Land off Peppard Road, Emmer Green, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Land off Peppard Road, Emmer Green, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

In February 2017 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Pegasus Planning Group on behalf Gladman Developments to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land off Peppard Road, Emmer Green, Oxford. The site is a proposed new housing development, centred on NGR SU 72350 77770 and lying at *c* 90m OD.

The works involved the excavation of an initial fifteen 50m x 2m trenches. A further five trenches were subsequently excavated as a contingency allocation to investigate the extent of remains revealed in the initial trenching. The work took place over eight days from 20th February to 1st March 2017.

The results of the evaluation confirmed the presence of prehistoric activity at a low density across the area and the presence of a probable Roman farmstead focused on the central and eastern areas. The farmstead was represented by boundary ditches, pits, two ovens/kilns and a possible cremation burial. No certain evidence was discovered for buildings, although a single possible wall footing was identified.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Pegasus Planning Group on behalf Gladman Developments to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed housing development.

1.1.2 In response to the planning application for the development (planning ref P16/S3630/O). The Oxfordshire County Planning archaeologist advised that:

'The site is located in an area where very little formal archaeological investigation has been undertaken and therefore little is known regarding the archaeological potential of the site. A number of prehistoric flint tools have however been recorded in the general area along with a Roman coin recovered to the south west of the proposed site. A desk based assessment submitted with the application highlights that a geophysical survey has been undertaken on the site which recorded a number of possible anomalies of archaeological origin but this report has not been submitted with the application or provided to the Historic Environment Record. In the absence of this report and further information as to the nature of these possible archaeological features and anomalies and given the unknown archaeological potential of the site there is currently insufficient information to provide an archaeological response to this application. In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), we would therefore recommend that, prior to the determination of this application the applicant should therefore be responsible for the implementation of an archaeological field evaluation. This must be carried out by a professionally qualified archaeological organisation and should aim to define the character and extent of the archaeological remains within the application area, and thus indicate the weight which should be attached to their preservation. This information can be used for identifying potential options for minimising or avoiding damage to the archaeology and on this basis, an informed and reasonable decision can be taken'.

1.1.3 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by OA (OA 2017) detailing how the Local Authority's requirements for work would be implemented. This was approved by the planning archaeologist.

1.1.4 This document reports on the results of the investigation.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site is located on the north-east side of Peppard Road, to the north of the suburb of Emmer Green and is centered on NGR SU 72350 77770 (Fig. 1). The site currently consists of three fields divided by hedges.

1.2.2 Solid geology in the central and south-eastern regions comprises Lambeth Group Clay (Sand and Silt), with chalk (Newhaven Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation) in the western and mid-eastern parts of the site. Superficial deposits of Winter Hill Gravel (Sand and Gravel) are recorded in the western and south-western regions (predominately in the central and southern parts of Field 1).

1.2.3 The site is generally level and situated at a height of *c* 90m aOD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in a Heritage and Archaeology Statement (Pegasus 2016) and will not be fully reproduced here.

1.3.2 A geophysical survey of the site has been completed (PCG 2016).

1.3.3 The baseline information for the site and suggested potential is discussed in the Heritage Assessment (Pegasus Planning Group, 2016):

'No archaeological remains are recorded within the site or its vicinity and this suggests a low archaeological potential within the site. Part, and most likely all, of the site comprised agricultural land in the medieval period. It is possible that Bryant's Farm originated in the medieval period, however, if a medieval farm was present it was likely to have been situated at the location of the existing farm buildings, outside the site.

The low archaeological potential of the site has been corroborated by the results of the geophysical survey which recorded only a very small number of anomalies of possible archaeological origin (in the central western area of the site), for which a natural origin could not be discounted'.

1.3.4 However, the site is located in an area where very little formal archaeological investigation has been undertaken and therefore little is known regarding the archaeological potential of the site.

1.3.5 A number of prehistoric flint tools have been recorded in the general area, including several Palaeolithic handaxes which have been retrieved from Sonning Common (e.g. NMR_NATINV-244823, NMR_NATINV-917308NMR_NATINV-1050221) along with a Roman coin (NMR_NATINV-244824) recovered to the south-west of the proposed site at Kidmore. The geophysical survey undertaken on the site recorded a number of possible anomalies of archaeological origin.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 General Aims

2.1.1 The main overall aim was to ascertain the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the proposed development site.

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the investigations were:

i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
iii. To provide sufficient data to allow an understanding of the impact of the proposed development upon any remains present.

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 The works comprised a trenched evaluation. Initially, fifteen 50m x 2m trenches were excavated, which represented a 1% sample of the investigation area (Trenches 1-15). In addition, a further five trenches were excavated (Trenches 16-20). These formed part of a contingency allocation and were located to identify the extent of archaeological revealed in the initial trenches.

2.3.2 The trenches were arrayed to investigate any anomalies revealed by the geophysical survey and to otherwise form an evenly distributed investigation across the site.

2.3.3 Trenches were located to avoid a gas main and water pipe on the site as well as avoiding 'tramlines' used for agricultural machinery to access the site to avoid soft-spots being created in these routes. Trenches were adjusted on-site as necessary and practical to ensure the tramline routes were not impacted.

2.3.4 All work specifically adhered to the Oxfordshire County Evaluation brief annexes which superseded OA's standard methodology appendices where variant. The standards were outlined in the WSI.

2.3.5 A 16 tonne 360° tracked excavator was used for the trenching. It was fitted with a toothless ditching blade and all machine work was carried out under the direct supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

2.3.6 All topsoil or recent overburden was removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits.

2.3.7 The top of the first significant archaeological horizon was cleared by the machine, but was then cleaned by hand and inspected for features.

2.3.8 Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits identified were excavated by hand through a specified or agreed sampling procedure to enable their date, nature, extent and condition to be described. No archaeological deposits were entirely removed. It was not necessarily expected that all trial trenches would be fully excavated to natural subsoil, but the depth of archaeological deposits across the whole site was assessed.

2.3.9 The stratigraphy of all trial trenches was recorded even where no archaeological deposits were identified.

2.3.10 Spoil heaps were monitored to allow analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.

2.3.11 All excavation, either by machine and by hand, was undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits that appeared to be worthy of preservation *in situ*.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches, with dimensions and depths of all deposits, form the content of Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.

3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated e.g. ditch 103 is a feature within Trench 1, while pit 1903 is a feature within Trench 19.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in all trenches was generally consistent. The natural geology consisted of orangey brown silty clays, yellow and pink clays, and greyish brown gravel patches comprised of small, rounded flinty pebbles. The geology was overlain by a thin mid grey silty clay, pebble-rich subsoil, which had diffuse boundaries with the overlying topsoil and was intermittent due to the variable topography.

3.2.2 The archaeological features were all seen to truncate the natural geology and were sealed by the overlying subsoil, where present, or were otherwise directly below the topsoil.

3.2.3 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good and the trenches remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were relatively easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 The 20 trenches were excavated across three fields, Field 1 to the west (Trenches 1-7, 18-20), Field 2 to the east (Trenches 8-13, 16-17) and Field 3 to the south (Trenches 14 and 15).

3.3.2 Archaeological features were present in 14 of the 20 trenches excavated. There were features of archaeological origin in Trenches 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20. In addition there were field drains seen in Trenches 14 and 15.

3.4 Trenches in Field 1

3.4.1 Field 1 lay to the west, sloped very gradually down from south to north and was under crop. Trenches 1-7 and 18-20 were located in this field. Trenches 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 18, 19 and 20 had features of archaeological origin (Figs 2 and 3).

Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 5; Plates 1 and 2)

3.4.2 The trench contained a single E-W aligned ditch (103) which had two fills. The initial fill (104) was overlain by upper fill 101. A single flint flake was recovered which was of possible early prehistoric date. The boundaries between the fills were diffuse, suggesting a gradual accumulation. The ditch itself was of sufficient size to be a boundary ditch.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

3.4.3 Trench 3 contained a large pit (302) at the southern end which contained a single fill with no finds. In addition, there was an unexcavated area of natural variation towards the northern end.

Trench 5 (Figs 3 and 6; Plates 3-7)

3.4.4 Trench 5 contained five linear features (508, 510, 514, 522 and 523), three pits (502, 519 and 521), a posthole (506) and three uncertain features (504, 512 and 520).

3.4.5 Ditch 508 was linear, aligned NE-SW and filled by 509 (Plate 5). A single flint flake of late prehistoric date and pottery of late 1st century onwards were recovered from the ditch fill (509). The ditch was approximately parallel to ditch 510. The ditch was relatively small and may have functioned as a drainage feature. The ditch continued to the north-east, where it may correspond with either ditch 1805 or ditch 1806 in Trench 18.

3.4.6 Ditch 510 was a linear feature aligned NE-SW filled by 511 (Plate 6). The single fill had a small amount of middle Iron Age pottery. The ditch appeared to make a right angled turn and continued as 518, which was seen in plan to be cut by the dark-hued charcoal-rich pit (519).

3.4.7 Ditch 514 was a linear ditch aligned NW-SE (Plate 7). The single fill (515) contained Roman pottery dated to the late 1st-2nd century. To the south were two other ditches (522 and 523) on the same alignment.

3.4.8 Linear feature 523 was aligned NW-SE and the visible surface fill (524) contained a fragment of pottery dated to AD 240 or after.

3.4.9 Linear feature 522 was parallel to feature 523 at a distance of 0.85m. The two may be contemporary and related or may be sequential.

3.4.10 A small pit (502) at the northern end of the trench contained a single undated fill (503).

3.4.11 Possible posthole 506 had a single fill (507) and was truncated by feature 504 , which may have been part of a pit or a ditch terminus and was undated (Fig. 6; Plate 4). It was adjacent to the similar unexcavated feature 517, which may also have been a pit or ditch terminus. Both features continued east beyond the limits of the trench.

3.4.12 Pit 521 and uncertain feature 520 were recorded in plan only.

Trench 6 (Figs 3 and 7: Plates 8-11)

3.4.13 Trench 6 contained two linear ditches (612, 615), four discrete features (606, 608, 610, 614) and a possible spread/deposit (603).

3.4.14 Pit 606 had a single fill (607) (Plate 9). The feature was only partly seen within the trench and the fill material was highly distinct from fills of other features, containing several fragments of undated fired clay. It was a notably clean pale grey clay with a thin band of charcoal inclusions in the upper portion. The charcoal was in good condition and of a reasonable size, but no other charred material was present. The material was deliberately dumped and may have included fuel waste.

3.4.15 Pit 608 had a single fill (609) which, although shallow, contained 1st-2nd century pottery and eight fragments of Roman CBM and the only fragment of animal bone recovered from the site (Fig. 7; Plate 10).

3.4.16 Ditch 612 was aligned NE-SW and contained a single fill (613) which yielded no artefactual material.

3.4.17 Pit 614 was only seen in section, as only a small part was within the trench.

3.4.18 A large posthole (610) had a single fill (611) which included flint cobbles used as packing material (Plate 11).

3.4.19 Feature 615 was a curvilinear feature. It was unexcavated but the visible fill (604) contained several sherds of Roman pottery of 1st–2nd century date. At each end a medium flint cobble was seen, and these may possibly have acted as post-packing or support.

3.4.20 A mixed layer (603) containing fired clay, a nail and CBM along with a fragment of 1st-2nd century pottery was visible in the southern part of the trench.

Trench 7 (Fig. 3; Plates 12-14)

3.4.21 Trench 7 contained a posthole (703), an uncertain feature (704) and a large depression/hollow (705).

3.4.22 The posthole (703) was shallow but well defined and its single fill (706) was charcoal rich. The charcoal was in good condition and of a reasonable size, but no other charred material was present. The material was deposited as backfill rather than the result of *in situ* burning.

3.4.23 The uncertain feature 704 was either part of a larger pit or possibly a ditch terminus. The feature continued to the south. There were two fills. Fill 708 resulted from the initial infilling and was overlain by fill 707, a more gradual accumulation. There was little evidence of deliberate backfilling.

3.4.24 At the eastern end of the trench was a large, 10m wide spread of material (709), which contained a single sherd of probable later prehistoric pottery and a fragment of fired clay. Feature 705 was investigated at its eastern end and the feature appeared to be a depression or possible undulation in the natural topography, which had infilled with naturally accumulated silts. These began with 711, overlain by 710 which in turn was sealed by 709 (Plates 13 and 14). All the deposits had diffuse boundaries consistent with gradual changes of the depositional environment.

Trench 18 (Fig. 3; Plates 29 and 30)

3.4.25 Trench 18 contained four linear features (1803, 1805, 1806 and 1808) a linear variation in the natural (1809), a probable tree throw (1807) and a field drain. All the linear features were on the same NE-SW alignment and one was excavated.

3.4.26 Linear feature 1803 was a ditch that probably functioned as a boundary and drainage feature (Plate 30). The ditch had a single fill (1804) that yielded no artefactual material.

3.4.27 Either ditch 1805 or 1806 was a continuation of the excavated ditch 508 in Trench 5 to the south-west.

3.4.28 A single fragment of 1st-2nd century pottery was recovered from the surface of linear feature 1808.

3.4.29 A single sherd of pottery from the surface of 1807 was collected and dated to the mid-late 1st century.

Trench 19 (Figs 3 and 10; Plates 31 and 32)

3.4.30 There were two pits within the trench (1903 and 1905). Pit 1903 was excavated and contained two fills. Fill 1907, the initial weathering and silting, was overlain by the main bulk fill 1904 (Plate 32). This upper fill contained a very small fragment of pottery dated to the later prehistoric period and an environmental sample from the deposit produced three flint flakes of late prehistoric date.

Trench 20 (Fig. 3; Plate 33)

3.4.31 Trench 20 contained a linear ditch (2004) and a natural linear band (2002).

3.4.32 The ditch 2004 was aligned east-west and was a boundary ditch (Plate 33). The single fill contained a fragment of undated CBM.

3.5 Trenches in Field 2

3.5.1 Field 2 lay to the east, gradually undulated down a gentle slope from south to north, and was under crop. Trenches 8-13 and 16-17 were located in this field. Trenches 9, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17 contained archaeological features.

Trench 9 (Figs 4 and 8; Plates 15-19)

3.5.2 Trench 9 contained a linear ditch (906), an uncertain linear feature (921) a large pit (910), three small pits (915, 920 and 913), an oven/kiln (919) and a linear feature containing chalk blocks, which have been a wall base (908).

3.5.3 Ditch 906 was a linear boundary ditch aligned NW-SE (Fig. 8; Plate 16). It was initially filled with deposit 907, which was gradually overlain by fill 902. The upper fill (902) contained a small assemblage of Roman pottery dated to the later 3rd-4th century.

