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Land adjacent to Rokeby Primary School, Rugby, Warwickshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between 15th May and 2nd June 2017, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation comprising 42 trenches on land forming a proposed redevelopment of Rokeby Primary School. The site was divided into two areas: playing fields associated with the existing school to the north and arable fields to the south.

The trenches were positioned to ground-truth the results of a geophysical survey previously undertaken.

Extensive landscaping, including both cuts and fills, was observed within the playing fields. Only a small area appeared to have potential for archaeological remains to survive.

Within this area two ditch terminals were recorded, of which one contained an assemblage of 2nd- to 3rd-century Roman pottery. No other archaeological features predating the post-medieval period were recorded across the development area.

Evidence for post-medieval agricultural activity was observed within the southern area and in parts of the northern fields, consisting of former field boundaries and furrows.

Features identified in the geophysical survey were proven in the trenches, along with additional features including the ditch terminals, that were not recorded by the geophysical survey.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by John Boothroyd. The fieldwork was directed by Natalie Anderson, who was supported by Berna Rzadek, Belle Neilson, Christof Heistermann and Mary Lutescu-Jones. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Matt Bradley and Ben Brown. Thanks is also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the management of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Cushman and Wakefield on behalf of the Education and Skills Funding Agency to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of Rokeby Primary School, Rugby.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken in support of a planning application (planning ref. RBC/16CC016). A brief issued by Anna Stocks, Planning Archaeologist for Warwickshire, established the scope of work required. OA produced a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process (OA 2017). This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the south of the town of Rugby, Warwickshire (Fig. 1, NGR: SP 50312 73516). The site is bounded to the north by Long Furlong, to the west by Fawsley Leys and to the south and east by arable land.
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of a single open field and Rokeby Primary School, equating to an area of c 12 hectares. The area of the existing school buildings, approximately 2 hectares in size, was not subject to trial trench evaluation.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as the Charmouth Mudstone Formation, a Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 183 to 197 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. This geology is overlain by superficial deposits of Dunsmore Gravel formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS website).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in the desk-based assessment produced by Oxford Archaeology (OA 2016), and will not be reproduced here.

1.4 Potential

- 1.4.1 The site was considered to have moderate potential for prehistoric archaeology to be present within the site. Linear features and rectilinear enclosures identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs are likely to represent prehistoric activity.
- 1.4.2 The potential for Roman archaeological features to be present within the site was considered to be low to moderate. Although the majority of archaeological activity of this period is likely to be centered on the settlement at Tripontium located 6.5km north-east of the site, there is also evidence of rural settlement and activity in the area. A trial trench evaluation carried out in 2012 1.8km south-east of the site identified evidence of a middle Roman farmstead in the form of field or settlement boundaries and pottery.

1.4.3 The site is located 1.4km north of the medieval village of Rugby and urban development did not exist to the north and west of the site until the mid-20th century. The village of Rugby is recorded in the Domesday Book as a small settlement, with the medieval core concentrated around St Andrew's church. Therefore, it was thought that there was a high possibility of finding post-medieval field boundaries and irrigation or drainage ditches on the site, but these are unlikely to be of high archaeological significance. In addition, it is highly likely that medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow will be present on the southern part of the site as seen from LIDAR data. The site was considered to have low potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological features.

Geophysical Survey

- 1.4.4 A detailed magnetic geophysical survey was undertaken in 2017 (MS 2017). The results identified a series of faint agricultural trends and remnants of two former field boundaries. Strong ferrous anomalies related to the playing fields and natural geological variation were also recorded.
- 1.4.5 Strong ferrous responses around the edges of the site have been interpreted as indicating modern activity. These anomalies are probably associated with fencing and the construction of the neighboring houses.
- 1.4.6 Several ambiguous anomalies were of undetermined origin. While it is likely these anomalies reflect a combination of agricultural and modern process an archaeological origin cannot be ruled out.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains
- iii. To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means
- iv. To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains
- v. To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy
- vi. To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historical landscape
- vii. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive
- viii. To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status utility and social activity
- ix. To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present
- x. To ground-truth the results of the geophysical survey

