Proposed Rugby and Daventry Crematorium Hillmorton Rugby

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

A Roman settlement at the proposed Rugby and Daventry Crematorium, Hillmorton, Rugby.

Archaeological Evaluation

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Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Figures

Summary

From the 25th to the 26th of June 2012 Oxford Archaeology East conducted an archaeological evaluation at the site of the proposed Rugby and Daventry Crematorium, Hillmorton, Rugby (SP 5193 7295). The site lay on a south-east-facing mid-slope where a geophysical survey had identified anomalies in a sub-rectangular arrangement between areas of ridge and furrow cultivation. Two trenches were targeted over this anomaly.

The evaluation revealed that these anomalies were two ditches dating to the Middle Roman period. Their size and shape is indicative of field or settlement boundaries and their proximity to each other may suggest that they represent different phases of activity along the same boundary. A pit uncovered in Trench 1 also dated to the Middle Roman period. Several undated postholes that may indicate the location of a structure were recorded in Trench 2.

A relatively large number of ceramic sherds were recovered from the site. These were primarily low-status, sandy coarse wares dated to the Middle Roman period. The assemblage suggests that the site lay in close proximity to a low-status settlement, possibly a farmstead. This may be corroborated by the environmental samples, which produced evidence of chaff, indicating that grain processing took place place near by.

A thick subsoil was recorded sealing the features in this area and this may have derived from colluvium washed down slope during ploughing, particularly in the medieval period, to form a headland between fields. Geophysical survey did not identify any ridge and furrow cultivation in the evaluated area and so it is possible that the site lay between fields that were unaffected by agricultural activity.

It is likely that the archaeological features are more extensive than suggested by the geophysical survey and that further archaeological remains elsewhere on the site have been masked by the later ridge and furrow.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at the proposed Rugby and Daventry Crematorium, Ashlawn Road, Hillmorton, Rugby (Figure 1).

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Anna Stocks of Warwickshire Museum Service, supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Drummond-Murray 2012) in conjunction with WSP Environmental UK.

1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of the archaeological remains identified by geophysical survey 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 Warwickshire Museums Service, 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 underlying geology comprises Charmouth Mudstone, Dunsmore Gravel and clays, dropping from 120m in the north-west to *c*.100m in the south-east where it is met the Rains Brook.

1.2.2 The evaluated area was situated on a south-south-east facing, mid-slope plateau at a height of 106.8mOD – 107.8mOD. The surrounding topography rises to the north, after which the land flattens out in the area of Ashlawn Road before sloping down to the south beyond Rains Brook in to a broad valley through which the Oxford Canal runs.

1.2.3 At the time of the archaeological works the site was under a barley crop standing *c*.0.70m high. There was no evidence that the field had been used for anything other than agriculture since the medieval period.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A desk based assessment has been completed by WSP Environmental Ltd. On behalf of Daventry District Council (Cleggett 2011). This document assessed the historical and archaeological potential of the site and is summarised below.

Prehistoric and Roman

1.3.2 The only known archaeological material to have been recovered locally was a lithic assemblage collected in 1988. This assemblage, including an end-scraper on a patinated blade, a worn or rolled flake, a snapped blade and three snapped blades with retouch, was dated to the Mesolithic or Neolithic period (Pickin 1988). There are no other known prehistoric sites or finds within 1km, but it has been noted that the situation of the site on a south facing slope with a wide viewshed, would have been ideal for an agricultural or pastoral regime in any period.

1.3.3 The Roman period is particularly sparsely represented in the locality. However, the presence of Watling Street Roman road 5km to the east and chance finds of Roman coins in the parish of Clifton upon Dunsmore to the north, attest to a local Roman

presence and the Roman town of *Tripontium* lies just 7km to the north-east. It should also be noted that the situation of the site on well-drained, south-facing and gently sloping ground, with the potential for an on-site source of water, would have made it an ideal location for activity or occupation during the Romano-British period.

Saxon and medieval

1.3.4 There is no known Saxon or medieval archaeology in the vicinity. Historical documentation records the ownership of parcels of land in or around Hillmorton prior to the completion of the Domesday survey in *c.*1087 AD. The topographical characteristics of the land occupied by the site would have been as attractive to Anglo-Saxon communities as any other. The Saxon suffix -ton or –tun in "Hillmorton" may be indicative of surviving place-name elements.

1.3.5 Hillmorton was referred to in the Domesday survey as *Mortone* (Salzmann 1951) meaning a farmstead or village on a marsh, or barren upland (http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ins/key.aspx). Three examples of ridge and furrow recorded nearby suggest the presence of medieval open fields. The land occupied by the site appears to have been peripheral to the core development of Hulle, Morton or Hillmorton and Rugby itself.

1.3.6 The large and irregularly shaped field in which the current site is located, is one of three fields that do not conform to the uniform co-axial arrangements of neighbouring field boundaries along Ashlawn Road (to the north) Onley Lane (to the west) and Barby Lane (to the east). A similar co-axial system has been adopted for the laying of fields in relation to Rains Brook to the south.

1.3.7 The available aerial photographs suggest that medieval ridge and furrow survives within the site boundary and that these earlier field systems conformed to the co-axial layout prior to being subsumed by later field boundaries. An assessment of cartography and aerial photography has identified at least two examples of this process in close proximity to the site and it would be reasonable to assume that land occupied by the site lies within an Enclosure that had itself subsumed field systems of a medieval date.

Post-medieval

1.3.8 There is no known or recorded post-medieval or modern archaeology within the site. The main focus of development has been to the north of Ashlawn road. The exception is the embankment of the disused Great Central Railway 270m to the west of the current site.

