Archaeological Evaluation Report

A Late Iron Age settlement at Park Farm Way, Wellingborough

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A Late Iron Age settlement at Park Farm Way, Wellingborough

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

Between 9th and 23rd September 2015 Oxford Archaeology East conducted an archaeological evaluation on land off Park Farm Way, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire (centred on SP 870 670) in advance of a proposed planning application for residential development of the area.

A total of 32 trenches were opened (1568m) across an area of 15.8ha in the south-eastern half of the site. These trenches were targeted predominantly on anomalies identified by a prior geophysical survey. Archaeology was primarily uncovered at the south-west of the area with ditches pits and postholes dating to the Late Iron Age (c.0-50AD) present in Trenches 46 to 51. Along with the pottery assemblage, the environmental and faunal remains recovered from these features, particularly those in Trench 51, tend to indicate that domestic activities were taking place on the site. Three worked bone weaving tools recovered from Trench 48 and 51 are further evidence of occupation in the vicinity of these trenches.

A spread of material that may also date to the Late Iron Age was uncovered to the south-east of the site in Trench 61 whilst undated linear features were uncovered in Trenches 52, 53, 55 and 56 at the south of the site. There was very little archaeology identified to the north of the proposed development area, however an undated pit and posthole were uncovered in Trench 36.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at land off Park Farm Way, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire (Figure 1; centred on SP 870 670).

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by OA East (Brudenell 2015), and a trench plan designed by Rob Bourn of Orion Heritage. The scheme of work was prepared in consultation with, and approved by Lesley Ann Mather of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC).

1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by NCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The proposed development area lies on the south-west fringe of Wellingborough, on a 28ha parcel of land between Park Farm Way (A509) to the south-west and Stanwell Park to the north and north-east; the eastern limit of the site is bounded by a superstore and its carpark. The northern and north-eastern boundary follows the line of a stream that feeds into the Swanspool Brook to the south-west (a tributary of the River Nene). The land is currently agricultural and is divided into two fields with a footpath bisecting the eastern field. The evaluation took place on the eastern most of these two fields.

1.2.2 The site geology varies from east to west, with various Jurassic limestone, sandstone, ironstone and mudstone formations. These including the Blisworth Limestone Formation, the Wellingborough Limestone Member, mudstones of the Rutland Formation and Whitby Mudstone Formation, Stamford Member Sandstone, and ironstones of the Northampton Sand Formation (British Geological Survey online geology viewer; http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

1.2.3 The site is sloping with the land rising from the south-east, at c. 60.5m AOD, to the north-west by approximately 30 metres (Figure 2).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A Desk-Based Assessment has been prepared for this site by CgMs Consulting Limited (Reeves 2014), using information obtained from the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER). This will be submitted with the application along with the results of a geophysical survey undertaken by Stratascan (Davies 2015). The following sections draws on and summarise the findings in these reports.

Prehistoric

1.3.2 The earliest recorded prehistoric remains from the surrounding area date to the Bronze Age and include a barbed and tanged arrowhead, c. 250 to the west (HER0/0/429), and a palstave, c. 600m to the north (HER0/0427).

1.3.3 A significant number of crop marks and scatters of artefacts, characteristic of prehistoric enclosures or activity, have also been identified within the surrounding landscape (HER3852 & 3853, c. 500m to the south east). Within the site itself there is a crop mark of a sub-rectangular enclosure measuring c. 80m in length and c. 50m in width, containing a small sub-enclosure. Although undated at present, the morphology is similar to later Iron Age and Romano-British enclosures of the region. The results of the geophysical survey indicate that there are further linear and discreet anomalies associated with the enclosure, possibly suggestive of pits, ditches and boundaries emanating from the rectangular compound (Davies 2015).

Roman

1.3.4 Evidence suggests that the surrounding area was densely occupied during the Roman period. To the west and south of Park Farm Way, two probable Romano-British settlements have been recorded (HER3593 & 3849). The larger of the two (HER3593) comprises a complex pattern of enclosures and field boundaries indicative of a long period of use. Field walking on the site retrieved 13 Roman coins and stone scatters characteristic of Roman building debris. Field walking within the southern site (HER3849) identified the possible outlines of a Roman building (HER3849/0/02), whilst a double burial was discovered at SP8711 6659 in 1901 (HER3849/0/1).

1.3.5 On the site itself, the geophysical survey has identified a rectilinear enclosure, c. 40m in width, west of the crop mark complex, and on a slightly different alignment. Currently undated, the morphology suggest this may be a Romano-British enclosure (Davies 2015).

Saxon and Medieval

1.3.6 No Saxon or early Medieval sites are recorded in the vicinity of the site. However, it is thought that the area to the north of the site, around Ruskin Avenue, may be a former centre of Medieval settlement, possibly the 'lost' Medieval village of Wilby Thorpe (HER3858).

1.3.7 An area of ridge and furrow is located adjacent to the north-east boundary of the site (HER617//0/8). Although the earthworks do not extend into the development area itself, a network of widely spaced parallel linear anomalies representing furrows have been recorded across the site, and may be Mediaeval origin (Davies 2015).

Post-medieval and Modern

1.3.8 Historic maps of the area suggest that the site and its immediate surroundings comprised agricultural land. The Ordnance Survey Drawing of 1817 depicts the site as located within an area of fields. More detail is provided by the Ordnance Survey mapping series from 1885, which shows the boundaries of five irregularly shaped fields within the site, two of which extend beyond the site boundaries to the west. This pattern of fields remained unchanged until the latter half of the twentieth century when sub-dividing boundaries in the eastern half of the site were removed.

1.3.9 The 1992 Ordnance Survey map shows Park Farm Way (A509), which forms the southern boundary of the site, whilst the 2002 Ordnance Survey map depicts the current configuration of field boundaries, with sub-divisions in the west now removed.

1.3.10 The geophysical survey has revealed linear anomalies which correspond to boundaries depicted on the Ordnance Survey mapping from 1885 onward (Davies 2015).

1.4 Geophysical Survey (Figure 3; Davies 2015)

1.4.1 A geophysical survey using a gradiometer was carried out at the site by Stratascan between 11th and 18th December 2014. This survey identified anomalies characterised as being either of 'probable' or 'possible' archaeological origin. These anomalies are labelled on Figure 3 and are described below:

Probable Archaeology

1.4.2 *1-2*: A number of positive linear and curvilinear anomalies in the south and south-east of the site. These are indicative of former cut features of archaeological origin and are related to former settlement activity.

1.4.3 *3*: A number of small, discrete positive anomalies in the south of the site associated with Anomaly 1. These are indicative of former cut features of archaeological origin such as backfilled pits and are related to former settlement activity.

1.4.4 *4*: A sub-circular positive anomaly related to a former ditch and associated backfilled pit in the south of the site.

1.4.5 *5*: Widely spaced, curving, parallel linear anomalies across the site related to ridge and furrow cultivation.

1.4.6 *6*: A small number of positive linear anomalies in the west and centre of the site are related to former field boundaries present on available historic mapping from 1886 – 1993.

1.4.7 *7*: A positive linear anomaly in the east of the site. This is a probable former field boundary that is not present on available historic mapping.

Possible Archaeology

1.4.8 *8*: A number of positive linear anomalies across the site. These are indicative of former cut features of possible archaeological or agricultural origin.

1.4.9 *9*: A number of small, discrete positive linear anomalies, largely in the south of the site. These are indicative of former cut features such as backfilled pits and may be of archaeological or natural origin. 10-11 Positive anomalies with associated negative response. These may be related to the settlement activity seen in Anomalies 1 and 3, or be of natural origin.

1.4.10 *12*: A negative linear anomaly in the east of the site, indicative of a former bank or earthwork of possible archaeological origin.

Conclusions

1.4.11 The survey at Wellingborough identified a number of features of probable and possible archaeological origin. A large number of linear and curvilinear anomalies and associated former pits provide strong evidence for past settlement activity, as indicated in the archaeological desk based assessment of the site. Large areas of ridge and furrow cultivation and former field boundaries suggest a largely agricultural past. A number of features of possible archaeological origin may also be of natural or agricultural origin. The remaining features are natural or modern in origin and include areas of natural pitting, land drains, services, evidence for modern agriculture, disturbance from nearby ferrous metal objects and magnetic spikes that are likely to be modern rubbish.

1.5 Acknowledgements

1.5.1 The author would like to thank Rob Bourn of Orion Heritage who commissioned the work on behalf of Hallam Land Management, and Lesley Ann Mather of Northamptonshire County Council who monitored the site. The project was managed by Matt Brudenell whilst the field work was directed by Gareth Rees. Excavation on the site was carried out by Tam Webster, Steve Morgan, Matt Brookes, Chris Swain and Zoe Clarke. The site survey was conducted by Dave W. Brown and Charlotte Walton produced the figures. Specialist analysis of artefacts and ecofacts was provided by Matt Brudenell, Katie Anderson, Carole Fletcher, Rachel Fosberry, Anthony Haskins and Denis Sami.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area. A specific aim of this evaluation was to test the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey in order to establish their character dates and extents.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of 32 linear trial trenches (labelled 31-61; 1568m in total) were excavated across the southern side of the proposed development area. Trenches were located in order to 'ground truth' the geophysical survey results, by testing a range of anomalies of likely archaeological origin, and areas where no anomalies registered.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with 360-type excavator using a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Dave W. Brown using Leica CS10/GS08 dGPS system.

2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.6 A total of 17 samples were taken from features in Trenches 46 to 51 ranging in volume between 10 and 40 litres. A minimum of 20 litre samples was taken from linear features whilst where possible one hundred percent of discrete features were sampled for charred remains.

2.2.7 The site consisted of arable land which had been harvested but not ploughed at the time of the works. The initial scheme of works had involved the excavation of 62 trenches over both the north-western and south-eastern fields, however due to the hazards identified relating to unloading tracked machinery near the A509 a wheeled machine was brought in to carry excavation in the south-eastern field only.

2.2.8 A public footpath ran across the site from the gate in the south-west to a bridge across the brook to the north. Where trenches (49, 43, and 42) were located over this path a 5m easement was left unexcavated in order to avoid diversion from the right of way.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below by area from north-west to south-east and thence in trench order. In general, only those trenches containing archaeological features have been illustrated. A full listing of trenches depths, lengths and orientations can be found in Appendix A along with a catalogue of recorded contexts. Throughout this report cut numbers are referred to in **bold**. The topographic location of the trenches may have been an important factor in the resulting number of features uncovered, with more settlement activity likely to occur on the flat plateau area in the south-west of the field; the relative location of these trenches can be seen in Figure 2 and also on the contours underlying the trench plans (Figures 4 – 7).

3.2 Northern area (Trenches 31-37; Figure 4)

Trench 31 to Trench 35

3.2.1 These trenches were targeted on linear geophysical anomalies which ran from north-west to south-east, as well as two areas of amorphous magnetic variation thought to be geological in origin. Furrows, measuring up to 3m wide and 6-7m apart were uncovered in Trenches 32, 33, 34 and 35. No other archaeological features were uncovered in these trenches.

Trench 36

3.2.2 Two features were uncovered at the northern end of this north to south orientated trench. The northernmost feature (**106**), measuring 1.85m long, 1.25m wide and 0.12m deep, was sub-circular in plan with gently sloping sides and a flat base. No artefacts were recovered from its soft light greyish-brown sandy clay fill (107). A posthole was situated directly to the south of this pit. The posthole (**108**) was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.7m in diameter and 0.12m deep. No artefacts were recovered from its soft light greyish-brown sandy clay fill (109).

Trench 37

3.2.3 Located 33m to the east of Trench 36, this trench contained no archaeological features.

3.3 North-eastern area (Trenches 38-42, 54, 58 and 59)

Trench 38 to Trench 42

3.3.1 These trenches were targeted on areas of amorphous magnetic variation thought to be geological in origin. The northern ends of Trenches 38 and 42 were targeted on a weak linear negative geophysical anomaly which may have been a headland associated with the medieval field system. A shallow negative linear feature, orientated south-west to north-east, was uncovered at the northern end of Trench 38. No other archaeological features were uncovered in these trenches.

Trench 54

3.3.2 Located 33m to the south of Trench 42, this trench contained no archaeological features.

Trenches 58 and 59

3.3.3 These trenches, located to the east of Trench 54 were targeted over a weak positive geophysical anomaly and an area of amorphous magnetic variation thought to be geological in origin. No archaeological features were uncovered in these trenches.

3.4 South-western area (Trenches 43-49; Figure 5)

Trenches 43 to 45

3.4.1 These trenches were targeted over several geophysical anomalies including an areas of weak positive anomalies and an area of amorphous magnetic variation thought to be geological in origin. No archaeological features were uncovered in these trenches.

Trench 46

3.4.2 This trench was targeted on several linear geophysical anomalies thought to be furrows and one positive linear anomaly thought to be of archaeological origin. Six linear features and three discrete features were uncovered in this trench. Three of the linear features contained sherds of post-medieval pottery or ceramic building material (CBM) and aligned with geophysical anomalies thought to be furrows. The most westerly features were three postholes (**83**, **85** and **92**) located 30m from the western end of the trench (Plate 1). These features, measuring up to 0.27m in diameter and 0.13m deep, were aligned east to west 0.30-0.40m apart. The central posthole (**92**) contained Late Iron Age pottery and charcoal in a mid orange-grey sand-clay fill (Appendix B2).

3.4.3 Located 2.35m to the east a north-east to south-west orientated ditch (**76**), measuring 0.68m wide and 0.33m deep, contained Late Iron Age pottery and animal bone in a dark range brown silty clay fill (75) (Plate 2). The ditch had vertical sides with a sharp break of slope and a flat base (Figure 8, Section 28). Ditch **8** was located 3m to the east and was orientated north-west to south-east. The ditch may have been the cause of the linear anomaly identified here by the geophysical survey. Measuring 0.85m wide and 0.28m deep, this ditch had moderately sloping sides and a concave base and was filled by a mid grey-brown fine sandy loam (9) from which no artefacts were recovered.