3.5.4 At the northern end of the trench, Pit 913 contained a number of sequential fills. Fill 917 was the earliest and was rich in charcoal. It contained two burnt flint flakes of possible late prehistoric date (recovered from sample sieving). Charcoal from the deposit was small but in good condition and there was a single wheat grain (Triticum sp.) along with three small fragments of unidentifiable cereal grain present. The grains were heavily burnt and in poor condition and may result from secondary deposition. They appear to have been burnt at a high temperature and had a considerable amount of abrasion on the exteriors, unlike the surrounding charcoal. The burning of wood fuel was probably done *in situ* as the surrounding natural was discoloured a dark red. Above this was fill 914, which was a concentration of burnt rounded, or angular where cracked, flint cobbles. These stones were heated by the underlying fire. Above this was a silty clay fill (912) that was not affected by heat and may have been part of deliberate backfilling after the fire pit had gone out of use. The uppermost fill (911) was a distinct

dark grey deposit that infilled the remaining depression of the feature. This last fill was truncated by pit 910.

3.5.5 Pit 910 was a large feature, over 4.25m wide, which continued to the west beyond the trench edge. It was part excavated to establish the relationship with pit 913 (Plates 18 and 19). There was a single observed fill (909) which had noticeable inclusions of chalk fragments, distinct from many of the other fills. It contained a single fragment of Roman CBM.

3.5.6 Pits 915 and 920 were clear in plan and remained unexcavated.

3.5.7 Oven/kiln 919, at the south end of the trench, was circular in plan, but had a flared extension to the west. The feature had a baked clay lining visible as a narrow red band forming the outline and overlying this was a grey fill, 903 (Plate 15). This was the remains of a small oven or kiln, with the bowl of the furnace and part of the flue visible. The feature was recorded in plan only.

3.5.8 To the immediate east of the oven/kiln was an uncertain linear feature (921). It was over 4.3m in length and appeared to terminate just north of pit 920. The mid grey clayey silt fill (905) contained medium chalk blocks at edges and rounded flint cobbles within the central part. The feature may have been a ditch with a deliberate backfill or it may represent a shallow wall foundation. Roman pottery recovered from within the upper fill was dated to the late 1st-2nd century.

3.5.9 At the very northern end of the trench was a dense cluster of medium unburnt flint cobbles in a linear concentration, aligned WSW-ENE (908; Plate 17). These were distinct and consistent with the remains of a small unbonded wall or wall foundation.

Trench 10 (Figs 4 and 9; Plates 20-22)

3.5.10 Trench 10 contained five pits (1002, 1007, 1010, 1013, 1018), two linear ditches (1004 and 1016), a posthole (1021) and a field drain.

3.5.11 Ditch 1016 was truncated by pit 1013 (Plate 23). This pit contained two fills. The lower fill (1015) was charcoal rich, contained two flint flakes and unworked burnt flint fragments. The charred plant remains from the sample taken included charcoal in good condition, two fragments of unidentifiable cereal grain, a single pea (*Pisum sativum*) in very good condition and a fragment of legume which is probably vetch (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), a common crop contaminant. The upper fill (1014) contained pottery of late 1st-2nd century Roman date and two flint flakes.

3.5.12 The four other circular pits were all similar, with each having rich charcoal/charred plant remains. The charcoal from these was slightly encrusted but overall in good condition, although the majority was small in size. The pits were all similar size in plan but varied in depth.

3.5.13 Pit 1002 was very shallow and contained a single fill (1003). The charcoal present within the sample was small and there was no other charred material.

3.5.14 Pit 1007 (Plate 21) contained burnt unworked flints and the samples taken included a very small amount of burnt/calcined bone. Given the overall low weight of the deposit and lack of identifiable bones, identification of the bone as either human or animal

was problematic. However, the overall texture of the bone was in keeping with that of human bone (animal bone often appears denser), hence it has been considered as such. The lower fill (1009) sample also contained charcoal of which a couple of pieces were sufficiently large and well preserved to allow for potential wood species identification. The upper fill (1008) yielded a single small fragment of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*).

3.5.15 Pit 1010 was only partly seen in the south-western section (Plate 22). It was filled by 1011 and 1012 and yielded no artefactual material.

3.5.16 A possible posthole (1021) had a single fill (1021). Although the feature was oval, with -vertical sides tapering to a narrow concave base, it may have been a small natural feature. It was cut by pit 1018.

3.5.17 Pit 1018 was filled by 1019 and 1020 and the edges of this pit were reddened, indicating that burning was probably carried out *in situ*. This was the only pit demonstrating this and the other pits are likely to result from the dumped deposition of fuels waste and other debris.

3.5.18 Ditches 1004 and 1016 were on similar NE-SW alignments but were of very different character. Ditch 1004 (Plate 20) was deeper and contained two fills, the initial fill (1006) being overlain by fill 1005, which contained a flint blade, a fragment of waste and a flake of late prehistoric date. This ditch was slightly sinuous, continued north-east and may be a continuation of ditch 1604 that was seen in Trench 16, 15.6m away.

Trench 12 (Fig. 5; Plate 24)

3.5.19 Trench 12 contained a linear ditch (1202) and three field drains.

3.5.20 Ditch 1202 was aligned NE-SW and filled by 1203 and 1204. The upper fill (1203) had a notably distinct fill of pale greyish brown silty clay with 10% small chalk fragments. The only other similar fill was seen in pit 910. Neither fill contained any artefactual material.

Trench 13 (Fig. 5; Plate 25)

3.5.21 Trench 13 contained a circular pit (1303) which had a single dark black charcoal rich silt fill (1302). The charcoal was in good condition and of a reasonable size, but no other charred material was present. The fill was the result of *in situ* burning activity as the area around the pit was a dark red discoloured natural (1304).

3.5.22 A raft of concrete was seen within the topsoil at the southern end of the trench. This corresponded to the anomaly seen in the geophysical survey.

Trench 16 (Fig. 4; Plate 26 and 27)

3.5.23 Trench 16 contained a linear ditch (1604), a pit (1607) and an uncertain deposit (1608).

3.5.24 Ditch 1604 was a linear boundary aligned NE-SW. It was filled by contexts 1602, 1603 and 1605 (Plate 26). It may have been a continuation of ditch 1004, seen in Trench 10 to the west, in which case the ditch curves sharply. The uppermost fill (1602) contained a fragment of late 1st-2nd century Roman pottery.

3.5.25 Pit 1607 was seen in plan (Plate 27) and was reasonably well defined with a fill 1606 from which a small flint flake of possible early prehistoric date was retrieved. The feature was recorded in plan only.

3.5.26 Deposit 1608 consisted of patches of mid grey clayey silt with charcoal inclusions which were irregular and poorly defined. There were no visible finds and the feature may result from rooting or later disturbance of an earlier archaeological feature.

Trench 17 (Fig. 4; Plate 28)

3.5.27 Trench 17 contained two pits (1704 and 1706), a possible linear feature (1708) and a hollow/depression (1703).

3.5.28 The earliest feature was pit 1706, which was filled by 1707 (Plate 28). The fill contained a fragment of pottery dated to the mid-late 1st century and was truncated by pit 1704 to the south.

3.5.29 Pit 1704 was partly excavated and the visible fill (1705) contained a fragment of probable later prehistoric pottery.

3.5.30 At the southern end of the trench was a large discrete feature over 8m in length with sloping sides. Investigation demonstrated it was a hollow or undulation in the underlying topography, infilled with a subsoil deposit (1702). This contained fragments from one or more probable Roman-era rotary lava querns.

3.6 Trenches in Field 3

3.6.1 Field 3 lay to the south of the investigation area. It was flat and under grass. Trenches 14 and 15 were located in this field. Neither trench contained archaeological features.

3.7 Finds summary

Pottery

3.7.1 The evaluation produced 73 sherds (1025g) of pottery, mostly of late Iron Age-early Roman date, from hand-excavated contexts

3.7.2 Six handmade sherds were of broad later prehistoric character, either certainly or probably of middle or middle-late Iron Age date. A single sand-tempered sherd is clearly of middle Iron Age character. While it is possible that the flint-tempered fabrics are earlier (of middle to late Bronze Age date, for example), they are more likely to belong to later Iron Age traditions that are well-established in the area.

3.7.3 The late Iron Age to Roman pottery was almost entirely from local or regional sources, the only certainly-identified sources being the Oxford and south-east Dorset black-burnished ware industries, each contributing a single sherd. No production centres are known in the near vicinity of the site, so potential local sources remain unidentified. Sherds in the commonest coarse ware fabric group, sandy reduced fabric, are distinctly different in character from equivalent coarse sandy products of the Oxford industry, and a more local source seems certain. While flint-tempered material is fairly well-represented, none of this is certainly Silchester ware (as Timby 1989).

3.7.4 Ten vessels were represented by rim sherds. Six were jars of varying form and size, and a further vessel was an uncertain jar or bowl.

Ceramic Building Material

3.7.5 A total of 16 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), weighing 1391g, were recovered from seven contexts during the evaluation.

3.7.6 The majority of the CBM was of Roman date. It occurred in two main fabric types, one tempered principally with grog and the other tempered with sand.

3.7.7 All the fragments identifiable to form were from tegulae or probable tegulae. The relatively fresh condition of some of the Roman CBM suggests that it derives from a relatively nearby source, though not necessarily from a structure within the site.

Metal

3.7.8 Only three partial objects were found from two contexts. They were all iron and undated.

Flint

3.7.9 A small assemblage of 18 pieces of struck flint and approximately 1220 pieces of burnt unworked flint weighing 1224g was recovered from this evaluation. The assemblage was very strongly flake-based with 16 examples alongside one very irregular blade and a single piece of irregular waste. No tools or cores were recovered but two flakes may have been utilised. Only a small number of pieces look typically early prehistoric in form while many of the flakes were very typical of mid-late Bronze Age knapping. Many of the flints were found in pits (10) and ditches (4) and only four were topsoil/subsoil finds.

3.7.10 This small assemblage suggested limited flint-related activity in the evaluation area. The flints were generally quite fresh and may well be contemporary with the features they were recovered from. Alternatively, they could be residual finds that had not moved far from their original burial context. The assemblage is consistent with limited domestic activity, most likely dating to the mid-late Bronze Age.

Stone

3.7.11 A total of 15 small fragments of lava, presumably from one or more rotary querns, was found from one context (1702). Lava querns typically date from the 1st century AD onwards and correspond to the Roman date of the features.

Cremated bone

3.7.12 The total weight of the deposit (1008 and 1009 combined) was just 7.1g. The level of fragmentation was high, with all of the bone having been recovered from the 10-4mm and 4-2mm fractions. The maximum fragment size was just 14mm and this was a fragment of unidentified long bone. The overall texture of the bone was in keeping with that of human bone (animal bone often appears denser), hence it has been considered as such.

Animal bone

3.7.13 A single sheep/goat left limb metatarsal was recovered from context 609.

Environmental remains

3.7.14 Ten samples were taken from ten contexts, related to nine features. The samples produced few finds but included burnt flint, fired clay and burnt bone. Sample <8>, which is believed to be the result of *in situ* burning, produced a large amount of burnt flint which comprised the majority of the sample.

3.7.15 A small amount of fired clay was extracted from sample <7>. Samples <3> and <4> produced a small quantity of calcined bone (see section above).

3.7.16 The samples contained little variety in terms of material types, appearing to be the result of wood burning rather than cooking or industrial processing. However, the condition of the charcoal within the majority of the samples would seem to indicate that charcoal survives very well on this site. The poor condition of other charred material would appear to be a result of this being residual or accidental inclusions.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The trenches were excavated in good dry conditions throughout the evaluation. However, the low winter sunlight meant that some of the deposits and features were difficult to identify.

4.1.2 There was correspondence of archaeological features to geophysical anomalies. However, it should be noted that some of the archaeological features correspond with anomalies not identified as archaeological in the geophysical report. It is worth viewing the geophysical survey data with this in mind, although it is likely that some archaeological features are being obscured by the geological variations in the survey plots.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The evaluation confirmed the presence of archaeological remains (Figs. 2 and 11) on the proposed development site. This provides the first clear evidence of the archaeological potential through formal archaeological investigation.

4.2.2 Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits identified were excavated by hand through a specified or agreed sampling procedure to enable their date, nature, extent and condition to be described. No archaeological deposits were entirely removed.

4.2.3 Archaeological remains were found at a variable but generally low density across Fields 1 and 2 and none were found in the southern Field 3.

4.2.4 Trenches 1, 7, 10, 16 and 19 uncovered archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric period, although some may reflect residual finds. Features dating to the Roman period were found in Trenches 5, 6, 9, 10, 17 and 18. Phasing was determined through artefactual means, primarily dating features by associated pottery or an exclusivity of flints (indicating they were *in situ* and less likely to be residual).

4.2.5 The remains consisted of negative cut features such as ditches and pits. These varied in depth due to their original form and as a result of differential survival. There were features with potential structural components such as the ovens/kilns and possible wall. Most of the deposits had relatively diffuse boundaries as a result of post-depositional processes.

4.2.6 The degree of the complexity of the surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy was moderate. Intercutting features of different functions and origins were present, but the results were consistent with a site of rural rather than urban character.

4.2.7 Due to the small size of the assemblage, it is difficult to determine the implications of the remains in terms of the economy, status, utility and social activity at the site. It would be more productive to consider the issues with further fuller excavation work. Such elements could build towards understanding the variations in the socio-economic basis of settlement across the region (Lambrick 2014, 151 and Fulford 2014, 179-180).

4.2.8 The evaluation has shown that a range of material types survive on the site, including prehistoric pottery, Roman pottery, CBM and flintwork but very little in terms of metal and animal bone.

4.3 Interpretation

Prehistoric

4.3.1 The ditch in Trench 1 contained a single flint, but the flint may be residual.

4.3.2 The large hollow (705) which had naturally accumulated sediments may have been gradually infilling in the later prehistoric period to judge by the abraded fragment of pottery in the deposit 709.

4.3.3 Ditch 1604/1004 may be a continuous feature of this date, although the uppermost fill of 1604 was infilling in the early Roman period.

4.3.4 The excavated pit in Trench 19 contained only flints and later prehistoric pottery and the adjacent unexcavated pit (1905) is contemporary.

4.3.5 It is difficult to be certain what proportion of the remains may have originated in the prehistoric period. There is little indication of settlement within the site during this period, although the flint assemblage is consistent with limited domestic activity most likely dating to the mid-late Bronze Age.

Roman

4.3.6 There appears to be a focus of activity in the area around Trenches 5, 6, 9 and 18, with activity extending as far as Trenches 17 and 10, most likely comprising a small farmstead. There are certainly field boundaries and structural features. The presence of two ovens/kilns in Trench 9 suggests a level of productivity, but this seems to domestic rather than industrial. A pit in Trench 10 was found to contain probable human cremated bone and this may hint at burials on the site.

4.3.7 One of the ditches in Trench 10 was truncated by a charcoal-rich pit that contained Roman pottery. There were three similar pits and a fourth which had a small amount of calcined bone of probable human origin. It was difficult to be certain but the pits may have been contemporary and therefore of Roman date. It is difficult to interpret them as a group but they all had similar characteristics but variable preservation. They may represent a cluster of contemporary rubbish pits or they may result from different activities over a span of time. The one pit (1013) which had any pottery dated to the late 1st to 2nd century.

