



Spitfire Road/ Abberds Lane, Calne, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report

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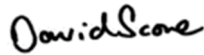


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Spitfire Road/ Abberds Lane, Calne, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Contents

Summary.....	7
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Scope of work.....	1
1.2 Location, topography and geology,	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background	1
1.4 Prehistoric.....	1
1.5 Roman	2
1.6 Early medieval	2
1.7 Medieval and post-medieval.....	2
1.8 Previous investigations	3
1.9 Potential	4
2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY	5
2.1 Aims.....	5
2.2 Specific aims and objectives	5
2.3 Methodology	5
3 RESULTS	6
3.1 Introduction and presentation of results.....	6
3.2 General soils and ground conditions.....	6
3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits	6
3.4 Trench descriptions	6
3.5 Trench 4.....	7
3.6 Trench 5.....	7
3.7 Trench 27.....	7
3.8 Trench 30.....	7
3.9 Trench 34.....	8
3.10 Trench 35.....	8
3.11 Trench 37.....	8

3.12	Trench 39.....	8
3.13	Trench 40.....	10
3.14	Trench 41.....	10
3.15	Trench 45.....	11
3.16	Finds summary.....	11
4	DISCUSSION	12
4.1	Reliability of field investigation.....	12
4.2	Evaluation objectives and results.....	12
4.3	Interpretation	13
4.4	Significance.....	14
APPENDIX A	TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY	15
APPENDIX B	FINDS REPORTS	28
B.1	Roman pottery.....	28
B.2	Post-Roman pottery.....	29
B.3	Ceramic building material and fired clay	30
B.4	Clay tobacco pipe.....	31
B.5	Metals.....	31
B.6	Stone.....	32
APPENDIX C	ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS	33
C.1	Human bone	33
C.2	Animal bone.....	34
C.3	Shell	35
APPENDIX D	BIBLIOGRAPHY	36
APPENDIX E	SITE SUMMARY DETAILS	37

List of Figures

Fig. 1	Site location
Fig. 2	Trench location and geophysical survey
Fig. 3	Trenches 4 and 5
Fig. 4	Trenches 27 and 30
Fig. 5	Trenches 39 and 40
Fig. 6	Sections, Trenches 4, 5, 27 and 30
Fig. 7	Sections, Trenches 34 and 37
Fig. 8	Sections, Trench 39
Fig. 9	Sections, Trench 40

List of Plates

Plate 1	General view of trenching from Trench 1, facing south-east
Plate 2	Section 500, Trench 5, facing south
Plate 3	Blank Trench 12, facing north
Plate 4	Section 3900, Trench 39, facing north-west
Plate 5	Section 3901, Trench 39, facing east
Plate 6	Section 3902, Trench 39, facing west
Plate 7	Trench 39, facing south
Plate 8	Section 4000, Trench 40, facing south-west
Plate 9	Section 4001, Trench 40, facing south-west
Plate 10	Trench 40, facing east
Plate 11	Trench 42 showing backfilled pond, facing south-west

Summary

In February and March 2023, Oxford Archaeology carried out a 48-trench evaluation for RPS Consulting Limited on behalf of Robert Hitchins Limited at Land North of Spitfire Road/Abberds Lane, Calne, Wiltshire.

The evaluation revealed a localised focus of Roman archaeology in the south-western part of the site in Trenches 39 and 40, possibly a trackway junction or the corner of an enclosure system extending beyond the development boundary to the north-west. The evidence found in these two trenches could possibly represent the eastern edge of a rural settlement located on top of Penn Hill. This new site adds to slight existing evidence for a Roman settlement somewhere in Calne, although no clear focus has been identified to date. The associated Roman artefact assemblage is very small, with an early to mid-Roman emphasis. Animal bone was recovered from several of the Roman contexts and has some potential to shed light on the settlement's economy.

The site lies well outside the core of Calne Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement, in the surrounding agricultural hinterland. The medieval/post-medieval ridge-and-furrow and field boundaries are poorly preserved, poorly dated and do not provide much new evidence for the origins and development of the historic landscape.

A single fragment of human bone, from an adult or adolescent jawbone of unknown sex, was recovered from the secondary fill of a field boundary ditch, along with fragments of post-medieval pottery, brick and animal bone. The origin of the bone is unknown. The site does not lie close to any existing burial grounds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by RPS Consulting Limited on behalf of Robert Hitchins Limited to undertake a trial-trench evaluation at the site of a proposed housing development on Land North of Spitfire Road/Abberds Lane, Calne, Wiltshire.
- 1.1.2 A planning application has been submitted for the site. The proposed development comprises residential development for up to 340 dwellings, associated works including infrastructure, ancillary facilities, open space and landscaping, construction of a new vehicular access off Abberd Lane and demolition of existing structures (planning ref: PL/2023/02331). This evaluation report is to be submitted in support of this planning application.

1.2 Location, topography and geology,

- 1.2.1 The area of proposed development is approximately 14ha in extent and consists of a group of small, predominantly pasture fields enclosed with hedgerows, located on the eastern periphery of Calne (Fig. 1). The site lies in the parish of Calne Without. The lane forming the south-eastern site boundary was historically part of Abberd Lane (eg the 1969-70 OS map, RPS 2022 figure 5).
- 1.2.2 The fields slope down from a height of 95-100m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) along the north-western site boundary to 77-82m aOD along Abberd Lane.
- 1.2.3 The site lies 135m west of the Abberd Brook, a tributary of the River Marden. No watercourses run through the site itself. The confluence of the two watercourses lies 1.1km to the south-west, in Calne town centre.
- 1.2.4 The geology of the area is mapped as Mudstone of the Kimmeridge Clay formation (BGS online). No superficial deposits are recorded.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in a desk-based assessment (RPS 2022) and the relevant archaeological background information is summarised here.
- 1.3.2 A magnetometer survey was carried out by SUMO Surveys over the accessible parts of the site in December 2022. This identified probable cultivation features including former field boundaries and ridge-and-furrow. No significant archaeology was identified (SUMO 2022).

1.4 Prehistoric

- 1.4.1 No archaeological evidence of prehistoric date is recorded within the site itself and very limited evidence has been found in nearby investigations.
- 1.4.2 An Iron Age coin was found at No. 36 Page Close, c 600m south-west of the site (HER MWI9182). Pre-2015 observations in Calne and surrounding areas have revealed an

assemblage of worked flint from various inexact locations (HER EW17970). The majority of the pieces were considered to be of late Neolithic and Bronze Age date.

1.5 Roman

1.5.1 No archaeological evidence of Roman date has been recorded from the site itself. Very occasional finds and features from investigations in the surrounding area suggest some level of Roman settlement in the Calne area, but no definite focus of settlement has been found to date. For example, trenching (HER EW19097), located c 300m north-west of the site revealed one pit or posthole which may be of Roman date based on a single sherd of pottery.

1.6 Early medieval

1.6.1 Calne is documented as a royal estate centre in the 9th century AD and had developed into a borough by the 11th century. In the late Anglo-Saxon period, the witan met there, and St Dunstan survived the partial collapse of a building at one meeting. A market and fair are documented in the 13th century (CgMs 2015). The probability that settlement was established much earlier within Calne may be indicated by 5th-7th century deposits recorded during archaeological investigations to the rear of Church Street (HER MW13225), 1.1km south-west of the site. The church at this time was probably the site of a minster (HER 887778, HER MW15188). This area and the early church are likely to have formed the main focus of Anglo-Saxon settlement, probably located at a crossing of the River Marden.

1.6.2 No archaeological evidence has been found for Anglo-Saxon settlement within the site or at adjacent previous investigations. The site lies over 1km east of the main identified focus of Anglo-Saxon settlement.

1.7 Medieval and post-medieval

1.7.1 The parish boundary on the south side of the historic Calne parish followed the course of a Roman road and was marked by a prehistoric ditch. On the north-west side it followed a river, and there and in several places on the north-east side it followed streams. On the north-east side, in the area of the evaluation site, the parish boundaries were more complex and subject to phases of reorganisation: a pasture called Penn (reflected in the placename Penn Hill Farm) was probably shared by the villagers of Calne, Cherhill and Compton Bassett; a boundary across it dividing Calne and Cherhill parishes had apparently been drawn by 1628. Cherhill's part of Penn remained commonable, and the boundary, a series of straight lines at right angles to each other, was presumably drawn around new closes in Calne's part at the time of the division. South of Penn a pasture called Low (off Low Lane) was shared by Calstone and Cherhill and a straight line separating Calstone's and Cherhill's pasture, and thus Calne and Cherhill parishes, was drawn across it between 1616 and 1728. South of Low strips in the open fields of Blackland and Calstone were divided among Blackland, Calne and Calstone Wellington parishes, and between Penn and Low the parcels in a common meadow called Abberd Mead were divided between Calne, Calstone Wellington and Cherhill parishes. The parish boundaries in those places were simplified at inclosure in the earlier 19th century (Crowley 2002).

- 1.7.2 According to documentary sources there were open fields in all parts of the medieval/post-medieval Calne parish except the west. In the 19th and 20th centuries there was usually more grassland than arable (Crowley 2002).
- 1.7.3 The site of an extant 19th-century out-farm is present in the southern part of the site (HER MWI66714). It has a loose courtyard plan and retains all components of its historic form. Smaller out farms were formerly present in the central and northern parts of the site, as shown on historic maps (HER MWI66797 and MWI66798 respectively).
- 1.7.4 Calne urban area expanded during the 19th century, to within 400m of the site. The 1843 tithe map shows the site sub-divided into 14 fields, 12 of which were under pasture. A possible track is also shown crossing the site from south to north. Subsequent historic maps show few changes to the field boundaries by 1886, but the extant out-farm buildings referred to above had been built by this date in the southern part of the site. Some minor alterations took place by 1969-70 and the extant out-farm in the southern part of the site had expanded by that date. The field boundaries thereafter remained relatively unchanged up to the present (RPS 2022).
- 1.7.5 Modern satellite imagery shows a temporary construction compound in the southernmost fields, associated with recent housing developments off Sandpit Road. This had been returned to pasture by the time of the evaluation.

1.8 Previous investigations

- 1.8.1 Extensive previous investigations have been carried out in relation to previous development sites in the vicinity. In general, these have produced very sparse significant archaeology. The main evidence recovered has been for medieval and post-medieval agricultural features. Some hints of Roman settlement have been found. These previous studies include geophysical surveys and trenching at the following sites:
- 1.8.2 **Land off Spitfire Road:** A desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and trench evaluation (JAC28134) was carried out c 20m south-east of the site, on the opposite side of Abberd Lane. The evaluation revealed no archaeological features or deposits.
- 1.8.3 **East of Calne:** Geophysical survey (HER EWI6951) and trenching (HER EWI6952) located immediately west of the site, revealed several ditches corresponding with documented post-medieval field boundaries and one ditch which produced medieval pottery. The survey was in 2008-10 and the trenching in 2010.
- 1.8.4 **Land off Princes Drive:** Geophysical survey (HER EWI7694) and trenching (HER EWI7631), located c 300m south of the site, revealed evidence for medieval and post-medieval agricultural activity. Both were carried out in 2014.
- 1.8.5 **Land off Oxford Road:** Geophysical survey (HER EWI8864) and trenching (HER EWI9097), located c 300m north-west of the site, revealed one pit or posthole which may be of Roman date based on a single sherd of pottery. Traces of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were also found in this area. Both were carried out in 2017.

- 1.8.6 **Land at Oxford Road:** Geophysical survey (HER EWI6860) and trenching (HER EWI6816), located c 325m west of the site, revealed an array of probable agricultural features. Two ditches found in the trenches contained post-medieval pottery. Both were carried out in 2011.
- 1.8.7 **Land adjacent to Oxford Road:** Trenching in 1994 (HER EWI3801), located 800m north-west of the site, revealed two shallow ditches, one of which contained a piece of Roman tile, along with several sherds of Roman pottery. Remains of medieval ridge and furrow were also present.
- 1.8.8 **North Calne Distributor Road:** Trenching in 1999(HER EWI3803), located 800m north-west of the site, investigated a linear earthwork that formed part of the Beaverbrook deserted medieval village. The earthwork was interpreted as a hollow-way and produced a mix of medieval and Roman pottery finds.
- 1.8.9 **Oxford Road, Beversbrook:** Trenching in 2014 (HER EWI7461), located 800m north-west of the site, produced residual flint tools of prehistoric date and recorded a phase of Roman activity including a ditch, a gully terminus and post- and stakeholes. Post-medieval evidence included a buried plough soil and a ditch terminus.
- 1.8.10 **Sands Farm:** Test pits and surface collection survey (HER EWI3795) from two ploughed fields located 800m south-east of the site, carried out in 1992, indicated a generally low density distribution of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval material across the area. A subsoil feature of probable Roman date was also recorded in the north of the area.

1.9 Potential

- 1.9.1 The extensive surveys and trial-trenching carried out in the vicinity confirm indications from the current geophysical survey and documentary sources that suggest that the site lay outside the core Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement, in the surrounding agricultural hinterland.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains.
- iii. To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.
- iv. To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- v. To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
- vi. To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- vii. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.
- viii. To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity; and
- ix. To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- To ground-truth the results of the geophysical survey, including targeting potential archaeological features and areas suggested to be devoid of archaeological remains.

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 The trenches were laid out as shown in Figure 2 using a GPS with minor adjustments owing to ground conditions or site obstructions. The trenching represents a 3% sample of the 14ha site area.

