

Shenley Wood Milton Keynes Bedfordshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



Oxford Archaeology

December 2003, revised March 2004

Client: PRP Architects for English Partnerships

Issue N^o: 2

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TOWN	MILTON KEYNES
PARISH	SHENLEY CHURCH END / SHENLEY BROOK END
ADDRESS	TATTENHOE STREET / CHILDS WAY / CHALKDELL DRIVE / WILDACRE ROAD
NGR	SP 82535 AND SPSP8236
SIZE OF PROPERTY	24 HA
LAND USE	SET ASIDE
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER	PS/537/2/AC950-954
CLIENT	PRP ARCHITECTS FOR ENGLISH PARTNERSHIPS
START DATE	18/08/2003
COMPLETION DATE	29/08/2003

Shenley Wood, Milton Keynes

November 2003, revised March 2004

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION*on behalf of PRP Architects for English Partnerships***CONTENTS**

Summary	1
1 Introduction	2
1.1 Scope of Work.....	2
1.2 Location, Topography and Geology.....	2
1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	3
2 Evaluation Aims	5
3 Evaluation Methodology	5
3.1 Geophysical Survey.....	5
3.2 Trial Trenching Results	7
3.3 Finds and Palaeo-environmental Evidence.....	8
3.4 Presentation of results.....	8
4 Trial Trenching Results	8
4.1 Detailed description.....	8
5 The Pottery.....	12
6 Discussion and Interpretation	14
6.1 Reliability of Field Investigation.....	14
6.2 Discussion.....	14
6.3 Overall Summary and Significance.....	15
7 Appendix 1	17
8 Appendix 2: Bibliography And References.....	26
9 Appendix 3: Summary of Site Details.....	27

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Site Location
 Fig. 2 Location of Study Area (Sites A to E) showing previous areas of
 Fig. 3 Magnetic Susceptibility Survey Results
 Fig. 4 Gradiometer Survey Results
 Fig. 5 Interpretation of Gradiometer Survey
 Fig. 6 Trench locations
 Fig. 7 Plans of trenches 28, 36, 37, 44, 46 and 57
 Fig. 8 Section Drawings
 Fig. 9 Section Drawings

(All figures are bound at the rear of this report)

SUMMARY

In August 2003, Oxford Archaeology carried out a trenched evaluation of Land at Shenley Woods, Milton Keynes, on behalf of English Partnerships. This work followed a programme of geophysical survey.

Generally there was a very low level of archaeological activity across the Study Area. Two main areas of archaeological interest were identified. A small group of shallow ditches, pits and a medieval trackway was located to the south of the medieval moated site at Westbury Farm, and a small group of ditches was found c.300m to the east of the farm, close to the junction of Childs Way and Chalkdell Drive.

All of the features are believed to date from the mid-late 11th to the mid-late 13th century are understood to represent the periphery of a very localised field system associated with the medieval settlement of Westbury-by-Shenley.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of Work

- 1.1.1 In August 2003 Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological trenched evaluation of behalf of English Partnerships at land to the south and east of Shenley Woods, Milton Keynes, (Fig 1), hereafter referred to as the Study Area. The evaluation initially consisted of 55 trenches placed to give a 2% sample of the site. Two additional trenches were excavated to further define the extent of features found south of Westbury Farm.
- 1.1.2 Prior to the trenching a geophysical survey was carried out where practicable, in order to gain knowledge in advance about subsurface features. Two techniques were employed, magnetic susceptibility survey and fluxgate gradiometer survey, the methodology and results of which, are discussed below at 3.1.
- 1.1.3 The archaeological works were commissioned with a view to the potential marketing and sale of the sites. To this end the Milton Keynes Archaeologist, Brian Giggins provided a brief for the evaluation. The results provide a basis from which an informed decision may be made regarding the need for further archaeological works.

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The proposal area lies to the west of Milton Keynes (centred on NGR SP 827 360; Fig. 2). It comprises five sites A, B, C, D and E occupying a total area of about 24 ha. Site A is an area of 8.9 ha, located to the immediate south of Fulmer Street and occupies the northern part of the proposal site. Site B is about 3.3 ha in area and lies between Wildacre Road and Chalkdell Drive at the east of the proposal area. Site C is 5.2 ha in area and lies between Chalkdell Drive and Foxcovert Road. Site D is 4.6 ha and occupies the area between Foxcovert Road and Tattenhoe Street excluding Westbury Farm. Site E is 2.1 ha and occupies the two fields to the north of Merlewood Drive. All sites are either rough grass, pasture or are over grown.

- 1.2.2 The underlying geology of the site is boulder clay, Till (Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 220).
- 1.2.3 Topographically the proposal area lies on the eastern half of a gentle hill, with the highest point (about 114 m above OD) just north of Westbury Farm in Site E. The hill falls away gently to the north (Site A) and more steeply to the south and east (Sites B, C and D).
- 1.2.4 During excavation the underlying natural soil was found to be fairly consistent orange brown clay which varied to occasionally to blue-grey clay.
- 1.2.5 A shallow dry valley ran across Trenches 6, 10 and 15, within the north-eastern corner of site A. This was clearly seen within the local topography and was found to contain a clean brown silty clay which was partially disturbed by the insertion of modern land-drains.
- 1.2.6 Trenches 1, 7 and 11, were sited on sloping ground to the west of site A, and revealed thickening layers of mixed hillwash deposits on the sides of the slope. These deposits varied from clean blue-grey and yellowish grey clays to mixed fragmented limestone in reddish brown clay.
- 1.2.7 Modern disturbance was noted at sites A, B and D.
- 1.2.8 Further details of the above features are given within the Table of Contexts (Appendix 1).

1.3 **Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the area has been outlined in the Brief (Giggins, 2002) and will not be repeated here. However, background pertinent to OA's proposal has been summarised.
- 1.3.2 A number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken in and immediately adjacent to the proposal area, though little in the northern part of the site (Site A). At least 2% of Site C has been evaluated (Fig.2), which resulted in an area excavation of the south-west corner of this site (Shepherd, 1995, pp.52-53, Fig.30). Two trenches have previously been excavated on the edge of Site B. The earthworks south of Westbury Farm have been surveyed

by RCHME (*ibid.* Fig 47) . The main focus of this work was the deserted medieval village of Westbury-by-Shenley, which had formerly straddled a hollow way, and is now the site of the new road of Childs Way. The work demonstrated activity dating from at least the early Roman period through to post-medieval. Westbury Farm is the site of a medieval moat, the farmhouse itself is 16th Century. In the 1960s, a medieval tile kiln was recorded beyond the northern boundary of Site A, although its exact location is not known (approximately SP 8271 3628). In the same decade, a pottery ‘waster’ sherd was also recovered from somewhere in the grid square SP 8280 3610.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposal area and to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.
- 2.1.2 To establish the need for a mitigation strategy.
- 2.1.3 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features
- 2.1.4 To make available the results of the investigation.
- 2.1.5 To define any relevant research priorities if additional archaeological investigation proves necessary.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Geophysical Survey

General

- 3.1.1 The geophysical survey methods and techniques adhered to the baseline national standards and guidelines established by English Heritage in *Geophysical survey in archaeological field evaluation* (1995).

Test Survey

- 3.1.2 In view of the fact that the success of geophysical survey is inconsistent on boulder clay geology a test survey was undertaken east and north of the previous excavation area at Site C (*c.f.* OA 2002). Based on the results of the test survey further work was undertaken where feasible at sites A to E.
- 3.1.3 The test survey, which was conducted between December and January 2002-03 by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy, comprised magnetic susceptibility survey followed detailed magnetometer survey of 1.3 hectares at Site C (Figs.4 and 5; Bartlett, 2003).
- 3.1.4 The test survey confirmed that distinct susceptibility enhancement occurred in an area of archaeological potential, and that within such areas archaeological features were detectable by magnetometer surveying, which detected features

consistent in their alignment and extent with those recorded in the excavation (Figs. 4 and 5). It was thought likely that earthworks or former field boundaries, being remote from settlement activity, or lacking magnetically enhanced debris in their fill, would remain undetected at this site. The findings of the test survey, however, appeared to suggest that any significant concentrations of archaeological features should be detectable by the instrumentation and methods used for this survey.

Continuation Survey Results

by Adrian Butler, Geophysics Officer, Northamptonshire Archaeology

- 3.1.5 In May 2003 topsoil magnetic susceptibility survey (Fig 3) and sample detailed magnetic gradiometer survey (Fig 4) was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on behalf of Oxford Archaeology in the five suitable site areas (A1, A2, B1, B2 and C) at Shenley Woods (Butler and Fisher, 2003).
- 3.1.6 Magnetic susceptibility was found to be generally low across the site. Enhancement can occur through archaeological material becoming mixed with topsoil, or through other environmental factors such as the build-up of soil against field boundaries. Slightly enhanced areas were noted in particular: centrally within A1, above the excavated area in southern Area C, and in B1 along the western fence line and centrally on the northern side of the survey.
- 3.1.7 Following the magnetic susceptibility survey of A1, A2, B1, B2 and C, four separate areas of land were selected for sample survey by detailed gradiometer survey, totalling 1.68ha. These areas were chosen both for coverage of magnetic susceptibility variations and sampling the site area. In Figure 5 red indicates likely ferrous material, blue possible cut features, such as ditches or furrows, and yellow fired deposits such as modern brick and rubble deposits.
- 3.1.8 **Area A1:** A group of intense, probably ferrous, anomalies were detected in the south-east of the survey area. No other significant anomalies were detected.
- 3.1.9 **Area A2:** A single intense ferrous-type anomaly on the western edge of the survey area. Two weakly positive linear anomalies were identified orientated roughly parallel east-west, and as likely to be plough furrows as ditches.