4.3.8 The majority of the pottery can be assigned to the 1st-2nd centuries AD. The fabrics of the E ware group (see Appendix B) are specifically of 1st-century date, comprising elements of the 'Belgic' tradition (as eg Thompson 1982, 4) and related fabrics, not all of which are wheel-thrown and not all of which are grog-tempered, flint-tempering being well-represented. The flint-tempered sherds do not appear to include Silchester ware, and may have derived from more local sources.

4.3.9 Characterisation of activity after the 2nd century is problematic, but two vessels are typologically of later 3rd-4th century date: the straight-sided (probable) bowl in fabric

R20 and the sole Oxford colour-coated ware sherd from the site (a bowl of Young (1977) type C51), so some later Roman activity is indicated.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained a single E-W aligned ditch 103 which had two fills. Consisted of topsoil overlying the feature which truncated the natural geology.					**Length (m)**	49.2
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
100	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil: mid brownish grey silty clay, pebbles, roots		
101	Fill	2.2	0.52	Ditch fill: upper fill of 103, pale-mid brown silty clay, pebbles	Flint flake	Early Prehistoric
102	Layer	-	-	Natural: mid brownish orange clays and gravels	-	-
103	Cut	2.2	0.72	Ditch: linear, E-W aligned, filled by 101 and 104		
104	Fill	1.6	0.22	Ditch fill: lower fill of 103, dark reddish brown sandy silt, pebbles		

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench was devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology.					**Length (m)**	48.3
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
200	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil: mid brownish grey silty clay, pebbles, roots	Flint flake	Early Prehistoric
201	Layer	-	-	Natural: pale orangey brown clay, greyer flinty gravel	-	-
202	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil: mid brown, only in part of trench		

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained a large pit 302 at the southern end and an unexcavated area of varied natural towards the northern area. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the features which cut the natural geology.					**Length (m)**	47
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**

300	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil: mid brownish grey silty clay, pebbles, roots		
301	Layer	-	-	Natural: yellow to orangey brown silty clay, flinty gravel patches		
302	Cut	1.2	0.32	Pit: filled by 303, gentle U-shaped profile		
303	Fill	1.2	0.32	Pit fill: fill of 302, dark reddish brown sandy silt, 80% flint pebbles		

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench was devoid of archaeological remains. A linear band of natural was visible within the trench. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology.					**Length (m)**	50.2
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.33-0.55
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
400	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil: mid brownish grey silty clay, pebbles, roots	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
402	Layer	-	-	Natural: mid reddish orange sand, mid-pale grey flint pebbles/gravel	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench contained five linear features 508, 510, 514, 522 and 523, three pits 502, 519 and 521, a posthole 506 and three uncertain features 504, 512 and 520. Consisted of topsoil overlying the features, which cut the natural geology.					**Length (m)**	50.6
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.18-0.54
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
500	Layer	-		Topsoil: mid brownish grey silty clay, pebbles, roots	Flint flake	Early Prehistoric
501	Layer	-		Natural: yellow to orangey silty clay, flinty gravel patches		
502	Cut	0.36	0.07	Pit: filled by 503, gentle U-shaped profile		
503	Fill	0.36	0.07	Pit fill: pale brownish grey silty clay, occasional pebbles		
504	Cut	0.5	0.2-0.36	Uncertain feature: possible ditch terminus or pit, filled by 505, relationship to 517 unknown		

505	Fill	0.5	0.2-0.36	Uncertain feature: fill of 504, mid greyish brown silty clay		
506	Cut	0.28	0.1	Posthole: possible posthole, filled by 507		
507	Fill	0.28	0.1	Posthole fill, fill of 506, pale yellowish brown silty clay, occasional pebbles		
508	Cut	1.28	0.4	Ditch: filled by 509, linear feature aligned NE-SW, moderately steep sides and flat base		
509	Fill	1.28	0.4	Ditch fill: fill of 508, mid brown silty clay, occasional pebbles	Pottery Flint flake	Later 1st century onwards Late Prehistoric
510	Cut	1.06	0.46	Ditch: filled by 511, linear feature aligned NE-SW, moderately steep sides and concave base, probably continues as 518		
511	Fill	1.06	0.46	Ditch fill: fill of 510, mid greyish brown silty clay, occasional pebbles	Pottery	Middle Iron Age
512	Cut	0.6	0.34	Uncertain feature: filled by 513, possibly part of ditch 512 or a shallow separate feature		
513	Fill	0.6	0.34	Uncertain feature: fill of 512, pale brownish yellow silty clay		
514	Cut	2.06	0.54	Ditch: filled by 515, linear feature aligned NW-SE, gentle U-shaped profile, concave base		
515	Fill	2.06	0.54	Ditch fill: fill of 514, mid greyish brown silty clay, frequent pebbles	Pottery	Late 1st-2nd century
516	Deposit	1.1	0.28	Tree throw: pale yellowish grey silty clay, immediately south of 514		
517	Fill	0.8	-	Uncertain feature: possible ditch terminus or pit, immediately south of		

				504, mid greyish brown silty clay, unexc		
518	Fill	1.75	-	Ditch fill: linear/ right angled turn, mid greyish brown silty clay, frequent pebbles, possibly a continuation of 510, unexc		
519	Fill	2.35	-	Pit fill: dark grey, charcoal rich, occasional pebbles, likely to truncate 518, unexc		
520	Fill	1.85	-	Uncertain feature: possible ditch terminus or pit, pale greyish brown silty clay, frequent pebbles, unexc		
521	Fill	1.35	-	Pit: circular, mid brownish grey silty clay, unexc		
522	Fill	0.6	-	Ditch: linear NW-SE aligned, pale yellowish brown silty clay, frequent pebbles, unexc		
523	Cut	0.8	-	Ditch: linear NW-SE aligned, filled by 524, unexc		
524	Fill	0.8	-	Ditch fill: fill of 523, pale yellowish brown silty clay, frequent pebbles	Pottery	AD 240 or after

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench contained two linear ditches, four discrete features and a possible spread/deposit. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the features which truncated the natural geology.					**Length (m)**	50.8
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
600	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil: mid brownish grey silty clay, pebbles, roots	CBM	Roman
601	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil: mid grey clayey silt, 40% pebbles		
602	Layer	-	-	Natural: mid orange clayey silt with large areas of greyer pebbles/gravel		
603	Deposit	1.6	>0.05	Spread: mixed mid grey and dark grey clayey silt, occasional pebbles	Pottery CBM Iron Flint (burnt only)	1st – 2nd century Roman undated

604	Fill	0.3	>0.05	Curvilinear feature: fill of 615, pale grey clayey silt, two medium flint cobbles, one at either end	Pottery	1st – 2nd century
605	Fill	0.9	0.12	Pit fill: fill of 614, dark brownish grey sandy silt, frequent pebbles	Pottery	
606	Cut	0.4	0.16	Pit: filled by 607, sub-square, moderately steep straight sides and flat base		
607	Fill	0.4	0.16	Pit fill: fill of 606, pale grey clay, frequent charcoal, occasional burnt pebble	Fired clay	undated
608	Cut	1	0.14	Pit: filled by 609, oval, shallow gradually sloped sides and flat base		
609	Fill	1	0.14	Pit fill: fill of 608, dark brownish grey sandy silt, frequent pebbles, rare charcoal flecks	Pottery CBM	1st – 2nd century Roman
610	Cut	0.6	0.34	Posthole: possibly a pit, filled by 611		
611	Fill	0.6	0.34	Posthole fill: fill of 610, mid greyish brown clayey silt, medium flint cobbles at sides and base acting as packing for post		
612	Cut	0.5	0.3	Ditch: filled by 613, linear aligned NE-SW		
613	Fill	0.5	0.3	Ditch fill: fill of 612, mid brownish grey clayey silt, frequent pebbles		
614	Cut	0.9	0.12	Pit: filled by 605		
615	Cut	0.3	>0.05	Curvilinear feature: filled by 604		

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a posthole 703, an uncertain feature 704 and a large depression / hollow 705. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying features which truncated the natural geology.					**Length (m)**	49.6
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35-0.95
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
700	Layer	-		Topsoil: mid brownish grey silty clay, pebbles, roots		
701	Layer	-		Subsoil: mid grey clayey silt, 40% pebbles	CBM	Post-medieval

702	Layer	-		Natural: variable, yellow clay, brownish grey gravels, orange clayey silt		
703	Cut	0.32	0.14	Posthole: filled by 706, circular, moderately steep sides and a gently concave base		
704	Cut	>0.5	0.15	Uncertain feature: possible ditch terminus or pit, filled by 707 and 708, elongated oval, shallow		
705	Interface	10	0.75	Hollow: filled by 709, 710 and 711, large feature, gradual breaks of slope, part excavated at eastern end		
706	Fill	0.32	0.14	Posthole fill: dark blackish grey clayey silt, charcoal rich		
707	Fill	>0.5	0.13	Uncertain feature fill: upper fill of 704, pale greyish brown silty clay		
708	Fill	>0.5	0.15	Uncertain feature fill: lower fill of 704, mid grey silty clay		
709	Fill	>2	0.3	Hollow fill: mid brown silty clay, 15% pebbles	Fired clay	undated
710	Fill	>2	0.3	Hollow fill: mid orangey brown silty clay, 5% pebbles		
711	Fill	>2	0.32	Hollow fill: pale grey silt, 1% pebbles		

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeological remains. A linear band of natural was visible within the trench. Consisted of topsoil overlying natural geology.					**Length (m)**	50.8
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.33-0.58
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
800	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil: mid brownish grey silty clay, pebbles, roots		
801	Layer	-	-	Natural: variable, mid orangey red clayey silt, mid grey gravelly/pebbles, pale yellowish brown silt		

Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench contained a linear ditch 906, an uncertain linear feature 921, a large pit 910, three small pits 913, 915 and 920, an oven/kiln 919 and a linear probable wall 908. Consisted of topsoil overlying features which truncated natural geology.					**Length (m)**	49.8
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
900	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil: mid brownish grey silty clay, pebbles, roots	CBM Flint flake	Post-medieval Late Prehistoric
901	Layer	-	-	Natural: mid brownish grey silty gravel, occasional clay patches		
902	Fill	1.3	0.36	Ditch fill: upper fill of 906, mid brownish grey clayey silt, 30% pebbles	Pottery Iron	Later 3rd – 4th undated
903	Deposit	0.68	-	Oven / Kiln: fill of 919, mid grey clayey silt,		
904	Fill	0.67	-	Pit fill: fill of 920, dark grey clayey silt		
905	Fill	0.94	-	Uncertain feature fill: fill of 921, mid grey clayey silt, medium chalk blocks at edges, rounded flint cobbles 20%	Pottery	1st – 2nd century
906	Cut	1.3	0.49	Ditch: filled by 902 and 907, linear aligned NW-SE, straight sides at moderate angle, flat base		
907	Fill	0.83	0.24	Ditch fill: lower fill of 906, mid grey clayey silt, 10% pebbles		
908	Structure	0.6	-	Wall: densely clustered medium flint cobbles in a linear concentration, aligned WSW-ENE		
909	Fill	0.84	0.4	Pit fill: fill of 910, mid greyish brown clayey silt, 5% chalk flecks, 5 small pebbles	CBM	Roman
910	Cut	0.84	0.4	Pit: filled by 909, large rounded feature, diameter approx. 4.25m		
911	Fill	0.75	0.06	Pit fill: fill of 913, dark grey silty clay, 10% pebbles		

912	Fill	0.75	0.1	Pit fill: fill of 913, mid brownish orange silty clay, 5% pebbles		
913	Cut	>0.75	0.32	Pit: filled by 911, 912, 914 and 917, circular, steep sides, concave base,		
914	Fill	0.75	0.11	Pit fill: fill of 913, dark grey, 85% rounded and cracked pale grey flint cobbles		
915	Cut	0.55	-	Pit: filled by 916, circular, unexc		
916	Fill	0.55	-	Pit fill: fill of 915, mid grey clayey silt, frequent pebbles		
917	Fill	0.7	0.08	Pit fill: fill of 913, black humic silt, frequent fragments of burnt flint cobbles	Flint (burnt only)	
918	Deposit	0.12	-	Oven/Kiln: fill of 919, mid orangey red silty clay, lining?		
919	Cut	0.68	-	Oven/Kiln: filled by 903 and 918, presumed cut for the construction, unexc		
920	Cut	0.67	-	Pit: filled by 904, unexc		
921	Cut	0.94	-	Uncertain feature: filled by 905, linear aligned NNW-SSE, possible wall construction or ditch, unexc		

Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained five pits, two linear ditches, a posthole and a field drain. Consisted of topsoil overlying features which truncated the natural geology.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1000	Layer	-	0.39	Topsoil: mid brownish grey silty clay, pebbles, roots		
1001	Layer	-	-	Natural: variable, mid reddish orange silty clay, grey gravel pebble patches		
1002	Cut	0.35	0.06	Pit: filled by 1003, shallow, gentle U-shaped profile		

1003	Fill	0.35	0.06	Pit fill: fill of 1002, mottled dark grey and orangey grey silty clay, charcoal		
1004	Cut	1.4	0.46	Ditch: filled by 1005 and 1006, linear aligned N-S, moderate U-shaped profile		
1005	Fill	1.4	0.26	Ditch fill: upper fill of 1004, mid greyish brown silty clay, occasional pebbles	Flint blade and flake	Later Prehistoric
1006	Fill	1.2	0.2	Ditch fill: lower fill of 1004, mid yellowish grey-brown silty clay, frequent pebbles		
1007	Cut	0.6	0.32	Pit: filled by 1008 and 1009, circular, steep near vertical sides, flat base		
1008	Fill	0.6	0.1	Pit fill: upper fill of 1007, mixed mid and dark grey silty clay, frequent pebbles, charcoal	Flint (burnt only)	
1009	Fill	0.58	0.22	Pit fill: lower fill of 1007, dark greyish black silty clay, occasional pebbles, charcoal, burnt stones	Flint (burnt only)	
1010	Cut	0.44	0.34	Pit: filled by 1011 and 1012, circular?, seen in section only, step near vertical sides, flat base		
1011	Fill	0.44	0.1	Pit fill: upper fill of 1010, mixed mid and dark grey silty clay, frequent pebbles, charcoal		
1012	Fill	0.42	0.24	Pit fill: lower fill of 1010, dark grey silty clay, occasional pebbles, charcoal		
1013	Cut	0.8	0.2	Pit: filled by 1014 and 1015, circular, gentle U-shaped profile		
1014	Fill	0.8	0.08	Pit fill: upper fill of 1013, mixed mid and dark grey silty clay, frequent pebbles, charcoal, burnt stones	Pottery Flint flakes	1st – 2nd century
1015	Fill	0.76	0.12	Pit fill: lower fill of 1013, dark grey silty clay, occasional pebbles, charcoal	Flint flakes	
1016	Cut	0.75	0.28	Ditch: filled by 1017, linear aligned N-S, moderate U-shaped profile		