2.3.2 The trenches were excavated using a 13-tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, working under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Spoil was stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from the trench edges. The machine excavation was in even spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon, depending upon which was encountered first.

2.3.3 Once archaeological deposits were exposed, further excavation was carried out by hand. A sample of each feature or deposit type, for example pits, postholes and ditches, was excavated and recorded. All features and deposits were recorded in accordance with established best practice and the OA field manual.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

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

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology comprised residual soils derived from weathering of the Kimmeridge Clay Mudstone bedrock. These typically comprised silty clay, usually yellowish-brown in colour with patches of light grey material. This was overlain in some places by a thin (up to 0.12m thick) light brown silty clay loam plough-disturbed subsoil, which in turn was overlain by a 0.20-0.30m thick dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil. No superficial geological deposits were found.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features dating from the Roman period were present in Trenches 39 and 40.

3.3.2 In Trenches 4, 5, 27, 28, 30 and 31, post-medieval/modern field boundaries were recorded and were also found to correspond with boundaries shown on the 1888 Ordnance Survey (OS) map and the geophysical survey plot. In Trenches 1 to 3, 9 and 11 and Trenches 18 to 20 the very faint traces of ridge and furrow were observed running down the slope but were not otherwise excavated/recorded. Sample furrows were excavated in Trenches 35, 37, 39 and 40. Trench 41 uncovered a pond backfilled with modern material.

3.3.3 Trenches in the south-western field (44, 45, 47, 48) showed evidence for recent ground disturbance arising from a temporary construction compound and access track built for the adjacent Sandpit Road housing development. These have been returned to agriculture in recent years by replacing the topsoil. The extents of the compound and track can be seen on Google Maps satellite imagery, and also as an area of magnetic disturbance on the geophysical survey plot.

3.4 Trench descriptions

3.4.1 The trenches were all 50m long and 1.8m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.30 to 0.38m, to the top of the bedrock geology (Plate 1). Two were moved slightly to fit in against hedgelines. Trench 46 was shortened and moved to avoid the safety exclusion zone for an electrical cable.

3.4.2 Trenches 1-3, 6-26, 29, 32-33, 36, 38, 42-44 and 46-48 contained no archaeological features and are not described further in the main text (Plate 3). Context and trench descriptions are included in Appendix A.

3.5 Trench 4

3.5.1 The trench was aligned NW-SE and revealed a single NE-SW aligned ditch (403) which had shallow sides and a flat base (Fig. 3; Fig. 6 Section 400). The ditch was 1.9m wide, 0.18m deep and was filled with a light grey-brown silty clay loam (404) with charcoal fragments and no finds. Although very slight and undated by artefacts, this feature coincides with a post-medieval/modern field boundary visible on the geophysical survey plot and on the 1888 OS map. It cut through a 0.12m thick yellowish brown silty clay subsoil (401) and into the natural clay (402).

3.6 Trench 5

3.6.1 The trench was aligned E-W and revealed a stoney spread (505) which was 2.15m wide and 0.14m thick (Fig. 3; Fig. 6 Section 500, Plate 2). The spread contained brick fragments, modern ironwork and a 17th-century clay tobacco pipe stem. It is interpreted as a metallated surface forming part of a modern access through the adjacent hedge line. The stoney layer overlay a ceramic land drain (506) laid in a vertical-sided cut. The land drain was cut into the fill of a NE-SW aligned ditch (503) which had sloping sides and a flat base. The ditch was 1.9m wide, 0.27m deep and was filled with a light grey-brown silty clay loam (504) containing charcoal and a modern copper alloy spoon (See Appendix B.5). This ditch coincides with a post-medieval/modern field boundary visible on both the geophysical survey plot and the 1888 OS map. The ditch was cut through a 0.12m thick yellowish brown silty clay subsoil (401) and into the natural geology (502).

3.7 Trench 27

The trench was aligned N-S and revealed an E-W aligned ditch (2703) with steep, sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 4; Fig. 6 Section 2700). The ditch and its recut clearly coincided with a post-medieval/modern field boundary visible on both the geophysical survey plot and the 1888 OS map. This boundary was also recorded in Trenches 28, 30 and 31, although it was only hand-excavated in Trenches 27 and 30, as those sections produced sufficient evidence to characterise the boundary and confirm the date of the feature. The ditch was 0.96m wide and 0.66m deep and was filled with a mid-grey-brown silty clay loam (2704) which contained charcoal, brick and animal bone. Ditch 2703 was a recut of ditch 2705, which was 2.67m wide and 0.31m deep. The earlier ditch was filled with a mid-greyish brown silty clay loam (2706) containing charcoal, oyster shell, post-medieval brick, pottery and animal bone. The bone assemblage recovered from fill 2706 included a single human mandible fragment (See Appendix C.1).

3.8 Trench 30

3.8.1 The trench was aligned N-S and revealed two linear features, 3002 and 3005/3007 (Fig. 4; Fig. 6 Sections 3000 and 3001). A furrow (3002) was recorded at the north end of the trench. It was aligned NW-SE and had a shallow concave profile and measured

1.4m wide and 0.18m deep. It was filled with a dark yellowish brown silty clay loam (3003) from which no finds were recovered. In the middle of the trench was an E-W aligned ditch (3004) with steeply sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 6 Section 3001). This was identified as a post-medieval field boundary which was visible on both the geophysical survey and the 1888 OS map. This boundary was also observed in Trenches 27, 28 and 31 (Fig. 4). In Trench 30 the ditch was found to be 1.5m wide and 0.42m deep and contained two fills. The lowest fill was a grey-brown silty clay loam (3005) with charcoal and patches of yellowish-brown clay. Above this was a dark brown silty clay loam (3006) containing charcoal, CBM and animal bone. The ditch had a recut (3007) which was 1.6m wide and 0.55m deep with two fills. The lowest fill of the recut was a yellowish grey-brown silty clay loam (3008) containing charcoal and post-medieval pottery sherds. This was sealed by a reddish-brown silty clay (3009) containing charcoal but no finds. Cutting the top of fill 3009 was a broad shallow cut (3010) with an irregular base and sides which was 2.1m wide and 0.20m deep. This feature was filled with a dark yellowish brown silty clay loam (3011) and appears to be where the modern hedge line had been grubbed out. The features were cut into the natural geology (3001).

3.9 Trench 34

3.9.1 The trench was aligned N-S and revealed a drain cut (3402) with steeply sloping sides and a concave base which was 1.1m wide and 0.24m deep (Fig. 2; Fig. 7 Section 3400). The cut was filled with a dark brown silty clay (3403), laid over a ceramic land drain in the base of the cut. Fill 3403 produced three sherds of Roman pottery which must be residual as the fill overlies the modern land drain. This drain was an overflow to the small infilled modern pond located just to the west in Trench 41. It allowed water to flow into the ditch forming the eastern boundary of the field. The line of this drain was also observed in the northern end of Trench 36, but not excavated.

3.10 Trench 35

3.10.1 The trench was aligned N-S and revealed several plough furrows (Fig. 2). One of these (3502) was excavated and recorded to check that it was a furrow. The feature had shallow sloping sides and a flat base and was 1.1m wide and 0.14m deep. It was filled with a greyish brown silty clay loam (3503). The furrows were cut into the bedrock (3501).

3.11 Trench 37

3.11.1 The trench was aligned N-S and revealed three plough furrows (Fig. 2; Fig. 7 Sections 3700 and 3701). Two of the furrows were excavated to confirm that they were in fact furrows. The first furrow (3703) had a shallow concave profile, 1.6m wide and 0.15m deep. It was filled with a greyish brown silty clay loam (3705) with no artefacts. The second furrow (3704) had a very shallow concave profile, 1.7m wide and 0.12m deep, and was filled with a greyish brown silty clay loam (3706), also with no artefacts.

3.12 Trench 39

3.12.1 The trench was cut through a dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil (3900) which overlay a 0.12-0.23m thick mid brown silty clay loam subsoil (3901) (Figs 5 and 8; Plate

- 7). This in turn sealed a number of probable Roman features that were mostly visible on the geophysical survey plot as a series of linear features possibly forming a former field track junction and/or the corner of a field. The Roman pottery assemblage from Trench 39 was very small (11 sherds in total, divided between four different contexts). However, no earlier or later artefacts were recovered from the trench, so the evidence is consistent with a Roman date for most of the linear features encountered.
- 3.12.2 Other parallel linear anomalies appear to be post-medieval plough furrows, which follow the same alignment as the post-medieval/modern field boundaries in this field, although no artefacts were recovered from them. Where stratigraphic relationships could be determined the plough furrows were found to cut through the subsoil, thus confirming their post-medieval date.
- 3.12.3 At the north end of the trench was a NW-SE aligned ditch (3903) with sloping sides and a flat base which was 1.05m wide and 0.20m deep (Fig. 8, Section 3900, Plate 4). It contained a dark grey-brown silty clay fill (3904) with charcoal, Roman pottery and bone inclusions. This ditch was cut into the top of an irregular root-disturbed cut that was interpreted as a former hedge line (3905). This feature had irregular sides and base, 1.58m wide and 0.41m deep, and was filled with a mid-greyish brown silty clay (3906) with no artefacts.
- 3.12.4 To the south was a series of intercutting ditches which formed an approximate right angle, with alignments ranging from NW-SE to NE-SW. This appears to represent the corner of an enclosure boundary or track junction, as appears on the geophysical survey plot and confirmed by the trenches (Fig. 5; Fig. 8 Section 3901; Plate 5). The boundary appears to have been recut multiple times within the Roman period and consists of the following features: The earliest ditch in the sequence (3913), of which a 7m length was visible within the trench, was observed in plan turning from a NW-SE direction to a NE-SW alignment. The ditch had moderately sloping sides, a concave base and was 0.63m wide and 0.28m deep with two fills. The primary fill (3927) was a yellowish-brown silty clay loam sealed below a blue grey silty clay (3914). Two animal bone fragments were recovered from the latter but no artefacts. The fills of ditch 3913 were cut by a shallow irregular feature interpreted as the root-disturbed planting gully for a possible hedge (3911). This feature was 0.68m wide and 0.28m deep and was filled with a reddish-brown silty clay (3912) containing two sherds of Roman pottery, one fragment of fired clay and 12 pieces of animal bone. The north side of the boundary was formed by a small ditch (3909) which was aligned NW-SE. The profile had moderately sloping sides and a flat base and was 0.55m wide and 0.12m deep. It had a yellowish-brown silty clay fill (3910) with no finds. The south side of the boundary was formed by ditch 3915, which is thought to be similar in function and form to ditch 3909. It had sloping sides and a flat base measuring 0.56m wide and 0.18m deep, and was filled by a yellowish-brown silty clay loam (3916) containing no finds. Ditches 3909 and 3911 were both truncated by a later ditch on the same alignment (3907) which had moderately sloping sides and a flat base and was 1.45m wide and 0.38m deep. The lower of the two fills of this ditch (3926) was a yellowish-brown silty clay loam with no finds, which was sealed below a bluish grey silty clay fill (3908) which contained two Roman pottery sherds, one fragment of fired clay and one piece of animal bone.

3.12.5 Two more ditches were recorded to the south of these features (3919 and 3922, Fig. 8 Section 3902; Plate 6). They were also aligned NE-SW, but not on quite the same orientation. The earliest ditch in this sequence (3919) had steeply sloping sides and a concave base and was 1.4m wide and 0.5m deep. The lower fill (3920) was a light yellowish grey-brown silty clay containing one sherd Roman pottery and one piece of animal bone. The upper fill (3921) was a dark grey-brown silty clay with no finds. The upper fill was truncated by recut 3922, on the same alignment, which had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was 1.25m wide and 0.4m deep and contained a dark yellowish brown silty clay fill (3923) with no finds. This feature was cut by a later E-W aligned furrow (3924), which ran down slope and had shallow sloping sides and a flat base. It was 1.9m wide and 0.25m deep and filled by a light reddish brown silty clay (3925).

3.13 Trench 40

3.13.1 The trench was aligned E-W (Figs 5 and 9; Plate 10). The first 5m at the west end of the trench was not fully excavated due to the presence of a buried service. The trench was cut through a 0.30m thick dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil (4000), which overlay a reddish-brown silty clay subsoil (4001).

3.13.2 At the western end of the trench, sealed beneath the subsoil (4001) was a clearly defined NE-SW aligned ditch (4003), which was also visible on the geophysical survey plot (Fig. 9 Section 4000; Plate 8). It had steeply sloping sides and a flat base and was 1.6m wide and 0.35m deep. The ditch contained two fills, the earliest of which (4004) was a light yellowish-brown silty clay with two sherds of Roman pottery. The upper fill, a dark grey-brown silty clay (4005) in contrast produced two sherds of post-medieval pottery and one fragment of brick. The two post-medieval sherds found in fill 4005 are likely to be intrusive artefacts in a Roman feature as the extrapolated line of the ditch coincides with a series of intercutting ditches in Trench 40, all of which are tentatively dated to the Roman period on the basis of artefacts and/or stratigraphic relationships. The small size of the artefact assemblages means that little reliance can be placed on the pottery as dating evidence. Ditch 4003 appeared on the geophysical survey to continue into Trench 39.

3.13.3 The subsoil (4001) filled several plough furrows, two of which were hand-excavated (4006 and 4007). The furrows were aligned SW-NE along the contour of the slope. The western furrow (4006) was 1.7m wide and 0.18m deep, with a very shallow concave profile (Fig. 9 Section 4001; Plate 9). The eastern furrow (4007) was 1.7m wide and 0.18m deep, also with a very shallow concave profile (Fig. 9 Section 4002). The furrows had been truncated by a later NW-SE aligned furrow which ran down-slope (not excavated). Not all of the furrows indicated on the geophysical survey were visible in the trench.