1.3.9 Previous archaeological work

Aerial photography

1.3.10 A study of available aerial photographs of the area (Cleggett 2011) identified several features in the vicinity of the proposed development area. A group of semi-circular landscape signatures of varying size were apparent to the north and north-west of the site boundary. Semi-circular and rectilinear anomalies were observed occupying the south-eastern quadrant of the proposed development area, within the site boundary.

1.3.11 Possible structural remains, in the form of co-axial linear signatures, were seen to lie outside of the site boundary. These signatures occupy an open field parallel to Ashlawn Road to the west of the sports ground pavilion. The field has been cut by the Great Central Railway and lies at the junction of Ashlawn Road and Onley Lane.

1.3.12 The aerial photography identified possible cropmarks indicating agricultural activity (potentially ridge and furrow) in the central, north and south-west of the site. Similar

cropmarks were also identified outside the site boundary to the south-east and the south-west.

Field walking

1.3.13 A fieldwalking survey, commissioned by WSP Environmental Ltd., and carried out by the University of Leicester (Thomas 2011), recovered lithic and ceramic material. The lithic material, broadly concentrated to the south of the study area, dated to the Neolithic or Bronze Age and was similar in type to the lithic material previously recovered from the site (Cooper 2011).

1.3.14 Medieval and late medieval tile and pottery were collected from across the site and probably derived from manuring. Post-medieval and early modern ceramics were more frequent than those of the medieval period but are also likely to have derived from manure scattering.

1.3.15 The complete lack of Romano-British material in the assemblage is noted in the report (Thomas 2011, 6).

Geophysical survey

1.3.16 Geophysical survey using a magnetometer was carried out over the entire site of the proposed development area (Webb 2011). Several areas of linear-trend anomalies were seen over the site indicating the probable location of medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow agriculture, also seen on aerial photographs. Several former field boundaries were also noted (Figure 2).

1.3.17 A 'corridor' between ridge and furrow signatures in the southern part of the site was interpreted as a headland. This corridor contained the only feature interpreted as possible archaeological remains. This feature, measuring approximately 30m by 10m, was aligned south-west to north-east.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Si Cleggett of WSP Environmental Ltd. who commissioned and funded the work on behalf of Daventry District Council. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray and monitored by Caroline Rann of the Warwickshire Museums Service. Anna Stocks wrote the brief for archaeological works. The works were directed by Gareth Rees, who also undertook the site survey. Nick Cox provided excavation assistance. Specialist advice was supplied by Steve Wadeson; Stuart Ladd produced the illustrations.

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 area highlighted by geophysical survey as having high potential for surviving archaeological remains.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The Brief required that two 8m long trenches were targeted on anomalies identified by geophysical survey.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket 1.80m wide. All topsoil and subsoil was removed down to the first archaeological horizon in successive, level spits. The health and safety implications of the use of earth-moving machinery on the site were taken into account in Oxford Archaeology's Risk Assessment prior to excavation. A visual inspection of the entire site was carried out prior to excavation.

2.2.3 The site survey was carried out using a Leica 1200 d.G.P.S.

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 *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and digital and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.6 Environmental samples were taken from three of the features excavated. The purpose of the samples was to determine whether plant remains were present, their mode of preservation and whether they were of interpretable value with regard to domestic, agricultural and industrial activities, diet, economy and rubbish disposal. Samples of 30L were taken from each of the ditches and 20L from the pit in Trench 1.

2.2.7 The site conditions were generally conducive to identification of archaeological features. A crop stood in the field 0.70m high and the trenches were accessed via pre-existing tram-lines in order to minimise disturbance. A public footpath was located 150m to the north of the trenches. In order to minimise risk to the public the trenches were fenced off over night. High ground-water levels and the presence of a field-drain in Trench 2 caused some flooding of the excavated features, but this was mitigated by sporadic manual bailing and did not affect the progress of the excavation.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are discussed below by trench (Figure 3). Both trenches were orientated east-south-east to west-north-west and were covered by up to 0.30m of dark reddish-brown silty clay topsoil. A comprehensive listing of trench depths, orientations, descriptions and related context data can be found in Appendix A.

3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 Trench 1 was targeted over the projected location of the north-western rectangular anomaly. The anomaly consisted of four ovoid and sub-rectangular segments aligned south-west to north-east which measured 25m in length by 1.75m at their widest point.

3.2.2 Two archaeological features were recorded cutting into the natural mid brownish-grey clay. A ditch (**101**), measuring 1.70m wide and 0.65m deep, was located at the western end of the trench (Figure 4, Section 101; Plate 1). Ditch **101** sloped gently from the south-east into a concave base and then rose sharply up a near vertical edge to the north-west. It was aligned north-east to south-west and contained three fills (103, 104 & 105).

3.2.3 The primary fill (103) comprised a light yellowish-grey clay probably derived from natural clays eroded during the use of the ditch. This was overlain by fill 104, which represented the main period of accumulation in the ditch and consisted of a firm mid orange-grey silty clay from which a small amount of animal bone and pottery dating from the 2nd to 3rd century was recovered. An environmental sample from fill 104 produced a single abraded grain and chaff indicating grain processing may have taken place nearby. The tertiary fill (105) was composed of light yellowish-brown clay and may have derived from eroded bank material after disuse of the ditch or from soil slumped into the ditch from the overlying medieval headland. Highly abraded sherds of Middle Roman pottery were recovered from this deposit.

3.2.4 Feature **100** was located at the eastern end of the trench and measured in excess of 0.75m long, 0.50m wide and 0.15m deep (Figure 4, Section 100). It contained pottery dating from the Middle Roman period as well as chaff and charred seeds. Only the northern part of this feature was uncovered and so it may have been either a pit or the terminal of a ditch running south-east beyond the southern extent of the trench.

3.2.5 A layer of subsoil (106), consisting of a mid orange-grey clay, overlay both of these features. At its thickest point it measured 0.35m, decreasing in depth from west to east. This layer may have been the remains of a headland derived from medieval agricultural activity.