1017	Fill	0.75	0.28	Ditch fill: fill of 1016, mid greyish brown silty clay, frequent pebbles		
1018	Cut	0.65	0.14	Pit: filled by 1019 and 1020, shallow U-shaped profile		
1019	Fill	0.65	0.1	Pit fill: upper fill of 1018, mid grey silty clay, frequent pebbles, charcoal		
1020	Fill	0.64	0.04	Pit fill: lower fill of 1018, pale pinkish red silt, frequent pebbles		
1021	Cut	0.2	0.26	Posthole: filled by 1022, oval, near vertical sides, tapering to a narrow concave base		
1022	Fill	0.2	0.26	Posthole fill: fill of 1021, mid greyish brown silty clay, frequent pebbles		

Trench 11						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeological remains. A linear patch of subsoil was visible within the trench. Consisted of topsoil overlying natural geology..					**Length (m)**	43
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1100	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil: mid brownish grey silty clay, pebbles, roots		
1101	Layer	-	-	Natural: mid orangey brown silty clay, pinkish clay, gravel/pebble patches		
1102	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil: mid grey silty clay, 10% pebbles, uneven and intermittent		

Trench 12						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained a linear ditch and three field drains. Consisted of topsoil overlying the feature which truncated the natural geology.					**Length (m)**	51.5
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1200	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil: mid brownish grey silty clay, pebbles, roots NB: a linear raft of concrete was seen within the topsoil at the southern end of the trench		

1201	Layer	-	-	Natural: mid orangey brown silty clay, gravel patches		
1202	Cut	1.46	0.46	Ditch: filled by 1203 and 1204, linear, aligned NE-SW, moderate U-shaped profile		
1203	Fill	1.46	0.16	Ditch fill: upper fill of 1202, pale greyish brown silty clay, occasional pebbles, 10% small chalk fragments		
1204	Fill	1.32	0.3	Ditch fill: lower fill od 1202, mid greyish brown silty clay		

Trench 13						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained a single pit. Consisted of topsoil overlying the feature which truncated the natural.					**Length (m)**	45.7
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1300	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil: mid brownish grey silty clay, pebbles, roots		
1301	Layer	-	-	Natural: mid orange gravels and clay		
1302	Fill	0.74	0.14	Pit fill: fill of 1303, dark greyish black silt, 50% charcoal	Flint (burnt only)	
1303	Cut	0.74	0.14	Pit: filled by 1303, gentle U-shaped profile		
1304	Deposit	0.74	0.02	Layer: natural, dark red silty clay, discoloured natural surrounding the pit		

Trench 14						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeological remains. There were seven field drains. Consisted of topsoil overlying natural geology.					**Length (m)**	49.5
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1400	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil: dark greyish brown silty clay, pebbles, roots		
1401	Layer	-	-	Natural: orange to greyish yellow silty clay		

Trench 15		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeological remains. There were three field drains. Consisted of topsoil overlying natural geology.	**Length (m)**	46
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.3-0.44

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil: dark greyish brown silty clay, pebbles, roots		
1501	Layer	-	-	Natural: greyish yellow to orangey brown silty clay		

Trench 16						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained a linear ditch and a pit. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					**Length (m)**	42
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1600	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil: mid brownish grey silty clay, pebbles, roots		
1601	Layer	-	-	Natural: variable, mid brownish orange silty clay, greyer gravel patches		
1602	Fill	1.35	0.21	Ditch fill: upper fill of 1604, mid brown silty clay, 5% pebbles	Pottery	1st – 2nd century
1603	Fill	0.8	0.39	Ditch fill: middle fill of 1604, mid greyish brown clayey silt 25% pebbles		
1604	Cut	1.35	0.64	Ditch: filled by 1602, 1603 and 1605, linear aligned NE-SW, moderately sloped sides to a gently concave base		
1605	Fill	1.3	0.17	Ditch fill: lowest fill of 1604, pale greyish brown clayey silt, 5-10% pebbles		
1606	Fill	0.85	-	Pit fill: fill of 1607, mid grey clayey silt, 40% pebbles	Flint flake	
1607	Cut	0.85	-	Pit: filled by 1606, circular, unexc		
1608	Deposit	1.1	-	Uncertain: patches of mid grey clayey silt, charcoal, very irregular and poorly defined, possible rooting? Or disturbance to features?		

Trench 17		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained two pits, a possible linear and a hollow/depression. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying features which truncated natural geology.	**Length (m)**	50.1
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.34-0.5

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1700	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil: mid brownish grey silty clay, pebbles, roots	Pottery	1st – 2nd century
1701	Layer	-	-	Natural: varied, pale brown silty clay, mid brown gravels		
1702	Fill	>8	0.38	Hollow fill: fill of 1703, mid grey silty clay, 30% pebbles		
1703	Interface	>8	0.38	Hollow: filled by 1702, large feature, gradual breaks of slope, part excavated		
1704	Cut	1.3	0.56	Pit: filled by 1705, circular, moderately steep sides, part ex		
1705	Fill	1.3	0.56	Pit fill: fill of 1704, mid greyish brown sandy silt, frequent pebbles	Pottery	Later Prehistoric
1706	Cut	1.15	0.6	Pit: filled by 1707, semi-circular, moderately steep sides, part ex		
1707	Fill	1.15	0.6	Pit fill: mid yellowish brown sandy silt, frequent pebbles	Pottery	Mid-late 1st century
1708	Fill	1.3	-	Possible linear: mid brownish grey silty clay, frequent pebbles		

Trench 18						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained four linear features, a field drain and a probable tree throw. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying features which truncated the natural geology.					Length (m)	49.5
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.39
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1800	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil: mid brownish grey silty clay, pebbles, roots		
1801	Layer	-	-	Natural: varied, mid brownish orange clayey silt, yellow clay, dark grey gravels		
1802	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil: mid grey silty clay, pebbles		

1803	Cut	1	0.26	Ditch: filled by 1804, linear aligned NE-SW, gentle U-shaped profile		
1804	Fill	1	0.26	Ditch fill: fill of 1803, pale brown sandy clay, occasional pebbles		
1805	Fill	0.85	-	Ditch fill: mid brown sandy clay, frequent pebbles, NE-SW aligned, unexc		
1806	Fill	0.7	-	Ditch fill: mid brown sandy clay, frequent pebbles, charcoal flecks, NE-SW aligned, unexc		
1807	Deposit	2.1	-	Uncertain: pale greyish brown sandy clay, annular in plan, may be subsoil or natural, unexc	Pottery	Mid-late 1st century
1808	Fill	1.15	-	Ditch fill: pale brown sandy clay, frequent pebbles, charcoal flecks, NE-SW aligned, unexc	Pottery	1st – 2nd century
1809	Fill	1	-	Uncertain: mid greyish brown sandy clay, may be subsoil or natural, unexc		

Trench 19						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained two pits. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying features which truncated the natural geology.					**Length (m)**	50.3
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1900	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil: mid brownish grey silty clay, pebbles, roots		
1901	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil: mid grey clayey silt, frequent pebbles		
1902	Layer	-	-	Natural: pale brownish orange clayey silt		
1903	Cut	0.85	0.42	Pit: filled by 1904 and 1907, sub-circular – oval, steep sides and gently concave base		
1904	Fill	0.85	0.42	Pit fill: upper fill of 1903, mid grey silty clay, 10% pebbles	Pottery Flint flakes	Later Prehistoric
1905	Cut	0.9	-	Pit: filled by 1906, circular, unexc		
1906	Fill	0.9	-	Pit fill: fill of 1905, mid grey silty clay		

1907	Fill	0.4	0.27	Pit fill: lower fill of 1903, pale grey silty clay, 10% pebbles		

Trench 20						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained a linear ditch and a natural linear band. Consisted of topsoil overlying features which truncated the natural geology.					**Length (m)**	50.3
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2000	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil: mid brownish grey silty clay, pebbles, roots		
2001	Layer	-	-	Natural: varied, mid orange silty clay, pink and yellow clay, orange gravels		
2002	Cut	0.65	0.14	Uncertain feature: filled by 2003, linear band of natural, aligned NE-SW, shallow U-shaped profile		
2003	Fill	0.65	0.14	Uncertain feature fill: fill of 2002, pale grey silty clay		
2004	Cut	1.64	0.5	Ditch: filled by 2005, linear aligned E-W, moderately steep curved sides, flat base		
2005	Fill	1.64	0.5	Ditch fill: fill of 2004, mid brown sandy silt, frequent pebbles	CBM	Uncertain date

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Paul Booth

Introduction

B.1.1 The evaluation produced 73 sherds (1025g) of pottery, mostly of late Iron Age-early Roman date, from hand-excavated contexts. The pottery was recorded using the codes set out in the Oxford Archaeology recording system for later prehistoric and Roman pottery (Booth 2014) and in line with recently-published standards (PCRG *et al*. 2016). Quantification was by sherd count, weight and rim equivalents. The pottery was generally in moderately good condition, with a mean sherd weight of 14g; the surface condition of most of the pottery was mostly average rather than good. The pottery is summarised by context and period in the table below.

Prehistoric

B.1.2 Six handmade sherds were of broad later prehistoric character, either certainly or probably of middle or middle-late Iron Age date. The fabrics of these sherds were recorded usually in terms of their two principal inclusion types (where present) and an indicator of their coarseness in a scale from 1 (very fine) to 5 (very coarse). The inclusions types present are: A quartz sand; F flint; N none visible; V vegetable/organic.

Fabrics recorded were:
AN2 1 sherd, 7g.
FA4 1 fragment, <1g.
FN4 2 sherds, 5g.
FN5 1 sherd, 8g.
FV4 1 sherd, 2g.

B.1.3 Most of the sherds are in primarily flint-tempered fabrics. The sherds are small and there were no diagnostic features or decoration. The single sand-tempered sherd is clearly of middle Iron Age character. While it is possible that the flint-tempered fabrics are earlier (of middle to late Bronze Age date, for example), they are more likely to belong to later Iron Age traditions that are well-established in the area. In view of the lack of diagnostic characteristics, however, this cannot be certain.

Late Iron Age-Roman

B.1.4 Most of the pottery was of this period. The fabrics present are listed below in the sequence of ware groups commonly used in OA analyses, with fine and specialist ware groups preceding the principal coarse wares. Very few of the fabrics could be clearly cross referenced to codes in the national Roman fabric reference collection (Tomber and Dore 1998); the relevant codes are given in bold.

F51. Oxford red colour-coated ware (**OXF RS**). 1 sherd, bowl rim (Young 1977 type C51).

W20. Coarse sandy white ware. 3 sherds, 74g. Jar rim.
E60. Flint-tempered LIA/ERB fabrics. 15 sherds, 157g. Jar rim.
E80. Grog-tempered LIA/ERB ('Belgic type') fabrics (**SOB GT**). 11 sherds, 90g. Jar rims (1 storage jar).
O10. Fine oxidised wares. 2 sherds, 3g.
O20. Coarse sand-tempered oxidised wares. 1 sherd, 6g.
O80. Coarse grog/grog and sand-tempered oxidised wares. 2 sherds, 147g.
R20. Coarse sand-tempered reduced wares. 24 sherds, 204g. 2 jar rims, 1 jar/bowl, 1 bowl/dish.
R30. Medium sand-tempered reduced wares. 3 sherds, 33g.
R90. Coarse grog-tempered reduced wares. 4 sherds, 264g.
B11. Black-burnished ware (**DOR BB**). 1 sherd, 9g. Dish rim.

B.1.5 There were no certain imports. The pottery was almost entirely from local or regional sources, the only certainly-identified sources being the Oxford and south-east Dorset black-burnished ware industries, each contributing a single sherd. No production centres are known in the near vicinity of the site, so potential local sources remain unidentified. Sherds in the commonest coarse ware fabric group, sandy reduced fabric R20, are distinctly different in character from equivalent coarse sandy products of the Oxford industry, and a more local source seems certain. While flint-tempered material (E60 fabrics) is fairly well-represented, none of this is certainly Silchester ware (as Timby 1989).

B.1.6 Ten vessels were represented by rim sherds. Six were jars of varying form and size, and a further vessel was an uncertain jar or bowl (insufficient of the profile surviving for the rim diameter to height ratio to be determined). The other vessels were a bowl in fabric F51, a straight-sided probable bowl in fabric R20 and a dish in fabric B11.

Context	Prehistoric No. sherds /wt (g)	Roman No. sherds /wt (g)	Context ceramic date	Fabrics
500		1/10	1-2C	R20
509	1/2	3/32	later 1C or later	FN4; E80, O10
511	1/7		Middle Iron Age	AN2
515		13/158	late 1-2C	E60, E80, O20, R20, R30
524		2/63	240+	F51, O80
603		1/24	1-2C	R90
604		4/46	1-2C	R20
609		4/259	1-2C?	R30, R90
709	1/8		Later prehistoric?	FN5
902	1/1	14/130	Later 3-4C	FA4; W20, E80, R20, B11
905		5/36	Late 1-2C?	R20, R30
1014		5/59	Late 1-2C?	E80, R20
1602		1/1	Late 1-2C	O10
1700		1/7	Late 1-2C	R20
1705	1/3		Later prehistoric?	FN4
1707		11/76	Mid-late 1C?	E60
1807		1/2	Mid-late 1C?	E80
1808		1/99	1-2C	O80

Context	Prehistoric No. sherds /wt (g)	Roman No. sherds /wt (g)	Context ceramic date	Fabrics
1904	½		Later prehistoric?	FV4
TOTAL	6/23	67/1002		

Discussion

B.1.7 The assemblage can be divided into three main components or ceramic traditions which are distinguishable in chronological terms. These are respectively later prehistoric, late Iron Age/early Roman and later Roman. While the sherds of the first of these are small (with a mean sherd weight of less than 4g), four of the six occur in contexts with no later material and they may genuinely indicate a phase of low-level activity in the middle-late Iron Age. The majority of the pottery can be assigned to the 1st-2nd centuries AD, and while it is clear that the dominant coarse ware fabric group (R20) was not necessarily confined to this date range (see below) it is likely that the majority of R20 sherds are of early Roman date rather than later. The fabrics of the E ware group are specifically of 1st-century date, comprising elements of the 'Belgic' tradition (as eg Thompson 1982, 4) and related fabrics, not all of which are wheel-thrown and not all of which are grog-tempered, flint-tempering being well-represented. As noted above, however, the flint-tempered sherds do not appear to include Silchester ware, and may have derived from more local sources. While the small size of the assemblage means that conclusions drawn from the relative proportions of fabric groups must be treated with caution, it is notable that the relative importance of R20 fabrics (based on sherd count) reflects those in the larger assemblage from Binfield Park Farm (eg Booth 1995, 112, table 39) and a more recent evaluation at Binfield, with terminal dates of activity in the 2nd century AD and at about the beginning of the 2nd century respectively. This comparison underlines the potential importance of a local coarse sand-tempered potting tradition, and also its prevalence in the early Roman period. Characterisation of activity after the 2nd century is problematic, but two vessels are typologically of later 3rd-4th century date: the straight-sided (probable) bowl in fabric R20 and the sole Oxford colour-coated ware sherd from the site (a bowl of Young (1977) type C51), so some later Roman activity is indicated. The assemblage is too small for estimation of site status based on the pottery to be meaningful.