3.14 Trench 41

3.14.1 The trench was aligned NW-SE and was cut through a 0.30m thick dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil (4100) to a backfilled pond (4102, Plate 11). The pond was at least 14m long and 1.9m wide within the confines of the trench. It was not excavated as numerous clearly modern finds were present in the backfill. The upper fill (4103)

comprised blue clay with patches of black gravel, crushed stone, concrete fragments and glass dating from the late 20th century. The pond was cut into the natural mudstone (4102). The plough-disturbed post-medieval subsoil recorded in many trenches was not present in Trench 41.

3.15 Trench 45

3.15.1 The trench was aligned NE-SW. It was cut through a 0.30m thick, dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil (4500) which in turn overlay natural geology (4501). Within the topsoil towards the south-west end of the trench, a large patch of burning and debris was observed, dated by surface finds to the late 20th century. This was found to be 0.10m thick and corresponded with a large magnetic anomaly on the geophysical survey. It may be associated with a recently reinstated temporary construction compound and access track established for the adjacent Sandpit Road housing development.

3.16 Finds summary

3.16.1 The following artefacts were recovered in the evaluation trenches:

- 19 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 207g,
- 7 sherds (154g) of post-medieval pottery.
- 17 fragments of brick and tile (456g) were recovered from Trenches 5, 27 and 40
- A single piece of clay tobacco pipe stem weighing 1g was recovered, dating from the 17th century.
- An incomplete copper alloy dessert spoon of post-medieval or modern date and weighing 7.4g was recovered from context 504 in Trench 5. The design was current from the 19th century through to the modern period.
- Other metal finds comprised iron nails and two iron rods weighing a total of 6g. All recovered from Trench 5.
- 9 pieces of stone, none of which was worked.
- Part of a human mandible from Trench 27.
- 66 fragments (862g) of animal bone were recovered by hand-excavation from Trenches 27, 30, 39 and 40.
- Two right valves of European flat oyster (*Ostrea edulis* L.) were recovered by hand from post-medieval ditch fill 2706 (32g)..

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The evaluation was completed in accordance with the approved WSI, with only very minor alterations to the trench plan to avoid obstacles on site.
- 4.1.2 The trenching was conducted in good weather conditions. No flooding or other weather-related problems were encountered. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 No evidence for prehistoric activity was found in the trenches and no worked flint at all was recovered.
- 4.2.2 Trenches 39 and 40 revealed the earliest archaeology in the form of a group of Roman field or enclosure boundaries. These trenches revealed a cluster of intercutting linear features, most of which appeared to form a rough right angle. Of the ten cut features identified in Trench 39, the fills of four produced at least some Roman pottery, albeit in very small quantities (11 Roman sherds from in total). While the individual context assemblages in trench 39 are very small, they do tell a consistent story as no earlier or later artefacts were recovered from the trench. Ditch 4003 in Trench 40 is less certainly dated to the Roman period as its fills produced small amounts of both Roman and post-medieval pottery. A total of 19 sherds of Roman pottery was recovered from the site as a whole, the remainder being demonstrably residual in post-medieval or modern contexts. Several of the Roman ditches also produced small amounts of animal bone. Several of the ditches in Trench 39 were undated by artefacts but were stratigraphically earlier than dated Roman contexts and are thus also most likely to be of Roman date. The nature of the activity is not clear from the geophysical survey, as the features extend beyond the site boundary. The right-angled form of the boundary could reflect a track junction or the corner of an enclosure that extended beyond the site boundary to the north-west. From the number of recuts, the main boundary appears to have been reinforced multiple times in the Roman period. The feature group is located about 50m south-east of the summit of Penn Hill and may be the eastern edge of a settlement, agricultural enclosure or track junction located at the highest point of the hill in the Roman period. There is a post-medieval boundary junction at this location on the historic maps, but their alignments do not appear to correspond with the Roman ditches in Trench 39.
- 4.2.3 The remaining trenches are either empty of archaeology or show traces of post-medieval agricultural features in form of very badly truncated ridge and furrow running down the slopes on a NW-SE alignment and the location of two removed post-medieval field boundaries in Trenches 4 and 5 and Trenches 27-28 and 30-31.
- 4.2.4 The results from the evaluation are generally consistent with other evaluations in surrounding developments, having revealed very sparse archaeology across most of the site. Apart from the concentration of Roman features in Trench 39 and 40, the only features identified were former field boundaries and a small pond (Trench 41), all of which produced a mix of post-medieval and modern finds. The finds reflect the

date at which these features were removed and levelled and do not provide any evidence for their date of origin. As noted in Section 1.7 above, Penn Hill Farm probably formed part of the historic pasture called 'Penn', located on the north-east side of Calne, which prior to the 17th century seems to have been shared in common by the villages of Calne, Cherhill and Compton Bassett. A boundary dividing Calne and Cherhill parishes had been drawn across the pasture by 1628. Cherhill's part of Penn remained commonable and the boundary, a series of straight lines at right angles to each other, is thought to have been drawn around a series of new closes in Calne's part at the time of the division. This may be the period in which the present field boundary system was established. The parish boundaries in those places were simplified at inclosure in the earlier 19th century, including establishment of Calne Without parish (Crowley 2002).

- 4.2.5 The most recent features identified include late 20th-century farming activity, including the infilling of the pond in Trench 41. An area of burning and a spread of modern materials in Trench 45 probably relate to a recent temporary construction compound and access track that were established for the neighbouring Sandpit Road housing development. Located at the south-west end of the site, the extents of the compound can be seen on recent aerial photos and as areas of magnetic disturbance on the geophysical survey plot. The topsoil in these fields has been reinstated and the land returned to agriculture, but signs of ground disturbance could be seen in trenches 45, 47 and 48.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The evaluation revealed a localised focus of Roman archaeology in the south-western part of the site in Trenches 39 and 40, possibly a trackway junction or the corner of an enclosure system extending outside the development boundary to the north-west. The evidence found in these two trenches could possibly represent the eastern edge of a rural settlement located on top of Penn Hill.
- 4.3.2 The documentary references to the pasture called 'Penn' suggests that this part of the parish was used predominantly as pasture from at least the 17th century onwards and as unenclosed common pasture before that. This site has clear evidence for former ridge and furrow cultivation (a characteristic feature of medieval/post-medieval open field agriculture). Plough furrows are visible on aerial photographs and the geophysical survey, and their presence were confirmed by the trenching. They follow the same alignment as the extant post-medieval/modern field boundaries. No medieval pottery was recovered from the trenches, so the dating evidence for the ridge and furrow is very poor. The earliest artefacts recovered from former medieval/post-medieval boundary ditches date from the 17th century. Nevertheless, according to documentary sources there were open fields in all parts of medieval/post-medieval Calne except the west, so the evidence for ridge and furrow is not unexpected. The most likely scenario is that during the 17th-century enclosures referred to above, hedges were made around pre-existing furlongs in the open fields. By the 19th and 20th centuries there was usually more grassland than arable in the parish (Crowley 2002).

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 This new site adds to slight existing evidence for a Roman settlement somewhere in Calne, although no clear focus has been identified to date. The associated Roman artefact assemblage is very small, with an early to mid-Roman emphasis. Animal bone was recovered from several of the Roman contexts and has the potential to shed light on the settlement's economy. No environmental samples were recovered from Trenches 39 or 40. The feature fills were not suitable for sampling for charred plant remains, having a lot of intercutting linear features and disturbed contexts. Charcoal was visible during excavation in several Roman contexts and would have the potential to shed light on the local environment and economy.
- 4.4.2 The site lies well outside the core of Calne Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement, in the surrounding agricultural hinterland. The medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow and field boundaries are poorly preserved, poorly dated and do not provide much new evidence for the origins and development of the historic landscape.
- 4.4.3 A single fragment of human bone, from an adult or adolescent jawbone of unknown sex, was recovered from the secondary fill of a post-medieval boundary ditch in Trench 27 (context 2706). The bone, not having been recognised as human during excavation, was recovered from the animal bone assemblage during post-excavation analysis. The origin of the bone is unknown. The site does not lie close to any known burial grounds, the nearest being in the centre of Calne. Nor does it lie particularly close to a historic main road or crossroads where judicial execution burials might be expected. The bone was recovered along with 14 animal bone fragments, two oyster shells, post-medieval pottery and brick fragments. It should be noted that this bone fragment is not covered by a Ministry of Justice Burial Licence because it was discovered with the animal bone assemblage during post-excavation analysis. The Ministry of Justice do not issue licences retrospectively but recognise that human bone is occasionally recovered this way, and there is no penalty providing the bone is treated with care and respect. The bone will be held by Oxford Archaeology and treated with due care and decency until deposition of the project archive with Wiltshire Museum.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General description					Orientation		NNW/SS E
Sequence consists of topsoil (100) and natural (101). No archaeology present.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer		2	0.2	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay		
101	Layer		2		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
Trench 2							
General description					Orientation		NNE/SS W
Sequence consists of topsoil (200) and natural (201). No archaeology present.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer		2	0.2	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay		
201	Layer		2		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
Trench 3							
General description					Orientation		NE/SW
Sequence consists of topsoil (300) and natural (301). No archaeology present.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.25
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer		2	0.2	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay		
301	Layer		2	0.2	Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
Trench 4							
General description					Orientation		NW/SE
Sequence consists of topsoil (400) and natural (401). One undated linear at SE end is ditch [403]					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.2
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer		2	0.2	Topsoil. Mid Yellowish brown silty clay		
401	Layer		2		Subsoil. Light brownish yellow silty clay		
402	Layer				Natural		
403	Cut				Ditch		
404	Fill	403			Secondary Fill		
Trench 5							

General description						Orientation	E/W
Consists of topsoil (500) and natural (501). One linear at E end is ditch [503] and layer (505) which produced post-medieval and modern finds.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.9
						Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer		2	0.25	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay		
501	Layer				Subsoil. Light brownish yellow silty clay		
502	Layer				Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
503	Cut				Ditch		
504	Fill	503			Secondary Fill. produced a modern Cu alloy spoon	Cu alloy	19 th /20 th century
505	Layer				Other Layer. Produced 2 sherds post-med brick and one 17th century clay pipe stem; 3 frags modern iron	Pot CBM Clay pipe Iron	19 th /20 th century
506	Cut				Modern. Land drain		
Trench 6							
General description						Orientation	E/W
Sequence consists of topsoil (600) and natural (601). No archaeology present.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.9
						Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer				Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay		
601	Layer				Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
Trench 7							
General description						Orientation	NE/SW
Sequence consists of topsoil (700) and natural (701). No archaeology present.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.9
						Avg. depth (m)	0.25
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer		2	0.2	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay		
701	Layer				Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
Trench 8							
General description						Orientation	NNE-SSW
Devoid of archaeology						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.9
						Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer			0.2	Topsoil. Brown silty clay		
801	Layer				Natural. Mid brownish yellow clay		

Trench 9							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Devoid of Archaeology					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.37
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer			0.35	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay		
901	Layer				Natural. Mid brownish yellow clay		
Trench 10							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Devoid of archaeology					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer			0.25	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay		
1001	Layer				Natural. Mid brownish yellow clay		
Trench 11							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Devoid of archaeology					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.29
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer			0.27	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay		
1101	Layer				Natural. Mid brownish yellow clay		
Trench 12							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Devoid of archaeology					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer			0.28	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay		
1201	Layer				Natural. Mid brownish yellow clay		
Trench 13							
General description					Orientation		NE/SW
Sequence consists of topsoil (1300) and natural (1301). No archaeology present.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.4

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer		1.9	0.35	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey silt		
1301	Layer		1.9		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
Trench 14							
General description					Orientation		NW/SE
Sequence consists of topsoil (1400) and natural (1401). No archaeology present					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer		1.9	0.35	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey silt		
1401	Layer		1.9		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
Trench 15							
General description					Orientation		N/S
Consists of topsoil (1500) and natural (1501). No archaeology present					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer		1.9	0.35	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey silt		
1501	Layer		1.9		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
Trench 16							
General description					Orientation		NE/SW
Sequence consists of topsoil (1600) and natural (1601). No archaeology present					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer		1.9	0.35	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey silt		
1601	Layer		1.9		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
Trench 17							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Devoid of archaeology					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.25
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1700	Layer		1.9	0.2	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey silt		
1701	Layer		1.9		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		

Trench 18							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Devoid of archaeology					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.29
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1800	Layer		1.9	0.29	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey silt		
1801	Layer		1.9		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
Trench 19							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Devoid of archaeology					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.34
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1900	Layer		1.9	0.28	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey silt		
1901	Layer		1.9		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
Trench 20							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Devoid of archaeology					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.31
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2000	Layer		1.9	0.28	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey silt		
2001	Layer		1.9		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
Trench 21							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Devoid of archaeology					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.35
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2100	Layer		1.9	0.28	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey silt		
2101	Layer		1.9		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
Trench 22							
General description					Orientation		E/W
Sequence consists of topsoil (2200) and natural (2201). No archaeology present.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.35