- 3.1.10 **Area B:** Intense anomalies along the western side were a response to modern iron in the boundary. A discrete intense anomaly in the north-west is likely to be ferrous in nature. An area of highly positive and negative magnetic anomalies in the north-east may be a response to fired deposits such as brick and tile, and corresponds with the enhanced magnetic susceptibility anomaly at this position. Close examination of the anomalies reveal a degree of north-south and east-west orientated lineation, suggesting that the anomalies may represent a brick-built structure. The survey area extends north to the edge of the heavily overgrown hedging into which prospection was not possible. The fact that the undergrowth was deeper and extended further from the hedge at this point may suggest that the putative structure is more recently demolished.
- 3.1.11 **Area C:** Two intense ferrous-type anomalies were detected in the south of the area. Three weakly positive linear anomalies were identified which may represent ditches or furrows, approximately parallel (one feature) and perpendicular (two features) to the older field boundary in the west of the field. Some similarity is noted with the linear anomalies detected in the test survey of the south-west of the same field.
- 3.1.12 **Conclusion** Both the magnetic susceptibility and gradiometer survey have shown little substantial evidence of archaeological features at Shenley Woods other than several short lengths of possible ditch in Areas A2 and C, and a putative brick structure in Area B1.
- 3.1.13 Although it is likely that some dispersed archaeological features may have been identified, there appears to be no concentration of settlement detected by the survey.

3.2 Trial Trenching Results

by Bryan Matthews, Project Officer, Oxford Archaeology

- 3.2.1 The trenches were excavated to the top of the 'natural' (i.e. undisturbed geology) or to the top of significant archaeological levels, whichever was the higher.

- 3.2.2 The exposed archaeological horizon was cleaned to clarify the remains. Archaeological features were sampled to sufficiently characterise and date them.
- 3.2.3 Care was taken to ensure that archaeological deposits were not damaged through excessive use of machine excavation.
- 3.2.4 The stratigraphy of the trenches was recorded even where no archaeological deposits were identified.
- 3.2.5 Spoil heaps were examined for finds.
- 3.2.6 The work was completed over a period of three weeks by a team comprising a Project Supervisor and four field archaeologists, under a Project Manager, and in turn, under the general direction of Oxford Archaeology's Head of Fieldwork.

3.3 **Finds and Palaeo-environmental Evidence**

- 3.3.1 The recovery rate for finds was very low across the site. No material suitable for palaeo-environmental evidence was encountered.

3.4 **Presentation of results**

- 3.4.1 In the following sections the results of the fieldwork are described, starting with a general description. Trenches containing archaeological features are then described individually. Empty trenches are not described but details are given in the Table of Contexts (Appendix 1). The description is followed by a discussion regarding interpretation and conclusions of the results.

TRIAL TRENCHING RESULTS

4.1 **Detailed description**

- 4.1.1 Archaeological features were uncovered within Trenches 28, 36, 37, 40, 44, 46, 56 and 57 (Figs. 6, 7 and 8). Two main areas of archaeological interest were identified: to the south of Westbury Farm, within Trenches 46, 56 and 57, and approximately 300m to the east of the farm, within Trenches 36 and

37. Sample records were also taken of natural stratigraphical horizons where no archaeology was present (Figs 7, 8 and 9).
- 4.1.2 Trench 28 was placed within the extreme eastern corner of Site B (Fig 6). It revealed a single east-west aligned ditch, 2804 (Fig. 7), which measured 0.7 m wide by only 0.3 m deep (Fig. 8, Section 2801). The ditch contained two fills, 2806, an orange brown clay primary fill and 2805, a blue grey clay. Both fills produced medieval pottery, animal bone and occasional charcoal. A *terminus post quem* of mid-13th century is suggested for this ditch (*post.* 5.1.4 ,Table 1).
- 4.1.3 Trenches 36 and 37 were located within the eastern corner of Site C (Figs.6 and 7). Trench 36 revealed two parallel ditches, 3604/3606 (Fig. 8, Sections 3600 and 3601), and two probable inter-cutting ditch termini, 3608/3610 (Fig. 8, Section 3602) within the northern end of the trench. Ditches 3604 and 3606 were aligned east-north-east/west-south-west and both were of similar size and profile. Both had rounded sides and bases. They measured 0.54 m wide by 0.14 m deep and 0.38 m wide by 0.17 m deep respectively. Two Inter-cutting linear termini, 3608/3610, also appeared to be very similar. They were aligned approximately south-east/north-west and east-west and measured 0.6 m wide by 0.15 m deep and 0.5 m wide by 0.14 m deep respectively. All of these features had similar brown silty clay fills, which was overlain by a layer of subsoil. Termini 3608 truncated feature 3610. Although no finds were recovered, although it is likely that ditches 3604/4606 are contemporary with a medieval ditches located within the eastern end of Trench 37.
- 4.1.4 Trench 37 (Figs. 6 and 7) revealed a single shallow north-south aligned ditch or gully, 3705 (Fig. 8, Section 3701), within its western end and two inter-cutting north-north-east/south-south-west-aligned ditches, 3707, 3709, within its eastern end (Fig. 8, Section 3702). Ditch/gully 3705 was very shallow and poorly defined. Its fill, a clean orange brown, clay, produced no finds. Within the eastern end of the trench, ditches 3707 and 3709 inter-cut. These ditches measured 0.5 m wide by 0.16 m deep and 0.35 m wide by 0.26 m deep respectively. The fill of the later ditch 3707 produced a single sherd of pottery

that perhaps dates from the mid 11th to late 14th centuries. A mid 11th century *terminus post quem* is possible for this feature (post. 5.1.4, Table 1).

- 4.1.5 Trench 40 (Fig.6) revealed a single isolated north-south linear, 4004. This feature measured up to 0.56 m deep by 1.9 m wide and was seen to cut from beneath the present topsoil, indicating that it was of relatively recent origin. It was filled by brownish grey silty clay that produced no finds.
- 4.1.6 Trench 44 (Figs 6 and 7) revealed a dry valley bottom, 4405, with a possible natural feature, 4409, on its eastern side. Box sections were taken across both of these features (Fig 8, Sections 4402 and 4403) and revealed orange brown and dark grey silty clay deposits tipping into broad rounded cuts, 4405/ 4409. The fill of feature 4409 was very clean, whereas several pieces of animal bone were recovered from the top of the valley fill, 4406. A modern storm drain was cut into the top of this fill and this may explain the presence of bone fragments, having been re-deposited.
- 4.1.7 Trench 46 (Figs 6 and 7) revealed three shallow ditches or gullies and a single pit. All of the ditches were fairly shallow with broad bases and rounded sides, with a maximum depth of 0.18 m. Ditches 4604 and 4606 (Fig.8, Sections 4600 and 4601) were aligned north-south and north-east/south-west respectively and contained very similar orange brown clay fills. To the west a broader north-south aligned ditch, 4608, (Fig. 8, Section 4602) was filled by a darker grey brown clay. A large pit, 4610 (Fig. 8, Section 4603), adjacent to ditch 4606, was also filled by a dark brown clayey silt fill. The cut of the pit was quite well defined, with rounded sides and base. It measured 1.9 m long by 1.7 m wide by 0.58 m deep. Its fill produced a single small piece of animal bone.
- 4.1.8 Trenches 56 and 57 (Figs. 6 and 7) were excavated to the north and south of Trench 46, with a view to defining the extent of archaeological activity in this area.
- 4.1.9 Trench 56 was placed 15 m to the south of Trench 46 and revealed a single north-north-west/south-south-east aligned ditch, 5604 (Fig.8 Section 5601) and an adjacent narrow gully terminus (or furrow) 5606, on the same

alignment (Fig.7). Ditch 5604 was similar to ditches 4604 and 4606, within trench 46. It measured 0.86 m wide by 0.25 m deep, with rounded sides and a flat base, and was filled by orange brown clay. Adjacent gully or furrow, 5606 contained a similar orange brown fill. This feature was not excavated.

- 4.1.10 Trench 57 (Figs. 6 and 7) was placed 13 m to the north of Trench 46. It revealed a north-south aligned trackway, 5704 (Fig. 8, Section 5719), an adjacent shallow gully, 5714 (Fig. 8, Section 5719), a shallow east-north-east/west-south-west- aligned ditch, 5709 (Fig. 8, Section 5704) and two probable pits, 5705 and 5707 (Fig. 8, Sections 5700 and 5701).
- 4.1.11 The trackway, 5704, ran north-south across the western end of the trench. It consisted of a broad surface of flint, pebble and limestone in a matrix of orange-brown silty clay, measuring 5.6m wide by up to 0.2 m deep. The surface showed little indication of wear and appeared to consist of a single phase. No obvious rut marks were apparent although a shallow and poorly defined trackside gully, 5714, on its eastern side may indicate wear next to the trackway surface. Fragments of animal bone and one sherd of pottery dated to the late 11th to mid 13th centuries was recovered from the trackway makeup.
- 4.1.12 An undated 'V' shaped ditch, 5709, ran east-north-east/west-south-west across the trench, approximately 6 m east of the trackway. The ditch measured 0.7 m wide by 0.34 m deep and was filled by orange brown silty clay; similar to the soil incorporated into the trackway makeup.
- 4.1.13 A pit, 5705, and a probable root disturbance, 5707, cut from beneath the level of the present topsoil within the eastern end of the trench. The larger of these features, 5705, measured 1.05 m wide by 0.25 m deep, with rounded sides and a flat base. Feature 5707 measured approximately 1.2 m wide by 0.51 m deep. It had near vertical sides rounding to a generally flat base with root-like irregularities. Both of these features were filled with blackish brown loamy clay.

