

Bishop's Stortford North Hertfordshire



Phase II Evaluation Report



September 2013

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Bishop's Stortford North, Hertfordshire

Phase II Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

Between the 27th August and the 11th September 2013 Oxford Archaeology East carried out a trial trench evaluation on land north of Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire (547402, 222398). The 36.5 hectare site (Areas 1 to 4) is part of a larger 148 hectare development area proposing to contain some 2,700 dwellings, retail shops and other related infrastructure, alongside schools and areas of open space with differing functions.

This phase of trenching (Phase II) follows on from an initial phase carried out by Wessex Archaeology in August/September 2012. The Phase I evaluation covered the full 148ha. Within Areas 1 to 4 there were 20 Phase I trenches, ten of which contained archaeological features of pre-modern date. Two areas of prehistoric occupation were recorded within Area 1, evidence for field systems in Areas 2 & 3 and no archaeological features in Area 4.

In the Phase II trenching archaeological features were recorded across the site dating from the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age periods through Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Romano-British. Low levels of post-medieval archaeology was also present. The south-eastern corner of Area 1 revealed four small storage pits (in Trenches 64 and 65) potentially dating from the Late Bronze Age period. A further pit was seen on the western side of Area 1 in Trench 72, in close proximity to a similar feature identified during the first phase of trenching in Trench 58.

Low levels of Middle and Late Iron Age pottery were recovered from ditches across the central and northern parts of Area 1. The majority of the features seen across site belong to an Early Roman field system running in a broadly north-east to south-west direction. These cultivation rows were identified throughout Area 1, in the western half of Area 2 (before the land drops off sharply to the north-east) and across Area 3. Low levels of highly abraded Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Roman pottery were recovered from these ditches.

Post-medieval remains were seen in the form of a geophysical anomaly running through Trench 89 of Area 4 which was identified as a substantially sized north-west to south-east aligned ditch which contained fragments of brick and tile throughout the fills, dating the ditch to the 18th century. This feature corresponds with a line of trees seen on the 1879 Ordnance Survey map which continues into the adjacent field to the south of Dane O-Coys Road.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at land off Wickham Hall Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire (547402, 222398) (Figs. 1 and 2).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a specification for an archaeological trial trench evaluation by Paul Gajos of CgMs Consulting Ltd. (Gajos 2012).
- 1.1.3 The site was previously evaluated in 2012 (Wessex Archaeology Report 86660, October 2012) and as a results of the findings, Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) requested a second phase of archaeological trenching (Fig. 3). The development covers some 148ha and has been divided into seventeen separate (field) Areas. The Areas (1 to 4) currently under evaluation lie on the western side of the development.
- 1.1.4 The work was designed to assist in further defining the character and extent of the archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by HCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.5 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 Areas 1 to 4 (henceforth 'the site'), have a current use as arable farmland, and are located on the north-western limits of the town of Bishop's Stortford. The site is bisected by Wickham Hall Road and bounded by the A120 to the north and west and by the A1250 Hadham Road to the south. The eastern boundary is formed by the Dane O'Coys Road and Hoggate's Wood (an historically managed area of woodland).
- 1.2.2 The topography of the site is made up of a gentle south-west facing slope which plateaus out before sharply dropping off in a north-easterly direction toward Hoggate's Wood. The lowest point of site (to the east) is situated at a height of 91.8m OD, whilst the highest point (to the north-west) is located at 106.8m OD.
- 1.2.3 The British Geological Survey records the underlying geology as clay, silt and sand of the London Clay Formation with superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation (BGS 2013).

1.3 Previous archaeological work

- 1.3.1 The proposed development site has been subject to several phases of investigation, including:
 - A desk based assessment by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants in 1998. This assessment has been through a number of revisions, the most recent of which being produced by CgMs in 2012.
 - A programme of archaeological fieldwalking was undertaken (Slatcher 1999). This was a rapid walkover survey carried out at 50m intervals. The exercise produced just two sherds of medieval pottery.

- A geophysical survey was carried out in 2005 (GSB 2005), the results of which identified a D-shaped enclosure with possible trackway.
- An aerial photographic survey was undertaken by Air Photo Services (APS 2005).
- A detailed geophysical survey was conducted across the site (Smalley 2012). This survey identified a sub-rectangular enclosure along with a number of other linear anomalies.
- An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in 2012 (see 1.5 below) to test the results of the latest geophysical survey (WA 2012). The results of this fieldwork produced features dating from the Late Bronze Age through to Early Roman period.

1.4 Phase I Evaluation

- 1.4.1 In 2012 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the Phase I archaeological trench evaluation across the 148 hectares of the proposed development. The evaluation confirmed the presence of the majority of the 'probable' and 'possible' archaeological features identified in the earlier geophysical survey as well as a number of new features that had not previously been identified.
- 1.4.2 A total of 60 trenches, each 50m in length, were excavated across the site and over 100 *in situ* archaeological features and deposits were recorded. Several foci of archaeological activity were identified and the majority of the archaeological remains which could be dated were of the Late Bronze Age or Late Iron Age periods, with some material of Neolithic and Romano-British date was also encountered.
- 1.4.3 Potentially significant archaeological remains were identified in four areas. These include two prehistoric occupation sites in Area 1, a prehistoric barrow in Area 8, an enclosure in Area 11 and a large Late Bronze Age to Early Romano-British occupation site in Area 13. Only the first of these, those in Area 1, fall within the remit of the Phase II trenching.
- 1.4.4 Across the remainder of the site, Areas 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 14 produced archaeological remains which were broadly characterised as representing a series of prehistoric, or later, field systems whilst Areas 4, 16 and 17 produced no archaeological material. Areas 2, 3 and 4 also form part of the Phase II trenching.

1.5 Hazel End Evaluation

- 1.5.1 In 2012 Oxford Archaeology East conducted an archaeological evaluation on 36ha of arable land at Hazel End Road, adjacent to the eastern border of the main development area. Prior to evaluation a desk-based assessment, geophysical and aerial survey had been carried out.
- 1.5.2 The evaluation consisted of 41 machine excavated trenches across two areas with trenches measuring between 50m and 100m in length. There were 36 trenches investigated on land on the west side of Hazel End Road and four trenches on the east. Trenching on the west side of Hazel End Road revealed evidence of Neolithic flint working from residual worked flints recovered from features across the site, an Early Bronze Age boundary marker with ring ditch and central post, potentially Middle Bronze Age ditches, Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age fenceline and storage pits, an undated trackway and Post-Medieval quarrying. On the east side, a significant 6th-7th century pottery assemblage from a shallow feature in one trench indicated the presence of nearby Saxon settlement.

1.6 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.6.1 Archaeological and historical remains are known to exist in the environs of the site. The most pertinent of which are discussed below.

Prehistoric

- 1.6.2 The earliest archaeological remains have been identified at Silver Leys c.300m immediately south of Area 3. Here in 1963, Mesolithic flints and a dark humic horizon (HHER 2834) were noted during levelling of land ahead of the construction of a playing field. Further investigation produced a large number of Mesolithic flintwork and several sherds of Iron Age pottery.
- 1.6.3 Archaeological activity is seen on land to the immediate south of the Hadham Road (HHER 16396) just opposite the entrance to site. An evaluation carried out in 2008 revealed ditches, pits and postholes dating to the later Bronze Age period along with an associated north-west to south-east aligned trackway. This trackway is believed to have remained in the landscape for an extensive period of time and was possibly still in use during the Roman period as it is understood to connect to and be associated with the settlement remains and trackway identified at Folly Gorse, Albury (HHER 16742) c.2.5km to the north-west.

Roman

- 1.6.4 The proposed development area is bounded to the south by the probable course of Stane Street Roman Road, the principle road connecting Colchester (*Camulodunum*) to St Albans (*Verulamium*). Its course is preserved in Hadham Road and Cricketfield Road (Margary 1955). Archaeological investigations at 133 Stanstead Road (HHER 9868) between 1997 and 1999 revealed a further section of Stane Street along with its roadside ditches. Two large roadside settlements have also been discovered adjacent to the River Stort at Grange Paddocks, Rye Street (HHER 6505 and 12051). Enclosure ditches, pits, postholes and an inhumation cemetery were revealed along with building material, glass vessels, coins and pottery dating from the 1st to 4th century.
- 1.6.5 An evaluation at land south of Hadham Road (HHER 16472), immediately south of site produced archaeological remains dating from the Late Iron Age through to the Roman period. There are signs of long standing continuity here as the Late Iron Age boundary ditch was noted to run parallel with Stane Street and the main Roman ditch on site respected the later Bronze Age trackway (see paragraph 1.3.3 above). Roman pottery recovered from features was unabraded, suggesting a settlement nearby.
- 1.6.6 Approximately 350m north of the northern limits of the site is Wickham Hall. The place name is a 'wick' formation, which is often indicative of previous Roman occupation. Sherds of Roman pottery have been collected from fields immediately surrounding the Hall.

Medieval

- 1.6.7 Bishop's Stortford was in the Braughing Hundred (Page 1912) and is recorded in the Domesday Book as *Storteford* being under the ownership of the Bishop of London (Morris 1976).
- 1.6.8 Wickham is also recorded in the Domesday Survey as *Wichehaten* (Morris 1976). There is evidence for this being the site of a deserted medieval village. There is an area of hummocky ground and possible earthworks (HHER 1024) to the south-east of the farm. Dense quantities of medieval pottery have also been recovered from land

west of the farm (HHER 3869). The eventual demise of the village is not known but it is speculated to be the result of the Black Death (1348-1349).

- 1.6.9 Wickham Hall is first documented in 1487 when it was owned by Sir John Say, but the present Grade II Listed farmhouse is of 16th/17th century construction with 19th century additions (HHER 10918). There is also a 17th century red brick built dovecote (HHER 6291), two 17th century aisled barns and a 17th century outhouse on the site.
- 1.6.10 The area within which the proposed development area sits was likely to have been of agricultural use during the medieval period. A possible wood bank and double ditch (HHER 17570) is situated in the north-east corner of site and may related to the past extent of Hoggate's Wood. Cropmarks of ridge and furrow (HHER 15647) have also been identified on playing fields adjacent to the site.

Post-medieval and modern

- 1.6.11 Cartographic evidence shows that the core of Bishop's Stortford was situated so the south-east of the proposed development site, thus implying that the land has been under agricultural use for an extensive period of time. However a number of military related structures are known to have occupied this area.
- 1.6.12 Situated on the corner of the playing fields at Silver Leys adjacent to the site is the barracks of the 1st Hertfordshire Light Horse Volunteer Group (HHER 10760). The single storey brick building with slate roof was constructed in 1865 by John Dobede Fairman. The corps was disbanded in 1879 but the building still stands today.
- 1.6.13 Around 450m south-east of site is the location of the rifle range for the 1st Hertfordshire Light Horse Volunteer Group (HHER 10759). It extended for approximately 400m with targets at one end. Although not seen on any maps, an earthwork still stands in the field today.
- 1.6.14 The 1923 Ordnance Survey Map shows the location of a First World War rifle range (HHER 18708) running for around 600m from the south-western corner of site off in a north-westerly direction. It consisted of six linear divisions approximately 100m long at uneven intervals and two closely spaced earthwork butts with targets at the north-west end.

1.7 Acknowledgements

- 1.7.1 The author would like to thank Paul Gajos of CgMs Consulting Ltd. for commissioning the archaeological works on behalf of the Bishop's Stortford North Consortium. The site was coordinated by the author. Hand excavation was undertaken by Kate Clover, Steve Graham, Toby Knight, Helen Stocks-Morgan and Rob Wiseman. Machine excavation was carried out by LOC Plant Hire and Haulage.
- 1.7.2 Thanks also extend to the landowner David Harvey for his cooperation. Alison Tinniswood, Senior Archaeologist of Hertfordshire County Council monitored the site. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this trial trench evaluation was to build upon the information already gained from the first phase of evaluation work and thus 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 A total of 49 x 50m trenches, equalling 2,450 linear metres were excavated across the 36.5 hectare site. These trenches were (predominantly) positioned in areas where the geophysical survey had not produced any results.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360 mechanical excavator using a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by the author using a Leica 1200 GPS.
- 2.2.4 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 colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.5 A total of one hundred archaeological features (and a similar number of geological features) were recorded within the 49 trenches. Of these approximately half related to a series of north-east/south-west aligned Romano-British field system ditches. Where these had been excavated in one trench and clearly continued into the next they were not always excavated again, and where a number of these parallel ditches occurred within the same trench, some were excavated and others not. These features are mentioned in the text below as unexcavated.
- 2.2.6 A total of twelve environmental bulk samples were taken from features in order to assess the possible survival of micro- and macro- botanical remains.
- 2.2.7 Site conditions were variable with the first two weeks on site being extremely hot and sunny, with the last week being cold and dominated by torrential rain.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Archaeological features were recorded in 31 of the 49 trenches excavated (Fig. 2). Topsoil (01) across the site consisted of a dark brown-grey silty clay which contained frequent natural stone inclusions, low levels of modern debris and very occasional struck flints, including a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age hafted endscraper (SF1) and an Early Neolithic broken blade. The majority of the trenches were devoid of subsoil (02), but where present it was made up of a mid yellow-brown silty clay. Natural geology was generally encountered at c.0.4m below modern ground level.
- 3.1.2 For the purpose of the evaluation, the site was divided into four separate areas, each delineated by existing field boundaries and follows the naming conventions used during the first phase of evaluation. The trench numbers also run on from those used during the initial evaluation work.
- 3.1.3 The results of the trial trenching will be discussed by field and then within this sequentially by trench. Unless otherwise stated, no datable finds were recovered from features. A list of relevant trench depths, descriptions and related context data can be found in Appendix A.

3.2 Area 1

- 3.2.1 Located on the western side of Wickham Hall Road and bounded to the the west by the A120, Area 1 contained nineteen trenches.
- 3.2.2 Seven trenches were excavated during the Phase I evaluation, all positioned to check geophysical anomalies. Late Bronze Age features were recorded in Trench 58, a Late Iron Age enclosure was excavated in Trench 54 and a small Late Iron Age ditch in Trench 56. Undated ditches were recorded in Trenches 54, 55 and 56, all aligned north-east to south-west, and which form part of an early Roman field system.

Trench 61 (Fig. 4)

- 3.2.3 Trench 61 contained archaeological features across its eastern half. Pit **51** was 1.3m wide and 0.5m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid orange-grey silty clay (50) which contained 18 small sherds of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery weighing just 30g, and a residual struck flint. Pit **53** was cut through the side of pit **51**. It was 1.1m wide and 0.4m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a dark orange-grey silty clay (52) with chalk and charcoal inclusions. The fill contained 14 sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery weighing 38g. Pits **51** and **53** made up part of a much larger feature c.6m in diameter.
- 3.2.4 To the west of this was ditch **55**. This ditch ran in a north-east to south-west direction. It was 1.4m wide and 0.45m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a dark orange-grey silty clay (54) which contained 3 sherds of Roman pottery (3g).

Trench 62 (Fig. 5)

- 3.2.5 Archaeological features were seen across the full length of Trench 62. Three ditches were excavated and three remained unexcavated but are shown on plan.
- 3.2.6 Ditch **98** ran in a north-west to south-east direction. It was 0.6m wide and 0.22m deep with a bowl shaped profile. It was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay (97) which

contained a single sherd of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery (1g) and a single sherd of Middle Iron Age pottery (2g). Ditch **98** truncated ditch **100**.

- 3.2.7 Ditch **100** was orientated north-east to south-west. It was 0.6m wide and 0.24m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a mid brown-grey silty clay (99) which contained 1 sherd of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery (4g).
- 3.2.8 Ditch **6101** ran in a north-west to south-east direction. It was 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep with a bowl shaped profile. It was filled with a mid brown silty clay (6100).
- 3.2.9 There were three further, narrow ditches to the south, the first parallel to ditch **100** and 10m to the south, and two others running broadly east to west.

Trench 63 (Fig. 4)

- 3.2.10 Trench 63 was seen to contain four ditches, all aligned east to west. From the south:
- 3.2.11 Ditch **6113** was 0.5m wide and 0.13m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark grey silty clay (6112).
- 3.2.12 Ditch **6115** was 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark grey silty clay (6114).
- 3.2.13 Ditch **6117** was 0.4m wide and 0.2m deep with a U-shaped profile. It was filled by a dark grey silty clay (6116).
- 3.2.14 Ditch **6119** was 0.9m wide and 0.3m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark brown silty clay (6118).

