

# East Hall Farm Sittingbourne Kent



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



**Oxford Archaeology**

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT****CONTENTS**

Summary .....	4
1 Introduction .....	4
1.1 Location and scope of work .....	4
1.2 Geology and topography .....	4
1.3 Archaeological and historical background .....	5
2 Evaluation Aims .....	5
3 Evaluation Methodology .....	6
3.1 Scope of fieldwork .....	6
3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording .....	6
3.3 Finds .....	6
3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence .....	7
3.5 Project records .....	7
4 Results: General .....	7
4.1 Soils and ground conditions .....	7
4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits .....	7
5 Results: Descriptions .....	8
5.1 Description of deposits .....	8
5.2 The south-west field .....	8
5.3 The north-east field .....	10
5.4 Finds .....	24
5.5 Palaeo-environmental remains .....	25
6 Discussion and Interpretation .....	26
6.1 The South-West Field .....	26
6.2 The North-East Field: settlement on the gravel ridge .....	26
6.3 Subsurface modelling and geo-archaeological sections .....	27
6.4 Reliability of field investigation .....	27
6.5 Overall interpretation .....	28
6.6 Character of archaeological remains .....	29
6.7 Complexity of deposits .....	29
6.8 Possible taphonomic issues .....	29
6.9 Range and preservation of finds .....	29
6.10 Range and preservation of palaeo-environmental deposits .....	30
7 Conclusions .....	30
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory .....	31
Appendix 2 Pottery Assessment/ Spot Dating .....	43
A2.1 Prehistoric Pottery Assessment .....	43
A2.2 Late Iron Age and Roman pottery .....	45
A2.3 Medieval / Post-medieval Pottery .....	45
Appendix 3 Worked Flint .....	47
Appendix 4 Environmental Data .....	50
Appendix 5 Bibliography and References .....	51
Appendix 6 Summary of Site Details .....	52



**LIST OF FIGURES**

- Fig.1 Site location and layout of trenches  
Fig.2 Postulated extent of significant archaeology. Inset: the geology of the site  
Fig.3 Phased plan of archaeological features  
Fig.4 Trenches 30, 31 and 32, plans and sections  
Fig.5 Trenches 33, 36 and 37, plans and sections  
Fig.6 Trenches 38, 43, 44 and 46, plans and sections  
Fig.7 Trenches 47, 48 and 49, plans and sections  
Fig.8 Trenches 71, 73, 75 and 78, plans and sections  
Fig.9 Trenches 84 and 91, plans and sections

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**SUMMARY**

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*In April and May 2004, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at East Hall Farm, Sittingbourne, Kent (NGR: TQ 9260 6420) for CgMs Consulting Ltd, acting on behalf of Symonds Group Ltd, agents for Trenport (East Hall Farm) Ltd. The evaluation took place in two fields, 7.44 hectares and 3.75 hectares in area respectively, which were understood to have survived the impact of quarrying in the 18th and 19th centuries.*

*The evaluation confirmed the presence of intact zones of archaeology within the proposed development area. In the larger of the two fields, to the north-east, the evaluation revealed the remains of a late Bronze Age to early Romano-British landscape consistent with that predicted by the desk-based assessment. Three areas of potential archaeology were identified within this field will require further mitigation in the future. The other field to the south-west proved to have been disturbed by extraction works, such that no archaeological remains survived.*

**1 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Location and scope of work**

1.1.1 During April and May 2004, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at East Hall Farm, east of Sittingbourne, Kent (Fig. 1) in connection with a planning permission for a housing development (Planning Permission No. SW/02/1180). The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. on behalf of Symonds Group Ltd, agents for Trenport (East Hall Farm) Ltd.

1.1.2 The work was carried out in accordance with a written Specification (CgMs 2004). The development site is centred on TQ 9260 6420 and the area evaluated is approximately 11.2 hectares in area.

1.1.3 This report focuses on results of trial trenching and evidence for archaeological remains of later prehistoric and Roman date from directly beneath the ploughsoil. A second report (OA 2005) has been produced to assess the Palaeolithic potential of the deeper brickearth and gravel deposits.

**1.2 Geology and topography**

1.2.1 The solid geology of the area is shown by the Institute of Geological Science (IGS 1979) as Blackheath, Woolwich and Thanet Beds overlying chalk at depth.

1.2.2 The site lies on an outcrop of the Thanet Sands that are capped by Head Gravels and brickearth. The current mapped extent of these deposits does not, however, reflect their true extent because of extensive brickearth extraction during the late 1800s and mid 1900s.

1.2.3 The area is situated towards the north-east of Sittingbourne between the tidal Milton Creek and a stream that drains north-east from Bapchild to feed Conyer Creek. In turn, Milton Creek and Conyer Creek empty into the Swale.

1.2.4 Between the two watercourses the land was originally undulating. To the north, a flatter alluvial covered landscape occupies the south bank of the Swale.

### 1.3 **Archaeological and historical background**

1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation has been the subject of a desk-based assessment (CgMs 2003), the results of which are summarised below.

1.3.2 The desk-based assessment concluded that the study site has a theoretical potential for evidence from the Lower Palaeolithic through to the Roman Period, although brickearth extraction over the period from the late 1800s to the mid-1900s within the area has significantly reduced this potential.

1.3.3 In particular, the desk-based assessment recognised a possibility (considered fairly remote) that Lower Palaeolithic artefacts may be recovered from the Head Gravel Deposits and Upper Palaeolithic material may occur within any surviving brickearth deposits. Spreads of later prehistoric material recorded previously in the area indicate that within non-quarried areas, the site has the potential to contain evidence of occupation including lithic scatters within the plough soil.

1.3.4 More significantly, evidence from early 20th century brickearth extraction suggests that the area to the north-east of Sittingbourne preserved evidence for a late Prehistoric/Romano-British landscape. Accordingly, non-quarried parts of the site are thought to have a high potential for artefactual evidence and sub-surface features dating from the Late Bronze Age/Iron Age/Roman periods.

## 2 **EVALUATION AIMS**

- The objective of the evaluation was to establish, as far as is reasonably possible, the presence/absence, location, extent, character and date of archaeological deposits within those areas of East Hall Farm that have escaped brickearth extraction and where the development is proposed.
- To establish the palaeo-environmental context of any occupation/activity.
- To evaluate the impact of past land use, particularly brickearth extraction.
- To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

### 3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The evaluation comprised trial trenching in two fields, which in this report are termed the south-west field and the north-east field. The surrounding fields are understood to have been quarried for brickearth in the late 19th to mid 20th century.
- 3.1.2 Initially, ninety-four 'standard' type trenches had been proposed, each trench measuring 1.8 m in width and 25 m in length (*c.f.* CgMs, 2004). Sixty-five trenches were excavated in the north-east field, four of which were shortened due to the proximity of a gas pipeline (Fig. 2). Some trenches were subsequently widened to further characterise archaeological features; where this was done it was in consultation with the archaeological consultant and County Archaeologist. In the south-west field the trench layout differed from the proposal due to ecological constraints; it was then scaled down from 29 to 11 trenches once it became clear that widespread quarrying had taken place throughout the field (Fig.1).
- 3.1.3 In addition to the standard evaluation trenches, two deeper, stepped trenches were proposed in the north-east field in order to investigate the underlying stratigraphy for Lower Palaeolithic and Upper Palaeolithic artefacts.
- 3.1.4 The siting of these trenches differed from the proposed layout, due to both gas pipe constraints and ecological considerations. These trenches (Figs. 1 to 3 and 9; nos.95 and 96) were to eventually measure in plan 10 m x 10 m and 14 m x 14 m, respectively, and were stepped where necessary for safety.
- 3.1.5 Trenches were excavated using a standard toothless ditching bucket. Due to vandalism and security issues on site, most of the trenches were excavated with a wheel-based excavator as opposed to the specified tracked excavator.

#### 3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide, black and white print film, and a digital camera. Recording followed procedures set out in the OA Fieldwork Manual (OAU, 1992).

#### 3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 Finds recovered by hand during the course of the excavation were bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given unique small find numbers.

### 3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.4.1 Suitable samples were taken from archaeological deposits in order to help characterise archaeological features and areas of occupation /activity. Bulk samples of 40 litres were taken from suitable features to recover charred plant remains and charcoal. Samples were taken following procedures set out in the OA *Environmental Sampling Guidelines and Manual* (OA, 2000).

### 3.5 Project records

3.5.1 The site archive, including all project records and cultural material produced by the project, was prepared in accordance with the guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990). On completion of the project the archive is to be deposited in a suitable museum or similar repository agreed with the County Archaeologist.

## 4 RESULTS: GENERAL

### 4.1 Soils and ground conditions

4.1.1 Soils comprised a silty loam ploughsoil between 0.2 m and 0.4 m deep over a [subsoil] up to 0.3 m deep derived from weathering of the gravel/brickearth parent material (although this was absent in a number of trenches).

4.1.2 Ground conditions were generally favourable for the excavation, being neither waterlogged or particularly clay rich. Occasional problems were only encountered with extremes of temperature or rainfall. When conditions were too dry features also became difficult to identify. In contrast, with prolonged rain the brickearth became prone to saturation and compaction, obscuring the boundaries between archaeological deposits.

### 4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

4.2.1 The evaluation revealed a medium density of archaeological features and deposits in the north-east field. The main concentration of features appeared to be focussed close to the western edge of the field on a gravel ridge (Fig.2). A network of ditches and gullies running on various orientations potentially represent a sequence of enclosures that were active from the late Bronze Age through to the early Romano-British period, possibly representing settlement but possibly used simply for agricultural purposes.

4.2.2 Two additional areas of archaeological activity were identified towards the south-east and north of this field. These areas are set into the brickearth and represent a much lower intensity of activity. In general fewer features and finds were present within these areas.

4.2.3 The first of these additional areas focussed around Trenches 71, 73 and 75 (Figs. 2 and 6), and potentially represents an area of early Iron Age activity. Features in

Trench 71 in particular, could indicate either quarrying or agricultural activity. The rest of the ditches located in this area are undated, but potentially represent contemporary field systems or boundary ditches.

- 4.2.4 The second of these additional areas loosely clustered around Trench 84, 91 and 78 (Figs. 2, 6 and 8). This area rests mostly on the brickearth and consists of track-way ditches and field boundaries that range from the early Iron Age to the early Romano-British period.
- 4.2.5 Trenches in the south-west field, (containing modern allotments) (Fig. 1), revealed that the area had been dug for brickearth. The depth of brickearth removal (suggested by the surrounding land surface) was extensive and it is, therefore, very unlikely archaeological features will be preserved here. In discussion with the consultant and County Archaeologist it was agreed to reduce the number of trenches required to evaluate this area. The only archaeological features and deposits encountered in this area were associated with the process of brickearth removal and dated from the late 1800s to mid 1900s.

## 5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

### 5.1 Description of deposits

- 5.1.1 The deposits encountered during the evaluation were generally sterile and produced very little in the way of finds. Only a few deposits contained sufficient charcoal and finds to indicate higher levels of activity; the largest concentration was recovered from the north-western part of the north-east field on top of the gravel ridge.
- 5.1.2 The following is a description of the trenches and includes detailed discussion of any features/deposits and associated finds. Areas of disturbance and truncation will also be discussed here. The Trenches are discussed in numerical order.
- 5.1.3 For reasons outlined in 4.2.5 above, the following trenches were not excavated: 4, 10-13, 15, 17, 19, 21-29.

### 5.2 The south-west field

- 5.2.1 All of the trenches in the south-west field have shown evidence of late post-medieval or modern disturbance as a result of brickearth quarrying. The location of the trenches was proposed in order to maximise our spatial understanding of this disturbance, whilst reducing the need to excavate archaeologically sterile trenches.

#### *Trench 1*

- 5.2.2 This trench was located near the south-west corner of the south-west field (Fig. 1) and was oriented south-west to north-east. The trench measured 25 m in length and was 1.9 m wide. The soil sequence composed of natural gravel with patches of brickearth 102, overlain by 0.3 m of modern topsoil (101). No archaeology was present within this trench.

***Trench 2***

- 5.2.3 This trench was located near the south-west corner of the south-west field (Fig. 1) and was oriented east to west. The trench measured 25 m in length and was 1.9 m wide. The soil sequence composed of natural gravel with patches of brickearth 202 overlain by 0.3 m of modern topsoil (201). No archaeology was present within this trench.

***Trench 3***

- 5.2.4 This trench was located near the south-west corner of the south-west field (Fig. 1) and was oriented south-west to north-east. The trench measured 25 m in length and was 1.9 m wide. The soil sequence composed of natural gravel with patches of brickearth 302 overlain by 0.3 m of modern topsoil (301). No archaeology was present within this trench although modern dumped material was recorded by the excavator.

***Trench 5***

- 5.2.5 This trench was located in the west part of the south-west field. The trench was orientated north-west to south-east and measured 25 m in length and 1.9 m wide (Fig. 1). The natural gravel 502 was located 0.3 m below ground surface and was overlain by a modern topsoil (501). No archaeology was present within this trench.

***Trench 6***

- 5.2.6 This trench was located in the west part of the south-west field. The trench was orientated north-west to south-east and measured 25 m in length and 1.9 m wide (Fig. 1). The natural gravel 602 was located 0.25 m below ground surface and was overlain by a modern topsoil (601). This trench did not contain archaeology.

***Trench 7***

- 5.2.7 This trench was located in the west part of the south-west field. The trench was orientated north to south and measured 25 m in length and 1.9 m wide (Fig. 1). The natural gravel 702 was located 0.3 m below ground surface and was overlain by a modern topsoil (701). No archaeology was present within this trench.

***Trench 8***

- 5.2.8 This trench was located in the west part of the south-west field. The trench was orientated north to south and measured 25 m in length and 1.9 m wide (Fig. 1). The natural gravel 802 was located 0.3 m below ground surface and was overlain by a modern topsoil (801). No archaeology was present within this trench.

***Trench 9***

- 5.2.9 This trench was located near the south-west corner of the south-west field (Fig. 1) and was oriented east to west. The trench measured 25 m in length and was 1.9 m wide. The soil sequence composed of natural gravel with patches of brickearth 902 overlain by 0.3 m of modern topsoil (901). No archaeology was present within this trench.

***Trench 14***

5.2.10 This trench was located near the middle of the south-west field (Fig. 1) and was oriented east to west. The trench measured 22 m in length and was 1.9 m wide. The soil sequence composed of natural gravel with patches of brickearth 1403 overlain by 0.22 m of disturbed brickearth containing traces of charcoal, brick and glass (1402). The disturbed brickearth horizon was overlain by 0.26 m of topsoil (1401). No archaeology was present within this trench.

***Trench 18***

5.2.11 This trench was located in the north of the south-west field (Fig. 1) and was oriented north to south. The trench measured 22 m in length and was 1.9 m wide. The soil sequence composed of natural gravel with patches of brickearth 1803 overlain by 0.2 m of disturbed brickearth containing traces of charcoal, brick and glass 1802. The disturbed brickearth horizon was overlain by 0.3 m of topsoil (1801). No archaeology was present within this trench.

***Trench 22***

5.2.12 This trench was located near the east limit of the south-west field (Fig. 1) and was oriented north to south. The trench measured 25 m in length and was 1.9 m wide. The soil sequence composed of natural gravel with patches of brickearth 2203 overlain by 0.25 m of disturbed brickearth containing traces of charcoal, brick and glass 2202. The disturbed brickearth horizon was overlain by 0.28 m of topsoil (2201). No archaeology was present within this trench.

**5.3 The north-east field**

5.3.1 Trenches 30-94 were all located in the north-east field. A large number did not contain any deposits or features of archaeological significance and are not therefore reported described in detail: these were trenches 39, 41, 42, 45, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 72, 74, 76, 77, 80, 82, 85, 86, 87, 88, 90, 92, 94. The position and location of these trenches is shown on figure 2 and contexts are listed in Appendix 1. The following text section describe trenches where archaeological deposits were identified.

***Trench 30 (Fig.4)***

5.3.2 Trench 30 was located in the south-west corner of the north-east field (Fig. 2). The trench was orientated east to west and measured 25 m in length and 2 m wide. The natural geology 3011 consisted of a brickearth with gravel patches. This deposit was identified 0.6 m below ground surface. The natural 3011, was cut by 3 features, and was sealed by subsoil 3002 through which archaeological features were cut.

5.3.3 A single ditch feature 3012 was located towards the eastern end of the trench. The ditch was oriented north to south and measured 0.85 m in width; (the full depth has not been recorded as this trench was badly damaged by vandalism). The ditch

contained two fills (3013 and 3014) and only a single fragment of daub was recovered.

- 5.3.4 Located 2.5 m to the west of ditch (3012) was a circular feature 3003, 0.95 m in diameter. This feature was irregular and shallow at only 0.16 m deep and contained only a single fill (3006). Deposit 3006 was a soft, mid brown sandy clay that contained some gravel inclusions but no finds. This feature has been interpreted as a tree throw pit.
- 5.3.5 A regular shaped pit feature 3004 was identified some 3 m west of tree throw pit (3003). Pit 3004 was only just within the trench; the majority of the feature was lying beneath the south baulk of the trench. The base of the feature was slightly concave with steep and regular edges. The cut as it survived in the trench measured 2.15 m east to west with a maximum width of 0.65 m north to south. The pit was 0.54 m deep. The primary fill (initial erosion episode) 3007 was a very thin sandy clay derived material, rarely more than 0.02 m thick. Overlying this was a much more substantial deposit (3008), consisting of a mid brown sandy clay matrix with up to 45% gravel inclusions. This deposit appeared to form the final filling phase of the pit and indeed may be a deliberate backfill. No significant finds were recovered from this deposit. Both fills of pit 3004 were truncated on the east side by a broad shallow feature (3005). This feature did not appear to cut any deeper than the subsoil (no greater than 0.15 m deep) and was only observed in the trench section. The primary fill of this feature, 3009, appears to be a very thin layer of material derived from the soils through which it cuts. The fill above this, (3010) is more substantial but also resembles both the subsoil and underlying natural. No finds were recovered. This feature resembles a plough furrow.
- 5.3.6 The sequence in Trench 30 was sealed by up to 0.4 m of modern loamy topsoil (3001).

