

# Prehistoric Field Systems at DISC Chicksands Bedfordshire



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



March 2011

**Client: Defence Estates**

OA East Report No: 1225

OASIS No: Oxfordar3-87599

NGR: 512600 239800



**Prehistoric Field Systems at DISC Chicksands,  
Bedfordshire**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

*By Chris Thatcher BA*

*Editor: James Drummond Murray BA MIFA*

*Illustrators: Severine Bezie MA & Andy Corrigan BA*

*Report Date: March 2011*

**Report Number:** 1225 (rev1)  
**Site Name:** DISC Chicksands, Bedfordshire  
**HER Event No:**  
**Date of Works:** October 2010  
**Client Name:** Defence Estates  
**Client Ref:**  
**Planning Ref:**  
**Grid Ref:** NGR 512600 239800  
**Site Code:** XBDCHI10  
**Finance Code:** XBDCHI10  
**Receiving Body:**  
**Accession No:**

**Prepared by:** Chris Thatcher  
**Position:** Project Officer  
**Date:** March 2011

**Checked by:** James Drummond Murray  
**Position:** Project Officer  
**Date:** March 2011  
**Signed:** .....



**Disclaimer**

*This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.*

**Oxford Archaeology East,**  
15 Trafalgar Way,  
Bar Hill,  
Cambridge,  
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500  
f: 01223 850599  
e: [oeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto:oeast@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oeast>

© Oxford Archaeology East 2010  
Oxford Archaeology Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

## Table of Contents

<b>Summary.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1 Introduction.....</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	7
1.2 Geology and topography.....	7
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	7
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	10
<b>2 Aims and Methodology.....</b>	<b>11</b>
2.1 Aims.....	11
2.2 Methodology.....	11
<b>3 Results.....</b>	<b>12</b>
3.1 Introduction .....	12
3.2 Archaeological remains.....	12
3.3 Blank Trenches.....	16
3.4 Finds Summary.....	16
<b>4 Discussion and Conclusions.....</b>	<b>17</b>
4.1 Discussion.....	17
4.2 Conclusions.....	17
4.3 Recommendations.....	17
<b>Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Appendix B. Bibliography .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Appendix C. OASIS Report Form .....</b>	<b>36</b>

### List of Figures

Fig. 1	Site location
Fig. 2	Trench plan
Fig. 3	All features plans
Fig. 4	All features plans
Fig. 5	Section drawings

### List of Plates

Plate 1	Ditch 501
Plate 2	Ditch 503
Plate 3	Ditch 1804
Plate 4	Ditch 2305
Plate 5	Ditch 4303

## **Summary**

*During October 2010 Oxford Archaeology East conducted an archaeological evaluation at Ministry of Defence (MOD) freehold land at the Defence and Intelligence Security Centre (DISC), Chicksands, Bedfordshire (centred on NGR 512600 239800).*

*The archaeological evaluation revealed a low level of Prehistoric activity that included a series of possible boundary ditches, enclosure ditches and a small number of pits. This activity was concentrated on the higher ground towards the east of the development area and also on the lower ground to the north.*

*The features were largely sterile and thought to represent part of a prehistoric field system with the only finds comprising fragments of possible kiln bars that were recovered from a ditch towards the east of the development area. The presence of possible kiln furniture might suggest that the development area lay in the vicinity of a settlement.*





## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Ministry of Defence (MOD) freehold land at the Defence and Intelligence Security Centre (DISC), Chicksands, Bedfordshire (centred on NGR 512600 239800).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Martin Brown of Defence Estates and edited and re-titled by Sally Randell of Mouchel, following initial consultations and an outline scoping of works with Martin Oake, Central Bedfordshire Council's Archaeologist.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by CBC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The soils on the Site mainly comprise argillic brown sands, consisting of deep well-drained coarse loams derived from Mesozoic and Tertiary sands (SSEW, 1983). The British Geological Survey map for the area (BGS Sheet 204) shows that the underlying geology is complex, comprising outcrops of Cretaceous Gault Clay to the north and south of Shefford, whilst the Priory itself lies on Cretaceous Lower Greensand. A band of recent alluvium and Pleistocene first and second terrace gravels aligned east-west across the southern part of the Site mark the course of the River Flit. More localised deposits include small outcrops of boulder clay on the higher ground to the north, lain down by previous glacial episodes.
- 1.2.2 The hydrology of the Site is dominated by the course of the River Flit, which runs from west to east across the southern part of the Site. This acts as the main point of drainage for surface water in the area.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background for this report is drawn from the Desk Based Assessment prepared by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology, 2005).
- 1.3.2 DISC Chicksands lies amidst a complex archaeological landscape. The Site's broader environs have been occupied since the end of the last Ice Age (c. 12,000 BC) and used variously for settlement and agriculture, ritual and ceremonial activity.

#### ***Prehistoric***

- 1.3.3 A small assemblage of Mesolithic flints (c. 8,500 – 4,000 BC) has been recovered from Beadlow Manor Farm, Clophill. To the south east of the site between Shefford and Campton a Long-Necked Beaker of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date is recorded.
- 1.3.4 Bronze Age barrows are fairly common in Bedfordshire and two sites in the vicinity have been identified as belonging to this period. Traces of two possible ring-ditches

(the remains of ploughed-out round barrows) have been identified from crop marks recorded by aerial photography to the north-east of the site along with a third close to the eastern edge of the Study Area (NMR 919927, NMR 919947). A number of find spots of flint tools from across the county are also indicative of a wider settlement pattern (Wessex Archaeology, 2005).

- 1.3.5 To the north and east of the development area Iron Age an Iron Age pit and pottery that includes two Belgic vessels have been recovered from Rowney Warren.

### ***Iron Age and Roman***

- 1.3.6 There has been relatively little archaeological investigation of the Greensands Ridge area in which the development site lies, mainly as a result of a lack of development pressure (Oake *et al* 2007). The development of the Roman agricultural landscape in the locality is therefore not fully understood, however, in the wider county a number of settlement forms have been identified, ranging from nucleated farmsteads to 'villa' sites (Oake *et al* 2007).
- 1.3.7 Furthermore, a number of Roman sites and findspots are recorded in the vicinity of the development site. To the east, there is a concentration of Roman activity within the Shefford area, that is likely to have grown up around a ford or bridge allowing traffic to cross the marshy ground. Perhaps the most significant evidence for Roman settlement in Shefford is a Roman building (initially interpreted as a temple) and a walled cemetery (NMR362478, BSMR 379). Other remains of note include a Roman key and knife found within Shefford itself in 1933 (NMR 362477) (Wessex, 2005).
- 1.3.8 The line of the present A507, to the south, has been identified as a Roman road (NMR 1044780 BSMR 5342), first investigated by an antiquarian study and more recently confirmed by aerial photographs. A second Roman road, running from Shefford to Putnoe Street, crosses the north-eastern corner of the Study Area (NMR 1044822, BSMR 717). This is still visible as an earthwork at Claypits Field at Old Warden; one excavated section recorded the road metalling as being 35 feet wide.
- 1.3.9 Close to the western boundary of the development a Roman bronze pin (NMR 636506. BSMR 11268) dating to the 2nd century AD has been recorded. This find lay near an 'ancient trackway' in the Clophill area, which may mark the line of a Roman road.

### ***Anglo Saxon and medieval***

- 1.3.10 With the withdrawal of Roman influence in Britain, the Saxon period (AD 410 - 1066) was characterised by a decline in the production and trade of goods due to a lack of coinage. Another notable trend was a shift of power, wealth and population from urban centres to rural locations. Chicksands and Bedfordshire in general lay within the area under Anglo-Saxon influence in the post-Roman period. By the 7th century AD, the area formed part of the Saxon kingdom of Mercia, which covered most of central England. Anglo-Saxon material found in the wider area includes two saucer brooches found at Shefford (VCH 1912, 266).
- 1.3.11 In the Domesday Book, Chicksands lay within the Clifton Hundred. In common with many Medieval settlements or manors, it is recorded under numerous spellings, including *Chichesane*, *Cudessane*, *Chikesond* and *Chickessaund*. It's origins appear to lie in the combination of a personal name (probably 'Cicca') with 'sands', describing the nature of the soil.
- 1.3.12 The manor of Chicksands was donated to the Gilbertine Order for the building of a religious house in 1147. The monastery was founded in 1156 by Countess Rose

Beauchamp, assisted by her second husband, Payn de Beauchamp. It grew to become the third largest house of the Gilbertine Order.