B.2 Ceramic Building Material

By Paul Booth

Introduction

B.2.1 A total of 16 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), weighing 1391g, were recovered from seven contexts during the evaluation. The material was scanned rapidly, principally to determine date.

B.2.2 The majority of the CBM was of Roman date. It occurred in two main fabric types, one tempered principally with grog and the other tempered with sand. Both fabrics occurred together in context 609. All the fragments identifiable to form were from tegulae or probable tegulae. Recorded thicknesses ranged from 20-30mm, with the exception of the fragment

from context 600 which was only 15mm thick but in a grog-tempered fabric consistent with some of the other Roman material. No imbrices were identified and the absence of pieces more than 30mm thick suggests that bricks were not represented either.

B.2.3 Post-medieval CBM was in fabrics tempered principally with sand, but with grog or clay lumps also fairly frequent. The identified types were from a 2-inch (50mm) brick and a fragment of flat roof –tile 15mm thick.

B.2.4 The relatively fresh condition of some of the Roman CBM (for example, the largest tegula flange fragment from context 609 weighed 321g) suggests that it derives from a relatively nearby source, though not necessarily from a structure within the site. The post-medieval fragments are from topsoil or subsoil contexts and as such are characteristic finds.

Context	Roman No. sherds /wt (g)	Post-medieval No. sherds /wt (g)	Uncertain No. sherds /wt (g)	Comment
600	1/31			flat fragment, not certainly Roman
603	3/231			1?tegula, uncertain fragments
609	8/678			1 tegula flange, 1 ?tegula flange, flat fragments
701		1/293		brick
900		1/120		tile
909	1/30			flat fragment
2005			1/8	
TOTAL	13/970	2/413	1/8	

B.3 Fired Clay

By Paul Booth

Introduction and description

B.3.1 Eighteen fragments (50g) of fired clay in a fine textured buff fabric were recovered from soil sample 7 from context 607. All were irregular in shape, with no surviving surfaces indicating the form of the object or structure from which they might have derived. A single amorphous lump (10g) of fired clay came from context 709. None of the material has characteristics suggestive of date or function.

B.4 Metal

By Ian R Scott

Introduction

B.4.1 There are three pieces of iron from the evaluation.

B.4.2 Context 603 (item 1) is a nail with square section stem, tapering to ta point. Probably with a near circular flat or slightly domed head. Encrusted with corrosion. Probably hand forged. L: 102mm

B.4.3 Context 902 (item 2) is a strip fragment. Small iron strip or plate fragment, encrusted with corrosion products. Magnetic. (Not measured)

B.4.4 Context 902 (item 3) is a fragment of iron, encrusted, not identifiable, but clearly magnetic. (Not measured)

B.4.5 None of the ironwork is closely datable.

B.5 Flint

By Michael Donnelly

Methodology

B.5.1 The artefacts were catalogued according to OA South's standard system of broad artefact/debitage type (Anderson-Whymark 2013; Bradley 1999), general condition noted and dating was attempted where possible. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto an Open Office spreadsheet. During the assessment additional information on condition (rolled, abraded, fresh and degree of cortication) and state of the artefact (burnt, broken, or visibly utilised) was also recorded. Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (e.g. Bamford 1985, 72-77; Healy 1988, 48-9; Bradley 1999). Technological attribute analysis was initially undertaken and included the recording of butt and termination type (Inizan *et al.* 1999), flake type (Harding 1990), hammer mode (Onhuma and Bergman 1982), and the presence of platform edge abrasion.

Results

B.5.2 A small assemblage of 18 pieces of struck flint and approximately 1220 pieces of burnt unworked flint weighing 1224g was recovered from this evaluation. The assemblage was very strongly flake based with 16 examples alongside one very irregular blade and a single piece of irregular waste. No tools or cores were recovered but two flakes may have been utilised. Only a small number of pieces look typically early prehistoric in form while many of the flakes were very typical of mid-late Bronze Age knapping. Many of the flints were found in pits (10) and ditches (4) and only four were topsoil/subsoil finds.

B.5.3 The flints were in quite varied condition, but those recovered from pit and ditch fills tended to be far less damaged and corticated than those from topsoil contexts. As such, it is likely that the pieces recovered from features were contemporary with their fills.

B.5.4 The bulk of the flints would be described as being typically mid-late Bronze Age or later in date. Iron Age flintwork is not a universally agreed occurrence in British prehistory, although its presence would appear highly likely. The flakes tend to display several of the following characteristics; hard-hammer bulbs, simple unprepared platforms and thick, squat profiles. The simple utilisation of two of these flakes is also typical of the expedient industries of the later prehistoric period.

B.5.5 One or two of the topsoil finds were quite regular flakes with thin profiles and complex flaking patterns. It is possible that these may relate to a limited phase of earlier prehistoric activity here, perhaps during the Neolithic period.

B.5.6 Burnt unworked flint was concentrated in various pit fills, with significant amounts in fill 917 (pit 913, 1147 pieces, 855g), fills 1008 and 1009 (pit 1007, 9 pieces, 178g), fill 1015 (pit

1013, 41 pieces, 55g) and fill 1302 (pit 1303, 21 pieces, 132g). The concentration of burnt flint matched well with the focus of later prehistoric flintwork and it is likely that both elements of the assemblages were part of the same domestic setting.

Discussion

B.5.7 This small assemblage suggests limited flint-related activity in the evaluation area. The flints were generally quite fresh and may well be contemporary with the features they were recovered from. Alternatively, they could be residual finds that had not moved far from their original burial context. The assemblage is consistent with limited domestic activity, most likely dating to the mid-late Bronze Age.

Context	Type	sub-type	Descriptive notes	Date
101	Flake	Inner	Thin regular flake	?EPH
200	Flake	Inner	Thin regular flake	?EPH
500	Flake	Misc trimming	Regular flake	?EPH
509	Flake	Side trimming	Possible use left side, very squat flake	LPH
603	Burnt unworked		One piece 2g	
900	Flake	Distal trimming	Quite squat	?LPH
917	Flake x 2	Side trimming and inner	Both distal segments and heavily burnt	
917	Burnt unworked		Around 1147 pieces weighing 855g	?LPH
1005	Blade	Side trimming	Thick hard-hammer struck irregular blade	
1005	Flake	Side trimming	Squat flake	LPH
1005	Irregular waste			
1008	Burnt unworked		3 pieces weighing 167g	
1009	Burnt unworked		2 pieces weighing 11g	
1014	Flakes x 2	Side and misc trimming	One broken	
1015	Flakes x 2	Misc trimming x 2	One broken and lightly burnt	
1015	Burnt unworked		41 pieces weighing 55g	
1302	Burnt unworked		21 pieces weighing 132g	
1606	Flake	Misc trimming	Blade-like and possibly early	?EPH
1904	Flake x 3	Preparation, side & distal trimming	Side trimming possibly utilised, other two very squat	LPH
1904	Burnt unworked		3 pieces weighing 20g	

B.6 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

Methodology

B.6.1 A total of 20 pieces of stone were retained for analysis. Five of these are unworked and unused and can be discarded.

B.6.2 The remaining 15 are small crumbly fragments of lava, presumably from one or more rotary querns (1702, 45g). Lava querns typically date from the 1st century AD onwards and although Roman querns have been found at nearby Highwood (over 28 at the latest count), lava is noticeably absent (Shaffrey 2016). These fragments, although non-diagnostic, indicate that lava was being used in the area from the earliest Roman period and they should be retained.

B.7 Cremated Bone

By Helen Webb

Introduction

B.7.1 Burnt bone from two fills of a pit was submitted for osteological analysis. The pit (1007) was circular in plan with steep sides and a flat base, and measured 0.6m in diameter, with a depth of 0.3m. The lower, main fill of the pit (1009, 0.2m thick), was dark grey-black in colour and comprised a soft, silty clay with charcoal, burnt stone and burnt bone. The pit was capped by a thinner layer of gravelly, silty clay (1008, 0.1m thick), which also contained some burnt bone and charcoal, although the charcoal was less abundant in this layer. The feature is provisionally dated to the late Prehistoric or Roman period.

Methodology

B.7.2 Deposits 1008 and 1009 were subject to whole earth recovery and processed by wet sieving. The deposits were then sieved to sort them into >10mm, 10-4mm and 4-2mm fractions. The remains were examined in accordance with the recommendations set out by the IFA and BABAO (Brickley and McKinley 2004).

Results

B.7.3 A summary of the results is presented in the table below. Whilst none of the fragments were identified to element, the overall texture of the bone was in keeping with human bone. That said, no demographic information (e.g. age/sex) was deduced, and no pathological lesions were observed.

B.7.4 The total weight of the deposit (1008 and 1009 combined) was just 7.1g. The level of fragmentation was high, with all of the bone having been recovered from the 10-4mm and 4-2mm fractions. The maximum fragment size was just 14mm and this was a fragment of unidentified long bone. All bone fragments were white in colour.

Discussion

B.7.5 Given the overall low weight of the deposit and lack of identifiable bones, identification of the bone as either human or animal was problematic. However, the overall texture of the bone was in keeping with that of human bone (animal bone often appears denser), hence it has been considered as such.

B.7.6 At just 7.1g, the deposit is well below the expected weight for a cremated adult (1000g-2400g, average *c* 1650g, McKinley 2000a, 269). The pit was not truncated, thus it is likely that the entire cremated remains were never included within the deposit. It may represent a memorial deposit (e.g. cenotaph burials), whereby only a small token amount of

the cremated bone is buried, or it may be a deposit of pyre debris (McKinley 2004a, 10; McKinley 2000b). Redeposited pyre debris generally comprises a mixture of bone fragments and fuel waste and indeed, charcoal and burnt stone were present. Deposits of pyre debris are frequently encountered archaeologically and are not specific to a time period. All of the bone fragments were white in colour, indicating full oxidation (> *c* 600ºC, McKinley 2004, 11). This suggests that the cremation process had been efficient in terms of the heat attained and the burning time.

B.7.7 All possible osteological information has been obtained from deposit 1008/1009, thus no further osteological analysis is recommended. However, interpretation of the deposit might benefit from a more accurate date. None of the bone fragments were suitable for dating due to their small size, although it may be possible to obtain a sample of the charcoal or other burnt remains recovered from the pit.

B.7.8 If further burials are recovered from this site in the future, this deposit should be considered as part of the wider burial landscape, with a review of similar burials in type and date, within the Berkshire and surrounding regions.

Context	Total weight	>10mm	10-4mm	4-2mm	Maximum fragment size	Colour	Identified fragments
1008	2.4g	/	1.6g	0.8g	14mm	White	None (unidentified long bone/unidentified other only)
1009	4.7g	/	2.9g	1.8g			
TOTAL	**7.1g**	**/**	**4.5g**	**2.6g**			

B.8 Animal bone

Identified by Lee Broderick

B.8.1 A single sheep/goat left limb metatarsal was recovered from context 609.

B.8.2 No further work is recommended.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Sharon Cook

Method

C.1.1 The 10 samples were processed in their entirety by water flotation using a modified Siraf style machine. The flots were collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residues sieved to 500µm; both were dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts. The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at approximately x 10 magnification. All flots of less than 100ml were scanned in their entirety, for larger flots a subsample of 100ml was scanned.

Results

C.1.2 The samples produced few finds with small quantities of burnt flint extracted from samples <1>, <3>, <4>, <6> and <9> which may be background material rather than associated with the burnt material in the samples. Sample <8> which is believed to be the result of in situ burning produced a large amount of burnt flint which comprised the majority of the sample.

C.1.3 A small amount of fired clay was extracted from sample <7>. Samples <3> and <4> produced a small quantity of calcined bone which as it was cremated bone, was passed to the OA burials department for further analysis.

C.1.4 All flots contained some modern material, mostly fine roots but also occasional modern insects and seeds, especially goosefoot (Chenopodium sp) which was present in all flots except those from samples <1> and <8>. The charred material in all samples is almost entirely charcoal with very little other charred material present.

Sample No	Context No	Cut No	Trench No	Feature Type	Fill Type	Sample size (l)	Flot size (ml)
1	1015	1013	10	Pit	Lower fill	15	1200
2	1012	1010	10	Pit	Lower fill	2.5	80
3	1008	1007	10	Pit	Upper fill	8	75
4	1009	1007	10	Pit	Lower fill	16	200
5	1003	1002	10	Pit	Single fill	6	30
6	1302	1303	13	Pit	Single fill	18	1400
7	607	606	6	Pit	Single fill	25	225
8	917	913	9	Pit	Lower fill	2	80
9	1904	1903	19	Pit	Single fill	30	25
10	706	703	7	Posthole	Single fill	2	100

C.1.5 Samples <5> and <9> contained very little archaeological material being almost entirely fine modern roots and other modern material probably as a result of the archaeological layer being so close to the surface. The charcoal present within these two

samples is small in size and not suitable for further work, with no other charred material present.

C.1.6 Sample <1> produced a large flot with very little modern material present in the scanned portion. The charcoal is clean and in very good condition with some large pieces that should be suitable for wood species identification if this is required. The scanned portion of the flot contains two fragments of unidentifiable cereal grain, a single pea (Pisum sativum) in very good condition and a fragment of legume <2mm which is probably vetch (Vicia/Lathyrus sp.) a common crop contaminant.

C.1.7 Samples <2>, <3> and <4> contain a moderate amount of modern material. The charcoal for these samples is slightly encrusted but overall in good condition although the majority is small in size. Sample <4> does contain a couple of pieces which may be suitable for wood species identification however the material in the others is too small to be easily identifiable. Sample <3> contains a single small fragment of hazelnut shell (Corylus avellana) but this is small and abraded so may be intrusive to the deposit. The fragment may be suitable for dating but the size is small and there may be insufficient material present.

C.1.8 Sample <6> produced a large flot with very little modern material present in the scanned portion. The charcoal while slightly encrusted is in good condition with a number of pieces likely to be suitable for wood species identification if required. No other charred material was observed within the scanned portion.

C.1.9 Samples <7> and <10> contain a small amount of modern material. Both contain charcoal in good condition with a number of fragments large enough for wood species identification if required. No other charred material is present within these two samples.

C.1.10 Sample <8> contains very little modern plant material but is the only sample to contain snails, these are all Ceciloides acicula which is a burrowing snail and is likely to be modern in origin although many of the shells are a milky white in colour indicating that they are not fresh. The charcoal is clean and in good condition although small in size and some fragments are of a suitable size for wood species identification. A single wheat grain (Triticum sp.) and three small fragments of unidentifiable cereal grain are present, however these are heavily burnt and in poor condition. It is possible that these are a result of secondary deposition as they appear to have been burnt at a high temperature and have a considerable amount of abrasion on the exteriors unlike the surrounding charcoal.

Discussion and Conclusion

C.1.11 While these samples contain little variety in terms of material types, appearing to be the result of wood burning rather than cooking or industrial processing, the condition of the charcoal within the majority of these would seem to indicate that charcoal survives very well on this site. The poor condition of other charred material would appear to be a result of this being residual or accidental inclusions within the flots rather than a result of site conditions or preservation issues.