Trench 64 (Fig. 4)

- 3.2.15 Two pits were recorded in Trench 64. Pit **87** was 0.8m in diameter and 0.1m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a mid grey-brown silty clay (86). Pit **89** was 1m in diameter and 0.4m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. The earlier of the two fills (90) consisted of a 0.25m thick dark orange grey silty clay with occasional charcoal inclusions. Above this, fill 88 was a 0.2m thick dark blue grey silty clay containing frequent charcoal and occasional pieces of burnt flint.

Trench 65 (Fig. 4)

- 3.2.16 Four features were recorded in Trench 65. Pit **78** (Plate 1, S.29) had a diameter of 1m and was 0.5m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. The earlier to the two fills (77) consisted of a mid orange-grey silty clay 0.22m in thickness. Above this was a 0.28m thick dark grey silty clay (76) with charcoal inclusions.
- 3.2.17 At the northern limit of the trench, a north-east to south-west aligned potential hollow way (**80**) was 2.6m wide and 0.3m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark grey brown silty clay (79).
- 3.2.18 Pit **83** had a diameter of 0.6m and was 0.23m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by a 0.13m thick dark grey brown silty clay (82) which contained high levels of natural flint pieces. Above this was a 0.23m thick mid grey brown silty clay (81).
- 3.2.19 Ditch **87** was orientated east to west. It was 0.7m wide and 0.5m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark orange grey silty clay (84) which contained a single, small sherd of Roman pottery (1g).

Trench 66 (Fig. 11)

- 3.2.20 A single north-northeast to south-southwest aligned ditch was seen at the western end of Trench 66. Ditch **6106** was 0.6m wide and 0.14m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a mid grey-brown silty clay (1607).

Trench 67 (Fig. 5)

- 3.2.21 Two parallel north-northeast to south-southwest ditches were seen in Trench 67. Only one was excavated. Ditch **6108** was 0.75m wide and 0.27m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid grey brown silty clay (6109). The second ditch lay 15m to the east.
- 3.2.22 Burnt pit **6110** was 0.75m long, 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark grey-brown silty clay (6111).

Trench 68 (Fig. 5)

- 3.2.23 Archaeological features were seen across the full length of the trench. Four ditches ran parallel with one another and as related, only two were investigated. Ditch **56** was aligned north-northeast to south-southwest. It was 0.65m wide and 0.25m deep with near vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid grey brown silty clay (57) which contained a few small fragments of burnt flint.
- 3.2.24 Ditch **58** lay c.9m to the west and was also orientated north-northeast to south-southwest. It was 0.65m wide and 0.15m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay (59) which contained 3 sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery (26g).
- 3.2.25 Pit **60** was 0.65m in length, 0.4m wide and 0.1m deep with a bowl shaped profile. It was filled with a dark grey brown silty clay (61) a sample from which (Sample 2) contained twelve charred cereal grains most of which have the characteristic morphology of spelt wheat.
- 3.2.26 Ditch **6104** was orientated north-west to south-east. It was 1.3m wide and 0.4m deep with a U-shaped profile. It was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay (6105) which contained 2 sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery (15g).

Trench 69 (Fig. 11)

- 3.2.27 The trench was devoid of archaeological features.

Trench 70 (Fig. 6)

- 3.2.28 Archaeological features were encountered across the full length of the trench. Ditch **6121** was orientated north-northeast to south-southwest. It was 1.04m wide and 0.4m deep with a U-shaped profile. It was filled with a mid brown-grey silty clay (6120).
- 3.2.29 Posthole **6123** was cut into the western edge of ditch **6121**. The posthole had a diameter of 0.6m and was 0.26m deep with a U-shaped profile. It was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay (6122).
- 3.2.30 Ditch **6135** was aligned north-northeast to south-southwest. It was 0.9m wide and 0.3m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid orange-brown silty clay (6136). A similar ditch, on the same alignment, lay 10m to the east of ditch **6135**.
- 3.2.31 Ditch **6137** ran in a north to south direction. It was 0.8m wide and 0.3m deep with a U-shaped profile. It was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay (6138) which contained a

single sherd of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery (2g). Ditch **6137** was truncated by ditch **6139**.

- 3.2.32 Ditch **6139** (Plate 2) ran in a north-east to south-west direction. It was 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay (6140).
- 3.2.33 Ditch **6141** was aligned north-northeast to south-southwest. It was 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep with a flat U-shaped profile. It was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay (6142).
- 3.2.34 Ditch **6147** ran in a north-east to south-west direction. It was 1m wide and 0.65m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid brown-grey silty clay (6148) which contained a single sherd of Late Bronze Age /Early Iron Age pottery (4g).
- 3.2.35 Pit or posthole **6149** had a diameter of 0.6m and was 0.25m deep with a U-shaped profile. It was filled with a mid brown-grey silty clay (6150).

Trench 71 (Figs. 5 and 6)

- 3.2.36 Three ditches on three separate alignments were identified in Trench 71. Ditch **17** ran in an east-west direction. It was 1.7m wide and 0.5m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It contained three fills, the earliest of which (18) consisted of a 0.37m thick mid grey-brown silty clay. Above this, fill 19 was a 0.2m thick mid red-brown sandy clay. The upper fill (20) was a 0.15m thick mid grey-brown silty clay which contained fragments of post-medieval tile.
- 3.2.37 Ditch **21** was orientated north-east to south-west. It was 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay (22) which contained a single sherd of Late Iron Age pottery (13g).
- 3.2.38 Ditch **23** ran on a west-northwest to east-southeast alignment. It was 0.65m wide and 0.29m deep with near vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay (24).

Trench 72 (Fig. 5)

- 3.2.39 Archaeological features were seen across the eastern half of Trench 72. Gully **65** was orientated roughly west to east. It was 0.5m wide and 0.28m deep with a U-shaped profile. It was filled with a mid brown-grey silty clay (64) which contained 2 sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery (18g).
- 3.2.40 Ditch **67** ran in a north-northeast to south-southwest direction. It was 0.98m wide and 0.3m deep with a bowl shaped profile. It was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay (66) and contained 3 sherds of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery (11g).
- 3.2.41 Pit **69** had a minimum diameter of 4m but remained unexcavated as only the very edge of it was visible within the trench. The fill (68) consisted of a dark grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Seven sherds of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery (44g) along with burnt flint was recovered from the surface of the pit.

Trench 73 (Fig. 5)

- 3.2.42 At the southern most end of Trench 73 was north-northwest to south-southeast aligned ditch **25**. It was 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep with a bowl shaped profile. The fill (26) was a mid yellow-brown silty clay. A small fragment of iron (SF3) was recovered from the surface. The ditch was truncated by gully **27**. Its relationship with ditch **75** was not clear.

- 3.2.43 Gully **27** was orientated east to west and was a continuation of gully **65** in Trench 72 to the west. The gully was 0.3m wide and 0.11m deep with a bowl shaped profile. It was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay (28).
- 3.2.44 East-west ditch **31** was 2m wide and 0.6m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a mid brown silty clay (32).
- 3.2.45 Possible ditch terminus **75** was 0.7m wide and 0.06m deep with very gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid brown silty clay (75).
- 3.2.46 At the northern end of the trench, posthole **35** had a diameter of 0.14m and was 0.1m deep with a U-shaped profile. It was filled with a mid yellow-brown silty clay (36) which contained some charcoal flecks and fragments.

Trench 74 (Fig. 5)

- 3.2.47 The trench was devoid of archaeological features.

Trench 75 (Fig. 6)

- 3.2.48 Trench 75 contained four ditches all running on a north-east to south-west alignment, the three larger of which all lay 10m apart. Ditch **03** was 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep with a bowl shaped profile. It was filled with a mid yellow-brown silty clay (04).
- 3.2.49 Ditch **05** was 0.74m wide and 0.17m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid yellow-brown silty clay (06).
- 3.2.50 Ditch **07** was 0.7m wide and 0.28m deep with a bowl shaped profile. It was filled with a mid brown silty clay (08) which contained two fragments of Late Iron Age daub with swipe marks across the face.
- 3.2.51 Ditch **6102** was 0.6m wide and 0.11m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid yellow-brown silty clay (6103).

Trench 76 (Fig. 6)

- 3.2.52 Trench 76 was seen to contain three parallel ditches running on a north-northeast to south-southwest alignment, they lay 10m and 17m apart. Only one of the three ditches was excavated. Ditch **62** was 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid brown-grey silty clay (63).

Trench 77 (Fig. 6)

- 3.2.53 Three ditches on two separate alignments were recorded in Trench 77. Ditch **37** ran in a north-northeast to south-southwest direction. It was 0.65m wide and 0.15m deep with a U-shaped profile. It was filled with a mid brown grey silty clay (38). Parallel to this was ditch **39**. It was 0.8m wide and 0.2m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid brown grey silty clay (40).
- 3.2.54 Ditch **41** (S.2), seen as a strong anomaly on the geophysical plot, was aligned north-west to south-east and truncated by ditch **39**. It was 1m wide and 0.45m deep with a U-shaped profile. The earlier of the two fills (43) consisted of a 0.14m thick charcoal rich dark grey-brown silty clay which contained several large unabraded sherds of decorated Late Iron Age pottery (9 sherds weighing 250g). Above this, fill 42 was made up of a 0.34m thick mid grey-brown silty clay. Sample 1, taken from the basal fill (43) contained numerous well-preserved charred grains of barley and wheat grains that most resemble spelt. Several brome seeds are also present along with occasional less well preserved charred seeds of the pink family.

Trench 78 (Fig. 6)

- 3.2.55 Two north-east to south-west aligned ditches were seen in this trench spaced 10m apart. Ditch **09** was 0.75m wide and 0.2m deep with near vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled with a light grey-brown silty clay (10).
- 3.2.56 Ditch **11** was also 0.75m wide and 0.2m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a light grey-brown silty clay (12).

Trench 79 (Fig. 12)

- 3.2.57 Trench 79 contained two north-northeast to south-southwest aligned ditches spaced approximately 17m apart. Ditch **13** was 0.8m wide and 0.3m deep with a bowl shaped profile. It was filled with a mid brown-grey silty clay (14) which contained a single sherd of Late Iron Age pottery (3g).
- 3.2.58 Ditch **15** was 0.75m wide and 0.3m deep with a bowl shaped profile. It was filled with a mid brown-grey silty clay (15). A single cow tooth was recovered from the fill.

3.3 Area 2

- 3.3.1 Situated on the eastern side of Wickham Hall Road and bounded to the east by Hoggate's Wood, Area 2 contained twenty two trenches.
- 3.3.2 Ten trenches were excavated during the Phase I evaluation, seven of which were positioned to check geophysical anomalies. Only four archaeological features were recorded. A single Late Iron Age ditch was identified in Trench 52 corresponding with a possible archaeological anomaly identified in the geophysical survey. The finds assemblage comprised quantities of animal bone, ceramic building material and Late Iron Age pottery. An undated ditch in this trench probably represents another of the early Roman field system ditches.

Trench 80 (Fig. 7)

- 3.3.3 Four parallel ditches running in a north-east to south-west direction were recorded in this trench, separated by 11m, 16m and 5m gaps. Two of the four ditches were excavated. Ditch **6152** was 0.5m wide and 0.25m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay (6151). Ditch **6154** was 1m wide and 0.2m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a mid grey-brown silty clay (6153).

Trench 81 (Fig. 7)

- 3.3.4 Archaeological features were seen across the full length of Trench 81. Ditch **6125** was aligned west-northwest to east-southeast. It was 0.85m wide and 0.4m deep with a bowl shaped profile. It was filled with a mid red-brown sandy clay (6124) which contained a single sherd of medieval pottery. Ditch **6127** ran parallel with ditch **6125** 4m to the north. It was 0.65m wide and 0.2m deep with a bowl shaped profile. It was filled with a light red brown sandy clay (6126). There was an unexcavated ditch, aligned approximately east to west, just south of ditch **6125**.
- 3.3.5 Ditch **6131** was orientated north-east to south-west. It was 0.9m wide and 0.32m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a dark red-brown silty clay (6130). There were two further, unexcavated, ditches in the north of the trench, one aligned east-west and one north-east to south-west

Trench 82 (Fig. 7)

- 3.3.6 Ditch **6155** was aligned north-east to south-west. It was 0.7m wide and 0.13m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a dark red-brown silty clay (6134).

Trench 83 (Fig. 7)

- 3.3.7 Ditch **6168** was orientated north-east to south-west. It was 0.8m wide and 0.2m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid red-brown silty clay (6167) which contained a single sherd of Early Roman pottery (15g).

Trench 84 (Fig. 8)

- 3.3.8 Trench 84 contained three ditches all running in a north-northeast to south-southwest direction. Only one of the ditches was investigated. Ditch **94** was 0.7m wide and 0.19m deep with a bowl shaped profile. It was filled with a mid red-brown silty clay (93). The two further ditches were 30m to the west and were adjacent to each other.

Trench 93 (Fig. 12)

- 3.3.9 No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Trench 94 (Fig. 7)

- 3.3.10 A single ditch was seen at the southernmost end of Trench 94. Ditch **6194** (S.33) was aligned west-northwest to east-southeast. It was 1.1m wide and 0.6m deep with a U-shaped profile. It was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay (6193).

Trench 95 (Fig. 12)

- 3.3.11 No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Trench 96 (Fig. 12)

- 3.3.12 No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Trench 97 (Fig. 12)

- 3.3.13 No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Trench 98 (Fig. 12)

- 3.3.14 No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Trench 99 (Fig. 12)

- 3.3.15 No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Trench 100 (Fig. 12)

- 3.3.16 No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Trench 101 (Fig. 8)

- 3.3.17 Four ditches on three separate alignments were seen in Trench 101. Ditch **6170** ran in an east-northeast to west-southwest direction. It was 0.6m wide and 0.26m deep with a bowl shaped profile. It was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay (6169) which

contained a single sherd of Middle Iron Age pottery (17g) and a residual stuck flint. It was truncated by ditch **6172**.

- 3.3.18 Ditch **6172** (Plate 3, S.18) was aligned north to south. It was 2.25m wide and 0.84m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. The earlier of the two fills (6171) was made up of a 0.56m thick dark grey-brown silty clay. Above this was a 0.28m thick mid grey-brown silty clay (6192).
- 3.3.19 Ditch **6174** ran in a north-northeast to south-southwest direction. It was 0.8m wide and 0.2m deep with a bowl shaped profile. It was filled with a mid orange-brown silty clay (6173).
- 3.3.20 Ditch **6191** was orientated north-south. It was 0.4m wide and 0.08m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid red-brown silty clay (6175).

Trench 102 (Fig. 8)

- 3.3.21 Four parallel north-northeast to south-southwest ditches were seen running through Trench 102, they lay 13m, 12m and 3m apart. Ditch **47** was 0.7m wide and 0.24m deep with a bowl shaped profile. It was filled with a mid red-brown silty clay (46) which contained one sherd of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery (4g).
- 3.3.22 Ditch **49** was 0.6m wide and 0.16m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid red-brown silty clay (48). Ditch **71** was 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. The fill (70) consisted of a mid red-brown silty clay and contained one sherd of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery (11g), one sherd of Middle Iron Age pottery (3g) and one sherd of Late Iron Age pottery (3g).
- 3.3.23 Ditch **73** was 0.6m wide and 0.16m deep with a bowl shaped profile. It was filled with a mid red-brown silty clay (72).

Trench 103 (Fig. 8)

- 3.3.24 A single north-northeast to south-southwest ditch (**45**) was seen in Trench 102. It was 0.9m wide and 0.18m deep with a bowl shaped profile. It was filled with a mid red-brown silty clay (44) which contained a single sherd of Middle Iron Age pottery (2g) and a single sherd of Roman pottery (6g) and a residual struck flint.

Trench 104 (Fig. 12)

- 3.3.25 No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Trench 105 (Fig. 12)

- 3.3.26 No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Trench 106 (Fig. 12)

- 3.3.27 No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Trench 107 (Fig. 12)

- 3.3.28 No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Trench 108 (Fig. 12)

- 3.3.29 No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Trench 109 (Fig. 12)

- 3.3.30 No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

3.4 Area 3

- 3.4.1 Area 3 was a small field on the south-east corner of Area 2. It was enclosed on all sides by mature trees and hedgerows and contained four trenches.
- 3.4.2 During Phase I the area contained two trenches both of which were targeted on possible archaeological anomalies identified within the geophysical survey. No features of archaeological interest were recorded within Trench 49 but Trench 50 contained two potentially Late Iron Age ditches and three north-east to south-west aligned Field System ditches

Trench 85 (Fig. 9)

- 3.4.3 A total of six ditches on the alignments was seen in Trench 85. Ditch **6177** (Plate 4) was orientated east-northeast to west-southwest. It was 0.9m wide and 0.47m deep with a U-shaped profile. It was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay (6176). It was truncated by ditch 6179.
- 3.4.4 Ditch **6179** was aligned north-east to south-west (Plate 4). It was 0.65m wide and 0.14m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay (6178). An unexcavated ditch ran parallel, 10m to the south.
- 3.4.5 Ditch **6181** ran north to south. It was 0.6m wide and 0.12m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid brown silty clay (6180).
- 3.4.6 Ditch **6183** was aligned north-east to south-west. It was 0.9m wide and 0.28m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid brown-grey silty clay (6182). Parallel with this, 12m to the south, was ditch **6185**. It was 0.75m wide and 0.12m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay (6184).