5 THE POTTERY

by Paul Blinkhorn

5.1.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 16 sherds with a total weight of 111 g. All the pottery was medieval, with the range of fabrics indicating that there was activity at the site from the mid-late 11th to the mid-late 13th century.

5.1.2 The material was recorded using the coding system of the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit type-series (e.g. Mynard and Zeepvat 1992; Zeepvat et al. 1994), as follows:

MS3: *Medieval Grey Sandy Wares*, Mid 11th – late 14th century. 1 sherd, 6g.

MSC1: *Sandy and shelly ware*, late 11th – mid 13th century. 4 sherds, 20g.

MC1: *Shelly Coarseware* AD1100-1400. 9 sherds, 73g.

MC6: *Potterspurty Ware*. AD1250 - 1600. 1 sherd, 9g.

5.1.3 In addition, the following ware, not included in the Milton Keynes type-series, was noted:

Cotswolds-type ware: c. late 9th - early 13th century. Oxford fabric OXAC (Mellor 1994). Slow-wheel made. Fairly hard, dark blue-grey fabric with moderate sub-rounded white pink and grey quartzite up to 1mm. Sparse to moderate calcareous material, including ooliths, up to 2mm. Rare haematite up to 1mm. Mainly 'barrel' jars with triangular rims or more shouldered examples with high everted rims, bases usually sagging. Probably manufactured at a number of sources in the Cotswolds region. 1 sherd, 3g.

5.1.4 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Context	Oolitic		MS3		MSC1		MC1		MC6		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
2805					3	19	4	45	1	9	Mid 13thC
2806	1	3					5	28			12thC
3708			1	6							Mid 11thC?
5704					1	1					Late 11thC??
Total	1	3	1	6	4	20	9	73	1	9	

5.1.5 The pottery was all in fairly good condition, with the exception of the sherd of Potterspury ware, which was somewhat, abraded. The range of fabric types is typical of those found at early medieval sites in the city and the surrounding region. The only rimsherds were from jars, a vessel type which forms by far the bulk of earlier medieval assemblages. Two joining rimsherds were noted in contexts 2805 and 2806.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of Field Investigation

6.1.1 Considered together with the results of the geophysical surveys, the trenching sample should give a reliable indication of the presence and absence of significant archaeological features throughout the Study Area.

6.1.2 During the excavation conditions were good and the results were unambiguous.

6.2 Discussion

6.2.1 A total of 57 evaluation trenches were excavated in the Study Area. Two distinct areas of archaeological interest were observed: 1) A localised area of ditches, pits and a medieval trackway to the south of Westbury Farm, and 2) A small group of ditches within the eastern corner of site B. Individual ditches were also located within Trenches 28 and 40.

6.2.2 A trackway within trench 57 contained medieval pottery sherds and is aligned in the direction of the former medieval moated Manorhouse at Westbury farm. The ditches found in this area appear to form two small systems, one of which is aligned approximately north-south (ditches/ gullies 4604, 4608, 5604, 5714) whilst the other aligned approximately east-north-east/west-south-west (ditches 4606, 5709). A single large pit, 4610, excavated within Trench 46, appeared to be contemporary with these ditch systems. Although none of these features produced any pottery or other dating evidence, their fills were similar to the soil incorporated into the trackway makeup. They were also overlain by a layer of subsoil, which indicated that they were not of modern origin, and it seems reasonable to assume, therefore, that they were contemporary with the medieval trackway. Two possible pits within Trench 57 (5705 and 5707) contained darker, slightly more organic fills and cut from beneath the topsoil, indicating they were of relatively recent origin.

6.2.3 A single shallow gully revealed in Trench 40 (4004) was clearly recent, its cut just beneath the topsoil.

- 6.2.4 In Trench 36 the two parallel ditches (3604 and 3606) and the two inter-cutting possible ditch termini (3608 and 3610) were undated. The ditches, however, were similar to two inter-cutting ditches within the eastern end of Trench 37 (3707 and 3709) and may be related. Ditch 3707 was dated to the medieval period by the recovery of 13th century pottery. The single shallow ditch or gully at the western end of Trench 37 (3704) was undated and unrelated to other features, and was considered to be of little significance.
- 6.2.5 A single east-west-aligned ditch within Trench 28, in the eastern corner of Site B, produced a single sherd of abraded pottery, providing a *terminus post quem* of mid-13th century. (*ante*. 5.1.4 ,Table 1).
- 6.2.6 The only other features of note were dry valleys. These were exposed at Site D, Trench 44 and at the north eastern corner of Site A in Trenches 6, 10 and 11.
- 6.2.7 No archaeological features were found at Sites A and E, indicating a general very low level of archaeological activity. It is of particular note that there were not any features or artefacts found within or around Trenches 3, 4 and 9 at Site A, which were targeted on a tile 'waster' find-spot (*ante*.1.3.2, SP 8280 3610).

6.3 Overall Summary and Significance

- 6.3.1 Generally there was a very low level of archaeological activity across the Study Area, particularly to the north at Sites A and E. The ditches found in Trench 28 at Site B and Trenches 36 and 37, to the east of Site C, are understood to represent the periphery of a very localised field system associated with the previously excavated medieval settlement.
- 6.3.2 The pottery assemblage, which comprised 16 sherds is in accordance with the evidence from former excavated settlement (Ivens *et al.*, 1995) and demonstrates activity at the site from the mid-late 11th to the mid-late 13th century.
- 6.3.3 The medieval trackway recorded in Trench 57 at Site D, is associated with the site of the former moated manor at Westbury Farm. It is likely that nearby ditches within Trenches 46, 56 and 57 also relate to this period, although their

function remains unclear. It is believed that the features in this area have some archaeological significance, perhaps connecting the remains of the moated manor at Westbury Farm to the former medieval settlement that was adjacent to what is now Childs Way.

7 APPENDIX 1

SHWO 02 : Table of Contexts

Trench/Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 1					
101	Layer	Topsoil	0.26		Modern
102	Layer	Subsoil	0.44		
103	Layer	Coluvial	0.24		
104	Layer	Coluvial			
105	Layer	Natural			
Trench 2					
201	Layer	Topsoil	0.25		
202	Fill	Subsoil	0.27		
203	Fill	Natural			
Trench 3					
301	Layer	Topsoil	0.34		
302	Layer	Subsoil	0.49		
303	Layer	Natural			
Trench 4					
401	Layer	Topsoil	0.3		
402	Cut	Subsoil	0.34		
403	Fill	Natural			
Trench 5					
501	Layer	Topsoil	0.27		

SHWO 02 : Table of Contexts

Trench/Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
502	Layer	Subsoil	0.4		
503	Layer	Natural			
Trench 6					
601	Layer	Topsoil	0.45		
602	Layer	Subsoil	0.3		
603	Layer	Natural			
604	Layer	Natural			
605	Layer	Natural			
Trench 7					
701	Layer	Topsoil	0.42		
702	Layer	Subsoil	0.32		
703	Layer	Natural			
704	Cut	Natural feature	0.2		
705	Fill	Fill of 704	0.2		
Trench 8					
801	Layer	Topsoil	0.2		Modern
802	Layer	Subsoil	0.3		
803	Layer	Natural			

SHWO 02 : Table of Contexts

Trench/Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 9					
901	Layer	Topsoil	0.26		
902	Layer	subsoil	0.32		
903	Layer	Natural			
Trench/Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 10					
1001	Layer	Topsoil	0.5		
1002	Layer	subsoil	0.52		
1003	Layer	Natural			
1004	Cut	Dry valley			
1005	Layer	Natural			
1006	Layer	Natural			
Trench 11					
1101	Layer	Topsoil	0.34		
1102	Layer	subsoil	0.36		
1103	Layer	Natural			
Trench 12					
1201	Layer	Topsoil	0.26		
1202	Layer	subsoil	0.38		
1203	Layer	Natural			
Trench 13					
1301	Layer	Topsoil	0.24		

SHWO 02 : Table of Contexts

Trench/Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
1302	Layer	Subsoil	0.36		
1303	Layer	Natural			
Trench 14					
1401	Layer	Topsoil	0.25		
1402	Layer	subsoil	0.17		
1403	Layer	Natural			
Trench 15					
1501	Layer	Topsoil	0.27		
1502	Layer	subsoil	0.2		
1503	Layer	Natural			
1504	Cut	Dry valley			
1505	Fill	Fill of 1504	0.45		
1506	Fill	Fill of 1504	0.1		
1507	Cut	Modern ditch	0.23		Modern
1508	Fill	Fill of 1507	0.23		
Trench 16					
1601	Layer	Topsoil	0.21		
1602	Layer	Subsoil	0.44		
1603	Layer	Natural			
1604	Layer	Natural	0.15		
Trench 17					
1701	Layer	Topsoil	0.22		