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2200	Layer		1.9	0.2	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay		
2201	Layer		1.9		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
Trench 23							
General description					Orientation		NW/SE
Sequence consists of topsoil (2300) and natural (2301). No archaeology present.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2300	Layer		1.9	0.2	Topsoil. Mid Yellowish brown silty clay		
2301	Layer		1.9		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
Trench 24							
General description					Orientation		NE/SW
Sequence consists of topsoil (2400) and natural (2401). No archaeology present.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2400	Layer		1.9	0.2	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay		
2401	Layer		1.9		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
Trench 25							
General description					Orientation		NE/SW
Sequence consists of topsoil (2500) and natural (2501). No archaeology present.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2500	Layer		1.9	0.25	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay		
2501	Layer		1.9		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
Trench 26							
General description					Orientation		NE/SW
Sequence consists of topsoil (2600) and natural (2601). No archaeology present.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2600	Layer		1.9	0.24	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey silt		
2601	Layer		1.9		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
Trench 27							
General description					Orientation		N/S

Sequence consists of topsoil (2700) and natural (2701). One post-medieval/modern boundary ditch present						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.9
						Avg. depth (m)	0.25
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2700	Layer		1.9	0.2	Topsoil. Mid Yellowish brown clayey silt		
2701	Layer				Subsoil. Light brownish yellow silty clay		
2702	Layer		1.9		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
2703	Cut		0.96	0.66	Ditch. E/W boundary post med		Post-med/modern
2704	Fill	2703	0.96	0.66	Deliberate Backfill. Post med rubble surrounded by silt. Produced 1 sherd post-med pottery and 12 of post-med/modern CBM, 1 sherd fired clay, 3 frags animal bone	Pot CBM Fired clay Animal bone	Post-med/modern
2705	Cut		2.67	0.31	Ditch. E/W post med boundary		Post-med/modern
2706	Fill	2705	2.67	0.31	Secondary Fill. Silty clay. Produced 1 sherd post-med pot, 2 sherds modern brick, 1 piece human mandible; 14 frags animal bone, 2 oyster shells	Pot CBM Human bone Animal bone	Post-med/modern
Trench 28							
General description						Orientation	E-W
Contained a post medieval boundary ditch which crossed the western third of the trench on a NW-SE alignment. The ditch was not excavated in this trench as sufficient dating evidence had been recovered from the same feature in Trench 27.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.9
						Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2800	Layer			0.26	Topsoil. Greyish brown silty clay topsoil		
2801	Layer				Natural. Brownish yellow natural silty clay with patches of light blue clay		
Trench 29							
General description						Orientation	N-S
Devoid of archaeology						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.9
						Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2900	Layer			0.28	Topsoil. Greyish brown silty clay topsoil		
2901	Layer				Natural. Brownish yellow silty clay natural with patches of blue clay		
Trench 30							
General description						Orientation	N-S
Post medieval boundary ditch in the centre of the trench approx 1.80m wide, alongside a furrow to the north, both aligned NW-SE						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.9
						Avg. depth (m)	0.34

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3000	Layer			0.3	Topsoil. Greyish brown silty clay topsoil		
3001	Layer				Natural. Brownish yellow natural silty clay with patches of blue clay		
3002	Cut		1.4	0.18	Plough furrow. Cut of plough furrow respecting post medieval field boundary, aligned NW-SE		
3003	Fill	3002	1.4	0.18	Secondary Fill. Yellowish brown silty clay. No finds, likely naturally silted		
3004	Cut				Ditch. Post-medieval boundary ditch aligned NW-SE		Post-med
3005	Fill	3004			Secondary Fill		
3006	Fill	3004			Secondary Fill. Produced 1 sherd post-med pottery; 1 piece animal bone	Pot Animal bone	Post-med
3007	Cut				Ditch. Recut of 3004		Post-med
3008	Fill	3007			Secondary Fill. Produced 2 sherds post-med pottery	Pot	Post-med
3009	Fill	3007			Secondary Fill		
3010	Cut				Hedgerow. NW-SE feature, caused by removal of hedgerow		
3011	Fill	3010			Deliberate Backfill. Backfilling/levelling after removal of hedgerow		
Trench 31							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Post medieval boundary ditch at the NE end of the trench, a continuation from a ditch recorded in Trenches 27, 28 and 30. The ditch was not excavated in this trench as it was sufficiently dated in other trenches. A modern field drain was also present at the SW end of the trench, aligned E-W					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3100	Layer			0.36	Topsoil. Greyish brown silty clay topsoil		
3101	Layer				Natural. Brownish yellow silty clay natural		
Trench 32							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Devoid of archaeology					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.38
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3200	Layer			0.36	Topsoil. Greyish brown silty clay topsoil		
3201	Layer				Natural. Brownish yellow silty clay natural		
Trench 33							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Devoid of archaeology					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.35
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3300	Layer			0.32	Topsoil. Greyish brown silty clay topsoil		

3301	Layer				Natural. Brownish yellow silty clay natural		
Trench 34							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Possible ditch in the northern end of the trench					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.32
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3400	Layer			0.3	Topsoil. Greyish brown silty clay		
3401	Layer				Natural. Brownish yellow silty clay natural		
3402	Cut		1.1	0.24	Modern. Cut of field drain coming off a pond to the NW of the trench, feeding into the same land drains in Trench 36		
3403	Fill	3402	1.1	0.24	Deliberate Backfill. Mixed greyish brown silty clay mix of natural and topsoil backfilled onto field drain 3402. Produced 4 sherds Roman pottery	Pot	Residual Roman pot in modern context
Trench 35							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Devoid of archaeology. Several furrows aligned roughly NW-SE					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.38
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3500	Layer			0.35	Topsoil. Greyish brown silty clay mixed top and plough soil		
3501	Layer				Natural. Brownish yellow silty clay		
3502	Cut		1.1	0.14	Plough Furrow. Cut of furrow, aligned NW-SE		
3503	Fill	3502	1.1	0.14	Secondary Fill. Greyish brown silty clay		
Trench 36							
General description					Orientation		N/S
Consists of topsoil (3600) and natural (3601). One possible linear at north end was tested and was a land drain.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3600	Layer		1.9	0.26	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey silt		
3601	Layer				Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
Trench 37							
General description					Orientation		NNW-SSE
Devoid of archaeology					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.32
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

3700	Layer			0.3	Topsoil. Greyish brown silty clay		
3701	Layer				Buried soil. Earlier ploughsoil horizon		
3702	Layer				Natural. Yellowish-brown clay natural		
3703	Cut				Plough furrow. Post-med plough furrow.		
3704	Cut				Plough furrow. Post-med plough furrow.		
3705	Fill				Fill of plough furrow 3703. Grey-brown silty clay		
3706	Fill				Fill of plough furrow 3704. Grey-brown silty clay		
Trench 38							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Devoid of archaeology					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.28
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
3800	Layer			0.28	Topsoil. Greyish brown silty clay		
3801	Layer				Natural. Greyish brown yellow silty clay natural		
Trench 39							
General description					Orientation		N-S
					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.25
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
3900	Layer		1.9	0.1	Natural. Mid yellowish brown clayey silt		
3901	Layer		1.9	0.1	Subsoil. Light brownish yellow silty clay		
3902	Layer		1.9		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
3903	Cut				Ditch		Roman
3904	Fill	3903			Secondary Fill. Produced 6 sherds Roman pottery, 8 frags animal bone	Pot Animal bone	Roman
3905	Cut				Hedgerow		
3906	Fill	3905			Secondary Fill		
3907	Cut				Ditch		Roman?
3908	Fill	3907			Secondary Fill. Produced 2 sherds Roman pottery and 1 sherd pre-medieval fired clay, 1 frag animal bone	Pot Fired clay Animal bone	Roman?
3909	Cut				Ditch		Undated
3910	Fill	3909			Secondary Fill		Undated
3911	Cut				Ditch		Roman?
3912	Fill	3911			Secondary Fill. Produced 2 sherds Roman pottery, 12 frags animal bone	Pot Animal bone	Roman?
3913	Cut				Ditch		Undated
3914	Fill	3913			Secondary Fill. 2 frags animal bone	Animal bone	Undated
3915	Cut				Ditch		Undated

3916	Fill	3915			Secondary Fill		
3917	Void						
3918	Void						
3919	Cut				Ditch. SW-NE aligned Roman? boundary ditch		Roman?
3920	Fill	3919			Secondary Fill. Basal fill of ditch. Produced 1 sherd Roman pottery, 1 frag animal bone	Pot Animal bone	Roman?
3921	Fill	3919			Secondary Fill. Upper fill of ditch		Roman?
3922	Cut				Ditch. Recut of the boundary ditch 3919		Roman?
3923	Fill	3922			Secondary Fill. Fill of ditch recut		Roman?
3924	Cut				Plough Furrow running down the slope. Probably post-med on stratigraphic grounds.		Post-med?
3925	Fill	3924			Secondary Fill. Furrow fill.		P
3926	Fill	3907	1.02	0.14	Secondary Fill. Fill of ditch		
3927	Fill	3913	0.71	0.05	Secondary Fill. Fill of ditch		

Trench 40

General description					Orientation		E-W
					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4000	Layer		1.9	0.15	Topsoil. Mid Yellowish brown clayey silt		
4001	Layer		1.9	0.18	Subsoil. Reddish brown clayey silt		
4002	Layer		1.9		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
4003	Cut		1.6	0.35	Ditch. sw/ne ditch		Post-med
4004	Fill	4003	1.6	0.2	Secondary Fill. greyish yellow brown clayey silt. Produced 2 sherds Roman pottery, 2 frags animal bone. The upper fill of this ditch (4005) produced 2 post-med sherds so Roman sherds are likely to be residual in a post-med feature.	Pot Animal bone	Post-med
4005	Fill	4003	1.6	0.2	Secondary Fill. dark grey-brown clayey silt. Produced 2 sherds post-med pottery and 1 sherd of brick	Pot CBM	Post-med
4006	Cut		1.7	0.18	Plough Furrow. SW/NE plough furrow. 1 frag animal bone		
4007	Cut		1.7	0.18	Plough Furrow. SW/NE plough furrow. Produced 2 sherds Roman pottery from the plough soil		Post-med

Trench 41

General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Large modern pond backfilled in the centre of the trench 4102					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.34
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4100	Layer			0.33	Topsoil. Greyish brown silty clay		
4101	Layer				Natural. Brownish yellow silty clay		
4102	Cut		14		Pond. Modern pond backfilled with refuse (4103)		Modern
4103	Fill	4102	14		Deliberate Backfill. Modern backfill of pond [4102] mixed black and blue silty clay with patches of crushed stone	Modern finds not collected	Modern

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Trench 42							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Devoid of archaeology					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4200	Layer			0.3	Topsoil. Greyish brown silty clay		
4201	Layer				Natural. Greyish brown yellow silty clay		

Trench 43							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Consists of topsoil over natural. Devoid of Archaeology.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

Trench 44							
General description					Orientation		N/S
Consists of topsoil (4400) and natural (4401) . No archaeology present.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4400	Layer		1.9	0.25	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay		
4401	Layer		1.9		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		

Trench 45							
General description					Orientation		NE/SW
Consists of topsoil (4500) and natural (4501) No archaeology present. Large modern deposit at SW end, possibly associated with recently reinstated construction compound and access track associated with the adjacent Sandpit Rd housing development.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4500	Layer		1.9	0.22	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay		
4501	Layer		1.9		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		

Trench 46							
General description					Orientation		N/S
Soil sequence consists of topsoil (4600) and natural (4601). No archaeology present. Trench shortened to avoid cable found with CAT scanner. Topsoil in this field showed evidence for disturbance arising from a recently reinstated temporary construction compound and access track, associated with the adjacent Sandpit Rd housing development.					Length (m)		48
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

4600	Layer		1.9	0.25	Topsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey silt		
4601	Layer		1.9		Natural. Light brownish yellow clay		
Trench 47							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Devoid of archaeology. Topsoil in this field showed evidence for disturbance arising from a recently reinstated temporary construction compound and access track, associated with the adjacent Sandpit Rd housing development.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.28
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4700	Layer			0.26	Topsoil. Brown silty clay		
4701	Layer				Natural. Mid greyish brown silty clay		
Trench 48							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Devoid of archaeology. Topsoil in this field showed evidence for disturbance arising from a recently reinstated temporary construction compound and access track, associated with the adjacent Sandpit Rd housing development.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4800	Layer			0.3	Topsoil. Greyish brown silty clay		
4801	Layer				Natural. Mid brownish grey silty clay		

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Roman pottery

By Kate Brady

B.1.1 A total of 19 sherds, weighing 207g, was recovered (Table B.1.1). The assemblage was rapidly scanned to identify the range of forms and fabrics present. Each pottery-yielding context was dated on the basis of its ceramic content. The total weight in grammes and sherd count were recorded for each context. Fabrics and forms were identified using Oxford Archaeology's standard recording system for late Iron Age and Roman pottery (Booth nd). The fabrics recorded are listed below.

- B11 Dorset black-burnished ware (DOR BB 1)
- E810 Late Iron Age/early Roman grog-and-sand-tempered fabric
- O20 Sandy oxidised ware
- R20 Sandy reduced ware
- R30 Medium sandy reduced ware
- R35 North-Wiltshire greyware
- R95 Savernake ware
- S30 Central Gaulish samian ware (LEZ SA 2)

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Comments	Spot date
3403	4	61	B11, R30, R20 body sherds	120-410
3904	6	66	R35 body sherd, R95 body sherd, small flake S30 (also fired clay/prehistoric?)	100-200
3908	2	17	R20 body sherds	43-410
3912	2	31	O20 necked jar, everted rim	43-410
3920	1	9	O20 body sherd	43-410
4004	2	11	E810 body sherd	-100-100
4007	2	12	R20 body sherds	43-410

Table B1.1: Late Iron Age and Roman pottery by context

B.1.2 The assemblage is very small and was recovered from seven contexts. The potential of such a small assemblage is limited but does demonstrate activity of late Iron Age to early Roman and middle Roman activity on or near the site. The sherds of North Wiltshire greyware (R35), Savernake ware (R95) and black-burnished ware (B11) are the only sherds that can be attributed to a certain regional source, and all are fairly local, from Wiltshire and South Dorset. A single small flake of Central Gaulish samian ware (S30) is the only import.

