	-	-
602	Cut	1.04	0.2	Cut of pit	-	-
603	Fill	1.04	0.2	Fill of pit 602	Bone	-
604	Cut	1.08	0.4	Cut of ditch	-	-
605	Fill	1.08	0.4	Fill of ditch 604	Pot/Bone/ Flint	AD50-120
606	Cut	0.94	0.08	Cut of furrow	-	-
607	Fill	0.94	0.08	Fill of furrow 606	-	-
608	Cut	0.52	0.22	Cut of pit	-	-
609	Fill	0.52	0.22	Fill of pit 608	-	-
610	Cut	0.26	0.1	Cut of posthole	-	-



611	Fill	0.26	0.1	Fill of posthole 610	-	-
612	Cut	0.82	0.22	Cut of ditch	-	-
613	Fill	0.82	0.22	Fill of ditch 612	-	-
614	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 7						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
The natural was a firm light-mid grey silty clay with chalk deposits towards the NW of the trench. Eight archaeological features were observed comprising seven ditches and a single pit/ditch.				Avg. depth (m)	0.67	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
700	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.29	Sub-soil	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
703	Cut	0.8	0.4	Cut of ditch	-	-
704	Fill	0.8	0.4	Fill of ditch 703	Bone	-
705	Cut	0.34	0.16	Cut of ditch	-	-
706	Fill	0.34	0.18	Fill of ditch 705	Pot/Bone/Flint	LIA-AD43-70
707	Cut	1.8	1.06	Cut of ditch	-	-
708	Fill	0.9	0.4	Lower fill of ditch 707	-	-
709	Fill	1.2	0.18	Middle fill of ditch 707	-	-
710	Fill	1.8	0.48	Upper fill of ditch 707	Pot/Flint	LIA-AD43-70
711	Cut	1.55	0.65	Cut of ditch	-	-
712	Fill	0.65	0.18	Lower fill of ditch 711	-	-
713	Fill	1.55	0.5	Upper fill of ditch 711	Pot/Bone	Roman
714	Cut	0.3	0.42	Cut of pit/ditch	-	-
715	Fill	0.3	0.42	Fill of 714	Pottery	AD120-200
716	Cut	0.75	0.54	Cut of ditch	-	-
717	Fill	0.3	0.18	Lower fill of ditch 716	-	-
718	Fill	0.75	0.36	Upper fill of 716	Pot/Bone	LIA-AD43-70
719	Cut	0.84	0.54	Cut of ditch	-	-
720	Fill	0.56	0.2	Lower fill of ditch 719	-	-
721	Fill	0.84	0.34	Upper fill of ditch 719	Pottery	Roman
722	Cut	0.82	0.3	Cut of ditch	-	-
723	Fill	0.82	0.3	Fill of ditch 722	Bone	-



Trench 8						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
The natural was a firm light greyish white silty clay. Four archaeological features were observed comprising two ditches a gully and a pit.				Avg. depth (m)		0.56
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
800	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.34	Sub-soil	-	-
802	Cut	0.32	0.2	Cut of pit	-	-
803	Fill	0.32	0.2	Fill of pit 802	-	-
804	Cut	0.7	0.18	Cut of ditch	-	-
805	Fill	0.7	0.18	Fill of ditch 804	-	-
806	Cut	0.22	0.06	Cut of gully	-	-
807	Fill	0.22	0.06	Fill of gully 806	-	-
808	Cut	0.32	0.28	Cut of ditch	-	-
809	Fill	0.32	0.28	Fill of ditch 808	Pottery	LIA-AD43-70
810	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 9						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
The natural was a firm mid grey silty clay. A single pit was observed.				Avg. depth (m)		0.39
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
900	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
902	Cut	0.66	0.06	Cut of pit	-	-
903	Fill	0.66	0.06	Fill of pit 902	Bone	-
904	Layer	-	0.21	Sub-soil	-	-



Trench 10						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
The natural was a light grey silty clay with occasional chalk inclusions. A single furrow was observed.				Avg. depth (m)	0.36	
				Width (m)	1.9	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1000	Layer	-	0.14	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.22	Sub-soil	-	-
1002	Cut	2.5	0.28	Cut of furrow	-	-
1003	Fill	2.5	0.28	Fill of furrow 1002	Fe/CBM	Medieval
1004	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 11						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
The natural was a firm light-mid greyish white silty clay with chalk inclusions. No archaeological features were observed.				Avg. depth (m)	0.35	
				Width (m)	1.9	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1100	Layer	-	0.14	Topsoil	-	-
1101	Layer	-	0.21	Sub-soil	-	-
1102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 12						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
The natural was a firm mid greyish white silty clay. No archaeological features were observed.				Avg. depth (m)	0.5	
				Width (m)	1.9	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1200	Layer	-	0.19	Topsoil	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.31	Sub-soil	-	-
1202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-



Trench 13						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
The natural was a firm mid grey silty clay with areas of chalky gravel and stone towards the SW end of the trench. A single ditch was observed				Avg. depth (m)	0.5	
				Width (m)	1.9	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1300	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
1301	Layer	-	0.28	Sub-soil	-	-
1302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1303	Cut	0.55	0.18	Cut of ditch	-	-
1304	Fill	0.55	0.18	Fill of ditch 1303	-	-

Trench 14						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
The natural was a firm light whitish grey silty clay with chalk inclusions. Two ditches were observed.				Avg. depth (m)	0.66	
				Width (m)	1.92	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1400	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.36	Sub-soil	-	-
1402	Cut	1.12	0.34	Cut of ditch	-	-
1403	Fill	0.12	0.08	Lower fill of ditch 1402	-	-
1404	Fill	1	0.24	Upper fill of ditch 1402	-	-
1405	Cut	0.42	0.12	Cut of gully	-	-
1406	Fill	0.42	0.12	Fill of gully 1405	-	-
1407	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 15						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
The natural was a firm, light grey silty clay with abundant chalk inclusions. Three ditch features, a furrow and a modern disturbance were observed.				Avg. depth (m)	0.54	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1500	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-