SHWO 02 : Table of Contexts

Trench/Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
1702	Layer	Subsoil	0.24		
1703	Layer	Natural			
Trench 18					
1801	Layer	Topsoil	0.3		
1802	Layer	Subsoil	0.42		
1803	Layer	Natural			
Trench 19					
1901	Layer	Topsoil	0.4		
1902	Layer	Subsoil	0.27		
1903	Layer	Natural			
Trench 20					
2001	Layer	Topsoil	0.35		
2002	Fill	subsoil	0.3		
2003	Cut	Natural			
Trench 21					
2101	Layer	Topsoil	0.35		
2102	Layer	Subsoil	0.3		
2103	Layer	Natural			
Trench 22					
2201	Layer	Topsoil	0.3		
2202	Layer	Natural	0.2		
2203	Layer	Subsoil			

SHWO 02 : Table of Contexts

Trench/Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
Trench 23					
2301	Layer	Topsoil	0.25		
2302	Layer	Subsoil	0.23		
2303	Layer	Natural			
Trench 24					
2401	Layer	Topsoil	0.3		
2402	Layer	subsoil	0.3		
2403	Layer	Natural			
Trench 25					
2501	Layer	Topsoil	0.35		
2502	Layer	subsoil	0.3		
2503	Layer	Natural			
Trench 26					
2601	Layer	Topsoil	0.35		
2602	Layer	Subsoil	0.25		
2603	Layer	Natural			
Trench 27					
2701	Layer	Topsoil	0.33		
2702	Layer	Subsoil	0.2		
2703	Layer	Made ground	0.4		Modern
2704	Layer	Natural			
Trench 28					

SHWO 02 : Table of Contexts

Trench/Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
2801	Layer	Topsoil	0.2		
2802	Layer	Subsoil	0.19		
2803	Layer	Natural			
2804	Cut	Ditch/Gully	0.33		
2805	Fill	Fill of 2804	0.07	Animal bone, Pottery	Medieval
2806	Fill	Fill of 2804	0.26	Animal bone, Pottery	Medieval?
Trench 29					
2901	Layer	Topsoil	0.3		
2902	Layer	Subsoil	0.2		
2903	Layer	Natural			
Trench 30					
3001	Layer	Topsoil	0.44		
3002	Layer	Subsoil	0.26		
3003	Layer	Natural			
3004	Cut	Fence line	0.09		Modern
3005		Not used			
3006	Fill	Fill of 3004	0.09		Modern
Trench 31					
3101	Layer	Topsoil	0.266		
3102	Layer	Subsoil	0.15		
3103	Layer	Natural			
3104		Modern			Modern

SHWO 02 : Table of Contexts

Trench/Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
		disturbance			
3105	Fill	Fill of 3104			Modern
Trench 32					
3201	Layer	Topsoil	0.32		
3202	Layer	Subsoil	0.2		
3203	Layer	Natural			
Trench 33					
3301	Layer	Topsoil	0.26		
3302	Layer	Subsoil	0.19		
3303	Layer	Natural			
3304	Cut	Natural feature?	0.42		
3305	Fill	Fill of 3304	0.42		
Trench 34					
3401	Layer	Topsoil	0.4		
3402	Layer	Subsoil	0.32		
3403	Layer	Natural			
3404	Cut	Natural feature	0.14		
3405	Fill	Fill of 3404	0.14		
Trench 35					
3501	Layer	Topsoil	0.15		

SHWO 02 : Table of Contexts

Trench/Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
3502	Layer	Subsoil	0.12		
3503	Layer	Natural			
Trench 36					
3601	Layer	Topsoil	0.31		
3602	Layer	Subsoil	0.4		
3603	Layer	Natural			
3604	Cut	Ditch	0.14		
3605	Fill	Fill of 3604	0.14		
3606	Cut	Ditch	0.17		
3607	Fill	Fill of 3606	0.17		
3608	Cut	Ditch terminus	0.15		
3609	Fill	Fill of 3608	0.15		
3610	Cut	Ditch terminus	0.14		
3611	Fill	Fill of 3610	0.14		
Trench 37					
3701	Layer	Topsoil	0.3		
3702	Layer	Subsoil	0.25		
3703	Layer	Natural			
3704	Cut	Ditch/Gully	0.17		
3705	Fill	Fill of 3704	0.17		

SHWO 02 : Table of Contexts

Trench/Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
3706		Not used			
3707	Cut	Ditch	0.16		Medieval
3708	Fill	Fill of 3707	0.16	Pottery	Medieval
3709	Cut	Ditch	0.26		
3710	Fill	Fill of 3709	0.26		
Trench 38					
3801	Layer	Topsoil	0.3		
3802	Layer	Subsoil	0.2		
3803	Layer	Natural			
Trench 39					
3901	Layer	Topsoil	0.25		
3902	Layer	Natural	0.57		
3903	Layer	Natural			
Trench 40					
4001	Layer	Topsoil	0.2		
4002	Layer	Subsoil	0.44		
4003	Layer	Natural			
4004	Cut	Ditch	0.56		
4005	Fill	Fill of 4004	0.56		
Trench 41					
4101	Layer	Topsoil	0.15		
4102	Layer	Subsoil	0.25		

SHWO 02 : Table of Contexts

Trench/Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
4103	Layer	Natural			
4104	Cut	Natural feature			
4105	Fill	Fill of 4104	0.28		
4106	Fill	Fill of 4104	0.27		
4107	Layer	Natural			
Trench 42					
4201	Layer	Topsoil	0.2		
4202	Layer	Subsoil	0.31		
4203	Layer	Natural	0.5		
4204	Layer	Natural			
Trench 43					
4301	Layer	Topsoil	0.28		
4302	Layer	Subsoil	0.39		
4303	Layer	Natural			
4304	Layer	Natural			
Trench 44					
4401	Layer	Topsoil	0.47	CBM	
4402	Layer	Subsoil	0.42		
4403	Layer	Natural			
4404	Fill	Fill of 4405	0.5		
4405	Cut	Dry valley	0.5+		

SHWO 02 : Table of Contexts

Trench/Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
4406	Fill	Fill of 4405	0.6		
4407	Fill	Fill of 4405	0.36		
4408	Fill	Fill of 4405	0.28		
4409	Cut	Natural feature?			
4410	Fill	Fill of 4409	0.26	Animal bone	
Trench 45					
4501	Layer	Topsoil	0.16		
4502	Layer	Subsoil	0.2		
4503	Layer	Natural			
Trench 46					
4601	Layer	Topsoil	0.12	CBM	
4602	Layer	Subsoil	0.14		
4603	Layer	Natural			
4604	Cut	Ditch	0.14		
4605	Fill	Fill of 4604	0.14		
4606	Cut	Ditch	0.12		
4607	Fill	Fill of 4606	0.12		
4608	Cut	Ditch	0.16		
4609	Fill	Fill of 4608	0.16		
4610	Cut	Pit	0.61		
4611	Fill	Fill of 4610	0.43	Animal bone	

SHWO 02 : Table of Contexts

Trench/Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
4612	Fill	Fill of 4610	0.19		
Trench 47					
4701	Layer	Topsoil	0.17	CBM	
4702	Layer	Subsoil	0.19		
4703	Layer	Natural			
4704	Layer	Haulage road	0.12		Modern
4705	Layer	Subsoil	0.2		
Trench 48					
4801	Layer	Topsoil	0.4		
4802	Layer	Subsoil	0.42		
4803	Layer	Natural			
Trench 49					
4901	Layer	Topsoil	0.16		
4902	Layer	Subsoil	0.18		
4903	Layer	Natural			
Trench 50					
5001	Layer	Topsoil	0.44		
5002	Layer	Subsoil	0.28		
5003	Layer	Natural			
5004	Cut	Land-drain			Modern
5005	Fill	Land-drain	0.06		Modern
Trench 51					

SHWO 02 : Table of Contexts

Trench/Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
5101	Layer	Topsoil	0.3		
5102	Layer	Subsoil	0.19		
5103	Layer	Natural			
Trench 52					
5201	Layer	Topsoil	0.16		
5202	Layer	Subsoil	0.26		
5203	Layer	Natural			
Trench 53					
5301	Layer	Topsoil	0.3		
5302	Layer	Subsoil	0.28		
5303	Layer	Natural			
5304	Cut	Natural gully	0.28		
5305	Fill	Fill of 5304	0.28		
5306	Cut	Natural gully	0.02		
5307	Fill	Fill of 5306	0.02		
Trench 54					
5401	Layer	Topsoil	0.27		
5402	Layer	Subsoil	0.2		
5403	Layer	Natural			
Trench 55					
5501	Layer	Topsoil	0.32		
5502	Layer	Subsoil	0.2		

SHWO 02 : Table of Contexts

Trench/Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
5503	Layer	Natural			
5504	Cut	Tree-bole			
5505	Fill	Fill of 5504	0.12		
Trench 56					
5601	Layer	Topsoil	0.3		
5602	Layer	Subsoil	0.2		
5603	Layer	Natural			
5604	Cut	Ditch			
5605	Fill	Fill of 5604	0.25		
5606	Cut	Gully terminus			
5607	Fill	Fill of 5606			
Trench 57					
5701	Layer	Topsoil	0.44		
5702	Layer	Subsoil	0.32		
5703	Layer	Natural			
5704	Surface	Trackway	0.24	Pottery, bone	Medieval
5705	Cut	Shallow pit	0.25		
5706	Fill	Fill of 5705	0.25		
5707	Cut	Tree-bole			
5708	Fill	Fill of 5707	0.2		
5709	Cut	Ditch	0.34		