Trench 86 (Fig. 9)

- 3.4.7 Ditch **6198** ran in a north-east to south-west direction. This ditch was potentially dug segmentally as the north-eastern end was 0.4m wide and 0.18m deep with near vertical sides and a flat base. Whilst the south-westerly end was 0.55m wide and 0.1m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid brown-grey silty clay (6197). An unexcavated ditch ran perpendicular to this at the far north of the trench.

Trench 87 (Fig. 9)

- 3.4.8 No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Trench 88 (Fig. 9)

- 3.4.9 Burnt pit **6162** (Plate 5) had a diameter of 0.9m and was 0.24m deep with near vertical sides and a flat base. The earlier of the two fills consisted of a mid brown-red silty clay (6160) tipped in from the western side which contained fragments of burnt flint. Above this was a 0.24m thick mid brown silty clay (6161).
- 3.4.10 Ditch **6164** was aligned north-west to south-east. It was 0.65m wide and 0.24m deep with a V-shaped profile. It was filled with a mid yellow-grey silty clay (6163). The continuation of this ditch was seen in Trench 86 (unexcavated).

- 3.4.11 Ditch **6166** ran north to south. It was 0.55m wide and 0.16m deep with a bowl shaped profile. It was filled with a mid yellow-brown silty clay (6165) and contained a small sherd of medieval sandy ware (4g).

3.5 Area 4

- 3.5.1 Area 4 located on the eastern side of Field 3, was closed in on three sides by mature trees and hedgerows. It was bounded on the south-east side by Dane O-Coy's Road. The field contained four trenches.
- 3.5.2 At Phase I a single trench was positioned to target two possible anomalies of archaeological origin identified in the geophysical survey. No archaeological features were recorded.

Trench 89 (Fig. 10)

- 3.5.3 Three ditches on two separate alignments were seen in Trench 89. Ditch **6186** (Plate 6) was orientated north-west to south-east. The top fill (6187) of the 4m wide ditch contained frequent post-medieval brick, tile and glass fragments and the top 0.3m was removed by the machine with hand collection of a sample of the finds. Following machining the ditch was 3m wide and 0.8m deep. The basal fill (6190) was a 0.67m thick mid grey-brown silty clay and contained unabraded fragments of 18th century brick and tile. Above this, fill 6187 was dark grey-brown.
- 3.5.4 Ditch **6188** ran in a north-east to south-west direction. It was 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid red-brown silty clay (6189). An unexcavated ditch ran parallel 12m to the north.

Trench 90 (Fig. 10)

- 3.5.5 No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Trench 91 (Fig. 10)

- 3.5.6 Three pits were recorded in Trench 91. Pit **6199** (S.19) had a diameter of 0.47m and was 0.31m deep. The earlier of the two fills, appearing more as a lining than a fill (6205), consisted of a light grey clay silt with abundant small to medium sized natural flints. Above this was a 0.23m thick light grey clay silt (6200).
- 3.5.7 Pit **6201** (Plate 7) was 0.9m in length, 0.72m in width and 0.3m deep. The earlier fill, again appearing more as a lining (6206), was a compact light grey clay-silt and contained packed with abundant small to medium natural flints. Above this was a light grey clay silt (6202) 0.3m in thickness.
- 3.5.8 Pit **6203** was 1.2m in length, 0.75m in width and 0.04m in depth. It was filled with a light grey-brown clay silt (6204).
- 3.5.9 Samples were taken from all three of these features. Sample 11 taken from the lower fill (6205) of pit **6199** contained sparse charcoal only. However, flakes of hammerscale were recovered from both of the residues of Sample 12 (lower fill 6206), and Sample 9 (upper fill 6202) of pit **6201**. Sample 10, fill 6204 of pit **6203** also contained a few flakes of hammerscale in addition to sparse charcoal.

Trench 92 (Fig. 10)

- 3.5.10 No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

3.6 Finds Summary

- 3.6.1 During the archaeological works, low levels of artefactual remains were collected. The finds consisted of Iron Age pottery (Early, Middle and Late), Roman pottery, Medieval pottery, a small quantity of struck and burnt flint, brick, tile and metalwork.

Pottery (Appendix B.1)

- 3.6.2 In all, 82 sherds of pottery (weighing 564g) were recovered during the archaeological trenching. The prehistoric assemblage accounted for 95% of all pottery recovered (74 sherds). The bulk of this material belongs to the Post Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition of the Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age, with the suggestion that most of this pottery is likely to post-date c.800 BC.
- 3.6.3 Further to this, six small sherds of Roman pottery (weighing 25g) were also collected along with two small sherds of Medieval pottery (weighing 6g). The Roman pottery could not be given a more closed date beyond being generic Roman. However their fabric type is characteristic of the Early Roman period.
- 3.6.4 At Phase I an assemblage of 438 sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Early Roman material were recovered from the full 148ha evaluation. Within Areas 1 to 4 three features produced Late Bronze Age material and eight produced Late Iron Age/Early Roman.

Struck flint (Appendix B.2)

- 3.6.5 A total of ten struck flints were recovered from four contexts. Seven out of the ten flints were collected from the topsoil during machining. The flint dates from the Early Neolithic through to the Bronze Age. The assemblage consists of six flakes, one chip, one broken blade and two scrapers.
- 3.6.6 Two struck flints and a small quantity of burnt flint were recovered from the 148ha Phase I evaluation.

Brick and tile

- 3.6.7 A total of 468g of brick and tile was recovered from a single feature. The brick and tile is fresh in appearance and dates from the 18th to early 19th century.

Metalwork

- 3.6.8 A single small fragment of flat ironwork (SF3) was recovered from the surface of ditch **25** in Trench 73 and iron smithing flake hammerscale was recovered from samples within two features in Trench 91, Area 4.
- 3.6.9 Three copper alloy and eight iron objects were recovered from the 148ha Phase I evaluation along with smithing slag and hearth lining. Neither of the latter were located close to the Phase II hammerscale, the nearest slag coming from Trench 57 in Area 1.

3.7 Environmental Summary

- 3.7.1 A total of 12 environmental samples totalling 210 litres was taken during the evaluation (Appendix C.1). Samples were taken from a range of features including burnt pits, storage pits and ditches.
- 3.7.2 Significant charred plant remains were only recovered from two features; ditch **41** and pit **60**. The charred assemblage from **41** is comprised of barley and spelt grain with brome seeds and no evident chaff. Spelt grain was also recovered from pit **60** but in

lesser quantity. The recovery of flake hammerscale from pits **6201** and **6203** suggests the possibility that smithing may have been taking place in the vicinity of these features.

- 3.7.3 A single bulk sample was taken from Areas 1 to 4 at Phase I evaluation, from an Iron Age enclosure ditch in Trench 54, part of the same enclosure/ditch system as ditch **41**. An exceptionally large quantity of charred plant remains, particularly those of cereals, was recovered from this feature. The very high number of cereal remains included grains of hulled wheat, emmer or spelt, and barley, with those of hulled wheat predominant, together with chaff fragments.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The second phase of archaeological evaluation at Bishop's Stortford North has revealed archaeological features across large areas of the site, with other areas confirmed as lacking in archaeological remains. Combining these findings with those from the first phase of works gives a clear picture of the land-use and continued development across the site through the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods.
- 4.1.2 To summarise the Phase I evaluation results, two areas of increased archaeological potential were identified within Area 1 with none in Areas 2, 3 and 4. In Area 1 Trench 54 contained several features, including a large enclosure ditch, which had been identified in the geophysical survey. The features in this area produced Late Iron Age material but with a background of residual Late Bronze Age ceramics which could suggest a continuity of occupation. Other ditches and postholes were identified within the area of the enclosure.
- 4.1.3 To the south Trench 58 contained several features which produced just Late Bronze Age pottery including three pits and two small gullies. Trench 57, 25m to the north of Trench 58, and Trench 56, 125m to the north-east, also uncovered several archaeological features, the majority of which could not be dated, though one did produce evidence of iron working. These trenches may represent a continuation of the activity identified in Trench 58.

4.2 Prehistoric

- 4.2.1 Four or five areas of prehistoric (Late Bronze Age to Late Iron Age) activity can be seen across the site (see Fig. 11). In the south-eastern corner of Area 1 (in Trenches 61, 64 and 65) four small, circular to oval pits were identified. Although no datable material was recovered from these features, they have the attributes of small Late Bronze Age storage pits. Also located in this area of site, Trench 61 contained a collection of pit features at least 6m in diameter from which eighteen sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery and thirteen sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery were recovered, the assemblages from clearly separate cuts. This feature potentially represents a number of intercutting pits, the purpose and longevity of which is unclear.
- 4.2.2 Of further interest in this area is a potential hollow way. Initially identified during the first phase of archaeological works (in Trench 60), it was excavated again running through the northernmost end of Trench 65. A ditch on almost the same alignment was also excavated in the middle of Trench 61 to the south, just to the west of the area of pitting. It is possible that the 'area of pitting' may be part of the same feature as the hollow way. A feature of this kind may act as a significant land division, and it may be of note that the four potential Bronze Age pits within the area are ranged along one side of the feature.
- 4.2.3 Also worthy of note is the hollow way recorded during archaeological works on land to the immediate south side of Hadham Road (see paragraph 1.3.3) - potentially of Later Bronze Age through to Roman date. If the feature seen in Trenches 60, 61 and 65 does represent a hollow way, it would converge at right angles with the one identified to the south of site.
- 4.2.4 A second area of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity was recorded at the southern and western edge of Area 1 (Trenches 62, 68 and 72), enhancing the area of occupation identified at Phase I in Trenches 57 and 58. In Trench 72, a single large pit containing sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery and pieces of burnt flint was recorded in

plan but not excavated. This pit is situated 20m west of a similar feature identified during the first phase of trenching (pit **5817** in Trench 58) which when excavated produced 35 sherds (weighing 433g) of Late Bronze Age pottery. These pits also have the appearance of storage pits, though significantly larger than those seen to the south-east (see above). There is also a small general scatter of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery, mostly residual in later contexts, within the area of Trenches 62, 68, 72 and 73.

- 4.2.5 During the first phase of archaeological works, at the northern end of Area 1, a trench (Trench 54) was positioned over a large geophysical anomaly. It was identified as an enclosure ditch with associated internal features. Pottery recovered from these features was identified as both Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age in date, chiefly the latter, and the finds assemblage and the single environmental sample produced a rich assemblage of charred cereal remains. During the second phase of works, Trench 77 was positioned over the southern extension of the geophysical anomaly in an attempt to further characterise it. A ditch was excavated which corresponded with the geophysics results. The near complete profile of a highly decorated and unabraded Late Iron Age vessel was recovered from the basal fill of this ditch. Further sherds of Late Iron Age pottery were recovered as residual material from features in the surrounding trenches (Trenches 75 and 79) and a series of potentially related, though undated, ditches was recorded in Trench 81.
- 4.2.6 Trench 70, around 130m south of Trench 77 contained a total of seven ditches and two pits or postholes. Nine sherds of Late Iron Age pottery were recovered from two of the ditches. There appears to be no featured link to associate this activity with the Late Iron Age enclosure seen to the north and it is perhaps more likely that this represents a second area of Late Iron Age archaeology, linked to that seen during the first phase of trenching in Trench 56 to the immediate south and to otherwise undated, but similar, features in Trenches 68 and 71 to 73 to the west.
- 4.2.7 Another slight scatter of pottery dating from the Late Bronze Age through to the Late Iron Age was collected from ditches in Trenches 101 to 103 in the north-western corner of Area 2. This may imply some continued activity in this area, potentially relating to otherwise undated ditches recorded to the south in Trenches 81 to 84.

4.3 Roman

- 4.3.1 Activity dating principally to the Early Roman period can be seen across the majority of the trenches in the western and central parts of the site. This activity is in the form of a ditched cultivation system running north-northeast to south-southwest across most of Area 1 and the western half of Area 2 (Fig. 12). All the ditches conformed to a similar pattern being narrow, shallow, flat-based and steep-sided. Where they contain any finds material it is generally residual Early, Middle or Late Iron Age, indicating that whatever crop the area held it was not being manured with farmyard waste. Alternatively, the system may not have been in use for a particularly lengthy period. Small fragments of Early Roman pottery were also recovered from the system.
- 4.3.2 Elements of this field system were picked up at the Phase I evaluation, but the trenches were too widely distributed to make definite sense of the field pattern. Filling in the blanks between the earlier trenches has also filled in the field system pattern.
- 4.3.3 Area 1 and the south-western corner of Area 2 lie on a gentle south-west facing slope with the highest point being 106.8m OD at the northern end of Trench 78 and dropping down to 103m OD at the southern end of Trench 62. Over the remainder of Area 2 the landscape is broadly flat, sitting at around 105m OD before dropping sharply off to the

north-east in the direction of Hoggate's Wood, down to a level of 91.8m OD (at the northern end of Trench 98).

- 4.3.4 The cultivation system can be tracked through a number of the trenches, with a cultivation strip having been dug approximately every 10 to 13m. This agricultural system sits well within the landscape, being confined to the western slope with no continuation any further east than Trenches 84 and 102 in Area 2 (where the land begins to drop off to the north-east). It is not seen in the south-east corner of Area 1 (Trenches 61 and 63 to 65) and there were also no cultivation strips at the south-western edge of Area 1. They are absent from Trenches 62 and 72 to 74 (as well as Trenches 57 and 58 from the first phase of works).

4.4 Post-medieval

- 4.4.1 The post-medieval archaeology on the site consisted of the occasional post-Enclosure field division ditch, on north-south or west-east alignments, and a ditch in Trench 89 (Area 4). A relatively large ditch on a north-west to south-east alignment was identified, corresponding with an anomaly identified during the geophysical survey. This ditch was 4m wide, 1.1m deep and contained fragments of 18th century brick and tile throughout its fills.
- 4.4.2 The ditch must represent a pre-enclosure boundary. The 1879 Ordnance Survey map shows a line of trees across this field, on the same alignment as the ditch and this line continues into the field on the south side of Dane O'Coys Road before turning eastwards. This line in the southern field is still visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs. Therefore, the ditch uncovered in Trench 89 is likely to pre-date Enclosure but also pre-date Dane O-Coys Road.

4.5 Conclusions

- 4.5.1 The results from this evaluation have significantly advanced our understanding of the archaeological landscape in that it has confirmed the information gained from the initial phase of archaeological works as well as expanding upon it. It has also identified further areas of archaeological activity on the site.
- 4.5.2 Overall, the land at Bishop's Stortford North contains evidence for agricultural activity dating from the Late Bronze Age through to the Early Roman period, with potentially significant remains being identified across Area 1 and the western half of Area 2.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 61							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench contained a ditch and an area of intercutting pits. Geology consisted of grey chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
					Width (m)		2.1
					Length (m)		49.1
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
50	Fill	-	0.5	Pit	(a) Pottery (b) Flint	(a) LBA-EIA (b) later Neolithic	
51	Cut	1.3	0.5	Pit	-	-	
52	Fill	-	0.4	Pit	Pottery	Middle Iron Age	
53	Cut	1.1	0.4	Pit	-	-	
54	Fill	-	0.45	Ditch	Pottery	Roman	
55	Cut	1.4	0.45	Ditch	-	-	

Trench 62							
General description					Orientation		N-S
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
					Width (m)		2.1
Geology consisted of grey chalky clay.					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
97	Fill	-	0.22	Ditch	Pottery	LBA-MIA	
98	Cut	0.6	0.22	Ditch	-	-	
99	Fill	-	0.24	Ditch	Pottery	LBA-EIA	
100	Cut	0.6	0.24	Ditch	-	-	
6100	Fill	-	0.15	Ditch	-	-	
6101	Cut	0.6	0.15	Ditch	-	-	

Trench 63						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Ditch contained four ditches. Geology consisted of grey chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	48.2
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date

6112	Fill	-	0.13	Ditch	-	-
6113	Cut	0.5	0.13	Ditch	-	-
6114	Fill	-	0.1	Ditch	-	-
6115	Cut	0.5	0.1	Ditch	-	-
6116	Fill	-	0.2	Ditch	-	-
6117	Cut	0.4	0.2	Ditch	-	-
6118	Fill	-	0.3	Ditch	-	-
6119	Cut	0.9	0.3	Ditch	-	-

Trench 64

General description

Two pits and one modern posthole (unexcavated) were observed.