3.4.4 A ditch (**97**), orientated north-north-west to south-south-east, was located 7m to the east. This ditch, measuring 0.70m wide and 0.20m deep, contained a relatively large quantity of pottery dating to the Late Iron Age as well as animal bone and charred remains indicative of domestic activity (Appendix B2; C1; C2). Having steep sides and a concave base, this feature was filled by a firm dark grey-brown silty-clay fill (96) (Figure 8, Section 36). An environmental sample from this feature contained charred cereal grains with oats and barley as well as a single glume base of spelt wheat (Appendix C2).

Trench 47

3.4.5 Targeted on two linear and two discrete geophysical anomalies thought the have been caused by archaeological features, this trench contained three pits and three linear features. A large pit (**6**) located at the western end of the trench measured in excess of 1.14m wide, 4.33m long and 0.68m deep. It was sub-rounded in plan with steep sides and a flat base containing compacted mid reddish-brown silty clay from which no artefacts were recovered (Figure 8, Section 3).

3.4.6 Two smaller pits (**126** and **128**), measuring up to 0.50m in diameter and 0.25m deep were also located a the eastern end of the trench. This contained clay pipe and post-medieval pottery in loose mid grey-brown silts clay fills (Appendix B2).

3.4.7 The westernmost ditch (**4**) truncated pit **6** and was truncated by pit **126**.This ditch, measuring 1.55m wide and 0.20m deep, had gradually sloping sides and a flat base containing a compact mid greyish-brown clay-silt from which no artefacts were recovered.

3.4.8 Two ditches, intersecting with each other, were located 31m to the east. The earliest ditch (**2**), orientated north-east to south-west, measured 1.50m wide and 0.78m deep and had steep sides and a concave base (Plate 3). It contained five fills the first of which was a 0.28m deep firm mid grey-brown silty clay (105) from which no artefacts were recovered but contained charred grain, spelt and grass seed (Appendix C2). This was overlain by a 0.58m thick secondary fill (104) consisting of a firm mid grey-brown silty-clay from which Late Iron Age pottery and animal bone were recovered (Appendix B2 and C1). These earliest two fills appeared to have derived from the north-west, where a bank may have been located. These were overlain by two firm silty-clay fills (110 and 111) which contained frequent natural iron stone inclusions but no artefacts. Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the tertiary fill (3) which consisted of a firm mid yellow-brown silt-clay with occasional iron stone inclusions.

3.4.9 This ditch was overlain by a second ditch which appeared to be terminating adjacent to the northern baulk of the trench (Figure 8, Section 1). This ditch (**113**), measuring 1.10m wide and 0.40m deep, had moderately sloping sides and a concave base which contained a firm dark reddish-brown silty-clay fill (112) from from which frequent iron stone but no artefacts were recovered.

Trench 48

3.4.10 The location of this trench was in an area where four linear geophysical anomalies had been identified. Nine linear features and one discrete feature were uncovered in this trench. The westernmost feature as a ditch (**95**) located 2.5m from the western end of the trench. This feature, measuring 0.99m wide and 0.25m deep, had moderately sloping sides and a flat base containing two clayey fills from which no artefacts were recovered.

3.4.11 A pit (**17**), measuring 1.50m in diameter and 0.08m deep, was located 12.8m to the east. It contained a firm light yellow-brown clayey fill from which no artefacts were recovered. Four shallow linear features, orientated north-west to south-east, were located to the east of this pit. These features (**19**, **69**, **74** and **79**), with gently sloping sides and concave bases, measured up to 1.90m wide and 0.25m deep and contained firm light orange-brown clay silt fills. Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from ditch **79**, which truncated Late Iron Age ditch **81** whilst post-medieval pottery was recovered from furrow **69** (Appendix B2). These features were most likely furrows and aligned with anomalies interpreted as such on the plot of the geophysical survey.

3.4.12 The plot of the geophysical survey illustrates that two of the linear features in the area of this trench appeared to form a single rectilinear enclosure measuring 17m wide east to west and 21m long north to south. The westernmost boundary of this enclosure (**81**) was uncovered in this trench, truncated by furrow **79**, and containing Late Iron Age pottery. The eastern boundary was uncovered 2.50m from the eastern end of the trench. This boundary had been recut twice during its use (Figure 8, Section 29). The earliest cut (**117**), measuring 0.55m wide and 0.95m deep contained two surviving fills. The primary fill (119) consisted of a friable pale yellow-brown clay silt whilst the surviving secondary fill (118) consisted of a firm mid brown clay silt; Late Iron Age pottery and animal bone were recovered from both of these fills along with fired clay fragments (Appendix B2; B3; C1). An environmental sample from the primary fill contained charred cereal grains (Appendix C2).

3.4.13 The secondary fill was truncated by a recut (**114**) measuring in excess of 2m wide and 0.70m deep with step sides and a flat base. The basal fill of this ditch (116) consisted of a friable mid brown-grey clay silt whilst the secondary fill (115) consisted of a firm mid

brown clay silt; Late Iron Age pottery, fired clay and animal bone were recovered from both of these fills (Appendix B2; B3; C1). A worked bone weaving tool was recovered from fill 116 (s.f.6, Appendix B1).

3.4.14 The final recut (**72**), measuring 1.25m wide and 0.55m deep, had steep sides and a concave base and contained two fills. The lower fill (71) consisted of a friable dark brown clay-silt with occasional iron stone and charcoal inclusions whilst the upper fill (70) consisted of a mid brown friable clay-silt with frequent iron stone inclusions. Late Iron Age pottery and animal bone were recovered from both of these fills (Appendix B2 and C1). An environmental sample from the lower fill produced evidence of charred cereal grains (Appendix C2)

3.4.15 These ditches were sealed by subsoil (86) consisting of a light orange-brown silt clay, measuring up to 0.3m deep, from which Late Iron Age pottery was recovered (Appendix B2).

Trench 49

3.4.16 The geophysical survey had identified two linear north-east to south-west aligned anomalies and two discrete probable archaeological anomalies in the area where this trench was located. Excavation uncovered three ditches and two postholes. The northernmost feature was a posthole (**21**) located 8m from the northern baulk; measuring 0.6m in diameter and 0.15m deep, this feature was circular with steep sides and a concave base containing a single firm light brown clay-silt from which no artefacts were recovered.

3.4.17 A north-east to south-west orientated ditch (**131**) was located 8.5m to the south; measuring 0.43m wide and 0.10m deep and appeared to have been substantially truncated by rooting or animal activity. A parallel ditch (**15**) was located 4.4m to the south; measuring 0.68m wide and 0.20m deep, this ditch had a shallow concave profile and was filled by a firm light grey-brown sandy-silt (14) from which no finds were recovered. A third ditch was uncovered running perpendicular to **15** at its south-western end. This ditch (**13**), measuring 0.58m wide and 0.18m deep, had a shallow concave profile with steep sides and contained a single firm light grey-brown clay-silt fill (12) from which no artefacts were recovered.

3.4.18 A pit or posthole (**11**) was uncovered 1.70m to the south. Measuring 0.85m long, 0.60m wide and 0.08m deep, this feature had gently sloping sides and a concave base and contained a single firm light grey-brown clay-silt fill (10) from which no artefacts were recovered.

3.5 Southern area (Trenches 50-53; Figure 6)

Trench 50

3.5.1 A single south-east to north-west orientated linear anomaly was identified by the geophysical survey in this area. A ditch (**23**) was uncovered in this location at the western end of the trench (Plate 4). This feature, measuring 0.70m wide and 0.70m deep, contained two fills (Figure 8, Section 9). The lower fill (129) consisted of a compact mid brown clay-silt from which Late Iron Age pottery was recovered (Appendix B2) whilst a single barley grain was identified in an environmental sample (Appendix C2). This was overlain by a 0.29m deep tertiary fill (22) consisting of a compact light grey-orange clay-silt with frequent iron stone inclusions. Late Iron Age pottery was also recovered from this fill.

3.5.2 No other archaeological features were uncovered in this trench.

Trench 51

3.5.3 The geophysical survey identified two south-east to north-west orientated linear anomalies in this area along with a band of weak positive and negative anomalies on the crest of the slope to the south. Five south-east to north-west orientated linear features were uncovered at the northern end of this trench, two of which appeared to be in the location of the geophysical anomalies. The feature, containing Late Iron Age pottery, aligned with the northernmost of these these anomalies as not excavated since it had been investigated in Trench 50. Two of these ditches were excavated. Ditch **42** measured 0.33m wide and 0.09m deep and had a 'V' shaped profile containing a mid reddish-brown clay-silt fill (43) with frequent iron stone inclusions.

3.5.4 Another larger ditch was investigated 1.85m to the south. This feature (**40**), measuring 1.60m wide and 0.14m deep, had a wide 'U' shaped profile and contained a friable mid reddish-brown sandy-silt fill from which Late Iron Age pottery and animal bone were recovered (Appendix B2; Appendix C1).

3.5.5 Several features were sealed by a buried soil (64) from 3m south of this ditch for 10.60m to the south. A posthole (**38**), measuring up to 0.42m wide and 0.25m deep, was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base and contained a single friable dark grey-brown silty-clay fill from which Late Iron Age pottery and animal bone were recovered (Appendix B2; Appendix C1; Plate 5). An environmental sample taken from this features contain evidence of grain, vetches and weed seeds (Appendix C2).

3.5.6 Four pits were located to the south of this ditch. The northernmost pit (**48**), measuring 0.57m wide and 0.08m deep, had gently sloping sides and contained a firm mid grey-brown clay-silt fill (35) from which Late Iron Age pottery, animal bone and a copper alloy pin (s.f.2) were recovered (Appendix B1; B2; C1). This feature was truncated by pit **34** to the south. This pit, measuring 1.08m wide and 0.15m deep, had a 'U' shaped profile with a flat base and contained a firm mid grey-brown clay-silt fill (35) with iron stone inclusions, from which Late Iron Age pottery and animal bone were recovered (Appendix B2; Appendix C1).

3.5.7 Located 0.20m to the south, another pit (**54**), measuring in excess of 0.25m wide and 0.16m deep, had steep sides and a flat base and contained a firm mid grey-brown clay-silt fill (55) with moderate iron stone inclusions from which Late Iron Age pottery and animal bone was recovered (Appendix B2; Appendix C1). This feature was truncated by another pit (**32**) to the south. This pit, measuring 0.78m wide and 0.55m deep, had steep sides and a concave base and contained a firm mid grey-brown clay-silt fill (33) with moderate iron stone inclusions from which Late Iron Age pottery and animal bone, including a possible weaving tool (s.f.4) was recovered (Appendix B1; B2; C1). An environmental sample taken from this features contain evidence of grain, vetches and weed seeds (Appendix C2).

3.5.8 These features (**32**, **34**, **38**, **48** and **54**) were overlain by a buried soil (64) (Plate 6). This layer measured 8.50m from north to south and up to 0.24m thick. Trench 51 was extended to the west in order to investigate this layer which consisted of a friable dark-grey brown clay-silt from which Late Iron Age pottery, animal bone, shell and stone was recovered (Appendix B2; Appendix C1). A copper alloy pin and a worked bone weaving tool were also recovered from this layer (Appendix B1). An environmental sample produced evidence of charred grain including oats, wheat and hulled barely as well as well as vetches and charred weed seeds (Appendix C2). This layer may have been a midden spread to cover the area.

3.5.9 A north-east to south-west orientated ditch (**36**) truncated this soil to the north. Measuring 0.55m wide and 0.85m deep, this ditch had a steep 'V' shaped profile and contained a layer of limestone blocks at the base (67), possibly for drainage. These were overlain by a firm dark grey-brown clay-silt from which Late Iron Age pottery and animal bone was recovered (Appendix B2; Appendix C1). An intricately worked bone object (s.f.1) was also recovered from this fill (Appendix B1).

3.5.10 Ditch **30** lay to the south of the pits and the extent of the buried soil. This feature, orientated north-east to south-west, measured 0.48m wide and 0.23m deep and had gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single friable pale grey-brown clay-silt fill (31) from which Late Iron Age pottery was recovered (Appendix B2).

3.5.11 A ditch (**27**) running on a parallel alignment was located a the southern end of the trench. This feature, measuring 0.72m wide and 0.85m deep, had a steep 'V' shaped profile and contained a deposit of limestone blocks at its base, possibly for drainage, similar to ditch **36** to the north (Figure 8, Section 27). These were overlain by a firm mid reddish brown sandy-silt from which no artefacts were recovered.

Trench 52

3.5.12 Located 38m to the east of Trench 51, this trench was targeted on an amorphous magnetic variation on the plot of the geophysics which was thought to be of natural origin. Four ditches and one posthole were uncovered in this trench. The westernmost feature was a ditch located 4.16m from the western end of the trench. This feature (**25**), measuring 0.39m wide and 0.25m deep, had a 'V' shaped profile containing a firm light grey-orange sandy-clay fill (24) with moderate ironstone inclusions. No artefacts were recovered from this fill. A pit (**45**) was located 1.20m to the east. This pit, measuring 0.96m north to south, 0.61m east to west and 0.18m deep had gently sloping sides and a flat base containing a firm reddish-orange sandy-clay fill from which no artefacts were recovered.

3.5.13 Three linear features were located at the eastern end of the trench. The westernmost of these (**47**) measured 1.38m wide and was filled by a light orange grey sandy-marl possibly originating as natural chalk. The nature of the fill in this feature was indicative of a modern drainage feature and it was not excavated to the base.

3.5.14 A north-east to south-west orientated ditch was located 1.30m to the east. This ditch (**51**), measuring 1.11m wide and 0.27m deep, had gradually sloping sides and a concave base containing a firm mid orange-brown sandy-silt fill (50) with occasional stone inclusions. No artefacts were recovered from this fill. A north to south orientated ditch was located 3.10m to the east. This ditch (**53**), measuring 1.31m wide and 0.20m deep, had gently sloping sides and an irregular base and contained a firm mid reddish-orange clayey-silt fill from which no artefacts were recovered (Plate 7).

Trench 53

3.5.15 This trench was located in a wide natural channel falling from the plateau at the north-west down-slope to the south-east. The geophysical survey identified several amorphous and weak magnetic anomalies in this area. A single feature was identified at the northern end of this trench. This linear feature (**89**), with irregular sides and a concave base, measured 0.79m wide and 0.13m deep and contained a friable mid greyish-brown sandy-silt fill (90) from which no artefacts were recovered.