SHWO 02 : Table of Contexts

Trench/Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Finds	Date
5710	Fill	Fill of 5709	0.34		
5711	Cut	Tree bowl			
5712	Cut	Natural variation			
5713	Fill	Fill of 5712			
5714	Cut	Gully	0.13		
5715	Fill	Fill of 5714	0.13		

8 APPENDIX 2: BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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9 APPENDIX 3: SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Shenley Woods, Milton Keynes

Site code: SHWO 02

Grid reference: Centred NGR SP 827 360

Type of evaluation: 57 trial trenches

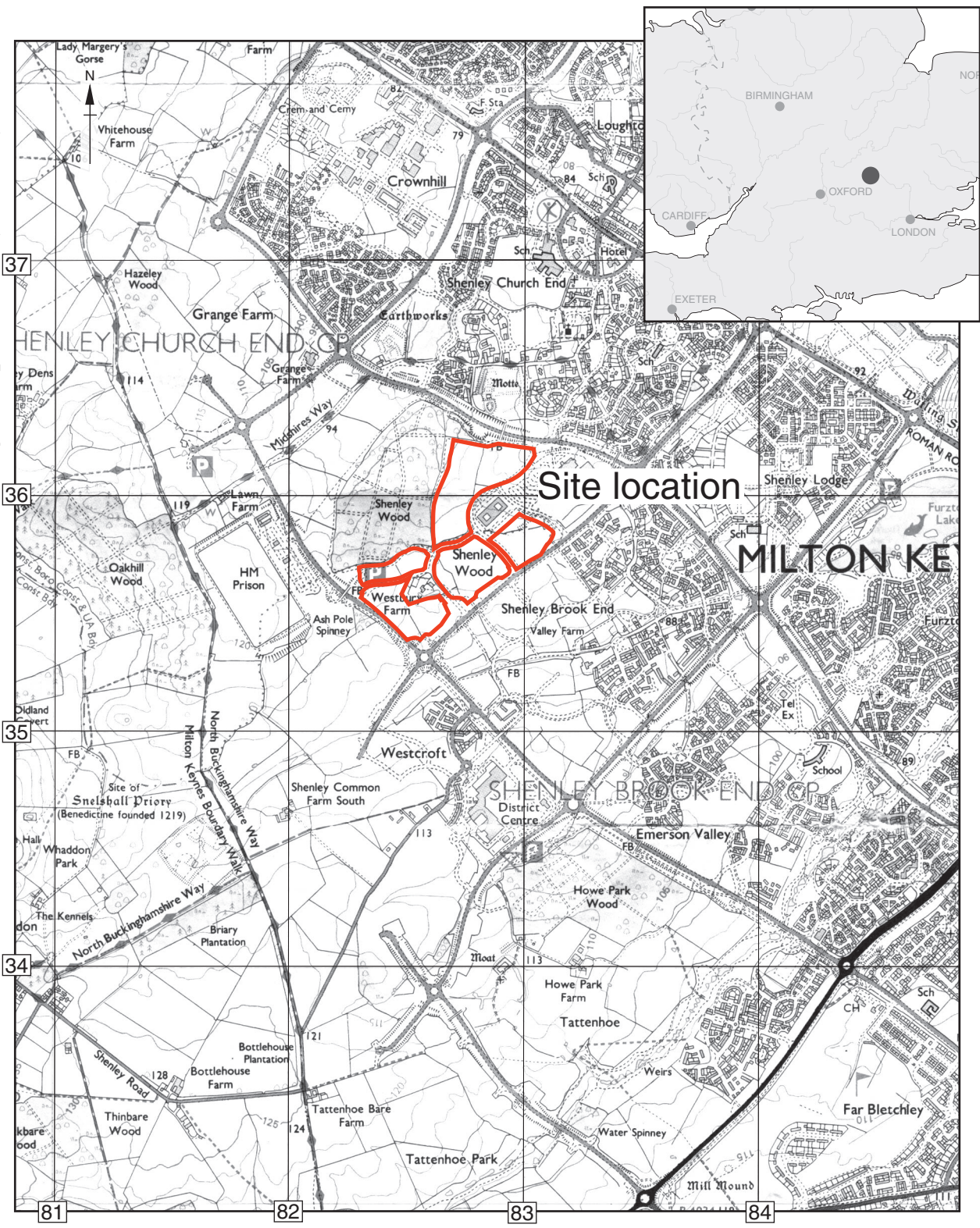
Date and duration of project: August/September 2003

Area of site: Approximately 24 ha

Summary of results: In August 2003, Oxford Archaeology carried out a trenched evaluation of Land at Shenley Woods, Milton Keynes, on behalf of English Partnerships. This work followed a programme of geophysical survey. Two main areas of archaeological interest were identified. A small group of shallow ditches, pits and a medieval trackway was located to the south of Westgate Farm and a small group of ditches was also found approximately 300m to the east of the farm, close to the junction of Childs Way and Chalkdell Drive.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will remain there until such time as an appropriate museum is able to accept new archives.

Server10(W);OAUpubs 1RtoZ*S_codes*SHWOEV*Shenley Woods, Milton Keynes*LK*20.10.03



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location

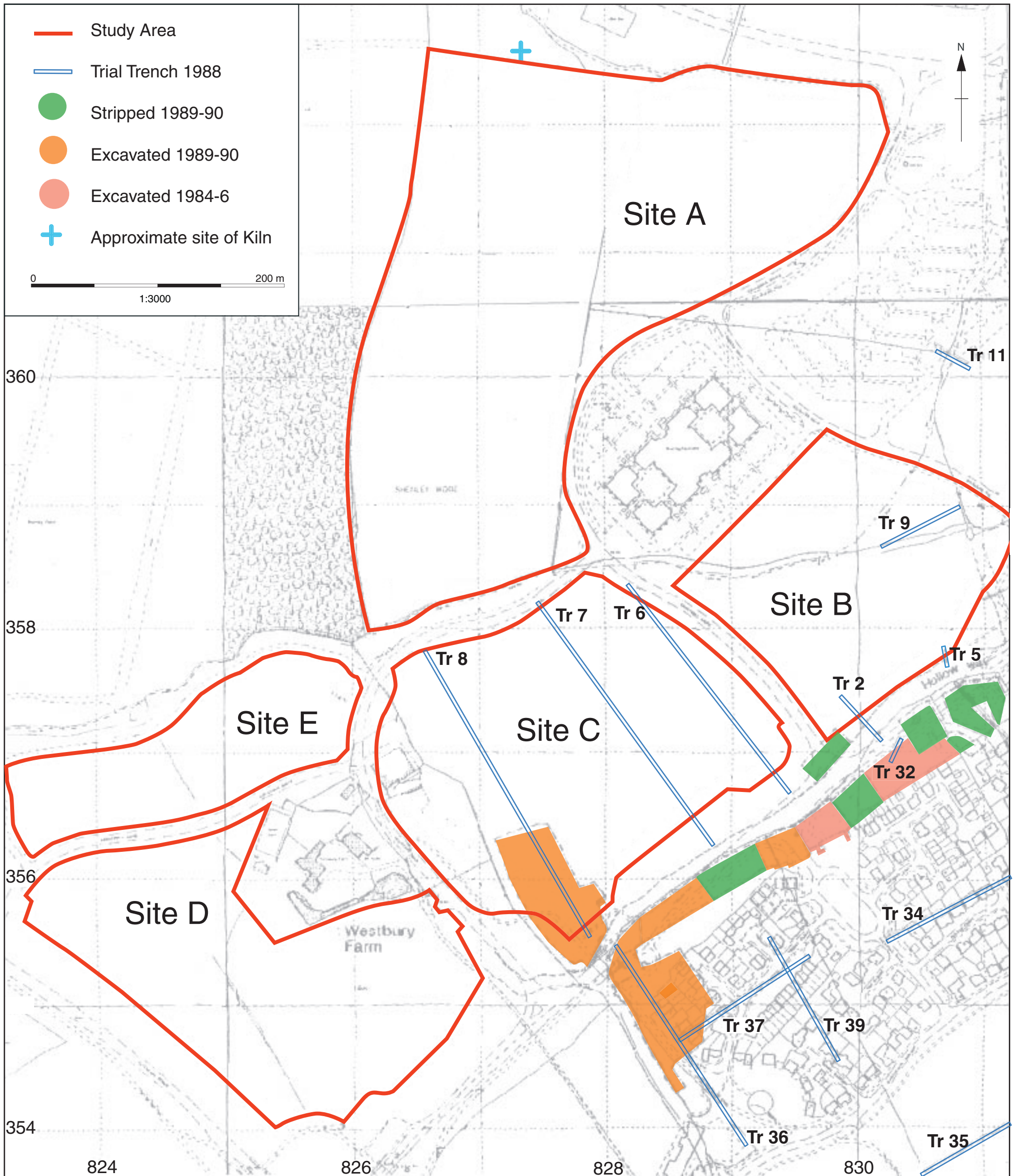


Figure 2: Location of Study Area (Sites A to E) Showing Previous areas of Archaeological Investigations