- 1.3.13 Chicksands Priory was probably built with two sets of cloister buildings, one serving the monks and the other serving the nuns. The surviving structure represents the remains of the southern cloister, which lay to the south of the church. A second, northern, cloister, no longer survives (VCH 1912, 273).
- 1.3.14 The Gilbertines surrendered Chicksands to the Crown during the Dissolution of the Monasteries under Henry VIII. The Prior of Chicksands signed the deed of surrender in 1538, following a visit of the King's lawyers and a report that two of the nuns were pregnant.

#### ***Post-medieval to modern***

- 1.3.15 Chicksands Priory as it now stands, is of significant architectural interest as an early example of Gothic Revival, and may date as early as 1740 (Country Times and Landscape 1988, 74). An illustration of 1781 shows the east and south fronts substantially as they are today. This work was overseen by the architect Isaac Ware, under the direction of Danvers Osborne. Fortunately, a detailed Buck engraving shows the south and east fronts of the Priory prior to Ware's modifications. These modifications largely entailed the removal of the projecting chimney stacks from the outside walls of the south and east façades to create two long flat fronts. A regular series of Gothic windows was introduced all along the first floor.
- 1.3.16 During the early nineteenth Century the north wing was rebuilt along with further work on the east and south fronts, the porch was also added to the east wing and became the main entrance to the building. At the same time, the area surrounding the Priory was subject to major revision in order to form a park landscape. The peace monument, in the form of an obelisk, was erected after the battle of Waterloo by General Sir George, who was colonel of the 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot. He was also responsible for the construction of the three lodges controlling access to the Priory.
- 1.3.17 During the First World War The Priory was put into use as a home for recuperating wounded soldiers. The estate was placed on the open market, and bought by the Crown in 1936, on behalf of the Air Ministry. The house was let out to a number of short-term tenants, including the Royal Navy, before the Air Ministry began to develop the site, then named RAF Chicksands, as a secret signals station.
- 1.3.18 During the Second World War, Chicksands' primary role was intercepting enemy communications and passing them on to the decryption unit at Bletchley Park. It housed the RAF's main radio interception and equipment, primarily intended to intercept Luftwaffe radio traffic. This was the responsibility of a secret RAF unit of specialists known as the 'Y service', who began their work at Chicksands in the autumn of 1940. The Priory itself served as a mission operations centre. Signals intercepted at Chicksands played an important role in breaking the German Enigma code.
- 1.3.19 In 1950, the base was leased out to the United States Air Force (USAF), who required a permanent Security Service Base in Britain. It was the USAF who built the great AN/FLR-9 ring antenna, which was 400 yards in diameter and stood some 110 feet tall, and became affectionately known as the 'Elephant Cage'. The USAF used Chicksands until 1995, when a combination of increasingly effective modern technology and a lessening of Cold War tensions meant that it was no longer required. The 'Elephant Cage' was dismantled in 1996.

- 1.3.20 The base reverted to the Ministry of Defence in 1996 and who now operate it as a Defence and Intelligence Security Centre.

## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Defence Estates, who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. Wessex Archaeology produced the Desk Based Assessment. The evaluation was visited and monitored by Martin Oake, Central Bedfordshire's County Archaeologist, Martin Brown (DE Environmental Advisor) and Sally Randell (Principal Archaeology Consultant Engineering and Environment, Mouchel). The project was managed by James Drummond Murray. Chris Thatcher directed and supervised the fieldwork with the assistance of Rob Atkins, Graeme Clarke, Chris Faine, and Julian Newman. The illustrations were produced by Severine Bezie and Louise Bush.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that a total of fifty 50m x 2m trial trenches, totalling 2500m<sup>2</sup> be excavated (Fig. 2).
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with 2 x 360° excavators using toothless ditching buckets.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Gareth Rees using Leica GPS.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *proforma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 Site conditions were generally bright and dry throughout.
- 2.2.7 The underlying geology of the site was particularly complex and mixed, ranging from clean sands to gravel with sudden changes across the site and between trenches. As a result of this a number of the trenches were over machined whilst attempting to ascertain the actual level of the natural deposits. This was mitigated by cleaning the trench sides in order to identify any features and to establish the level of truncation and actual depth of the surviving deposits.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The archaeological evaluation revealed a low level of archaeological activity across the site (Figs. 2 - 4). The results are presented below by trench and sub divided between blank trenches and those which were found to contain archaeological features.

#### 3.2 Archaeological remains

##### ***Trench 3***

- 3.2.1 Trench 3 was located in the north western corner of the development area (Fig. 3). A total of four features were recorded along the length of the trench (**302**, **304**, **306**, & **308**).
- 3.2.2 Ditch **302** extended from the northern baulk and terminated in the centre of the trench approximately seven metres from its north eastern limit. In section **302** was 0.62m wide by 0.24m deep with a U shaped profile filled by a single mid grey brown deposit (303) from which no finds were recovered (Fig. 5).
- 3.2.3 Lying approximately 3.5m to the south west was ditch **304**, which traversed the full width of the trench on a north west to south east alignment, similar to that of ditch **302**. It was of comparable width and depth to ditch **302**, being only slightly shallower, at 0.16m in depth, and was filled with a homogeneous mid grey brown deposit (305) that also contained no finds (Fig. 5).
- 3.2.4 The remaining two features were recorded in the south western corner of the trench. Feature **306** extended from the south facing baulk for 1.5m before terminating. It was unclear whether or not this represented the terminus of a ditch or pit and in profile it was very shallow, being not more than 0.12m in depth.
- 3.2.5 Immediately to the south was a section of a curvilinear ditch (**308**). In section ditch **308** had a markedly more pronounced profile 1m wide by 0.65m deep. The edge on the inside of the curve was almost vertical, whilst the outer edge was steep and relatively straight. No finds were recovered from its homogeneous dark grey brown fill (309). Given the close proximity of this end of Trench 3 to the approach road of the military establishment and the distinctive profile of the ditch it is possible that **308** represented a modern feature associated with the base, perhaps a slit trench or fire trench (Martin Brown, *pers comm*)

##### ***Trench 5***

- 3.2.6 Trench 5 lay up slope of Trench 3 on a north west to south east alignment close to the western limit of the development area (Fig. 3). Two perpendicularly aligned ditches were recorded within the trench (**501** & **503**).
- 3.2.7 Ditch **501** crossed the trench on a south east to north west alignment approximately 6m from its south eastern limit. It was 0.95m in width by 0.23m deep with a concave profile (Fig. 5). No finds were recovered from its fill (500) (Plate 1).
- 3.2.8 The second ditch (**503**) emerged from the north east facing baulk 5m to the north and continued across the trench on a north west to south east alignment. In profile it was symmetrical and 0.85m in width by 0.29m deep. Its fill (502) was very similar to 500, comprising a mid grey brown silty sand (Fig. 5 & Plate 2). The alignments of Ditches **501** & **503** were convergent and they may have formed two sides of a single enclosure.

### ***Trench 13***

- 3.2.9 Trench 13 lay close to the northern limit of the development area and was aligned north to south (Fig. 3). Three ditches (**1305**, **1308** & **1311**) were recorded although the trench was slightly over machined at its southern end as a result of the highly mixed composition of the natural.
- 3.2.10 Ditch **1305** lay approximately 7m from the northern trench limit. It was aligned east to west and was 1.32m in width by 0.45m deep. Two fills were recorded (1303 & 1304) of which 1304, the primary fill, a slump containing a high frequency of stones, was deposited along the southern edge. No finds were recovered from ditch **1305**.
- 3.2.11 The remaining ditches lay at the southern end of the trench and were partially truncated during machining as a result of the highly mixed natural and diffuse, leached fills recorded in the features. Ditch **1311** was recorded 2.5m from the southern limit and was curvilinear in plan with the curve describing a possible enclosure to the south. In section it was 1.94m in width by 0.64m deep. No finds were recovered from its single fill (1309).
- 3.2.12 Immediately to the north, ditch **1308** traversed the trench on a north west to south east alignment. Although it was only seen in section, ditch **1308** was considerably wider than the other features recorded within the trench being approximately 2.70m wide and 0.45m deep. No finds were recovered from its two fills (1306 & 1307), which comprised homogeneous light to mid grey brown silty sands, similar in composition to the natural deposits recorded in the southern part of the trench.