3.3 Trench 2

3.3.1 Trench 2 was located over a well defined north-east to south-west linear geophysical anomaly measuring approximately 1.5m wide. The anomaly formed the south-eastern side of the proposed rectangular feature seen during the geophysical survey. The targeted segment appeared to be oriented north-east to south-west and turned to the north-west 4.5m to the north-east of the trench.

3.3.2 Six archaeological features were uncovered in this trench; five postholes and one ditch (Plate 2). Ditch **200** measured 2.86m wide and 0.88m deep and was uncovered in the location of the geophysical anomaly (Figure 4, Section 200; Plate 3). Its sides sloped

gradually in from the south-east but were steep on the north-western edge, which may indicate the presence of a bank along the northern edge. Two fills (201 & 202) had accumulated in the ditch. The lower fill (201) consisted of a 0.64m thick, mid blueish-grey clay that may have represented waterborne and erosional deposition. The upper fill (202) consisted of a 0.28m thick dark brownish-grey clay. The colour and consistency of this deposit is likely to have originated from an accumulation of organic material in the feature as it filled in. Both fills contained pottery of the Middle Roman period.

3.3.3 Five undated postholes (**204**, **206**, **208**, **210** & **212**) were located immediately to the west of ditch **200** (Plate 2). They measured between 0.10m and 0.20m in diameter and 0.05m and 0.10m deep and were filled with a mid orange-brown clay which may have resulted from backfill after the removal of posts. No artefacts were recovered from these features.

3.3.4 A layer of subsoil (213) overlay all of the features in the trench. It increased in depth from 0.23m to 0.40m from west to east. This layer is likely to be the same as that uncovered in Trench 1 and may have derived from colluvium forming a headland between fields in the medieval period.

3.4 Finds Summary

3.4.1 An assemblage of 172 sherds, weighing 1.349kg, of Romano-British pottery was recovered during the evaluation. The assemblage is fragmentary with the majority of the sherds abraded and has an average sherd weight of just *c.* 8g. The poor condition of the pottery may indicate that that in the ditch fills had originally been deposited in midden dumps.

3.5 Environmental Summary

A.1.1 A total of three bulk samples were taken from the two ditches and pit. Preservation is by charring with no evidence of preservation by waterlogging or mineralisation. Charred plant remains are rare and consist of a single heavily abraded barley grain and a single seed of black mustard and a fragment of possible cornflower. Chaff elements include small rachis segments of hulled wheat species such as spelt/emmer.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Geophysical anomalies

4.1.1 Evaluation of the geophysical anomalies detected by magnetometer has demonstrated that they were in-filled ditches dating to the Roman period. Ditch **101**, uncovered in Trench 1, had only shown up as a faint signal between stronger anomalies on the magnetometer data (Webb 2011, figure 10), possibly as a result of the dense clay nature of the fill. Given the results of the evaluation it is likely that this ditch runs continuously from south-west to north-east. Ditch **200** in Trench 2 was clearly identified by the geophysical survey but was twice as wide as had been expected.

4.1.2 Pit **100**, in Trench 1, and the postholes (**204**, **206**, **208**, **210** & **212**) in Trench 2 were not identified from the magnetometer data.

4.1.3 No evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation was seen by geophysical survey in the evaluated area. This was supported by the evaluation which uncovered evidence of a headland or colluvium (layers 106 and 213) which would have been located between areas of ridge and furrow.

4.2 Roman features

4.2.1 The features dating to the Roman period are indicative of activity on the periphery of a farmstead or small low-status settlement. Based upon the size and shape of ditches **101** and **200**, it is suggested that these features represent field or settlement boundaries. Both had profiles which sloped gently from the south-east and sharply from the north-west, which may indicate that they enclosed areas lying to the north-west. Given their similarity and proximity it is not thought that they formed part of a single small enclosure; it seems more likely that they represent different phases of activity along the same boundary, perhaps of a larger enclosure. The postholes uncovered in Trench 2 may represent structures or fences, possibly associated with the ditches.

4.2.2 The quantity and condition of the pottery further corroborates the inference that a settlement was close-by, with refuse being discarded along the boundary. The lack of significant environmental evidence may result from poor preservation within the clay soils. Conversely, it may indicate that the main settlement was located away from the ditch with only occasional grain and chaff being blown in.

4.2.3 It is likely that the density of archaeological features in this area is more extensive than was apparent from the geophysical survey. The fact that archaeology was visible in the corridor between the medieval fields may indicate that the ridge and furrow masks other elements of the site. The profiles of the ditches and the magnetometer data showing the ditch in Trench 2 turning to the north-west suggests that the most likely location for any settlement associated with these features is to the north and north-west of the evaluated area.

4.3 Significance

4.3.1 The evaluation has revealed evidence for a Roman settlement or farmstead in the vicinity; given that the Roman period is so sparsely represented in the locality, this is of local and regional significance. It is particularly significant that the geophysical survey identified archaeology in this area between ridge and furrow since this may be indicative of more extensive archaeological remains being masked by the ridge and furrow cultivation elsewhere on the site.

4.3.2 Farmsteads such as that which may exist on the current site, often played a role in providing resources that sustained and fuelled the growth of towns in the Early - Middle Roman period. As such, this site will add to the narrative of the Roman rural presence west of Watling Street and may be of significance when discussing both the trade links and economy of the nearby town of *Tripontium*.