#### ***Trench 31 (Fig.4)***

- 5.3.7 Trench 31 was located in the south-west corner of the field. Orientated north-west to south-east the trench measured 25 m long and 2 m wide. The natural geology of brickearth with patches of gravel, 3103, was observed at an average depth below ground level of 0.54 m. Two individual features were seen to be cut into both subsoil (3102) and the natural. Located 6.5 m from the north-west end of the trench was probably a northerly continuation of the ditch located in Trench 30. This ditch (here referred to as 3106) was 2.5 m wide and 0.8 m deep (Fig. 4). The ditch was filled by a single bulk fill 3107 comprising a dark brown silty clay with gravel and probably represents the natural silting of a field boundary ditch.
- 5.3.8 A circular feature 3104 was located 5 m from the south-east end of Trench 31. This feature measured 1.2 m in diameter with a depth of 0.34 m. Feature 3104 was filled with a single mid orange, sandy clay loam with gravel (3105). No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 5.3.9 The topsoil, 3101, was up to 0.4 m thick.

***Trench 32 (Fig.4)***

- 5.3.10 Trench 32 was located as shown in figure 1. Orientated roughly north to south this trench was 25 m in length and 2 m wide. The natural geology 3202 was exposed at a depth of 0.6 m below ground surface. Overlying the natural brickearth and gravel was a layer of plough derived subsoil (3202) which comprised an orange brown sandy clay with gravels up to 0.25 m thick. This deposit was cut by three features in this trench.
- 5.3.11 Oriented east to west was a small ditch or gully like feature 3203. This feature was 0.65 m wide and 0.5 m deep. The base was concave and the edges were regular but steep. The ditch/gully was filled by a single fill of mid brownish grey silty clay with gravel (3204). No finds were recovered from this deposit.
- 5.3.12 Located to the south of ditch/gully (3203) was a large circular pit filled with modern material 3207. Immediately south of the modern pit was a smaller circular pit 3205. This feature measured 1.0 m in diameter but was relatively shallow at only 0.17 m deep. It was filled with 3206, a grey brown silt clay. No finds were contained within this feature.
- 5.3.13 The features were sealed by up to 0.4 m of modern topsoil (3201).

***Trench 33 (Fig. 5)***

- 5.3.14 Trench 33 was located as shown in figure 1. Oriented roughly north to south this trench measured 25 m in length and 2 m wide. In this trench the natural gravel and brickearth geology 3302 was encountered at a depth of 0.4 m below ground surface. Other than an undated tree-throw pit (3308), the natural was cut by two features.
- 5.3.15 Located towards the north end of the trench was a sub circular feature 3303, which measured 0.8 by 0.6 m in plan. This feature was shallow (at 0.17 m) with a relatively flat base and concave sides. Two fills were apparent within, the earliest 3304 was a friable, yellowish brown silty clay that contained Early Iron Age pottery and flint. Overlying this deposit and filling the remainder of the feature was a 0.11 m thick mid grey silty clay with some gravel (3305). This deposit produced a possible flint flake.
- 5.3.16 Situated approximately halfway down the length of the trench and cut through the tree-throw pit was a roughly east to west aligned gully (3306). This gully had a flat base and steep regular sides, the only fill 3307 contained modern pottery and glass.
- 5.3.17 The features were sealed by up to 0.4 m of modern, active topsoil (3301).

***Trench 34***

- 5.3.18 This trench was located as shown in figure 1. The trench was 35 m in length and 2 m wide. The natural brickearth and gravel geology 3402 was encountered at 0.36 below ground surface. Two features were seen cut into the geology. Feature 3403 was a sub circular feature measuring 1.0 m by 0.7 m with a recorded depth of 0.11 m. The only fill, a loose, mid grey brown clayey silt (3404), contained modern pottery.

5.3.19 Located 8 m from the south-eastern end of the trench was a very well defined ditch feature 3405. This feature was 1.2 m wide and crossed the width of the trench. The recorded depth of ditch 3405 was 0.5 m. Three separate fills were recorded (3406), (3408) and (3409); all were a similar yellowish brown brickearth and gravel matrix that contained no archaeological finds. It could be argued that the relatively strong definition of this feature in plan would indicate a recent origin.

5.3.20 Features 3403 and 3405 were sealed beneath 0.36 m of modern, topsoil.

### ***Trench 35***

5.3.21 This trench was oriented roughly north to south and located as shown in figures 1 and 3. The trench was 25 m in length and 2 m wide. The natural brickearth and gravel natural 3503 was observed at a depth below surface of 0.55 m. A single feature was noted cut into the natural.

5.3.22 Feature 3505 was an east to west orientated linear ditch. It was 1.2 m wide at the top and running to a narrow rounded base at a maximum depth of 0.8 m. The ditch was filled with a single fill (3504) composed of a friable, mid brown sandy silt with gravel. This deposit produced a sherd of probable Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age pottery.

5.3.23 Deposit 3504 was sealed beneath 0.55 m of modern topsoil.

### ***Trench 36 (Fig. 5)***

5.3.24 Trench 36 was situated as shown in figure 1. The trench was oriented roughly east to west and measured 25 m in length with a width of 2 m. The natural geology 3603 was exposed at a depth of 0.5 m below ground surface. Figure 5 clearly shows a number of archaeological features cut into the underlying geology.

5.3.25 Towards the east end of the trench lay a small circular feature, 3607. This feature had a diameter in plan of 0.36 m and a recorded depth of 0.16 m. It was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown, sandy silt which produced 5 sherds of Late Iron Age or early Romano-British pottery, and some later prehistoric flints. This feature was probably a posthole or stake hole. A similar feature lay less than 1m to the west.

5.3.26 Feature 3605 measured 0.32 in diameter but was very shallow (truncated) at only 0.06 m deep. This feature was also only filled with a single deposit (3604) of similar material as that that filled posthole (3607). No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.3.27 The posthole/stake hole features were noted by the excavator as sealed beneath a deposit of plough derived subsoil (3602) (an orange brown sandy clay with gravel) up to 0.1 m thick. This seems unlikely as all features recorded in section cut through and post-dated this deposit.

5.3.28 Indeed, within this trench, three linear ditch features and a pit were observed as cut into the subsoil.

- 5.3.29 Four metres west of the east end of Trench 36 was a north-east to south-west orientated pair of ditches. These ditches were not contemporary; indeed one may have formed a re-cut of the other. The earlier of the features, 3612, was a flat based feature with a surviving width of 0.5 m, and a depth of 0.5 m. This feature was filled by a single bulk deposit of mid reddish brown, sandy silt 3611 - no finds were recovered.
- 5.3.30 Fill (3611) was cut by feature 3610. This was a concave based ditch feature that was slightly deeper than its predecessor at 0.66 m. The full width of this ditch was 0.9 m wide and it contained two distinct fills. The basal fill, 3609, was a gravely mid brown silt 0.44 m thick that contained finds. Above this deposit lay a reddish brown silt with less gravel (3608) that also contained no finds.
- 5.3.31 Five metres west of the re-cut ditches was a further ditch feature (3614). This was a baggy-shaped, concave feature, up to 0.83 m deep. This ditch was 1 m wide and filled by (3613), a mid-brown sandy silt with gravel that produced a late prehistoric flint blade.
- 5.3.32 Towards the west end of the trench was a pair of intercutting features. Feature 3618 was a north-east to south-west oriented linear ditch that measured 0.6 m in width and 0.4 m deep. It was filled by a single bulk deposit, 3617, of mid brown sandy silt and gravel that produced a single abraded prehistoric sherd of pottery.
- 5.3.33 Deposit (3617) was truncated by pit 3616. This pit was sub-circular and measured 1.15 m by 0.9 m and 0.21 m deep. The fill of the pit, 3615, was a mid-brown sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions, that produced a late prehistoric flint.
- 5.3.34 Fills (3615), (3617), (3611) and (3606) were sealed beneath 0.4m of modern topsoil (3601).

### ***Trench 37 (Fig.5)***

- 5.3.35 This trench was located as shown in figure 1. The trench was oriented north to south and measured 25 m long and 2 m wide. The natural brickearth and gravel 3703 was encountered at a depth of 0.5 m below ground surface.
- 5.3.36 Two separate features were seen to be cut into the natural. They were two small sub-circular features (3707) and (3710). Feature 3707 had a diameter of 0.4 m and a depth of 0.15m. It was filled by two fills. The basal fill, 3708, was a mid-brown silt with gravel 0.08 m thick, that produced a piece of burnt flint. Overlying this deposit was 3709, a light brownish yellow silt with a high proportion of gravel. No finds were recovered.
- 5.3.37 Immediately to the north-east of feature (3707) lay a very similar feature 3710. This feature was a similar size and depth and also contained two fills of similar composition (3711) and (3712) but produced no archaeological finds.

5.3.38 A circular pit (3704) 0.88 m in diameter and 0.51 m deep was also excavated. The base was concave and the pit had moderately sloping sides. The pit contained two fills, the lower of which 3705 was a very thin primary silt (initial erosion) deposit comprised of a yellowish brown silty clay with small gravel inclusions, no finds were recovered. Overlying the primary silty was a thicker layer of loose, mid brown silty clay 3706, 0.46 m thick that produced no finds.

5.3.39 Deposit 3706 was overlain by 0.14m of topsoil.

### ***Trench 38***

5.3.40 Trench 38 was located as shown in figure 1. The trench was orientated roughly east to west and measured 25 m in length and 2 m wide. The natural 3803 brickearth over gravel was encountered at a depth below ground surface of 0.5 m. Three distinct features were noted that were cut into the natural.

5.3.41 The largest of the features in this trench was a broad shallow ditch 3805. This feature was 4.8 m wide and at least 0.3 m deep. The depth here may be misleading, as the excavator notes that the overlying subsoil was similar to the ditch fill and finds were recovered from that deposit probably indicating it was actually part of the fill. Ditch 3805 was oriented north to south and filled by a single deposit 3804, of friable light grey silt that closely resembled the brickearth. This deposit contained sherds of pottery dated to roughly the Early to Late Bronze Age, two flint flakes and some burnt unworked flint.

5.3.42 Approximately 2 m to the west of ditch (3805) was a smaller ditch feature 3809. This feature was orientated roughly north to south. It was 1.14 m wide with steep sides and a concave base to a depth of 0.54 m. The ditch was filled by a single mid grey brown sandy silt with infrequent gravel, 3808. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.3.43 Towards the western end of the trench was a single, isolated circular feature 3807, which measured 0.2 m in diameter and only 0.08 m deep. It was filled with a friable light grey silt deposit (3806) that held no finds. It may be that this was a stake or post hole, but it could equally be the result of bioturbation.

5.3.44 Overlying the archaeology was a layer of plough derived subsoil 3802 up to 0.25 m thick, which was in turn overlain by topsoil.

### ***Trench 40 (Fig.6)***

5.3.45 Trench 40 was located as shown in figure 1. The trench was orientated roughly east to west and measured 25 m in length and 2 m wide. The natural 4003 brickearth over gravel was encountered at a depth below ground surface of 0.7 m.

5.3.46 Located seven metres from the east end of the trench and aligned in a roughly north to south direction was a pair of intercutting ditch features. The earlier of the ditches, 4006, was 0.7 m wide V-shaped feature up to 0.4 m deep. It was filled by (4005) a light-grey silt that produced no finds. It would appear that fill (4005) was later

truncated when the ditch was rejuvenated. Cut 4009 was on the same alignment as its predecessor but was less deep at 0.25 m, but wider at 1.8 m. It was filled by 4004, a light-brown silt that produced no finds.

5.3.47 At the east end of the trench was a deposit 4008 that was interpreted as a ditch fill that was at least 2.4 m wide. This was not excavated as it was assumed that this feature was the same as that identified in Trench 38 (3805).

5.3.48 The features were sealed beneath 0.25m of subsoil, which was in turn overlain by 0.55m of topsoil.

5.3.49 Both ditch features located in Trench 40 appear to be continuations of the ditches identified in Trench 38.

#### ***Trench 43 (Fig. 6)***

5.3.50 This trench was orientated roughly north to south and was sited as shown in figure 1. The trench was 25 m in length and measured 2 m wide. The natural geology was 0.7 m below ground surface.

5.3.51 Towards the north end of the trench and running in a north-west to south-east direction was ditch terminal 4310. This feature was 0.7 m long within the trench and was seen to be running under the western baulk. The feature was linear in plan with a rounded terminal end. The ditch was 0.5 m wide and up to 0.2 m deep and filled by a dark orange brown silty clay 4311, that yielded Early Iron Age pottery and burnt flint.

5.3.52 Approximately half way down the length of Trench 43 was another ditch that terminated within the evaluation trench. This ditch, 4308, was oriented east to west and measured 0.6 m with a recorded width of 0.5 m. The ditch had a flat base with steeply sloping sides up to 0.2 m deep. It was filled by a single dark orange brown silty clay (4309) with no finds.

5.3.53 Just to the south of *terminus* (4308) was an east to west gully like feature, 4306, this gully was 0.5 m wide and 0.2 m deep. It was filled by (4307) a mid-grey brown silty clay with gravel that produced no finds.

5.3.54 The final feature in this trench was located towards the southern end of the trench and was an east to west aligned gully 4304 similar to that above. Measuring 0.5 m wide and 0.2 m deep. This gully was filled by a mid-grey brown silty clay (4305), which produced no finds.

5.3.55 All of the features were sealed beneath 0.2 m of plough derived subsoil (4302). This was overlain by 0.5 m of topsoil.

#### ***Trench 44 (Fig. 6)***

5.3.56 This trench was located in the west part of the north-east field. It was oriented as shown in figure 1. The trench measured 25 m in length and 2 m wide. The natural geology 4403 was reached *c* 0.7 m below ground surface.

- 5.3.57 The majority of archaeological activity in this trench was clustered into the western half. All features here were linear in nature.
- 5.3.58 Linear 4409 was orientated north-east to south-west. This was quite a narrow feature at 0.45 m and shallow at 0.1 m. The ditch/gully was filled by 4410 a mid-orange brown gravely silt that produced a single piece of irregular debitage.
- 5.3.59 Running parallel to ditch/gully (4409) was a very similar feature 4411. This feature had the same dimensions as (4409) and was filled by 4412, a mid-yellowish brown silty clay. No finds were produced.
- 5.3.60 Ditch/gully 4406 was oriented north-west to south-east and may have formed a return to either (4409) or (4411). This feature was 0.46 m wide and 0.23 m deep and was filled with two deposits. The basal deposit was a fairly compact, mid orange brown sandy silt (4407) that contained no finds and was only 0.08 m thick. This was overlain by 4408, which was a clayey silt that was 0.15 m thick. This fill produced 3 sherds of Late Iron Age or early Romano British grog tempered pottery.
- 5.3.61 The final feature identified in this trench was located at the western end. It was a north-east to south-west oriented ditch or gully 4404. The north-east end culminated in a rounded *terminus* 0.64 m wide and 0.18m deep. The feature had a flat base and steeply sloping sides and was filled by a single deposit of mid orange brown silty brickearth (4405) that produced a sherd of Early Iron Age pottery and three pieces of burnt flint.
- 5.3.62 All of the above features were sealed beneath plough derived subsoil (4402) and topsoil (4401).

#### ***Trench 46 (Fig. 7)***

- 5.3.63 This trench was located as shown in figure 1. It was orientated roughly north to south and measured 25 m long and 2 m wide. The natural geology 4403 was a mixed gravel and sand material and was encountered at 0.55 m below ground surface.
- 5.3.64 Three distinct features were observed cutting into the natural. At the northern end of the trench were two ditch features (Fig. 7). The earlier of these features, 4607, was an east to west aligned linear, 0.35 m wide and 0.1 m deep. It was filled by 4606, a compact, mid brown sand and gravel deposit that produced no finds.
- 5.3.65 Deposit (4606) was cut by feature 4605, which was oriented south-west to north-east and measured 0.45 m wide. This feature had near vertical sides and a flat base and measured 0.3 m deep. It was filled by 4604, a compact, mid brown sand with abundant gravel inclusions. No finds were recovered.
- 5.3.66 Towards the south end of the trench was a discrete sub-circular feature 4609. This feature measured 0.45 x 0.35 m and was 0.1 m deep. No finds were recovered from its only fill (4608), a mid-reddish brown silt.

5.3.67 The features were overlain by 0.08 m of friable, reddish brown subsoil (4602). This was sealed beneath the modern topsoil. The southern end of the trench exhibited a high degree of modern disturbance.

***Trench 47 (Fig. 7)***

5.3.68 This trench was located as shown in figure 1. It was orientated roughly east to west and measured 25 m long and 2 m wide. The natural geology 4703 was a mixed gravel and sand material and was encountered at 0.5 m below ground surface.

5.3.69 A ditch/gully feature, 4714, oriented south-west to north-east was located 2.5 m from the east end of Trench 47. Feature 4714 was 0.47 m wide and 0.11 m deep; it was filled by 4715 an orange-brown silty clay with no finds.

5.3.70 Towards the middle of the trench was a heavily truncated sub-circular pit 4705. Although cut away partially by later features this pit would have had a diameter of 1 m and a depth of 0.8 m. Pit 4705 was filled by a single distinct deposit of reddish brown silty clay (4706). No finds were produced.

5.3.71 Immediately to the east of Pit 4705, was a north to south aligned ditch 4707. This ditch was originally 2.4 wide and 1.5 m deep. The sides sloped gently on to a concave base. The ditch was filled by four separate fills (4708-4711). The basal fill 4708 formed the primary erosion episode 0.1 m thick and contained no finds. This was overlain by 4709, a soft mid greyish brown silty clay 0.1 m thick that contained burnt flint. Deposit 4709 was in turn overlain by 4710, a matrix of brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks 0.4 m thick. This fill produced a number of Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery sherds. The latest fill of ditch 4707, was a redeposited brickearth (4711) 0.36 m thick, this deposit probably represented the final abandonment phase of this early ditch.