### ***Trench 18***

- 3.2.13 Trench 18 was aligned north to south, directly up the slope upon which the development area was located (Fig. 3). Approximately 9m from the southern end of the trench a single ditch (**1804**) was recorded that ran east to west apparently following the contour of the slope.
- 3.2.14 Ditch **1804** was 1.41m in width by 0.52m deep with a steep sided and narrow based profile. It contained a single fill (1803) comprised of a homogeneous mid grey brown silt sand deposit that contained no finds (Fig. 5 & Plate 3).

### ***Trench 23***

- 3.2.15 Trench 23 lay at the base of the slope, close to the centre of the development area. Five possible features were recorded along the length of the trench (**2303**, **2305**, **2307**, **2309** & **2311**) (Fig. 3).
- 3.2.16 Pit **2303** was recorded 11m from the southern end of the trench. It was oval shaped in plan with a diameter of 1.04m. In section **2303** was 0.42m deep with a single fill (2304) that contained no finds and was composed of a bark brown grey sandy silt (Fig. 5).
- 3.2.17 Ditch **2305** Lay 6m to the north, emerging from the eastern edge of the trench on a north east to south west alignment and terminating 0.50m short of the western baulk. Ditch **2305** was one of the best defined features recorded during the evaluation (Fig. 5). Its fill (2306) comprised a dark brown grey sandy silt that was relatively compacted. In section the cut had a symmetrical, wide based profile 1.20m wide by 0.30m deep (Plate 4).
- 3.2.18 Ditch **2307** emerged from the eastern baulk just 1.5m to the north and continued across the trench on a south east to north west alignment. It was slightly narrower and

shallower than **2305** being only 0.80m wide by 0.28m deep but contained a similar dark brown grey sandy silt (2308).

- 3.2.19 The remaining features in the trench (**2309** & **2311**) were less distinct. In plan they appeared to be linear, with **2309** entering the trench from its eastern side and terminating in the centre of the trench and **2311** converging from the west. Upon excavation they were revealed to have irregular profiles. No finds were recovered from their respective fills and with these factors in mind it is suggested that these features be regarded as possibly naturally derived.

#### ***Trench 28***

- 3.2.20 Trench 28 was located to the south east of Trench 23, in the centre of the development area. It was aligned north to south and a single ditch (**2802**) was recorded crossing the trench perpendicular to its axis 16m from its southern end (Fig. 3).
- 3.2.21 Ditch **2802** was partially truncated by machine but was 1.00m in diameter and 0.40m deep with a steep sided, wide based profile (Fig. ). No finds were recovered from its fill (2803).

#### ***Trench 32***

- 3.2.22 Trench 32 lay at the base of the slope on the northern limit of the development area aligned east to west (Fig. 3). Two features were recorded within the trench (**323** & **325**).
- 3.2.23 Pit **323** lay 6m from the western end of the trench was not fully exposed, continuing beyond the southern limit of the trench. It was irregular in plan and had a shallow, indistinct profile. No finds were recovered from its fill (322) and it is suggested that it be regarded as a possibly natural feature.
- 3.2.24 Ditch **325** traversed the width of the trench on a north to south alignment towards the eastern end of the trench. It cut from the base of the subsoil and was 0.17m deep by 0.50m in width. No finds were recovered from its fill (324).

#### ***Trench 33***

- 3.2.25 Trench 33 lay immediately to the south of Trench 32 aligned north to south, two ephemeral features were recorded within the trench (**333** & **335**) (Fig. 3).
- 3.2.26 Feature **333** was recorded at the northern end of the trench extending from the east facing baulk. The exposed section of the feature was roughly hemispherical in plan and 0.64m in diameter by 0.23m deep. It contained a fill (332) very similar in composition to the natural sand.
- 3.2.27 The second feature was a shallow sided ditch (**335**) located at the southern end of the trench that ran parallel with the contours of the hill. This feature had a very sterile fill (334) that appeared to be naturally derived, which made the true edges fairly difficult to discern.
- 3.2.28 Neither of these features contained any finds and they were both very ephemeral when compared with similar features recorded elsewhere during the evaluation, for these reasons it should be considered that they may be natural deposits rather than deliberately cut features.

#### ***Trench 37***

- 3.2.29 Trench 37 lay immediately to the east of Trench 33 aligned north west to south east. A single pit was recorded towards the north western end of the trench (Fig. 3).



- 3.2.30 Pit **373** was 1.66m in diameter and 0.33m deep with shallow sides and a wide base (Fig. 5). No finds were recovered from its fill (372), a mid grey brown silty sand deposit.

#### **Trench 40**

- 3.2.31 Trench 40 was aligned north to south and situated in the eastern part of the development area (Fig. 3). Two ditches (**4002** & **4004**) were recorded in the southern half of the trench.
- 3.2.32 Ditch **4002** was 1.30m in width and 0.22m deep. It was aligned east to west with a flat based profile (Fig. 5). The fill (4003) contained no finds and comprised a dark brown silty sand.
- 3.2.33 Ditch **4004** was smaller, measuring 0.77m in width by 0.11m deep and lay approximately half way along the trench running parallel with **4002**. It contained no finds and was filled by a dark brown silty sand deposit (4005).

#### **Trench 42**

- 3.2.34 Trench 42 lay in the eastern part of the development area aligned north to south. A single ditch (**4203**) 1.2m in diameter by 0.22m deep was recorded in the northern half of the ditch (Fig. 4).

#### **Trench 43**

- 3.2.35 Trench 43 was situated in the eastern part of the development area aligned east to west approximately half way up the slope (Fig. 4). A single ditch (**4303**) and two putative pits (**4305** & **4307**).
- 3.2.36 Ditch **4303** ran through the centre of the trench on a north to south alignment. It was 1.9m in width and 0.27m deep with a concave base (Fig. 5). Two fragments of poorly fired clay were recovered from its fill (4302) (Plate 5). The larger of the two fragments was 45mm on its longest edge and roughly triangular in section. It is possible that these represented unused kiln bars or examples of hearth blocks, however their relatively poor condition precludes further interpretation (Crummy, *pers comm.*).
- 3.2.37 Pits **4305** and **4307** lay immediately to the east of ditch **4303**. Both of these features were fairly indeterminate with shallow profiles filled with very sterile sandy deposits (4304 & 4306). Ditch **4303** truncated pit **4305**.

#### **Trench 44**

- 3.2.38 Trench 44 was aligned north to south and lay immediately to the south of Trench 43. A single ditch was recorded in the central part of the Trench (**4403**). It was 1.15m in width and 0.16m deep (Fig. 4). No finds were recovered from its fill (4402) a homogeneous mid grey brown silty sand.

#### **Trench 48**

- 3.2.39 Trench 48 lay towards the eastern limit of the development area (Fig. 4). It was aligned north east to south west and contained two features, a shallow pit (**4803**) at the northern end and at the southern end, a ditch (**4806**).
- 3.2.40 Pit **4803** was 0.60m in width by 0.20m deep and contained two silty sand fills (4804 & 4805) from which no finds were recovered.
- 3.2.41 Ditch **4806** was recorded 4m from the south western limit of the trench, it was 1.30m in width by 0.13m deep and contained a single mid grey brown fill (4807).

### ***Trench 50***

- 3.2.42 Trench 50 was situated on the far eastern side of the development area. Two ditches were recorded at the southern end of the trench (**5003 & 5005**) (Fig. 4). These were aligned east to west. Ditch **5003** was 0.94m in diameter by 0.48m deep with a wide based, steep sided profile. It extended 1.30m across the trench from its western side before terminating. Immediately adjacent to the north, ditch **5005** crossed the full width of the trench. It was very similar in dimensions but had a more pronounced V shaped profile.