3.5.16 The lowest point of the trench, spanning the natural channel, contained a modern truncation c.30m wide containing several field drains and ceramic building material

dating to the post-medieval period. An organic rich deposit below the obviously modern horizon was investigated (88) and found to be 0.25m deep and contained no artefacts.

3.6 South-eastern area (Trenches 55-57 and 60-62; Figure 7)

Trench 55

3.6.1 Three geophysical anomalies were identified in this area, the origins of which were all uncovered in this trench. The northernmost feature was a ditch (**57**) aligned east-south-east to west-north-west which had a steep 'U' shaped profile measuring 1.04m wide and in excess of 0.47m deep. The profile of this feature was indicative of a post-medieval or modern field drain. The geophysical anomaly in this location appeared to align with other field drains. Investigation of a second anomaly 17m to the south also uncovered a recent field drain.

3.6.2 A pit (**60**), located 6m to the south, had a shallow 'U' shaped profile measuring 2m wide and 0.25m deep which contained a soft mid greyish-brown sandy-clay fill from which no artefacts were recovered. Due to the location of this feature on the edge of the trench it is possible that it was either a pit or a ditch terminal.

3.6.3 Located 3m to the south, a south-east to north-west orientated ditch (**62**) was uncovered. This ditch, measuring 1.40m wide and 0.32m deep, had gradually sloping sides and a concave base and contained soft mid greyish-brown sandy-clay fill (63) from which no artefacts were recovered.

Trench 56

3.6.4 This trench was located to the south of Trench 55 and was targeted on three linear geophysical anomalies. Only one of these anomalies was in the location of a ditch uncovered during excavation, however several field drains were also uncovered which may have caused these anomalies.

3.6.5 Ditch **100** was orientated north-west to south-east and measured 1m wide by 0.26m deep. It had gradually sloping sides and a flat base and contained a single dark orange-brown sandy-clay fill (101) from which tile was recovered. This tile may have been intrusive from a field drain which truncated this feature.

Trench 57

3.6.6 Targeted over an amorphous magnetic anomaly, this trench located 37m to the north of Trench 56, contained no archaeological features.

Trench 60

3.6.7 An anomaly, probably relating to a former field boundary was identified in the area to the north of this trench. A ditch (**123**) was uncovered in this area. This feature, measuring 0.65m wide and 0.12m deep, had a flat base and gradually sloping sides which contained a friable mid reddish-brown clay-silt fill (124) from which no artefacts were recovered.

3.6.8 No other archaeological features were uncovered in this trench.

Trench 61

3.6.9 The geophysical survey had identified the potential for medieval furrows to be present in the area of this trench, however no furrows were uncovered during excavation.

3.6.10 A spread of mid reddish-brown clay silt (122), which may have been a remnant subsoil, was uncovered 16.80m from the western end of the trench. This spread measured 5.5m from east to west and 0.12m deep and contained pottery dating to the Late Iron

Age\Early Romano-British period as well as fragment of lava quern (s.f.5; Appendix B1; B2).

3.6.11 No other archaeological features were uncovered in this trench.

Trench 62

3.6.12 An anomaly, probably relating to a former field boundary was identified in the area to the north of this trench which was located 28m to the west of Trench 61. A ditch (**99**) was uncovered in this area (Plate 8). This feature, measuring 1.20m wide and 0.18m deep, had a flat base and gradually sloping sides which contained a friable mid reddish-brown clay-silt fill (98) from which no artefacts were recovered.

3.6.13 No other archaeological features were uncovered in this trench.

3.7 Finds Summary

3.7.1 *Small finds*: Six objects were classed as small finds during the evaluation. Three of these were described as worked bone possible weaving tools, from Trenches 41 and 58. A Copper alloy pin was recovered from Trench 51 along with an intricately worked piece of bone that may have been a box fitting. Several fragments of lava quern were recovered from a spread in Trench 61.

3.7.2 *Pottery*: At total of 355 sherds (2711g) of pottery were recovered from the evaluation, displaying a mean sherd weight (MSW) of 7.6g. The pottery derived 28 contexts relating to features and deposits across Trenches 46-48, 50-51, 57 and 61. With the exception of a single Early Roman sherd and four fragments of post-medieval pottery, the entire assemblage dated to the Late Iron Age. A single highly abraded, fine sandy greyware sherd (6g) of Early Roman pottery was recovered from spread 122 in Trench 61. Four sherds of post-medieval pottery (62g) were recovered.

3.7.3 *Fired Clay*: The evaluation yielded 27 undiagnostic fragments of fired clay, weighing 180g.

3.7.4 *Animal bone*: A total of 195 animal bone fragments were recovered from the evaluation (982g). The majority of the assemblage came from features dated to the Late Iron Age and may be indicative of domestic activity.

3.8 Environmental Summary

3.8.1 Seventeen samples were taken for environmental analysis. The results of the eight processed environmental samples indicate that there is a concentration of burnt domestic, culinary waste within Trench 51 and the eastern end of Trench 46.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Reliability of the Geophysics

4.1.1 In general the results of the geophysical survey proved a reliable guide to the prediction of feature locations; the majority of anomalies targeted by the trail trenching uncovered features in approximately the same locations. However, there tended to be a higher density of features per trench than had been predicted, particularly on the iron stone plateau at the south-west of the proposed development area. In Trench 46 and 52 several more linear features were uncovered than had been predicted whilst in Trench 51, where the majority of the settlement evidence was recovered, it appears that the buried soil had masked individual features.

4.1.2 It is difficult to judge the quality of the geophysical results between different geologies since there were very few features uncovered on the gravels or clays, however the furrows, located to the north of the site, and the post-medieval field boundaries located to the south-east where uncovered in the location and on the orientations that were expected.

4.2 Late Iron Age Settlement

4.2.1 The majority of the archaeological features uncovered were located on the iron stone plateau at the south-west of the site and contained Late Iron Age pottery, often together with animal bone. The pottery, animal bone and environmental assemblages are indicative of domestic occupation located nearby, however with the exception of three postholes in Trench 46, no structural remains were uncovered. Given the masking effect of the buried soil, and the character of this deposit seen, in Trench 51, it is likely that further remains lie in the area demarcated by the band of weak anomalies on the plan of the geophysics.

4.2.2 The geophysical survey identified an enclosure, uncovered in Trenches 48, 49,50 and 51, which may have been part of a wider field system aligned north-east to south-west along to the top of the plateau. Evidence from the evaluation, particularly the additional ditches in Trenches 46 and 49, demonstrates that this enclosure system was more extensive than could be seen using the geophysical survey only.

4.2.3 The small enclosure uncovered in Trench 48 is notable for being on a different alignment from the other boundaries around it. This enclosure, measuring 16.50m north to south and 11m east to west internally, also had multiple recuts. This may suggest that this enclosure had a different function than the wider shallower enclosures around it. Small enclosures such as these in the later Iron Age have often been interpreted as temple or shrine sites; a very similar enclosure (Enclosure 20), interpreted as a shrine, was excavated at Area 1 Broughton Manor Farm, on the outskirts of Milton Keynes (Atkins et al. 2014, 132).

4.3 Significance

4.3.1 Settlements and enclosures in Northamptonshire have been the subject of several studies which have highlighted the importance of enclosure form and layout as well the significance the acts of enclosure and boundary practices in defining Iron Age communities (Rees 2008; Speed 2010). This site can add to these studies and the understanding of Iron Age communities as well as contributing to broader local and regional Iron Age narratives relating to Late Iron Age and the immediate pre-Roman period.

4.4 Recommendations

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

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 31		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeological features were uncovered I this trench. Geophysical survey identified amorphous magnetic anomalies in this area. The natural deposits consisted of boulder clay with some iron stone and gravel patches.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.5
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	56

Trench 32		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
A furrow or the remains of a medieval headland were uncovered a the western end of this trench. Geophysical survey identified amorphous magnetic anomalies in this area. The natural deposits consisted of boulder clay with some iron stone and gravel patches.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.5
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Trench 33		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
The natural deposits consisted of boulder clay with some iron stone and gravel patches. Five furrows were uncovered in this trench.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.4
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	48.5

Trench 34		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
The natural deposits consisted of boulder clay. Five furrows were uncovered in this trench.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.3
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	49

Trench 35		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
The natural deposits consisted of boulder clay with some iron stone and gravel patches. Six furrows were uncovered in this trench.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.4
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	49

Trench 36		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
The natural deposits consisted of boulder clay with some iron stone and gravel patches. Two discrete features were uncovered in this trench.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.4
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Trench 37		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeological features were uncovered I this trench. The natural deposits consisted of boulder clay with some iron stone and gravel patches.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.4
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Trench 38		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
No archaeological features were uncovered I this trench. Geophysical survey identified amorphous magnetic anomalies in this area.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.3
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Trench 39		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeological features were uncovered I this trench. The natural deposits consisted of boulder clay with some iron stone and gravel patches. The location of this trench was changed to avoid the public footpath.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.4
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Trench 40		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
No archaeological features were uncovered I this trench. The natural deposits consisted of boulder clay.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.3
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Trench 41		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeological features were uncovered I this trench. Geophysical survey identified amorphous magnetic anomalies in this area. The natural deposits consisted of boulder clay with some iron stone and gravel patches.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.3
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Trench 42		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
No archaeological features were uncovered I this trench. The natural deposits consisted of boulder clay with some iron stone and gravel patches. This trench was split in order to avoid the public footpath.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.35
	Width (m)	2

	Length (m)	50

Trench 43		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeological features were uncovered I this trench. Geophysical survey identified amorphous magnetic anomalies in this area. The natural deposits consisted of iron stone. This trench was split in order to avoid the public footpath.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.38
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	51

Trench 44		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
No archaeological features were uncovered I this trench. The natural deposits consisted of yellowish sandy clay. Geophysical survey identified amorphous magnetic anomalies in this area.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.45
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Trench 45		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeological features were uncovered I this trench. Geophysical survey identified amorphous magnetic anomalies in this area. The natural deposits consisted of boulder clay with some iron stone and gravel patches.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.4
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Trench 46		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Three ditches, three postholes and three furrows were uncovered in this trench. The natural deposits consisted of iron stone overlain by clay and gravel in patches.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.4
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	49

Trench 47		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Three ditches and three pits wee uncovered in this trench. The natural deposits consisted of iron stone overlain by clay and gravel in patches.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.5
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	48

Trench 48		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Six ditches, one pit and three furrows were uncovered in this trench.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.5

The natural deposits consisted of iron stone.	**Width (m)**	2
	Length (m)	51

Trench 49		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Three ditches and two postholes were uncovered in this trench. The natural deposits consisted of iron stone.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.5
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	37.4

Trench 50		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
One ditch was uncovered in this trench. The natural deposits consisted of iron stone.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.35
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	49

Trench 51		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Seven ditches, four pits and a posthole were uncovered in this trench. The natural deposits consisted of iron stone.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.5
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	51

Trench 52		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Four ditches and one pit were uncovered in this trench. The natural deposits consisted of iron stone overlain by clay and gravel in patches.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.5
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	49

Trench 53		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
One ditch and one large modern truncation were uncovered in this trench. The natural deposits consisted of iron stone overlain by clay and gravel in patches.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.4
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Trench 54		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W

No archaeological features were uncovered I this trench. The natural deposits consisted of iron stone overlain by clay and gravel in patches.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.3
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Trench 55		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Two ditches and one pit were uncovered in this trench. The natural deposits consisted of iron stone overlain by silty clay and gravel in patches.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.4
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Trench 56		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
One ditch was uncovered in this trench. The natural deposits consisted of boulder clay with some iron stone and gravel patches.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.3
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Trench 57		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeological features were uncovered I this trench. Geophysical survey identified amorphous magnetic anomalies in this area. The natural deposits consisted of boulder clay with some iron stone and gravel patches.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.3
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Trench 58		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
No archaeological features were uncovered I this trench. The natural deposits consisted of orange sandy clay	**Avg. depth (m)**	.5
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Trench 59		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeological features were uncovered I this trench. Geophysical survey identified amorphous magnetic anomalies in this area. The natural deposits consisted of iron stone overlain by boulder clay in places.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.4
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Trench 60

General description	Orientation	N-S
One ditch was uncovered in this trench. The natural deposits consisted of iron stone overlain by boulder clay in places.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.34
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Trench 61		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
The natural deposits consisted of iron stone overlain by boulder clay in places.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.32
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Trench 62		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
One ditch was uncovered in this trench. The natural deposits consisted of boulder clay.	**Avg. depth (m)**	.28
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Context Inventory

Context	Cut	Tr	Cat	Type	W	D	Colour	Fine comp	Coarse comp	Compact	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orient.
1	**0**		Layer	Topsoil			mid greyish brown	sandy clay silt	occ small sub-angular stones	compact				
2	**2**	47	Cut	Ditch	1.5	0.78					linear	steeply sloping	concave	NE-SW
3	**2**	47	Fill	Ditch	1.18	0.14	mid yellowish brown	silty clay	occasional iron stone	firm				
4	**4**	47	Cut	Ditch	1.55	0.2					linear	gently to mod. slope	concave	NE-SW
5	**4**	47	Fill	Ditch	1.55	0.2	mid greyish reddish brown	fine sandy clay silt	occasional chalk fragments at top	compact				
6	**6**	47	Cut	Pit		0.35					indeterminate	gently sloping		n/a
7	**6**	47	Fill	Pit		0.35	mid reddish brown	fine clayey sandy silt	occasional sub-angular ironstone fragments	Compact				
8	**8**	46	Cut	Ditch	0.85	0.28					linear	moderately sloping	concave	NW-SE
9	**8**	46	Fill	Ditch	0.85	0.28	mid greyish brown	fine sandy clay silt	occasional sub-angular stones	compact				
10	**11**	49	Fill	Pit	0.6	0.08	light greyish brown	clay silt	occasional ironstone	firm				
11	**11**	49	Cut	Pit	0.6	0.08					sub-circular	gently sloping	concave	n/a
12	**13**	49	Fill	Ditch	0.58	0.18	light greyish brown	sandy silt	frequent ironstone	Firm				