5.3.72 Ditch 4707 was later rejuvenated for re-use and this is amply illustrated by re-cut 4712. This cut is not exactly within the original ditch but strays slightly along the western edge. This later ditch was 1.3 m wide and 0.6 m thick. It was filled by a single greyish brown deposit of silty clay (4713) that produced no dateable finds.

5.3.73 The final feature in this trench was also probably the latest. North to south oriented ditch 4704 was 3.5 m wide and 1.2 m deep. It had steeply sloped sides and a flat base. It was filled with two fills 4716 and 4717. The basal fill was 4717 and this deposit was a 0.45 m thick matrix of orange silty clay that produced pottery sherds of early Romano British date. The excavator also noted a relatively high proportion of flint nodules in the deposit; these nodules appeared to have been deposited via a human agent as opposed to a natural process. The upper fill of ditch 4704 was a dark brown silty clay, 4716, that produced Romano British pottery and ceramic building material along with animal bones.

5.3.74 All of the features were sealed beneath plough derived subsoil and a layer of modern topsoil.

***Trench 48 (Fig. 7)***

- 5.3.75 This trench was located as shown in figure 3. It was orientated roughly east to west and measured 25 m long and 2 m wide. The natural geology 4803 was a mixed gravel and brickearth material and was encountered at 0.4 m below ground surface.
- 5.3.76 Only a single linear feature was exposed in this trench. Ditch 4804 was oriented north-east to south-west and was 0.47 m wide and 0.25 m deep. The basal fill (primary erosion deposit) 4805 was a naturally derived silty brickearth 0.05 m deep that produced no finds. This fill was overlain by a friable dark brown silty clay 4806, 0.2 m thick that contained pottery of probable Early Iron Age date.

***Trench 49 (Fig. 7)***

- 5.3.77 This trench was located as shown in figure 1. It was orientated roughly east to west and measured 25 m long and 2 m wide. The natural geology 4803 was a mixed gravel and brickearth material and was encountered at 0.6 m below ground surface.
- 5.3.78 This trench contained a high density of archaeological features. In order to make the most sense of the stratigraphy the discrete features will be dealt with first, and where appropriate a date will be given. Intercutting archaeological features will then be described and followed by a stratigraphic summary.
- 5.3.79 At the east end of the trench was a south-west to north-east aligned linear feature 4905. This feature was 0.7 m wide and 0.26 m deep. It had straight regular sloping sides and a flat base. Feature 4905 was filled by a single deposit of a friable mid brown sandy silt that contained burnt stone fragments (4904).
- 5.3.80 Running parallel to this feature was a similar linear feature, 4907. This feature was 0.35 m wide and 0.12 m deep and was filled by 4906, a sandy silt that contained pottery and flint that probably dated to the Late Bronze Age.
- 5.3.81 A pair of parallel ditches, 4929 and 4941 were located some 5 m from the eastern end of the trench. Both ditches were oriented north to south. Ditch 4929 measured 0.54 m wide and 0.2 m deep. It was filled by a mid-grey brown, sandy silt (4928) that contained no finds.
- 5.3.82 The second ditch in this pair (4941), was 0.7 m wide and 0.42 m deep. It is entirely possible that this was a natural feature, perhaps the remains of a tree root run. The excavator was not confident in the form of the 'cut'. This feature was filled by 4940 that produced no finds.
- 5.3.83 Immediately west of the parallel ditches was a small oval shaped depression (4909). A single 50% intervention was cut through this feature and revealed a naturally formed animal burrow or tree throw pit.
- 5.3.84 In the middle of the trench as shown in Fig. 7 was a curved linear feature 3.1 m long. This feature was excavated in 2 separate places to investigate its shape and the possibility of structured deposits at its western terminal end. The ditch (4918/4911/4930/4927) was 0.62 m wide and 0.2 m deep. The edges were steep and

regular with a flat base. The ditch was filled along its exposed length by a single sandy silt deposit (4919, 4010 and 4926) which produced half a dozen flint flakes, a piece of burnt unworked flint and a single abraded sherd of possible Late Iron Age pottery. The Terminal end did not appear to differ in form or structure from the main body of the ditch.

- 5.3.85 The curvilinear ditch was cut by a wide, north to south oriented ditch feature 4924/4931. This feature was 0.55 m wide and 0.35 m deep. It was filled by 4925, a soft mid greyish brown sandy silt that yielded no finds.
- 5.3.86 The western end of the trench consists mainly of 2 parallel east to west ditches (4915/4923 and 4937/4913) cut by 2 wide north to south oriented features (4921 and 4933) as shown on figure 7. All of these are potentially some of the earliest remains existing on the site.
- 5.3.87 Ditch 4915/4923 was 0.2 m wide and 0.1 m deep. It was filled by 4914, a sandy silt that produced 1 sherd of Late Iron Age pot, however, the presence nearby of a posthole (4917) of the same date range would suggest that the sherd was a stray find. No where else along the body of this feature were any finds recovered.
- 5.3.88 Posthole 4917 was roughly circular in plan with vertical sides and a flat base. It was 0.35 m in diameter and 0.24 m deep. It was filled with 4916, a mid-brown silt. It was cut by gully 4915/4923.
- 5.3.89 Ditch 4937/4913, was also orientated east to west. This feature was wider than the similar (4915) at 0.55 m though only 0.17 m deep. This ditch/gully was also filled by a single sandy silt fill (4936/4912) which produced no finds.
- 5.3.90 At the extreme west end of the trench, both of the above ditch/gully features were cut by what appeared to be a curved cut feature only partially exposed within the trench (4933). This feature was shown to be 0.2 m deep with sloped edges. This feature may have formed either a pit or a ditch, its fill (4932) was a reddish brown silt that produced pottery dating to the Early Iron Age.
- 5.3.91 The second large feature 4921 was located 2 m east of the west end of Trench 49. This feature was north to south aligned and also cut ditches 4915 and 4937. Ditch 4921 was 1.8 m wide and 0.38 m deep and was filled by 4922, a reddish grey silt that contained pottery and flints dating to the Early Iron Age. The ditch had steeply sloping sides and an undulating base.
- 5.3.92 The earliest evidence in this trench was located at the eastern and western ends in gully 4907 and the large features 4933 and 4921 which probably dated to the Early Iron Age. Elsewhere in the trench features were either undated or dated to the Late Iron Age. The earliest features though undated by finds must be the two east to west ditches 4915 and 4937 which were cut by the large Early Iron Age features at the west end of the trench.
- 5.3.93 All of the features were sealed beneath a plough-derived subsoil and a layer of modern topsoil.

***Trench 71 (Fig. 8)***

- 5.3.94 Trench 71 was located as shown in figure 1. It was oriented roughly east to west and measured 28 m in length and 1.6 m wide. The natural geology (brickearth 7103) was exposed at a depth of 0.6 m below ground level.
- 5.3.95 Towards the west end of the trench was ditch feature (7113) aligned in a northeast to southwest direction. This ditch was 1 m wide and 0.7 m deep with steep sides and a flat base (see Fig. 8). The only fill (7112) was a mid-brown silt that produced 1 lump of unworked flint and very small flecks of undatable pottery.
- 5.3.96 Located partly under the south baulk halfway down Trench 71 was a sub-rectangular pit 7111. This feature had steeply sloping sides and a flat base; it measured 1.1 m by 0.5 m and was 0.2 m deep. It was filled by 7110, mid-brown silt that produced no finds.
- 5.3.97 Immediately east of 7111 was a feature that appeared to be a north to south aligned ditch (7109). It was truncated by two nearby features (see below). Ditch 7111 was 1.1 m wide and 0.21 m deep and filled by a single undated silty fill (7108).
- 5.3.98 Of the two features that cut deposit 7110, one was a stakehole. This small feature, 7107 was 0.14 m in diameter and measured 0.2 m deep, however no finds were recovered from its fill (7106).
- 5.3.99 A more substantial feature was also cut through the fill of ditch 7109. This was a large sub-rectangular pit feature 7105. It measured 2.9 m by 1.5 m within the trench with a recorded depth of 0.48 m. It had near vertical edges and a flat base. The pit was filled by 7104 a deposit mid brown silt that produced burnt flint, a flint core, several worked flakes and a blade as well as Early Iron Age pottery.
- 5.3.100 All of the features, with the exception of 7113, were sealed beneath a plough-derived subsoil and a layer of modern topsoil.

***Trench 73 (Fig. 8)***

- 5.3.101 Trench 73 was located as shown in figure 1. It was 25 m long and 1.6 m wide. This trench contained a pit and an east to west line of stake holes. The pit 7322 had a diameter of 0.4 m and was 0.25 m deep. It was filled by 2 fills. The basal fill 7321, was a dark-brown silt 0.08 thick and rich in coal indicating a recent date. This fill was overlain by 7320, a yellowish brown silt also rich in coal fragments. No other dating evidence was present.
- 5.3.102 The remaining features comprised a line of 5 stake hole features, 2 small possible postholes and a possible animal burrow - none of which produced any dateable material.
- 5.3.103 All of the features were sealed beneath a plough-derived subsoil and a layer of modern topsoil.

***Trench 75 (Fig. 8)***

5.3.104 Trench 75 was located as shown in Fig. 2. It was oriented roughly north to south and measured 24.5 m long and 1.8 m wide. The natural brickearth was encountered at a depth of 0.86 below ground level.

5.3.105 A lone ditch was the only feature present in this trench. Ditch 7504 was oriented east to west. It was 1.18 m wide and 0.28 m deep with shallow side breaking to a concave base. This ditch contained only one fill (7505) which was a brown clayey silt that produced no finds.

5.3.106 All of the features were sealed beneath a plough-derived subsoil and a layer of modern topsoil.

***Trench 78 (Fig. 8)***

5.3.107 Trench 78 was located as shown in figure 1. It was orientated east to west and measured 24.65 m long and 1.6 m wide. The natural brickearth and sand (7803) was encountered at a depth below ground of 0.6 m.

5.3.108 Located near the western end of the trench were 2 linear features, indeed the only features to be found in this trench. The most westerly was 7806 a narrow ditch/gully feature oriented roughly north to south. This feature was 0.3 m wide and 0.1 m deep. The only fill (7807) was a dark brown, sterile sandy silt.

5.3.109 The final feature in Trench 78 was a broad ditch on a north to south alignment. This ditch, 7804 was 1.22 m wide and 0.25 m deep with shallow concave sides and a concave base. The only fill, 7805, a dark brown sandy silt, produced no finds.

5.3.110 All of the features were sealed beneath plough-derived subsoil and a layer of modern topsoil.

***Trench 84 (Fig. 9)***

5.3.111 This trench was located as shown in figure 1 and was orientated roughly east to west. The natural brickearth 8403 was encountered at 0.6 m below ground surface. Trench 84 contained 2 ditch features, both north to south aligned.

5.3.112 Ditch 8404 was located towards the western end of Trench 84. The ditch was 1.05 m wide and 1.2 m deep. It had steeply sloping sides and a flat base and was filled by 2 fills (8411 and 8405). Deposit 8411 was a primary silt derived from initial erosion and was 0.05 m thick and produced no finds. This was overlain by deposit 8405. This fill was 0.6 m thick and comprised a mid-greyish brown silty clay with charcoal flecks but no other datable material.

5.3.113 The second ditch 8406, were 3 metres east of ditch 8404. This ditch was 1 m wide and 1.12 m deep with a similar profile to ditch 8404. Ditch 8406 had three distinct fills (8407, 8408 and 8409).

5.3.114 Fill 8407 was the primary fill of the ditch up to 0.35 m thick. This fill resembled the brickearth and yielded no finds. Overlying this deposit was 8408, a 0.1 m thick matrix of orange-brown silty clay that produced no finds. This deposit was sealed beneath 8409, a yellowish brown silty clay soil 0.4 m thick that produced 8 sherds of Romano British white ware from the Verulamium region.

5.3.115 All of the features were sealed beneath a plough-derived subsoil and a layer of modern topsoil.

## 5.4 Finds

### *Prehistoric Pottery*

5.4.1 The evaluation produced an early prehistoric pottery assemblage that consisted of 59 fragments weighing 226g. The assemblage is difficult to date accurately and contained no particular diagnostic sherds but potentially covers a period between the early Bronze Age and the early Iron Age (some sherds might possibly be dated earlier than this, to the late Neolithic, although their association in features with better known later material suggests they are probably also of that later date). The majority of the assemblage would appear to be early Iron Age and concentrated in the west of the north-east field. The condition of this assemblage was generally poor, average sherd size being between 10 - 40 mm.

### *Romano-British*

5.4.2 A late Iron Age / early Romano-British assemblage of 41 sherds weighing 137g were also recovered from the north-east field. The condition of this assemblage was also similarly poor with the average sherd weighing just under 3g. The majority of this assemblage consisted of locally produced grog tempered ware with the rest being flint tempered. The only diagnostic pieces were several large fragments of a Verulamian white-ware flagon recovered from track-way ditch [8410] (Fig 8).

### *Medieval*

5.4.3 One sherd of medieval pottery (early 12<sup>th</sup> century) was recovered from a ditch [4715] within Trench 47 (Fig.6). No other landscape features or deposits of this date were identified within the evaluation.

### *Modern (late 1800s / mid 1900s)*

5.4.4 A total of 15 sherds weighing 85g and dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> and mid 20<sup>th</sup> centuries were recovered from several features across site. This assemblage was in generally good condition and suggested activities associated with the extraction of the brickearth.

### *Lithics*

5.4.5 A total of 74 pieces of worked flint were recovered from the evaluation. This material was spread between 29 contexts, with most containing less than five pieces of flint. Very little of the assemblage was diagnostic consisting mostly of flakes, blades, occasional cores and one scraper. The general assemblage represents low intensity activity broadly dating to the Neolithic / Bronze Age. No Palaeolithic material was found.

5.4.6 The only significant scatters of worked flint came from contexts (3606) (Fig 5), (4910) (Fig.7) and (7104) (Fig.8), which produced nine, six and eleven pieces respectively. These assemblages originated from feature deposits and areas of activity that date from early Iron Age to the early Romano-British period. It seems

reasonable to assume that although these assemblages are technological dated to the Bronze Age they originated from Iron Age features and activity.

### ***Small Finds***

- 5.4.7 A small number of poorly preserved iron fragments, probably nails, were recovered from Trench 47 (Fig. 7). No other finds were present.

### ***Other finds***

- 5.4.8 In total 62 fragments of burnt unworked flint weighing 2063g were recovered from 21 contexts. The majority of this material originated from the feature deposits and trenches that were located to the east within the main areas of significant archaeology.
- 5.4.9 Significant amounts of burnt flint were identified within Trenches 38, 49 and 47, weighing 574g, 870g and 216g respectively. These deposits corresponded with the busiest trenches and those that were general thought to be associated with settlement activity.

## **5.5 Palaeo-environmental remains**

- 5.5.1 Two samples were taken for the recovery of charred plant remains in order to help assess the palaeo-environmental potential of the site and to help characterise the archaeological activity. Samples <1001> and <1002> were taken from a late Iron Age / early Romano-British linear ditch and an early Iron Age pit. Both samples showed signs of modern disturbance, but also indicated potential for the preservation of charred plant remains - largely charcoal, but including weed and cereal seeds.
- 5.5.2 A few deposits contained poorly preserved snails. There was insufficient quantity within datable features however, to enable useful analysis.

## 6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

### 6.1 The South-West Field.

6.1.1 The eleven trenches excavated in the south-west field (Fig.1) produced only features and deposits associated with the process of brickearth extraction. The most prominent of these features were the remains of an earthwork representing the embankment of a former mineral railway that runs from north-west to the south-east across site. This was one of the many methods used to transport the brickearth to the brick works at Murston.

6.1.2 In addition a number of rubbish deposits were encountered at the base of Trenches 3 and 14 that represented the in-filling of areas previously dug for brickearth. These deposits consist of an ashy rubbish deposit □London soil□filled with old bottles and jars dating from the mid-19th century. This deposit reflects the process whereby finished bricks were sent to London by barge and rubbish used as ballast on the return journey. These deposits were then used to make up ground where the brickearth extraction had caused an undulating topography.

### 6.2 The North-East Field: settlement on the gravel ridge

6.2.1 The features and deposits encountered within the north-east field (Figs. 1 and 2) are consistent with the Bronze Age / Iron Age / early Romano British landscape predicted by the desk based assessment. The main activity within this area appears to be located predominantly on the gravel ridge that runs from the west to the north-east. The areas of brickearth are either devoid of archaeology or associated with low intensity activity such as field systems and track-ways.

6.2.2 The vast majority of features identified on site appeared to be ditches that vary considerable in their size and orientation. Some of these ditches appear to share a similar orientation, while others are more consistent with a multi-phase landscape. The ditches appear to fulfil a number of different roles to form part of a series of potential enclosures, track-ways and field boundaries. A number of potential structural features were also discovered, including postholes, drainage gullies and pits.

6.2.3 One of the main focuses of this activity appears to be centred on Trenches 47, 43, 44, 46, and 49. The features and deposits in Trench 49 and 47 (Fig. 6) in particular appear to be representative of structural remains. These trenches produced the highest concentration of pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), burnt flint and worked flint. In addition, Ditch [4707] produced two large fragments of Roman floor tile and *tegula* from its secondary fill. It also produced occasional iron objects (nails mostly) and significant amounts of burnt flint.

6.2.4 The second concentration of features appears to be focussed around trenches 36, 37, 33, 34. This activity appears to be less intense, but again seems to incorporate some structural components (Fig.5). The number of ditches in the area would suggest a number of potential enclosures within this vicinity.