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Site specific methodology:

- The trenches were laid out as shown in Figure 2 using a GPS with sub-25mm accuracy. Some minor adjustments were required to avoid trees with protection orders and other obstructions such as goal posts and electric fencing.
- The trenches were excavated using a 13-tonne 360° excavator, fitted with a toothless bucket, under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. The spoil was stored adjacent to, but a safe distance from, the trench edges.
- Machining was carried out in level spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon, depending on which was encountered first. Excavation was stopped at a safe working depth of 1m in trenches that could not be backfilled immediately.
- The exposed surfaces were sufficiently cleaned to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains. A sample of each feature or deposit type was excavated and recorded.
- The trenches were backfilled upon agreement with Anna Stocks, Planning Archaeologist for Warwickshire County Council

- 2.2.2 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers and context recording was done in accordance with established best practice and OA Field Manual. Bulk finds were collected by context.
- 2.2.3 Black and white slide photography and digital photos were taken of any archaeological features, deposits, trenches and evaluation work in general, and will form part of the project archive.
- 2.2.4 Plans were drawn at an appropriate scale of 1:50. Section drawings of features were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All section drawings were located on the appropriate plans. The absolute height (m. OD) of all principal strata and features and the section datum lines were calculated and indicated on the drawings.
- 2.2.5 The trenches were located using a GPS unit. Co-ordinates relative to Ordnance Survey and Ordnance Datum were obtained for each sampling location.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, which include stratigraphic descriptions of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in 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. pit 102 is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence between all trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of sand and gravel with concentrations of ironstone was generally overlain directly by topsoil.
- 3.2.2 Trenches 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, located towards the north of the site, contained deposits interpreted as a buried soil and made ground. The natural geology was directly overlain by the buried soil (a former topsoil), which was a dark blue-grey clay containing fragments of modern brick. This was overlain by made ground comprising mixed sandy gravels and redeposited natural clay, containing fragments of modern brick. The layer of made ground was overlain by topsoil.
- 3.2.3 Due to the depth of the made ground present, natural geology was not observed in Trenches 5 and 6, or at the north-east end of Trench 7 and the north-west end of Trench 8.
- 3.2.4 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeological remains of note were only recorded within Trench 16. Trenches 8, 11 and 14 contained furrows on a NE-SW alignment, reflecting the hedge line to the south-east. An old field boundary, running NE-SW, was recorded in Trenches 34 and 37, and another crossing Trench 10, all of which seem to respect the current field boundaries.
- 3.3.2 Trenches 1, 2, 3, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38 and 42 were devoid of archaeological features or deposits.
- 3.3.3 All trenches contained field drains which generally ran parallel to current or past field boundaries.

3.4 Trench 10

- 3.4.1 Aligned ENE-WSW, Trench 10 was excavated to an average depth of 0.5m (115.46m aOD) onto the natural geology (1002).
- 3.4.2 The trench had been positioned to investigate a geophysical anomaly identified as an old field boundary. Two NE-SW aligned linear features, 1004 and 1006, were identified

cutting the natural geology. Both features contained very similar dark grey-brown fills, being 1003 and 1005 respectively. Ditch 1004 had well defined straight to concave edges and a flat base. The edges of linear 1006 were more diffuse and are believed to be the results of bioturbation. Linear 1006 probably represents the remains of a hedge line associated with ditch 1004. The fill, 1005, contained pottery from 18th-19th century and glass from the 19th-20th century.

3.4.3 Towards the north-east end of the trench the natural geology was overlain by a 0.22m thick layer of made ground. This deposit (1001) was observed c 20m from the north-east end of the trench and continued to the north-east beyond its limits. The deposit was a dark grey brown clay silt and contained fragments of modern brick.

3.4.4 The linear features, and where it was present the made ground, were sealed by topsoil (1000).

3.5 Trench 11

3.5.1 Trench 11 contained three linear features on a NE-SW alignment and one linear feature on a NNW-SSE alignment. The features were observed truncating the natural geology (1102) recorded at an average depth of 0.34m (115.60m aOD).