Geology consisted of grey chalky clay.

Orientation

N-S

Avg. depth (m)

0.4

Width (m)

2.1

Length (m)

49.3

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
86	Fill	-	0.1	Pit	-	-
87	Cut	0.8	0.1	Pit	-	-
88	Fill	-	0.2	Pit	-	-
89	Cut	1	0.4	Pit	-	-
90	Fill	0.9	0.25	Pit	-	-

Trench 65

General description

Trench contained a possible hollow way, a ditch and two pits.

Geology consisted of grey chalky clay.

Orientation

N-S

Avg. depth (m)

0.4

Width (m)

2.1

Length (m)

50.6

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
76	Fill	-	0.28	Pit	-	-
77	Fill	-	0.5	Pit	-	-
78	Cut	1	0.5	Pit	-	-
79	Fill	-	0.3	?Hollow way	-	-
80	Cut	1.5	0.3	?Hollow way	-	-
81	Fill	-	0.23	Pit	-	-
82	Fill	-	0.13	Pit	-	-
83	Cut	0.6	0.23	Pit	-	-
84	Fill	-	0.35	Ditch	Pottery	Roman

85	Cut	0.7	0.5	Ditch	-	-
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Trench 66

General description					Orientation		E-W.
Trench contained one ditch. Geology consisted of grey chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)		0.6
					Width (m)		2.1
					Length (m)		49
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
6106	Cut	-	0.14	Ditch	-	-	
6107	Fill	0.6	0.14	Ditch	-	-	

Trench 67

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained two ditches and one burnt pit. Geology consisted of grey chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	49
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6108	Cut	0.75	0.27	Ditch	-	-
6109	Fill	-	0.27	Ditch	-	-
6110	Cut	0.6	0.15	Pit	-	-
6111	Fill	-	0.15	Pit	-	-

Trench 68

General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench contained five ditches on two alignments and a burnt pit. Geology consisted of grey chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
					Width (m)		2.1
					Length (m)		49
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
56	Cut	0.65	0.25	Ditch	-		
57	Fill	-	0.25	Ditch	Burnt flint	Undatable	
58	Cut	0.65	0.15	Ditch	-		
59	Fill	-	0.15	Ditch	Pottery	LBA-EIA	
60	Cut	0.4	0.1	Pit	-	-	
61	Fill	-	0.1	Pit	-	-	

6104	Cut	1.3	0.4	Ditch	-	-
6105	Fill	-	0.4	Ditch	Pottery	LBA-EIA

Trench 69

General description					Orientation		N-S
The trench is devoid of archaeology. Geology consisted of grey chalky clay					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
					Width (m)		2.1
					Length (m)		49.5
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Trench 70

General description					Orientation	E-W
Archaeology seen across the full length of the trench. Geology consisted of grey chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6120	Fill	-	0.4	Ditch	-	-
6121	Cut	1.04	0.4	Ditch	-	-
6122	Fill	-	0.36	Posthole	-	-
6123	Cut	0.6	0.26	Posthole	-	-
6135	Cut	0.9	0.3	Ditch	-	-
6136	Fill	-	0.3	Ditch	-	-
6137	Cut	0.8	0.3	Ditch	-	-
6138	Fill	-	0.3	Ditch	Pottery	LBA-EIA
6139	Cut	0.6	0.15	Ditch	-	-
6140	Fill	-	0.15	Ditch	-	-
6147	Cut	1	0.45	Ditch	-	-
6148	Fill	-	0.45	Ditch	Pottery	LBA-EIA
6149	Cut	0.65	0.25	Posthole	-	-
6150	Fill	-	0.25	Posthole	-	-

Trench 71

General description				Orientation	N-S
Trench contained three ditches on separate alignments. Geology consisted of grey chalky clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.45
				Width (m)	2.1

					Length (m)	49
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
17	Cut	1.7	0.5	Ditch	-	-
18	Fill	-	0.37	Ditch	-	-
19	Fill	-	0.2	Ditch	-	-
20	Fill	-	0.15	Ditch	-	-
21	Cut	0.7	0.2	Ditch	-	-
22	Fill	-	0.2	Ditch	Pottery	Late Iron Age
23	Cut	0.65	0.29	Ditch	-	-
24	Fill	-	0.29	Ditch	-	-

Trench 72						
General description					Orientation	SW-NE
Trench contained two ditches and one pit. Geology consisted of grey chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
64	Fill	-	0.28	Ditch	Pottery	LBA-EIA
65	Cut	0.5	0.28	Ditch	-	-
66	Fill	-	0.3	Ditch	Pottery	LBA-EIA
67	Cut	0.98	0.3	Ditch	-	-
68	Fill	-	-	Pit (not excavated)	(a) Pottery (b) burnt flint	(a) LBA-EIA (b) undatable
69	Cut	4	-	Pit (not excavated)	-	-

Trench 73						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained three ditches, a gully and a posthole. Geology consisted of grey chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
25	Cut	0.6	0.2	Ditch	-	-
26	Fill	-	0.2	Ditch	Metal	Undatable
27	Cut	0.5	0.11	Gully	-	-

28	Fill	-	0.11	Gully	-	-
31	Cut	2.75	0.6	Ditch	-	-
32	Fill	-	0.6	Ditch	-	-
33	Fill	-	1.25	Ditch	-	-
35	Cut	0.14	0.1	Posthole	-	-
36	Fill	-	0.1	Posthole	-	-
74	Fill	-	0.06	Ditch	-	-
75	Cut	0.7	0.06	Ditch	-	-

Trench 74

General description					Orientation	E-W
The trench was devoid of archaeology. Geology consisted of grey chalky clay					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	-	-	-	-	-	

Trench 75

General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained four ditches. Geology consisted of grey chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3	Cut	0.6	0.1	Ditch	-	-
4	Fill	-	0.1	Ditch	-	-
5	Cut	0.74	0.17	Ditch	-	-
6	Fill	-	0.17	Ditch	-	-
7	Cut	0.7	0.28	Ditch	-	-
8	Fill	-	0.28	Ditch	Daub	Late Iron Age
6102	Cut	0.6	0.11	Ditch	-	-
6103	Fill	-	0.11	Ditch	-	-

Trench 76

General description				Orientation	E-W
Trench contained three parallel ditches Geology consisted of grey chalky clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.5
				Width (m)	2.1

					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
62	Cut	0.7	0.2	Ditch	-	-
63	Fill	-	0.2	Ditch	-	-

Trench 77						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained three ditches on two alignments.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Geology consisted of grey chalky clay.					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
37	Cut	0.65	0.15	Ditch	-	-
38	Fill	-	0.15	Ditch	-	-
39	Cut	0.8	0.2	Ditch	-	-
40	Fill	-	0.2	Ditch	-	-
41	Cut	1	0.45	Ditch	-	-
42	Fill	-	0.34	Ditch	-	-
43	Fill	-	0.14	Ditch	Pottery	Late Iron Age

Trench 78						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained two ditches.					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Geology consisted of grey chalky clay.					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	49
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
9	Cut	0.75	0.2	Ditch	-	-
10	Fill	-	0.2	Ditch	-	-
11	Cut	0.75	0.19	Ditch	-	-
12	Fill	-	0.19	Ditch	-	-

Trench 79						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained two parallel ditches.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Geology consisted of grey chalky clay.					Width (m)	2.1

					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
13	Cut	0.8	0.3	Ditch	-	-
14	Fill	-	0.3	Ditch	Pottery	Late Iron Age
15	Cut	0.75	0.3	Ditch	-	-
16	Fill	-	0.3	Ditch	Animal bone	-

Trench 80						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained four parallel ditches. Geology consisted of grey chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6151	Fill	-	0.25	Ditch	-	-
6152	Cut	0.5	0.25	Ditch	-	-
6153	Fill	-	0.2	Ditch	-	-
6154	Cut	1	0.2	Ditch	-	-

Trench 81						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained seven ditches on four separate alignments. Geology consisted of sandy clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6124	Fill	-	0.4	Ditch	Pottery	Medieval
6125	Cut	0.85	0.4	Ditch	-	-
6126	Fill	-	0.2	Ditch	-	-
6127	Cut	0.65	0.2	Ditch	-	-
6130	Fill	-	0.32	Ditch	-	-
6131	Cut	0.9	0.32	Ditch	-	-

Trench 82						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained two ditches.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Geology consisted of sandy clay.					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6134	Fill	-	0.13	Ditch	-	-
6155	Cut	0.7	0.13	Ditch	-	-

Trench 83						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained a single ditch. Geology consisted of sandy clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6167	Fill	-	0.2	Ditch	Pottery	Early Roman
6168	Cut	0.8	0.2	Ditch	-	-

Trench 84						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained three ditches. Geology consisted of sandy clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
93	Fill	-	0.19	Ditch	-	-
94	Cut	0.7	0.19	Ditch	-	-

Trench 85						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained six ditches on three alignments. Geology consisted of chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6176	Fill	-	0.47	Ditch	-	-
6177	Cut	0.9	0.47	Ditch	-	-
6178	Fill	-	0.14	Ditch	-	-

6179	Cut	0.65	0.14	Ditch	-	-
6180	Fill	-	0.12	Ditch	-	-
6181	Cut	0.6	0.12	Ditch	-	-
6182	Fill	-	0.28	Ditch	-	-
6183	Cut	0.9	0.28	Ditch	-	-
6184	Fill	-	0.12	Ditch	-	-
6185	Cut	0.75	0.12	Ditch	-	-

Trench 86

General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained two ditches. Geology consisted of chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6197	Fill	-	0.18	Ditch	-	-
6198	Cut	0.4	0.18	Ditch	-	-

Trench 87

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench was devoid of archaeology. Geology consisted of chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 88

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained one burnt pit and two ditches. Natural geology consisted of chalky clay with gravel.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6160	Fill	-	0.24	Pit	Burnt flint	Undatable
6161	Fill	-	0.24	Pit	-	-
6162	Cut	0.9	0.24	Pit	-	-

6163	Fill	-	0.24	Ditch	-	-
6164	Cut	0.65	0.24	Ditch	-	-
6165	Fill	-	0.16	Ditch	Pottery	Medieval
6166	Cut	0.55	0.16	Ditch	-	-

Trench 89

General description

Trench contained three ditches on two alignments.

Geology consisted of silty clay with flint gravel.

Orientation

N-S

Avg. depth (m)

40

Width (m)

2.1

Length (m)

49

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6186	Cut	3	0.8	Ditch	CBM Glass	18th century
6187	Fill	-	0.13	Ditch	-	-
6188	Cut	0.6	0.15	Ditch	-	-
6189	Fill	-	0.15	Ditch	-	-
6190	Fill	-	0.67	Ditch	CBM	18th century

Trench 90

General description

Trench was devoid of archaeology.

Geology consisted of orange silty clay with flint gravels.

Orientation

E-W

Avg. depth (m)

0.3

Width (m)

2.1

Length (m)

50

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 91

General description

Trench contained three possible pits.

Geology consisted of orange silty clay, with flint gravels.

Orientation

N-S

Avg. depth (m)

0.4

Width (m)

2.1

Length (m)

49

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6199	Cut	0.47	0.31	?Pit	-	-
6200	Fill	-	0.23	?Pit	-	-
6201	Cut	0.72	0.3	?Pit	-	-

6202	Fill	-	0.3	?Pit	-	-
6203	Cut	0.75	0.04	?Pit	-	-
6204	Fill	-	0.04	?Pit	-	-
6205	Fill	-	0.3	?Pit	-	-
6206	Fill	-	0.3	?Pit	-	-

Trench 92

General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench was devoid of archaeology.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Geology consisted of orange clay, with flint gravels.					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 93

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench was devoid of archaeology.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Geology consisted of chalky clay.					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 94

General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained a single ditch.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Geology consisted of sandy clay.					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6193	Fill	-	0.6	Ditch	-	-
6194	cut	1.1	0.6	Ditch	-	-

Trench 95

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench was devoid of archaeology.					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
					Width (m)	2.1

Geology consisted of chalky clay.					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 96						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench was devoid of archaeology. Geology consisted of chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 97						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench was devoid of archaeology. Geology consisted of chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 98						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench was devoid of archaeology. Geology consisted of chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 99						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench was devoid of archaeology. Geology consisted of chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50

Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 100						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench was devoid of archaeology. Geology consisted of chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 101						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained four ditches on two alignments. Geology consisted of sandy clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6169	Fill	-	0.26	Ditch	(a) Pottery (b) Flint	(a) Middle Iron Age (b) Neolithic
6170	Cut	0.6	0.26	Ditch	-	-
6171	Fill	-	0.84	Ditch	-	-
6172	Cut	2.25	0.84	Ditch	-	-
6173	Fill	-	0.2	Ditch	-	-
6174	Cut	0.8	0.2	Ditch	-	-
6175	Fill	-	0.08	Ditch	-	-
6191	Cut	0.4	0.08	Ditch	-	-
6192	Fill	-	0.23	Ditch	-	-

Trench 102						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained four parallel ditches. Geology consists of sandy clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
46	Fill	-	0.24	Ditch	Pottery	LBA-EIA
47	Cut	0.7	0.24	Ditch	-	-
48	Fill	-	0.16	Ditch	-	-
49	Cut	0.6	0.16	Ditch	-	-
70	Fill	-	0.2	Ditch	Pottery	LBA-LIA
71	Cut	0.7	0.2	Ditch	-	-
72	Fill	-	0.16	Ditch	-	-
73	Cut	0.6	0.16	Ditch	-	-

Trench 103

General description					Orientation		N-S
Trench contained a single ditch.					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
					Width (m)		2.1
Geology consists of sandy clay.					Length (m)		50
					Contexts		
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
44	Fill	-	0.18	Ditch	(a) Pottery (b) Flint	(a) IA/Roman (b) Neolithic	
45	Cut	0.9	0.18	Ditch	-	-	

Trench 104

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench was devoid of archaeology. Geology consisted of chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 105

General description					Orientation		NNE-SSW
Trench was devoid of archaeology. Geology consisted of clay with gravel.					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
					Width (m)		2.1
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	

-	-	-	-	-	-	-
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Trench 106						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench was devoid of archaeology. Geology consisted of chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 107						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench was devoid of archaeology. Geology consisted of chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 108						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench was devoid of archaeology. Geology consisted of chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 109						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench was devoid of archaeology. Geology consisted of chalky clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Matt Brudenell

Introduction and methodology

- B.1.1 The evaluation yielded an assemblage of 82 sherds (564g) of pottery, with a mean sherd weight (MSW) of 6.9g. The pottery was recovered from 24 contexts relating to 24 features (ditches and pits), with one un-stratified find from the topsoil (Table 1). The material dates from a range of periods (Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval), with the bulk of the pottery being Late Bronze Age and Iron Age in origin. In general, feature assemblages were small, and very few diagnostic sherds were recovered – just two separate vessel rims and two bases. The dating of the prehistoric pottery is therefore largely based on the character of the fabrics and forms of surface treatment.
- B.1.2 This report provides an overview of the assemblage, with a summary of the material by period. The ceramics have been fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997), with spot dating of the Roman material by K. Anderson.