- 6.2.5 A north-south aligned track-way identified within Trenches 38 and 40 (Figs. 3 and 5) appears to run towards the main activity areas of the site. The track-way consists of a 3 m wide hollow dug into the brickearth down to the gravel to create a free draining route. The abundance of pottery and worked flint would suggest accumulation over a long period of time.
- 6.2.6 A second area of archaeological features was identified focused around Trenches 71 and 73 (Fig 8). These trenches contained a number of ditches, pits and stake holes which are believed to represent structures / activity areas.
- 6.2.7 The features away from the gravel ridge and those dug into the brickearth appear to be more consistent with field systems and trackways. The most interesting of these is located in Trench 84 (Fig. 9) which is believed to represent a late Iron Age / early Romano-British track-way. Ditch [8408] of this trackway produced a large fragment of Verulamium-region white ware that dates to the post conquest period. This flagon was the largest piece of pottery recovered on site and might indicate nearby activity. The absence of the track-way in Trench 85 suggests a change of alignment beyond somewhere Trench 84 (Fig. 2).

### 6.3 Subsurface modelling and geo-archaeological sections

- 6.3.1 The stratigraphic modelling of the subsurface in the north-east field revealed a detailed map of changing stratigraphy across site. The north-east of the field was characterised by a gravel ridge that rose up from the south-east to directly underlie the subsoil and plough soil. This ridge of natural gravels was potentially the reason why this area was never dug for brickearth in the past. Further towards the south-east brickearth seals the gravel, developing to a maximum depth of 1.7 m.
- 6.3.2 The two steeped trenches (Trenches 95 and 96) dug through the brickearth and the gravels identified the presence of these deposits but produced no significant flint assemblages.
- 6.3.3 A separate report (OA, 2005) detail the geoarchaeological results and palaeolithic potential.

### 6.4 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.4.1 The scale of the evaluation trenching was sufficient to provide a representative sample of the proposed development area and is thought to provide a reliable indication of the presence and absence of significant archaeological features. During the excavation conditions were good and feature identification unambiguous.

## 6.5 Overall interpretation

### *Periods represented*

6.5.1 The evaluation was identified a range of periods present within the development area. The vast majority of deposits and features on site date from the late Bronze Age through to the early Romano-British period while a background level of early Bronze Age (?possibly earlier), medieval and modern features are also present. The one notable exception in this sequence is the middle Iron Age. This may reflect a true contraction or cessation of activity during this period.

### *Lower Palaeolithic*

6.5.2 Where the Head Gravels were exposed, no Lower Palaeolithic artefacts were present. The Palaeolithic potential is covered in a separate report (OA, 2005).

### *Upper Palaeolithic*

6.5.3 The brickearth deposits encountered during the geo-archaeological investigation were considerably shallower than previously predicted. No Upper Palaeolithic artefacts were identified within the investigation areas. The Palaeolithic potential is covered in a separate report (OA, 2005).

### *Mesolithic / Neolithic*

6.5.4 No early prehistoric features were revealed within the evaluation area. However, a small amount of pottery sherds are described in Appendix 2 as possibly Neolithic. Their association with later material suggests they are also in fact of a later date.

### *Early Bronze Age*

6.5.5 A very small number of abraded sherds of Early Bronze Age pottery were recovered from several features in the main area. Whilst these features may be contemporary with ceramics, there is the possibility that the material is residual.

### *Late Bronze Age / early Iron Age)*

6.5.6 The majority of features and deposits on site date from the late Bronze Age / early Iron Age. The activity appears to represent a small enclosed settlement / farmstead situated on the gravel ridge. This was placed within a wider setting of field systems and track-ways that were established across the brickearth to the east.

### *Late Iron Age / early Romano-British*

6.5.7 The early Iron Age to early Romano-British remains suggest an enclosed farmstead within an agricultural landscape. This may have lain on the periphery of a larger settlement located to the north-east. Roman graves, found during brickearth extraction, south of East Hill Farm suggest an unrecorded settlement in this area. The

site may contain the last remnants of the early Iron Age to early Romano-British landscape in the locality unaffected by brickearth extraction.

### ***Medieval***

- 6.5.8 A single medieval feature was exposed. This was a small north-east / south-west linear dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century, located within Trench 47 (Fig.7). Due to the size and preservation of the pottery it is possible that a low density of medieval features and deposits may be present with the vicinity of this trench.

### ***Modern***

- 6.5.9 A number of scattered features were found to date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and mid 20<sup>th</sup> century and are potentially associated with the gangs of workers who were digging brickearth. The remains of the mineral railway represent one of the last remaining visible elements of the history of the brick works currently left within the landscape.

## **6.6 Character of archaeological remains**

- 6.6.1 The nature of the archaeological features and deposits encountered during the evaluation suggested evidence for a sequence of small enclosed farmsteads located on the gravel ridge, and set within a wider agricultural landscape. The archaeology consisted of a mix of enclosure ditches, field boundaries, pits, structural gullies, postholes and track-ways.

- 6.6.2 The features that were located beyond the gravel ridge are more consistent with low intensity activity associated with field systems and track-way ditches. The choice of different activity areas appears to be related to the drainage and soil properties of the underlying parent rock material.

## **6.7 Complexity of deposits**

- 6.7.1 The deposits encountered throughout the site tended to contain the basic stratigraphic units associated with in-filling. No particularly complex or finely detailed stratigraphy (either vertical or intercutting) was encountered during the evaluation.

## **6.8 Possible taphonomic issues**

- 6.8.1 The section records indicated that the archaeology in this area had been significantly affected by ploughing. The thick plough soil covering most of the site suggests ploughing has taken place over a considerable period of time. Also numerous scatters of finds within the sub-soil suggests that the upper deposits of features have been significantly disturbed. All recorded features were truncated and either sealed directly by ploughsoil or a subsoil -possibly relict ploughsoil itself.

## **6.9 Range and preservation of finds**

- 6.9.1 The site produced a low volume but wide range of finds, comprised of pottery, burnt flint, worked flint, metal objects (mostly iron nails) and bone. The majority of the

finds assemblage covered a period between the late Bronze Age and the early Romano-British period, with background levels of possibly Neolithic, early Bronze Age, medieval and modern material.

6.9.2 In general the preservations of finds across site was poor with small assemblages of pottery and flint all exhibiting signs of abrasion. The state of preservation was consistent with the amount of plough damage that was observed to have occurred across site.

## 6.10 Range and preservation of palaeo-environmental deposits

6.10.1 Two samples taken during the evaluation helped to confirm that this area has the potential to recover deposits of charred plant remains. These samples revealed an assemblage of charcoal, charred weeds, and possible charred cereal grain. It also revealed that these samples had been disturbed and contained a small degree of modern contamination.

6.10.2 A few contexts on site were found to produce a poorly preserved snail assemblage. This would suggest that some deposits on site are slightly alkaline and have potential to produce more assemblages in the future. Although no pollen samples were taken during the evaluation the slight alkalinity in the soil may also have implications for its potential preservation.

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1.1 The evaluation addressed the key issues of the Specification, in the provision of a representative sample of the site, that is sufficient to enable an informed decision to be made by the County Archaeologist with regard to the level of mitigation required. Notably the evaluation confirmed:

- The presence of archaeological features and deposit within the north-east field.
- The absence of archaeological preservation within the south-west field.
- The absence of Palaeolithic artefacts from the brickearth and the gravels.

7.1.2 The north-east field was found to contain intact (i.e. un-quarried) archaeological features and deposits that were part of a Prehistoric to early Romano-British landscape. These were, however, found to have been significantly disturbed and truncated by ploughing. Perhaps, slightly more features and deposits were encountered than might have been predicted from the original desk-based work.

7.1.3 The trenches within the south-west field confirmed that this area had already been dug for brickearth and that no archaeological features were preserved. The evaluation revealed very low potential for this area consistent with that predicted by the specification.

7.1.4 The Palaeolithic potential remains uncertain with intact brickearth and gravel deposits identified but no associated cultural deposits or artefacts (OA 2005).

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context No	Type	Thick. (m)	E / N OD(m)	S / W OD(m)	Comment	Finds
<b>TRENCH 1</b>						
101	Layer	0.3	12.9	13.34	Topsoil	
102	Layer		12.57	13	Gravel	
<b>TRENCH 2</b>						
201	Layer	0.3	10.33	11.85	Topsoil	
202	Layer		10.04	11.48	Gravel	
<b>TRENCH 3</b>						
301	Layer	0.3	9.75	10	Topsoil	
302	Layer		9.2	9.5	Gravel	
<b>TRENCH 5</b>						
501	Layer	0.27	10.51	11.02	Topsoil	
502	Layer		10.23	10.69	Gravel	
<b>TRENCH 6</b>						
601	Layer	0.25	9.61	10.02	Topsoil	
602	Layer		9.32	9.69	Gravel	
<b>TRENCH 7</b>						
701	Layer	0.25	10.18	10.37	Topsoil	
702	Layer		9.91	9.86	Gravel	
<b>TRENCH 8</b>						
801	Layer	0.3	9.91	9.66	Topsoil	
802	Layer		9.51	9.26	Brickearth with gravel	
<b>TRENCH 9</b>						
901	Layer	0.25-0.35	11.13	13.08	Topsoil	
902	Layer		10.82	12.83	Gravel with brickearth	
<b>TRENCH 14</b>						
1401	Layer	0.26	9.4	9.38	Topsoil	
1402	Layer	0.22	9.04	8.81	Brickearth (disturbed)	
1403	Layer				Gravel	
<b>TRENCH 18</b>						
1801	Layer		9.36	9.56	Topsoil	
1802	Layer				Brickearth (disturbed)	
1803	Layer		8.93	9.14	Gravel	
<b>TRENCH 20</b>						
2201	Layer	0.28	9.53	10.02	Topsoil	
2202	Layer	0.25			Brickearth (disturbed)	
2203	Layer		8.98	9.55	Gravel	
<b>TRENCH 30</b>						
3001	Layer		12.64	12.54	Plough soil	
3002	Layer				Subsoil -	
3003	Cut				Tree throw	
3004	Cut				Pit	
3005	Cut				Pit	
3006	Deposit				Fill of tree throw [3303]	

Context No	Type	Thick. (m)	E / N OD(m)	S / W OD(m)	Comment	Finds
3007	Deposit				Fill of Pit [3004]	
3008	Deposit				Fill of Pit [3004]	
3009	Deposit				Fill of Pit [3005]	
3010	Deposit				Fill of Pit [3005]	
3011	Layer		12.14	11.83	Natural - Gravels with brickearth patches	
3012	Cut				NE-SW ditch	
3013	Deposit				Fill of ditch [3012]	
3014	Deposit				Fill of ditch [3012]	

**TRENCH 31**

3101	Layer		12.4	12.32	Ploughsoil	
3102	Layer				Subsoil	
3103	Layer		11.93	12	Natural Gravels	
3104	Cut				Sub-circular pit	
3105	Deposit				Fill of pit [3104]	
3106	Cut				Ditch	
3107	Deposit				Fill of Ditch [3106]	

**TRENCH 32**

3201	Layer		11.56	12.04	Plough soil	
3202	Layer		11.02	11.7	Natural gravelly brickearth	
3203	Cut				Gully	
3204	Deposit				Fill of gully	
3205	Cut				Pit	
3206	Deposit				Fill of pit	
3207	Cut				Modern pit	
3208	Deposit				Fill of modern pit	Mod. pot

**TRENCH 33**

3301	Layer		11.72	12.11	Ploughsoil	
3302	Layer		11.27	11.7	Natural	
3303	Cut				Pit	
3304	Deposit				Fill of pit [3303]	EIA Pottery
3305	Deposit				Fill of pit [3303]	
3306	Cut				Ditch	
3307	Deposit				fill of ditch 3306	Mod pot
3308	Deposit				Root disturbance	

**TRENCH 34**

3401	Layer		11.63	11.14	Ploughsoil	
3402	Layer		11.3	10.76	Natural	
3403	Cut				Pit	
3404	Deposit				fill of Pit [3403]	
3405	Cut				NNE-SSW running ditch	
3406	Deposit				Primary fill of [3405]	
3407	Deposit				Secondary fill of [3405]	
3408	Deposit				Secondary fill of [3405]	
3409	Deposit				Secondary fill of [3405]	

**TRENCH 35**

3501	Layer			11.86	Ploughsoil	
3502	Layer				Subsoil	
3503	Layer			11.33	Natural Gravel	
3504	Deposit				fill of Ditch [3505]	LNeo-EIA Pottery
3505	Cut				E-W ditch	

Context No	Type	Thick. (m)	E / N OD(m)	S / W OD(m)	Comment	Finds
<b>TRENCH 36</b>						
3601	Layer		12.10	12.10	Ploughsoil	
3602	Layer				Subsoil	
3603	Layer		11.62	11.72	Natural Gravel	
3604	Deposit				Fill of Post hole [3605]	
3605	Cut				Posthole	
3606	Deposit				Fill of Post hole [3607]	Burnt Flint & LIA/ERP Pottery
3607	Cut				Posthole	
3608	Deposit				Fill of ditch [3610]	
3609	Deposit				Fill of ditch [3610]	
3610	Cut				Ditch re-cut	
3611	Deposit				fill of ditch [3610]	
3612	Cut				Ditch	
3613	Deposit				Fill of ditch [3614]	
3614	Cut				Ditch	
3615	Deposit				Fill of pit [3616]	
3616	Cut				Pit	
3617	Deposit				Fill of Gully [3618]	Prehist pot
3618	Cut				Gully	
<b>TRENCH 37</b>						
3701	Layer		12.29	12.63	Ploughsoil	
3702	Layer				Subsoil	
3703	Layer		11.68	12.28	Natural brickearth	
3704	Cut				Pit	
3705	Deposit				Primary fill of pit [3704]	
3706	Deposit				Secondary fill of pit [3704]	Burnt flint
3707	Cut				Posthole	
3708	Deposit				Fill of posthole [3707]	Burnt flint
3709	Deposit				Fill of posthole [3707]	
3710	Cut				Posthole	
3711	Deposit				Fill of posthole	
3712	Deposit				Fill of posthole	
<b>TRENCH 38</b>						
3801	Layer		12.30	12.59	Ploughsoil	
3802	Layer				Subsoil	LNeo - Mod pot
3803	Layer		11.88	12.01	Natural brickearth	
3804	Deposit				Fill of Ditch [3805]	LNeo-EIA pot
3805	Cut				N-S linear Ditch	
3806	Deposit				Fill of posthole [3807]	
3807	Cut				Posthole	
3808	Deposit				Fill of Ditch [3809]	
3809	Cut				N-S linear Ditch	
<b>TRENCH 39</b>						
3901	Layer		12.94	12.78	Ploughsoil	
3902	Layer				Subsoil	
3903	Layer		12.44	12.52	Natural brickearth	
<b>TRENCH 40</b>						
4001	Layer	0.24	12.56	12.44	Ploughsoil	
4002	Layer				Subsoil - reddish brown silt	
4003	Layer		11.97	11.82	Natural brickearth	

Context No	Type	Thick. (m)	E / N OD(m)	S / W OD (m)	Comment	Finds
4004	Deposit				Fill of Ditch [4009]	
4005	Deposit				Fill of Ditch [4006]	
4006	Cut				NE-SW linear ditch	
4007	Deposit				Fill of Ditch [4008]	
4008	Cut				N-S linear Ditch	
4009	Cut				Recut of Ditch [4006]	

**TRENCH 41**

4101	Layer		11.88	12.2	Ploughsoil	
4102	Layer				Subsoil - greyish brown sand silt	
4103	Layer		11.4	11.87	Natural - brickearth with gravel	
4104	Cut				Pit	
4105	Deposit				Fill of Pit [4102]	
4106	Deposit				Fill of ditch [4107]	Mod pot
4107	Cut				NE-SW running ditch	

**TRENCH 42**

4201	Layer		12	12.25	Ploughsoil	
4202	Layer				Subsoil	
4203	Layer		11.66	11.59	Natural - brickearth with occ gravel	

**TRENCH 43**

4301	Layer		11.04	12.18	Ploughsoil	
4302	Layer				Subsoil - reddish brown silt	
4303	Layer		10.98	11.51	Natural - brickearth with gravel	
4304	Cut				NE-SW linear ditch	
4305	Deposit				Fill of Ditch [4304]	
4306	Cut				NE-SW linear ditch	
4307	Deposit				Fill of Ditch [4306]	
4308	Cut				Terminus of E-W Linear ditch	
4309	Deposit				Fill of ditch [3408]	
4310	Cut				Terminus of NW-SE linear ditch	
4311	Deposit				Fill of ditch [4310]	EIA Pottery, burnt flint

**TRENCH 44**

4401	Layer		11.58	11.66	Ploughsoil	
4402	Layer				Subsoil-Mid reddish brown silty sand	
4403	Layer		11.04	11.24	Natural- Gravelly brickearth	
4404	Cut				NE-SW linear ditch	
4405	Deposit				Fill of ditch [4404]	?Eneo -EIA pot
4406	Cut				NE-SW linear ditch	
4407	Deposit				Primary Fill of ditch [4406]	
4408	Deposit				Secondary fill of ditch [4406]	LIA/ER Pottery, bladelet, B. Flint
4409	Cut				NE-SW linear ditch	
4410	Deposit				Fill of ditch [4409]	Knapping waste
4411	Cut				NE-SW linear ditch	
4412	Deposit				Fill of ditch [4411]	

**TRENCH 45**

4501	Layer		11.15	11.49	Ploughsoil	
4502	Layer				Subsoil	
4503	Layer		10.63	10.9	Natural - brickearth with occ	

Context No	Type	Thick. (m)	E / N OD(m)	S / W OD (m)	Comment	Finds
					gravel.	

**TRENCH 46**

4601	Layer		10.75	11.15	Ploughsoil	
4602	Layer				Subsoil	
4603	Layer		10.25	10.46	Natural Gravel	
4604	Deposit				Fill of ditch [4604]	
4605	Cut				NE-SW linear Ditch	
4606	Deposit				Fill of ditch [4607]	
4607	Cut				E-W Linear	
4608	Deposit				Fill of pit [4609]	
4609	Cut				Pit?	