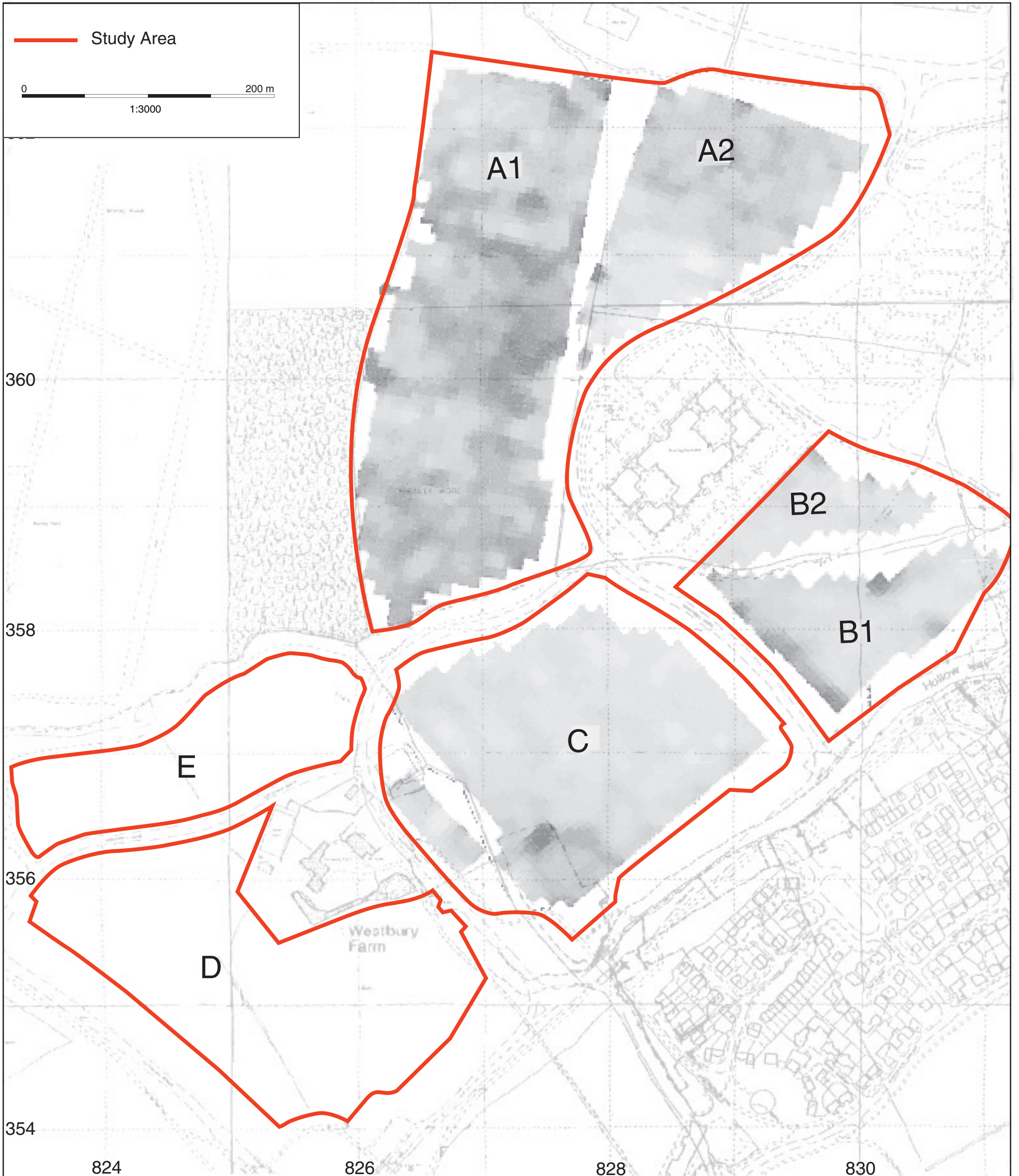


Figure 3: Magnetic Susceptibility Survey Results

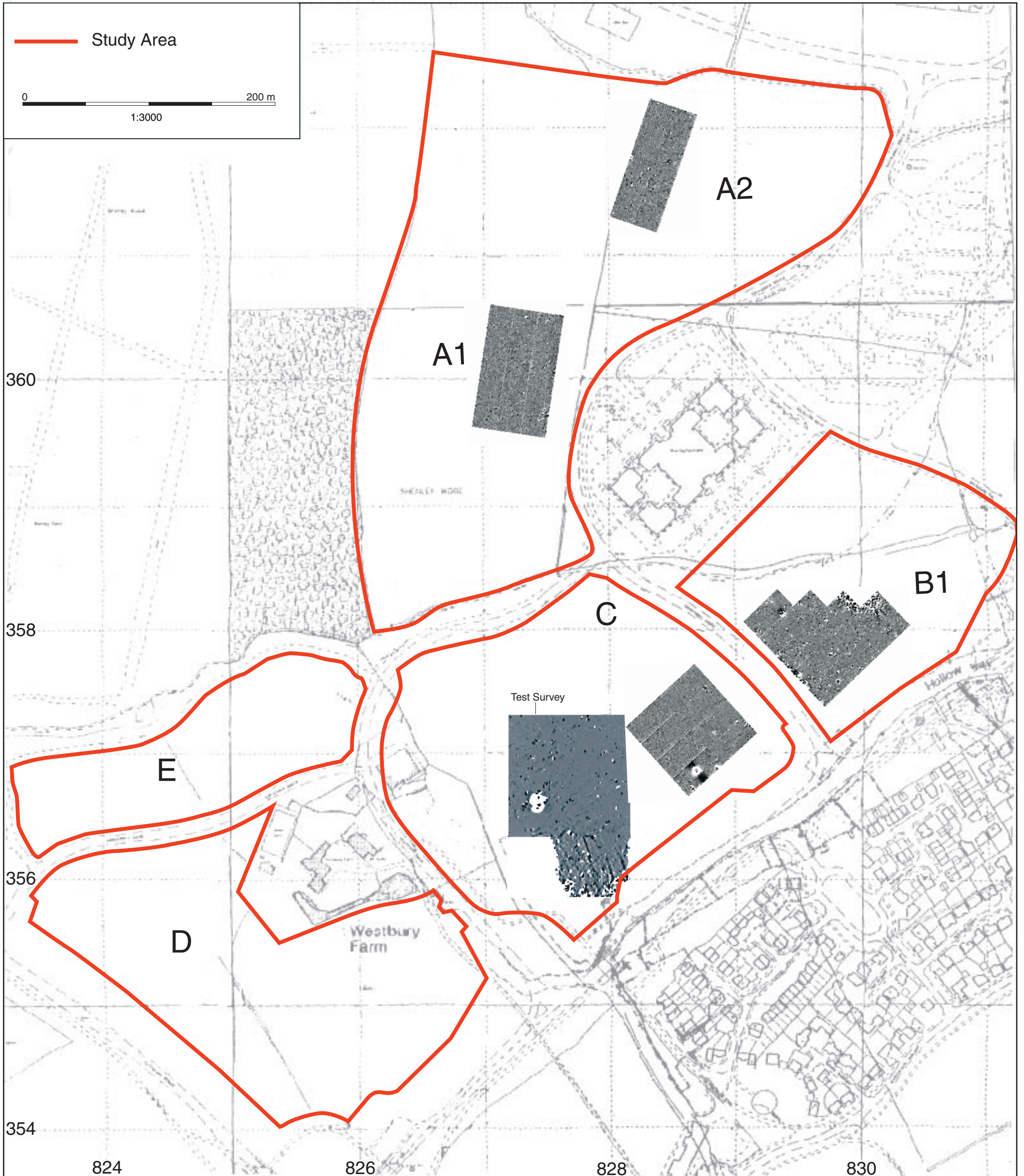


Figure 4: Gradiometer Survey Results

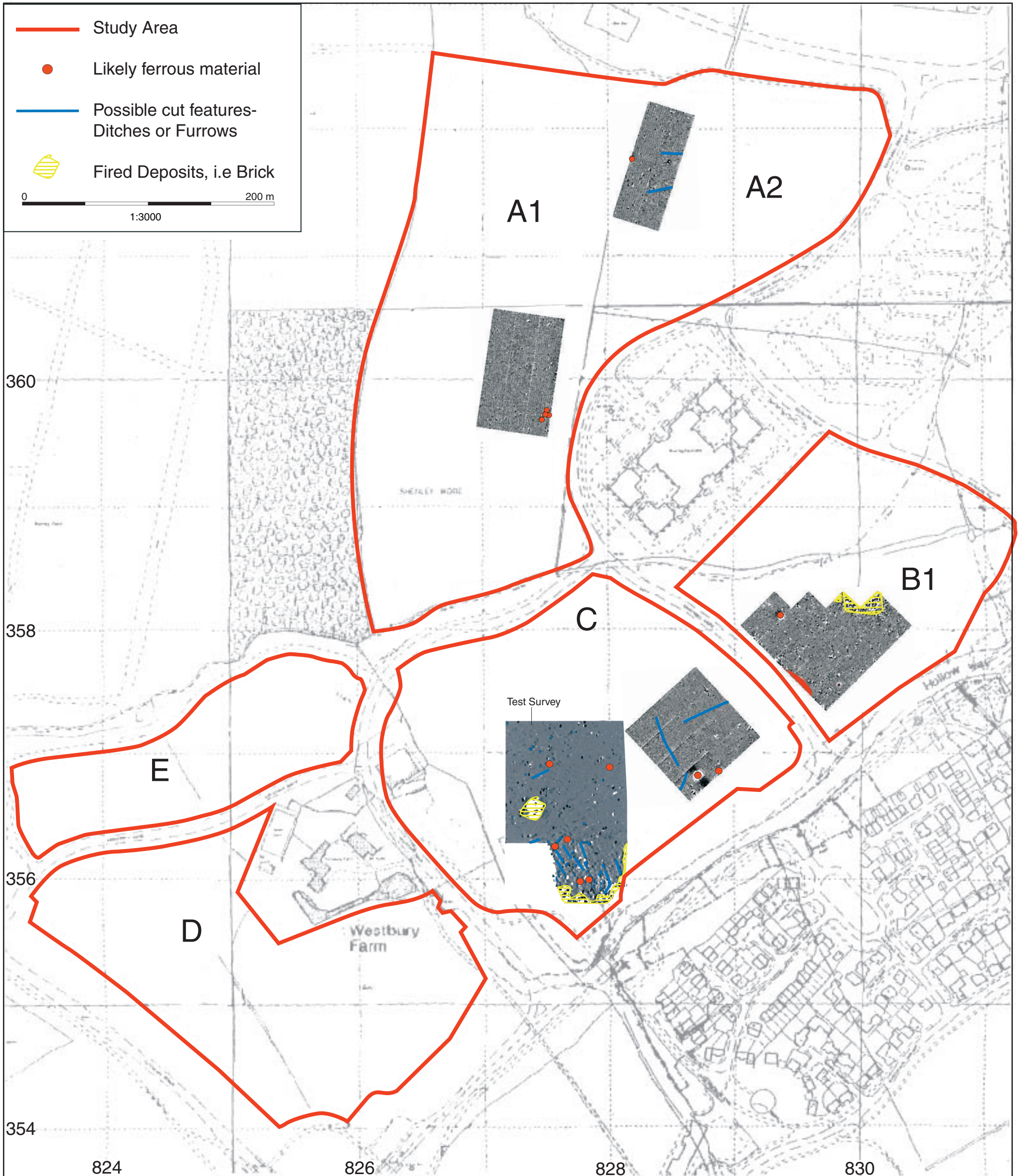


Figure 5: Interpretation of Gradiometer Survey

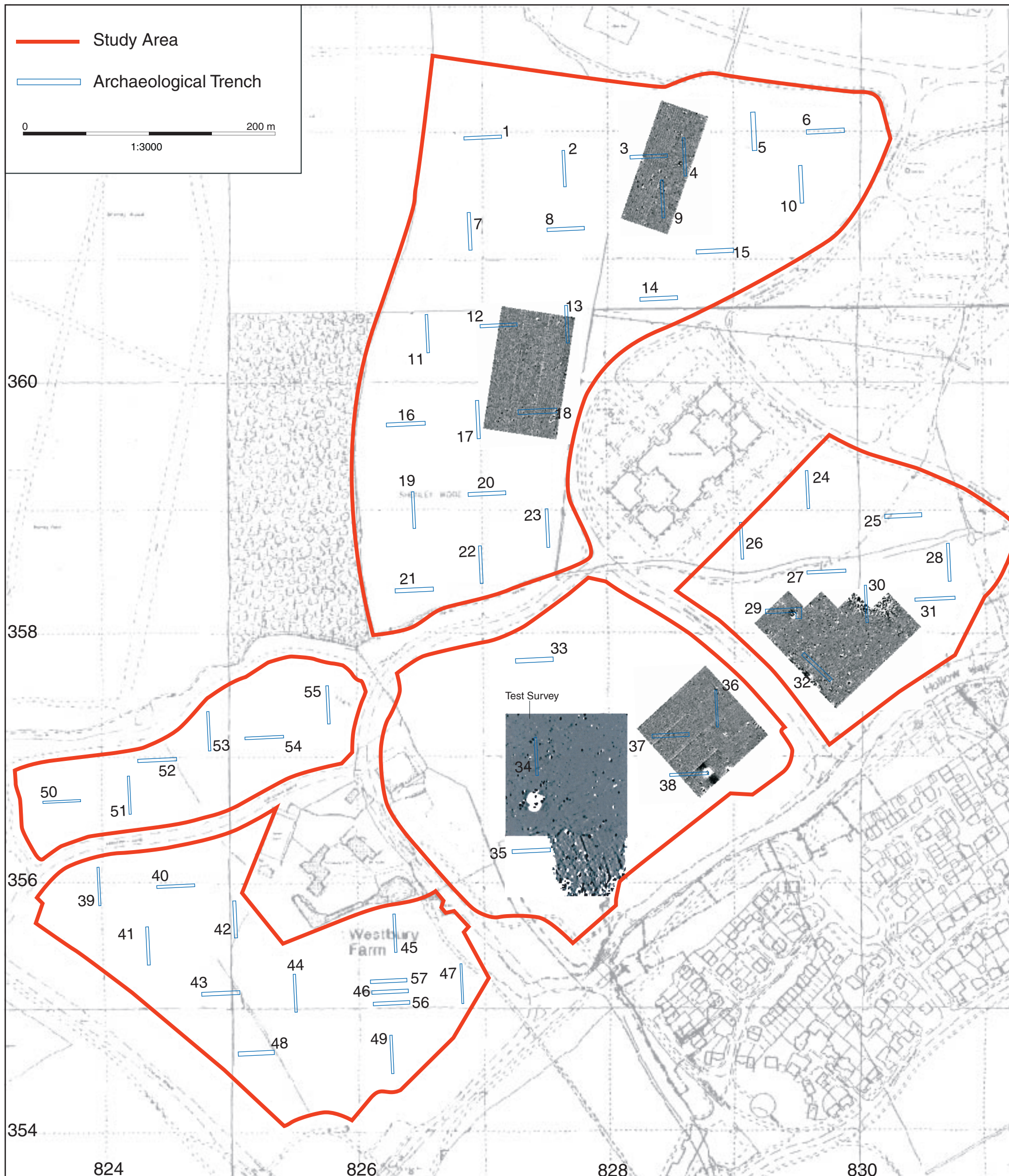