Context	Trench no.	Cut no.	Feature type	No/wt. (g) sherds	Spot date and comment
8	75	7	Ditch	2/28	Late Iron Age, c. 100/50 BC-AD 43
14	79	13	Ditch	1/3	Late Iron Age, c. 100/50 BC-AD 43
22	71	21	Ditch	1/13	Late Iron Age, c. 100/50 BC-AD 43
43	77	41	Ditch	9/250	Late Iron Age, c. 100/50 BC-AD 43
44	103	45	Ditch	2/8	Roman + 1 residual (2g) Middle Iron Age, c. 350-100/50 BC
46	102	47	Ditch	1/4	Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age, c. 1100-350 BC (residual?)
50	61	51	Pit	18/30	Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age, c. 1100-350 BC (residual?)
52	61	53	Pit	14/38	Middle Iron Age, c. 350-100/50 BC
54	61	55	Ditch	3/3	Roman
59	68	60	Pit	3/26	Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age, c. 1100-350 BC
64	72	65	Ditch	2/18	Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age, c. 1100-350 BC (residual?)
66	72	67	Ditch	3/11	Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age, c. 1100-350 BC (residual?)
68	72	69	Pit	7/44	Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age, c. 1100-350 BC
70	102	71	Ditch	3/17	Late Iron Age, c. 100/50 BC-AD 43 + 1 residual (? , 3g) Middle Iron Age, c. 350-100/50 BC and 1 residual (11g) Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age, c. 1100-350 BC
84	65	85	Ditch	1/1	Roman
97	62	98	Ditch	2/3	Middle Iron Age, c. 350-100/50 BC + 1 residual (1g) Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age, c. 1100-350 BC
99	62	100	Ditch	1/4	Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age, c. 1100-350 BC (residual?)
6105	68	6104	Ditch	2/15	Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age, c. 1100-350 BC (residual?)
6124	81	6126	Ditch	1/2	Medieval
6138	70	6137	Ditch	1/2	Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age, c. 1100-350 BC (residual?)
6148	70	6147	Ditch	1/4	Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age, c. 1100-350 BC (residual?)
6165	88	6166	Ditch	1/4	Medieval
6167	83	6168	Ditch	1/15	Early Roman, c. AD 43-100
6169	101	6170	Ditch	1/17	Middle Iron Age, c. 350-100/50 BC
9999	NA	NA	Unstrat.	1/4	Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age, c. 1100-350 BC
TOTAL	-	-	-	82/564	-

Table 1: Assemblage quantification and spot dating by context

Results

Prehistoric

- B.1.3 The Prehistoric assemblage comprised 74 sherds (533g), accounting for 95% of all the pottery recovered (by wt.). The assemblage was dominated by plain sherds in flint (F) and flint-and-sand tempered (FQ) fabrics (Table 2), characteristic of pottery of the Late

Bronze Age-Early Iron Age Post Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition in Eastern England (Barrett 1980; Brudenell 2012). As there is a tendency for flint-and-sand tempered wares to become more prolific during and immediately after the Bronze Age-Iron Age transition in this region (c.850-600 BC), the propensity of these fabrics may indicate that most of these ceramics date to the Earliest Iron Age (c.800-600 BC), as was suggested for pottery from the adjacent site at Hazel End (Brudenell 2013). However, this is hard to corroborate, given the majority of feature assemblages contained fewer than five sherds, and many – especially those from ditch contexts – could be residual.

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>No./wt.(g) sherds</i>	<i>% of fabric (by wt.)</i>
F1	Flint	7/35	6.6
F2	Flint	1/2	0.4
FQ1	Flint-and-sand	13/66	12.4
FQ2	Flint-and-sand	3/30	5.6
FQ3	Flint-and-sand	17/35	6.6
G1	Grog	3/41	7.7
G2	Grog	9/243	45.6
Q1	Sand	16/43	8.1
Q2	Sand	2/13	2.4
Q3	Sand	1/2	0.4
Q4	Sand	1/6	1.1
Q5	Sand	1/17	3.2
TOTAL	-	74/533	100.1

Table 2: Prehistoric pottery quantification by fabric

- B.1.4 As noted above, very few diagnostic sherds were recovered altogether from the evaluation. Apart from a single base sherd from ditch **47** (4g), the only other notable fragment was a decorated coarseware body sherd displaying three sub-rectangular impressions or stab marks on the exterior (from pit **60**, 18g). This form of ornamentation is not very common, but is more characteristic of Earliest (c.800-600 BC) and Early Iron Age ceramics (c.600-350 BC), as opposed to Late Bronze Age ones (c.1100-800 BC).
- B.1.5 Overall, pottery assigned a broad Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age date was recovered from a total of twelve contexts, relating to twelve features in Trenches 61 (pit **51**), 62 (ditches **89** and **100**), 68 (pit **60** and ditch **6104**), 70 (ditches **6137** and **6147**), 72 (ditches **65**, **67** and pit **69**) and 102 (ditches **47** and **71**). Three of these trenches – 61, 62, 102 – along with Trench 103 also revealed features that yielded ceramics in fabrics more characteristic of the Middle Iron Age, c.350-100/50 BC. These included a total of eighteen plain body sherds (62g) in hard, handmade sandy fabrics (Q). Again, none of the individual assemblages were substantial, and rims, bases and decorated sherds were absent. The dating is therefore tentative, but the fabrics are consistent with other Middle Iron Age ceramics from the region. The assemblages derived from five contexts, in ditches **45**, **71**, **98**, **6170** and pit **53** – the material from ditch **45** almost certainly being residual.
- B.1.6 Pottery of Late Iron Age date (c.100/50 BC-AD 43) comprised fourteen sherds (297g), thirteen of which were in grog tempered fabrics (G), with one sandy ware (Q). Of these, eleven had combed surfaces (281g), including five refitting sherds which formed the partial profile of an everted-rimmed jar from ditch **77** (165g, Form B2-1, after Thompson 1982). The jar was wheel-made, hard-fired and had a developed rim suggesting it probably belonged to the second quarter of the first century AD. The vessel from this ditch was accompanied by two adjoining base sherds from a second combed wheel-made jar, and two plain handmade sherds. Together, these formed the largest feature group recovered from the evaluation (nine sherds, 250g). In terms of distribution, the Late Iron Age ceramics were recovered from five contexts from five different ditches (**7**,

13, 21, 41 and 71) across Trenches 71, 75, 77, 79 and 102. Overall, at least eight of the Late Iron Age sherds (240g) were thought to have been wheel-made.

Prehistoric pottery fabric series

Burnt flint tempered fabrics (F fabrics)

F1: Spare to common coarse flint (mainly 2-4mm)

F2: Moderate to common medium flint (mainly 1-2mm)

Burnt flint and sand tempered fabrics (FQ fabrics)

FQ1: Moderate to common coarse flint (mainly 2-4mm) in a sandy clay matrix

FQ2: Sparse to common medium flint (mainly 1-2mm) in a sandy clay matrix

FQ3: Spare to common medium flint (mainly 1-2mm) in a sandy micaceous clay matrix

FQ4: Sparse to common fine flint (<1.5mm) in a sandy clay matrix

Grog fabrics (G fabrics)

G1: Sparse to common medium grog (mainly 1-2mm). The clay matrix contains moderate quartz sand.

G2: Sparse to common fine grog (<1mm). The clay matrix contains spare to moderate quartz sand

Sandy fabrics (Q fabrics)

Q1: Moderate to common quartz sand with rare to sparse fine to medium burnt flint (<2mm)

Q2: Moderate to common fine quartz sand with sparse mica.

Q3: Moderate to common quartz sand with rare linear voids from burnt-out vegetable matter

Q4: Sparse to common quartz sand

Q5: Moderate to common angular quartz sand, abrasive to touch. Clay matrix may contain rare quartz gains up to 1mm.

Roman

- B.1.7 Six small sherds (25g) of Roman pottery were recovered in the evaluation (Table 3). The pottery derived from four ditches (**45**, **55**, **85** and **6168**) in Trenches 61, 65, 83, and 103. Three of the sherds could only be given a generic Roman date (K. Anderson *pers. comm.*), though the four were in a sand-and-grog tempered fabric characteristic of the Early Roman period.

Fabric	No./(wt.) sherds	Context/Cut	Trench	Date
Micaceous greyware	1/6	44/45	103	Generic Roman
Sandy greyware	3/3	54/55	61	Generic Roman
Oxidized sandy ware	1/1	84/85	65	Generic Roman
Oxidized sand and grog fabric	1/15	6167/6168	83	Early Roman, c. AD 43-100
TOTAL	6/25	-	-	-

Table 3: Roman pottery quantification by fabric

Medieval

- B.1.8 Two small sandy Medieval sherds (6g) were recovered from Ditch **6125** in Trench 81 (2g) and Ditch **6166** in Trench 4 (4g).

Discussion

- B.1.9 With the exception of six fragments of Roman pottery and two scraps of medieval ceramic, all the pottery recovered from the evaluation was dated later prehistoric, with material from all periods of the first millennium BC represented (Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age, Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age). The bulk of this material belongs to the Post Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition of the Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age, with the suggestion that most of this pottery is likely to post-date c.800 BC. In general, the character of the flint and flint-and-sand tempered fabrics of this period parallel those recorded at Hazel End (Brudenell 2013). Likewise, the later sandy wares and grog tempered fabrics of the Middle and Late Iron Age reported here are broadly consistent with wares of this date described from the first phase of archaeological works (WA 2012).

B.2 Struck flint

By Richard Mortimer

Introduction

- B.2.1 A very small total of ten struck flints were recovered from four contexts within the 49 trench evaluation. The majority of the flint (seven pieces in total) were collected as surface/topsoil finds (context 01), with single pieces coming from three excavated features: a LBA/EIA pit (feature **51**) and two ditches (features **6170** and **45**).
- B.2.2 For the purpose of this report individual artefacts were scanned and then assigned to a category within a simple lithic classification system. No metrical analysis or detailed technological recording was undertaken during the preliminary analysis.

Results

- B.2.3 The assemblage contains two retouched pieces: a large flake extemporaneously put to use as a scraper after rapid, heavy pressure flaking along one edge, and a battered and heavily repatinated hafted end-scraper (SF1). The former may be of later Bronze Age manufacture, the latter is Late Neolithic. The remainder of the assemblage is made up of generally quite squat flakes, of later Neolithic date, with one earlier blade fragment.

context	cut	trench	feature type	number	description	spot-date	feature date
1	n/a	n/a	surface find	1	squat flake	later Neolithic	n/a
1	n/a	n/a	surface find	1	flake	Neolithic	n/a
1	n/a	n/a	surface find	1	small chip	not datable	n/a
1	n/a	n/a	surface find	1	small, fine, broken blade	Early Neolithic	n/a
1	n/a	n/a	surface find	1	large flake with heavy retouch to one concave edge - scraper	Bronze Age	n/a
1	n/a	n/a	surface find	1	flake	Neolithic/ Bronze Age	n/a
1	n/a	n/a	surface find	1	Hafted endscraper, heavily weathered and heavily patinated	Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age	n/a
44	45	103	ditch	1	flake, patinated	Neolithic	IA/Roman
50	51	61	pit	1	thick, squat flake, heavily patinated	later Neolithic	LBA/EIA
6169	6170	101	ditch	1	small flake	Neolithic	MIA

Table 4: Struck flint

- B.2.4 Three contexts, a LBA/EIA pit (feature **69**), undated pit (feature **6162**) and undated ditch (feature **56**), contained very small quantities of burnt flint (1, 3 and 5 fragments). Only that in ditch **69** was heavily fire-cracked.

context	cut	trench	feature type	number	description	spot-date	feature date
57	56	68	ditch	3	heavily burnt, crazed fragments	not datable	undated
68	69	72	Pit	1	small chip, moderately burnt	not datable	LBA/EIA
6160	6162	88	Pit	5	very lightly burnt fragments	not datable	undated

Table 5: Burnt flint

Conclusions

- B.2.5 The small assemblage comprises flint from the earlier Neolithic through to the later Bronze Age, with a slight concentration in the Late Neolithic, though the numbers are extremely small.

- B.2.6 Most of the flint is struck from small but good quality black flint pebbles, with occasional brown cherty pieces. The underlying natural subsoil, though variable, included large areas of flint-rich chalky clay. On a flint-rich subsoil the dearth of both struck and burnt flint on the site is of some note. No earlier prehistoric features were recorded within the trenches, with the earliest, a few scattered pits, perhaps dating to the Late Bronze Age. It is possible that this part of the landscape was not occupied, and was perhaps not cleared, until the later Bronze Age or Early Iron Age.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

- C.1.1 Twelve bulk samples were taken during the evaluation of land at Bishop's Stortford North. Features sampled include prehistoric pits and ditches encountered in seven of the trenches excavated. The purpose of this assessment is to determine whether plant remains are present, their mode of preservation and whether they are of interpretable value with regard to domestic, agricultural and industrial activities, diet, economy and rubbish disposal.

Methodology

- C.1.2 One bucket of soil (up to ten litres) of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residues were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* and the authors' own reference collection with nomenclature according to Stace (1997). An abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 6. Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

- C.1.3 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens ##### = 100+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Results

C.1.4 Plant remains are preserved by carbonization. The results are presented in Table 6 and discussed by trench.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Flot comments	bones Large animal	Pottery	Hammerscale:
1	43	41	ditch	8	60	###	++	+	Well preserved charred <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> ##, <i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>spelta</i> ##, <i>Bromus</i> sp.##, Small Caryophyllaceae, charcoal	+	0	
2	61	60	pit	6	20	##	++	++	Well preserved <i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>spelta</i> , charcoal	0	0	
3	52	53	pit	6	1	#	+	0	single indeterminate cereal grain, sparse charcoal	+	0	
4	88	89	pit	6	2	0	+	0	Sparse charcoal only	+	0	
5	82	83	pit	2	1	0	+	0	Sparse charcoal only	0	0	
6	6111	6110	pit	7	1	0	0	0	No charred plant remains	0	0	
7	6160	6162	pit	8	5	0	0	0	No charred plant remains	0	0	
8	6200	6199	Tree bowl	10	1	0	0	0	No charred plant remains	0	0	
9	6202	6201	Tree bowl	8	5	0	0	0	No charred plant remains	0	+	Flake #
10	6204	6203	Tree bowl	10	5	0	+	0	Sparse charcoal only	0	0	Flake #
11	6205	6199	Tree bowl	9	1	0	+	0	Sparse charcoal only	0	0	
12	6206	6201	Tree bowl	10	1	0	0	0	No charred plant remains	0	0	Flake #

Table 6: Results of environmental samples

Trench 61

C.1.5 Sample 3, fill 52 of pit **53** contains a single indeterminate cereal grain and small fragments of animal bone.

Trench 64

C.1.6 Sample 4, fill 88 of pit **89** contains sparse charcoal along with and small fragments of animal bone some of which appear to be burnt.

Trench 65

- C.1.7 Sample 5, fill 82 of pit **83** contains sparse charcoal along with several fragments of fired clay.

Trench 68

- C.1.8 Sample 2 taken from fill 59 of pit **60** contains twelve charred cereal grains most of which have the characteristic morphology of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*).

Trench 67

- C.1.9 Sample 6, fill 6111 of pit **6110** does not contain any preserved plant remains.

Trench 77

- C.1.10 Sample 1, taken from the basal fill 43 of ditch **41** contains numerous well-preserved charred grains of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and wheat grains that most resemble spelt. Several brome (*Bromus* sp.) seeds are also present along with occasional less well preserved charred seeds of the pink family (Caryophyllaceae).

Trench 88

- C.1.11 Sample 7, lower fill 6160 of burnt pit **6162** does not contain any preserved plant remains.

Trench 91

- C.1.12 Samples were taken from three possible pits/natural features seen in Trench 91. Sample 8, upper fill (6200) of pit **6199** does not contain any preserved plant remains and Sample 11 taken from the lower fill (6205) contains sparse charcoal only.
- C.1.13 Sample 12 lower fill (6206) and Sample 9 upper fill (6202) of pit **6201** do not contain plant remains but flakes of hammerscale were recovered from both of the sample residues.
- C.1.14 Sample 10, fill 6204 of pit **6203** also contains a few flakes of hammerscale in addition to sparse charcoal.

Discussion

- C.1.15 Significant charred plant remains have only been recovered from two features; ditch **41** and pit **60**. Ditch **41** is considered to be an offshoot of the Iron Age enclosure known to exist next to this site (WA 2012). The charred assemblage is comprised of barley and spelt grain with brome seeds and no evident chaff. There is no evidence of germination to indicate malting or spoiling of the cereal suggesting that it is a deposit of prime grain that has been accidentally burnt and disposed of within the ditch. Bromes are weeds that were common crop contaminants that grow to the same height as the cereal crop. The grains are edible and so may not necessarily have been removed as a contaminant of prepared grain. The lack of chaff elements precluded accurate identification of cereal species but the excellent preservation has enabled fairly confident identification.
- C.1.16 Spelt grain was also recovered from pit **60** but in lesser quantity. Spelt is the favoured wheat in Iron Age Britain (Grieg 1991). The cereal grains would be suitable for radiocarbon dating if required. Samples taken from other trenches have contained either sparse charcoal or are devoid of preserved plant remains suggesting lack of occupation or domestic activity in these areas of the site. The recovery of flake hammerscale from pits **6201** and **6203** suggests the possibility that blacksmithing activities were taking place in the near vicinity of these features.