4.4 Recommendations

4.4.1 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						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
This trench contained two features, a ditch and a pit both dating to the Roman period. The topsoil consisted of a mid reddish brown silty clay c.20m thick. The subsoil consisted of mid orange grey clay measuring up to 0.35m thick.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.55
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	9.40
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
100	Cut	0.50	0.15	Pit	-	-
101	Cut	1.70	0.65	Ditch	-	-
102	Fill	0.50	0.15	Fill of 100	Pottery	1st-2nd Century
103	Fill	1.10	0.40	Primary fill of 101	-	
104	Fill	1.30	0.45	Secondary fill of 101	Pottery and animal bone	1st-2nd Century
105	Fill	1.70	0.25	Tertiary fill of 101	Pottery	1st-2nd Century
106	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil\headland	-	

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
A ditch and five postholes were located in this trench. The topsoil consisted of a mid reddish brown silty clay c.20m thick. The subsoil consisted of mid orange grey clay measuring up to 0.35m thick.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.55
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	9.20
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
200	Cut	2.86	0.88	Ditch	-	
201	Fill	1.40	0.64	Fill of 200	Pottery	1st to 2nd century
202	Fill	2.86	0.28	Fill of 200	Pottery	1st to 2nd century
203	Fill	0.20	0.08	Fill of 204	-	
204	Cut	0.20	0.08	Posthole	-	
205	Fill	0.10	0.05	Fill of 206	-	
206	Cut	0.10	0.05	Posthole	-	
207	Fill	0.16	0.10	Fill of 208	-	
208	Cut	0.16	0.10	Posthole	-	
209	Fill	0.15	0.05	Fill of 210	-	
210	Cut	0.15	0.05	Posthole	-	
211	Fill	0.20	0.08	Fill of 212	-	
212	Cut	0.20	0.08	Posthole	-	
213	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil\headland	-	

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Stephen Wadeson

Introduction

B.1.1 An assemblage of 172 sherds, weighing 1.349kg, of Romano-British pottery was recovered during the evaluation at the proposed Rugby and Daventry crematorium, Hillmorton, Rugby, Warwickshire (RTA 10_12) (Table 1). The assemblage is fragmentary with the majority of the sherds abraded and has an average sherd weight of just *c.* 8g. As a result there is little evidence for surface finishes surviving. The poor condition of the pottery indicates high levels of post-depositional disturbance, possibly the result of middening and/or manuring as part of the waste management during the Roman period (Lyons and Percival, in prep) and would suggest that the majority of the sherds were not found within their site of primary deposition.

Methodology

B.1.2 The assemblage was examined in accordance with the guidelines set down by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Webster 1976; Darling 2004; Willis 2004). The total assemblage was studied and a preliminary catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a magnifying lens (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. The fabric codes are descriptive and abbreviated by the main letters of the title (Sandy grey ware = SGW) vessel form was also recorded. The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

Quantification

B.1.3 All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were also noted and a spot date has been provided for each individual sherd and context.

The Assemblage

B.1.4 The majority of the assemblage is of an utilitarian nature with locally produced domestic sandy coarse wares, predominantly Sandy Grey wares accounting for the majority of the material recovered. Most of the sherds are unsourced and can be difficult to date unless rims are present, where specific types could be assigned the majority of sherds are from a small variety of jars including the medium-mouthed globular jar with rolled and everted rim (type 4.5) and bowls. Several of the grey ware sherds are poorly made and are most likely seconds, suggestive of a possible kiln site near to the current site of excavation.

B.1.5 Sooting and carbonised food residues were identified on a small number of sherds suggesting that vessels were being used for both the storage and preparation of foods.

B.1.6 A small quantity of gritty oxidised ware was identified also, found in the form of a lid seated medium-mouthed jar (type 4.4). This ware is visually identical to 1st and early 2nd century Verulamium white ware (Tyers 1996, 199-201), but is known to have been produced into the 2nd and 3rd centuries in the Northampton region and at Godmanchester in Cambridgeshire (Martin and Wallis 2006).

B.1.7 In addition a single unsourced sherd of shell tempered ware of the type manufactured at the Harrold kilns in Bedfordshire (Tomber and Dore 1998, 115) was recovered as well as a single fragment of Mancetter Hartshill white ware.

Discussion

B.1.8 Dating approximately from the mid/late 2nd to 3rd centuries AD, fabrics and forms present within the assemblage are typical of a utilitarian domestic assemblage recovered from low order settlements. Only a single heavily abraded sherd of Oxford red colour-coat ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 176), recovered from context 105 suggests a continuation of habitation into the later Roman period. Consistent with other Roman sites of this date the small number of sherds recovered would suggest the presence of an as yet un-located Romano-British settlement or farmstead in the vicinity.

Future work

B.1.9 This assemblage should be fully catalogued which will allow for an accurate assessment of the material. The pottery should be compared more fully to the range of published sites that have been excavated in the area and placed in its regional context.

Romano-British Pottery Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Vessel Form	DSC	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Fabric Date
102	SGW		U	4	0.006	C2-C3
102	SGW		U	1	0.002	C2-C3
102	SGW		B	2	0.005	M/LC2-C3
102	SGW		U	1	0.005	M/LC2-C3
102	SRW		R	1	0.002	C2-C3
102	SRW (Fine)		U	1	0.002	MC2-MC3
104	SGW	MEDIUM-MOUTH JAR	UBR	7	0.125	MC2-C3
104	SGW	MISC JAR/BOWL	UB	2	0.086	MC2-C3
104	SGW (Oxidised Surfaces)		U	3	0.007	C2-C3
104	SGW (Oxidised Surfaces)		U	1	0.004	C2-C3
104	STW		U	1	0.017	C3
105	MISC RW		U	1	0.004	?C3-C4
105	OXRCC		U	1	0.003	MC3-EC5
105	MISC RW		U	2	0.001	?C3-C4
105	SGW		U	2	0.004	C2-C3
105	SRW		U	1	0.008	C2-C3
201	SRW	WMJAR/CUP	UB	2	0.028	C2-C3
201	SGW	MEDIUM MOUTH JAR	R	2	0.033	C2-C4
201	SGW	MISC JAR	U	1	0.052	M/LC2-C3
201	SRW	MISC JAR/BOWL	UB	4	0.077	C2-C3
201	SGW	MISC JAR	U	2	0.032	MC2-C3
201	SGW	MISC JAR/BOWL	U	1	0.015	M/LC2-C3
201	SGW		U	1	0.011	C2-C3
201	SGW		U	1	0.011	MC2-C3