### **3.3 Blank Trenches**

- 3.3.1 The majority of the trenches contained no archaeological remains. As stated above the underlying geology was highly mixed and in places these geological variations took the form of discrete feature-like patches or bands of material. Given the ephemeral and often indistinct nature of the archaeological remains recorded within the development area when these were encountered they were investigated in order to ascertain that they did not represent archaeological deposits.
- 3.3.2 The blank trenches are described in Appendix A.

### **3.4 Finds Summary**

- 3.4.1 No pottery was recovered from the evaluation. Two fragments of a possible salt-making fire-bar, kiln bar or hearth block were recovered from Trench 43.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation revealed a series of possible boundary and enclosure ditches, along with a small number of pits, across the development area. The concentration of features appeared to be higher towards the east of the development area and also on the lower ground towards the north.
- 4.1.2 The presence of possible kiln furniture within ditch **4303** towards the east of the development area is of note as these features would be expected in close proximity to a settlement. However, the general paucity of finds elsewhere precludes any accurate dating of these features.
- 4.1.3 To the east and north-east of the site, up to three ring ditches have been recorded as cropmarks by aerial photography (NMR 919927, NMR 919947). It has been suggested that these represent the ploughed out remains of 2 ring ditches (Wessex Archaeology 2005).
- 4.1.4 It is suggested that the ditches recorded during the evaluation may represent evidence for wider Prehistoric activity within the locality.

### 4.2 Conclusions

- 4.2.1 The evidence recorded by the evaluation suggests that the development area had been subject to little habitation or settlement. The archaeological features were characteristic of prehistoric field systems, and although the lack of finds suggests that the site did not form part of a settlement, the presence of possible kiln bars, albeit poorly fired, suggests that there was a settlement nearby.

#### *Confidence Rating*

Although a number of features and deposits were located in the evaluation, the complex and varied nature of the natural subsoil meant that identification was not always straightforward. Some features were only seen in section when the trench had been deepened to clarify the presence of such features and it is possible that, in a similar way, some discreet features within trenches may have been missed. It is not believed that this will have affected the overall picture obtained from the fieldwork but it should be acknowledged.

### 4.3 Recommendations

- 4.3.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

## APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	SE-NW
Trench 1 was aligned north west to south east and lay in the north western corner of the development area.  No archaeological features were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.65
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
101	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
103	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 2						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	SW-NE
Trench 2 was aligned north east to south west it was situated in the north western corner of the development area and was upto 0.70m in depth.  A single tree throw was investigated in the southern part of the trench. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.7
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
201	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	0.39	Subsoil	-	-
203	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 3						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	SW-NE
Trench 3 was located in the north western corner of the development area. A total of four features were recorded along the length of the trench (302, 304, 306, & 308).					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.42
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
300	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
302	Cut	0.62	0.24	Cut of ditch terminus	-	-
303	Fill	0.62	0.24	Fill of 302	-	-
304	Cut	0.5	0.16	Cut of ditch	-	-
305	Fill	0.5	0.16	Fill of 304	-	-
306	Cut	1	0.12	Cut of pit	-	-

307	Fill	1	0.12	Fill of 306	-	-
308	Cut	1	0.65	Cut of ditch	-	-
309	Fill	1	0.65	Fill of 308	-	-
<b>Trench 4</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
<p>Trench 4 was situated in the western part of the development area aligned east to west and was upto 0.55m in depth.</p> <p>A number of irregular shaped features located throughout the length of the trench were found to be geological anomalies upon investigation. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded.</p>					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.55
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
401	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
203	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 5</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
<p>Trench 5 lay on a north west to south east alignment close to the western limit of the development area. Two ditches were recorded (501 &amp; 503).</p>					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.7
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
500	Fill	0.95	0.23	Fill of 501	-	-
501	Cut	0.95	0.23	Cut of ditch	-	-
502	Fill	0.85	0.29	Fill of 503	-	-
503	Cut	0.85	0.29	Cut of ditch	-	-
504	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
505	Layer	-	0.34	Subsoil	-	-
<b>Trench 6</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	SW-NE
<p>Trench 6 was situated in the south western corner of the development area aligned north east to south west. It had a total depth of 0.5m.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were recorded.</p>					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
601	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-

602	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
603	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 7</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Split into two trenches. One aligned east to west and the second aligned north east to south west.  No archaeological features or deposits were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	85
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
701	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	0.45	Subsoil	-	-
703	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 8</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench 8 was aligned north to south and lay in the western part of the development area. The trench was upto 0.65m in depth at its southern end.  No archaeological features or deposits were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.65
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
801	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
802	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
803	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 9</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench 9 was situated in the western part of the development area aligned east to west and was upto 0.65m in depth.  Two irregular shaped features were investigated and these were found to be geological anomalies. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.65
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
901	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
902	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
903	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 10</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench 10 was aligned north to south and lay in the south western					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.75

part of the development area. The depth of overburden increased markedly towards the southern end of the trench from 0.6m to 0.95m.					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50m
No archaeological features or deposits were recorded.							
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1001	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-	
1002	Layer	-	0.6	Subsoil	-	-	
1003	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	
Trench 11							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench 11 was located at the base of the slope at the northern limit of the development area aligned east to west. The trench was upto 0.52m in depth.					Avg. depth (m)		0.52
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
No archaeological features or deposits were recorded.							
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1101	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-	
1102	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-	
1103	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	
Trench 12							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench 12 was aligned east to west and lay close to the south western limit of the development area. The trench was upto 0.95m in depth.					Avg. depth (m)		0.95
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50m
No archaeological features or deposits were recorded.							
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1201	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-	
1202	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-	
1203	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	
Trench 13							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Trench 13 lay close to the northern limit of the development area and was aligned north to south. Ditches 1305, 1308 & 1311 recorded.					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50m
Contexts							

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1301	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
1302	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
1303	Fill	1.32	0.45	Fill of 1305	-	-
1304	Fill	0.58	0.45	Fill of 1305	-	-
1305	Cut	1.32	0.45	Cut of ditch	-	-
1306	Fill	2.7	0.45	Fill of 1308	-	-
1307	Fill	1.1	0.45	Fill of 1308	-	-
1308	Cut	2.7	0.45	Cut of ditch	-	-
1309	Fill	1.94	0.64	Fill of 1311	-	-
1310	Fill	0.37	0.07	Fill of 1311	-	-
1311	Cut	1.94	0.64	Cut of ditch	-	-
<b>Trench 14</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench 14 was situated in the western part of the development area aligned east to west and was upto 0.55m in depth.  No archaeological features or deposits were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.55
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1401	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
1402	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
1403	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 15</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench 15 was located in the western central part of the development area aligned north to south. At the northern end of the trench the depth of subsoil was upto 0.37m, this decreased to less than 0.10m in the southern part of the trench.  No archaeological features were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.67
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1501	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
1502	Layer	-	0.37	Subsoil	-	-
1503	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 16</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench 16 was aligned east to west and lay on the high ground in the southern part of the development area. The depth of subsoil					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5



increased from 0.10m to 0.20m west to east with the maximum recorded trench depth being upto 0.50m.					Width (m)	2
No archaeological features were recorded.					Length (m)	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1601	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
1602	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
1603	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 17</b>						
<b>General description</b>					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench 17 was located in the north central part of the development area aligned north west to south east. The trench was upto 0.65m in depth.  No archaeological features were recorded.					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1701	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
1702	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
1703	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 18</b>						
<b>General description</b>					Orientation	N-S
Trench 18 was aligned north to south, ditch <b>1804</b> recorded					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1801	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
1802	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
1803	Fill	1.41	0.52	Fill of 1804	-	-
1804	Cut	1.41	0.52	Cut of ditch	-	-
<b>Trench 19</b>						
<b>General description</b>					Orientation	E-W
Trench 19 was situated in the central part of the development area aligned east to west and was upto 0.55m in depth.  No archaeological features were recorded.					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
context	type	Width	Depth	comment	finds	date

no		(m)	(m)			
1901	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
1902	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
1903	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 20</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
<p>Trench 20 was located towards the centre of the development area aligned north to south. The trench ran straight down the slope and no subsoil was recorded at its southern, up slope end. To the north the total trench depth was 0.45m and a thin subsoil layer, 0.10m thick was recorded.</p> <p>No archaeological features were recorded.</p>					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.45
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2001	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
2002	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
2003	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 21</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
<p>Trench 21 was located parallel with the southern boundary of the development area aligned east to west. The total depth of deposits was upto 0.60m.</p> <p>No archaeological features were recorded.</p>					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.6
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2101	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2102	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
2103	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 22</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
<p>Trench 22 lay on an east to west alignment at the base of the slope at the northern limit of the development area. It was upto 0.70m in depth.</p> <p>No archaeological features were recorded.</p>					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.7
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2201	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2202	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil	-	-