C.1.12 Unless dating of the features indicates that further interest in the types of wood used is warranted, it is not recommended that further work be carried out on this material. However, if further excavation is carried out on this site it is recommended that further sampling should take place, ideally from a range of features across the site, especially dated

features to form a basis for comparison. This sampling should be carried out in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (eg. English Heritage, 2011).

APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Land off Peppard Road, Emmer Green, Oxfordshire
Site code:	EGPR 17
Grid Reference	SU 72350 77770
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	20th February-1st March 2017, 8 days
Summary of Results:	In February 2017 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Pegasus Planning Group on behalf Gladman Developments to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land off Peppard Road, Emmer Green, Oxford. The site is a proposed new housing development, centred on NGR SU 72350 77770 and lying at *c.* 90m OD. The works involved the excavation of an initial fifteen 50m x 2m trenches. A further five trenches were subsequently excavated as a contingency allocation to investigate the extent of remains revealed in the initial trenching. The work took place over eight days from 20th February to 1st March 2017. The results of the evaluation confirmed the presence of prehistoric activity at a low density across the area and the presence of a probable Roman farmstead focused on the central and eastern areas. The farmstead was represented by boundary ditches, pits, postholes, two ovens/kilns and a possible cremation burial. No certain evidence was discovered for buildings, although a single possible wall footing was identified.
Area of Site	13ha = site area, 2000m^2 = trench area (0.2ha)
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS: 2017.24.

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Figure 1: Site location

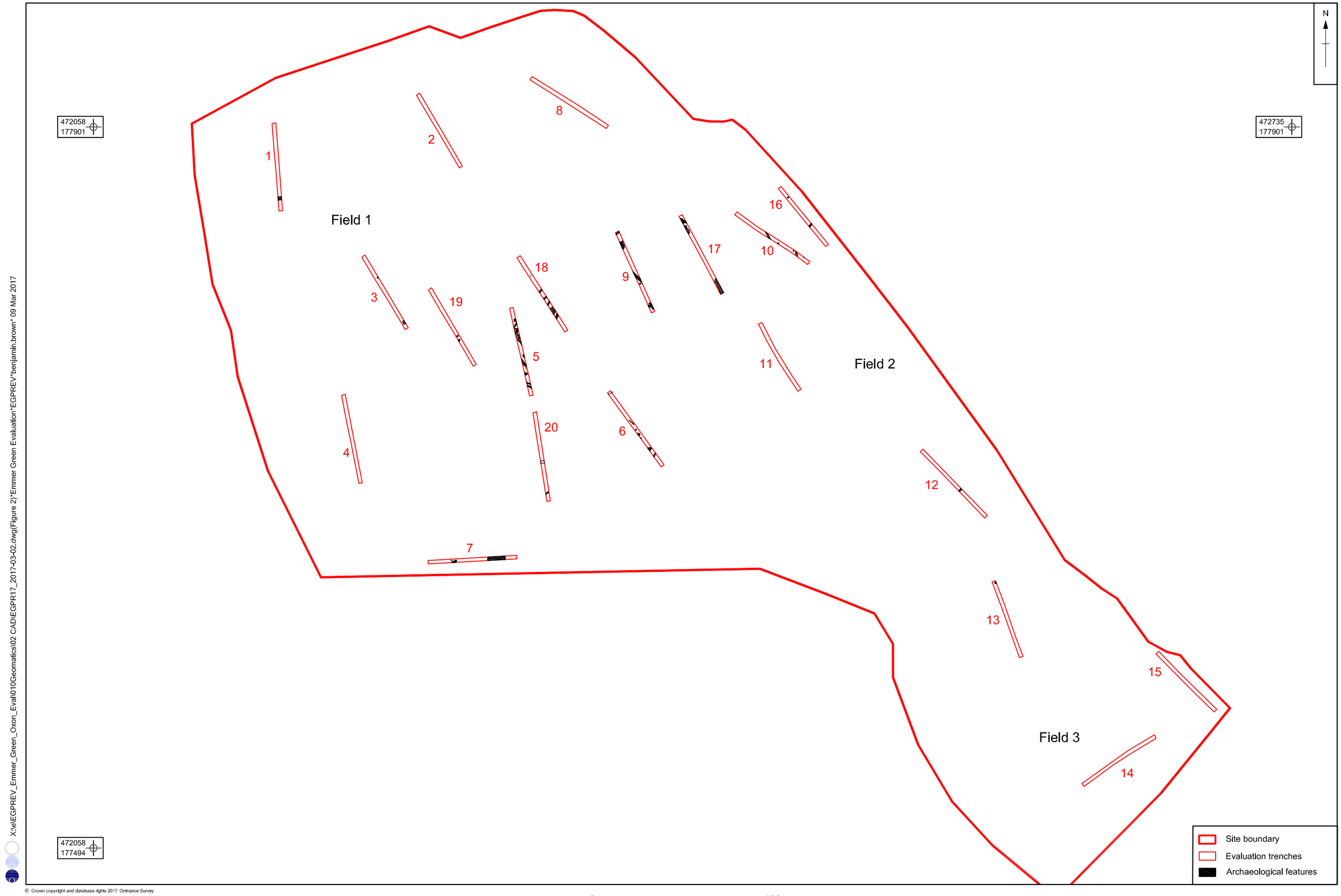

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Figure 2: Trench locations

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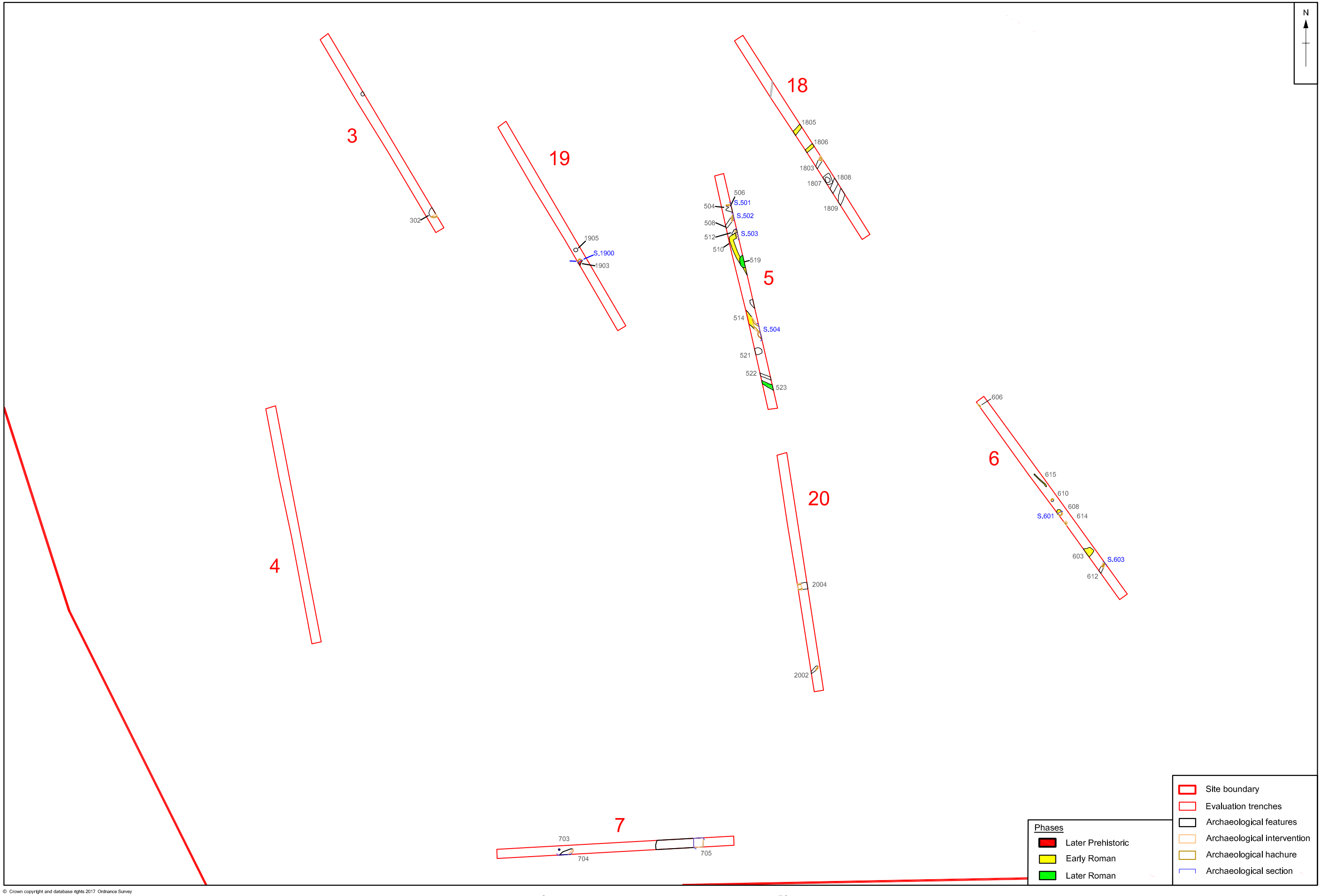

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Figure 3: Trenches 3, 5, 6, 7, 18, 19 and 20 showing archaeological features

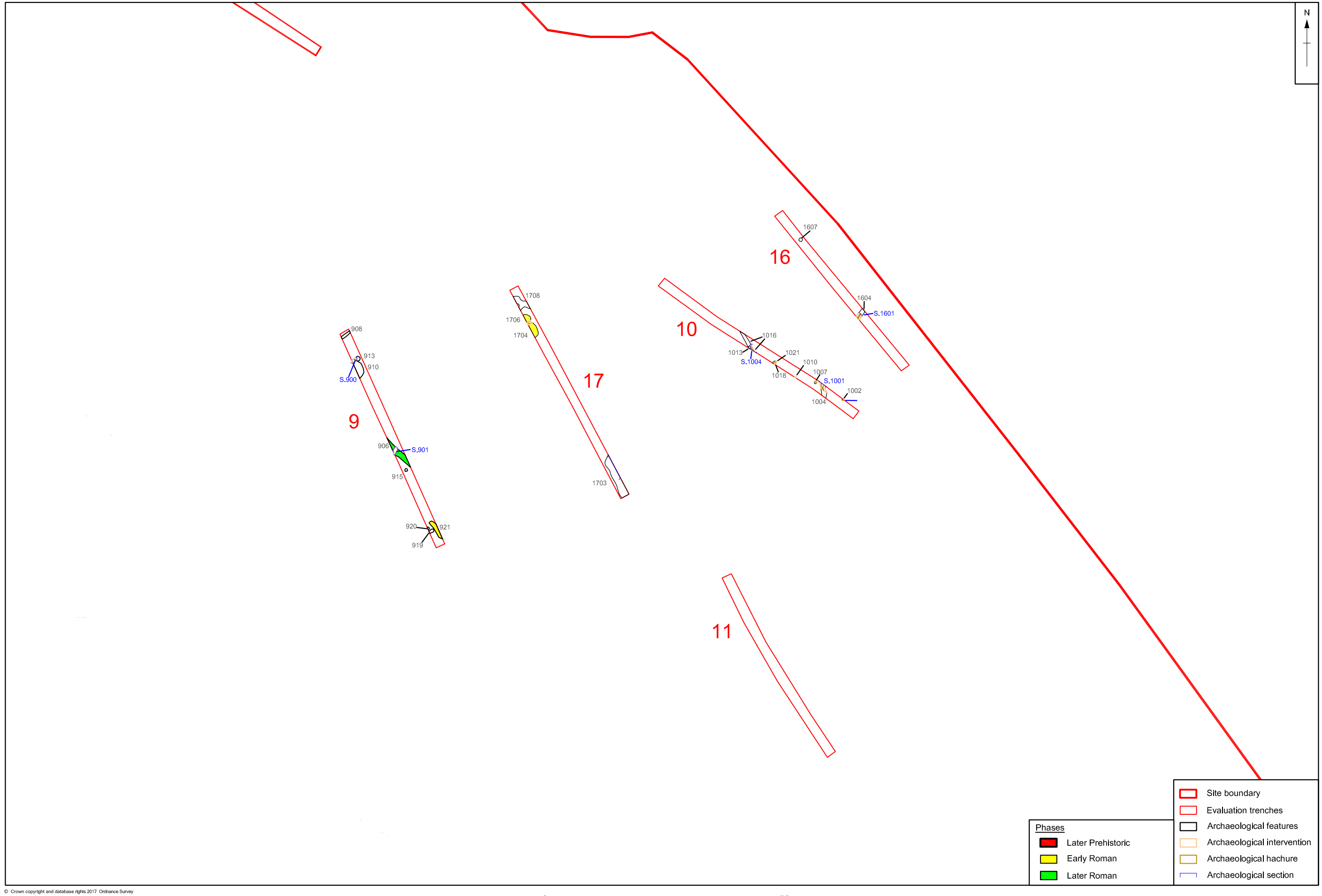

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Figure 4: Trenches 9, 10, 16 and 17 showing archaeological features