201	SGW	MISC JAR/BOWL	U	1	0.023	MC2-C3
201	SGW		U	6	0.034	C2-C3
201	SGW	MISC JAR	U	8	0.048	C2-C3
201	SGW		U	2	0.006	M/LC2-C3
202	SGW	JAR	UB	10	0.158	M/LC2-C3
202	SGW		U	1	0.075	M/LC2-C3
202	SGW		B	1	0.039	M/LC2-C3
202	SGW (Oxidised Surfaces)		B	1	0.019	M/LC2-C3
202	SGW		U	5	0.028	M/LC2-C3
202	SGW (Fine)		U	4	0.017	M/LC2-C3
202	SGW (Fine)		U	3	0.005	M/LC2-C3
202	SGW (Fine)		U	2	0.004	M/LC2-C3
202	SGW (Fine)		U	3	0.003	M/LC2-C3
202	SGW	JAR	R	1	0.007	M/LC2-C3
202	GRITTY OXIDISED WARE	MEDIUM-MOUTH JAR	UR	5	0.052	C2-C3
202	SRW (Fine)	BOWL/CUP	UR	2	0.011	C2-C3
202	SRW (Fine)	WMJAR/CUP	UR	6	0.017	C2-C3
202	SRW		U	1	0.002	C2-C3
202	SGW	MEDIUM-MOUTH JAR	UR	35	0.107	M/LC2-C3
202	SGW		U	4	0.020	C2-C3
202	SGW		UB	3	0.019	C2-C3
202	SGW	BOWL/CUP	UR	4	0.018	C2-C3
202	SGW		U	1	0.009	M/LC2-C3
202	SGW		U	2	0.006	C2-C3
202	SGW		R	1	0.002	M/LC2-C3
202	WHITE WARE		U	1	0.002	C1-E/MC2
202	SGW	JAR/BEAKER	U	1	0.008	?LC1-M/LC2
202	MAH WH		U	1	0.011	E/MC2
Subsoil	SGW		R	2	0.004	MC2-C3
Subsoil	SGW		U	1	0.012	MC2-C3
Subsoil	GRITTY OXIDISED WARE		U	1	0.002	C2-C3
Subsoil	SGW		U	3	0.013	M/LC2-C3
Subsoil	SGW	MISC JAR	UR	2	0.017	M/LC2-C3
Subsoil	SRW (Fine)		U	1	0.002	C2-C3
Subsoil	SGW		U	1	0.007	M/LC2-C3
Subsoil	SGW		U	1	0.002	M/LC2-C3

Table 1 – Ceramic Assemblage

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction and Methods

C.1.1 Three bulk samples were examined in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. The samples were taken from the deposits of two ditches and a pit dating to the Roman period. The samples were soaked overnight in a sodium carbonate solution to break down the heavy clay component.

C.1.2 One bucket (approximately ten litres) of each sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 1. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands and the authors' own reference collection.

Results

C.1.3 The results are recorded on Table 2.

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature No.	Feature Type	Flot Contents
1	104	101	Ditch	Single abraded grain, chaff
2	102	100	Pit	Chaff, charred seeds
3	202	200	Ditch	Sparse charcoal

Table 2.Contents of environmental samples

C.1.4 Preservation is by charring with no evidence of preservation by waterlogging or mineralisation. Charred plant remains are rare and consist of a single heavily abraded barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain and a single seed of black mustard (*Brassica nigra* type) and a fragment of possible cornflower (*Centaurea* sp.). Chaff elements include small rachis segments of hulled wheat species such as spelt/emmer (*Triticum spelta/dicoccum*).

C.1.5 No artefacts were noted in the sample residues.

Discussion and conclusion

C.1.6 The environmental samples from the proposed Rugby and Daventry Crematorium, Hillmorton, Rugby produced a sparse plant assemblage suggesting that they were not deliberately included in the deposits and are most likely to have been blown across the site. Preservation of charred plant remains is poor and this may be due to the heavy clay content of the samples.

C.1.7 Processing of the remaining soil is not considered likely to add to this information. If further work is required on this site it is recommended that a targeted sampling strategy is employed to maximise the chance of recovery of plant remains.

Appendix D. Bibliography

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Appendix E. OASIS Report Form

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-130121		
Project Name	Proposed Rugby and Daventry Crematorium, Hillmorton, Rugby		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	25-06-2012	Finish	26-06-2012
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	RTA 10_12	Planning App. No.	-
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	-

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Public Building

Please select all techniques used:

☐ Aerial Photography - interpretation	☐ Grab-Sampling	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
☐ Aerial Photography - new	☐ Gravity-Core	☐ Sample Trenches
☐ Annotated Sketch	☐ Laser Scanning	☐ Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
☐ Augering	☐ Measured Survey	☒ Targeted Trenches
☐ Dendrochronological Survey	☐ Metal Detectors	☐ Test Pits
☐ Documentary Search	☐ Phosphate Survey	☐ Topographic Survey
☒ Environmental Sampling	☐ Photogrammetric Survey	☐ Vibro-core
☐ Fieldwalking	☐ Photographic Survey	☐ Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ 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
Ditch	Roman 43 to 410	Pottery	Roman 43 to 410
Postholes	Uncertain		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Warwickshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Eastern Warwickshire	Hillmorton Grounds, Ashlawn Rd Rugby CV22 5ET	
Parish	Hillmorton		
HER	Warwickshire Museum		
Study Area	12.8ha	National Grid Reference	SP 5193 7295