**TRENCH 47**

4701	Layer		11.02	10.91	Ploughsoil	
4702	Layer				Subsoil	BA / IA Flake
4703	Layer		10.45	10.32	Natural	
4704	Cut				N-S linear ditch	
4705	Cut				Pit	
4706	Deposit				Fill of pit [4705]	
4707	Cut				NE-SW running linear ditch	
4708	Deposit				Primary fill of ditch [4707]	
4709	Deposit				Fill of ditch [4707]	
4710	Deposit				Secondary Fill of ditch [4707]	MBA - ER pot
4711	Deposit				Secondary Fill of ditch [4707]	
4712	Cut				Recut of ditch [4707]	
4713	Deposit				Fill of ditch recut [4712]	
4714	Cut				NE-SW linear ditch	Med pot
4715	Deposit				fill linear ditch [4714]	
4716	Deposit				Secondary Fill of ditch [4715]	LBA/EIA pot
4717	Deposit				Secondary Fill of ditch [4715]	LIA/ER pot

**TRENCH 48**

4801	Layer		10.87	11.64	Ploughsoil	
4802	Layer				Subsoil	
4803	Layer		10.38	11.14	Natural - gravelly brickearth	
4804	Cut				NE-SW linear ditch	
4805	Deposit				Primary fill of ditch [4805]	
4806	Deposit				Secondary fill of ditch [4805]	

**TRENCH 49**

4901	Layer		12.09	12.14	Ploughsoil	
4902	Layer				Subsoil	
4903	Layer		11.45	11.59	Natural - brickearth	
4904	Deposit				Fill of ditch [4905]	
4905	Cut				NE-SW linear ditch	
4906	Deposit				Fill of gully [4907]	ENeo-EIA pot
4907	Cut				NE-SW gully	
4908	Deposit				Fill of natural disturbance [4909]	
4909	Cut				Animal or root disturbance	
4910	Deposit				Fill of ditch [4911]	
4911	Cut				NW-SE curvilinear ditch	
4912	Deposit				Fill of ditch 4913]	EIA pot
4913	Cut				E-W linear ditch	

Context No	Type	Thick. (m)	E / N OD(m)	S / W OD(m)	Comment	Finds
4914	Deposit				Fill of gully [4915]	LIA/ER pot
4915	Cut				E-W linear gully	
4916	Deposit				Fill of posthole [4917]	
4917	Cut				Posthole	
4918	Cut				Curvilinear ditch	
4919	Deposit				Fill of curvilinear ditch [4918]	LIA pot?
4920	Deposit				Fill of ditch [4921]	ENeo-EIA pot
4921	Cut				N-S linear ditch	
4922	Deposit				Fill of gully [4923]	
4923	Cut				E-W linear gully	
4924	Cut				E-W linear ditch/gully	
4925	Deposit				Fill E-W linear ditch / gully	
4926	Deposit				Fill of terminus of curvilinear [4927]	
4927	Cut				Terminus of curvilinear gully	
4928	Deposit				Fill of ditch [4929]	
4929	Cut	0.2			N-S linear ditch	
4930	Cut				E-W curvilinear ditch / gully	
4931	Cut				N-S linear ditch	
4932	Deposit				Fill of ditch [4933]	ENeo-EIA pot
4933	Cut				N-S curvilinear ditch / pit	
4934	Deposit				Fill of ditch [4935]	
4935	Cut				N-S linear ditch	
4936	Deposit				Fill of ditch [4937]	
4937	Cut				E-W aligned ditch	
4938	Deposit				Fill of E-W curvilinear ditch [4930]	
4939	Deposit				Fill of N-S linear [4931]	
4940	Deposit				fill of natural feature [4940]	
4941	Cut				Natural feature	

**TRENCH 50**

5001	Layer		11.58	11.54	Ploughsoil	
5002	Layer				Subsoil - mid reddish brown silt	
5003	Layer		10.99	10.97	Natural - Brickearth	

**TRENCH 51**

5101	Layer		10.83	11.53	Ploughsoil	
5102	Layer				Subsoil - Yellowish brown sandy silt	
5103	Layer		10.48	11.31	Natural - Gravel	

**TRENCH 52**

5201	Layer	0.4	11.15	11.4	Ploughsoil	
5202	Layer	0.15	10.77	10.83	Subsoil - Organic brown sandy silt	
5203	Layer				Natural - Gravel mix	

**TRENCH 53**

5301	Layer		11.39	11.44	Ploughsoil	
5302	Layer				Subsoil - Mid reddish brown sandy silt	
5303	Layer		10.76	10.8	Natural - Gravel mix	

**TRENCH 54**

5401	Layer		11.69	11.87	Ploughsoil	
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Context No	Type	Thick. (m)	E / N OD(m)	S / W OD (m)	Comment	Finds
5402	Layer				Subsoil -	
5403	Layer		11.04	11.33	Natural - Brickearth with occ gravel	

**TRENCH 55**

5501	Layer		11.87	12.14	Ploughsoil	
5502	Layer				Subsoil - reddish brown silt	
5503	Layer		11.31	11.46	Natural - Brickearth with gravel	

**TRENCH 56**

5601	Layer		12.20	12.30	Ploughsoil	
5602	Layer				Subsoil - Reddish brown silt	EIA pot
5603	Layer				Natural - Brickearth	
5604	Layer				Natural - Gravel	

**TRENCH 57**

5701	Layer		12.71	12.72	Ploughsoil	
5702	Layer				Subsoil - Mid brown sandy silt	
5703	Layer		12.25	12.27	Natural - Brickearth	

**TRENCH 58**

5801	Layer		12.52	12.73	Ploughsoil	
5802	Layer				Subsoil - Reddish brown silt	
5803	Layer		11.82	12.11	Natural - Gravel	

**TRENCH 59**

5901	Layer		12.22	12.47	Ploughsoil	
5902	Layer				Subsoil - Reddish brown silt	
5903	Layer		11.67	11.76	Natural - Brickearth	

**TRENCH 60**

6001	Layer		12.58	12.75	Ploughsoil	
6002	Layer				Subsoil - Reddish brown silt	
6003	Layer		12	12.3	Natural - Brickearth	

**TRENCH 61**

6101	Layer		12.69	12.69	Ploughsoil	
6102	Layer				Subsoil - Reddish brown sandy silt	
6103	Layer		12.07	12.06	Natural - Brickearth	

**TRENCH 62**

6201	Layer		12.07	12.45	Ploughsoil	
6202	Layer				Subsoil - Reddish brown sandy silt	
6203	Layer		11.53	11.69	Natural - Brickearth	

**TRENCH 63**

6301	Layer		12.34	12.55	Ploughsoil	
6302	Layer				Subsoil - Reddish yellow silt	
6303	Layer		11.62	11.97	Natural - Brickearth	

**TRENCH 64**

6401	Layer		11.86	12.19	Ploughsoil	
6402	Layer				Subsoil - Mid brown sandy silt	
6403	Layer		11.15	11.55	Natural - Brickearth	

**TRENCH 65**

6501	Layer		11.38	11.54	Ploughsoil	
6502	Layer				Subsoil - Reddish brown sandy silt	

Context No	Type	Thick. (m)	E / N OD(m)	S / W OD(m)	Comment	Finds
6503	Layer		10.73	10.78	Natural - brickearth	
<b>TRENCH 66</b>						
6601	Layer		11.49	11.97	Ploughsoil	
6602	Layer				Subsoil - Reddish brown silt	
6603	Layer		10.92	11	Natural - Brickearth with gravel	
<b>TRENCH 67</b>						
6701	Layer		11.93	12.1	Ploughsoil	
6702	Layer				Subsoil - Reddish brown silt	
6703	Layer		11.29	11.41	Natural - Brickearth	
<b>TRENCH 68</b>						
6801	Layer		11.12	11.03	Ploughsoil	
6802	Layer				Subsoil - Dark brown sandy silt	
6803	Layer		10.51	10.63	Natural - Brickearth	
<b>TRENCH 69</b>						
6901	Layer		10.97	11.25	Ploughsoil	
6902	Layer				Subsoil- Mid brown sandy silt	
6903	Layer		10.52	10.61	Natural - brickearth	
<b>TRENCH 70</b>						
7001	Layer		11.19 E	11.31 W	Ploughsoil	
7002	Layer				Subsoil - Dark brown sandy silt	
7003	Layer		10.50 E	10.77 W	Natural - Brickearth	
7004	Cut				NE-SW linear ditch	
7005	Deposit				Fill of ditch [7004]	
<b>TRENCH 71</b>						
7101	Layer		10.75	10.99	Ploughsoil	
7102	Layer				Subsoil - Mid yellowish silt	
7103	Layer		10.11	10.54	Natural - Brickearth	
7104	Deposit				Fill of pit [7105]	EIA Pottery & worked and burnt flint
7105	Cut		10.35	10.35	Large pit	
7106	Deposit				Fill of stakehole [7107]	
7107	Cut				Stakehole / posthole	
7108	Deposit				Fill of pit / ditch [7109]	
7109	Cut				N-S ditch / pit	
7110	Deposit				Fill of pit [7111]	
7111	Cut				Pit	
7112	Deposit				Fill of ditch [7113]	
7113	Cut				NE-SW linear ditch	
<b>TRENCH 72</b>						
7201	Layer		11.16	10.97	Ploughsoil	
7202	Layer				Subsoil - Brown sandy silt	
7203	Layer		10.55	10.5	Natural - Brickearth	
<b>TRENCH 73</b>						
7301	Layer		10.93	10.94	Ploughsoil	
7302	Layer				Subsoil - Yellow brown silt	LIA/ER Pottery, retouched flake
7303	Layer		10.36	10.4	Natural - Brickearth	
7304	Deposit				Fill of stakehole [7305]	
7305	Cut				Stakehole	
7306	Deposit				Fill of stakehole [7307]	

Context No	Type	Thick. (m)	E / N OD(m)	S / W OD(m)	Comment	Finds
7307	Cut				Stakehole	
7308	Deposit				Fill of a stakehole [7309]	
7309	Cut				Stakehole	
7310	Deposit				Fill of stakehole [7311]	
7311	Cut				Stakehole	
7312	Deposit				Fill of posthole [7313]	
7313	Cut				Posthole	
7314	Deposit				Fill of posthole [7315]	
7315	Cut				Posthole	
7316	Deposit				Fill of natural disturbance	
7317	Cut				Natural root or animal disturbance	
7318	Deposit				Fill of natural disturbance	
7319	Cut				Natural root or animal disturbance	
7320	Deposit				Fill of pit [7322]	
7321	Deposit				Fill of pit [7322]	
7322	Cut				Pit	

**TRENCH 74**

7401	Layer		11.18	11.56	Ploughsoil	
7402	Layer				Subsoil - Friable reddish brown silt	
7403	Layer		10.61	10.9	Natural - brickearth	
7404	Layer				Disturbed subsoil	
7405	Deposit				Fill of Ditch [7406]	
7406	Cut				E-W linear ditch	
7407	Deposit				Fill of posthole [7408]	
7408	Cut				Posthole	
7409	Deposit				Fill of ditch terminus / pit	
7410	Cut				NW-SE ditch terminus / pit	

**TRENCH 75**

7501	Layer		11.1	11.58	Ploughsoil	
7502	Layer				Subsoil - Light brown sandy silt	
7503	Layer		10.52	10.97	Natural - brickearth	

**TRENCH 76**

7601	Layer		11.36	11.3	Ploughsoil	
7602	Layer				Subsoil - Mid brown sandy silt	
7603	Layer		10.77	10.66	Natural - Brickearth	

**TRENCH 77**

7701	Layer	0.25	11.25	11.57	Ploughsoil	
7702	Layer	0.3	10.72	10.97	Subsoil - friable light yellowish brown	
7703	Layer				Natural - Brickearth infilling gravel hollows	
7704	Layer				Natural - Gravel	

**TRENCH 78**

7801	Layer		11.85	11.71	Ploughsoil	
7802	Layer				Subsoil - Mid brown sandy silt	
7803	Layer				Natural - Brickearth	
7804	Cut				N-S linear ditch	
7805	Deposit				Fill of ditch [7804]	
7806	Cut				NE-SW linear gully	

Context No	Type	Thick. (m)	E / N OD(m)	S / W OD (m)	Comment	Finds
7807	Deposit				Fill of gully [7806]	

**TRENCH 79**

7901	Layer		12.07	11.96	Ploughsoil	
7902	Layer				Subsoil - Reddish brown silt clay	
7903	Layer				Natural - Brickearth	
7904	Cut				N-S linear ditch	
7905	Deposit				Fill of ditch [7904]	
7906	Cut				Pit	
7907	Deposit				Primary fill of pit [7906]	
7908	Deposit				Fill of pit [7906]	Pot or fired clay
7909	Cut				Stakehole	
7910	Deposit				Fill of stakehole [7909]	
7911	Cut				Stakehole	
7912	Deposit				Fill of stakehole [7911]	

**TRENCH 80**

8001	Layer		11.82	12.14	Ploughsoil	
8002	Layer				Subsoil - Light brown yellowish silt	
8003	Layer				Natural - Brickearth	

**TRENCH 81**

8101	Layer		11.91	12.35	Ploughsoil	
8102	Layer				Subsoil - Mid brown sandy silt	
8103	Layer				Natural - Brickearth	
8104	Cut				E-W linear ditch	
8105	Deposit				Fill of ditch [8104]	

**TRENCH 82**

8201	Layer		12.45	12.55	Ploughsoil	
8202	Layer				Subsoil - Reddish brown silt	
8203	Layer		11.77	12.03	Natural - Brickearth	

**TRENCH 83**

8301	Layer		11.97	12.29	Ploughsoil	
8302	Layer				Subsoil - Reddish brown silt	
8303	Layer				Natural - Brickearth	
8304	Cut				Gully	
8305	Deposit				Fill of gully	

**TRENCH 84**

8401	Layer				Ploughsoil	
8402	Layer				Subsoil	
8403	Layer				Natural - Brickearth	
8404	Cut				N-S linear ditch	
8405	Deposit				Fill of ditch [8404]	
8406	Cut				N-S linear ditch	
8407	Deposit				Primary fill of ditch [8406]	
8408	Deposit				Secondary fill of ditch [8406]	EIA pot
8409	Deposit				Secondary fill of ditch [8406]	EROM pot
8410	Deposit				Primary fill of ditch [8404]	

**TRENCH 85**

8501	Layer		11.88	12.13	Ploughsoil	
8502	Layer				Subsoil - Brownish yellow silt	
8503	Layer				Natural - Brickearth	

Context No	Type	Thick. (m)	E / N OD(m)	S / W OD(m)	Comment	Finds
<b>TRENCH 86</b>						
8601	Layer		11.56	11.46	Ploughsoil	
8602	Layer				Subsoil - Reddish brown sandy silt	
8603	Layer		11.12	10.93	Natural - Brickearth	
<b>TRENCH 87</b>						
8701	Layer		11.41	11.28	Ploughsoil	
8702	Layer				Subsoil - Reddish brown sandy silt	
8703	Layer		10.67	10.84	Natural - brickearth	
<b>TRENCH 88</b>						
8801	Layer		10.7	10.87	Ploughsoil	
8802	Layer				Subsoil - Mid brown sandy silt	Flint / sand temp. LIA/ER pot
8803	Layer		10.27	10.22	Natural - brickearth	
<b>TRENCH 89</b>						
8901	Layer		10.69	11.39	Plough soil	
8902	Layer				Subsoil - Friable yellowish brown silt	
8903	Layer		10.39	10.94	Natural - Brickearth	
8904	Deposit				Fill of ditch [8905]	
8905	Cut				N-S Linear ditch	
8906	Deposit				Fill of feature [8907]	
8907	Cut				Modern disturbance	
<b>TRENCH 90</b>						
9001	Layer		11.41	11.58	Ploughsoil	
9002	Layer				Subsoil - Light yellowish brown silt	
9003	Layer		10.83	10.91	Natural - Brickearth	
<b>TRENCH 91</b>						
9101	Layer		11.82	11.94	Ploughsoil	
9102	Layer				Subsoil -	Grog / Shell temp LIA/ER pot
9103	Layer		11.42	11.35	Natural - Brickearth	
9104	Deposit				Fill of ditch [9105]	Grog temp. LIA/ER pot, B. Flint
9105	Cut				N-S Curvilinear ditch	
<b>TRENCH 92</b>						
9201	Layer		11.78	11.95	Ploughsoil	
9202	Layer				Subsoil - Reddish brown sandy silt	
9203	Layer		11.28	11.48	Natural - Brickearth	
<b>TRENCH 93</b>						
9301	Layer		12.02	12.13	Ploughsoil	
9302	Layer				Subsoil - Reddish brown sandy silt	
9303	Layer		11.44	11.7	Natural - Brickearth	
9304	Cut				Pit	
9305	Deposit				Fill of Pit [9304]	Mod pot
<b>TRENCH 94</b>						
9401	Layer		12.15	12.22	Ploughsoil	
9402	Layer				Subsoil - Reddish brown sandy silt	
9403	Layer		11.69	11.82	Natural - Brickearth	

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Context No	Type	Thick. (m)	E / N OD(m)	S / W OD(m)	Comment	Finds
9404	Cut				Natural disturbance	
9405	Deposit				Fill of disturbance [9404]	

## APPENDIX 2 POTTERY ASSESSMENT/ SPOT DATING

## A2.1 PREHISTORIC POTTERY ASSESSMENT

**Introduction**

This report assesses all of the prehistoric pottery from East Hall Farm, Sittingbourne, Kent. The total assemblage (59, 226 g) includes pottery tentatively dated to the Neolithic or early Bronze Age, late Bronze Age, early Iron Age.

It is a much-abraded assemblage containing no diagnostic sherds and the average sherd size is 10 -40 mm. The majority of the pottery is, however, probably of early Iron Age date. Table 1 presents a breakdown of the total assemblage by site and period.

Despite the quality of the pot, the assemblage does suggest some activity on the site. It is possible that the site is on the periphery of a settlement or that the archaeology has been damaged.

**Methodology**

All of the material was examined. Count and weight quantified the assemblage and a note was made of principal fabric groups.

Spot dates were based on the presence of particular fabrics. OA standard codes were used for prehistoric fabrics.