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- Thompson, I.M. 1982 *Grog-tempered 'Belgic' Pottery of South-eastern England*. Oxford: British Archaeology Reports, British Series 108
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APPENDIX E. HERTFORDSHIRE HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Land at Bishop's Stortford North Bishop's Stortford Herts		
County: Hertfordshire		District: East Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Bishop's Stortford		Parish: Bishop's Stortford
Planning application reference: N/A		
HER Enquiry reference:		
Funding source: Bishop's Stortford North Consortium		
Nature of application: Housing and other related infrastructure		
Present land use: Agricultural		
Size of application area: 148 hectare		Size of area investigated: 36.5 hectare
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): 547402, 222398		
Site code (if applicable): XHTBSN13		
Site director/Organization: Oxford Archaeology East		
Type of work: Trench Evaluation		
Date of work:	Start: 27-08-2013	Finish: 11-09-2013
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Bishop's Stortford Museum		
Related HER Nos:		Periods represented: LBA to post-med
Relevant previous summaries/reports: Wessex Archaeology 2012, Bishop's Stortford North, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report. Report No. 86660.		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>The 36.5 hectare site (Areas 1 to 4) is part of a larger 148 hectare development area. This phase of trenching (Phase II) follows on from an initial phase carried out by Wessex Archaeology in August/September 2012 (Phase I). Phase II trenching recorded archaeological features across the site dating from the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age periods through Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Romano-British. Low levels of post-medieval archaeology was also present. The south-eastern corner of Area 1 revealed four small storage pits (in Trenches 64 and 65) potentially dating from the Late Bronze Age period. A further pit was seen on the western side of Area 1 in Trench 72, in close proximity to a similar feature identified during the first phase of trenching in Trench 58.</p> <p>Low levels of Middle and Late Iron Age pottery were recovered from ditches across the central and northern parts of Area 1. The majority of the features seen across site belong to an Early Roman field system running in a broadly north-east to south-west direction. These cultivation rows were identified throughout Area 1, in the western half of Area 2 (before the land drops off sharply to the north-east) and across Area 3. Low levels of highly abraded Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Roman pottery were recovered from these ditches.</p> <p>Post-medieval remains were seen in the form of a geophysical anomaly running through Trench 89 of Area 4 which was identified as a substantially sized north-west to south-east aligned ditch which contained fragments of brick and tile throughout the fills, dating the ditch to the 18th century. This feature corresponds with a line of trees seen on the 1879 Ordnance Survey map which continues into the adjacent field to the south of Dane O-Coys Road.</p>		
Author of summary: L.Bush		Date of summary: March 2014

APPENDIX F. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-158879		
Project Name	Land at Bishop's Stortford North, Hertfordshire		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	27-08-2013	Finish 11-09-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Yes

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XHTBSN13	Planning App. No.	
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	wessexar1-135138

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Housing Estate

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 checked="" 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 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
Ditch	Late Prehistoric -4k to 43	Pottery	Iron Age -800 to 43
Pit	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700	Flint	Neolithic -4k to -2k
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Hertfordshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	East Hertfordshire	Land at Bishop's Stortford North Bishop's Stortford Herts
Parish	Bishop's Stortford	
HER	Hertfordshire HER	
Study Area	36.5 hectares	National Grid Reference 547402, 222398

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	-
Project Design Originator	-
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Louise Bush

Project Archives

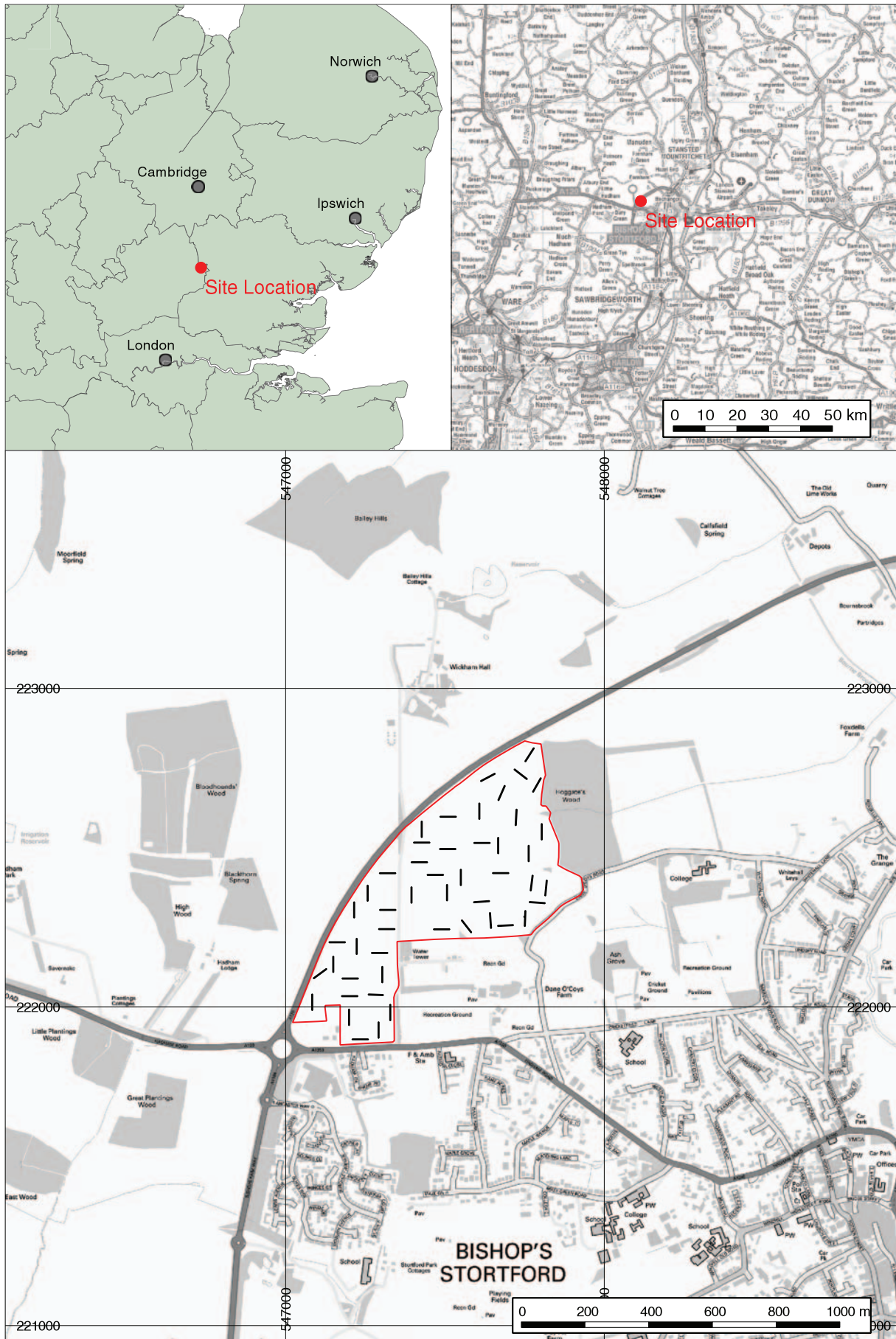
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Bishop's Stortford Museum	OA East	Bishop's Stortford Museum
XHTBSN13	XHTBSN13	XHTBSN13

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input checked="" 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:



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

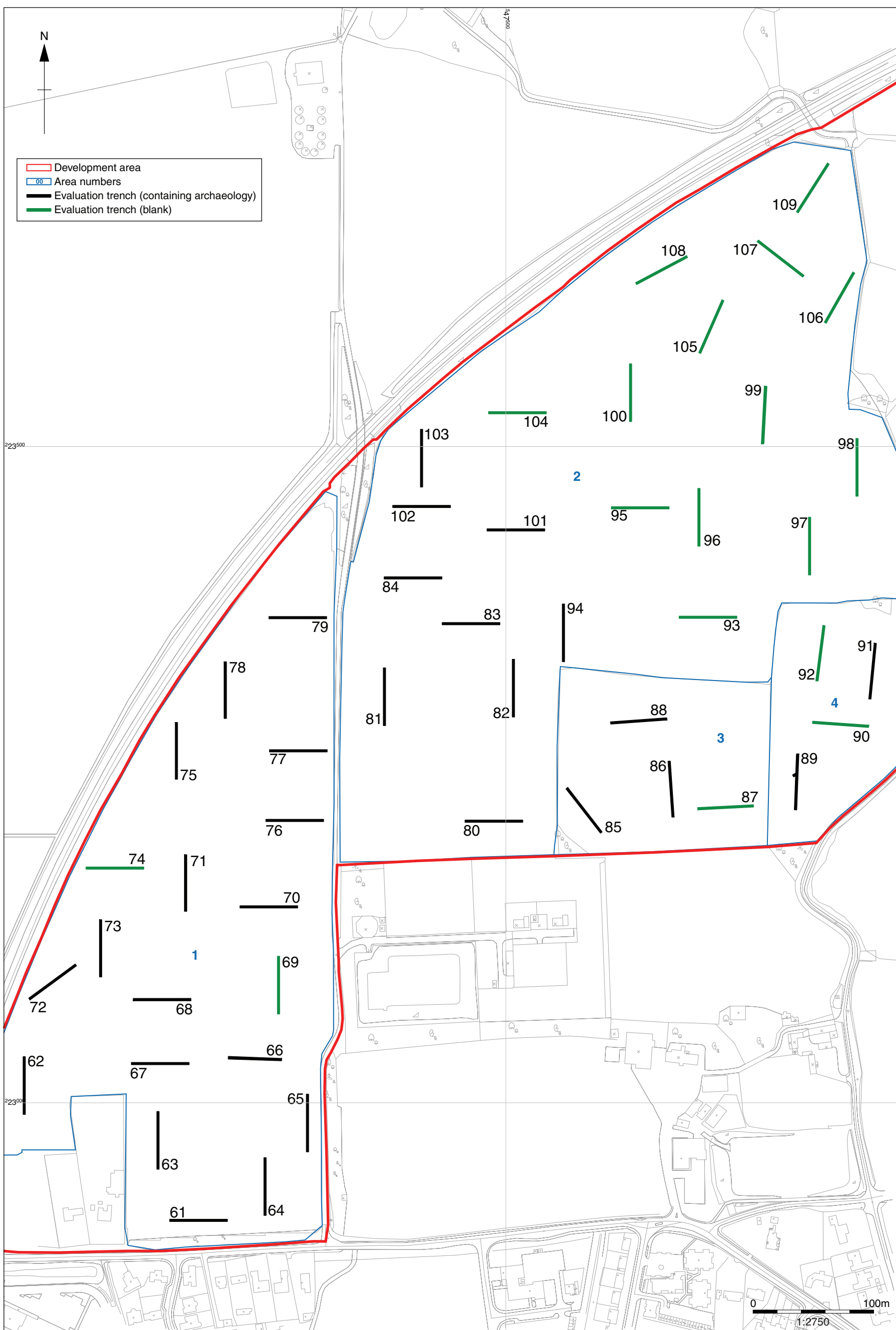


Figure 2: Overall trench plan: Phase 2

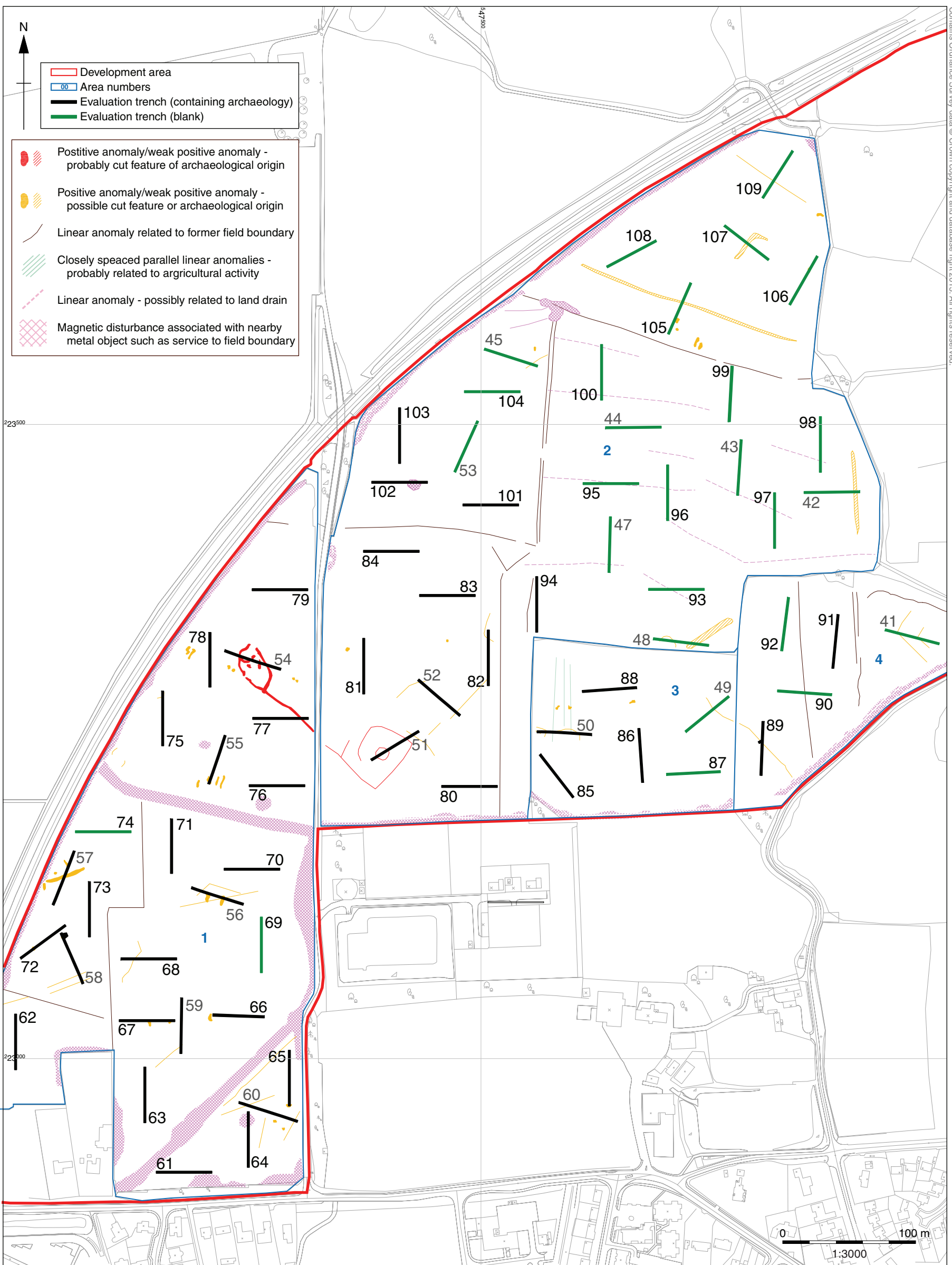


Figure 3: Overall trench plan with Phase 1 trenching and geophysical results

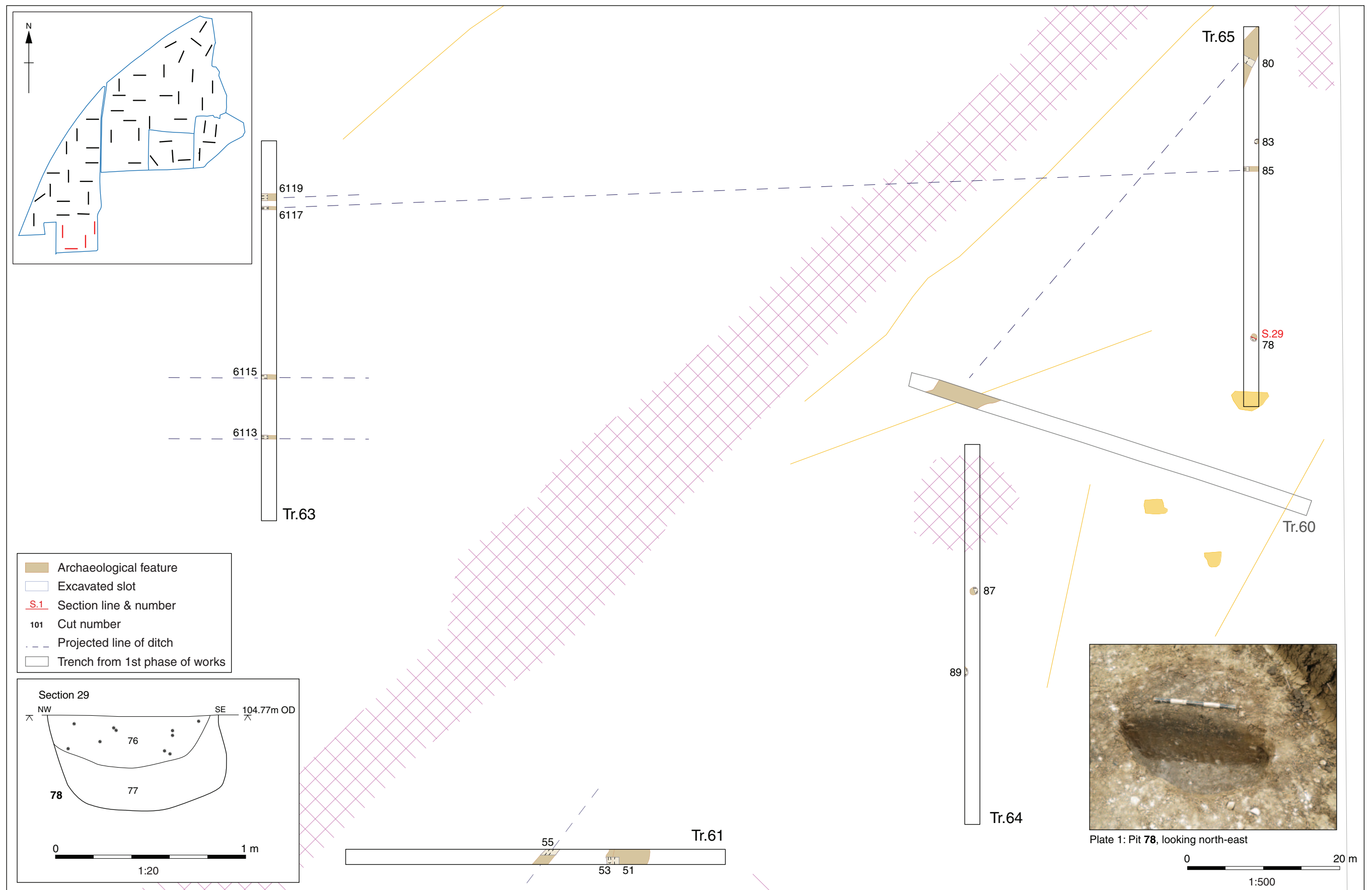


Figure 4: Area 1- Trenches 61 and 63 to 65

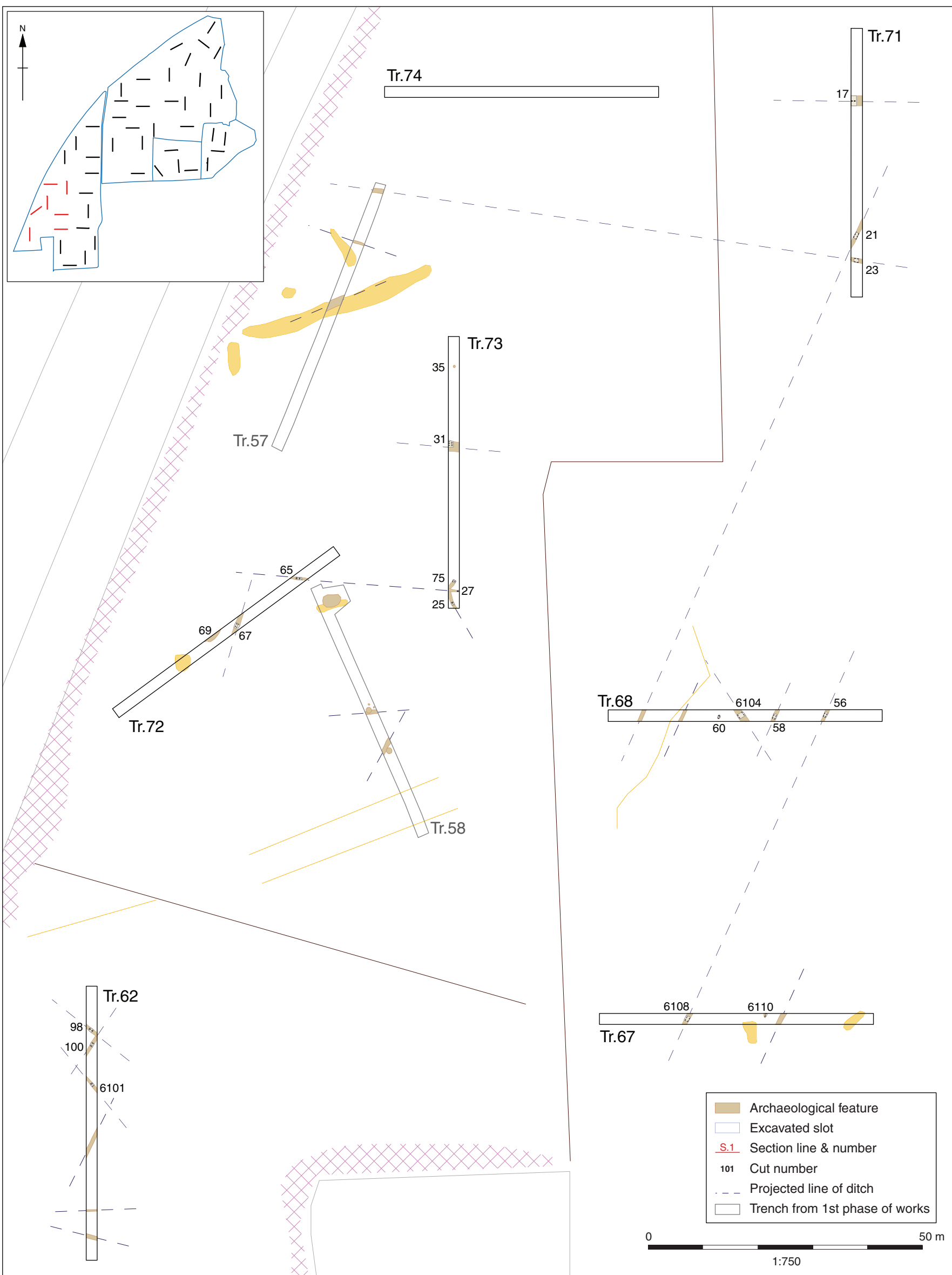


Figure 5: Area 1 - Trenches 62, 67, 68 and 71 to 73

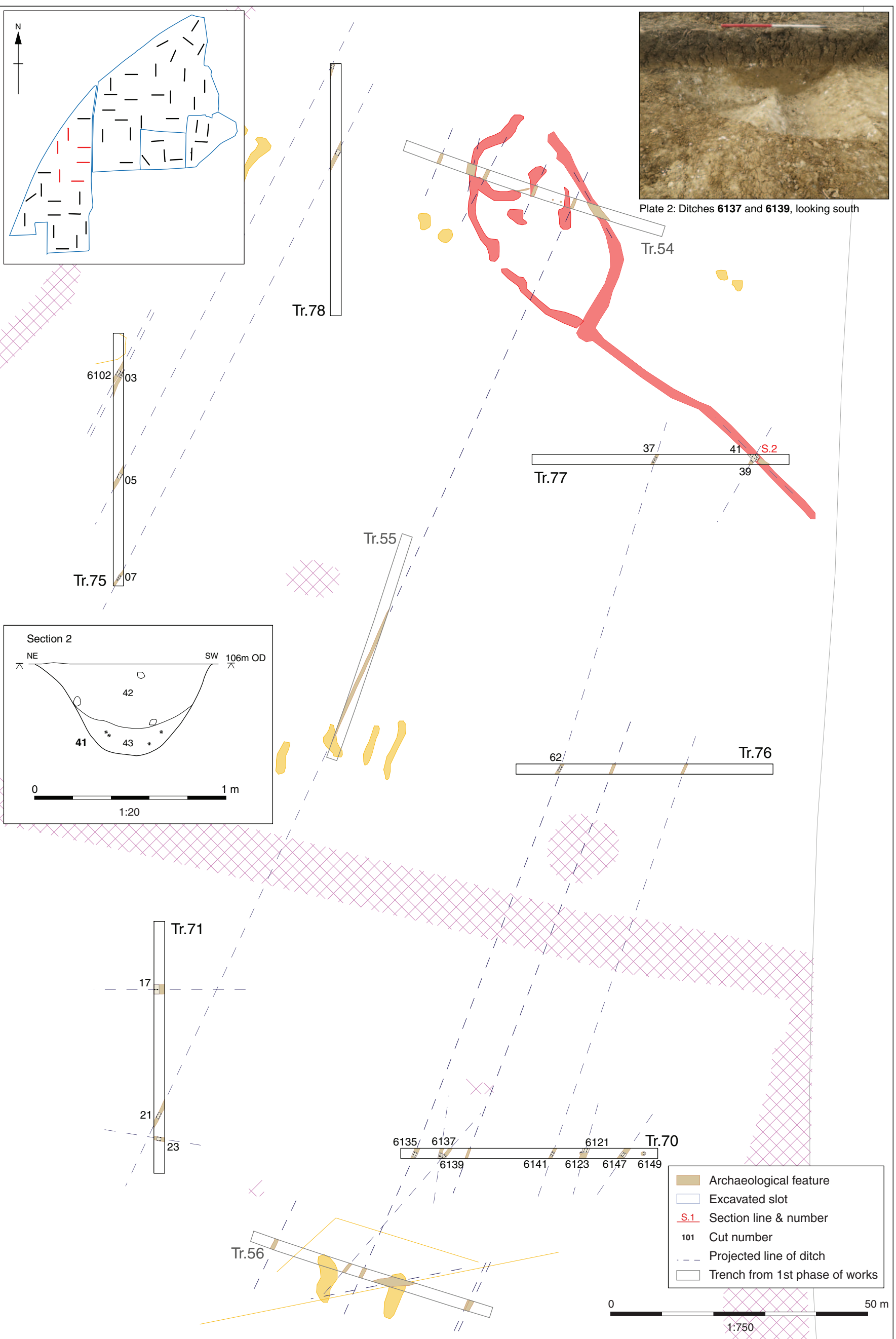


Figure 6: Area 1 - Trenches 70, 71 and 75 to 78

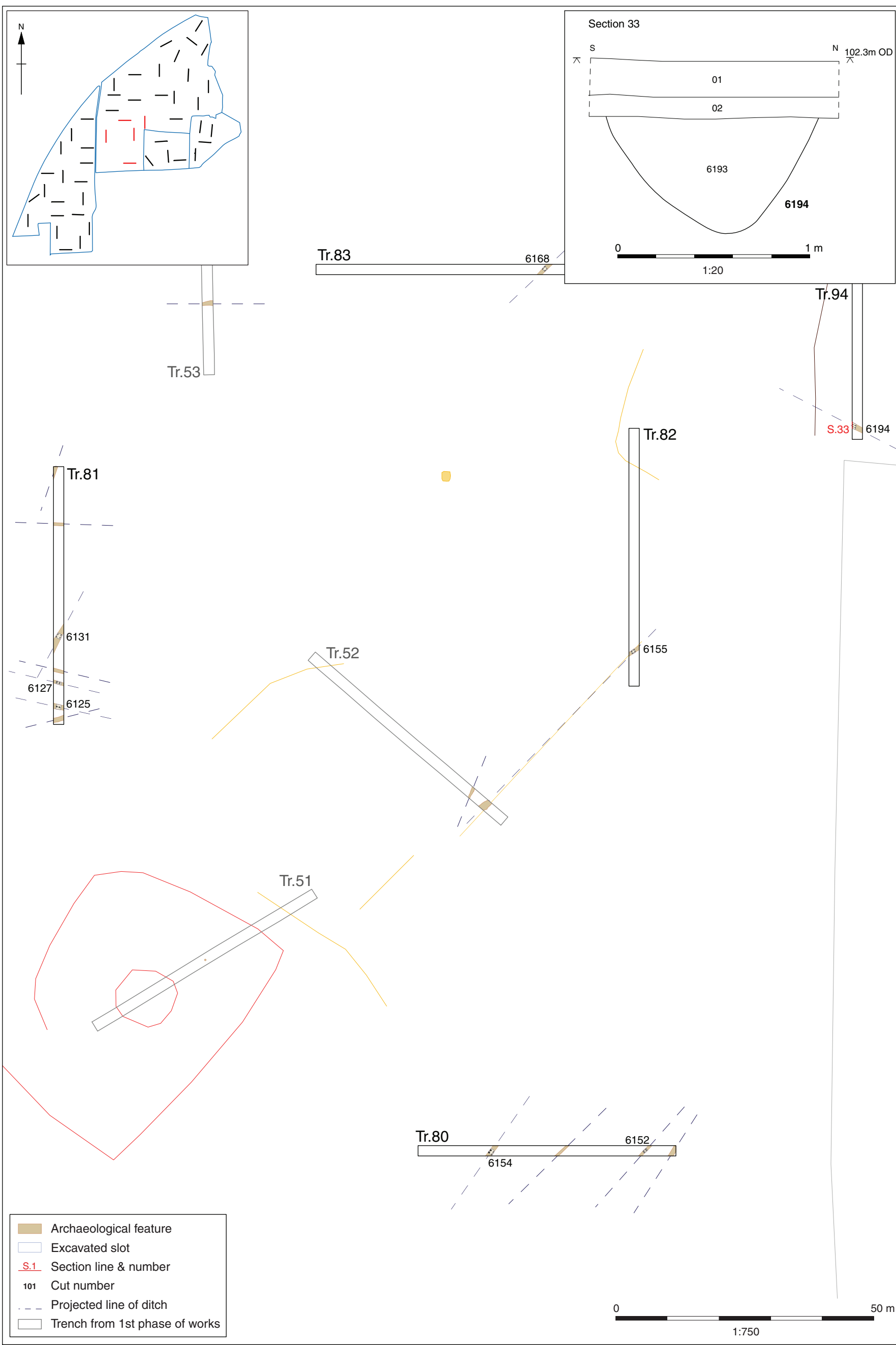


Figure 7: Area 2 - Trenches 80 to 83 and 94

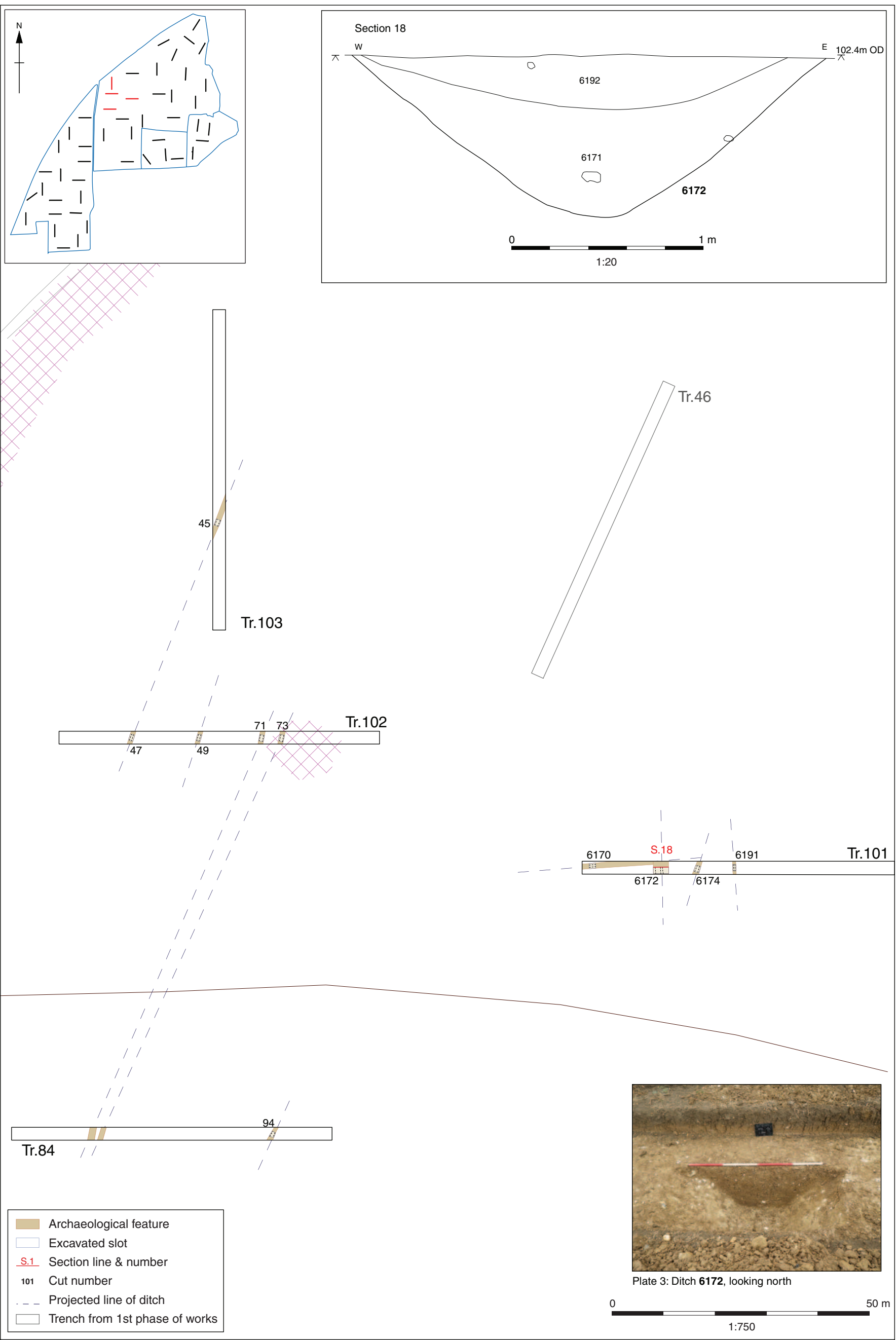
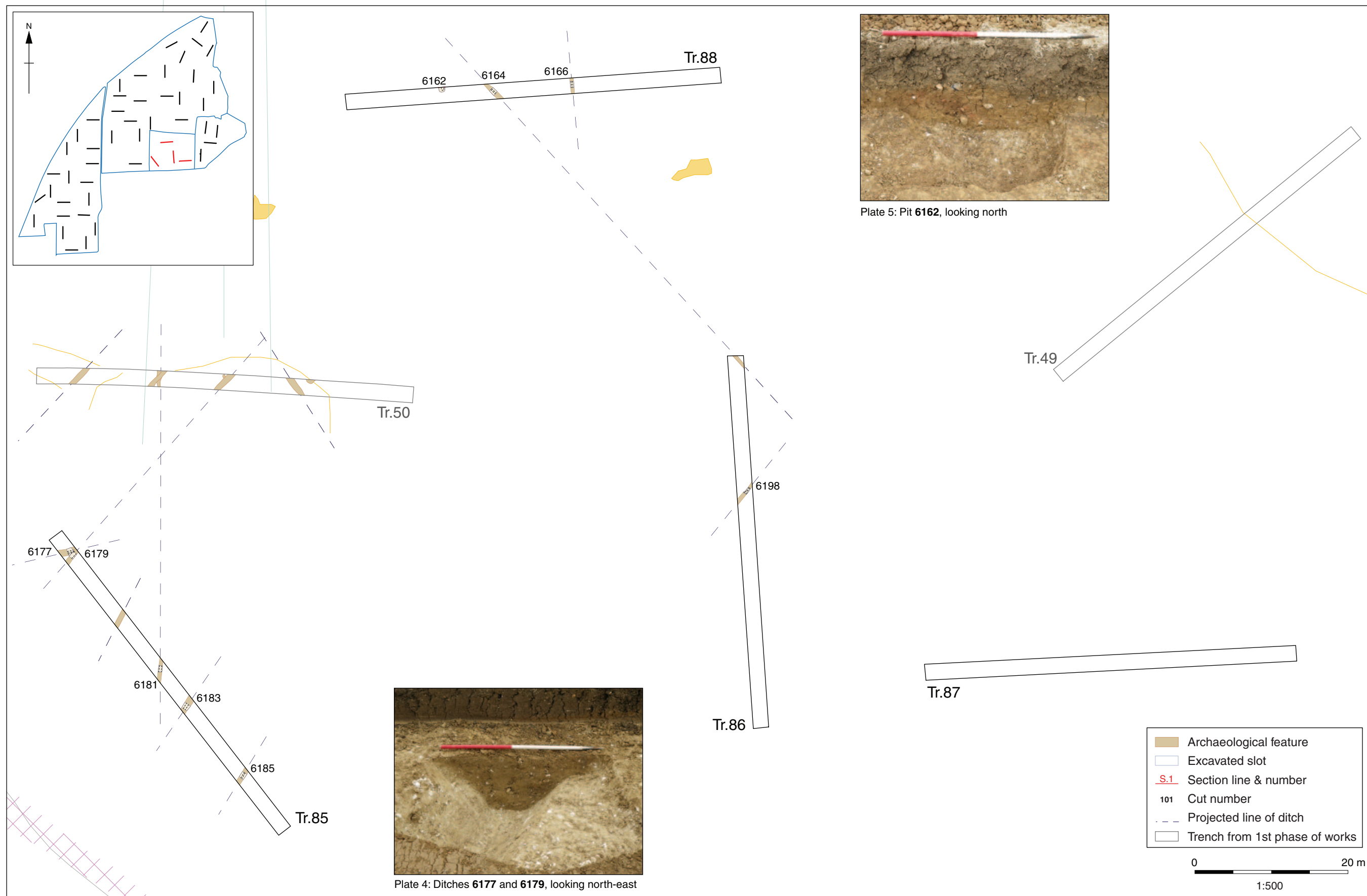


Figure 8: Area 2 - Trenches 84 and 101 to 103



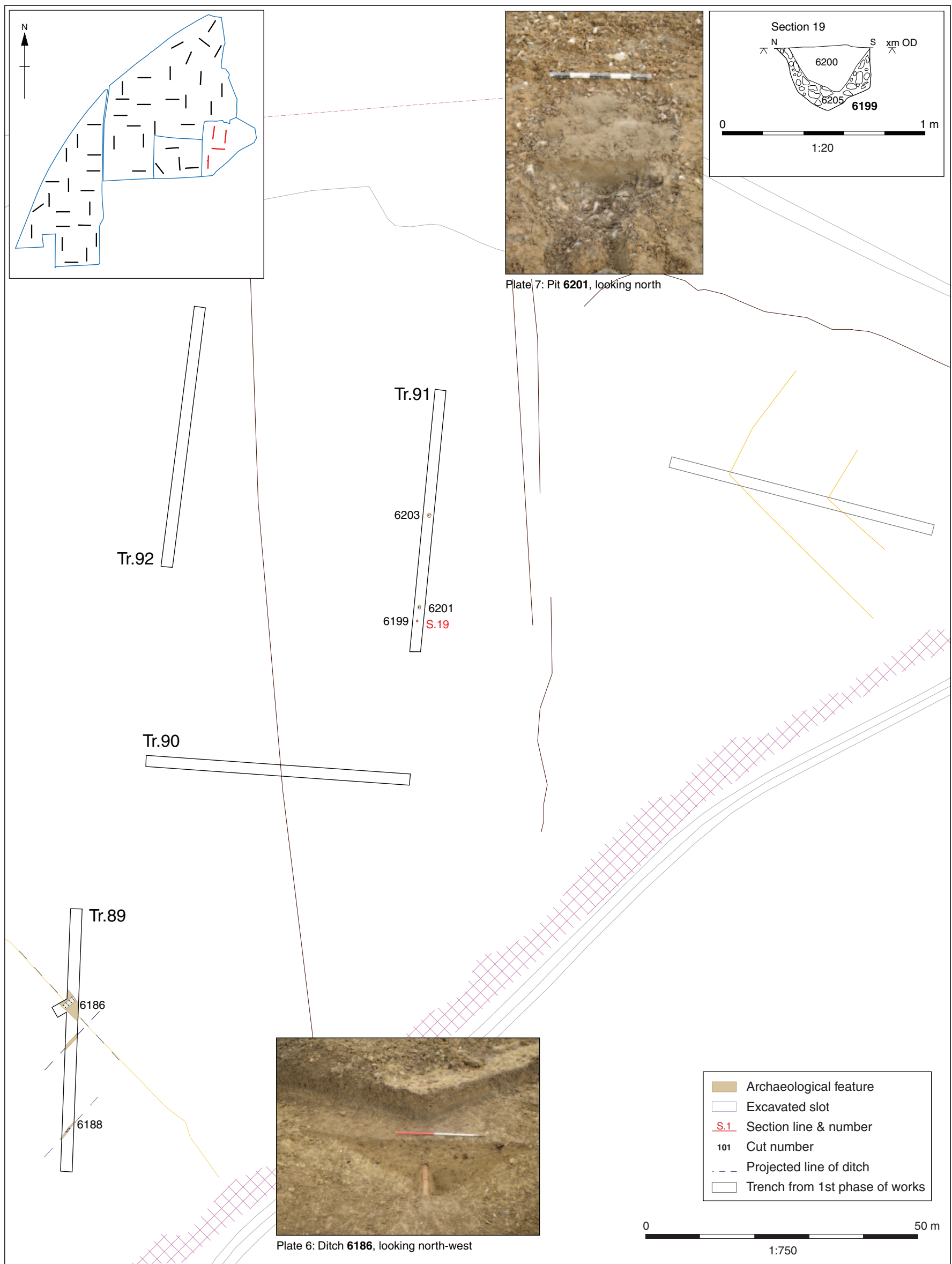