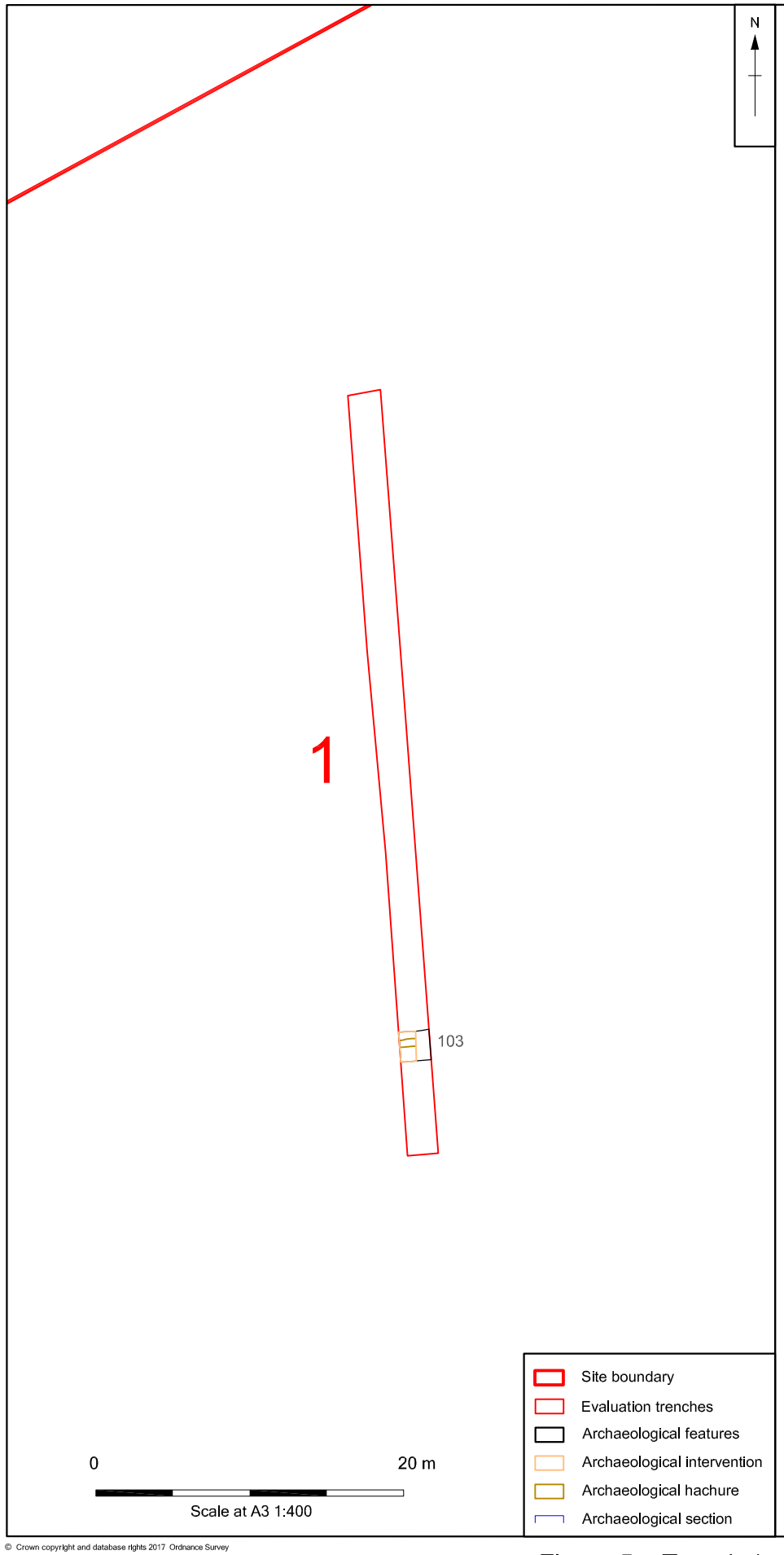

Figure 5a: Trench 1

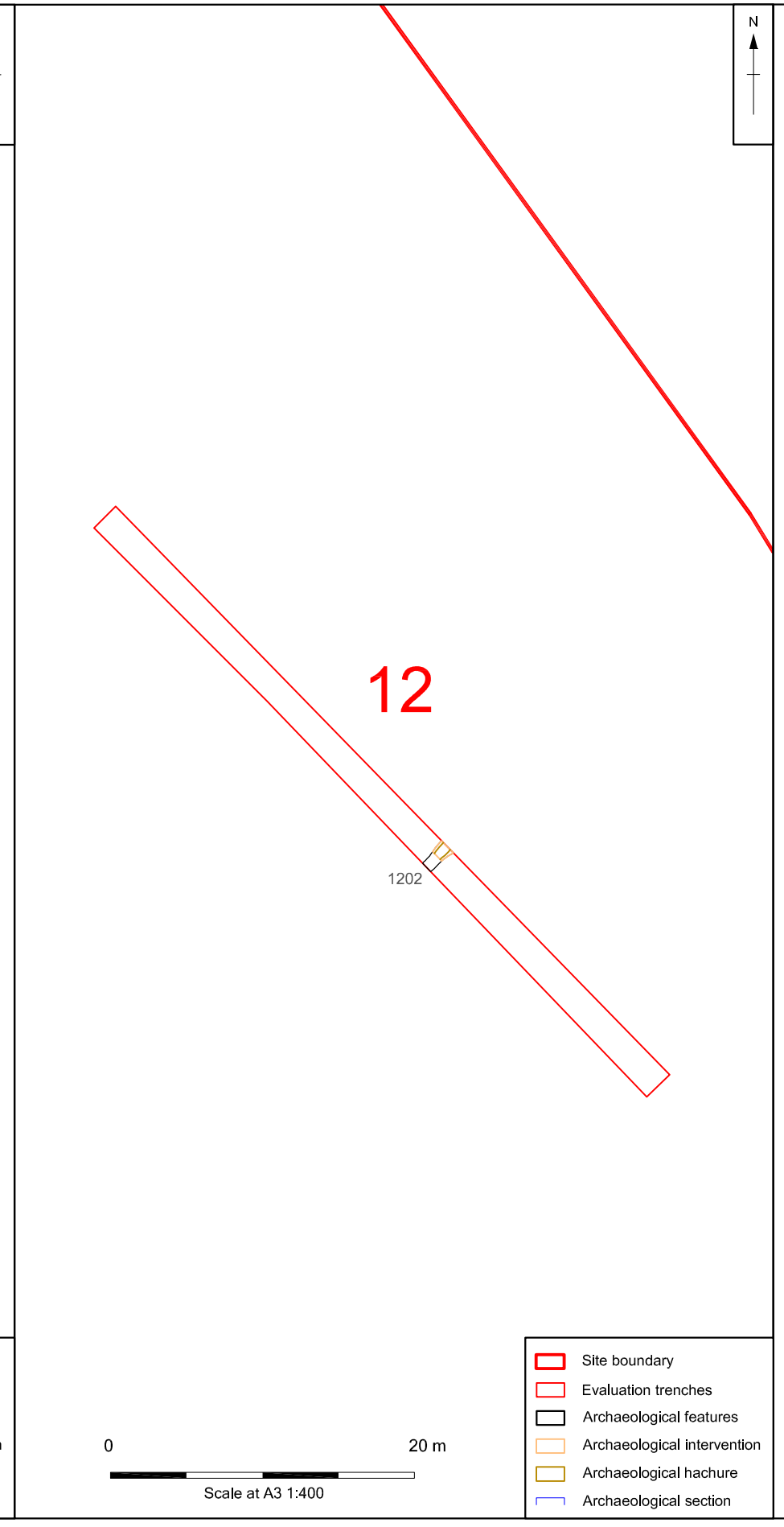

Figure 5b: Trench 12

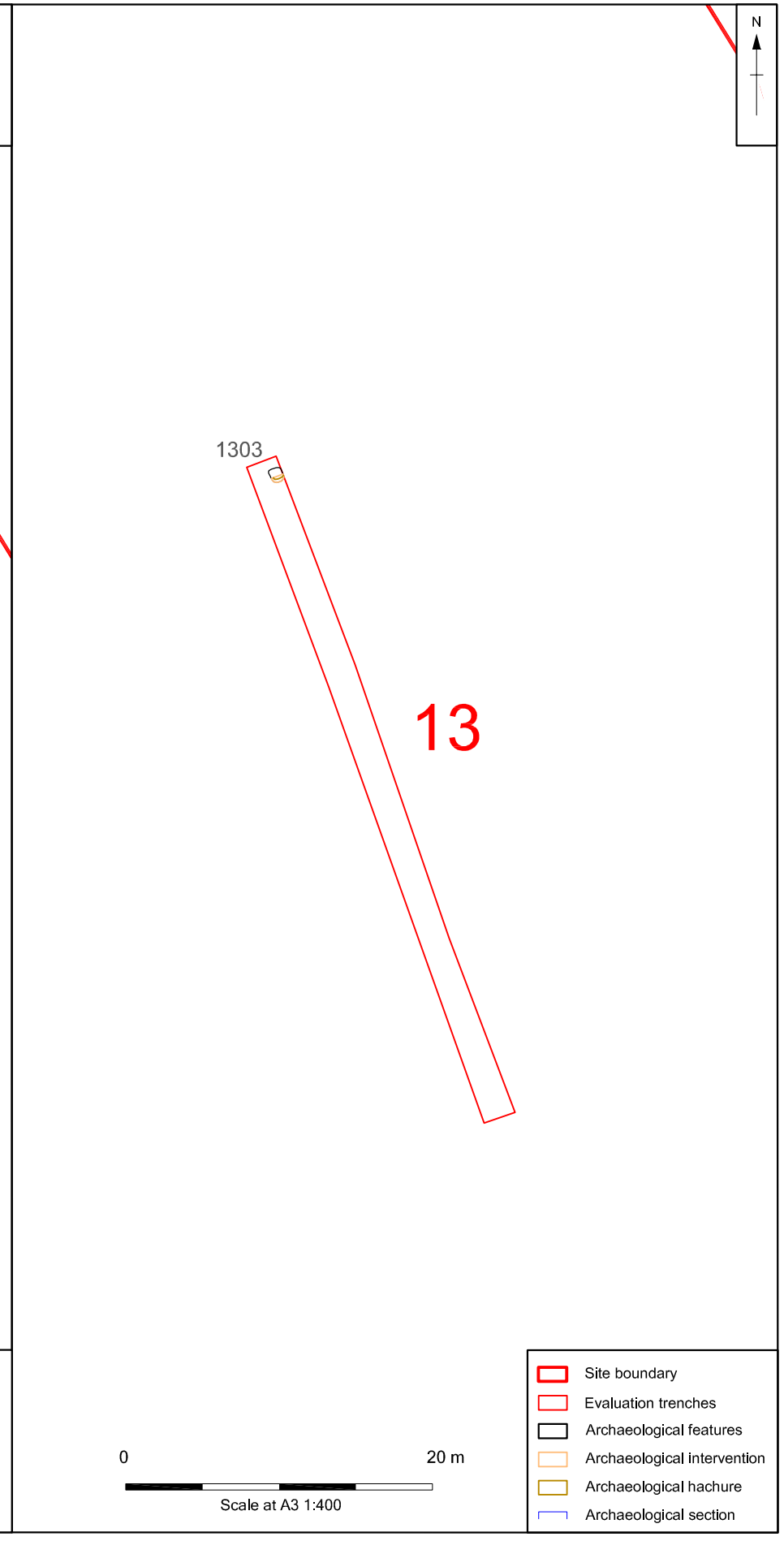

Figure 5c: Trench 13

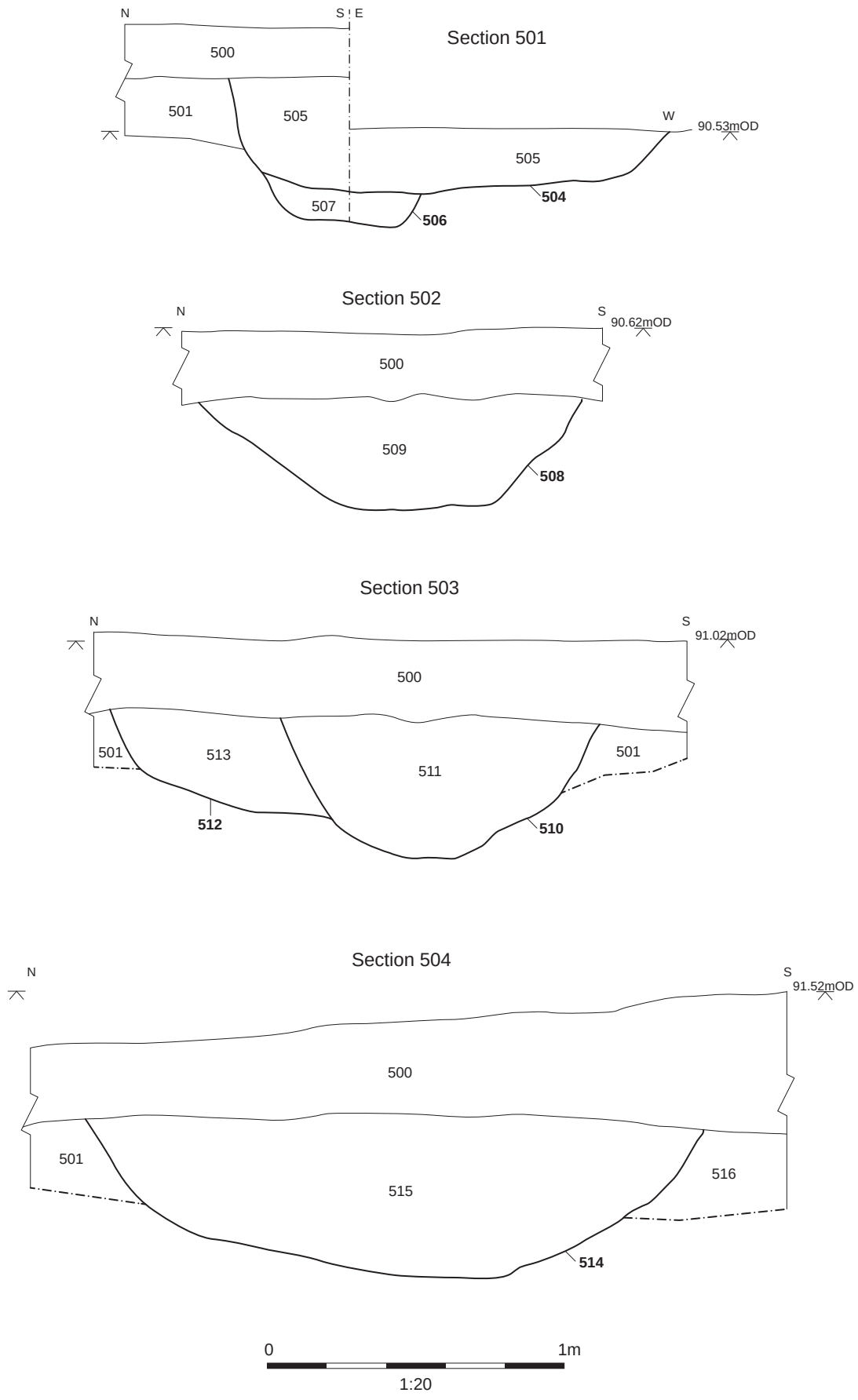

Figure 6: Trench 5 sections of features 504, 506, 508, 510, 512 and 514

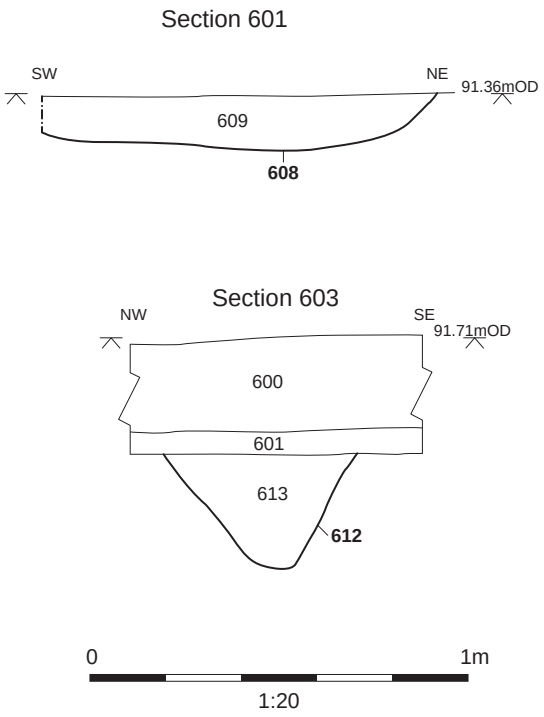

Figure 7: Trench 6 sections of features 608 and 612

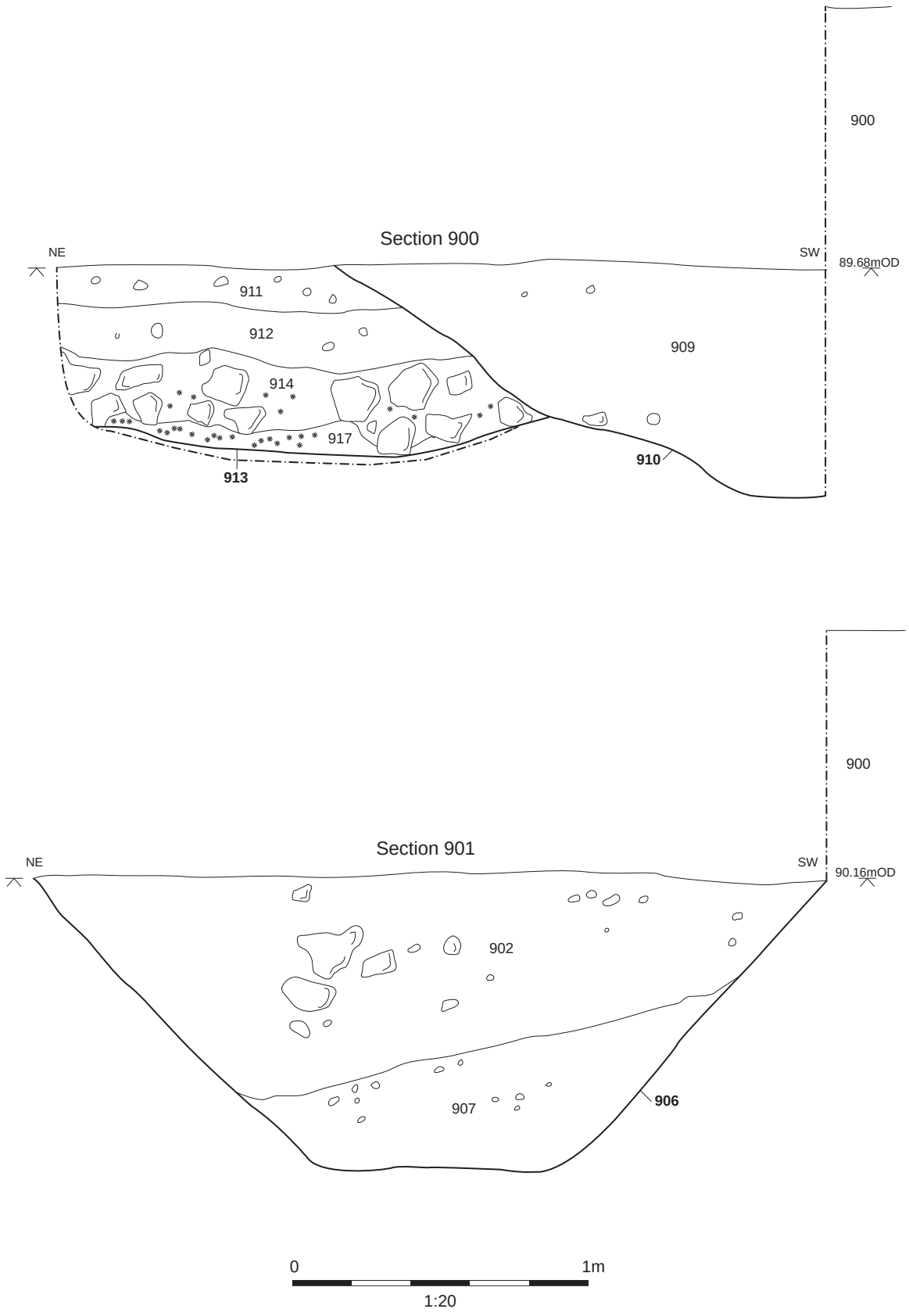

Figure 8: Trench 9 sections of features 906, 910 and 913

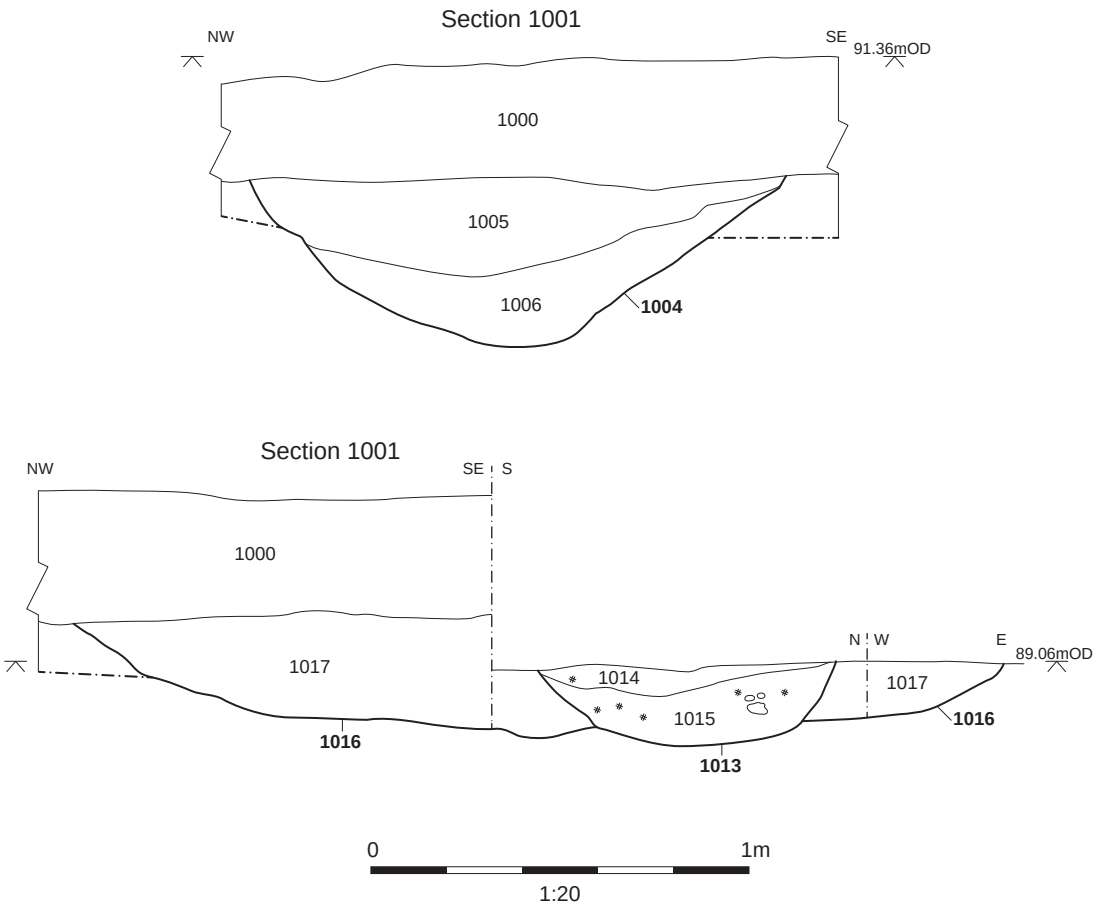

Figure 9: Trench 10 sections of features 1004, 1013 and 1016

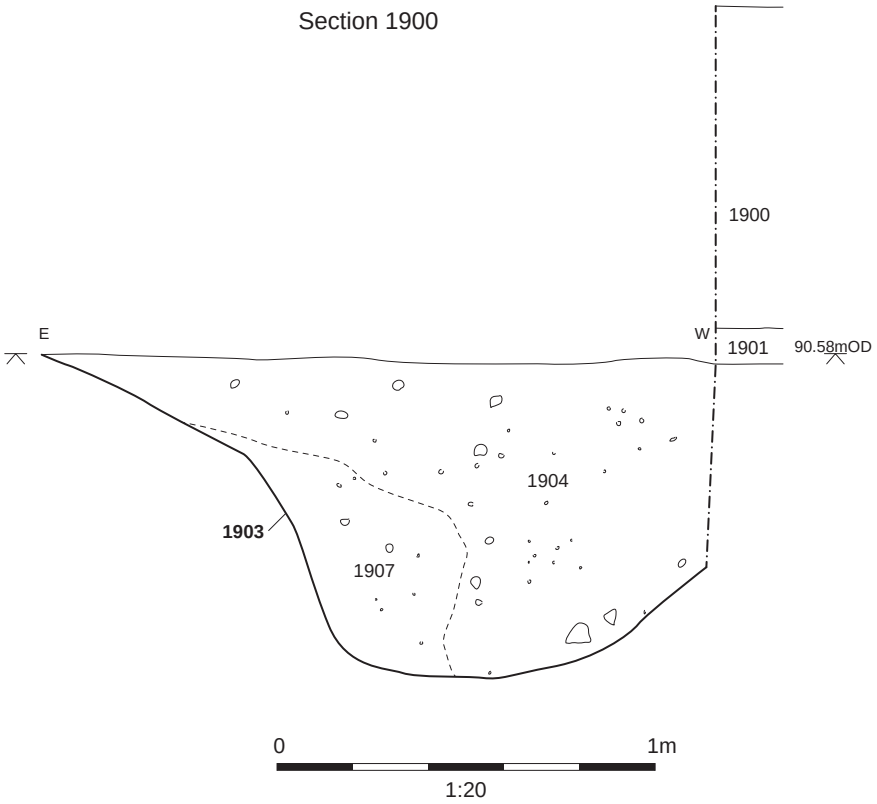

Figure 10: Trench 19 section of feature 1903

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Figure 11: Overviews of trenches with geophysics

Plate 1: Trench 1, ditch 103 pre-ex, looking southwest

Plate 2: Trench 1, ditch 103 section, looking west

Plate 3: Trench 5, general view of ditches, looking southwest

Plate 4: Trench 5, features 504 and 506, looking south

Plate 5: Trench 5, ditch 508, looking east

Plate 6: Trench 5, ditch 510, looking east

Plate 7: Trench 5, ditch 514, looking east

Plate 8: Trench 6, general view of 608, 610 and 615 pre-ex, looking northwest

Plate 9: Trench 6, feature 606, looking west

Plate 10: Trench 6, pit 608, looking north

Plate 11: Trench 6, pit 610, looking south

Plate 12: Trench 7, general view of feature 703 and 704, looking southwest