2203	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 23</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench 23 lay close to the centre of the development area. Five possible features (2303, 2305, 2307, 2309 & 2311) were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.6
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
2301	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2302	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
2303	Cut	1.04	0.42	Cut of ditch	-	-
2304	Fill	1.04	0.42	Fill of 1303	-	-
2305	Cut	1.2	0.3	Cut of ditch	-	-
2306	Fill	1.2	0.3	Fill of 1305	-	-
2307	Cut	0.8	0.28	Cut of ditch	-	-
2308	Fill	0.8	0.28	Fill of 1307	-	-
2309	Cut	1.2	0.3	Cut of ditch	-	-
2310	Fill	1.2	0.3	Fill of 1309	-	-
2311	Cut	0.7	0.3	Cut of ditch	-	-
2312	Fill	0.7	0.3	Fill of 1311	-	-
<b>Trench 24</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench 24 was situated in the central part of the development area aligned east to west and running perpendicular to the slope. The total trench depth was 0.60m.  No archaeological features were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.6
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
2401	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2402	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
2403	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 25</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench 25 was aligned north to south and lay on in the centre of the development area. The depth of deposits increased from 0.45m to 0.50m south to north.  No archaeological features were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2501	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2502	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
2503	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 26</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
Trench 26 was located close to the southern boundary of the development area aligned south east to north west. The total depth of deposits increased down slope from 0.20m in the south to 0.36m to the north.  No archaeological features were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.36
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2601	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
2602	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
2603	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 27</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
Trench 27 was aligned south east to north west and lay at the base of the slope at the northern limit of the development area. The trench depth increased towards the northern end from 0.70m to 1m.  No archaeological features were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.85
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2701	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2702	Layer	-	0.45	Subsoil	-	-
2703	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 28</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench 28 was located in the centre of the development area, aligned north to south, a single ditch ( <b>2802</b> ) was recorded					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.66
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2800	Layer	-	-0.4	Topsoil	-	-
2801	Layer	-	0.26	Subsoil	-	-

2802	Cut	1	0.4	Cut of Ditch	-	-
2803	Fill	1	0.4	Fill of 1802	-	-
<b>Trench 29</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench 29 was located in the central part of the development area aligned east to west. In places it was up to 1m deep and the sides began to collapse on the up slope side.  No archaeological features were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	1
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
2901	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2902	Layer	-	0.8	Subsoil	-	-
2903	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 30</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench 30 was located at the top of the slope in the southern central part of the development area aligned north to south. It was up to 0.72m deep.  No archaeological features were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.72
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
3001	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
3002	Layer	-	0.42	Subsoil	-	-
3003	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 31</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench 31 was aligned east to west adjacent to the southern boundary of the development area. The trench depth increased towards the eastern end from 0.50m to 0.65m.  No archaeological features were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.55
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
3101	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
3102	Layer	-	0.42	Subsoil	-	-
3103	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 32</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W

Trench 32 lay on the northern limit of the development area aligned east to west. Two features were recorded (323 & 325).					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	1.05
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
320	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
321	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
322	Fill	1.55	0.45	Fill of 323	-	-
323	Cut	1.55	0.45	Cut of pit	-	-
324	Fill	0.5	0.17	Fill of 325	-	-
325	Cut	0.5	0.17	Cut of ditch	-	-
<b>Trench 33</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench 33 was aligned north to south, two possible features were recorded (333 & 335).					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.65
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
330	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
331	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
332	Fill	0.64	0.23	Fill of 333	-	-
333	Cut	0.64	0.23	Cut of pit	-	-
334	Fill	0.9	0.2	Fill of 335	-	-
335	Cut	0.9	0.2	Cut of ditch	-	-
<b>Trench 34</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench 34 was aligned east to west and lay in the eastern central part of the development area. The trench maximum trench was 0.80m.  No archaeological features were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.75
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3401	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
3402	Layer	-	0.45	Subsoil	-	-
3403	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 35</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S

Trench 35 lay on a north to south alignment close to the top of the slope in the central eastern part of the development area. The total recorded trench depth was 0.70m.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.7
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
No archaeological features were recorded.						
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3501	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
3502	Layer	-	0.45	Subsoil	-	-
3503	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 36</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
Trench 36 was aligned south east to north west and lay on the high ground towards the south east of the development area. The total depth of deposits was upto 0.80m.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.8
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
No archaeological features were recorded.						
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3601	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
3602	Layer	-	0.42	Subsoil	-	-
3603	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 37</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
Trench 37 was aligned north west to south east. Pit 373 was recorded towards the north western end of the trench.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	1
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
370	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
371	Layer	-	0.65	Subsoil	-	-
372	Fill	1.66	0.33	Fill of 373	-	-
373	Cut	1.66	0.33	Cut of pit	-	-
<b>Trench 38</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench 38 was located in the eastern part of the development area aligned north to south. It was up to 0.8m deep.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.8
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
No archaeological features were recorded.						
<b>Contexts</b>						

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3801	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
3802	Layer	-	0.5	Subsoil	-	-
3803	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 39</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench 39 lay on an east to west alignment close to the top of the slope in the eastern part of the development area. The total recorded trench depth was 0.70m.  No archaeological features were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.7
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3901	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
3902	Layer	-	0.42	Subsoil	-	-
3903	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 40</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench 40 was situated in the eastern part of the development area aligned north to south Two ditches ( <b>4002 &amp; 4004</b> ) were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.6
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4000	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
4001	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
4002	Cut	1.3	0.22	Cut of ditch	-	-
4003	Fill	1.3	0.22	Fill of 4002	-	-
4004	Cut	0.77	0.11	Cut of ditch	-	-
4005	Fill	0.77	0.11	Fill of 4004	-	-
<b>Trench 41</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench 41 was situated close to the north eastern limit of the development area aligned east to west and was upto 0.65m in depth.  No archaeological features were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.65
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4101	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-



4102	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
4103	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 42</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench 42 lay in the eastern part of the development area aligned north to south. A single ditch ( <b>4203</b> ) 1.2m in diameter by 0.22m deep was recorded in the northern half of the ditch.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.55
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
4200	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
4201	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
4202	Fill	1.2	0.22	Fill of 4003	-	-
4203	Cut	1.2	0.22	Cut of ditch	-	-
<b>Trench 43</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench 43 was situated in the eastern part of the development area aligned east to west approximately half way up the slope. A single ditch ( <b>4303</b> ) and two putative pits ( <b>4305</b> & <b>4307</b> ).					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.7
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
4300	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
4301	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
4302	Fill	1.9	0.27	Fill of 4303	-	-
4303	Cut	1.9	0.27	Cut of pit	-	-
4304	Fill	1.4	0.2	Fill of 4305	2 x fired clay fragments	-
4305	Cut	1.4	0.2	Cut of ditch	-	-
4306	Fill	0.6	0.16	Fill of 4307	-	-
4307	Cut	0.6	0.16	Cut of ditch	-	-
<b>Trench 44</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench 44 was aligned north to south and a single ditch was recorded in the central part of the Trench ( <b>4403</b> )					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>