Figure 6: Trench Locations

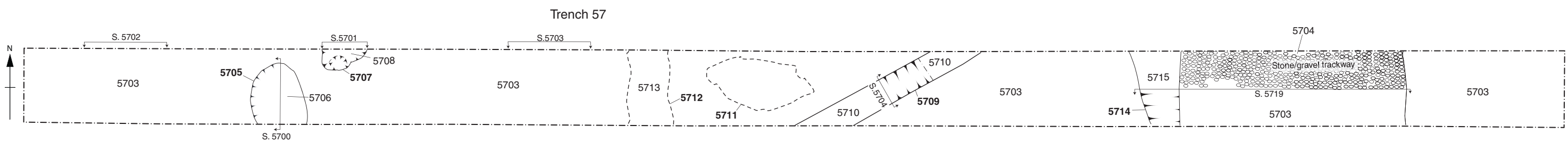
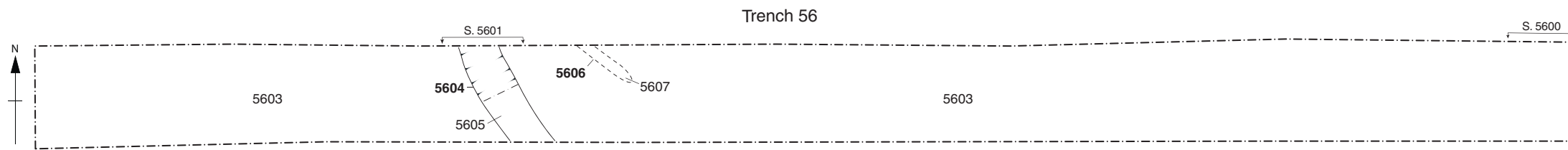
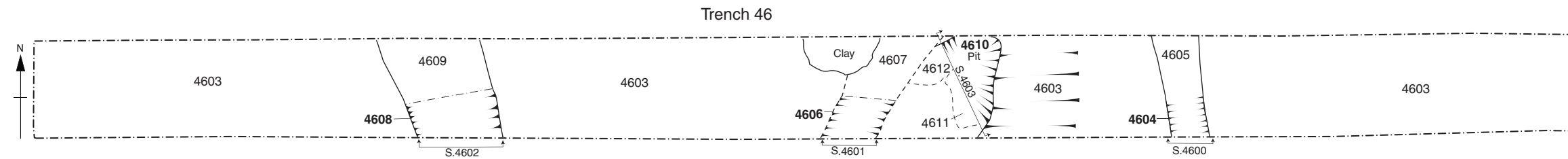
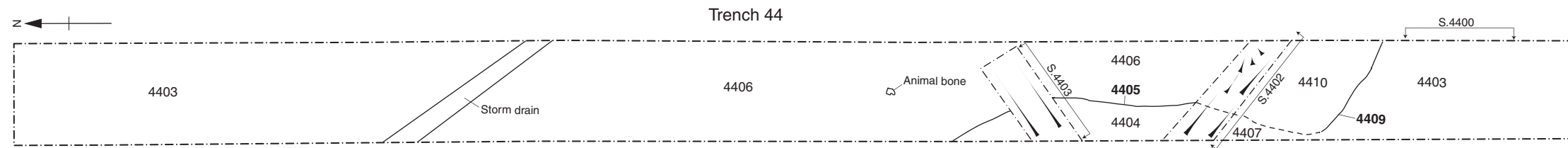
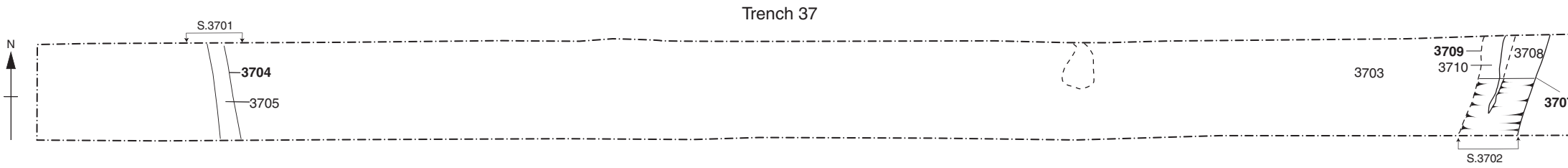
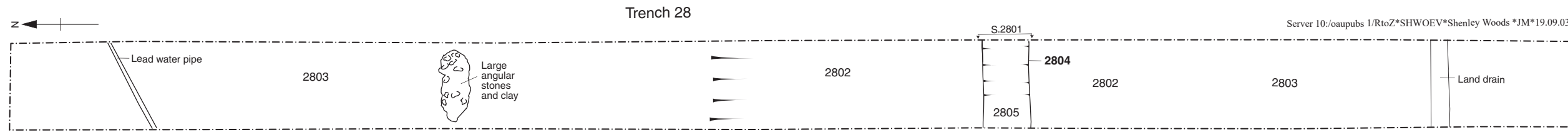