**Quantification**

*Table A2.1 Quantification of prehistoric pottery by context*

*Period = EN, early Neolithic, LN-late Neolithic, EBA-early Bronze Age, LBA-late Bronze Age, EIA-early Iron Age. Fabrics = A-sand, F-flint, G-grog, S-shell, P-pellets (Fe-ferruginous)*

Context	Fabric code	Date	Count	Weight	Comments
3304	F	EIA	1	1	
3304	AFC	EIA? EN?	1	4	Badly damaged by washing
3304	AFPfe	EIA?	2	2	
3504	F	EN or LBA/EIA	1	11	Refits
3617	F	IND	3	4	Very small and abraded
3802	F	LN/EBA	1	14	See sherd from 3804, very similar, thick sherd. Different fabric and firing
3802	F	LBA/EIA?	2	1	Small and abraded
3804	F	BA?	6	16	Oxidised to a yellow-red externally, more like LBA than EN?
3804	FG	LN/EBA	1	12	Thicker, very abraded sherd with two YBR-RBR oxidised surfaces

Context	Fabric code	Date	Count	Weight	Comments
3804	FA	LBA/EIA	1	48	
4311	AFC	EIA?	3	6	
4405	AFC	EIA?	1	4	
4405	F	EIA? EN?	3	5	
4710	F	MBA/LBA	1	25	Base, oxidised on inside, gry ext. Peppered base.
4716	F	LBA/EIA?	1	4	Completely oxidised and thin walled
4716	FS	?	2	2	
4806	IND	Early Iron Age?	1	4	
4806	A1	IND	3	5	
4806	A1	EN or LBA/EIA	1	1	
4906	F	EN or LBA/EIA	2	5	
4906	F	EN or LBA/EIA	1	1	
4906	A1	EIA?	1	7	
4906	F	IND	1	3	
4906	IND	IND	1	2	
4906	F	EIA?	2	0	Very small indeed
4908	F	Ind	1	2	
4912	F	EIA?	1	3	
4920	F	EIA? EN?	1	1	
4920	A	?	2	2	
4920	AFPfe	EIA?	1	1	
4932	FPfe	EN or LBA/EIA	2	5	Charred residue
5602	F	EIA?	1	1	
7104	F	Early Iron Age?	3	1	
7908	AG?	LN/EBA or FC?	1	2	Very worn and abraded. Classification difficult.
8408	F	EIA?	1	5	
<b>Totals</b>			<b>59</b>	<b>210</b>	

The early Bronze Age material was oxidised to a red-brown colour on one or both surfaces, was all thick walled and sandy, containing little flint and some black grog. The Bronze Age base (4710) sherd was tempered with sand and poorly sorted flint, generally less than 2 mm in size; this fabric could date to the period from the middle to the late Bronze Age. The increased density of flint on the base of the sherd is characteristic of late Bronze Age plain ware vessels (O'Connell 1986). The early Iron Age pot was often black, thin walled, smoothed and tempered with relatively finely crushed and moderately well sorted flint. The remaining material, dated to the early Neolithic or late Bronze Age to early Iron Age, was sandy clay tempered with less well-sorted, more angular flint.

### Conservation

At this stage all the material should be retained. The pottery is adequately bagged and boxed for long term storage and will require no further conservation.

### Discussion

Little further work is required on this material. A more closely defined chronology might result from further fabric analysis. This was an assemblage consisting of a range of relatively abraded material. The pottery appears, predominantly, to be late Bronze Age or early Iron Age but this dating is very tentative. The provenance of this material is, at the time of writing, unknown.

#### A2.2 LATE IRON AGE AND ROMAN POTTERY

A total of 41 sherds, weighing 137 g, belonged to the late Iron Age or early Roman period (Table 2). The majority of the material comprised locally produced grog-tempered ware, which was current from *c* 50 BC to AD 70. Most of the remaining sherds, typically flint-tempered, also fit this date range. The Verulamium-region white ware, from context 8409, is exceptional, being the only pottery that cannot have a pre-Roman date. The ware was produced until the mid-2nd century, although the piece from this site, in view of the other material, is likely to share a 1st century AD date for deposition. Excluding the white ware, the lack of certain post-conquest pottery would confine the assemblage to the late Iron Age. However, the presence of the white ware potentially dates the assemblage to after AD 43.

The condition of the assemblage is poor. The average sherd weight is just 3 g, suggesting that the pottery had been re-deposited after initial burial. The Verulamian white-ware sherds, which belong to a flagon, are by contrast large, so relatively undisturbed early Roman deposits may be located near to the site of investigation.

Table A2.2. *Quantification of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery by context*

Context	Count	Weight	Comments	Date
3606	5	21	Glauconitic-tempered sherd; flint-tempered sherds; oxidised sherd	50BC-AD70
3802	2	2	Two small sherds grog-tempered ware; plus sherd prehistoric	50BC-AD70
4408	3	9	Grog-tempered ware bodysherds	50BC-AD70
4710	8	14	Shell-tempered bodysherds	50BC-AD130
4717	1	8	Grog- and sand-tempered bodysherd	50BC-AD70
4914	1	1	Flint-tempered sherd	?50BC-AD70
4919	5	7	Unidentified	?LIA
7302	2	8	Flint-tempered bodysherds	50BC-AD70
8409	8	57	Verulamium-region white ware; flagon	AD43-160
8802	4	6	?Flint/sand-tempered bodysherds	50BC-AD70
9102	1	2	Grog- and ?shell-tempered bodysherd	50BC-AD70
9104	1	2	Grog-tempered bodysherd	50BC-AD70
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>137</b>	-	-

#### A2.3 MEDIEVAL / POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY

The pottery assemblage comprised 16 sherds with a total weight of 85g. The entire assemblage was modern, apart from a single context that produced a medieval jar rim sherd and three other body sherds in the same fabric, along with a very abraded fragment of residual Iron Age material. The pottery was recorded using the codes and chronologies of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust Fabric series for the county of Kent (Cotter forthcoming a) and b)), with the following types noted:

EM.M5, Ashford Potters Corner shell-filled sandy ware, AD1125/50-1225/50. 4 sherds, 45 g,

PM1, Red earthenware, 1550-1800. 3 sherds, 5g  
LPM7BJ, Bone china, transfer printed, 1770-1925+. 8 sherds, 26g.

In addition, a single sherd (9g) of late Iron Age grog-tempered ware was noted in context 4714. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 3. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

Table A2.3. Medieval / Post-medieval Pottery :occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type.

Context	LIA		EM.M5		PM1		LPM7BJ		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
3208							1	1	19thC
3307							1	6	19thC
3802							1	4	19thC
4106							2	8	19thC
4715	1	9	4	45					E12thC?
7404							2	6	19thC
9305					3	5	1	1	19thC
<b>Total</b>	1	9	4	45	3	5	8	26	

## APPENDIX 3 WORKED FLINT

### Introduction

A total of 74 pieces of worked flint were recovered from the evaluation at Sittingbourne (*Table 4*). The material was spread between 29 contexts, with most containing less than five pieces of flint; however, contexts 3606, 4910 and 7104 produced nine, six and 11 pieces respectively. A further 62 fragments (2063 g) of burnt unworked flint were retrieved from 21 contexts (*Table 5*). The flint can be broadly dated to the later prehistoric period on technological grounds.

### Methodology

The flint was catalogued according to a broad debitage, core or tool type. Information about burning and breaks was recorded and where identifiable raw material and technological characteristics were also noted. Where possible dating was attempted. In addition, cores were weighed and burnt unworked flint was quantified by count and weight. The data was entered into an MS Access database.

### Raw material

Where identifiable, most of the raw material is gravel flint. The cortex is generally thin and abraded and the flint appears to be of a reasonable knapping quality. Few thermal flaws were noted. It is likely that the material is locally derived, perhaps coming from river gravel deposits. There is one small piece of Bullhead flint. This is found in the Bullhead Bed at the base of the Reading Beds (Dewey & Bromehead 1915:18-19) and is identified by a green cortex with an underlying orange coloured band. In north Kent, the Bullhead Bed overlies the chalk beneath the Thanet sands (Dewey & Bromehead 1921:18; Shepherd 1972:114) and can be found fairly close to the site.

### Condition

The condition of the worked flint is varied. A total of 23 pieces are in a fresh condition, whereas 35 and 14 pieces show slight and moderate post-depositional damage respectively. The damage is most frequently seen on vulnerable unretouched edges and implies the occurrence of post-depositional disturbance across the site. Only one piece, an unclassifiable core, is rolled. Surface alteration is limited with just ten pieces showing cortication. However, many more pieces have corticated platforms or dorsal surfaces, suggesting the re-use of material. Iron staining can be seen on two pieces, from different contexts.

Table A3.1. Summary of worked flint by context

Category	Context																										Total				
	3008	3010	3107	3304	3606	3613	3615	3804	4408	4410	4702	4904	4906	4910	4916	4920	5601	5904	7104	7302	7401	7404	7409	8802	8904	9001		9106	9109	9305	
Flake	1		1	4	6			2	1		1		4	6	1	4	2	5	8		1	1	1	1	1		1				52
Blade		1				1																								2	
Blade-like flake																										1				1	
Bladelet				1	1				1																					3	
Chip																			2											2	
Irregular waste					2					1			1			1												1	3	9	
Multiplatform flake core																								1						1	
Unclassifiable core							1												1											2	
Other scraper												1																		1	
Retouched flake																					1									1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>74</b>	

### Technology and dating

Unretouched debitage dominates the assemblage with 67 pieces (Table 4). The low proportion of blades (10% excluding chips and irregular waste) suggests a later Neolithic or Bronze Age date for the material (Ford 1987:79, Table 5). Technologically, the material is consistent with a Bronze Age date. Only two pieces exhibit platform edge abrasion, a characteristic usually associated with the more careful flint industries of earlier periods. Where identifiable most pieces are hard hammer struck and many pieces are trimming flakes.

The multi-platform flake core is bifacially worked with centripetal removals on one of the sides. The two unclassifiable cores are irregular and minimally worked. All are quite small, between 20 g and 56 g. The cores are chronologically undiagnostic, but are consistent with the rest of the assemblage. Only the distal end of the scraper is present. It was made on a primary removal with a slightly plunging termination and has direct retouch on the distal end and distal right. It is possible that when complete it formed an end and side scraper. The retouched flake has direct retouch on the left side. Unfortunately the tools are undiagnostic and therefore not datable.

### Discussion and potential

The flint from Sittingbourne can be broadly dated to the later prehistoric period, mostly likely the Bronze Age. This date is based on the technological characteristics of the assemblage. It is possible that some of the flint may be associated with Iron Age activity, however this is unclear. The material is thinly spread across the site and suggests low-density background activity. The flint should be re-examined alongside any material recovered from future excavations. There are also some environmental residues that need examining for microdebitage.

*Table A3.2. Summary of burnt unworked flint by context*

Context	Count	Weight (g)
3606	1	40
3706	1	28
3708	3	46
3802	5	140
3804	7	434
4311	1	8
4405	3	36
4709	2	96
4716	5	204
4717	1	12
4904	2	162
4906	6	152
4910	1	48
4914	2	16
4920	12	492
7104	1	32
7404	1	2
7405	1	1
8904	4	102
9104	2	8
9305	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>2063</b>

**APPENDIX 4 ENVIRONMENTAL DATA****Assessment of Palaeo-environmental Indicators****Introduction and methodology**

Two samples were made available for the assessment of the preservation of palaeo-environmental indicators. They derive from a possible Iron Age / Roman feature <1002> (4408) and a possible early Iron Age feature <1001> (3706) respectively. The two 20 litre soil samples were processed by mechanical flotation in a modified Siraf-type machine with the flot held on a 250 $\mu$ m mesh. The flots were air dried and scanned for material under a binocular microscope at x 10 and x 20 magnification. The resulting residue was retained at a size of >500 $\mu$ m, air dried and scanned for bones and artefacts.

**Results**

Modern intrusions, primarily rootlets and weed seeds and the occasional fragment of coal dominated the flots of both samples. Wood charcoal was abundant in both samples, some of which was too small for identification, however a good proportion of charcoal was >2mm, large enough to be identified. Charred weed seeds was also present in both samples, but the concentration was very low. Sample <1000> (3706) had a possible charred cereal grain and a fragment of charred bone that is not identifiable. The residues of both samples were retained for later analysis due to significant quantities of flint micro-debitage.

**Conclusions**

The flots are not indicative of any particular period. It would appear that charred plant remains, predominately charcoal, are preserved at the site and any further work should include charred remains recovery as a component. The preservation of the wood charcoal suggests there is potential for all charred plant remains to be present in further excavations.

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**APPENDIX 6 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS**

**Site name:** East Hall Farm, Sittingbourne

**Site code:** SIEHF04

**Grid reference:** TQ92606420

**Type of evaluation:** Trench evaluation. **Date and duration of project:** April – May 2004

**Area of site:** 11.2 ha.

**Summary of results:** The evaluation confirmed the presence of non quarried intact zones of archaeology within the proposed development area. In the larger (north-eastern) of the two fields the evaluation revealed the remains of a late Bronze Age to early Romano-British landscape consistent with that predicted by the desk-based assessment. Three areas of potential archaeology were identified. The other field (to the south-west) proved to have been disturbed by extraction works, such that no archaeological remains survived.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with a suitable museum in due course.



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Figure 1: Site location and layout of trenches



Figure 2: Postulated extent of significant archaeology; Inset: Geology of the site