3.5.2 Two of the NE-SW linear features were excavated (1104 and 1108). Both were found to contain banded fills alternating between dark grey-brown silty sand similar to the topsoil, and mid brown-orange sand of redeposited natural. Only fill 1107 provided any dating evidence in the form of 19th-century glass. The profiles of the features with their moderately concave sides and shallow bases suggest that these were the remains of furrows.

3.5.3 Truncating furrow 1108 was a NNW-SSE linear feature (1106). Excavation of the feature identified it as a land drain.

3.6 Trench 14

3.6.1 Trench 14, aligned NNW-SSE, contained a continuation of the furrows found in Trench 11.

3.6.2 Natural geology, observed at an average depth of 0.46m (115.87m aOD), was truncated by seven linear features interpreted as furrows, of which two (1404 and 1407) contained field drains. From the fill (1402) of furrow 1401, a sherd of glass from the 18th-19th centuries was recovered.

3.6.3 A single discrete feature was recorded within the trench (1408). The feature was circular in plan with irregular sides and base. The feature was adjacent to linear 1410 but the stratigraphic relationship was too diffuse to establish. The irregular nature suggests that the feature was the result of root disturbance.

3.6.4 All features within Trench 14 were overlain by topsoil (1400).

3.7 Trench 16 (Fig. 3 and 7; Plate 1)

3.7.1 Trench 16 contained two ditch terminals. 1602 was aligned NNW-SSE, and 1603 was aligned NE-SW (Fig. 3 and 7; Plate 1).

3.7.2 Initial identification of the features was obscured by a modern intrusion, identified as a geotechnical test pit. The profiles of both ditches were similar, with narrow flat bases and steeply rising straight sides which then flared sharply to slightly concave shallow sides. The basal fills, 1605 and 1608 respectively, were composed of redeposited natural, probably washed in soon after the creation of the ditches. Fill 1607 of ditch 1602 was also very similar to fill 1610 of ditch 1603 in that they were both dark brown-grey fine sandy silts, although 1610 was the only fill to yield any dating evidence. A partial broken pot was dated to the 2nd-3rd centuries, comprising the only pre-18th-century dating evidence recovered from any of the trenches. Due to the short length of the ditches that was exposed, it is unclear if the slight curve recorded in each of the features is indicative of curvilinear features or if it merely represents a slight meandering in the route of the ditches.

3.7.3 No other archaeological features were recorded in Trench 16. Natural geology and the archaeological features were sealed by topsoil.

3.8 Trench 31

3.8.1 Trench 31 was aligned NW-SE and contained a single modern feature.

3.8.2 Located to the south-east end of the trench, pit 3103 contained a grey, silty clay fill and was visible in the topsoil during machining. Flecks of plastic were recovered from the fill, identifying it as a modern feature.

3.9 Trenches 34 and 37 (Fig. 4 and 7, Plate 2)

3.9.1 A NE-SW linear feature was observed crossing Trench 34 and continuing across Trench 37. In both trenches the feature was observed to truncate the natural geology and was overlain by topsoil.

3.9.2 A single slot (3702) was excavated into the feature in Trench 37 (Fig. 4 and 7; Plate 2). The feature had straight sides and a narrow concave base. The upper fill (3704) was a dark grey clay sand with similar characteristics to the topsoil. Fragments of field drain were recovered from this fill and dated to the 19th century. The basal fill (3703) was a dark olive brown, clay sand formed soon after the creation of the feature.

3.9.3 The feature, interpreted as boundary ditch, aligned with an existing boundary in the field to the east of the site.

3.10 Trench 39

3.10.1 Trench 39 contained one small discrete feature (3902).

3.10.2 Located at the north-east end of the NE-SW aligned trench, feature 3902 had concave sides and a concave base. The primary fill (3903) appeared to be a disturbed pale grey orange natural sand and is believed to have accumulated through bioturbation. The upper fill (3904) was a dark blue grey sandy silt and was derived from topsoil with a heavier organic content. Neither fill produced dating evidence. The feature was visible in the topsoil during machining and its profile presents characteristics of a tree hole.