1501	Layer	-	0.24	Sub-soil	-	-
1502	Cut	3.72	0.84	Modern disturbance	-	-
1503	Cut	0.5	0.2	Cut of linear	-	-
1504	Fill	0.5	0.2	Fill of linear 1503.	Pot/Flint	AD70-120
1505	Cut	1.8	0.1	Cut of furrow	-	-
1506	Fill	1.8	0.1	Fill of furrow 1505	-	-
1507	Cut	0.72	0.22	Cut of ditch	-	-
1508	Fill	0.72	0.22	Fill of ditch 1507	Pot/Bone	Roman
1509	Fill	2.54	0.22	Fill of 1502	Pottery	LIA-AD43-70
1510	Fill	1	0.06	Fill of 1502	-	-
1511	Fill	3.6	0.2	Fill of 1502	-	-
1512	Fill	1.5	0.06	Fill of 1502	-	-
1513	Fill	1.8	0.06	Fill of 1502	-	-
1514	Fill	0.6	0.04	Fill of 1502	-	-
1515	Fill	3.72	0.24	Fill of 1502	Brick	Modern
1516	Cut	1.16	0.92	Cut of ditch	-	-
1517	Fill	1.16	0.92	Fill of ditch 1516	Pottery	LIA-AD43-70
1518	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 16

General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
The natural was a firm, light grey silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions. Two ditch features and a posthole feature were observed				Avg. depth (m)	0.35	
				Width (m)	1.92	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1600	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
1601	Layer	-	0.15	Sub-soil	-	-
1602	Cut	0.7	0.22	Cut of ditch	-	-
1603	Fill	0.7	0.22	Fill of ditch 1602	-	-
1604	Cut	0.3	0.2	Cut of posthole	-	-
1605	Fill	0.3	0.2	Fill of posthole 1604	-	-
1606	Cut	1.18	0.54	Cut of ditch	-	-
1607	Fill	0.56	0.34	Upper fill of ditch 1606	Pottery	LIA-AD43-70
1608	Fill	1.18	0.2	Lower fill of ditch 1606	-	-
1609	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-



Trench 17						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
The natural was a firm, light grey silty clay with occasional chalk inclusions. Two ditches were observed.				Avg. depth (m)	0.51	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1700	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
1701	Layer	-	0.33	Sub-soil	-	-
1702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1703	Cut	0.6	0.16	Cut of ditch	-	-
1704	Fill	0.6	0.16	Fill of ditch 1703	-	-
1705	Cut	0.94	0.28	Cut of ditch	-	-
1706	Fill	0.94	0.28	Fill of ditch 1705	-	-

Trench 18						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
The natural was a firm light grey silty clay with chalk inclusions. No archaeological features were observed.				Avg. depth (m)	0.51	
				Width (m)	1.9	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1800	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
1801	Layer	-	0.25	Sub-soil	-	-
1802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 20						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
The natural was a firm, light grey chalky clay. No archaeological features were observed.				Avg. depth (m)	0.41	
				Width (m)	1.9	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2000	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-
2001	Layer	-	0.18	Sub-soil	-	-
2002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-



APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery by Edward Biddulph

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Comments	Group date
405	2	15	Sand and flint-tempered fabric Sand and grog-tempered fabric	Iron Age, possibly LIA
605	2	100	Sandy oxidised ware cordoned necked or wide-mouthed jar	AD50-120
706	1	12	Grog-tempered ware	LIA-AD43/70
710	25	97	Grog-tempered ware, including rims, cordoned and rouletted sherds possibly from a butt-beaker	LIA-AD43/70
713	1	29	Sandy grey ware, possibly from storage jar	Roman
715	5	123	Base of Central Gaulish samian bowl or dish (?Drag. 36) Sandy white ware Fine grey ware Black-burnished-type ware Fine oxidised ware	AD120-200
718	1	7	Grog-tempered ware	LIA-AD43/70
721	1	5	Sandy grey ware	Roman
809	1	7	Grog-tempered ware ?globular beaker	LIA-AD43/70
1504	47	1593	Sandy (gritty) grey ware (quartz and black fragments). Sandy (gritty) oxidised ware – as grey ware; hard fired. Sandy grey ware high-shouldered cordoned neck jar; curving-sided or carinated bowl with flanged rim; necked jar. Fine white ware, probably from flagon. Fine grey ware ?carinated bowl; necked cordoned jar. Shelly ware.	AD70-120
1508	1	6	Sandy grey ware	Roman
1509	1	10	Sand and grog-tempered ware	LIA-AD43/70
1517	8	180	Grog-tempered ware ovoid jar with rilled decoration	LIA-AD43/70
1607	13	305	Coarse sand and grog-tempered ware channel-rimmed jar	LIA-AD43/70
TOTAL	109	2489		

B.1.1 A total of 109 sherds, weighing 2.5 kg, were recovered from the evaluation. Each context group was quantified and assigned a group date based on the forms and fabrics present. The assemblage largely dated to the late Iron Age or early Roman period. Context 405 (trench 4) contained pottery that is likely to date to the Iron Age, although given the size of the group, it is possible that the pottery is residual. Context-groups from trenches 7, 8, 15 and 16 contained grog-tempered wares alone, potentially confining these groups to the late Iron Age. However, the groups may date to the early Roman period, as the use of grog-tempered pottery continued in the region into the



later 1st century AD (Marney 1989, 89-90). A butt-beaker, an ovoid-bodied jar and channel-rimmed jar were among the forms encountered.