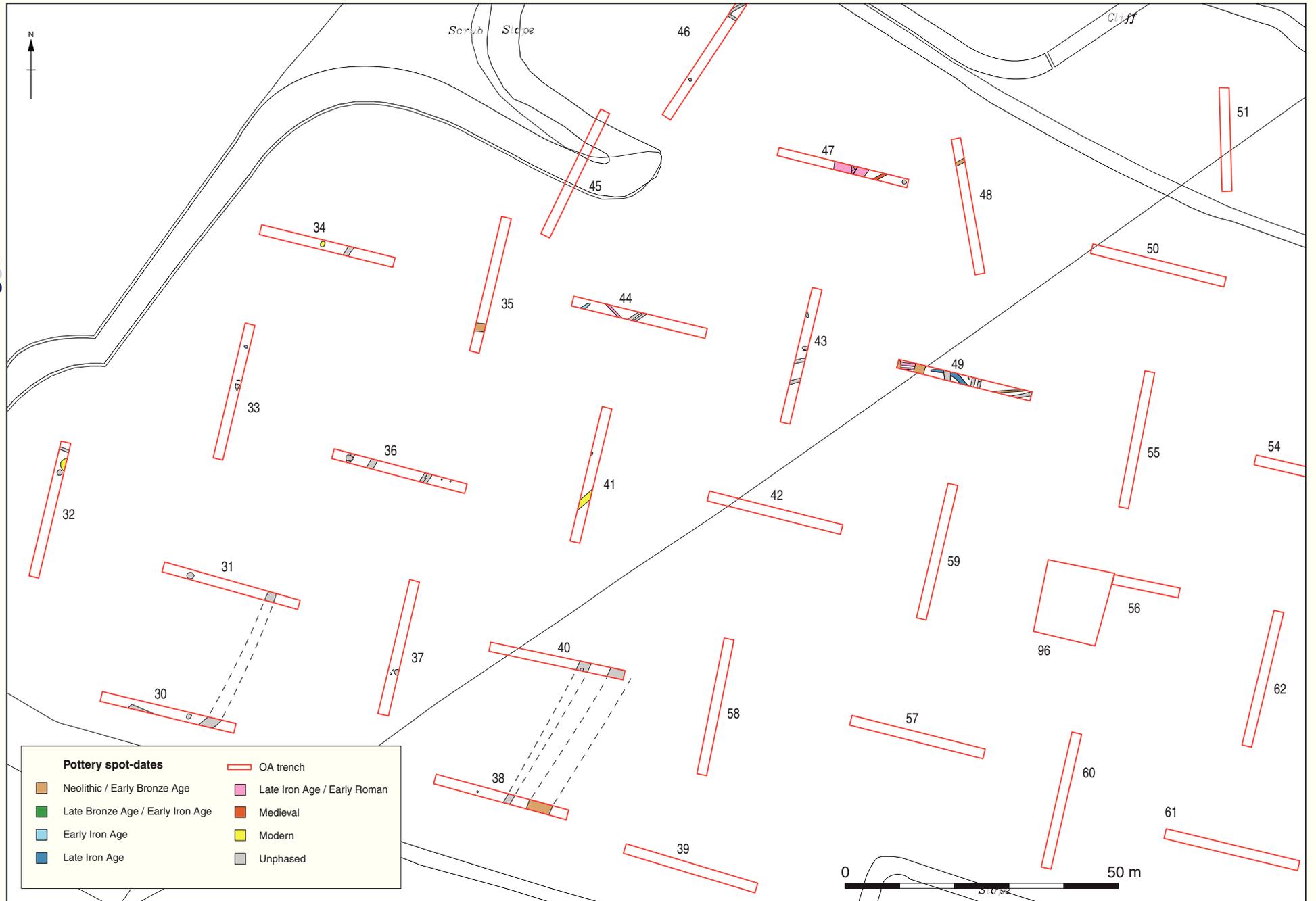


Figure 3: Phased plan of archaeological features

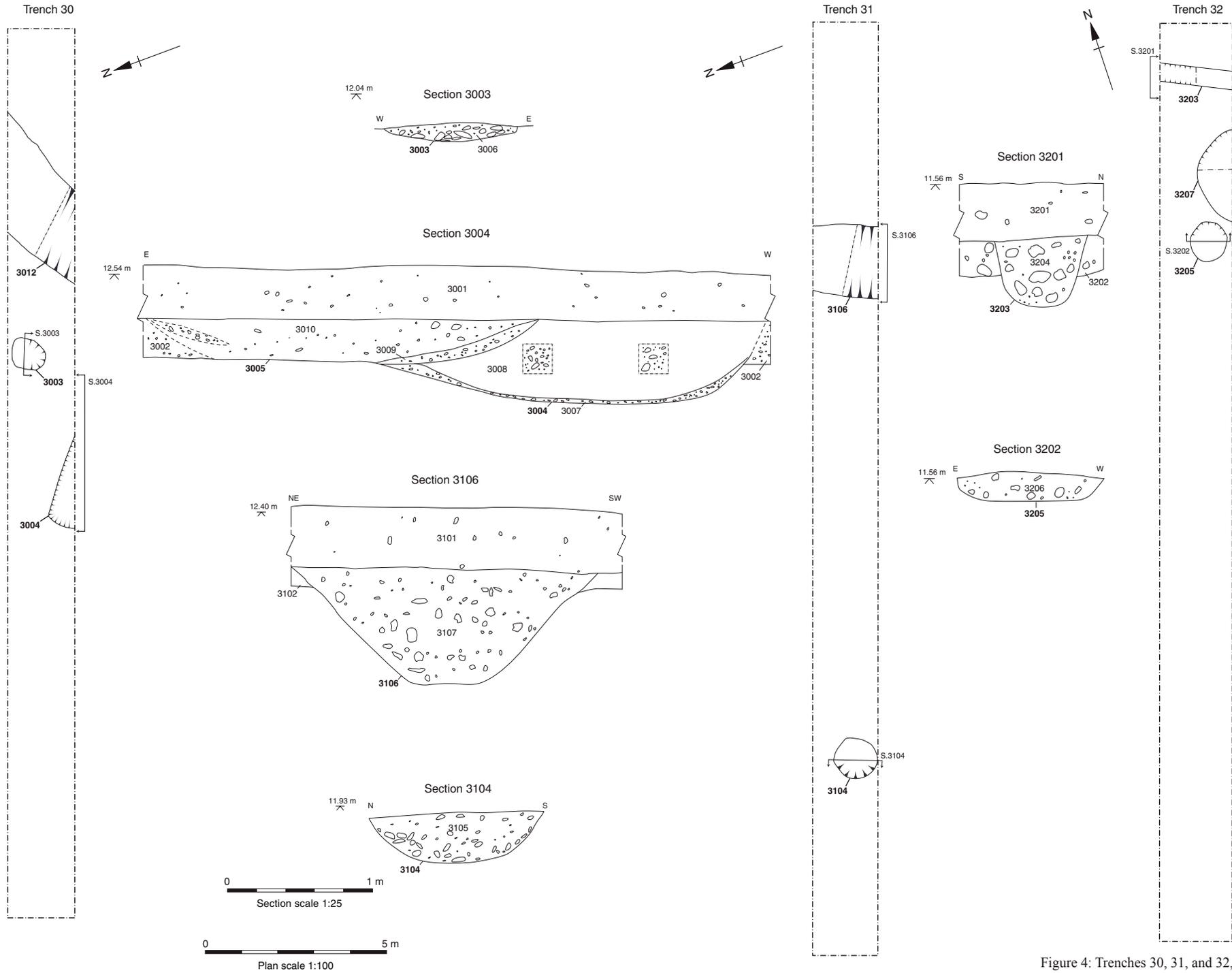


Figure 4: Trenches 30, 31, and 32, plans and sections

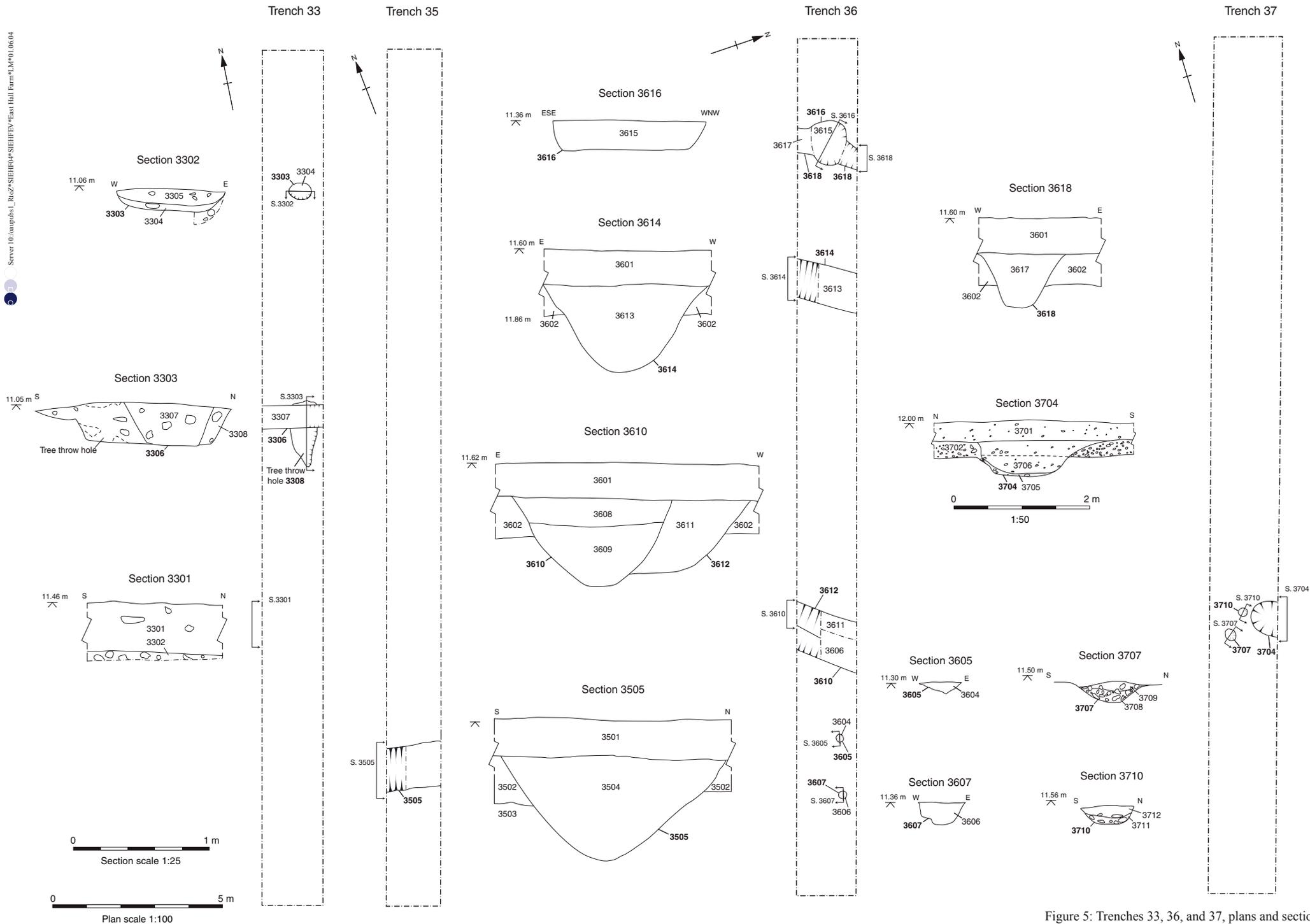
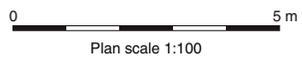
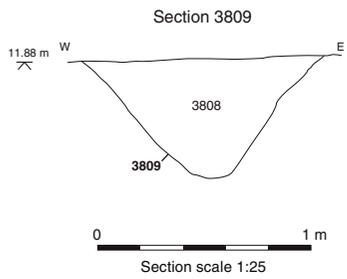
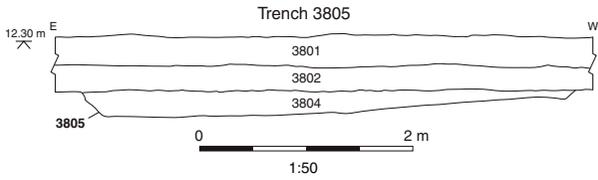
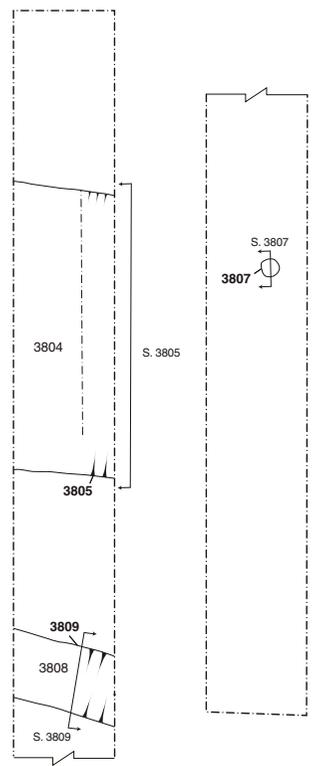
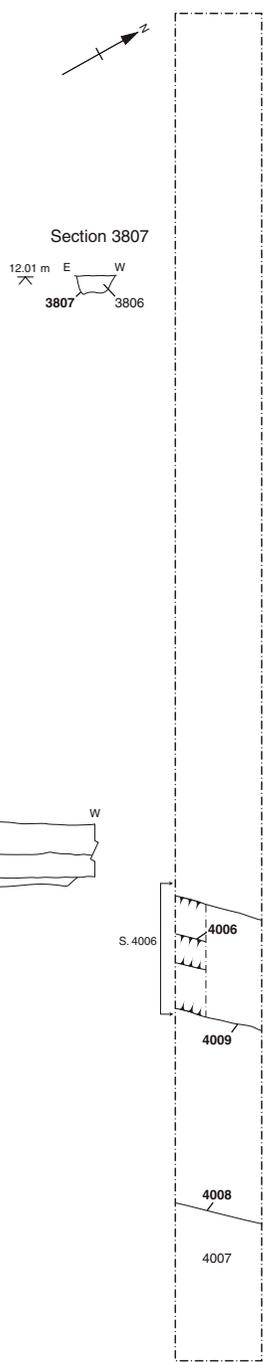


Figure 5: Trenches 33, 36, and 37, plans and sections

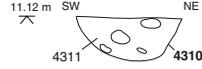
### Trench 38



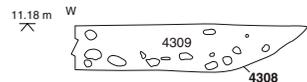
### Trench 40



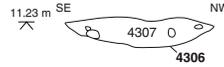
### Section 4305



### Section 4304



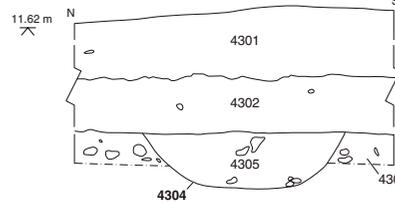
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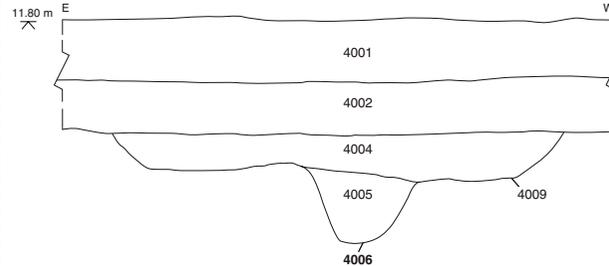
### Section 4302



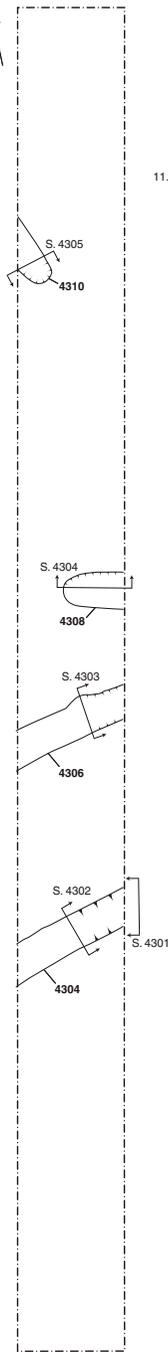
### Section 4301



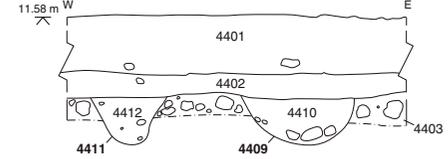
### Section 4006



### Trench 43



### Section 4403



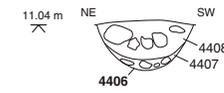
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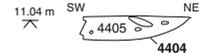
### Section 4405



### Section 4402



### Section 4406



### Section 4401



### Trench 44

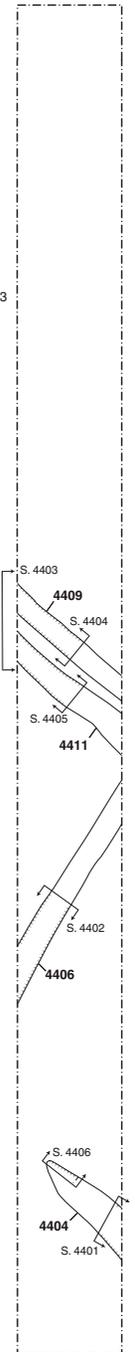
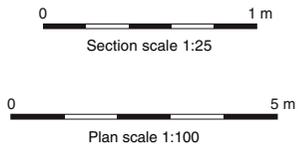
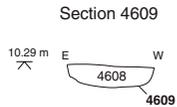
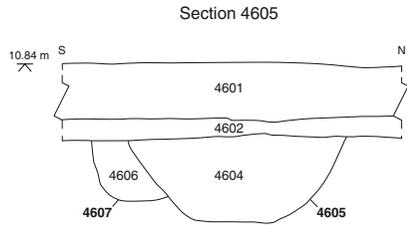
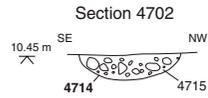
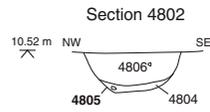
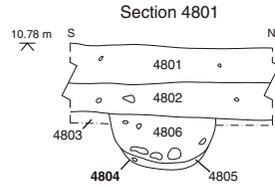