3.11 Trench 40 (Fig. 5 and 7)

- 3.11.1 Trench 40, aligned NNE-SSW, contained two discrete features truncating the natural geology and sealed by topsoil.
- 3.11.2 Pit 4002 was well defined in plan. It was circular with straight sides and a concave base. The fill (4003) was mid grey with grey brown mottling and was composed of a fine silty sand (Fig. 5 and 7). There was a small amount of charcoal within the fill but as the pottery recovered from 4003 dated it to the 18th-19th centuries, a sample was not taken.
- 3.11.3 The second feature (4004) was irregular in plan and profile and was interpreted as being the result of bioturbation (Fig. 5 and 7).

3.12 Trench 41

- 3.12.1 Trench 41 contained a number of features which initially appeared to be ditch terminals. Investigation revealed possible terminals 4103 and 4104 to be variations within the natural geology with their respective fills 4102 and 4105 being similar pale blue grey, verging on white, sterile fine sand. Discrete feature 4107 was much more substantial and excavation identified it as a tree hole, with irregularities in the edges and with a disturbed 'dirty' character to its fills, both caused by rooting.

3.13 Finds summary

- 3.13.1 Reflecting the level of archaeology present, the artefactual evidence recovered from the site was sparse.
- 3.13.2 The most significant assemblage of material was recovered from ditch terminus 1603, one of two terminals in Trench 16. A total of 13 sherds of a single relatively well-preserved coarseware jar dating to the 2nd to 3rd century was recovered from the sole fill of the terminus.
- 3.13.3 A small assemblage of pottery (1 sherd), CBM (3 sherds) and glass (3 sherds) was recovered from the boundary ditches and the furrows, indicating the post-medieval date of the features.
- 3.13.4 Post-medieval pottery, a single sherd of buff ware, was also recovered from pit 4002.

3.14 Environmental summary

- 3.14.1 A single sample was taken from ditch terminal 1603. The sample contained mostly modern roots with only a small amount of charcoal present. The limited size of the charcoal fragments prevented species analysis. Given the apparent isolation of the ditch terminal, the lack of environmental material from the feature is not surprising.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The results of the investigation can be deemed very reliable. The fills of features were clearly visible against the natural geology and the trenches remained open for at least four days to allow weathering which has been known to reveal additional archaeology in this area.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The evaluation was successful in establishing the level of archaeological preservation and providing dating for the features identified. It confirmed that the site has a long and established history as farmland and has not seen intensive occupation even prior to the dates of the map regression.

4.2.2 The evaluation trenches were positioned to ground-truth the results of the geophysical survey. On the whole features identified by the survey (field boundaries and modern disturbances) were confirmed. However, several features, including the ditch terminals in Trench 16, furrows in Trenches 11 and 14 and a boundary ditch in Trenches 34 and 37, were not identified in the results of the geophysical survey.

4.2.3 Trench 12 was targeted on a circular anomaly identified in LIDAR results during the production of the DBA and a field boundary identified in the geophysical survey. The circular feature on the LIDAR coincided with a geological variation marked on the geophysical survey and this was confirmed upon opening the trench. The field boundary was not identified here.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 It is clear from the evidence gathered within the trenches and when considering the topography of the surrounding fields, that extensive landscaping has occurred within, or associated with the construction of, the playing fields. Towards the north-east area of site (Trenches 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9) the land has been built up significantly to raise the original ground level by up to 1m (Plate 3). The ground level of the field to the east of site is significantly lower than the level of the playing field, reflecting the substantial build-up of soils within this area.

4.3.2 Similarly, the trenches located in the south-west corner of the playing fields (trenches 13, 17 and 20) are extremely shallow (0.18m-0.30m) and lack the furrows visible in neighbouring trenches, which suggests that this part of the field has been terraced to bring it down to a level similar to the centre of the field. This is also visible in the north-west (trenches 1 and 2) of the site where the land appears to rise up to meet the school and road, suggesting that this landscaping occurred during or after the construction of the school between 1957-60 (OA 2016) and the abutting road.