- B.1.2 Groups dating more conclusively to the early Roman period were recovered from trenches 6 and 15. Context 1504 contained the largest ceramic group. The pottery included sandy or gritty grey and oxidised wares that, in terms of their characteristics, tentatively match descriptions of fabrics recorded along the Aston Clinton bypass (Slowikowski 2008a, 228-31) and are likely to be of local origin. Finer sandy grey wares were also present. Forms available in these fabrics include a high-shouldered necked jar, a flanged bowl, and carinated bowls. These point to a late 1st or early 2nd-century date for deposition.
- B.1.3 Context 715 (trench 7) contained the latest pottery. Fragments from a Central Gaulish samian bowl, as well as a sherd in a black-burnished fabric that may belong to a cooking-pot-type jar, suggest that the group was deposited in the 2nd century AD. The sandy white ware seen in the group may be Verulamium-region white ware. The remaining pottery groups were broadly dated to the Roman period, though are consistent with an early or mid Roman date.
- B.1.4 The assemblage as a whole had a mean sherd weight of 23 g. This is a relatively high value that reflects large, well-preserved sherds, and suggests that the pottery was found close to areas of settlement. The distribution of the pottery potentially places the focus of occupation in the north-eastern part of the evaluation area or near to it.
- B.1.5 The dating of the assemblage suggests that occupation here overlapped in terms of chronology with the settlement recorded about 1 km to the north at Site B on the Aston Clinton bypass (Masefield 2008). The range of forms and fabrics seen at both sites seems, on rapid assessment, to be similar, suggesting that the pottery was deriving from the same, probably largely local, sources (Slowikowski 2008b). Site B, however, produced late Roman groups that have so far been absent from the evaluation site.

B.2 Burnt Unworked Flint by Geraldine Crann

- B.2.1 A total of five pieces of burnt unworked flint were recovered from environmental samples 2 (706) and 5 (1504).

Context No.	Description
706	Three fragments of burnt unworked flint, 14g.
1504	Two fragments of burnt unworked flint, 10g.

B.3 Flint by Geraldine Crann

- B.3.1 A total of nine pieces of flint were recovered from the site.

Context	Description
605	Natural plough damaged chunk, 20g
710	Blade-like flake on mottled pale grey flint, distal end snapped in antiquity, lightly patinated, 3g.
710	Blade-like flake on mottled dark grey flint, distal end snapped in antiquity, 2g.
706	Heavily patinated core-trimming flake, 3g. Flake on pale grey flint, 15% cortex, 2g.
1504	Sample 5: 4 small debitage chips, 3 on pale grey flint, 1 on honey-coloured flint.



B.3.2 The two flints from context 710 may be early to mid-Neolithic in date, the other worked flint is undatable. The natural chunk from context 605 may be discarded. No further work is recommended for this small assemblage.

B.4 Worked Bone by Leigh Allen

- B.4.1 Fragments from two bone hair pins were recovered from context 1504. The first is a fragment from the upper part of a pin (L: 23 mm) it has a conical head that has two incised grooves below it, the short section of shaft that survives is slender with a roughly circular cross section (D: 4 mm). At Colchester where large numbers of pins were recovered this type of pin is classified as type 2 pin dating from c 50AD c 200AD (Crummy 1983, 21, fig 18). These objects are hand-made and often display slight flaws, in this case the shaft is slightly flattened along one side and there is a shallow knife cut across the head. Often found incomplete, pins of this slender design were prone to breakage.
- B.4.2 The second pin has most of the shaft surviving (L: 72 mm) but the head is missing, although two transverse grooves below the head survive. This pin has a more slender shaft than the example above, measuring only 2.5mm in diameter. It is also probably a type 2 pin.
- B.4.3 These pin fragments were recovered from a context that contained a large quantity of 1st-2nd century pottery.

B.5 Animal Bone by Rebecca Nicholson

- B.5.1 A small assemblage of animal bone (approximately 130 fragments) was recovered from Late Iron Age and Roman features, generally ditch fills. All was in good condition, although gnawing was observed on several bones and fresh breaks were common.
- B.5.2 The animal bone was recorded following the protocol and zoning method outlined in Serjeantson (1996). Where possible fragments were identified to species using the Oxford Archaeology Zooarchaeology reference collection and published manuals. Fragments that could not be identified to species were put into categories: large mammal sized (e.g. cattle, horse or large deer) and medium-mammal (sheep, goat, roe deer, dog and pig-sized). Condition was recorded on a 6-point scale, where grade 0 equates to very well preserved bone and grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable. In all cases the bones were assigned to grades 0-2. Tooth wear stages were recorded according to Grant (1982). Fusion data was analysed according to information from Silver (1963). All bone was fully recorded on a Microsoft Access database and will be available as part of the site archive. Apart from undiagnostic fragments, the recovered bones comprised the following:

Context 108. Undated.

One small fragment of medium-mammal mandible.

Context 505. Upper pit fill, undated.

A single cattle proximal metatarsal.

Context 605. Ditch Fill. Early Roman AD 50-120.

A cattle left pelvis, in two conjoining fragments, exhibiting an unusual enlarged gap in the rim of the acetabulum (as below), possibly a congenital abnormality.



Four cattle lumbar and two thoracic vertebrae. Two of the lumbar vertebrae, probably an articulating pair, had shallow chop marks through the body (ventral aspect), immediately adjacent and parallel to the caudal and cranial epiphyseal plates respectively. These chop marks had eroded edges.

A minimum of two large mammal ribs, probably from cattle.

Context 607. Fill of furrow. Undated

A cattle left radius (proximal end and shaft) and left pelvis fragment exhibiting some marks from dog gnawing.

A fragment of cattle scapula blade, with an oblique chop mark on the blade edge.

A sheep/goat scapula fragment and single molar tooth.

Context 704. Ditch fill, undated

A fragment of large mammal pelvis, probably cattle.

Context 706. Shallow ditch fill, Late Iron Age (AD 43-70)

A caprine (sheep/goat) metatarsal. Although this bone lacked its distal end, it is clearly from a small and gracile breed.

The residue from soil sample 2 produced numerous indeterminate fragments, occasionally burnt, together with six sheep/goat teeth (incisors and premolar) and a fragment of pig canine tooth.

Context 713. Upper fill of ditch. Roman

A cattle radius, in several pieces together with the conjoining ulna.

A large mammal limb bone shaft fragment with serrated chop marks, possibly debris from bone working.

Context 721. Upper fill of ditch. Undated.

A small fragment of caprine mandible with a single deciduous tooth.

Context 908. Undated

One cattle distal tibia and a fragment of sheep/goat mandible with third permanent molar. This tooth exhibited a minor misalignment of the distal cusp.

Context 1504. Fill of linear feature. Early Roman (AD 70-120)

A single caprine premolar together with an anuran (frog/toad) tibiofibula and fish tooth (possibly fossil) from soil sample 5.