B.1.3 The potential of this small assemblage is limited but if further work is undertaken on the site, the material should be examined and analysed alongside any additional pottery recovered.

B.2 Post-Roman pottery

By John Cotter

- B.2.1 A total of 7 sherds (154g) of pottery were recovered from five contexts (Table B.2.1). All of this is of post-medieval date. Roman pottery has been reported on elsewhere.
- B.2.2 All the pottery was scanned during the present assessment and spot-dates were provided for each context. Each context group was quantified by sherd count and weight and recorded on a spot-dating spreadsheet. The pottery is in a fragmentary condition but most sherds are quite fresh. The context spot-date is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types or fabrics are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the range of fabrics were recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.). Post-medieval fabric codes referred to are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014). The range of pottery is described in some detail in the spreadsheet (Table 1) and therefore only summarised below.

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
2704	c 1600-1900	1	41	Verwood-type ware (VERW). Squared rim from large storage jar. Cream fabric with internal yellow-green glaze. Fresh.
2706	c 1750-1780	1	5	Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware (SWSG, c 1720-1780). Rim from dish with later-style moulded exuberant decoration including panels of basketwork and diaper patterns with baroque scrolls. Rim edge with scalloped outline.
3006	c 1600-1900	1	20	VERW. Abraded rim from wide bowl or jar. Possibly of big beaded rim form - but has detached from vessel wall. Specks of yellow glaze ext.
3008	c 1760-1830	2	5	1 vess. Developed Creamware (CREA DEV). Damaged footring base from a smallish globular vessel such as a bowl or a jug?
4005	c 1780-1840	2	83	Small body sherd from a globular vessel in Staffs-type Pearlware (PEAR) with a pale blue-tinted glaze ext and a clear glaze int. 1x flat base from a large bowl or jar in VERW with yellow glaze int.
Total		7	154	

Table B.2.1 Post-Roman pottery by context

- B.2.3 The pottery comprises ordinary domestic pottery typical of this part of Wiltshire and all from sources outside the county. A limited range of fabric types dating from the 17th to the 19th centuries is present, but the 18th century is probably the period best represented. Three sherds of yellow-glazed, cream-coloured earthenware from the Verwood-type pottery industry are present. This dispersed industry straddling the Hampshire/Dorset border supplied everyday crockery (mainly kitchenwares) to much of the Wessex area from the 17th to the 19th century. Individual sherds of Verwood-type ware cannot be closely dated. The other wares present are all refined Staffordshire-type tablewares in white or pale cream fabrics. These include dishes and possibly jugs and bowls. The latest item is a small sherd of Staffordshire-type

Pearlware dating to c 1780-1840. Aside from dating, the pottery here has little potential to inform research through re-analysis and could be discarded if so desired.

B.3 Ceramic building material and fired clay

By Kirsty Smith

B.3.1 A moderately sized assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM) amounting to 17 fragments (456g) was recovered from Trenches 5, 27 and 40 (Table B.3.1). The majority of these fragments are post-medieval in date.

B.3.2 A small assemblage of fired clay amounting to two fragments weighing 32g was also recovered from Trenches 27 and 39 (Table B.3.2). These fragments are not datable.

Context	No.	Weight (g)	Spot date	Class/form	Description
505	2	18	PM?	Brick?	Highly abraded fragments of possible brick
2704	9	129	Unknown	Roof tile?	Highly abraded fragments of possible roof tile. Two frags are 12mm thick. Mostly orange sandy fabric
2704	1	69	PM	Roof tile	Orange sandy fabric with grey core 16mm thick and one rough side edge
2704	1	109	PM	Brick	Highly abraded fragments of brick 52mm + thick
2704	1	66	Modern	Brick	Machine made brick with very straight side edges. Fine matrix
2706	1	17	Med/PM	Roof tile	Orange sandy fabric with grey core.13.5mm thick. Coarse moulding sand
2706	1	29	PM	Brick	Mauve sandy fabric. Coarse moulding sandy
4005	1	19	PM	Brick?	Mauve sandy fabric
Total	17	456			

Table B.3.1: Ceramic Building Material

Context	No.	Weight (g)	Spot date	Class/form	Description
2704	1	6	Pre-med	Indeterminate	Orange sandy fabric – heated grey
3908	1	26	Pre-med	Indeterminate	Orange silty fabric heated light grey over most of surface. One flattish exterior surface
Total	2	32			

Table B.3.2: Fired clay

Medieval to post-medieval CBM

- B.3.3 The majority of the assemblage is post-medieval in date and comprises moderately to highly abraded brick and roof tile.
- B.3.4 The fragment of brick from context 2704 is distinctly modern (20th century or later) in date as it is machine made with straight sides and it is made from a fine fabric.

Fired clay

- B.3.5 Two fragments of orange silty or sandy fired clay (FC) weighing 32g was recovered from Trenches 27 and 39. These fragments were of indeterminate form and cannot be dated more specifically than prehistoric to medieval in date.

Conclusions

- B.3.6 The majority of the CBM fragments are post-medieval in date and originated from context 2704, a post-medieval fill of ditch 2703. Several fragments also came from context 2706 (ditch 2705), which was part of the same post-medieval boundary.

Recommendations

- B.3.7 If further work is proposed for the site, these fragments of CBM and fired clay should be retained so they can be compared to other material. In themselves the fragments are not significant, so if no further work is proposed, these heavily abraded fragments can be discarded.

B.4 Clay tobacco pipe

By John Cotter

- B.4.1 A single piece of clay pipe weighing 1g was recovered. Given the small amount this has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below:

Context (505) Spot-date: 17th century. Description: 1 piece of pipe stem (1g). Length 17mm. Very abraded. White fabric discoloured and brownish from burial conditions. One end may, possibly, be the mouthpiece, but both ends are so abraded that this is uncertain. Large stem bore diameter of c 4mm, typical of early pipes.

- B.4.2 The pipe is really only of use for dating and has little potential for further analysis. As it has been adequately recorded it could be discarded.

B.5 Metals

By Anni Byard

- B.5.1 A single object of copper alloy and three of iron were recovered during the evaluation, all from Trench 5. These are described below.
- B.5.2 An incomplete copper alloy spoon of post-medieval date and weighing 7.4g was recovered from context 504 in Trench 5. The spoon retains most of the handle and part of the bowl, which is now bent and flattened. The spoon has a flared neck which extends into the bowl – a design current from the 19th century through to the modern

period. There is no rat's tail on the reverse and no maker's mark is visible, although it may be obscured by corrosion. The size of the bowl flare suggests this is a dessert or serving spoon.

- B.5.3 An iron nail and two iron rods weighing a total of 6g were recovered from context 505. The nail is complete and has a small, rounded head and squared point. The two iron rods are also likely to be nails of greater length but are missing their heads and tips. All the ironwork is of 19th century or later date.
- B.5.4 The metals assemblage has been recorded herein and has no further interpretive value. It can be discarded.

B.6 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

- B.6.1 A total of nine small pieces of stone were retained. These were examined by eye for signs of working or use but none were found to be worked. The stone comprises a small fragment of probable coal weighing 9g (2704), three fragments of heat affected white chalk/limestone (3914, 74g), and five pieces of sandstone from contexts 3904 (three fragments, 7g), 3912 (13g) and 3920 (19g).
- B.6.2 All the stone can be discarded.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Human bone

By Helen Webb

Introduction

- C.1.1 A single fragment of human bone was recovered from context 2706, a secondary fill of post-medieval boundary ditch 2705. The bone, not having been recognised as human during excavation, was recovered from the animal bone assemblage during post-excavation analysis.
- C.1.2 The fragment was fully recorded in accordance with published guidelines (Brickley and McKinley 2004).

Description

- C.1.3 The bone fragment comprised the posterior aspect of the left mandibular body, incorporating the tooth socket for the second molar tooth. The tooth itself was not present, having been lost from the socket post-mortem.
- C.1.4 The broken margins of the bone fragment were rough and jagged, in keeping with post-mortem breakage, although the colour of the broken margins was in keeping with the rest of the bone surfaces, indicating that the breaks were not recent. Most of the bone surfaces exhibited slight, taphonomic erosion, in keeping with McKinley's (2004, 16) Grade 3.
- C.1.5 The size of the bone was consistent with an adult, or possibly an adolescent, individual, although there were no diagnostic features present for estimating sex.
- C.1.6 The retromolar space was observable behind the second molar socket and it was clear that no third molar (wisdom tooth) had been present. It was also possible to confirm, due to the location of the break through the mandible, that there was no unerupted or impacted third molar present. It is likely that the third molar was congenitally absent. No other abnormalities, lesions of pathology or trauma were observed.

Conclusion

- C.1.7 The human bone fragment was fully recorded, and thus no further analysis is recommended.
- C.1.8 It should be noted that this bone fragment is not covered by a Ministry of Justice Burial Licence because it was discovered with the animal bone assemblage during post-excavation analysis. The Ministry of Justice do not issue licences retrospectively but recognise that human bone is occasionally recovered this way, and there is no penalty providing the bone is treated with care and respect (Mays and Payne 2006, 11). The bone will be held by Oxford Archaeology and treated with due care and decency until deposition with Wiltshire Museum.

C.2 Animal bone

By *Adrienne Powell*

Introduction

- C.2.1 The assemblage comprises a total of 66 fragments (862g) recovered by hand-excavation from Trenches 27, 30, 39 and 40.
- C.2.2 The material was recorded in full, with the aid of the Oxford Archaeology skeletal reference collection and standard identification guides, using a diagnostic zone system (Serjeantson 1996). Conjoining recent fragments were counted as one specimen. Taphonomic and demographic information has been recorded and measurements have been taken following Driesch (1976). Butchery, pathology, burning and gnawing have been recorded where applicable. The condition of the bone has been graded on a scale of 1 = excellent, to 5 = very poor, just identifiable as 'bone'.

Description

- C.2.3 Most contexts yielded only one or two fragments; only 2706 and 3912 produced more than 10 fragments (Table C.2.1). The bone is in largely good condition, with a smaller proportion in moderate condition and the proportion of identifiable material, at 38%, is above average, although this still results in a very small number of identifiable specimens (NISP).
- C.2.4 Cattle (*Bos taurus*) bones comprise just over half the identifiable remains overall and are nearly twice as common as those of sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*). This may be a taphonomic artefact, as the source features are all ditches, which tend to produce more cattle bones than pits do. The only other taxon present is equid (*Equus* sp.).
- C.2.5 Seven specimens retained epiphyseal fusion information; all were fused except for an unfused proximal epiphysis from a sheep/goat humerus. Four specimens provided metrical data.
- C.2.6 No butchered or burnt bone was present and only a single specimen, an equid first phalanx from context 3912, shows carnivore gnawmarks.

Conclusion

- C.2.7 The assemblage although very small, demonstrates the survival of bone on the site in good condition, preserving data on size and age. A larger assemblage from any future work here is likely to recover an assemblage with research potential.

Recommendations

- C.2.8 The bone has been fully recorded and has no research potential, and it may be discarded at the end of the project.

Context	Spot-date	n	Weight (g)	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Equid	Medium mammal	NISP
2704	c 1600-1900	3	27				1	1
2706	c 1750-1780	14	102	2	3			5
3006	c 1600-1900	1	120	1				1
3904	100-200	8	59	2	1			3
3908	43-410	1	7					0
3912	43-410	12	94	2		1		3
3914	undated	2	6		1			1
3920	43-410	1	18					0
4004	100 BC-AD 100	2	50	2				2
4006	undated	1	379			1		1
Total		45	862	9	5	2	1	17

Table C.2.1: Hand-retrieved animal bone

C.3 Shell

By Rebecca Nicholson

- C.3.1 Two right valves of European flat oyster (*Ostrea edulis* L.) were recovered by hand on site from post-medieval ditch fill 2706 (32g). These are in fair condition but the larger valve is partial and flaky. There is no clear evidence for epibiont infestation or encrustation.
- C.3.2 The shell has no addition research value and can be discarded.

APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

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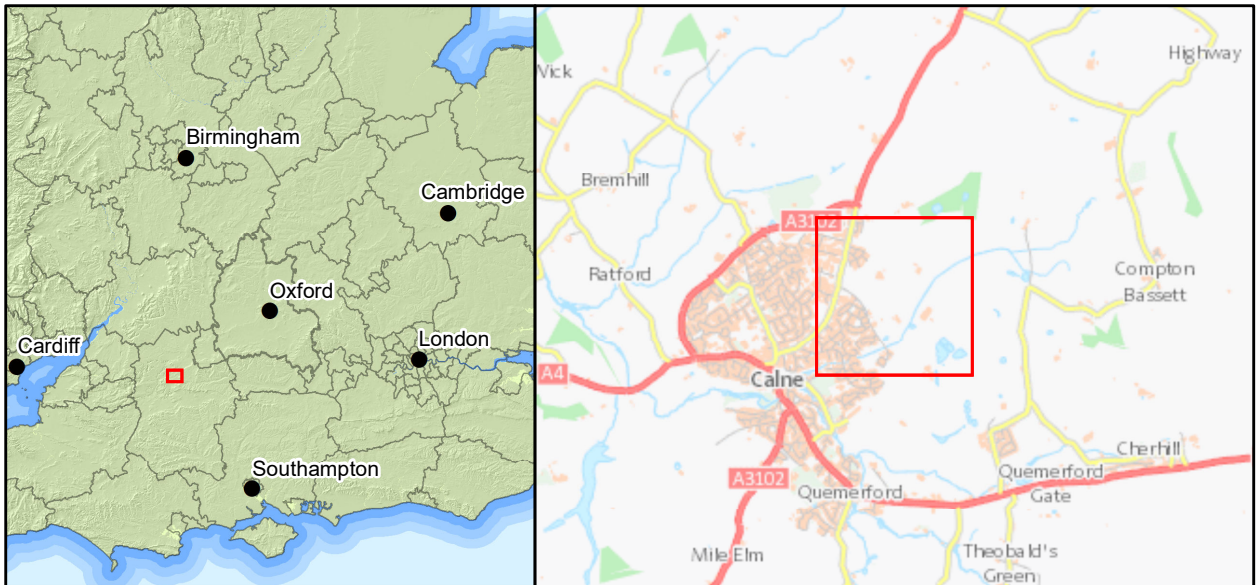
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Serjeantson, D, 1996 The animal bones, in *Runnymede Bridge Research Excavations, Volume 2, Refuse and Disposal at Area 16 East Runnymede* (eds S Needham and T Spence), 194-233, London

SUMO 2022 Geophysical survey report: Abberd Lane, Calne, Wiltshire. Report 08131 for RPS on behalf of Robert Hitchins Ltd. December 2022.

APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

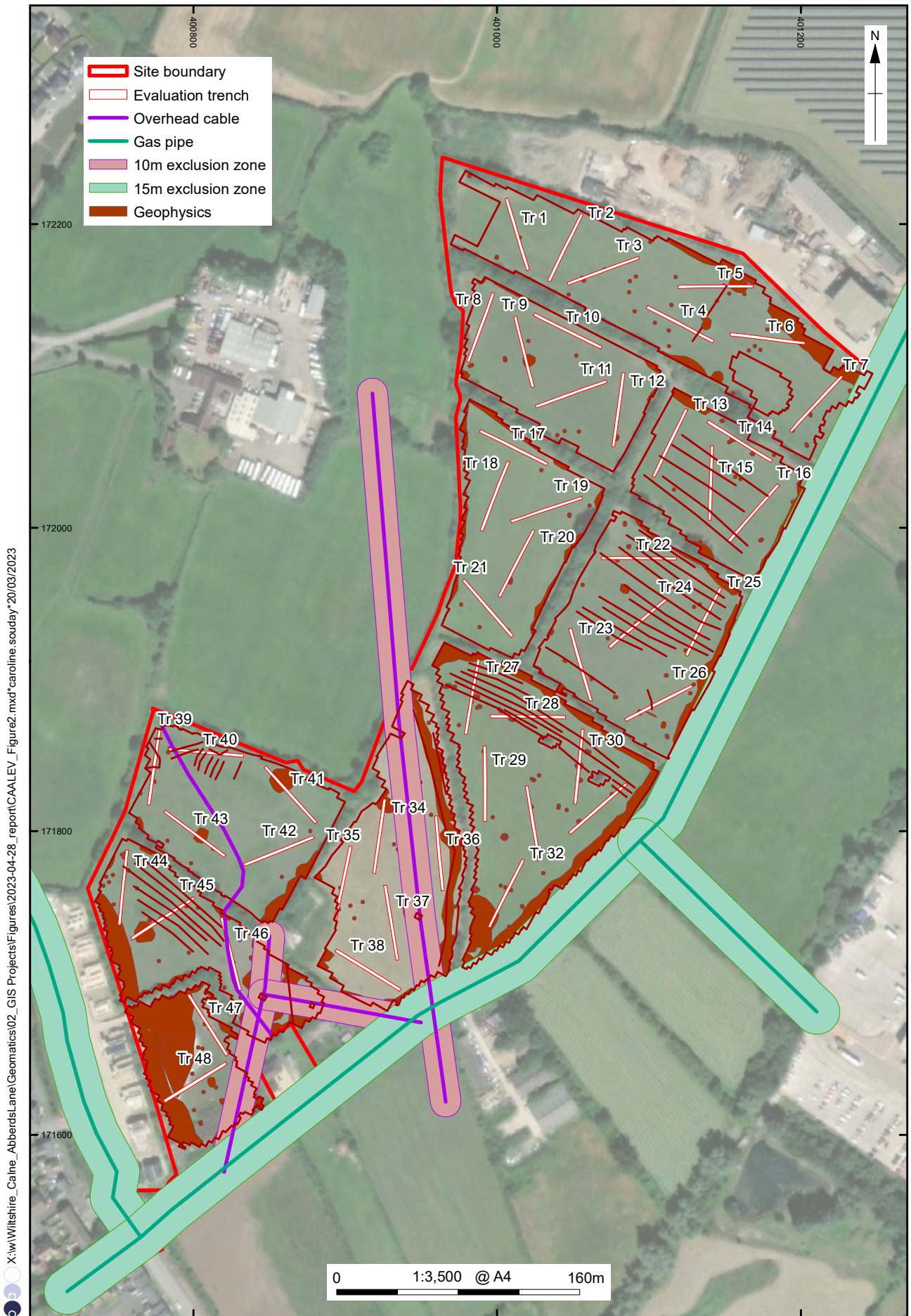
Site name:	Spitfire Road/Abberd Lane, Calne, Wiltshire
Site code:	CAAL23
Grid Reference	401079E 172026N
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	2 weeks, Feb-Mar 2023
Area of Site	14ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Wiltshire Museum in due course.
Summary of Results:	<p>In February and March Oxford Archaeology carried out a 48-trench evaluation for RPS Consulting Limited on behalf of Robert Hitchens Limited at Land North of Spitfire Road/Abberds Lane, Calne, Wiltshire. The trenching represents a 3% sample of the 14ha site area.</p> <p>The evaluation revealed a localised focus of Roman archaeology in the south-western part of the site in Trenches 39 and 40, possibly a trackway junction or the corner of an enclosure system extending outside the development boundary to the north-west. The evidence found in these trenches could possibly represent the eastern edge of a rural settlement located on top of Penn Hill. This new site adds to slight existing evidence for a Roman settlement somewhere in Calne, although no clear focus has been identified to date. The associated Roman artefact assemblage is very small, with an early-mid-Roman emphasis. Animal bone was recovered from several of the Roman contexts and has some potential to shed light on the settlement's economy.</p> <p>The site lies well outside the core of Calne Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement, in the surrounding agricultural hinterland. The medieval/post-medieval ridge-and-furrow and field boundaries are poorly preserved, poorly dated and do not provide much new evidence for the origins and development of the historic landscape.</p> <p>A single fragment of human bone, from an adult or adolescent jawbone of unknown sex, was recovered from the secondary fill of a field boundary ditch, along with fragments of post-medieval pottery, brick and animal bone. The origin of the bone is unknown. The site does not lie close to any existing burial grounds.</p>



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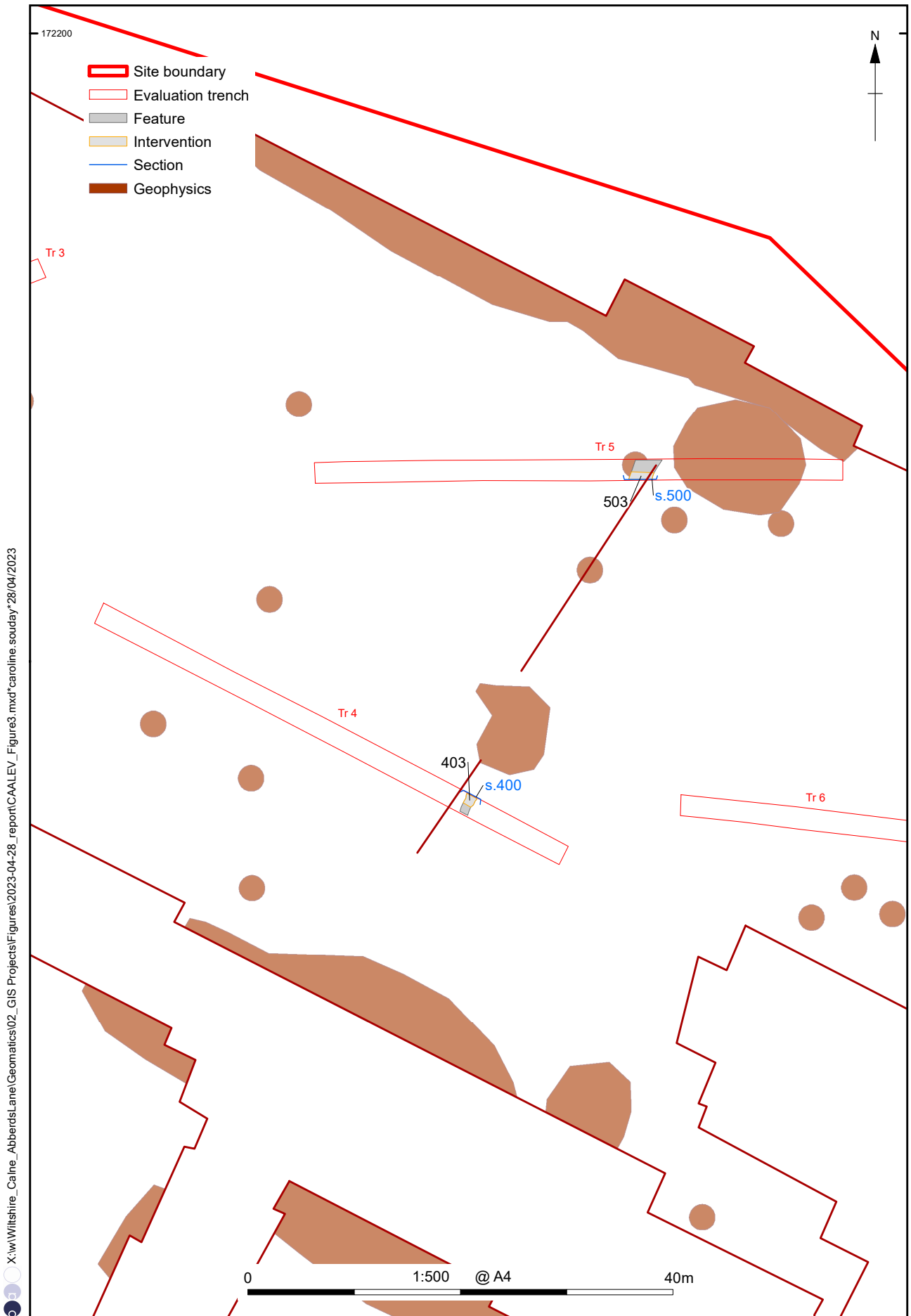
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018
 Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2020
 Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Figure 1: Site location



Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Figure 2: Trench location and geophysical survey