4.3.3 Only trenches 11, 14 and 16 escaped extensive landscaping and it is in these trenches that the remains of furrows and archaeological features have survived. These features were not visible on the results of the LIDAR or geophysical surveys.

4.3.4 The arable field forming the southern part of the site does not appear to have received the same aggressive landscaping which may be because it has remained agricultural and would not require the adaptations a recreational ground would. Anomalies interpreted as furrows were identified in the results of the geophysics. However, they were not seen within the trenches and were not visible on the ground prior to opening the trenches.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation suggest there is low potential across the site.

4.4.2 Trench 16 contained the only archaeological features of note, being two Roman ditch terminals. As previously discussed, it is their location in the site beyond the area of landscaping that has enabled their preservation to the present day. While the presence of remains from this date means there is potential for further Roman activity within the development area this is likely to be low. The lack of archaeological features within the less disturbed arable field forming the southern half of the site, with no background artefactual evidence being recovered from other trenches, suggests that the area was never intensively utilised prior to the post-medieval period.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	47
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.41
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a substantial made ground which overlies natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.42	Made ground	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a substantial made ground built up over a buried soil which overlies natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	1.6
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.95	Made ground	-	-
402	Layer	-	0.45	Buried soil	-	-
403	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a substantial made ground built up over a buried soil which overlies natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	1.06
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.62	Made ground	-	-
502	Layer	-	0.24	Buried soil	-	-
503	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a substantial made ground built up over a buried soil which overlies natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.98
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.52	Made ground	-	-
602	Layer	-	0.24	Buried soil	-	-
603	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a substantial made ground built up over a buried soil which overlies natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.40	Made ground	-	-
702	Layer	-	0.24	Buried soil	-	-
703	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a substantial made ground built up over a buried soil which overlies natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.80
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.44	Made ground	-	-
802	Layer	-	0.13	Buried soil	-	-
803	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	45
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.61
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer	-	0.19	Topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.42	Made ground	-	-
902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.22	Made ground	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1003	Fill	1.10	0.26	Fill of [1004]	-	-
1004	Cut	1.10	0.26	Boundary ditch		
1005	Fill	1.13	0.41	Fill of [1006]	Pottery, glass	18 th -19 th C /19 th -20 th C
1006	Cut	1.13	0.41	Hedge line	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1101	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
1102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1103	Fill	1.70	0.56	Fill of [1104]	-	-
1104	Cut	1.70	0.56	Furrow	-	-
1105	Fill	1.60	0.66	Fill of [1106]	-	-
1106	Cut	1.60	0.66	Drainage	-	-
1107	Fill	1.06	0.40	Fill of [1108]	Glass	19 th C
1108	Cut	1.06	0.40	Furrow	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2

					Avg. depth (m)	0.39
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer	-	0.39	Topsoil	-	-
1201	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	45
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	0.39	Topsoil	-	-
1301	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
1401	Fill	1.12	0.20	Fill of [1402]	Glass	18 th - 19thC/ modern
1402	Cut	1.12	0.20	Furrow	-	-
1403	Fill	1.34	0.13	Fill of [1404]	-	-
1404	Cut	1.34	0.13	Furrow	-	-
1405	Fill	unex	unex	Fill of [1406]	-	-
1406	Cut	unex	unex	Furrow	-	-
1407	Fill	0.92	0.18	Fill of [1408]	-	-
1408	Cut	0.92	0.18	Pit	-	-
1409	Fill	0.44	0.08	Fill of [1410]	-	-
1410	Cut	0.44	0.08	Furrow	-	-
1411	Fill	unex	unex	Fill of [1412]	-	-
1412	Cut	unex	unex	Furrow	-	-
1413	Fill	unex	unex	Fill of [1414]	-	-
1414	Cut	unex	unex	Pit/terminus	-	-
1415	Fill	unex	unex	Fill of [1416]	-	-
1416	Cut	unex	unex	Furrow	-	-
1417	Fill	unex	unex	Fill of [1418]	-	-
1418	Cut	unex	unex	Furrow	-	-
1419	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 15						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE

Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
1501	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Consists of topsoil overlying two ditches with dark grey fine silty sand fills. The ditches cut natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.25
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
1601	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1602	Cut	1.66	0.4	Ditch	-	-
1603	Cut	1.44	0.46	Ditch	-	-
1604	Cut	0.86	0.12	Mod?	-	-
1605	Fill	0.42	0.24	Fill of [1602]	-	-
1606	Fill	0.64	0.14	Fill of [1602]	-	-
1607	Fill	1.28	0.18	Fill of [1602]	-	-
1608	Fill	0.38	0.10	Fill of [1603]	-	-
1609	Fill	0.24	0.03	Fill of [1603]	-	-
1610	Fill	0.96	0.36	Fill of [1603]	Pottery	2 nd – 3 rd C
1611	Fill	1.36	0.12	Fill of [1603]	-	-
1612	Fill	0.86	0.12	Fill of [1604]	-	-

Trench 17						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.18
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1700	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
1701	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 18						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1800	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
1801	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 19						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1900	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1901	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 20						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.20
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2000	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
2001	Layer	-	0.15	Natural	-	-

Trench 21						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2100	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
2101	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 22						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2200	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
2201	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 23						
General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	52
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.46
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

2300	Layer	-	0.46	Topsoil	-	-
2301	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 24						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2400	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
2401	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 25						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2500	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
2501	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 26						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2600	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
2601	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 27						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.33
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2700	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil	-	-
2701	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 28						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2800	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
2801	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 29						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.				Length (m)		50
				Width (m)		2
				Avg. depth (m)		0.39
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2900	Layer	-	0.39	Topsoil	-	-
2901	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 30						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.				Length (m)		50
				Width (m)		2
				Avg. depth (m)		0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3000	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
3001	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 31						
General description				Orientation		WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.				Length (m)		50
				Width (m)		2
				Avg. depth (m)		0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3100	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
3101	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
3102	Fill	0.6	0.1	Fill of [3103]	Plastic(not retained)	modern
3103	Cut	0.6	0.1	Pit (?)	-	-

Trench 32						
General description				Orientation		NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.				Length (m)		50
				Width (m)		2
				Avg. depth (m)		0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3200	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
3201	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 33						
General description					Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.37
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3300	Layer	-	0.37	Topsoil	-	-
3301	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 34						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3400	Layer	-			-	-
3401	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
3402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
3403	Cut		0.1	Wheel ruts	-	-
3404	Fill		0.1	Fill of [3403]	-	-
3405	Cut		unex	Boundary ditch	-	-
3406	fill		unex	Fill of [3405]	-	-

Trench 35						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3500	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
3501	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 36						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel with concentrations of ironstone.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.31
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3600	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil	-	-
3601	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 37						
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General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3700	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
3701	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
3702	Cut	1.45	0.65	Boundary ditch	-	-
3703	Fill	0.45	0.07	Fill of [3702]	-	-
3704	Fill	1.45	0.39	Fill of [3702]	CBM	19 th C
3705	Layer	-	-	Natural ironstone	-	-

Trench 38						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3800	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
3801	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 39						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3900	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
3901	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
3902	Cut	0.72	0.17	Tree hole (?)	-	-
3903	Fill	0.45	0.06	Fill of [3902]	-	-
3904	Fill	0.50	0.17	Fill of [3902]		

Trench 40						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4000	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
4001	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4002	Cut	0.70	0.34	Pit	-	-
4003	Fill	0.70	0.34	Fill of [4002]	pottery	18 th - 19 th C

4004	Cut	0.65	0.30	Natural feature	-	-
4005	Fill	0.65	0.30	Fill of [4004]	-	-

Trench 41

General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4100	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
4101	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4102	Fill	2.25	0.18	Fill of [4103]	-	-
4103	Cut	2.25	0.18	Geological variation	-	-
4104	Fill	1.3	0.18	Fill of [4105]	-	-
4105	Cut	1.3	0.18	Geological variation	-	-
4106	Fill	1.07	0.20	Fill of [4107]	-	-
4107	Cut	2	0.39	Tree hole	-	-
4108	Fill	0.62	0.07	Fill of [4107]	-	-
4109	Fill	0.75	0.25	Fill of [4107]	-	-
4110	Fill	0.92	0.24	Fill of [4107]	-	-