Context	Cut	Tr	Cat	Type	W	D	Colour	Fine comp	Coarse comp	Compact	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orient.
13	**13**	49	Cut	Ditch	0.58	0.18					linear	steeply sloping	concave	NW-SE
14	**15**	49	Fill	Ditch	0.68	0.2	light greyish brown	sandy silt	frequent ironstone	firm				
15	**15**	49	Cut	Ditch	0.68	0.2					linear			NW-SE
16	**17**	48	Fill	Pit	1.5	0.08	light yellowish brown	clay	n/a	Firm				
17	**17**	48	Cut	Pit	1.5	0.08					circular	gently sloping	irregular	n/a
18	**19**	48	Fill	Furrow	1.6	0.08	light yellowish grey	clay	n/a	Indurated				
19	**19**	48	Cut	Furrow	1.6	0.08					linear	gently sloping and irregular	irregular	NW-SE
20	**21**	49	Cut	Pit	0.6	0.15	light brown	clay silt	moderate ironstone	Firm				
21	**21**	49	Cut	Pit	0.6	0.15					circular	steeply sloping	concave	n/a
22	**23**	50	Fill	Ditch	0.7	0.29	light grey and orange	clay silt	ironstone	compact				
23	**23**	50	Cut	Ditch	0.7	0.29					linear	moderately sloping	gently concave	NW-SE
24	**25**	52	Fill	Ditch	0.39	0.25	light greyish orange	sandy clay	moderate ironstone	firm				
25	**25**	52	Cut	Ditch	0.39	0.25					Linear	moderately to gently sloping	Concave	NE-SW
26	**0**	51	Layer	Subsoil			mid brown	sandy silt	frequent ironstone (up to 80mm)	friable to loose				
27	**27**	51	Cut	Ditch							Linear	steeply sloping	concave	NE-SW

Context	Cut	Tr	Cat	Type	W	D	Colour	Fine comp	Coarse comp	Compact	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orient.
28	**27**	51	Fill	Ditch		0.55	mid reddish brown	sandy silt	clay and ironstone (up to 50mm)	firm to friable				
29	**27**	51	Fill	Drain	0.46	0.28	mid yellowish brown	clay silt	ironstone pebbles and cobbles (up to 0.18m)	loose				
30	**30**	51	Cut	Drain	0.48	0.23								
31	**30**	51	Fill	Drain	0.48	0.23	light greyish brown	clay silt	ironstone pebbles (up to 30mm)	loose to friable				
32	**32**	51	Cut	Pit	0.78	0.55					Not fully exposed in plan	steeply sloping	Concave	n/a
33	**32**	51	Fill	Pit	0.78	0.55	mid greyish brown	clay silt	ironstone pebbles and cobbles (up to 80mm)	friable to firm				
34	**34**	51	Cut	Pit	1.08	0.15					Not fully exposed in plan			
35	**34**	51	Fill	Pit	1.08	0.15	light to mid greyish brown	clay silt	ironstone pebbles (up to 50mm)	firm to friable				
36	**36**	51	Cut	Drain	0.55	0.85					Linear	steeply sloping	concave	NE-SW
37	**36**	51	Fill	Drain	0.55	0.41	mid to dark greyish brown	clay silt	ironstone fragments and clay	firm to friable				
38	**38**	51	Cut	Posthole	0.35	0.25					Sub-circular	moderately sloping	concave	n/a
39	**38**	51	Fill	Posthole	0.35	0.25	very dark greyish brown	silty clay	ironstone (up to 50mm) and charcoal	friable to loose				
40	**40**	51	Cut	Ditch	1.6	0.14					Linear	gently sloping	gently	NW-SE

Context	Cut	Tr	Cat	Type	W	D	Colour	Fine comp	Coarse comp	Compact	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orient.
													concave	
41	**40**	51	Fill	Ditch	1.6	0.14	mid reddish brown	sandy silt	ironstone and clay fragments (up to 80mm)	loose to friable				
42	**42**	51	Cut	Ditch	0.33	0.09					Linear	gently sloping	gently concave	NW-SE
43	**42**	51	Fill	Ditch	0.33	0.09	mid reddish brown	clay silt	frequent ironstone frags (up to 30mm) and charcoal	loose to friable				
44	**45**	52	Fill	Pit	0.61	0.18	almost reddish orange	sandy clay	occasional ironstone throughout	firm				
45	**45**	52	Cut	Pit	0.61	0.18					oval	gently to moderately sloping	Flat-bottomed but slopes down slightly to W	
46	**47**	52	Fill	Ditch	1.38	0.22	patchy orangey white	sandy chalk	n/a	firm				
47	**47**	52	Cut	Ditch	1.38	0.22					Linear	moderately sloping	Flat-bottomed	N-S
48	**48**	51	Cut	Pit		0.08					Linear	moderately sloping	Flat-bottomed	
49	**48**	51	Fill	Pit		0.08	light to mid greyish brown	clay silt	ironstone pebbles (up to 50mm)	firm to friable				

Context	Cut	Tr	Cat	Type	W	D	Colour	Fine comp	Coarse comp	Compact	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orient.
50	**51**	52	Fill	Ditch	1.11	0.27	mid brownish orange	sandy silt	occasional stone throughout	firm				
51	**51**	52	Cut	Ditch	1.11	0.27					Linear	moderately sloping	concave	NE-SW
52	**53**	52	Fill	Ditch	1.31	0.2	mid almost reddish orange	slightly clay silt	occasional stone	firm				
53	**53**	52	Cut	Ditch	1.31	0.2					linear	moderately sloping	Flat-bottomed	N-S
54	**54**	51	Cut	Pit		0.16						moderately sloping	Not exposed	
55	**54**	51	Fill	Pit		0.16	mid greyish brown	clay silt	ironstone pebbles and cobbles (up to 80mm)	friable to firm				
56	**0**	52	Layer	Natural		0.15	patchy dark orange and black	humic clay	n/a	firm				
57	**57**	55	Cut	Ditch	1.04	0.47					linear	steeply sloping	Not exposed	NW-SE
58	**57**	55	Fill	Ditch	1.04	0.47	mid greyish-brown	sandy clay	n/a	soft				
59	**57**	55	Fill	Ditch	0.32	0.47	light greyish brown	sandy clay	frequent ironstone	firm				
60	**60**	55	Cut	Ditch	2	0.25					Sub-rectangular	gently sloping	irregular	n/a
61	**60**	55	Fill	Ditch	2	0.25	mid greyish brown	sandy clay	n/a	soft				
62	**62**	55	Cut	Ditch	1.4	0.32					linear	gently sloping	concave	NW-SE

Context	Cut	Tr	Cat	Type	W	D	Colour	Fine comp	Coarse comp	Compact	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orient.
63	**62**	55	Fill	Ditch	1.4	0.32	mid greyish brown	sandy clay	occasional ironstone.	soft				
64	**0**	51	Layer	Buried soil	8.5	0.24	dark greyish brown	clay silt	"Ironstone	charcoal and clay"	loose to friable			
65	**65**	51	Cut	Ditch	0.42						linear	Not exposed.	Not exposed	NW-SE
66	**65**	51	Fill	Ditch	0.42		mid reddish brown	clay silt	frequent ironstone frags (up to 30mm) and charcoal	loose to friable				
67	**36**	51	Fill	Drain	0.35	0.38	mid reddish grey	clay silt	Ironstone and clay	loose to friable				
68	**69**	48	Fill	Furrow	1.9	0.15	light orangeish brown	clay silt	moderate ironstone towards base	very firm				
69	**69**	48	Cut	Furrow	1.9	0.15					linear	gently sloping	flattish but slightly irregular	NW-SE
70	**72**	48	Fill	Ditch	1.25	0.25	mid brown	clay silt	frequent ironstone (up to 80mm)	loose to friable				
71	**72**	48	Fill	Ditch	1.12	0.32	mid to dark brown	clay silt	occasional ironstone and charcoal	loose to friable				
72	**72**	48	Cut	Ditch	1.25	0.55					linear	steeply sloping	concave	N-S
73														
74														
75	**76**	46	Fill	Ditch	0.68	0.33	dark orangeish brown	silty clay	"very frequent ironstone, Occ. charcoal"	firm				

Context	Cut	Tr	Cat	Type	W	D	Colour	Fine comp	Coarse comp	Compact	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orient.
76	**76**	46	Cut	Ditch	0.68	0.33					linear	vertical	Flat-bottomed	NE-SW
77														
78	**79**	48	Fill	Furrow	1.91	0.25	light orangeish brown	clay silt	moderate ironstone	very firm				
79	**79**	48	Cut	Furrow	1.91	0.25					linear	moderately sloping	flattish	NW-SE
80	**81**	48	Fill	Ditch	0.62	0.3	mid greyish brown	clay silt	occasional stone throughout	firm				
81	**81**	48	Cut	Ditch	0.62	0.3					linear	gently to moderately sloping	concave	N-S
82	**83**	46	Fill	Posthole	0.27	0.13	dark orangeish grey	sandy clay	occasional ironstone and charcoal	friable				
83	**83**	46	Cut	Posthole	0.27	0.13					Sub-circular	steeply sloping to vertical	Flat-bottomed	n/a
84	**85**	46	Fill	Posthole	0.22	0.12	dark orangeish grey	silty clay	occasional ironstone and charcoal	friable				
85	**85**	46	Cut	Posthole	0.22	0.12					Sub-circular	steeply sloping	irregular	NE-SW
86	**0**	48	Layer	Subsoil		0.3	light brownish orange	silty clay	very occasional stone	soft				
87	**87**	53	Cut	Modern		0.25					Sub-circular		Flat-bottomed	n/a
88	**87**	53	Fill	Spread		0.25	dark bluish brown	peaty soil	frequent wood fragments	soft				

Context	Cut	Tr	Cat	Type	W	D	Colour	Fine comp	Coarse comp	Compact	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orient.
89	**89**	53	Cut	Ditch	0.79	0.13					linear	gently sloping	Flat-bottomed	NE-SW
90	**89**	53	Fill	Ditch	0.79	0.13	mid greyish brown	sandy silt	frequent ironstone	soft to friable				
91	**92**	46	Fill	Stakehole	0.2	0.05	mid orangeish grey	sandy clay	occasional charcoal	friable				
92	**92**	46	Cut	Stakehole	0.2	0.05					circular	steeply sloping	concave	n/a
93	**95**	48	Fill	Ditch	0.74	0.19	light orangeish brown	clay silt	moderate ironstone	firm				
94	**95**	48	Fill	Ditch	0.89	0.23	light brownish orange	clay sand	occasional ironstone	compact				
95	**95**	48	Cut	Ditch	0.99	0.25					linear	moderately sloping	flattish	N-S
96	**97**	46	Fill	Ditch	0.7	0.2	dark greyish brown	silty clay	moderate ironstone and charcoal.					
97	**97**	46	Cut	Ditch	0.7	0.2					linear	moderately and steeply sloping	concave	SE-NW
98	**99**	62	Fill	Ditch	1.2	0.18	mid reddish brown	clay silt	occasional ironstone and clay	very occ. charcoal"	friable to loose			
99	**99**	62	Cut	Ditch	1.2	0.18					Linear	moderately sloping	Flat-bottomed	NE-SW
100	**100**	56	Cut	Ditch	1	0.26					Linear	gently sloping	Flat-bottomed	NW-SE
101	**100**	56	Fill	Ditch	1	0.26	dark	sandy	n/a	soft				

Context	Cut	Tr	Cat	Type	W	D	Colour	Fine comp	Coarse comp	Compact	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orient.
							orangeish brown	clay						
102	**102**	56	Cut	Field Drain	0.2									
103	**102**	56	Fill	Field Drain	0.2									
104	**2**	47	Fill	Ditch	0.9	0.58	mid greyish brown	silty clay	moderate ironstone	firm				
105	**2**	47	Fill	Ditch	0.67	0.28	mid brownish grey	silty clay	n/a	firm				
106	**106**	36	Cut	Pit	1.25	0.12					Sub-circular	gently sloping	Flat-bottomed	n/a
107	**106**	36	Fill	Pit	1.25	0.12	light greyish brown	sandy clay	occasional charcoal	soft				
108	**108**	36	Cut	Posthole	0.6	0.12					Sub-circular	gently sloping	Flat-bottomed	n/a
109	**108**	36	Fill	Posthole	0.6	0.12	light greyish brown	sandy clay	n/a	soft				
110	**2**	47	Fill	Ditch	1.3	0.38	dark greyish brown	silty clay	frequent ironstone	firm				
111	**2**	47	Fill	Ditch	0.65	0.28	mid brownish grey	silty clay	frequent ironstone	firm				
112	**113**	47	Fill	Ditch	1.1	0.4	dark reddish brown	silty clay	frequent ironstone	firm				
113	**113**	47	Cut	Ditch	1.1	0.4					Linear	moderate	concave	NE-SW

Context	Cut	Tr	Cat	Type	W	D	Colour	Fine comp	Coarse comp	Compact	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orient.
114	**114**	48	Cut	Ditch	2	0.7					Linear	moderate	concave	N-S
115	**114**	48	Fill	Ditch	2	0.6	mid brown	clay silt	very frequent ironstone	firm				
116	**114**	48	Fill	Ditch	0.35	0.08	mid brown grey	clay silt	ironstone	friable				
117	**117**	48	Cut	Ditch	0.55	0.24					Linear	moderate	concave	N-S
118	**117**	48	Fill	Ditch	0.6	0.15	mid brown	clay silt	ironstone large	firm				
119	**117**	48	Fill	Ditch	0.35	0.08	pale yellow brown	clay silt	occ ironstone	friable				
120	**120**	48	Cut	Ditch	1.7						Linear	moderate		NW-SE
121	**120**	48	Fill	Ditch	1.7		mid reddish brown	clay silt	frequent ironstone	friable				
122	**0**	61	Layer	Spread	5.5	0.12	mid reddish brown	clay silt	occ ironstone. Occ charcoal	firm				
123	**123**	60	Cut	Ditch	0.65	0.12					Linear	moderate		NE-SW
124	**123**	60	Fill	Ditch	0.65	0.12	mid reddish brown	clay silt	"occasional ironstone and clay	very occasional charcoal"	friable to loose			
125	**126**	47	Fill	Pit	0.5	0.27	mid grey brown	silty clay	occ ironstone and charcoal	friable				
126	**126**	47	Cut	Pit	5	0.27					Sub-circular	steep		
127	**128**	47	Fill	Pit	0.6	0.4	mid grey brown	silty clay	occ stone and charcoal	friable				
128	**128**	47	Cut	Pit	0.6	0.4					Sub-circular	steep		
129	**23**	50	Fill	Ditch	0.95	0.72	mid brown	clay silt	frequent ironstone Occ charcoal	firm				

Context	Cut	Tr	Cat	Type	W	D	Colour	Fine comp	Coarse comp	Compact	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Orient.
130	**131**	49	Fill	Ditch	0.43	0.1								
131	**131**	49	Cut	Ditch	0.43	0.1								

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Metalwork and other small finds

by Denis Sami, Anthony Haskins and Carole Fletcher

Assemblage

B.1.1 A total of six small finds were recovered from the evaluation at Park Farm Way, Wellingborough.