Context 1508. Ditch fill. Roman

An unfused cattle femur (proximal and shaft) from an individual of under 3.5 years.

Context 1517. Fill of linear feature. Late Iron Age (AD 43-70)

A cattle distal tibia fragment, fused.

Context 1607 Linear feature/ditch fill. Late Iron Age (AD 43-70)

A cattle ulna with evidence of dog gnawing around the articular surfaces.

Context 1704. Fill of shallow ditch. Undated.

A cattle mandible fragment, with two molar teeth (M1 and M2) at Grant's wear stage g.

A cattle distal femur, fused.



Conclusions

B.5.3 The assemblage is small and no further work is required. The assemblage is, however, well preserved, with evidence of a possible congenital abnormality and bone working. It should be retained..

B.6 Metal by Ian Scott

B.6.1 The only metal object is a formed from a length of iron rod of circular section, slightly tapered with a small onion-shaped terminal knob at the thinner end. The other end is bent and possibly flattened (L: 93 mm). The purpose of the object is uncertain. Not closely datable.

B.7 Ceramic Building Material by Cynthia Poole

B.7.1 One fragment (47g) of ceramic building material was recovered from context 1003. The fragment is part of a flat tile with one straight flat edge surviving made in an orange brown coarse sandy fabric. It is probably a piece of roof tile (probably peg tile) and the general character of fabric and finish suggests a medieval date for it.



APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples *by Laura Strafford*

Introduction

- C.1.1 This report describes two samples taken from the evaluation at Land off Stablebridge Road, Aston Clinton in February 2011.
- C.1.2 In total five bulk soil samples were taken for the recovery of charred plant remains (CPR) and artefacts, although after due consideration, only samples <2> (706) and <5> (1504) were processed. Both samples were taken from ditch fills and 40L of each was processed by water flotation.

Aims

- C.1.3 Sampling was undertaken to:
- (i) Record the range of soils and sediments on site.
 - (ii) Determine whether ecofacts and environmental evidence (such as plant remains, animal bone, human bone and molluscs) are present.
 - (iii) Determine the quality, range, state and method of preservation of any ecofactual evidence.
 - (iv) Recover and identify any small artefacts.
 - (v) Make further recommendations about sampling for future excavations at the site.

Methodology

- C.1.4 The samples were processed for the recovery of CPR, bones and artefacts by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine. The flots were collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residue sieved to 500µm. Both were dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. The flot was scanned for charred plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x15 magnification. Identifications were made with guidance from archaeobotanist Kathryn Hunter but without reference to Oxford Archaeology's reference collection and therefore should all be seen as provisional. Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (1997).

Results

Sediment

- C.1.5 Sample <2> (706) was a moist light brownish grey silt loam with approximately 15% subangular limestone gravel.
- C.1.6 Sample <5> (1504) was a moist grey slightly sticky silt loam with approximately 20% subangular limestone gravel.

Plant Remains

- C.1.7 Table 1 summarises the assessment results for charred plant remains. Modern contamination in the form of roots, weed seeds and intrusive burrowing snails were present in both of the flots and suggests the features sampled have been subjected to



an amount of modern bioturbation. Charcoal was abundant in both samples with most examples <2mm, but rare examples >2mm were present.

- C.1.8 Occasional cereal grains were noted in sample <2> (706) , although no more than 25 individual examples. The preservation was poor and as a result the grain is indeterminate due to its highly clinkered state. No more than 10 indeterminate glume bases were also noted, along with some poorly preserved and frequently indeterminate weed seeds. Two examples of *Brassica* sp. were noted.
- C.1.9 Sample <5> (1504) produced no more than 50 cereal grains, the majority of which were poorly preserved and indeterminate, along with no more than 10 indeterminate glume bases. Only one very well preserved wheat grain (*Triticum* sp.) and one oat grain (*Avena* sp.) proved identifiable. A small amount of sedge (*Carex* sp.) and a handful of other seeds also from the Cyperaceae family were present. A small amount of other weeds seeds, including *Brassica* sp., and possible legumes were present, but many examples were indeterminate due to poor preservation.
- C.1.10 Both CPR flots also produced abundant various land snails. Discounting the modern burrowing snail *Celiloides* sp., the other snails in the samples do not have a modern appearance. Sample <2> (706) was marginally the richer of the two, and included *Helicella itala*, *Vertigo pygmaea*, *Vallonia* sp., *Carychium* sp., *Cochlicopa* sp., and abundant various species from the Helicidae family and rare examples from the Zonitidae family.
- C.1.11 The snails present in sample <5> (1504) were similar to those in sample <2> (706) , and included *Helicella itala*, *Cochlicopa* sp., *Vallonia* sp., *Pupilla* sp., and *Cepaea* sp., as well as various other species of the Helicidae family.

Bones and artefacts

- C.1.12 Finds from the samples are detailed in Table 2. Both samples contained several sheep teeth and bone fragments (identifications by L. Strid). A small amount of pottery and burnt flint was also present in sample <2> (706). Sample <5> (1504) produced two worked bone pins and frequent sherds of pottery. Amphibian bone and burnt flint were also present.

Discussion and recommendations

- C.1.13 The presence of seeds from the Cyperaceae family in sample <5> (1504) suggests a wet or damp environment, as such species do not favour dry conditions. Snails were generally in good condition and relatively abundant, so specific spatial and incremental sampling for snails may be appropriate for any future excavations. Charred plant remains were fairly limited, but are clearly present on the site and in reasonable condition. Standard 40L bulk samples should be taken from a range of potentially datable features across the site and should be in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (eg. Oxford Archaeology 2005 and English Heritage 2002).



APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX E. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Land off Stablebridge Road, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire.

Site code: ACLSR11

Grid reference: SP 889 116

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 14/02/2011-18/02/2011

Area of site: 3.5 ha

Summary of results: Between 14th February and 18th February 2011, Oxford Archaeology undertook a programme of evaluation on behalf of CgMs Consulting on land off Stablebridge Road, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire.