4400	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
4401	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
4402	Fill	1.15	0.16	Fill of 4403	-	-
4403	Cut	1.15	0.16	Cut of pit	-	-
<b>Trench 45</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
Trench 45 was located close to the south eastern boundary of the development area on an east to west alignment. The total recorded trench depth was 0.60m.  No archaeological features were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.6
					<b>Width (m)</b>	
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
4101	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
4102	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
4103	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 46</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench 46 lay in the north eastern corner of the development area on a south east to north west alignment at the base of the slope. The total recorded trench depth was 0.60m.  No archaeological features were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.6
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
4601	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
4602	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
4603	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 47</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench 47 was situated in the north eastern part of the development area.  No archaeological features were recorded.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.65
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
4701	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
4702	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
4703	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 48</b>						

<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
<p>Trench 48 lay towards the eastern limit of the development area. It was aligned north east to south west and contained to features, a shallow pit (<b>4803</b>) at the northern end and at the southern end, a ditch (<b>4806</b>).</p> <p>Pit <b>4803</b> was 0.60m in width by 0.20m deep and contained two silty sand fills (4804 &amp; 4805) from which no finds were recovered.</p> <p>Ditch <b>4806</b> was recorded 4m from the south western limit of the trench, it was 1.30m in width by 0.13m deep and contained a single mid grey brown fill (4807).</p>					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.72
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4800	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
4801	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
4802	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
4803	Cut	0.6	0.2	Cut of pit	-	-
4804	Fill	0.6	0.2	Fill of 4303	-	-
4805	Fill	0.4	0.06	Fill of 4303	-	-
4806	Cut	1.3	0.13	Cut of ditch	-	-
4807	Fill	1.3	0.13	Fill of 306	-	-
<b>Trench 49</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
<p>Trench 49 lay adjacent to the north eastern boundary of the development area. The total recorded trench depth was 0.65m.</p> <p>No archaeological features were recorded.</p>					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.65m
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2m
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4901	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
4902	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
4903	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
<b>Trench 50</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
<p>Trench 50 was situated on the far eastern side of the development area. Two ditches were recorded at the southern end of the trench (<b>5003</b> &amp; <b>5005</b>).</p>					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50m
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5000	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
5001	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-

5002	Fill	0.94	0.48	Fill of 5003	-	-
5003	Cut	0.94	0.48	Cut of pit	-	-
5004	Fill	1	0.45	Fill of 5005	-	-
5005	Cut	1	0.45	Cut of ditch	-	-

## APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- |                       |      |   |
|-----------------------|------|---|
| Oake, M. <i>et al</i> | 2007 | <i>Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy</i> . Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9 |
| Wessex Archaeology    | 2005 | DISC Chicksands, Bedfordshire, Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment   |
| VCH                   | 1912 | <i>Victoria County History of Bedfordshire</i> , Vol III.   |

## APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-87599			
Project Name	Prehistoric Field Systems at DISC Chicksands, Bedfordshire			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	13-10-2010	Finish	20-10-2010
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown	

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XBDCHI10	Planning App. No.	
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Development Type	Other

### Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

### Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

### Project Location

County	Bedfordshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Chicksands	DISC Chicksands SG17 5
Parish	Chicksands	
HER		
Study Area	208 ha	National Grid Reference
		512600 239800

## Project Originators

Organisation	Mouchel/OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Sally Randell
Project Design Originator	Sally Randell
Project Manager	James Drummond Murray
Supervisor	Chris Thatcher

## Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Beds County Archive	Beds County Archive	Beds County Archive

## Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>




Digital Media	Paper Media
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

## Notes:






## Plans

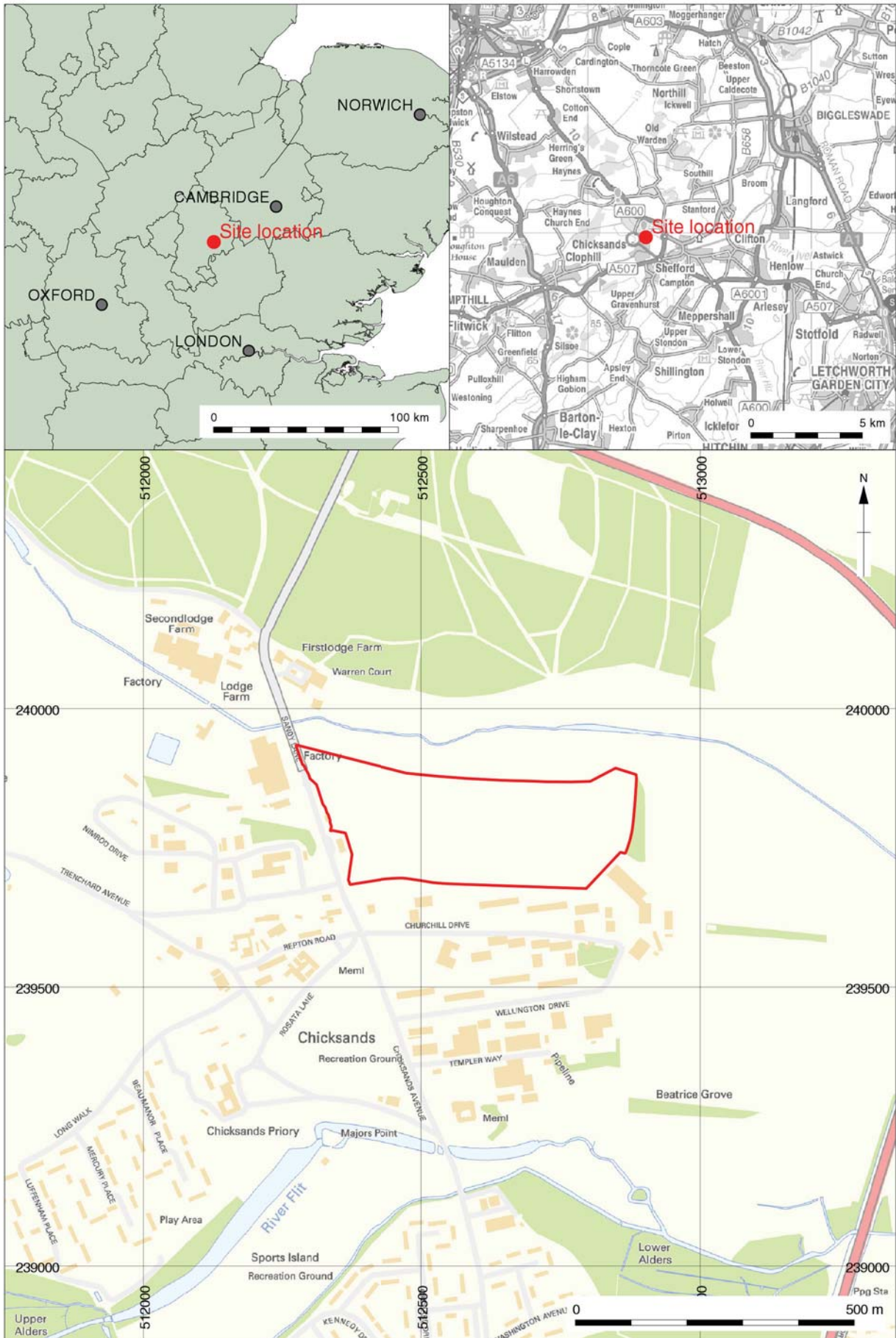
Limit of Excavation	_____
Deposit - Conjectured	-----
Natural Features	_____
Sondages/Machine Strip	-----
Intrusion/Truncation	-----
Illustrated Section	<u>S.14</u>
Archaeological Feature	
Excavated Slot	
Root	
Cut Number	118
Deposit Number	117

## Sections

Limit of Excavation	-----
Cut	_____
Cut Conjectured	-----
Deposit Horizon	_____
Deposit Horizon Conjectured	-----
Intrusion/Truncation	-----
Top Surface/Top of Natural	_____
Break in Section/ Limit of Section Drawing	-----
Cut Number	117
Deposit Number	117
Stone	

Convention Key





Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2010

Figure 1: Site location (development area outlined red)