B.1.2 A copper alloy pin was recovered from the buried soil (64) in Trench 51, whilst three work bone tools were recovered from different contexts; buried soil 64 and ditch **32** in Trench 51 and Ditch **114** in Trench 48. Fragments of lava stone were recovered from a spread (122) in Trench 61.

Condition

B.1.3 The bone fitting is incomplete but in good condition, while the brooch pin shows traces of bronze disease.

B.1.4 The bone tools were in good condition with only some minor abrasion to s.f. 6. The lava stone was fragmentary.

B.1.5 All objects are packaged in crystal boxes or polythene bags with foam support. All bags or boxes of metalwork are stored in Stewart boxes with the silica gel.

Discussion

B.1.6 The functional categories used are those defined by Crummy in 1983 and 1988. Categories present in the assemblage are 1, Objects of personal adornment or dress and 4, Household utensils and furniture.

B.1.7 The brooch pin is generally linked to dresses and portable objects, and brooches are a common find on Roman sites. Strips of worked bone were principally used to decorate boxes or furniture in the Roman and medieval periods (Crummy 1983, p.82). The bone fitting is therefore generally associated with domestic activity. These artefacts can be an indicator of a residential building, however they can equally represent loss or disposal and do not necessarily suggest occupation on or near the site. The brooch pin is most likely of Roman date, whereas the bone fitting has a wider date range spanning from the Roman to the medieval period.

B.1.8 The three modified Sheep/Goat metapodials exhibited polishing and wear along the shank of the bone with some deep grooving. A single metatarsal (s.f. 3) and two metacarpals (s.f. 4 and s.f.6) were recovered. These have been found on a number of Iron Age sites such as Fairfield Park and Cadbury Castle in Somerset (Webley *et al*. 2007, 81-82. ; Britnell 2000, 184). It is not entirely clear what the items were used for but it has been suggested they are associated with weaving on a hand loom (Webley *et al*. 2007, 81-82.; Britnell 2000, 184).

B.1.9 The lava stone is likely to have been part of a lava quern stone although it is highly degraded.

Catalogue

S.F. 1 Trench 51, context 37, (**36**) s.f.1: A fragmentary openwork bone fitting, possibly from a box or casket. It may originally have been rectangular in shape. The fitting would have been secured to the box by narrow pins inserted through holes, two of which are extant in the corner of the

fitting. Maximum length 25.16 mm, thickness: 2.76 mm, weight: 3g. Period: Roman (AD43-410) to medieval.

S.F. 2 Trench 51, context 64, SF2: A copper alloy brooch pin, possibly from a bow or a crossbow brooch (Crummy 1983, p.11 no. 40). The pin is slightly curved and narrows toward the point. Maximum length 3.69 mm, diameter 1.85 mm, weight 4g. Period: Roman (AD43-410).

S.F. 3 Trench 51, context 64, worked bone weaving tool.

S.F. 4 Trench 51, context 33, (**32**) worked bone weaving tool.

S.F. 5 Trench 61, context 122, lava quern fragments. Three fragments, do not refit.

S.F. 6 Trench 48, context 116, (**114**) worked bone weaving tool

B.2 Prehistoric Pottery

By Matt Brudenell

Introduction and methodology

B.2.1 At total of 355 sherds (2711g) of pottery were recovered from the evaluation, displaying a mean sherd weight (MSW) of 7.6g. The pottery derived 28 contexts relating to features and deposits across Trenches 46-48, 50-51, 57 and 61 (Table B2.1). With the exception of a single Early Roman sherd and four fragments of post-medieval pottery, the entire assemblage dated to the Late Iron Age. The ceramics are in a stable condition, though sherd sizes are generally small and shell has been leeched from some of the sherd surfaces. This report provides a quantified description of the assemblage.

Context	Cut	Trench	Feature type	No/wt.(g) sherds	Date
NA	NA	57	Subsoil	1/14	Post-med
1	NA	46	Topsoil	1/22	LIA
3	2	47	Ditch	1/14	LIA
22	23	50	Ditch	10/39	LIA
31	30	51	Ditch	9/38	LIA
33	32	51	Pit	9/268	LIA
35	34	51	Pit	20/88	LIA
37	36	51	Drain	4/16	LIA
39	38	51	Posthole	1/26	LIA
41	40	51	Ditch	3/11	LIA
64	NA	51	Buried soil	53/723	LIA
66	65	51	Ditch	3/66	LIA
68	69	48	Furrow	1/17	Post-med
70	72	48	Ditch	1/4	LIA
75	76	46	Ditch	4/17	LIA
78	79	48	Ditch	1/13	LIA
80	81	48	Ditch	4/19	LIA
86	NA	48	Subsoil	1/2	LIA
91	92	46	Posthole	9/19	LIA
96	97	46	Ditch	114/703	LIA
104	2	47	Ditch	6/18	LIA
115	114	48	Ditch	26/213	LIA
116	114	48	Ditch	11/60	LIA
118	117	48	Ditch	48/161	LIA
119	117	48	Ditch	3/39	LIA
121	120	48	Ditch	2/34	LIA
122	NA	61	Spread	3/24	LIA & Early RB
125	126	47	Pit	2/31	Post-med
129	23	50	Ditch	4/12	LIA
TOTAL	-	-	-	355/2711	-

Table B2.1: Pottery quantification by context.

Methodology

B.2.2 All the pottery was fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (2009). All sherds were counted, weighed (to the nearest whole gram) and assigned to fabric (sherds broken in excavation were refitted and counted as single entities). Sherd type was recorded, along with evidence for surface treatment, decoration, and the presence of soot and/or residue. Rim forms have been described using a codified system recorded in the catalogue, and are assigned vessel numbers. Handmade Middle Iron Age-type forms were codified using the series developed by JD Hill (Hill and Horne 2003, 174; Hill and Braddock 2006, 155-156), whilst the Late Iron Age wheel-made 'Belgic'-related vessels were classified using Isobel Thompson's (1982) catalogue, and her alphanumeric codes, prefixed with TH-. All pottery has been subject to sherd size analysis. Sherds less than 4cm in diameter have been classified as 'small' (112 sherds); sherds measuring 4-8cm are classified as 'medium' (36 sherds), and sherds over 8cm in diameter 'large' (0 sherds).

Late Iron Age pottery

B.2.3 A total of 350 sherds (2643g) of Late Iron Age-type pottery was recovered from the evaluation. The material derived from 26 contexts relating to 19 cut features, an area of buried soil, and topsoil and subsoil stray finds (Table B2.1). The features were primarily ditches, but also included pits and postholes with material found in Trenches 46-48, 50-51 and 61. The pottery was in a stable condition. Sherd sizes were predominantly small (70% measuring less than 4cm in diameter), but only were only moderately abraded. However, the shell from some sherds had leached from the surface, leaving the slightly corky fabrics.

Assemblage characteristics

B.2.4 Although five fabrics types were distinguished in the assemblage (Table B2.2), the pottery can essentially be divided into sherds characterised by grog (fabrics G1, GS1, GQ1), shell (S1) or sand inclusions (Q1). Grog-tempered and shell-tempered wares dominated, with sandy wares forming a minor component. The shelly-wares were predominately handmade (only 6% wheel-made by weight) and comprised fragments of coarseware jars, some with vertical and horizontal combing, or horizontal rilling on the neck, shoulder and body (13 sherds, 347g). Partial vessel profiles were rare, but included cooking/storage jar-type forms with rim diameters of 16-50cm (TH C6-1 and C7-1), and a selection of unmeasurable everted and rounded vessel rims, some belonging to distinctive channel-rim jar types typical of Northamptonshire (Friendship-Taylor 1999).

Fabric Type	Fabric Group	No./wt. (g) sherds	% fabric by wt.	No./wt. (g) wheel-made	% fabric wheel/-made	MNV	MNV wheel-made
G1	Grog	49/488	18.5	24/271	55.3	6	3
GQ1	Grog & sand	13/448	17.0	9/436	97.3	2	2
GS1	Grog & shell	6/47	1.8	5/30	63.8	3	3
Q1	Sand	9/20	0.8	5/11	55.0	-	-
S1	Shell	273/1640	62.0	8/97	6.0	9	3
TOTAL	-	350//2643	100.1	51/845	32.0	20	11

Table B2.2: Assemblage quantification. MNV= minimum number of vessels calculated as the total number of different rims and bases identified (14 different vessel rims, 6 different bases).

Fabrics

G1: Moderate to common fine to medium grog (mainly <1.5mm in size)

GQ1: Moderate to common fine to medium grog (mainly <1.5mm in size) in a dense quarts sand clay matrix

GS1: Moderate fine grog and fine shell (mainly <1mm in size)

Q1: Moderate to common quartz sand

S1: Sparse to common moderate to very coarse shell (up to 6mm in size)

B.2.5 By contrast, the grog-tempered wares were normally wheel-made (75% by weight), often displayed slightly smoothed surfaces, and had cordons or grooves decorating the neck and shoulder (19 sherds, 248g). Partial vessel profiles were again rare, but included forms typical of a Late Iron Age 'Belgic'-related ceramic tradition, with plain everted-rim necked jars (TH B1-1) and carinated wide-mouthed bowl forms identified (TH E1-2). This group also included the partial profile of a decorated barrel-shaped butt beaker (TH G5-2). Measurable rims ranged in diameter from 11-22cm, with rim forms being everted or beaded.

B.2.6 In general, these grog-tempered wares constitute the fineware/tableware component of the assemblage, and were probably used for eating and serving, whilst the shelly wares were utilitarian coarsewares, most likely deployed for cooking and storage. This distinction by fabric, technology, form and probably function is remarkably pronounced at the site, but combined, indicates a ceramic repertoire geared towards a fairly typical range of cooking, serving and storage activities consistent with domestic occupation.

Early Roman pottery (identification by Katie Anderson)

B.2.7 A single highly abraded, fine sandy greyware sherd (6g) of Early Roman pottery was recovered from spread 122 in Trench 61. The pottery is dated c. 50-100 AD.

Post-medieval pottery (identification by Carole Fletcher)

B.2.8 Four sherds of post-medieval pottery (62g) were recovered from the evaluation. The pottery derived from pit 126 in Trench 47 (two sherds, 31g from context 125), furrow 69 in Trench 48 (one sherd, 17g) and the subsoil of Trench 57 (one sherd, 14g).

B.2.9 The pottery from pit 126 comprised a fragment of Staffordshire type slipware (fabric code 409, 28g) dating from the mid 17th to the end of the 19th century, and a fragment of white china (fabric code 430, 3g)), dating from the late 19th to early 20th century. The sherd from furrow 69 was also a Staffordshire type slipware (fabric code 409, 17g), whilst that from the subsoil of Trench 47 was a fragment of generic post-medieval unglazed earthenware (fabric code 414, 14g).

Discussion

B.2.10 Aside from a single Early Roman sherd and four fragments of post-medieval pottery, all the ceramics recovered from the evaluation belonged a Late Iron Age ceramic tradition, and derived from a core of archaeological activity in Trenches 46-48 and 50-51. The Late Iron Age assemblages formed a coherent body of material dominated by shell-tempered and grog-tempered wares. The former constituted the coarseware

component, and was characterised by fragments of plain, combed and rilled jars with everted, or channel rims, the vast majority of which were handmade. The fineware or tableware component of the assemblages was dominated by grog-tempered and predominately wheel-made vessel in forms typical of the 'Belgic' of Aylesford-Swarling-related Late Iron Age ceramic tradition of the region (Knight 2002). These types of pot to appear in the ceramic repertoire during the first century BC and continue to be found in context dating to the mid first century AD. Given attributes such as the 'developed' character of some of the vessel rims, the relatively high percentage of wheel-made sherds within the assemblage, and the presence if rilled jars and forms including the butt beaker, this group of pottery is likely to belong to the final stages of the Late Iron Age, *c*. 0-50 AD.

B.2.11 The later pottery from the site included a single Early Roman sherd and a four post-medieval sherds. These probably entered features as a consequence of manuring and other agricultural activities at the site.

B.3 Fired Clay

By Matt Brudenell

Introduction and methodology

B.3.1 The evaluation yielded 27 undiagnostic fragments of fired clay, weighing 180g. The material derived from three contexts relating to two ditches in Trench 48 (Table B3.1), both of which yielded Late Iron Age pottery. Two fired clay fabrics were identified. These comprised a coarse shell fabric (VCS), and a fine powdery sandy fabric (FPS). The former dominated, and was similar to pottery fabric S1.

Context	Cut	Trench	Feature type	No/wt.(g) sherds	Date
115	114	48	Ditch	14/23	LIA
116	114	48	Ditch	1/13	LIA
118	117	48	Ditch	12/144	LIA
TOTAL	-	-	-	27/180	-

Table B3.1: Fired clay quantification by context.

Fabrics:
VCS (very coarse shell): Common coarse to very coarse shell (1-7mm), portly sorted. 26 sherds, 174g
FPS (Fine powdered sand): Moderate fine quartz sand, powdery textured. One sherd, 6g.

Appendix C. Environmental Reports

C.1 Faunal Remains

By Anthony Haskins

C.1.1 A total of 195 animal bone fragments were recovered from the evaluation (982g). The majority of the ENN108139 assemblage came from features dated to the Late Iron Age (Table C1.1). 36 fragments of bone were recovered from sieved soil samples.