Figure 6: Trenches 38, 40, 43, and 44, plans and sections

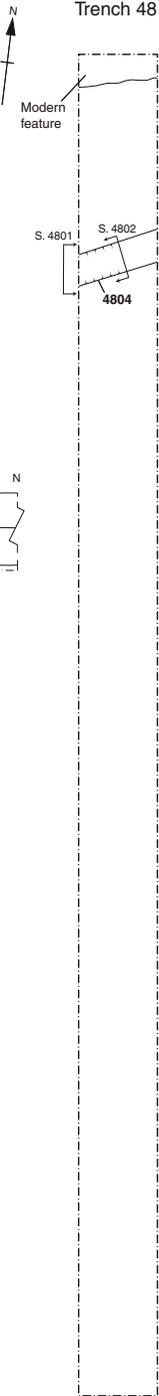
### Trench 46



### Trench 47



### Trench 48



### Trench 49

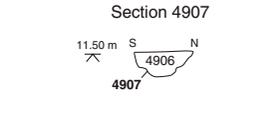
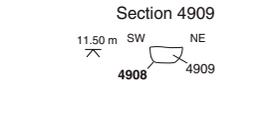
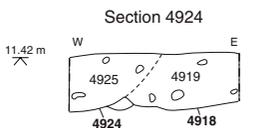
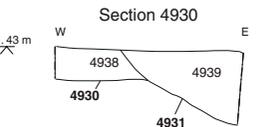
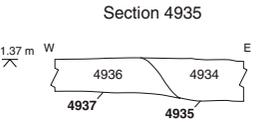
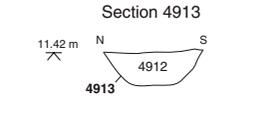
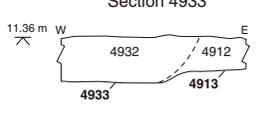
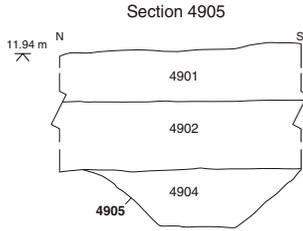
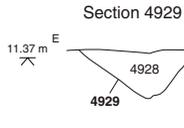
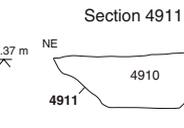
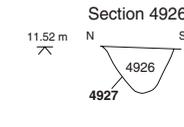
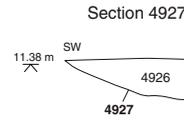
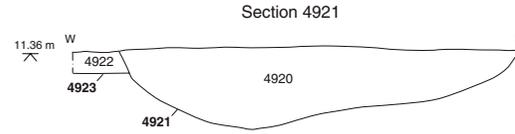
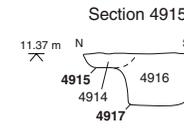
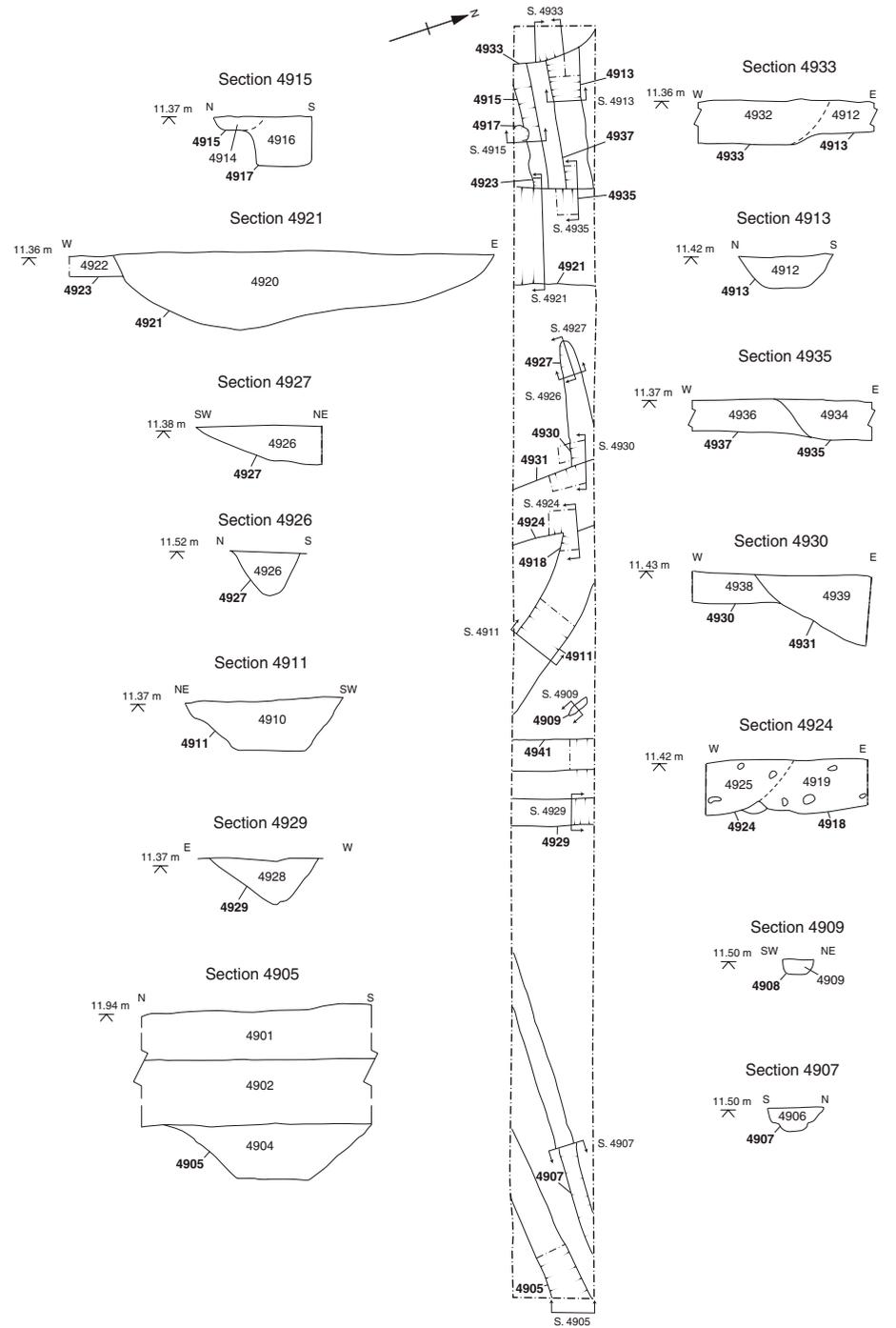
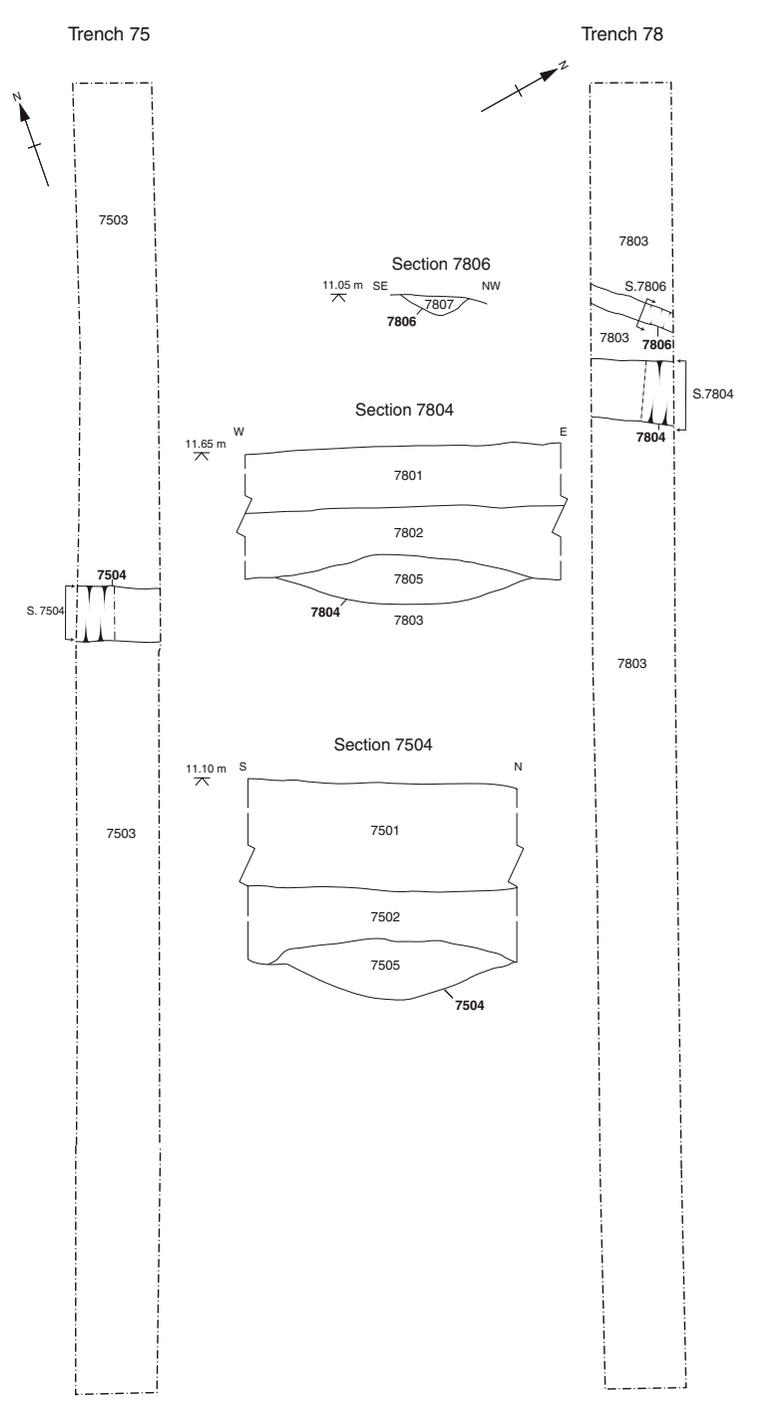
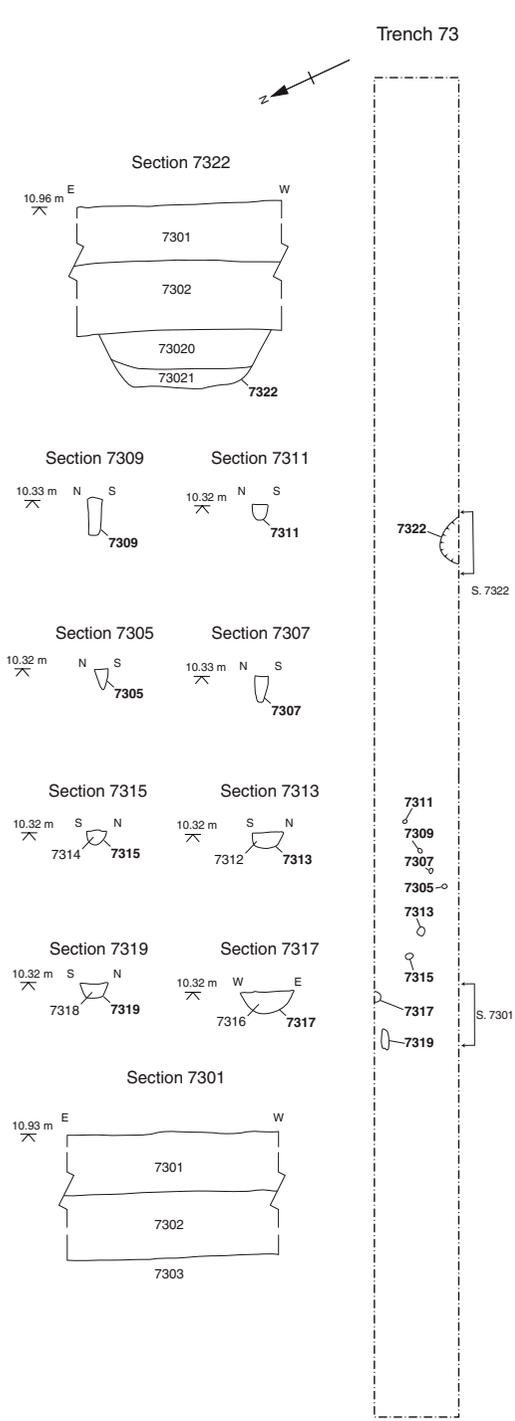
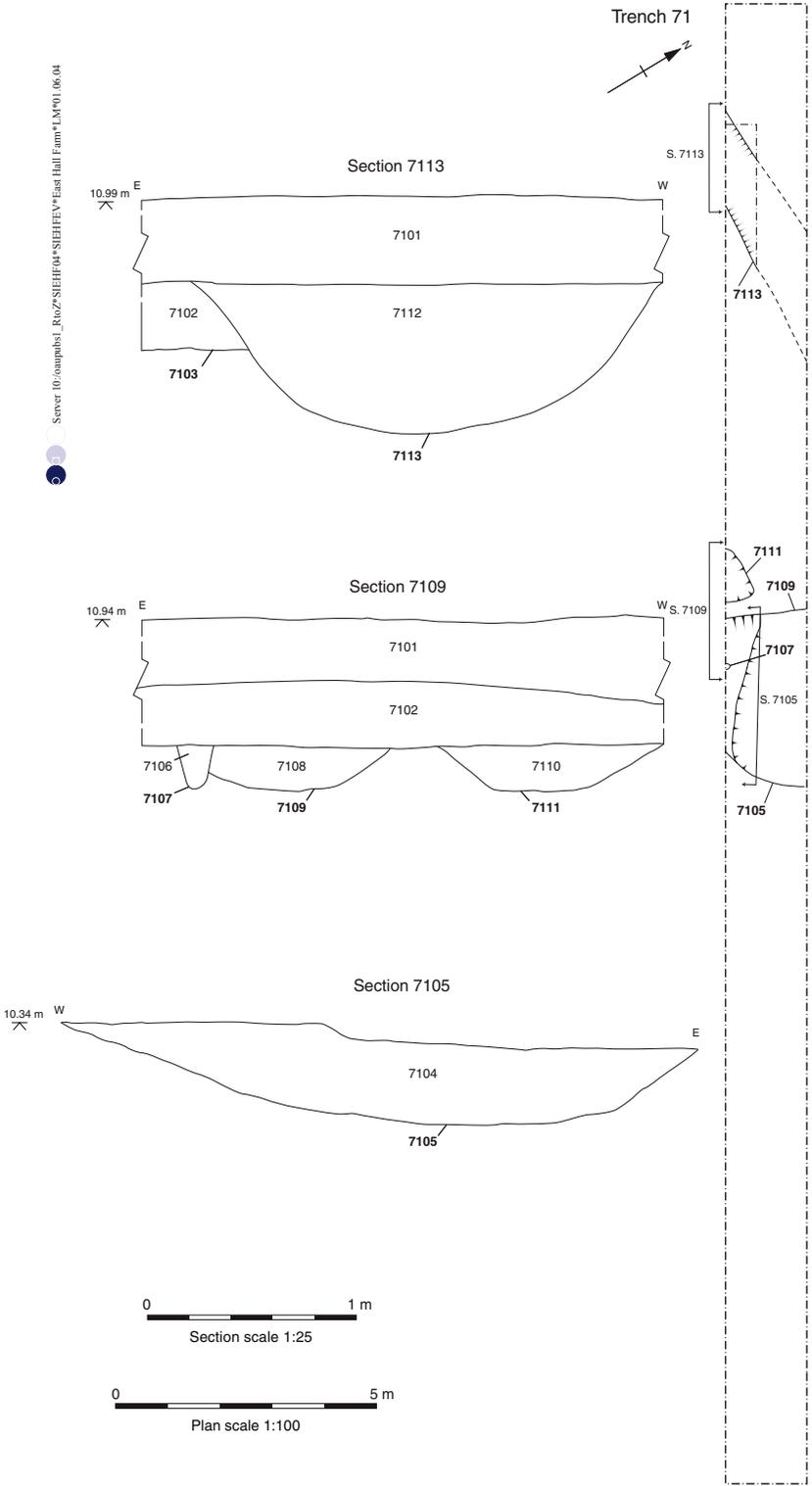


Figure 7: Trenches 46, 47, 48, and 49, plans and sections

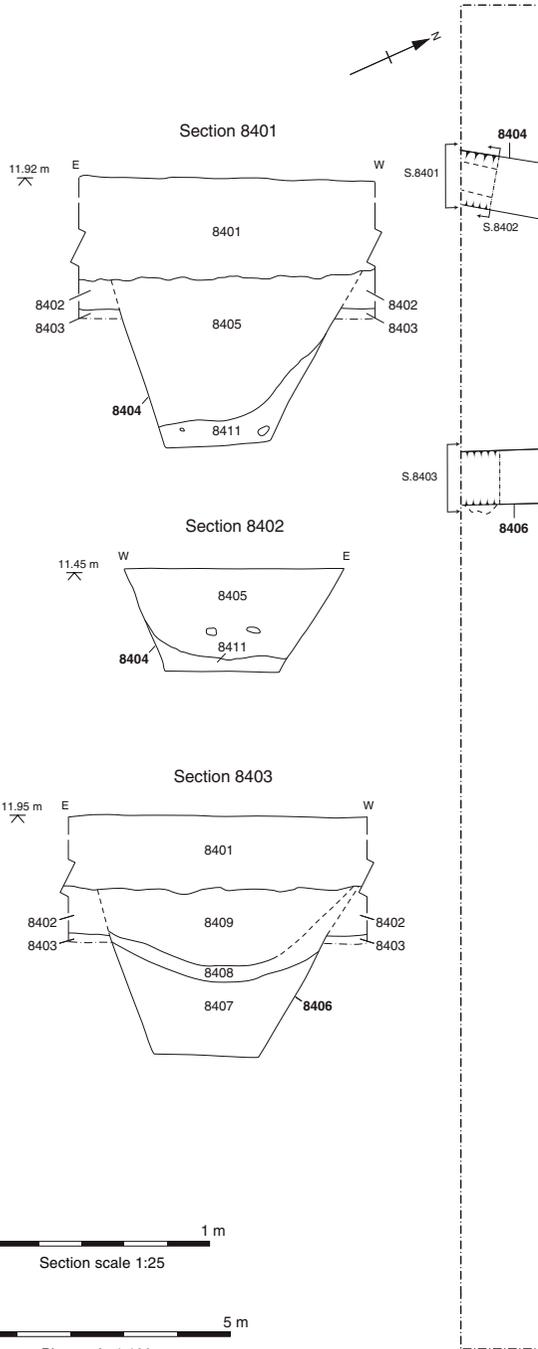


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Section scale 1:25

0 5 m  
Plan scale 1:100

Figure 8: Trenches 71, 73, 75, and 78, plans and sections

### Trench 84



### Trench 91

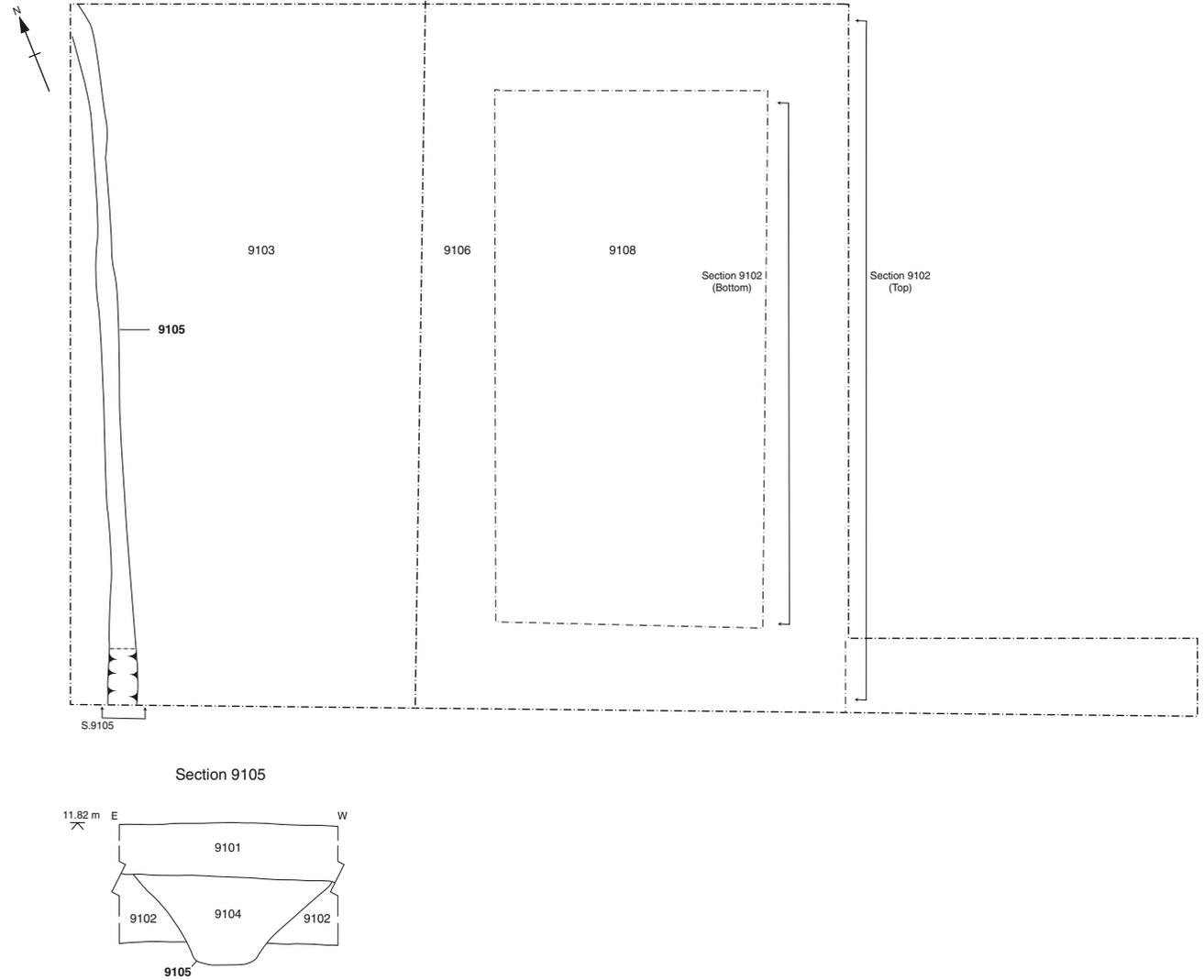


Figure 9: Trenches 84, and 91, plans and sections