Plate 13: Trench 7, general view of feature 705 pre-ex, looking west

Plate 14: Trench 7, feature 705 section, looking northwest

Plate 15: Trench 9, general view of features 903, 904 and 905, looking east

Plate 16: Trench 9, ditch 906 section, looking southeast

Plate 17: Trench 9, general view of feature 908, looking east

Plate 18: Trench 9, general view of pits 910 and 913 pre-ex, looking northwest

Plate 19: Trench 9, pits 910 and 913 section, looking southeast

Plate 20: Trench 10, ditch 1004, looking north

Plate 21: Trench 10, pit 1007, looking northeast

Plate 22: Trench 10, pit 1010, looking west

Plate 23: Trench 10, pit 1013 and ditch 1016 pre-ex, looking northeast

Plate 24: Trench 12, ditch 1202, looking east

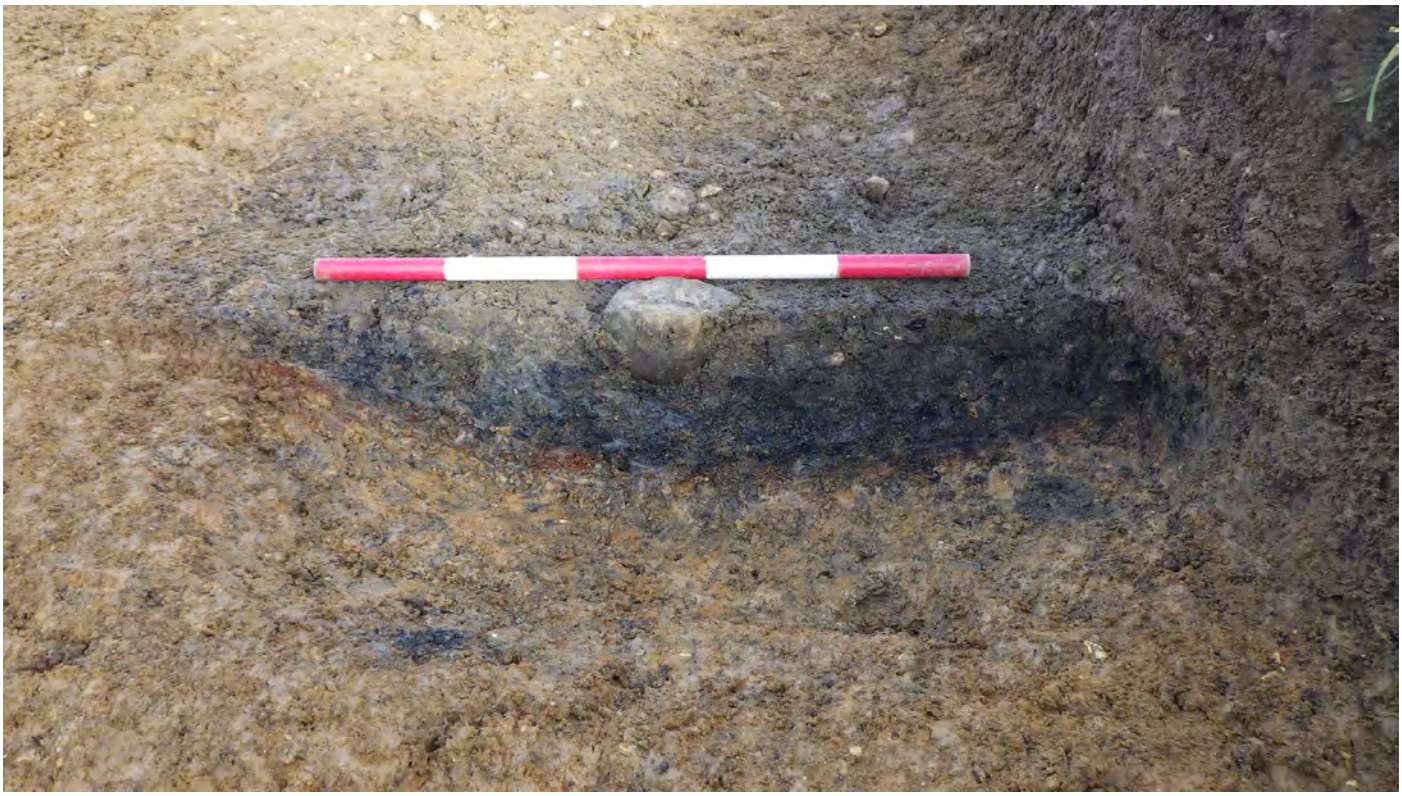

Plate 25: Trench 13, pit 1303, looking north

Plate 26: Trench 16, ditch 1604, looking west

Plate 27: Trench 16, pit 1607 pre-ex, looking north

Plate 28: Trench 17, general view of pits 1704 and 1706 pre-ex, looking north

Plate 29: Trench 18, general view of ditches 1803, 1805 and 1806 pre-ex, looking southeast

Plate 30: Trench 18, ditch 1803, looking east

Plate 31: Trench 19, general view of pits 1903 and 1905 pre-ex, looking northwest

Plate 32: Trench 19, pit 1903, looking west

Plate 33: Trench 20, ditch 2004, looking west

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