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Anna Stocks
Project Design Originator	Si Cleggett
Project Manager	James Drummond Murray
Supervisor	Gareth Rees

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA East	OA East	OA East
RTA 10_12	RTA 10_12	RTA 10_12

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	☒	☐	☐
Ceramics	☒	☐	☐
Environmental	☒	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Bones	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☐	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☐	☐	☐
None	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media	Paper Media
☐ Database	☐ Aerial Photos
☐ GIS	☒ Context Sheet
☐ Geophysics	☒ Correspondence
☒ Images	☐ Diary
☒ Illustrations	☒ Drawing
☐ Moving Image	☐ Manuscript
☐ Spreadsheets	☐ Map
☒ Survey	☐ Matrices
☒ Text	☐ Microfilm
☐ Virtual Reality	☐ Misc.
	☐ Research/Notes
	☒ Photos
	☒ Plans
	☒ Report
	☒ Sections
	☐ Survey

Notes:

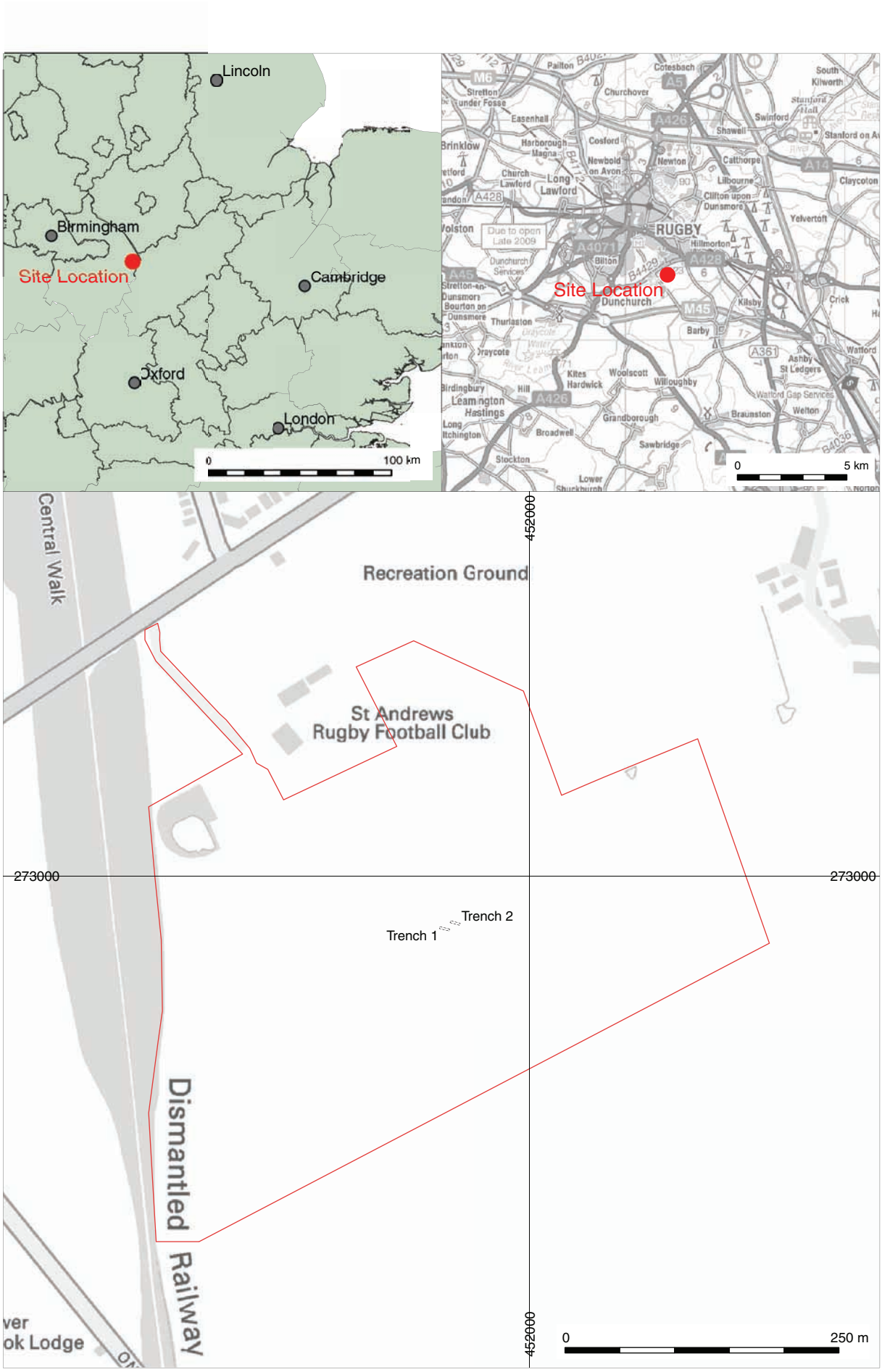

Figure 1: Site location showing proposed development area (red) and trenches