A total of 19 trenches were excavated revealing a number of archaeological features, particularly in the north-western half of the site. The evidence suggests that a settlement site of late Iron Age/early Roman date lies within or close to the site. Pottery recovered from a smaller number of features indicates that such activity continued into the Roman period, at least until the 2nd century AD.

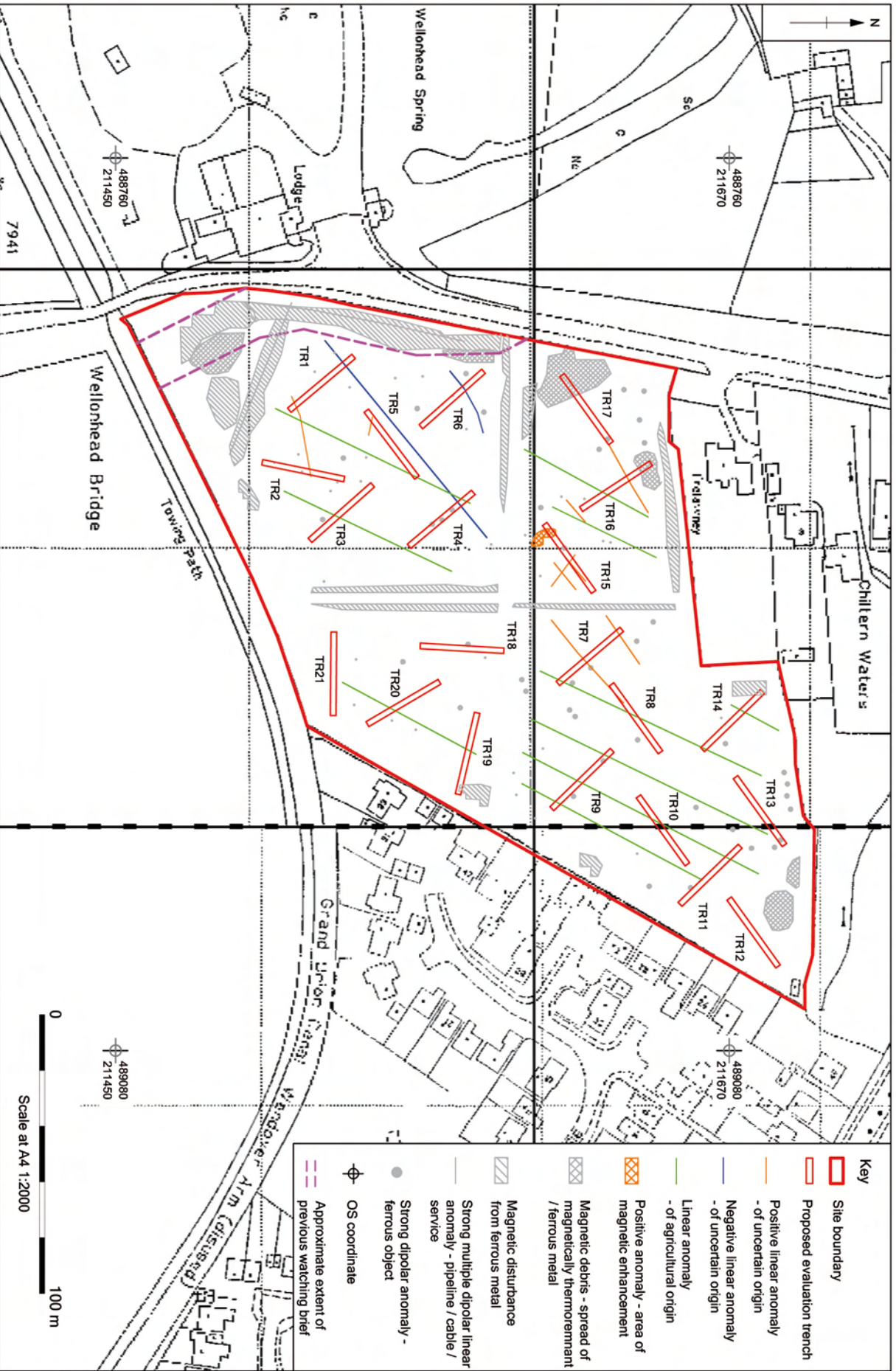
There was little evidence of activity of earlier or later periods, although a small quantity of residual worked flint was recovered from later features. In addition, two undated ditches in the south-western corner of the site may form part of a post-medieval trackway recorded during an earlier watching brief at the site.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course, under the following accession number: AYBCM:2011.140.