C.1.2 The bone condition was varied but generally good to fair, regardless of phase. A small number of bones had traces of gnawing by carnivores, probably dogs. Burnt bones were scarce with a small number of lightly singed bone, only two fragments of calcined bone were recovered from samples (Table C1.2).

C.1.3 This assemblage contains a mix of cattle, sheep/goat and single fragments of horse and pig. The small size of the assemblage means that it is not possible to extrapolate on the frequency of cattle, sheep/goat and pig remains and therefore their contribution to the local economy and diet.

C.1.4 It was not possible to carry out age at death estimates as no complete teeth rows survived. It is therefore not possible to identify if there are any slaughter patterns within the assemblage.

C.1.5 Butchery marks were found on some of the bones, primarily chops with a heavy cutting blade into long bone (Table C2.2).

Conclusion

C.1.6 Although this small assemblage of animal bone cannot be used to identify herd management patterns or if there is a preference for a single or mixed husbandry, it has elements within it consistent with Iron Age occupation.

	Weight (g)
Cattle	20
Sheep/goat	26
Pig	1
Horse	1
Small mammal	2
Medium mammal	25
Large mammal	16
Indeterminate	103
TOTAL	195
Weight (g)	982

Table C1.1. Bone assemblage from the ENN108139

	N	3	4	5	Burnt	Gnawed	Butchery marks
ENN108139	195	22%	62%	16%	19	9	11

Table C1.2. Bone preservation and number of bones with traces of butchery, burning, and gnawing.

C.2 Environmental Samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.2.1 Seventeen bulk samples were taken during the evaluation of the site at Park Farm Way, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. Eight of the samples were selected for an initial assessment 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. The samples were taken from features within Trenches 46, 47, 48, 50 and 51 in an area of Late Iron Age enclosures.

Methodology

C.2.2 The total volume (up to 18 litres) of each of the selected samples was processed by tank flotation using modified Siraff-type equipment. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.25mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction for the recovery of magnetic residues prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table C2.1. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* and the author's own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Stace (1997). 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.2.3 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and legumes 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.2.4 All of the samples contain plant remains preserved by carbonization and include charcoal, cereal remains, legumes and weed seeds. The results are further discussed by trench:

Trench 46

C.2.5 Sample 11, fill 96 of ditch **97** contains occasional poorly-preserved charred cereal grains with oat (*Avena* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) tentatively identified. A single glume base of spelt (*Triticum spelta*) wheat was noted along with a wild grass (Poaceae) seed. Legumes are relatively common with small vetches (*Vicia* sp.) and larger wild or cultivated peas (*Lathyrus*/*Pisum* sp) both present.

Trench 47

C.2.6 A single sample (12) from fill 105 of ditch **2** contains a single unidentifiable charred grain, spelt glume base and grass seed.

Trench 48

C.2.7 Samples taken from ditches **72** (Sample 16, fill 71) and ditch **117** (sample 16, fill 119) both contain sparse charred remains of occasional cereal grains.

Trench 50

C.2.8 Sample 17, fill 129 of ditch **23** contains a single barley grain.

Trench 51

C.2.9 The samples taken from features within trench 51 contain the largest assemblages of charred plant remains. Sample 6 was taken from buried soil layer 64 which was noted during excavation as being black with evidence of burning and it was rich in finds. The sample contains a moderate assemblage of charred grain, most of which is abraded although oats, wheat and hullled barley are evident. Vetches are common and charred weed seeds include chess (*Bromus* sp.), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), small and medium-sized grass seeds, docks (*Rumex* sp.), clover (*Trifoilum* sp.) and knotgrasses (*Polygonum* sp.). The other two features sampled in Trench 51, post hole **38** (Sample 1, fill 39) and pit **32** (Sample 3, fill 32) contain almost identical assemblages of mixed grain, vetches and weed seeds.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Type	Tr. No.	Sample Size (L)	Vol. processed (L)	Flot Vol. (ml)	Cereals	Chaff	Legumes	Weed Seed	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Large animal bones	Pot	CBM	Flint debitage
11	96	97	Ditch	46	20	17	20	##	#	##	#	++	++	#	##	0	0
12	105	2	Ditch	47	20	15	1	#	#	0	#	++	0	0	#	0	0
15	71	72	Ditch	48	20	15	1	#	0	0	#	+	+	0	##	#	0
16	119	117	Ditch	48	20	12	5	#	0	0	#	+	+	0	0	##	#
17	129	23	Ditch	50	20	17	1	#	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	##	0

3	33	32	Pit	51	20	18	30	##	#	#	##	+++	++	#	##	##	0
1	39	38	Post hole	51	10	10	45	##	0	##	##	+++	++	#	#	0	0
6	64		Layer	51	40	17	50	###	0	##	#	+++	++	##	#	##	0

Table C2.1: Environmental samples from ENN108139

Discussion

C.2.10 The results of the environmental samples from the five evaluation trenches at Park Farm Way indicate that there is a concentration of burnt domestic, culinary waste within Trench 51 and the eastern end of Trench 46. Charred cereal grains are predominant within the individual assemblages. Wheat was commonly used for grinding into flour for bread whilst barley and oats were often used for animal fodder although they were also consumed in soups, stews and porridge. The general scarcity of cereal chaff suggests that the early stages of cereal processing (winnowing, threshing and primary sieving) were not taking place in the near vicinity. The cereal grains are likely to have been either accidentally burnt during food preparation or may have been deliberately burnt during the disposal of stable waste or floor sweepings. Vetches are leguminous plants that enrich soil when used in crop rotation although they would also be expected to be growing amongst cereal crops along with the other plants present within the charred assemblages. The black, organic buried soil encountered in Trench 51 appears similar to the 'black earth' deposits commonly found on Roman sites without the inclusion of marine shells (which were not consumed during the Iron Age in this region). The similarity of the assemblages within all three features sampled may indicate that the buried soil was a levelling layer spread across the area simultaneously filling all the features.

C.2.11 These results indicate that there is excellent potential for the recovery of charred plant remains from this site.

Appendix D. Bibliography

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-226157		
Project Name	Park Farm Way, Wellingborough, Northamptionshire		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	09-09-2015	Finish	16-09-2015
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ENN108139	Planning App. No.	n/a
HER No.	ENN108139	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Rural Residential

Please select all techniques used:

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

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Settlment	Iron Age -800 to 43	Pottery	Iron Age -800 to 43
Furrows	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	Metalwork	Iron Age -800 to 43
	Select period...	Animal bone	Iron Age -800 to 43

Project Location

County	Northamptionshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Wellingborough	Park Farm Way, Wellingborough Northants NN8 3GZ	
Parish	Wilby		
HER	Northamptionshire		
Study Area	28ha	National Grid Reference	SP 870 670

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Lesley-Ann Mather
Project Design Originator	Rob Bourn
Project Manager	Matt Brudenell
Supervisor	Gareth Rees

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA East	OA East	OA East
ENN108139	ENN108139	ENN108139

Archive Contents/Media

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

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

Notes:

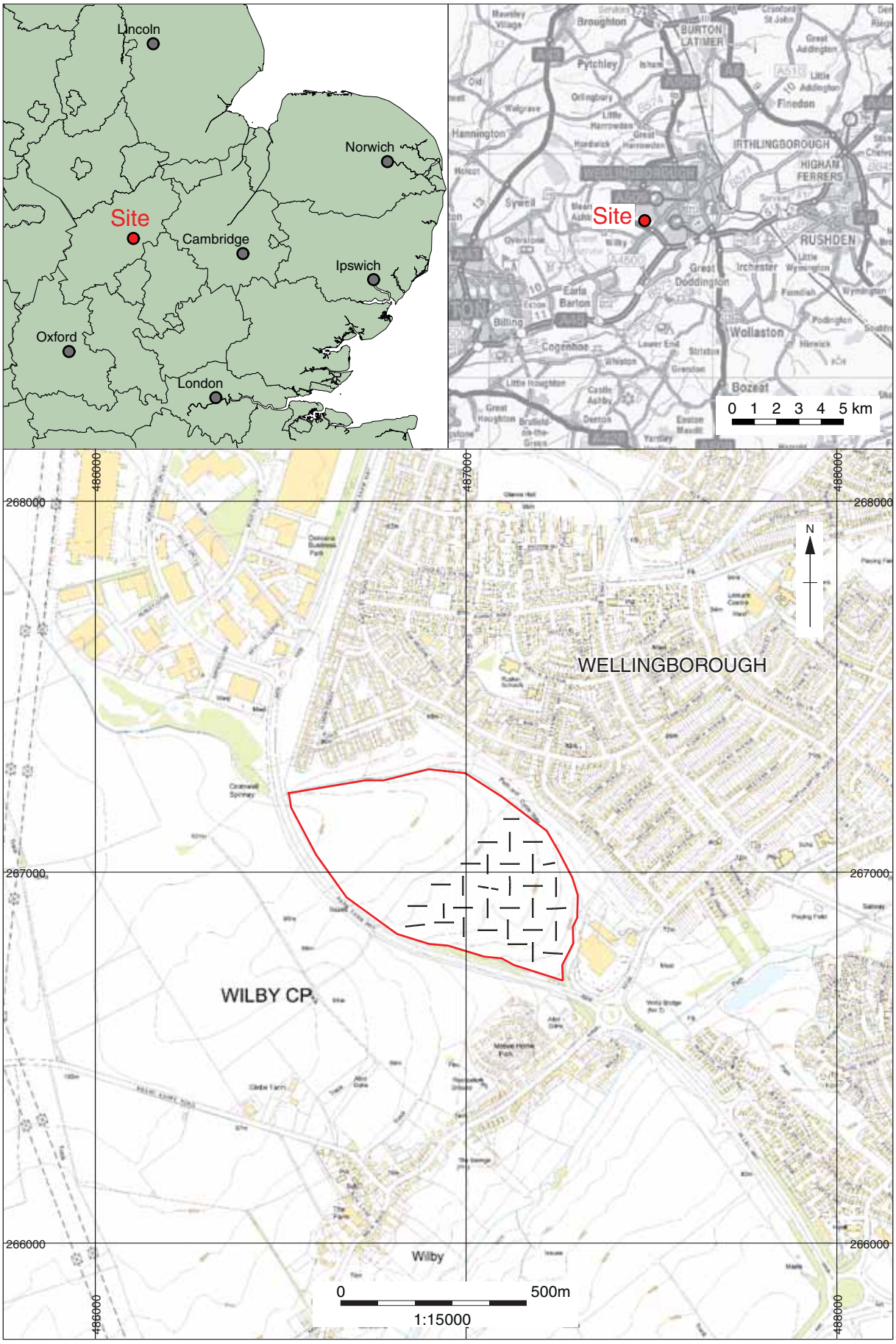


Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

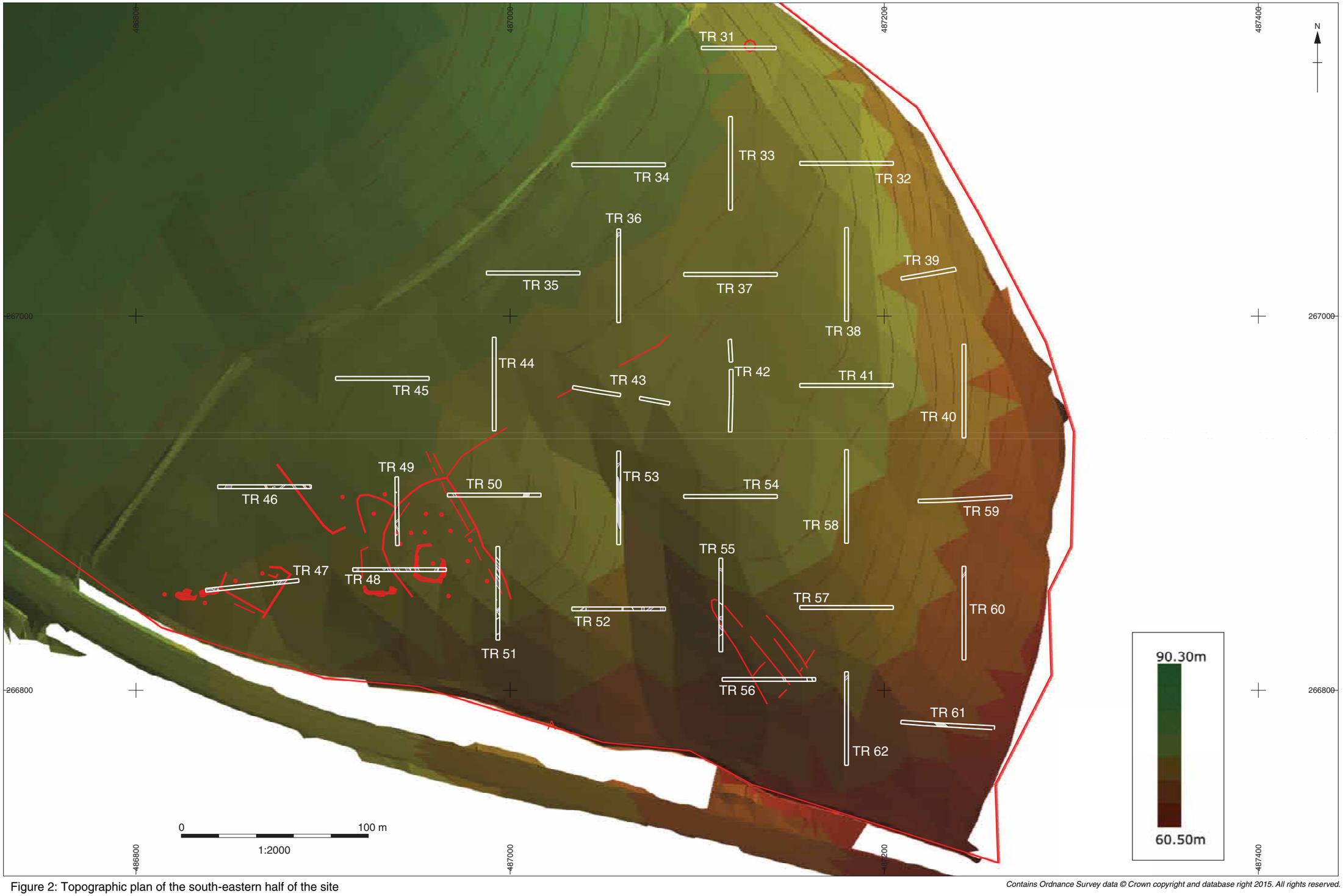
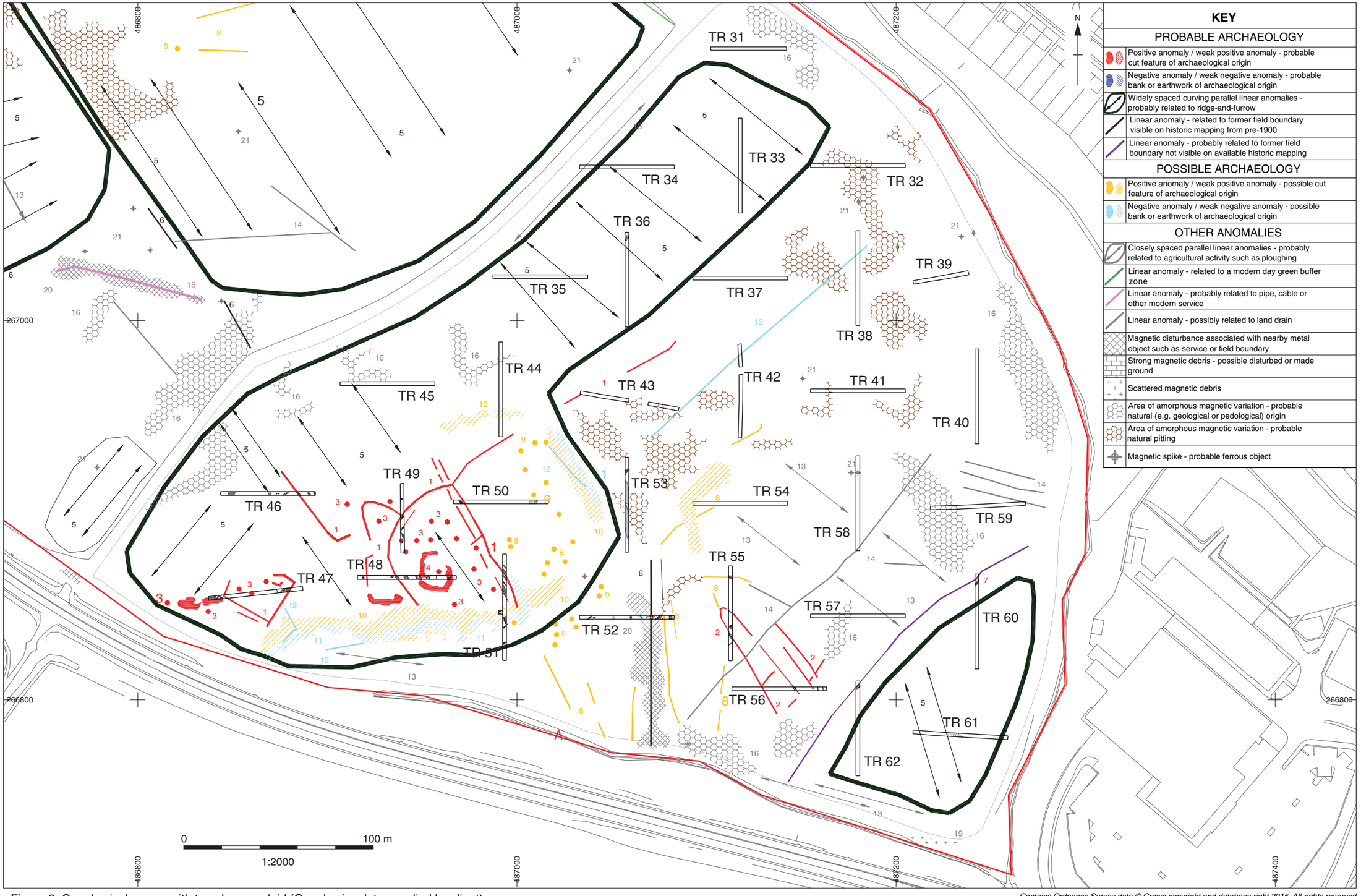


Figure 2: Topographic plan of the south-eastern half of the site



KEY

PROBABLE ARCHAEOLOGY

- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - probable bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
- Widely spaced curving parallel linear anomalies - probably related to ridge-and-furrow
- Linear anomaly - related to former field boundary visible on historic mapping from pre-1900
- Linear anomaly - probably related to former field boundary not visible on available historic mapping

POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY

- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin

OTHER ANOMALIES

- Closely spaced parallel linear anomalies - probably related to agricultural activity such as ploughing
- Linear anomaly - related to a modern day green buffer zone
- Linear anomaly - probably related to pipe, cable or other modern service
- Linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain
- Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
- Strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground
- Scattered magnetic debris
- Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin
- Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural pitting
- Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object

Figure 3: Geophysical survey with trenches overlaid (Geophysics data supplied by client)

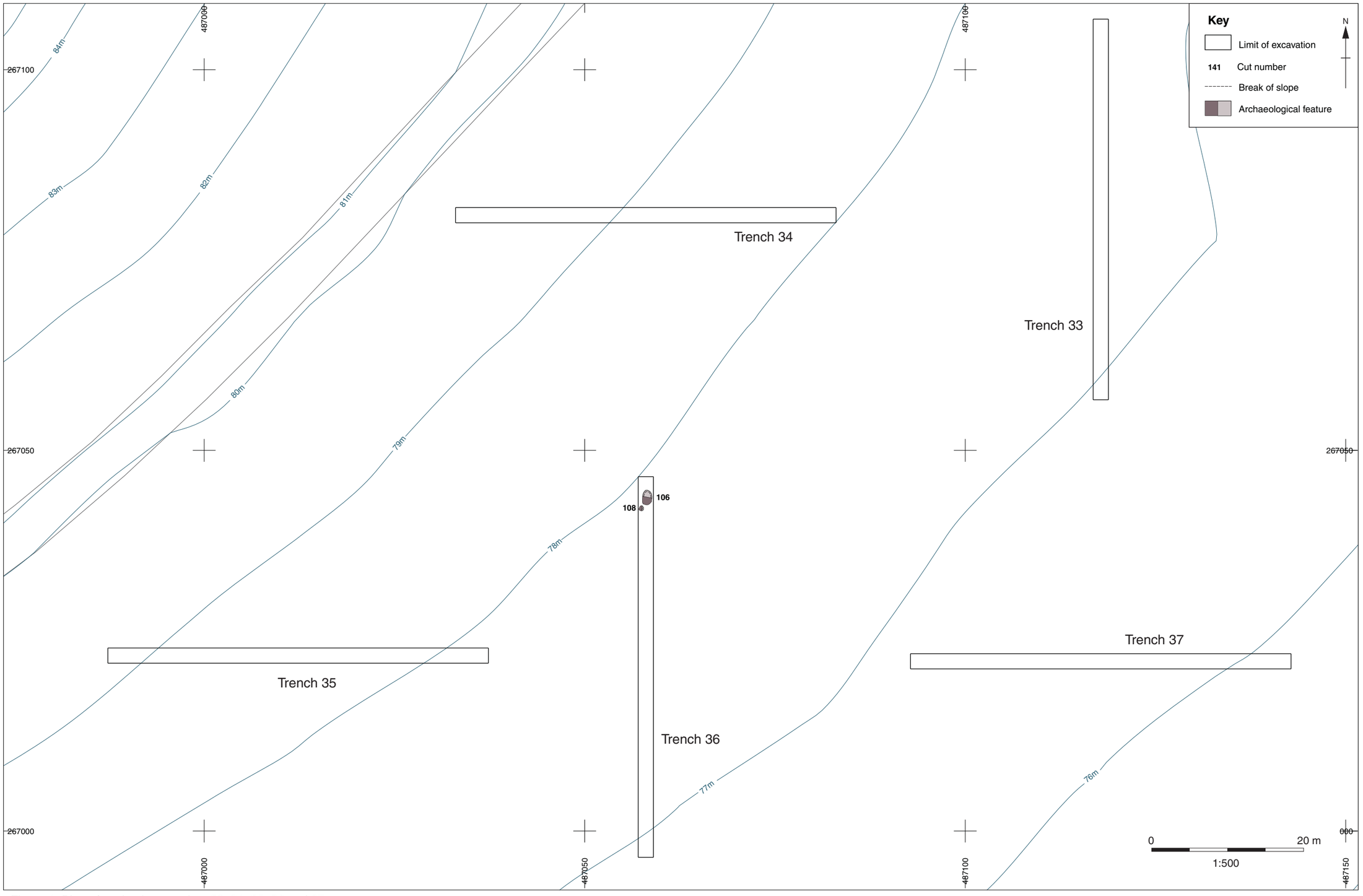


Figure 4: Plan of evaluation trenches 33, 34, 35, 36 and 37

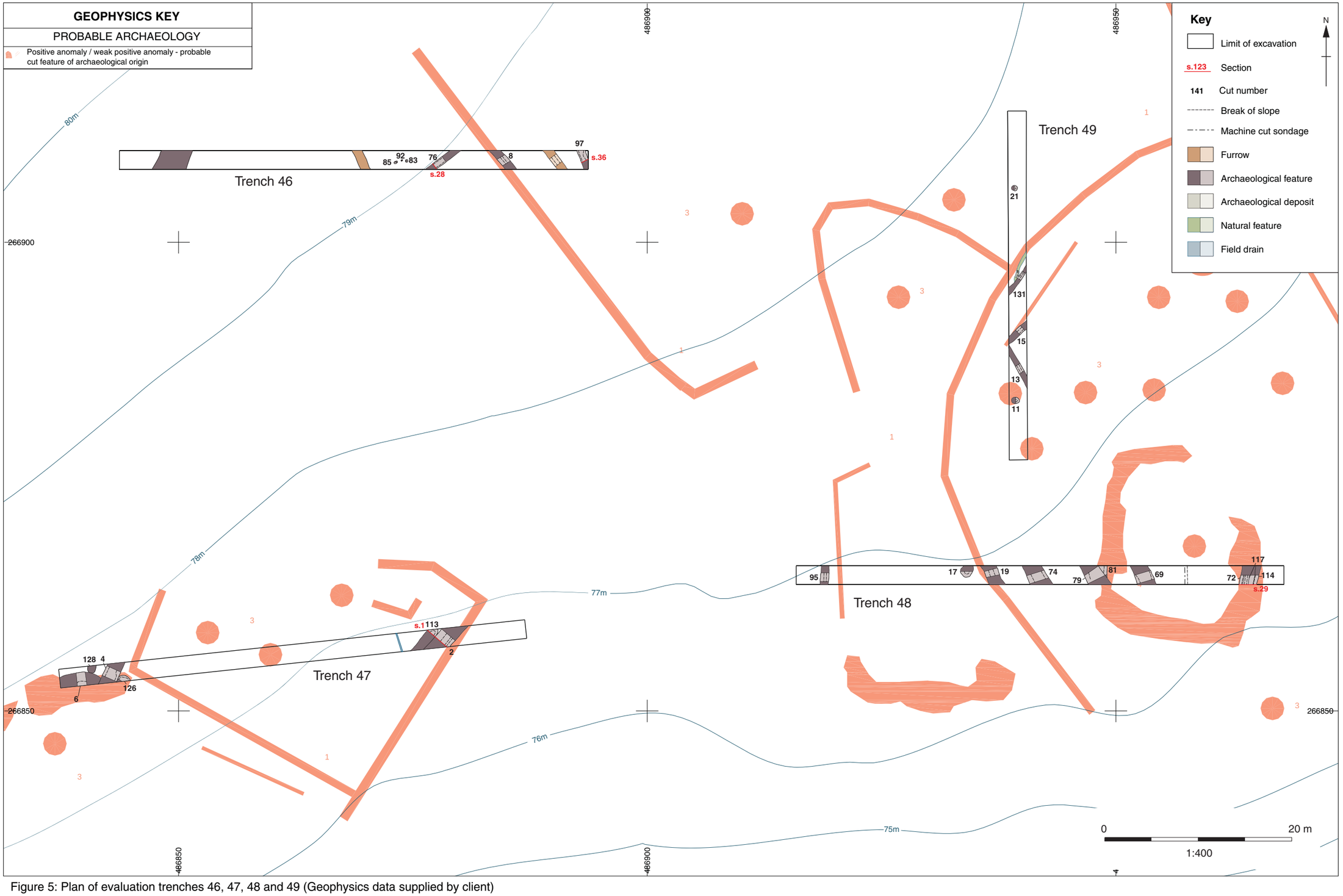


Figure 5: Plan of evaluation trenches 46, 47, 48 and 49 (Geophysics data supplied by client)