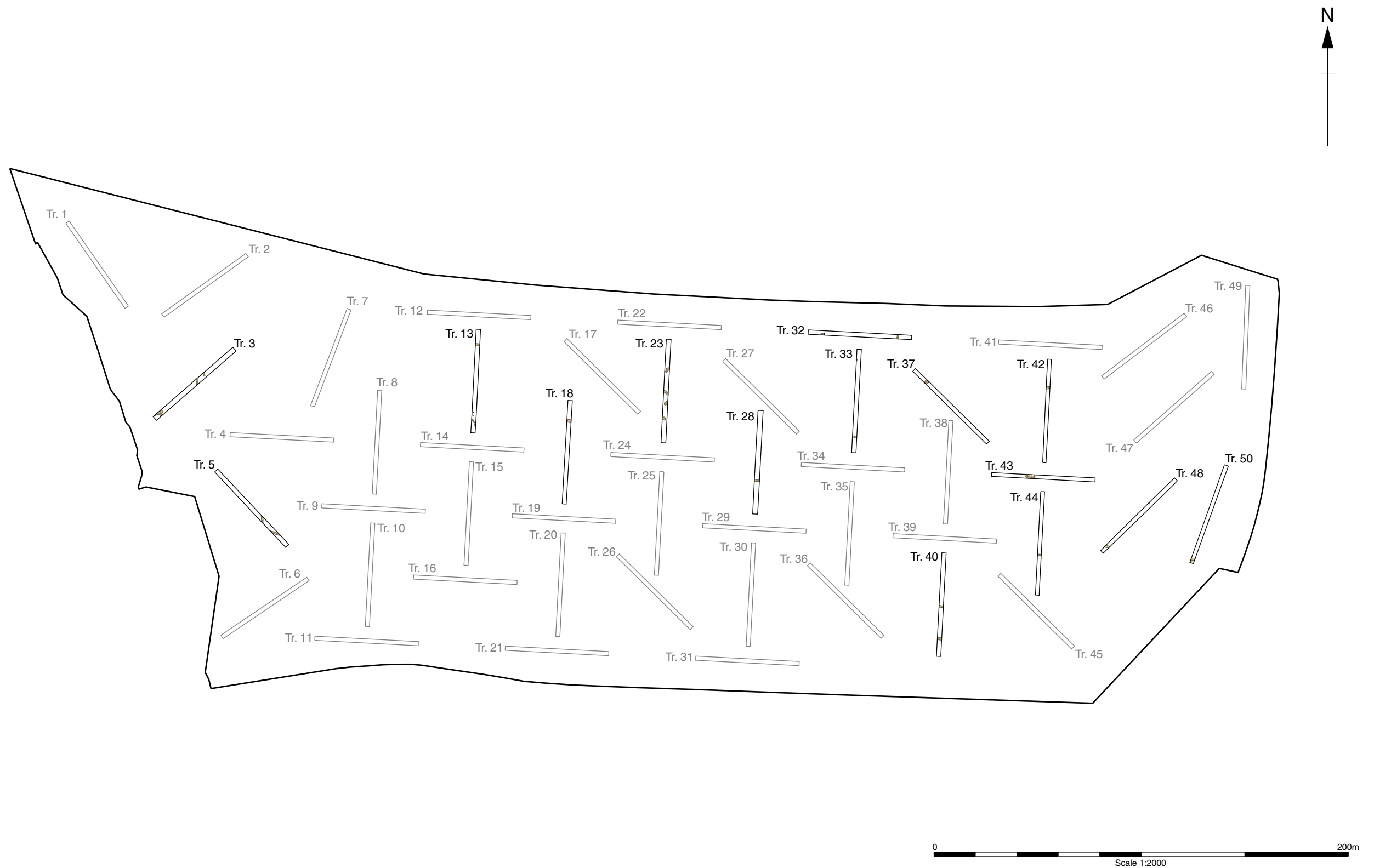


Figure 2: Trench plan



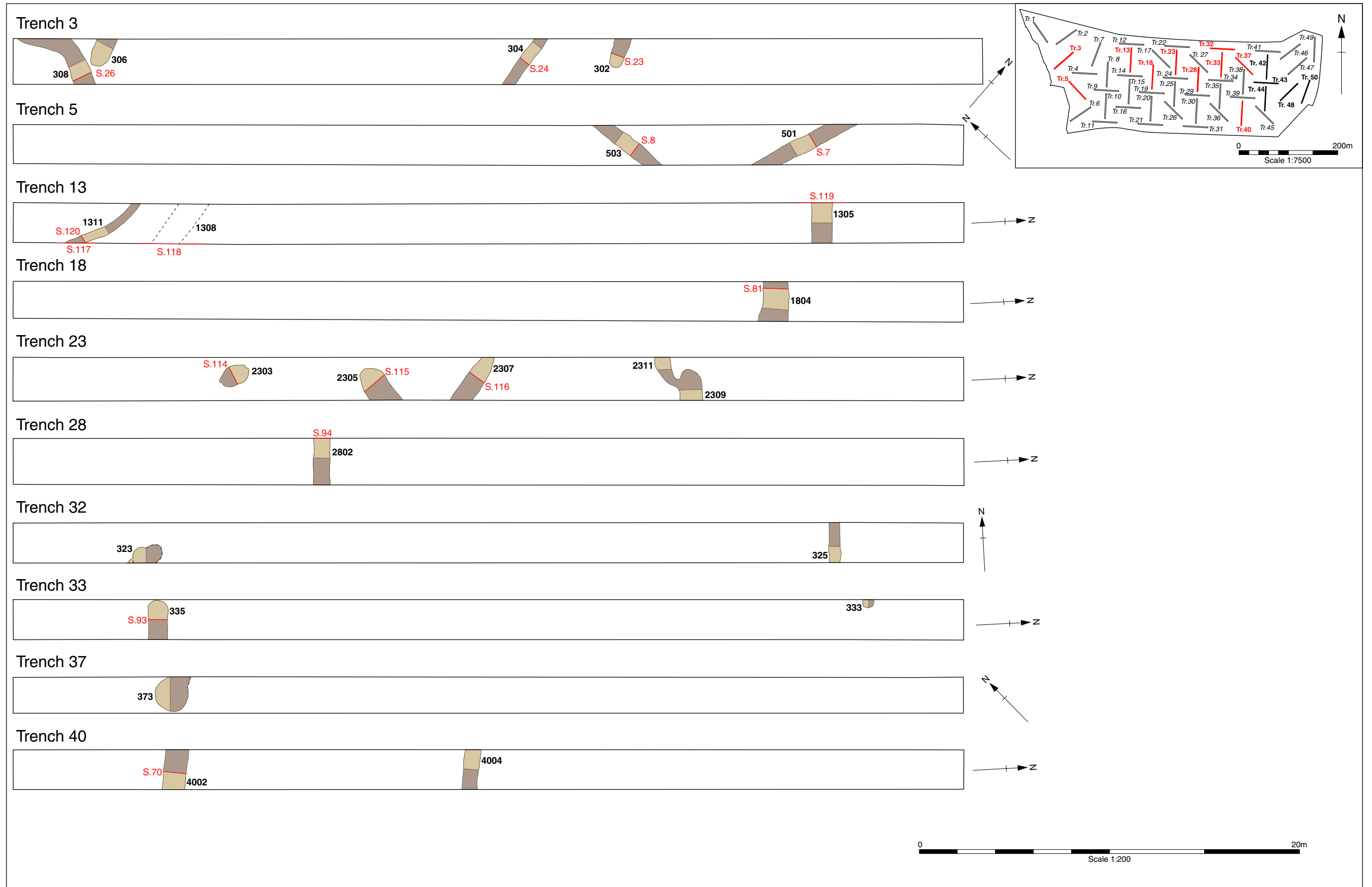


Figure 3: All features plans





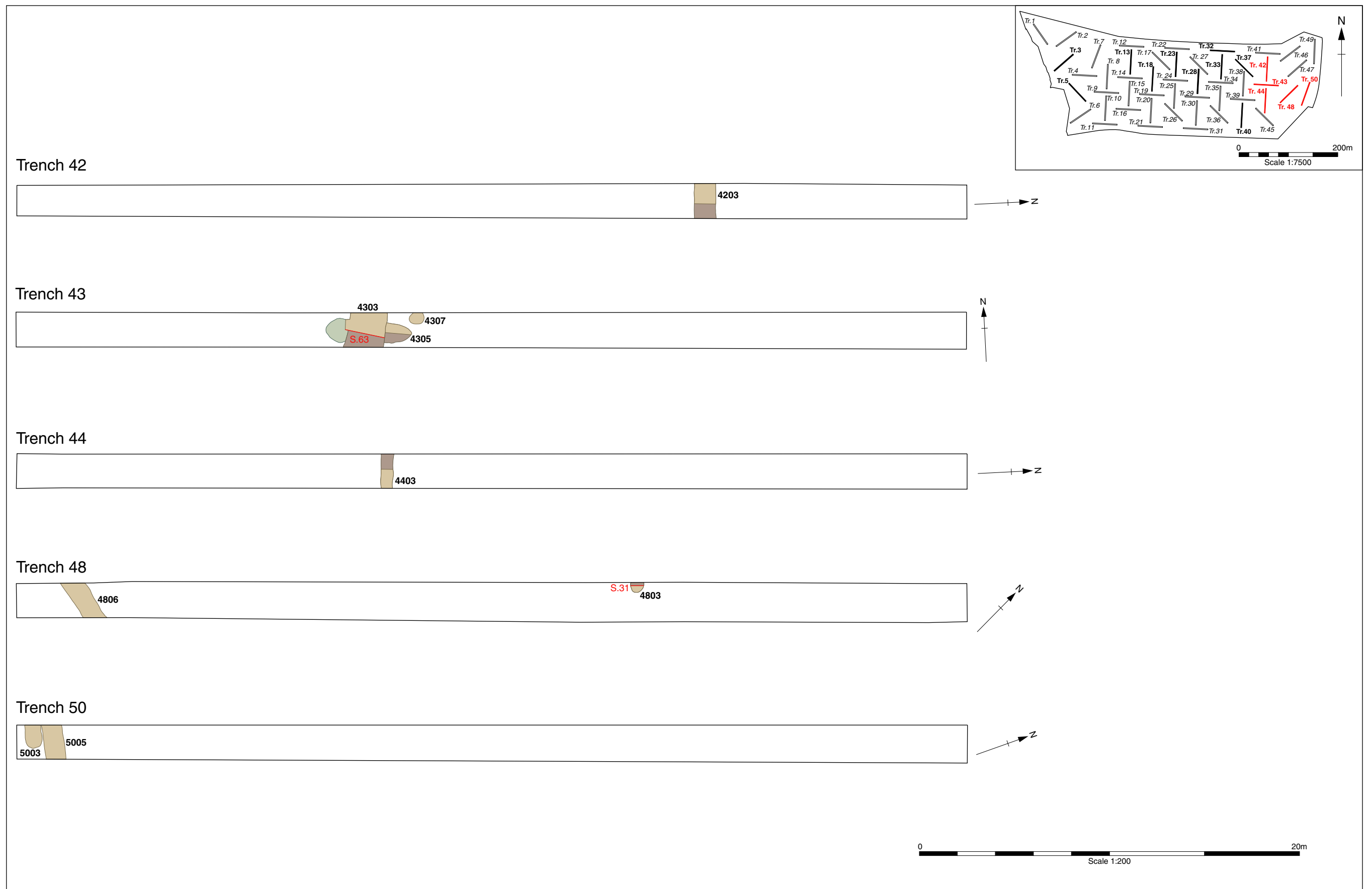


Figure 4: All features plans



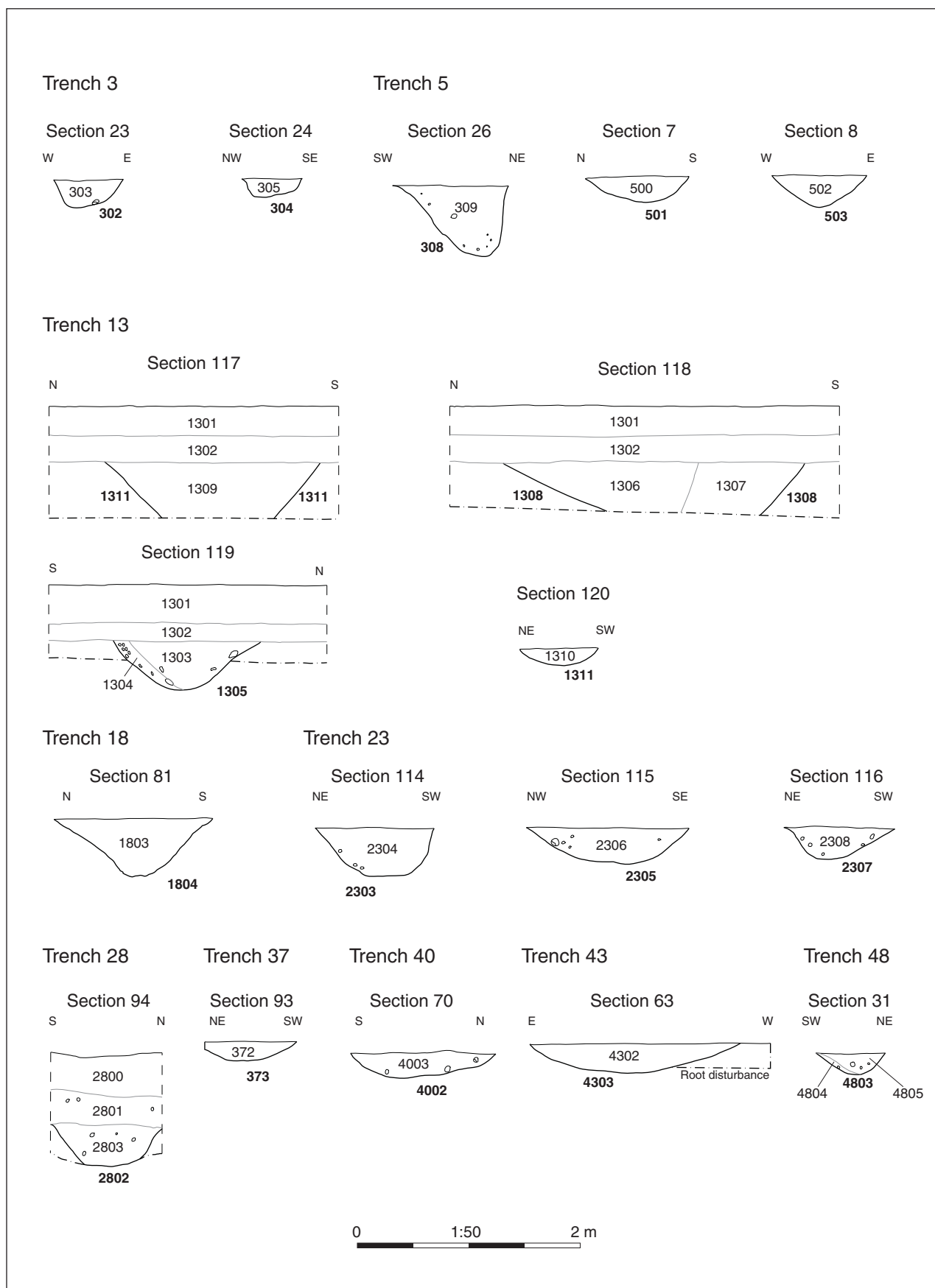


Figure 5: Section drawings





*Plate 1: Ditch 501*



*Plate 2: Ditch 503*







*Plate 3: Ditch 1804*



*Plate 4: Ditch 2305*







*Plate 5: Ditch 4303*







#### **OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridgeshire  
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500  
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599  
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

#### **OA North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane Mills  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000  
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606  
e: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

#### **OA South**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800  
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496  
e: [info@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordarch.co.uk)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

#### **OA Grand Ouest**

7 Rue des Monderaines  
ZI - Ouest  
14650 Carpiquet  
France

t: +33 (0) 2 49 88 01 01  
f: +33 (0) 2 49 88 01 02  
e: [info@oago.fr](mailto:info@oago.fr)  
w: <http://oago.fr>

#### **OA Méditerranée**

115 Rue Merlot  
ZAC La Louvade  
34 130 Manguio  
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92  
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93  
e: [oamed@thehumanjourney.net](mailto:oamed@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://oamed.fr/>

**Director:** David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA



*The Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd is a Private Limited Company, No: 1618597 and a Registered Charity, No: 285627. Head Office: Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800*