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Figure 1: Site location

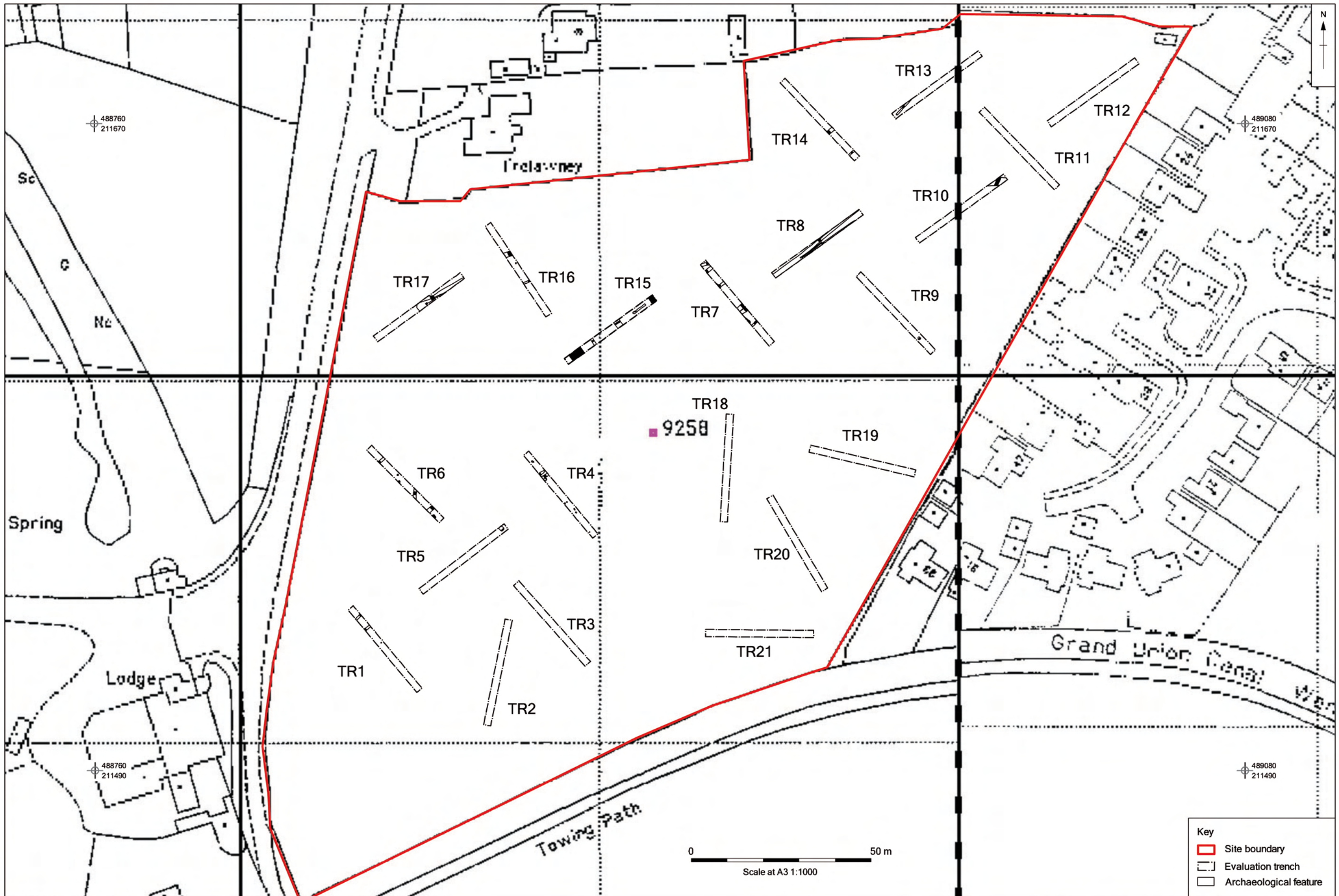


CHECKED BY: MB 09.02.2011

Survey Data supplied by :
Landmark Information Group and CgMs

Figure 2: Trench location in relation to magnetometer survey

X:\Astons_Clinion_Bucks\1010Geomatics\02 CAD\001\current\Astons_Clinion_digising_230311.dwg(Site plan)\ACLSR10\ACLSREV\Stablebridge Road, Aston Clinton\Leo Healey* 25 Mar 2011



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Figure 3: Trench location plan with archaeology

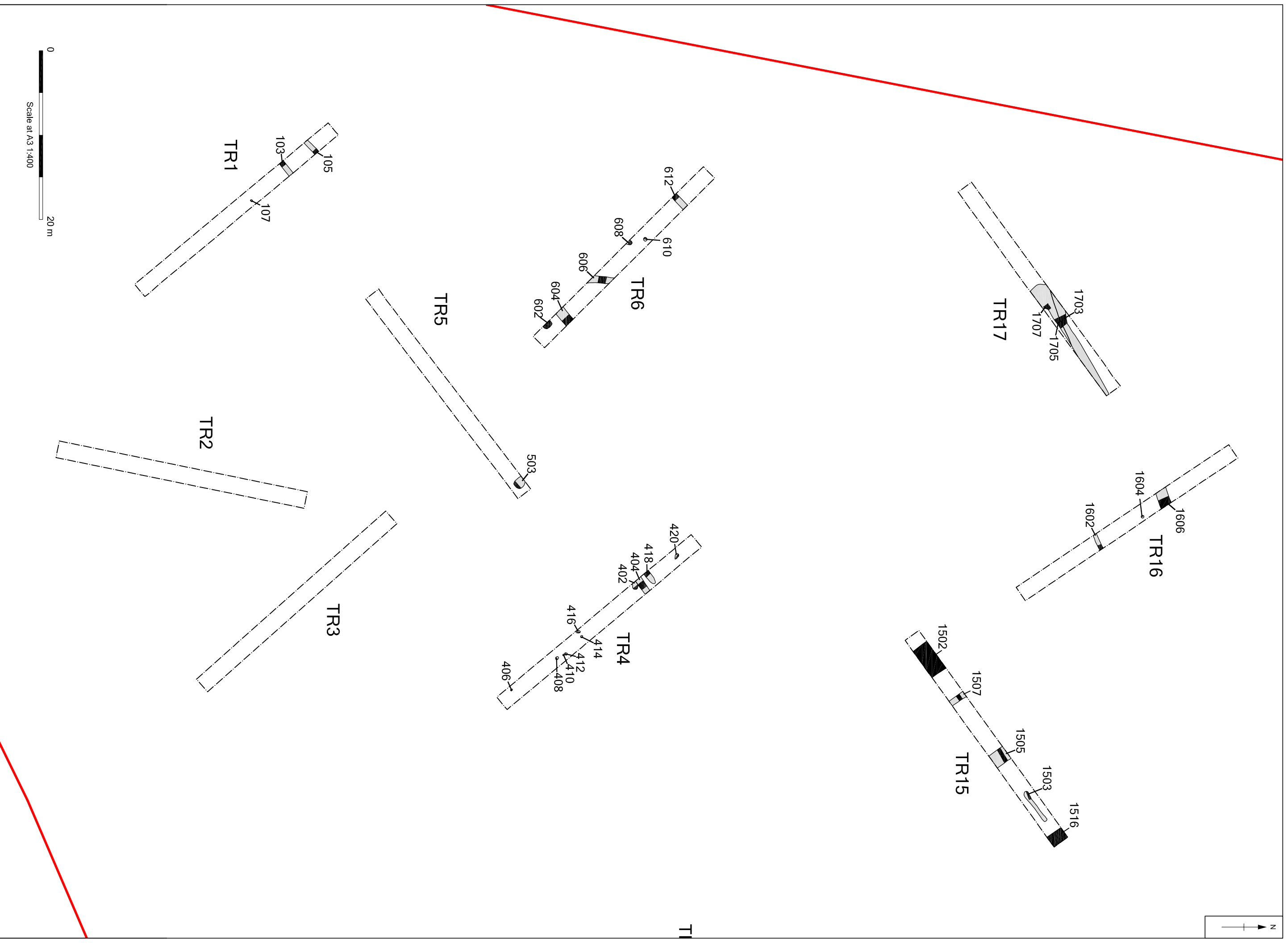


Figure 4: Site plan (west)