Figure 10: Area 4 - Trenches 89 to 91

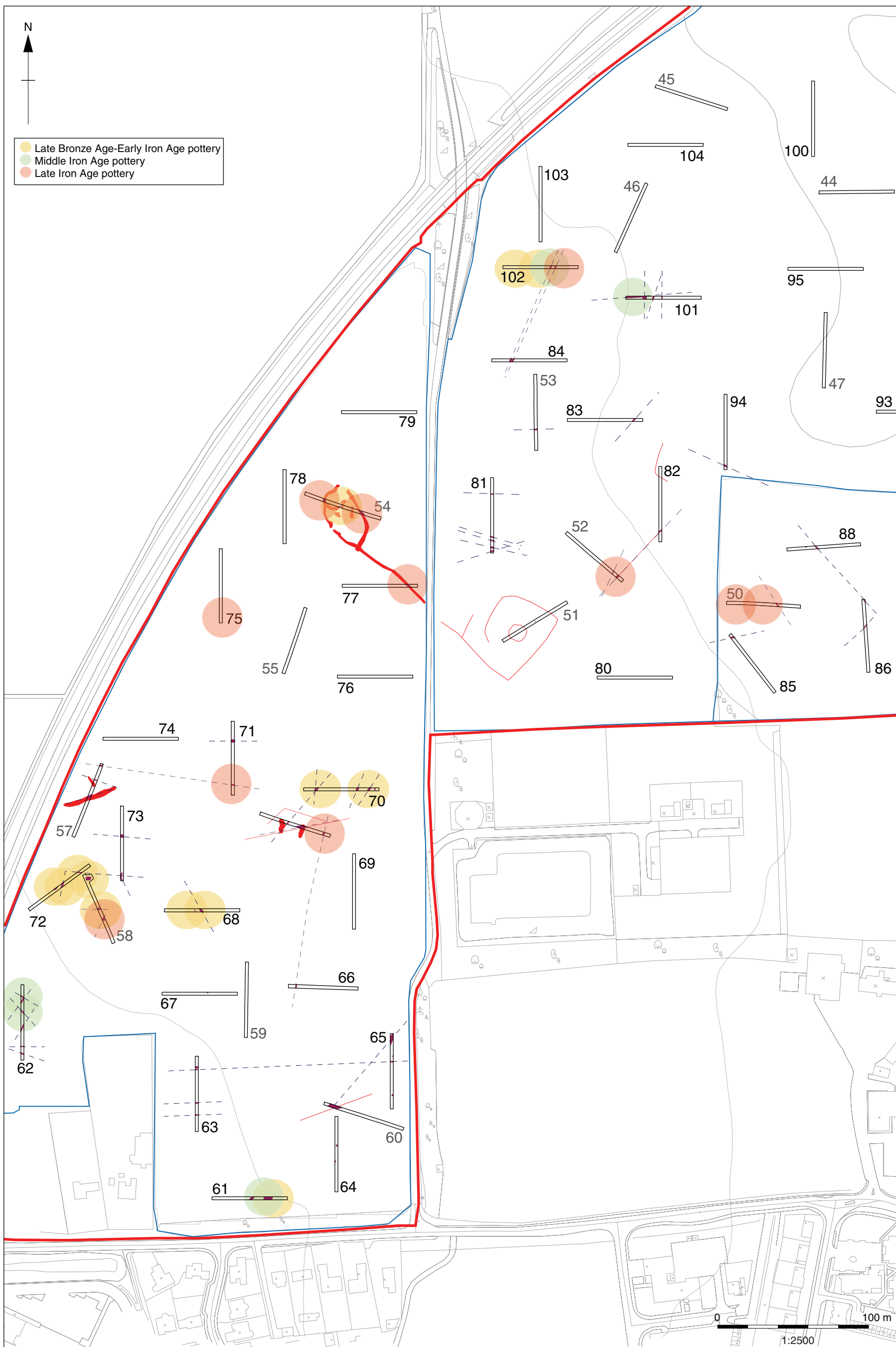


Figure 11: Plan of Phase 1 and Phase 2 Prehistoric features with pottery distributions

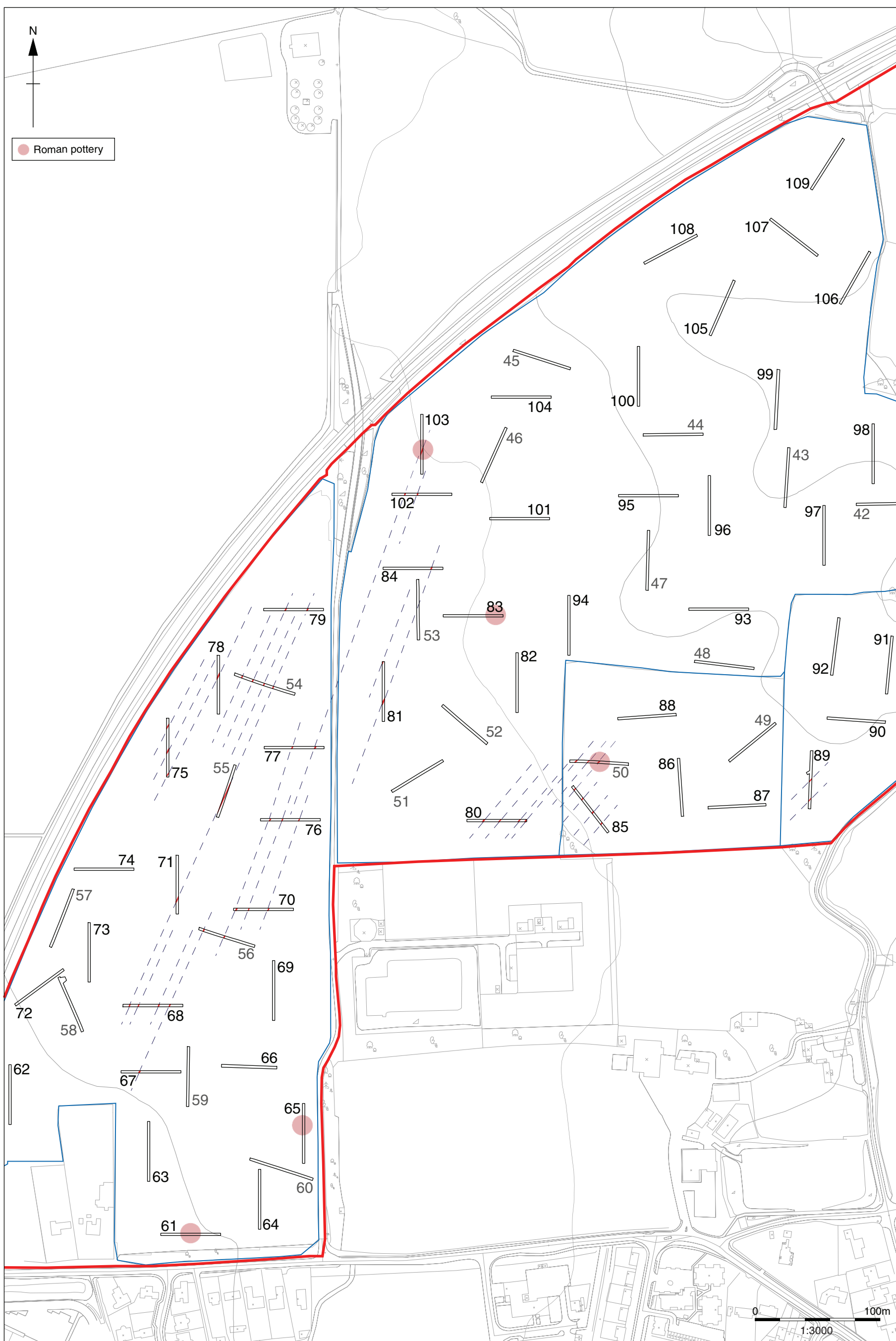


Figure 12: Plan of Phase 1 and Phase 2 Roman cultivation systems with pottery distribution



Plate 8: Trench 64, looking south



Plate 9: Trench 85, looking south



Plate 10: Trench 68, looking west



Plate 13: Trench 77, looking west



Plate 12: Trench 75, looking south



Plate 11: Trench 70, looking west



Plate 14: Trench 81, looking north



Plate 15: Trench 85, looking south-east



Plate 16: Trench 91, looking north



Plate 19: Trench 105, looking south-west



Plate 18: Trench 99, looking north



Plate 17: Trench 97, looking south



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