Figure 7: Trench plans

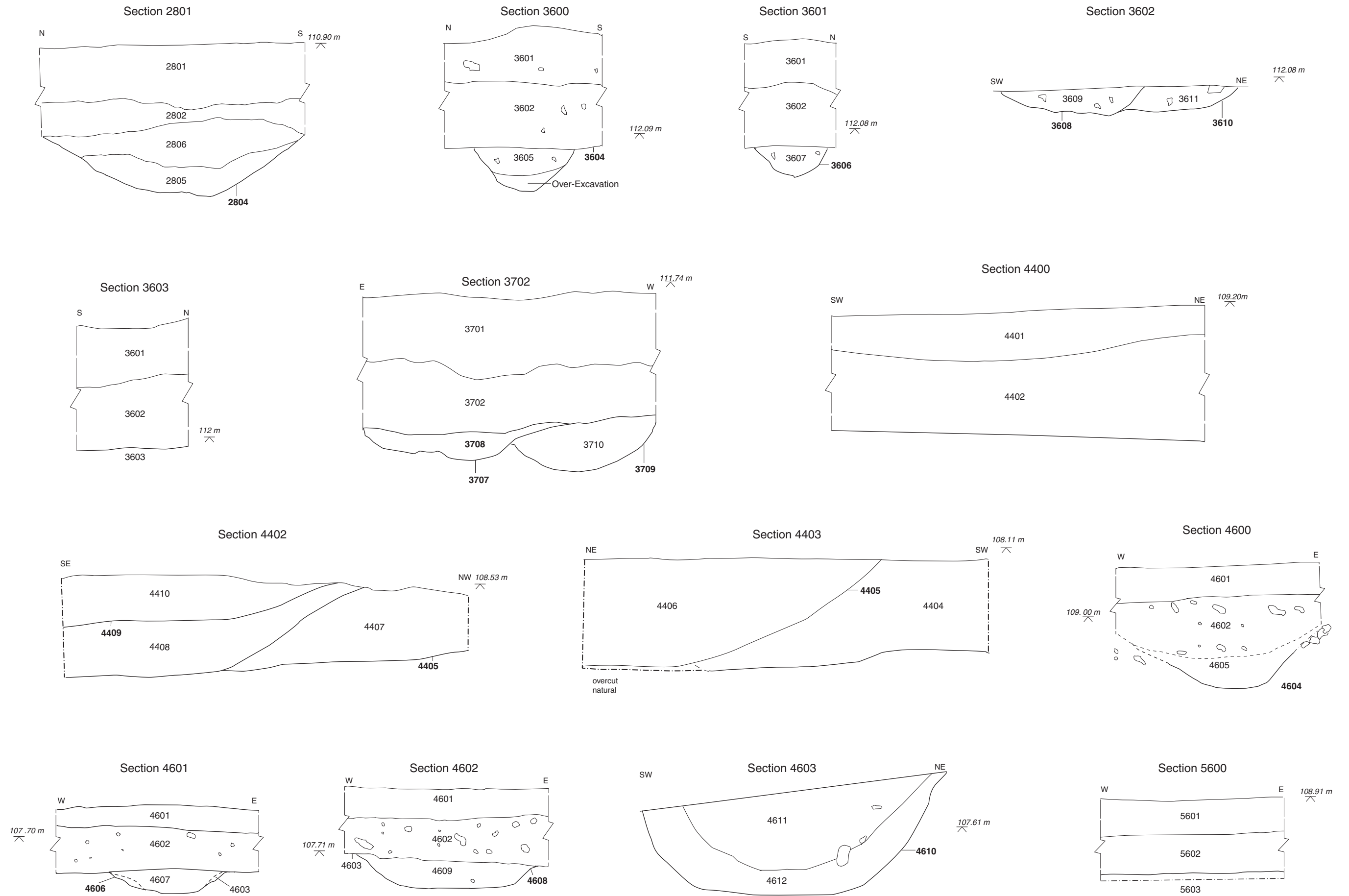


Figure 8. Sections

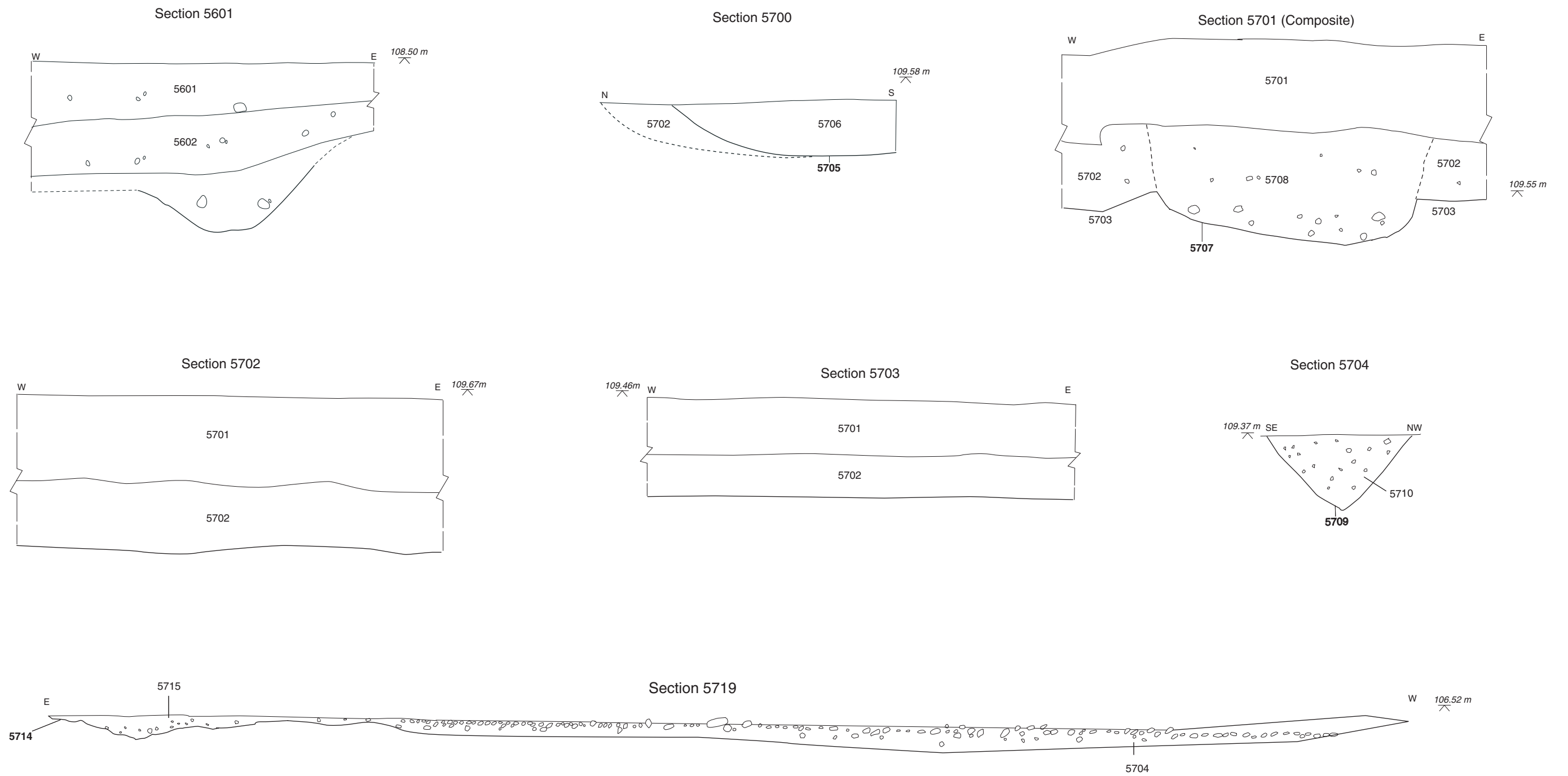


Figure 9. Sections