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Figure 3: Trenches 4 and 5

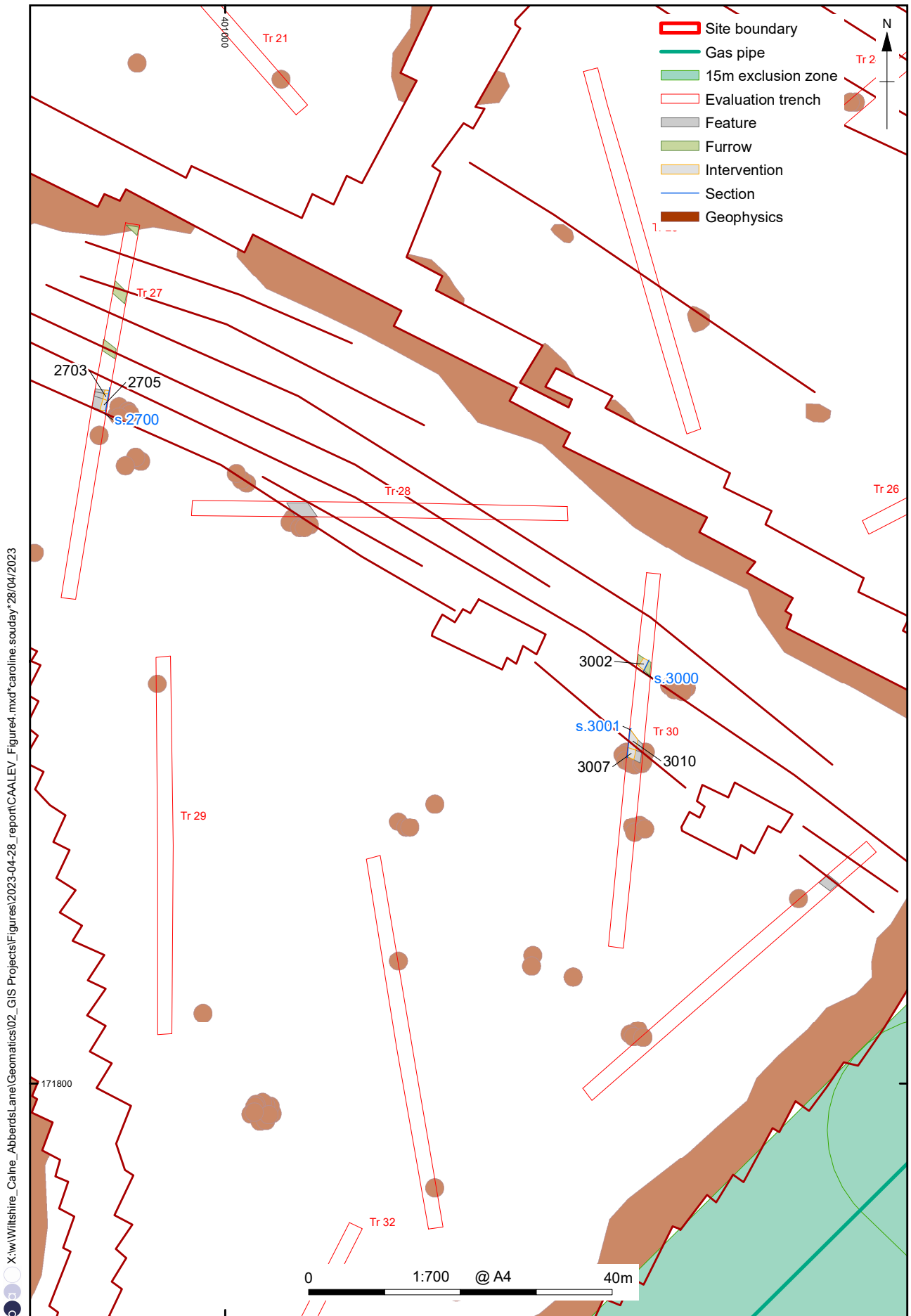


Figure 4: Trenches 27 and 30

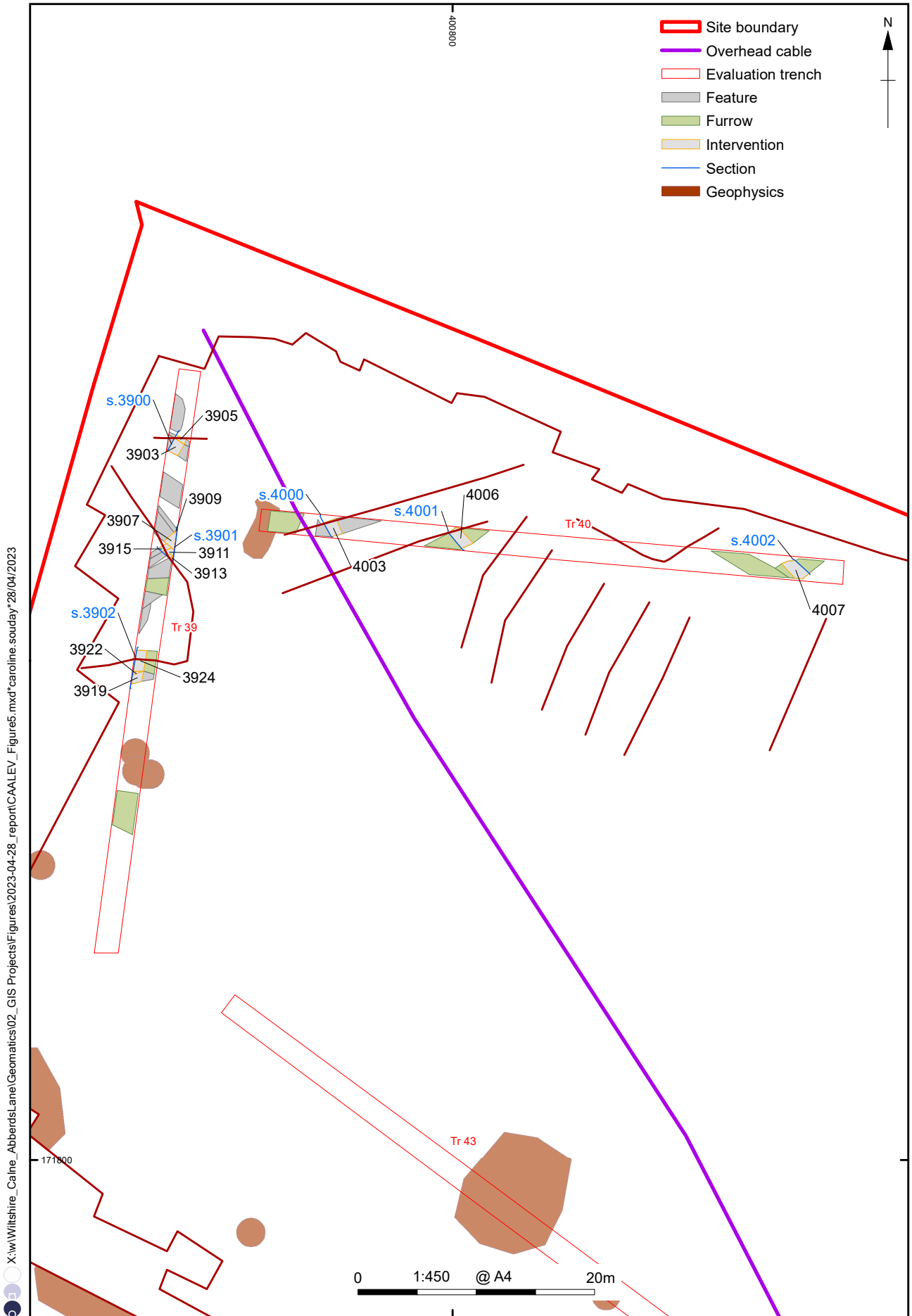


Figure 5: Trenches 39 and 40

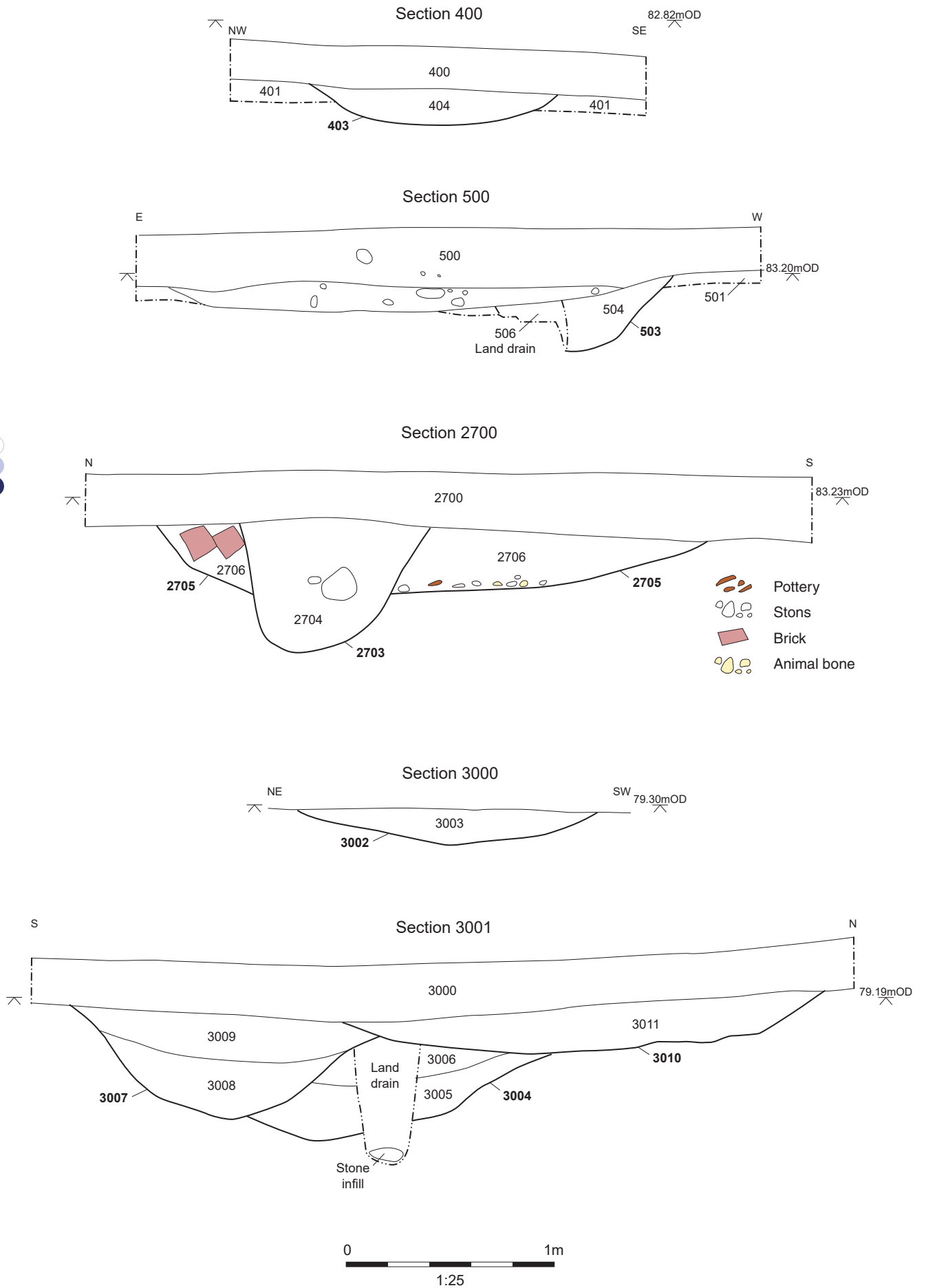


Figure 6: Sections, Trenches 4, 5, 27 and 30

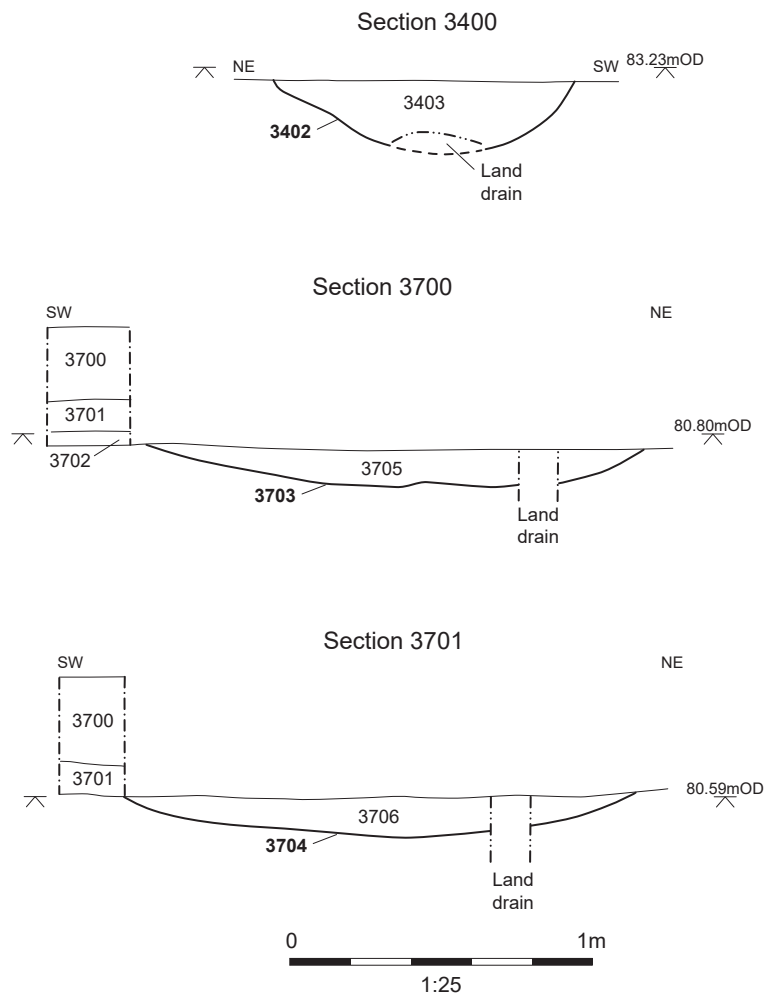


Figure 7: Sections, Trenches 34 and 37

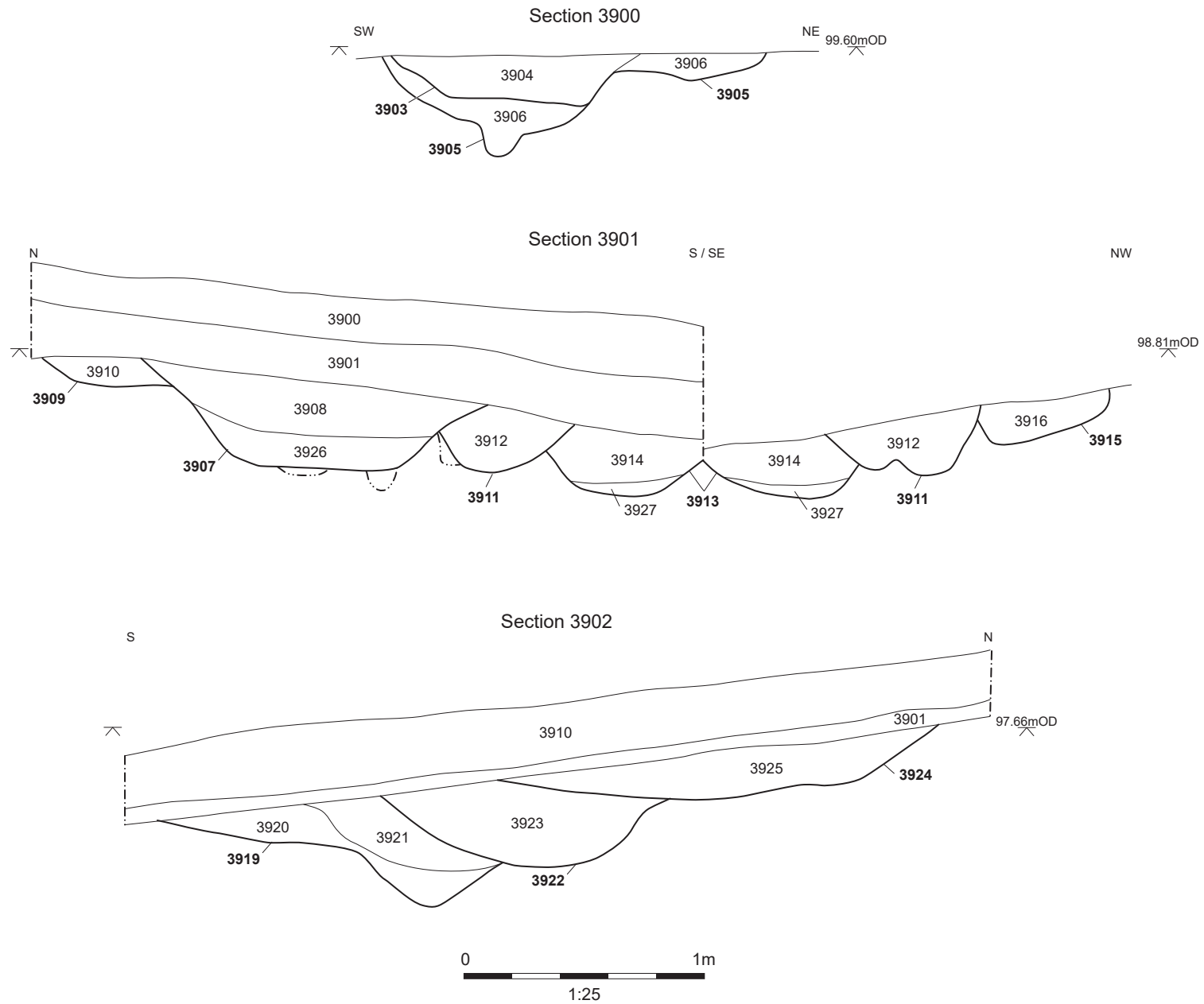


Figure 8: Sections Trench 39

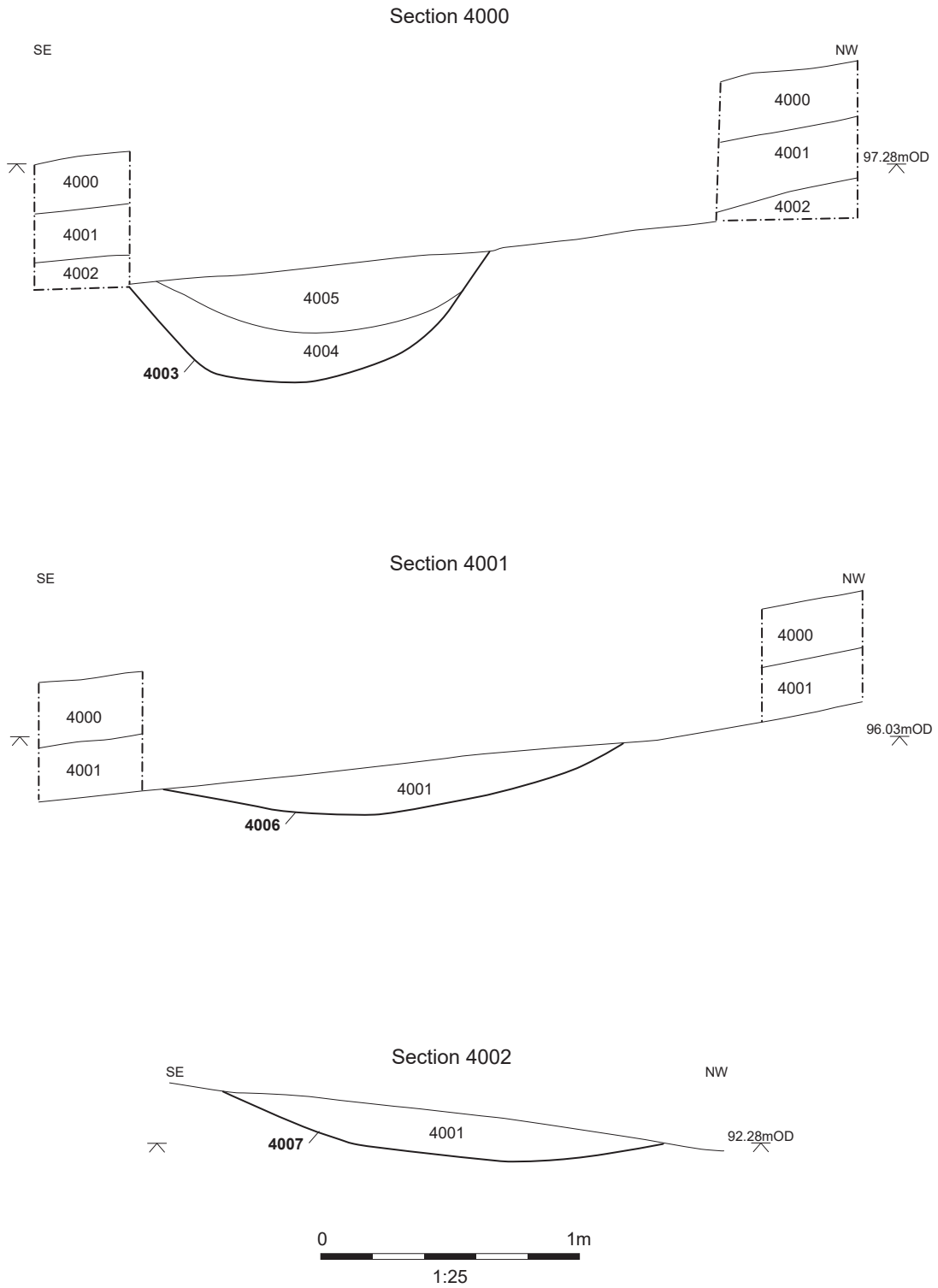


Figure 9: Sections trench 40



Plate 1: General view of trenching from Trench 1, facing south-east