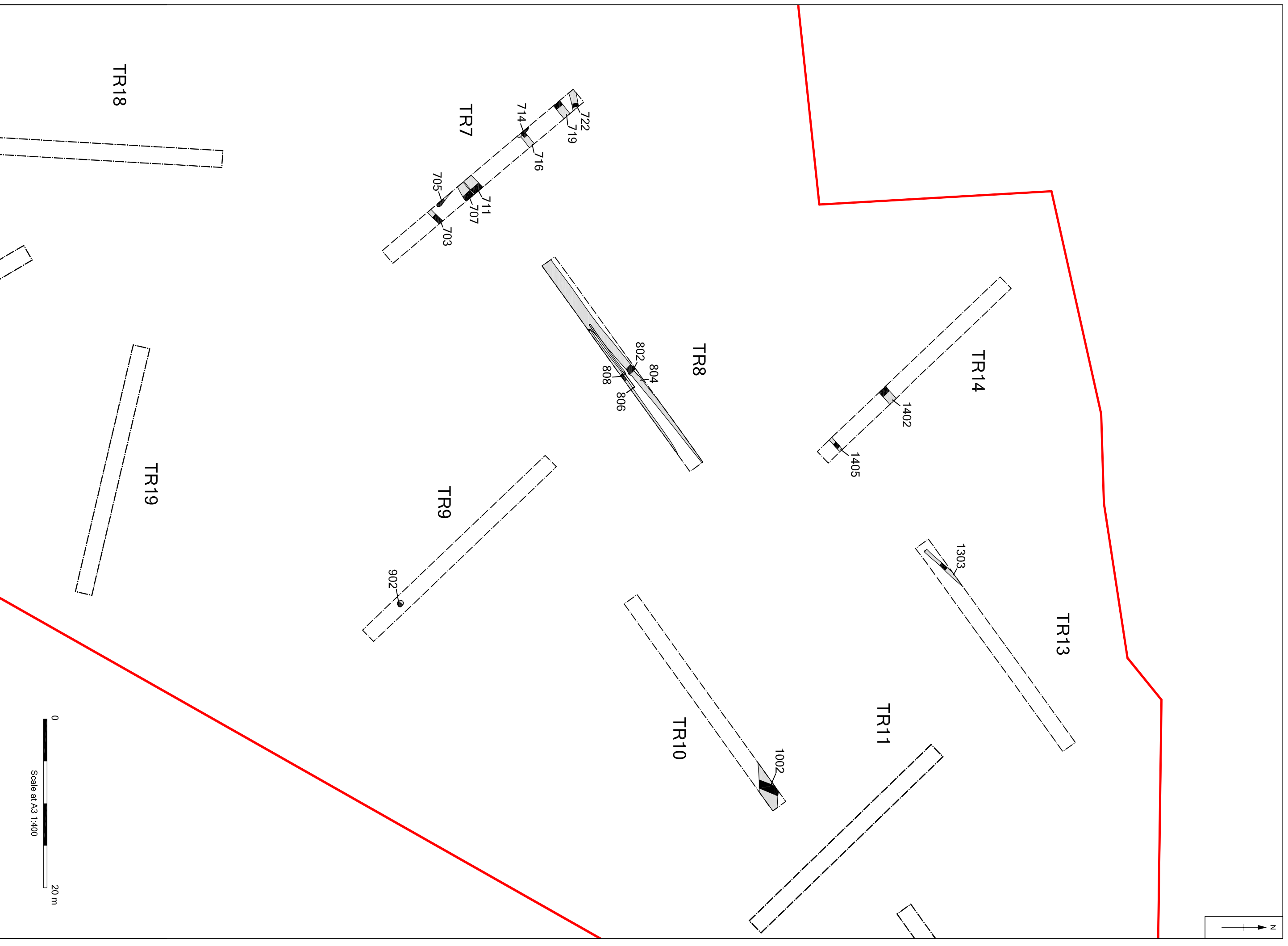


Figure 5: Site plan (east)