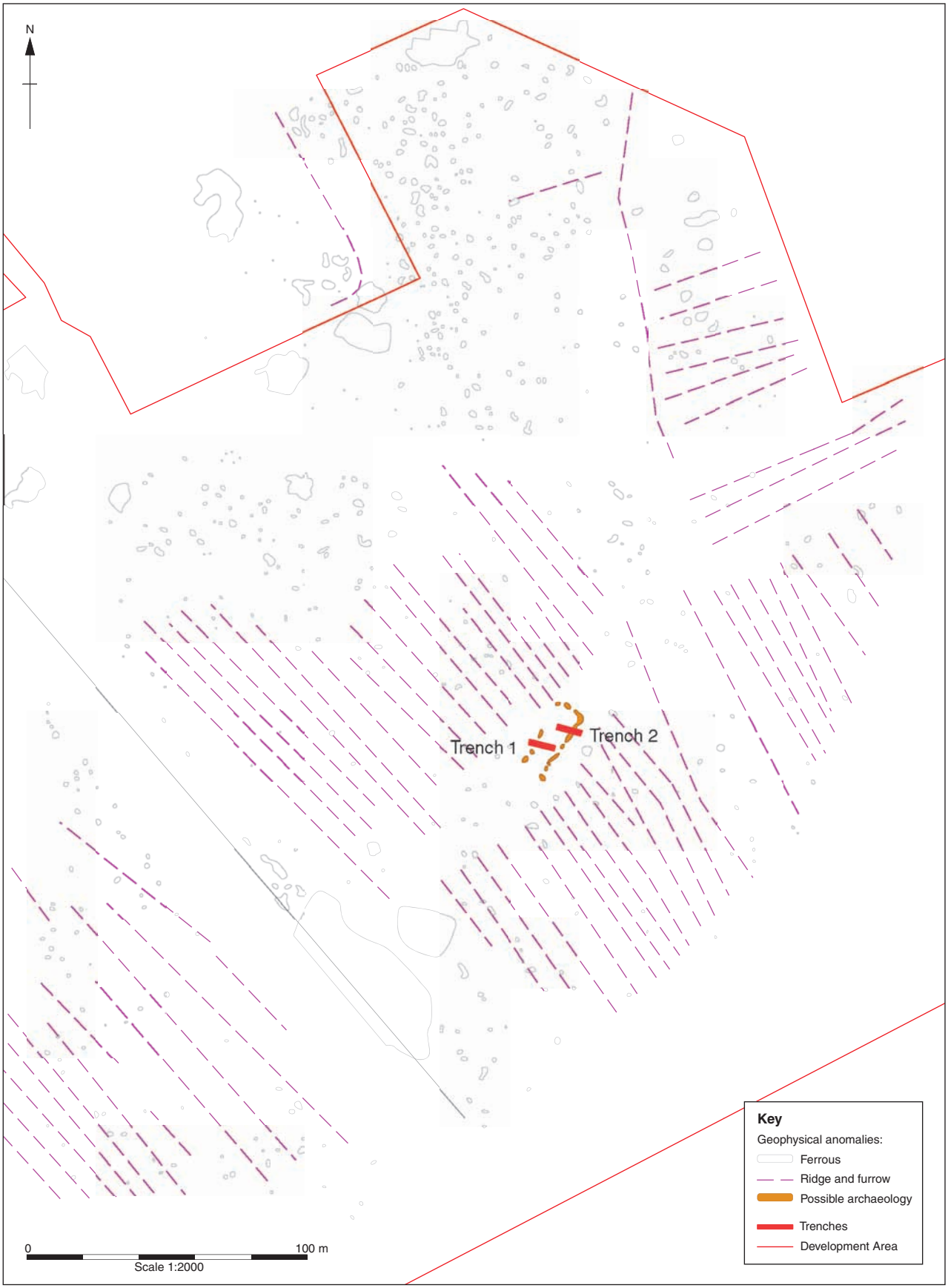

Figure 2: Proposed development area with geophysics and trenches

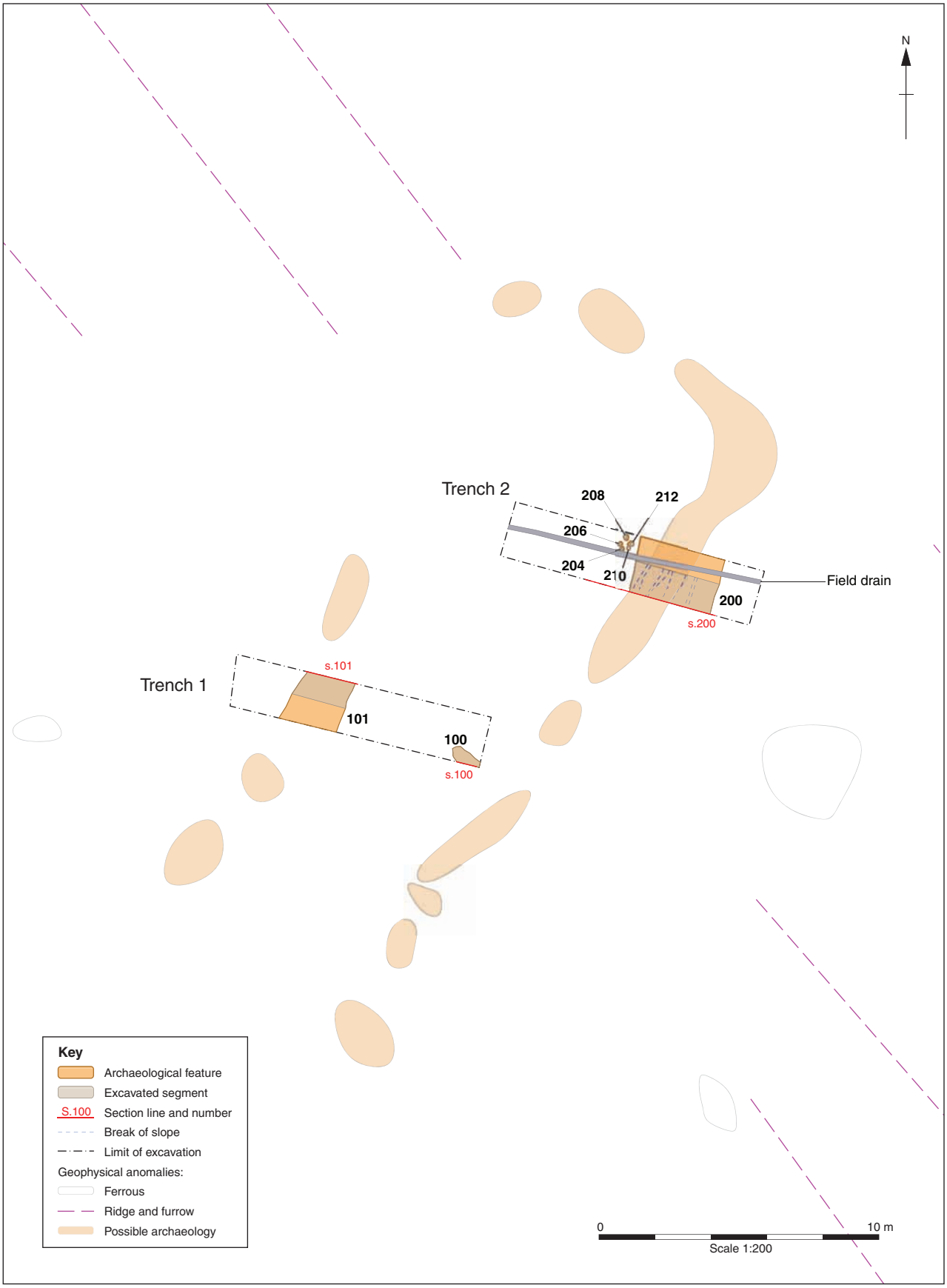

Figure 3: Trench plans overlaid on geophysics

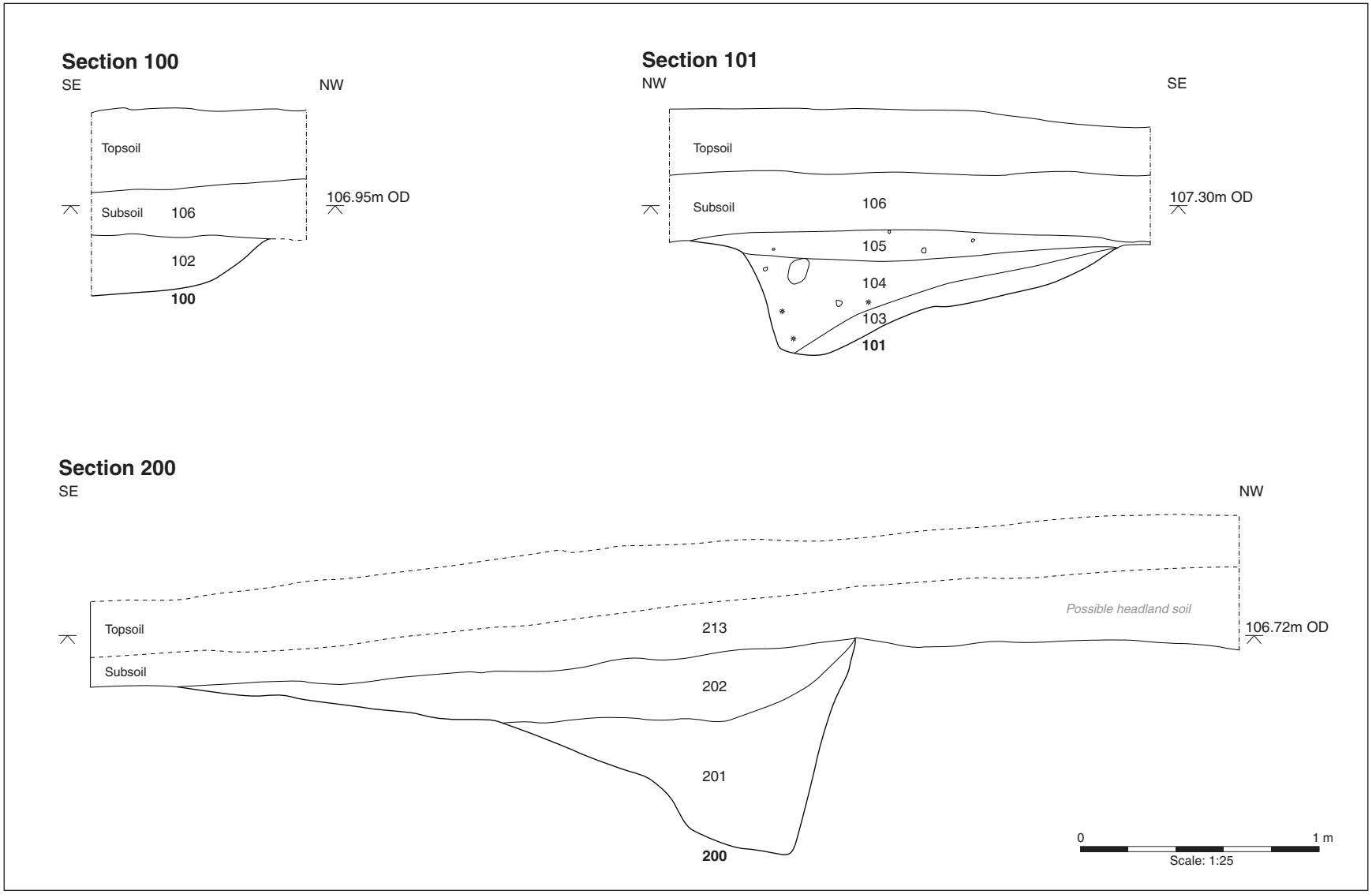

Figure 4: Selected section drawings

Plate 1: Ditch **101**, Trench 1 facing north-west

Plate 2: Trench 2, showing postholes **204**-**212** (left) and ditch **200** (background)

Plate 3: Ditch **200**, Trench 2 facing south-west

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