Plate 2: Section 500, Trench 5, facing south



Plate 3: Blank Trench 12, facing north

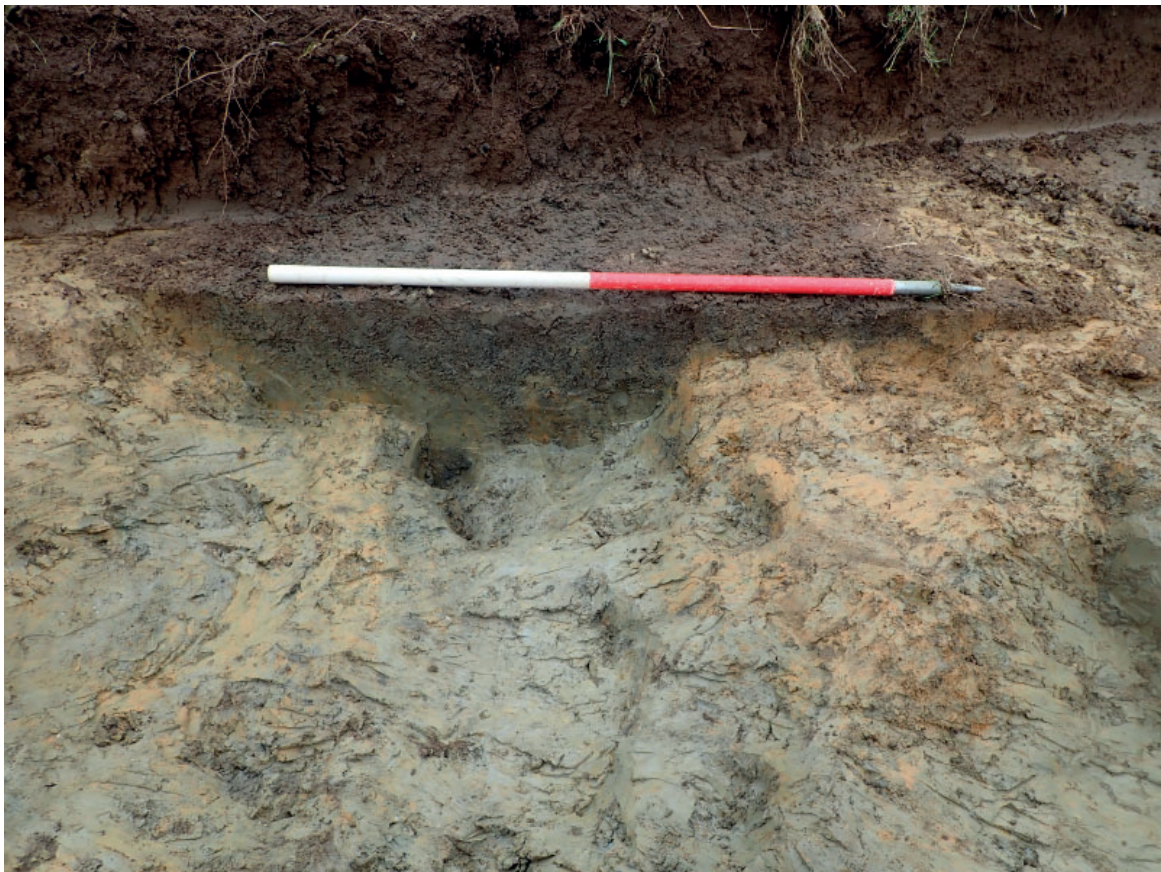


Plate 4: Section 3900, Trench 39, facing north-west

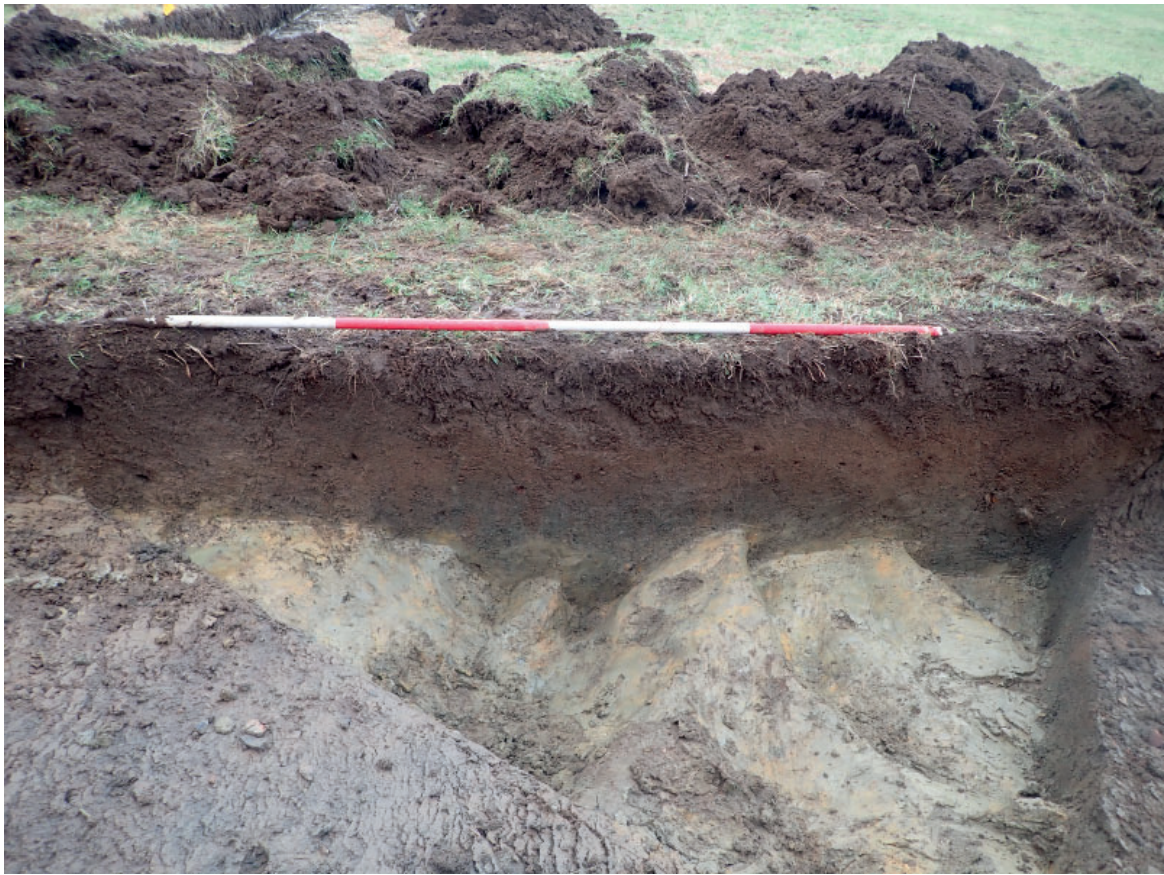


Plate 5: Section 3901, Trench 39, facing east



Plate 6: Section 3902, Trench 39, facing west



Plate 7: Trench 39, facing south



Plate 8: Section 4000, Trench 40, facing south-west



Plate 9: Section 4001, Trench 40, facing south-west



Plate 10: Trench 40, facing east



Plate 11: Trench 42 showing backfilled pond, facing south-west



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