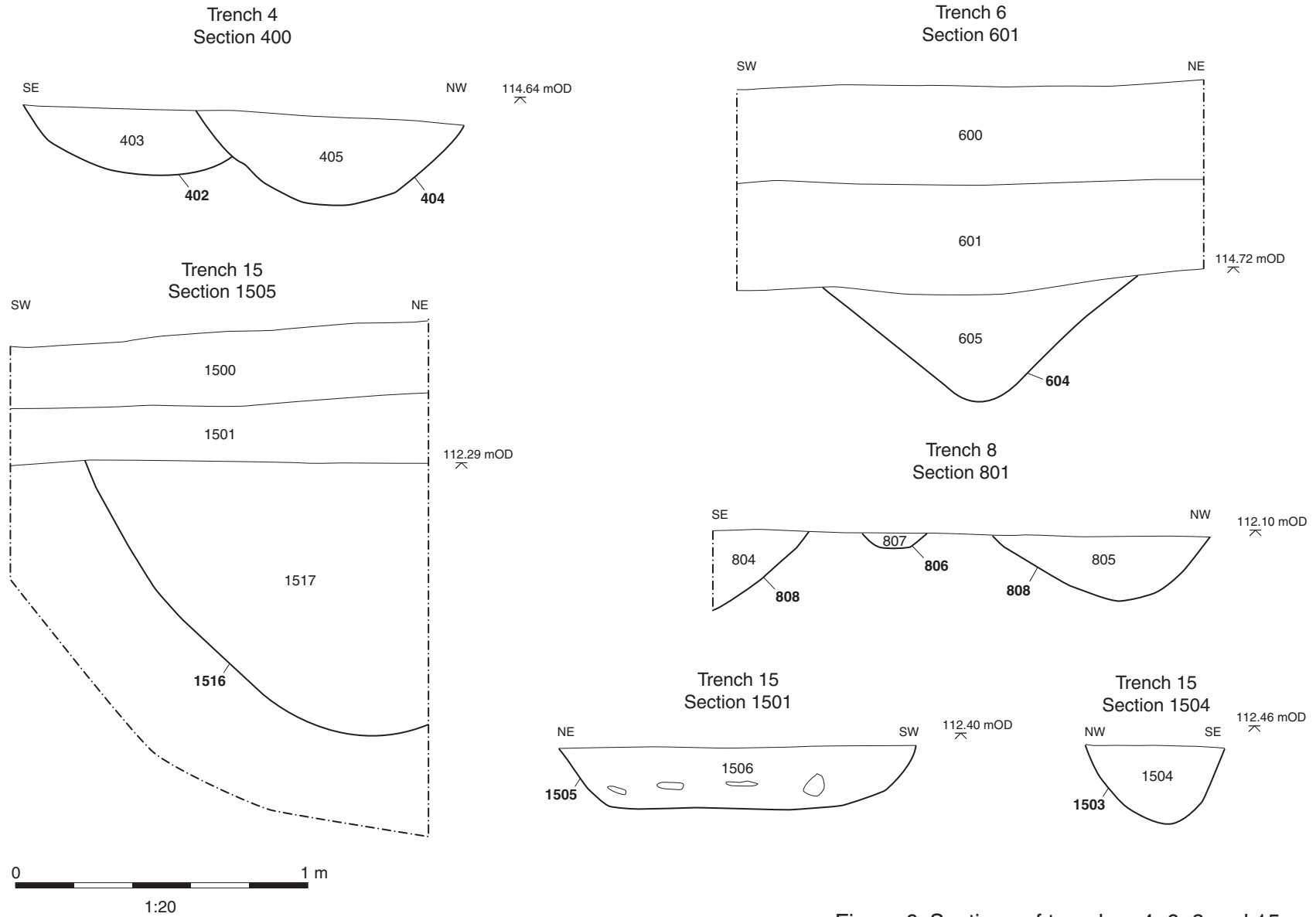


Figure 6: Sections of trenches 4, 6, 8 and 15

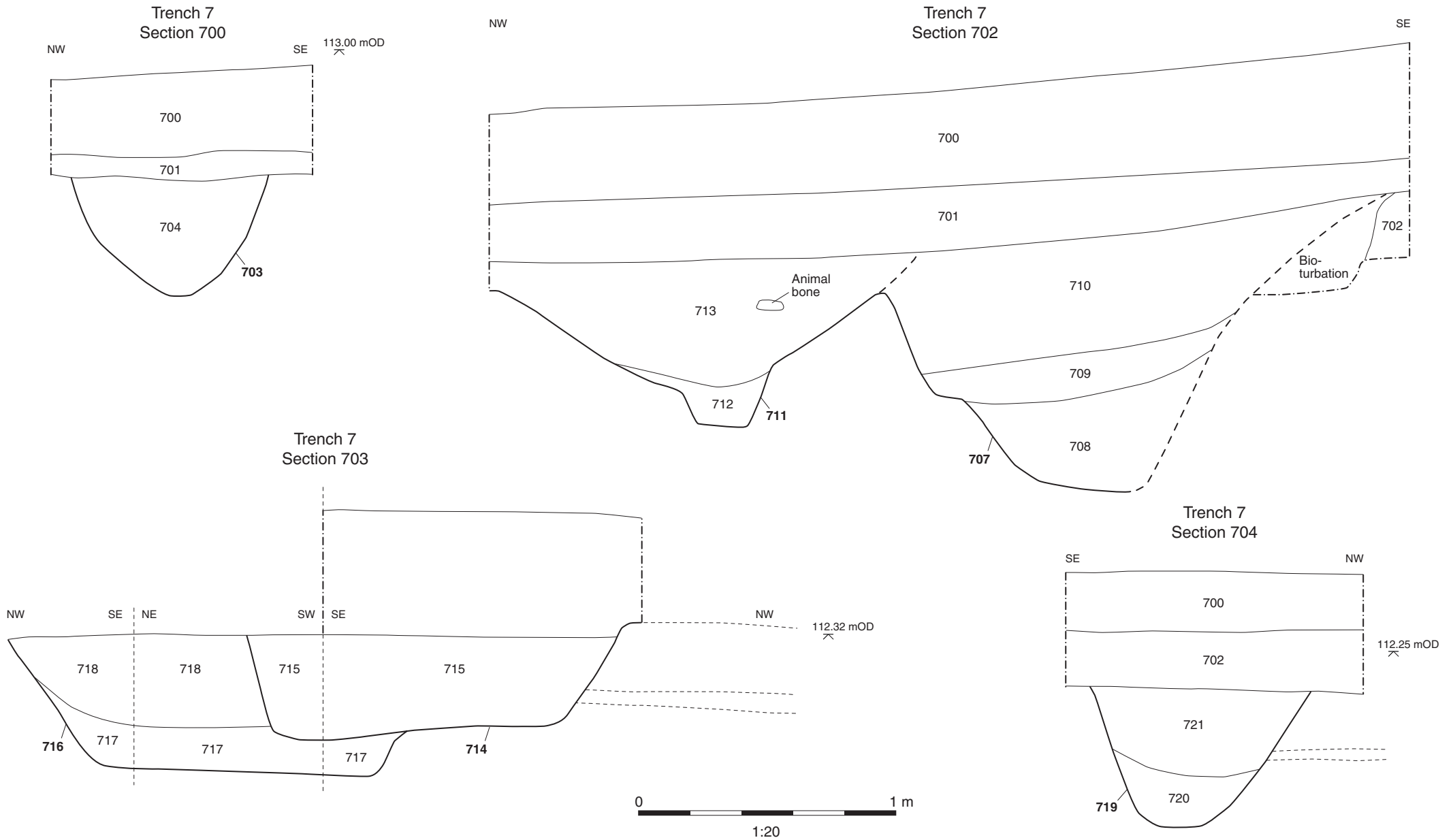


Figure 7: Sections of trench 7



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