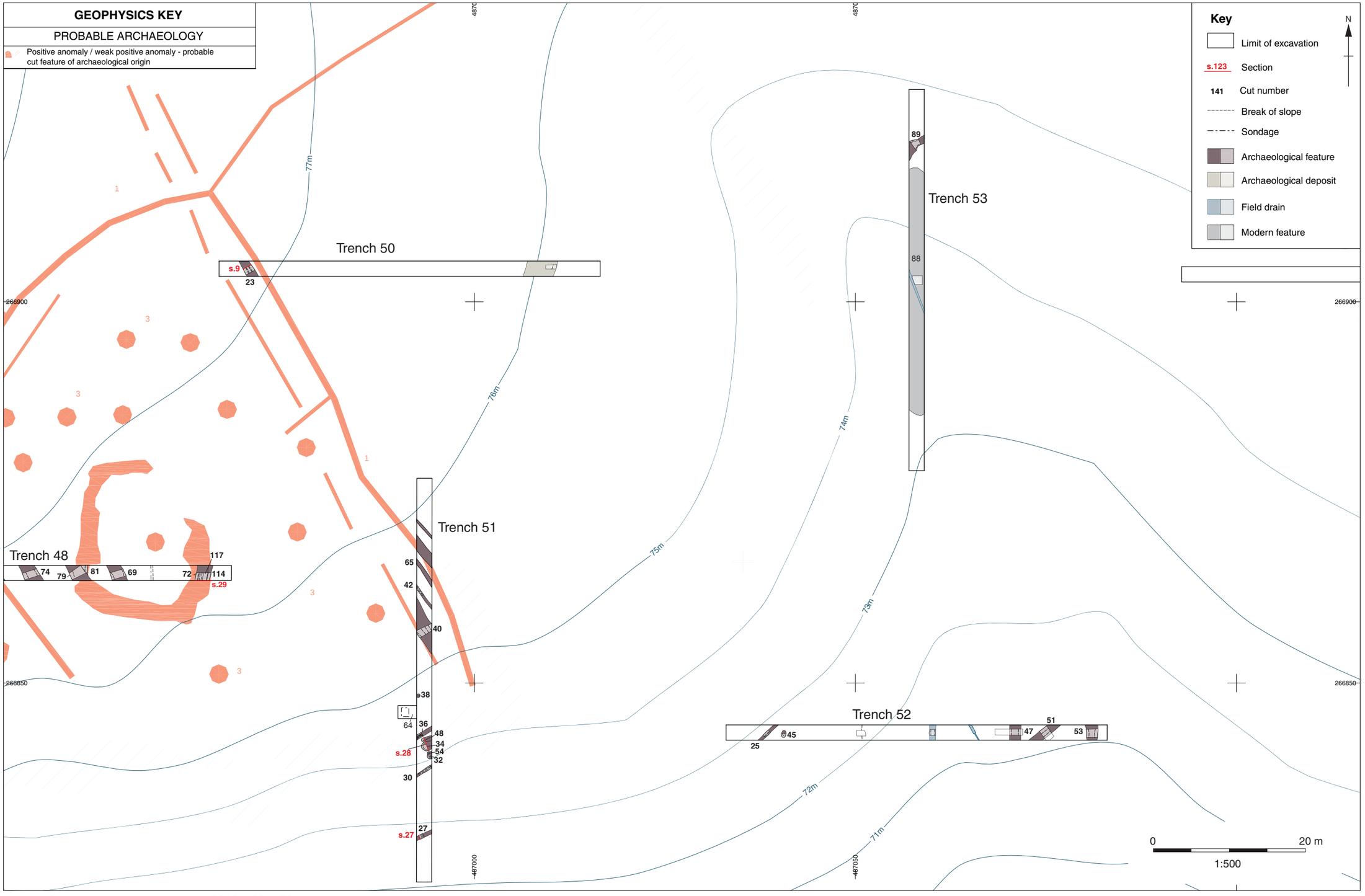


Figure 6: Plan of evaluation trenches 50, 51, 52 & 53 (Geophysics data supplied by client)

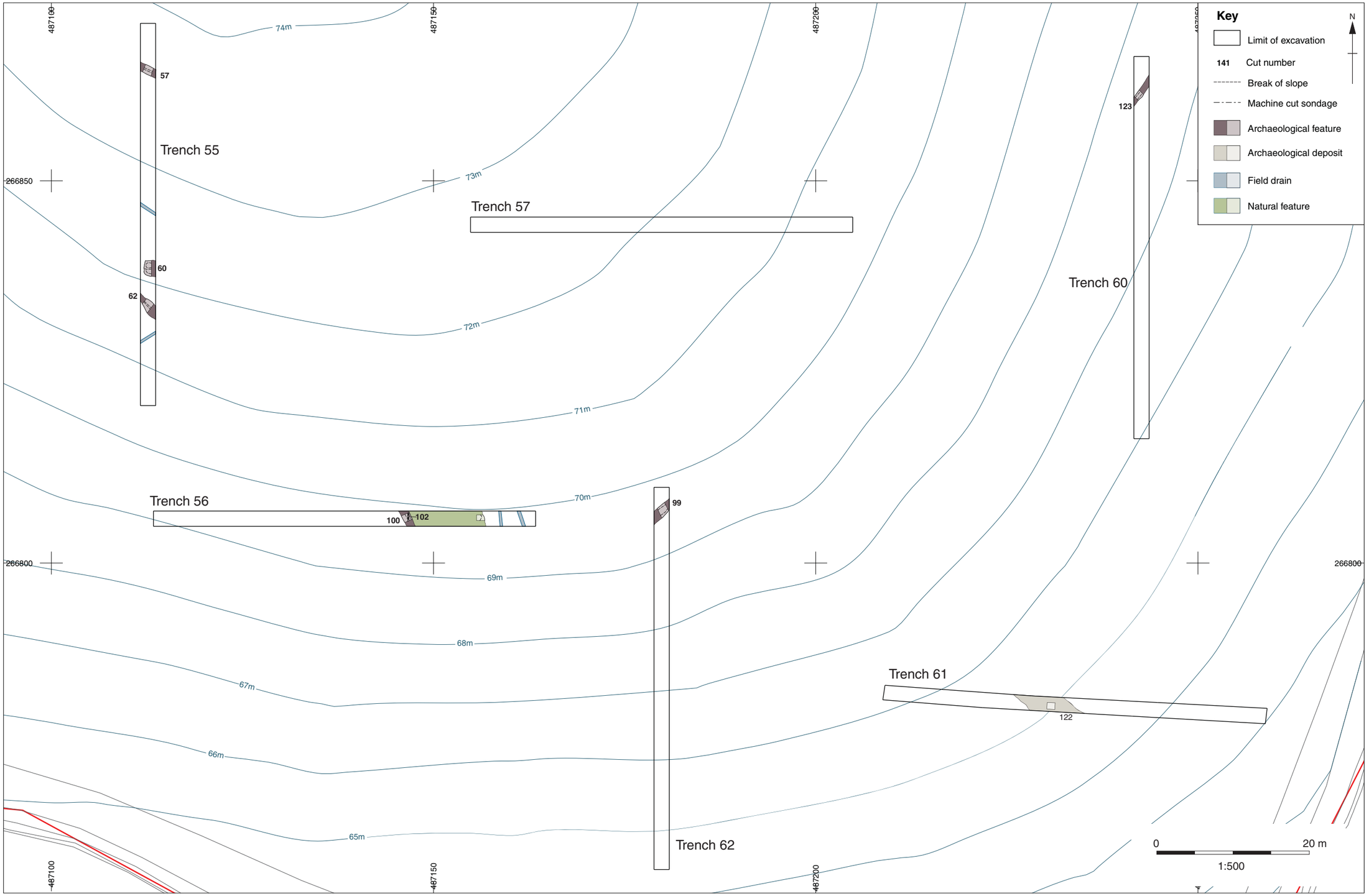
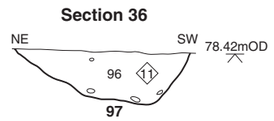
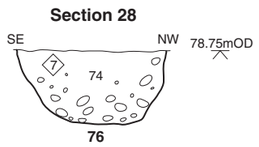
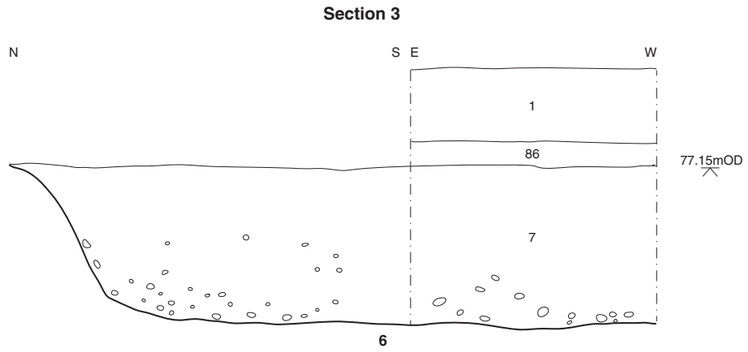
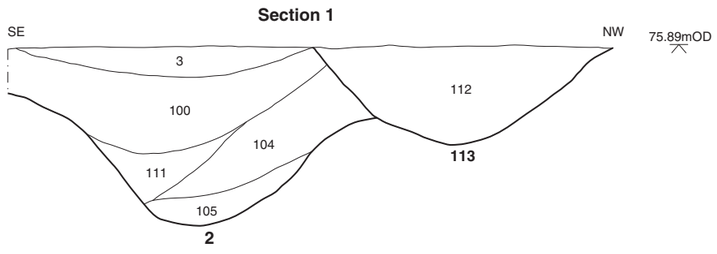


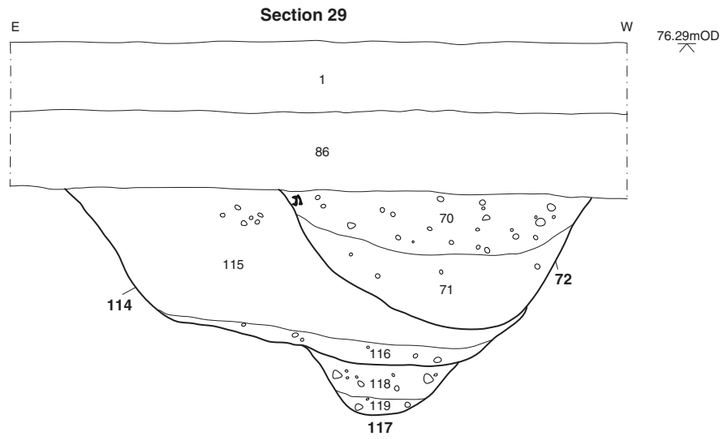
Figure 7: Plan of evaluation trenches 55, 56, 57, 60, 61 and 62

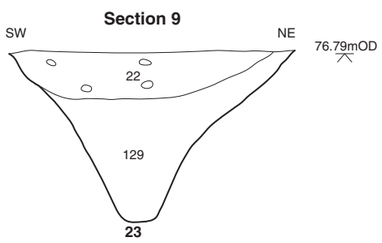


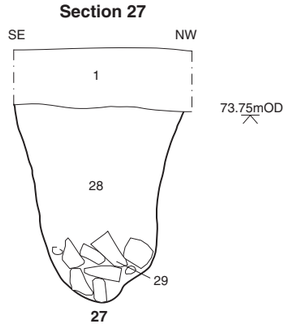












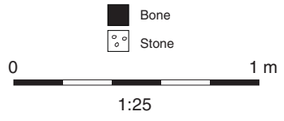


Figure 8: Selected sections

Plate 1: Postholes **83**, **85** and **92** with ditch **76** in the background, Trench 46, facing east

Plate 2: Ditch **76**, Trench 46, facing south-west

Plate 3: Ditch **2**, Trench 47, facing north-east

Plate 4: Ditch **23**, Trench 50, facing north-west

Plate 5: Posthole **38**, Trench 51, facing north

Plate 6: Pits **32**, **34** and **54** and ditch **48**, Trench 51, facing north-east

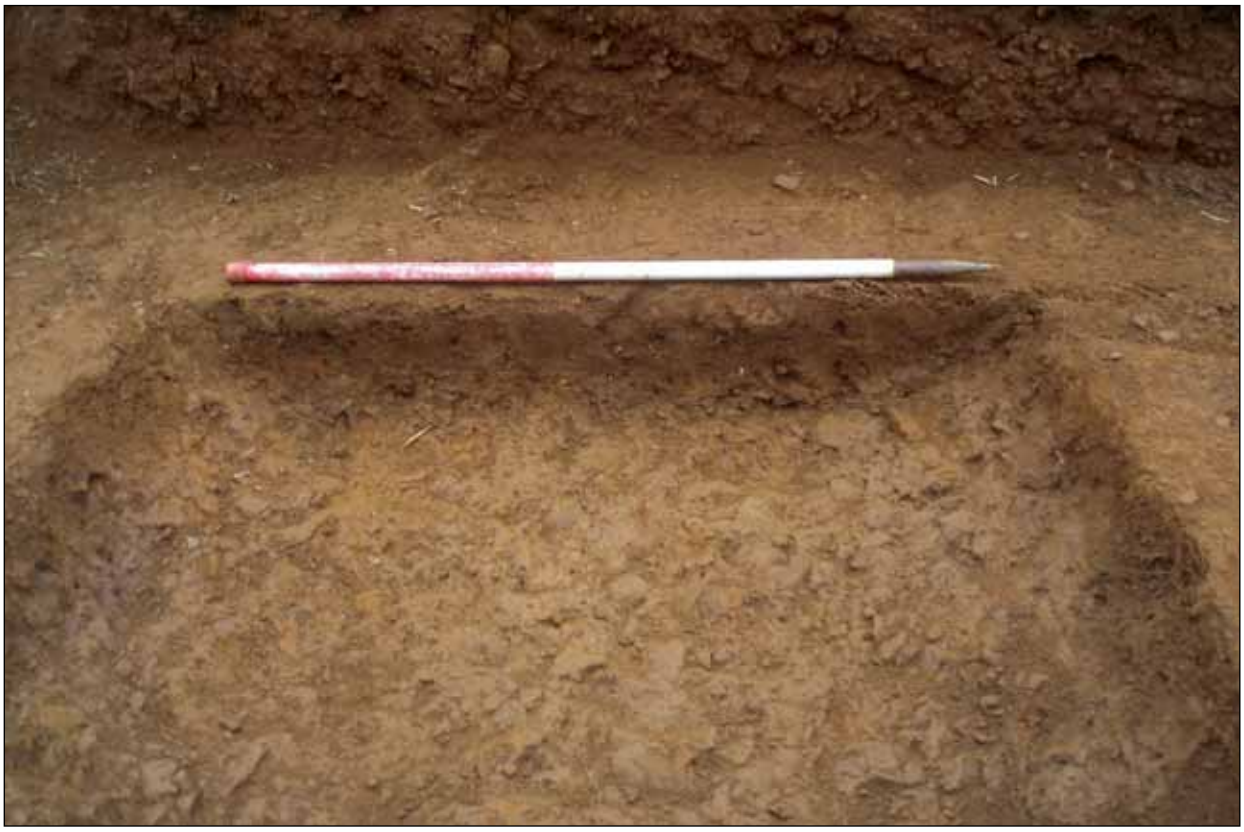


Plate 7: Ditch **53**, Trench 52, facing south

Plate 8: Ditch **97**, Trench 62, facing north-east

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