Trench 42

General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4200	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
4201	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

Identified by John Cotter

Context	Description	Date
1005	Single dish or bowl sherd Midlands black ware, 11g	18th – 19th century
1610	Sherds of local reduced coarse ware narrow necked vessel, 235g	2nd – 3rd century AD
4003	Single post medieval buff ware sherd, possibly from flower pot, 25g	18th – 19th century

B.1.1 The Roman pottery is of interest, given that the sherds belong to a single, relatively well-preserved vessel. The vessel, a coarseware jar, was made locally during the 2nd or 3rd century AD. The vessel was recovered from a fill of ditch 1603, but with a mean sherd weight of 18g and with 60% of the rim circumference surviving, is unlikely to have been deposited far from where it had been used.

B.1.2 The pottery assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

B.1 CBM

Identified by John Cotter

Context	Description	Date
3704	3 joining sherds of substantially complete crudely made land drain, U shaped with flattened flanges. In very coarse orange-buff coal measures fabric, 1006g	18th - 19th century

B.1.1 The CBM assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

B.2 Glass

Identified by Ian Scott.

Context	Description	Date
1005	1 sherd wine bottle glass, 3g	19th – 20th century

1107	1 sherd medicine bottle glass, 3g	19th century
1401	1 sherd window glass, 1 sherd dip-moulded wine bottle glass, 4g	Modern 18th – early 19th century

B.2.1 The glass assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

- C.1.1 A single sample was taken during the evaluation. Sample <1000> (1610) was 6 litres in volume and came from the fill of a ditch [1603] dated to the Roman period within Trench 16. The sample size was small as a result of disturbance from a previously excavated geotechnical pit which truncated the feature.

Method

The sample was processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style machine. The flot was collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residue sieved to 500µm; both were dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts. The dried flot was scanned using a binocular microscope at approximately x 10 magnification.

Results

- C.1.2 Sample <1000> produced a flot of approximately 25ml which was 100% scanned. No finds were observed within the residues.
- C.1.3 The flot contained mainly fine modern roots with only a small amount of charcoal all of which is too small for wood species analysis. No other charred remains were observed.

Discussion and Recommendations

- C.1.4 Very little charred material was present within this sample however, the ditch appears isolated from other features of the same date leading to the conclusion that it is removed from the main areas of settlement and activity. As such the lack of material is not exceptional, and better assemblages may be present in features more closely related to domestic activity. No further work on this sample is required.
- C.1.5 If further excavation is carried out in this area, it is recommended that sampling should take place, ideally from a range of features across the site. This sampling should be carried out in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (eg. Oxford Archaeology, 2005 and English Heritage, 2011).

APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

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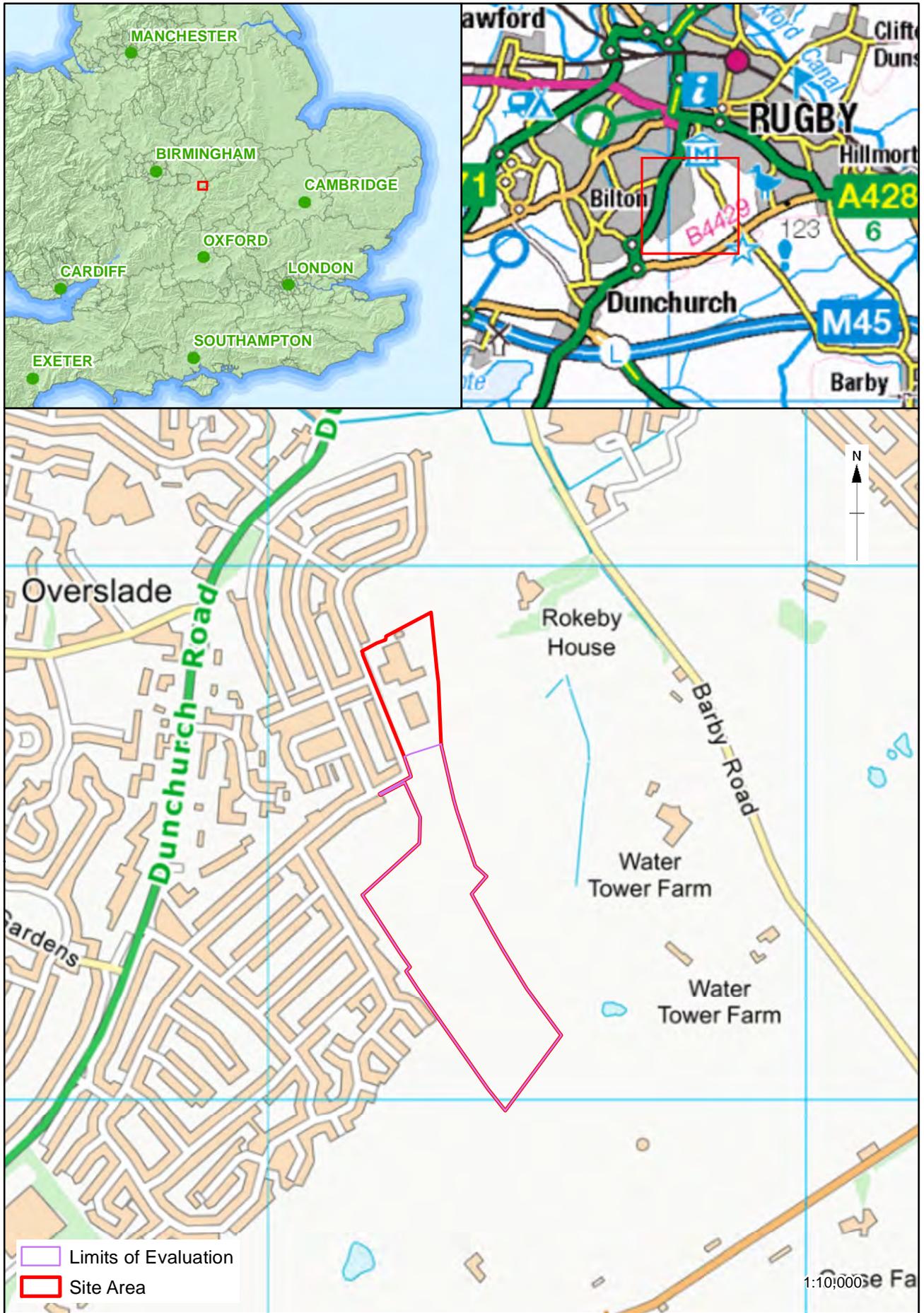
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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Rokeby Primary School, Rugby
Site code:	RURO17
Grid Reference	NGR: SP 50312 73516
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	15th May – 2nd June
Area of Site	12 hectares or which 10 were subject to the evaluation
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Rugby Art Gallery and Museum in due course, under the following accession number: RTA 1066.
Summary of Results:	<p>Between 15th May and 2nd June 2017, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation comprising 42 trenches on land forming a proposed redevelopment of Rokeby Primary School. The site was divided into two areas, playing fields associated with the existing school to the north and arable fields to the south.</p> <p>The trenches were positioned to ground truth the results of a geophysical survey previously undertaken.</p> <p>Extensive landscaping, both cut and fill, was observed within the playing fields. Only a small area appeared to have potential for archaeological remains to survive.</p> <p>Within this area two ditch termini were recorded, of which one contained an assemblage of 2nd to 3rd century Roman pottery. No other archaeological features predating the post-medieval period were recorded across the development area.</p> <p>Evidence for post-medieval agricultural activity was observed within the southern area and parts of the northern fields, this consisted of former field boundaries and furrows.</p> <p>Features identified in the geophysical survey were proven in the trenches, along with additional features, including the ditch termini, that were not recorded in the geophysics.</p>



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Figure 1: Site location

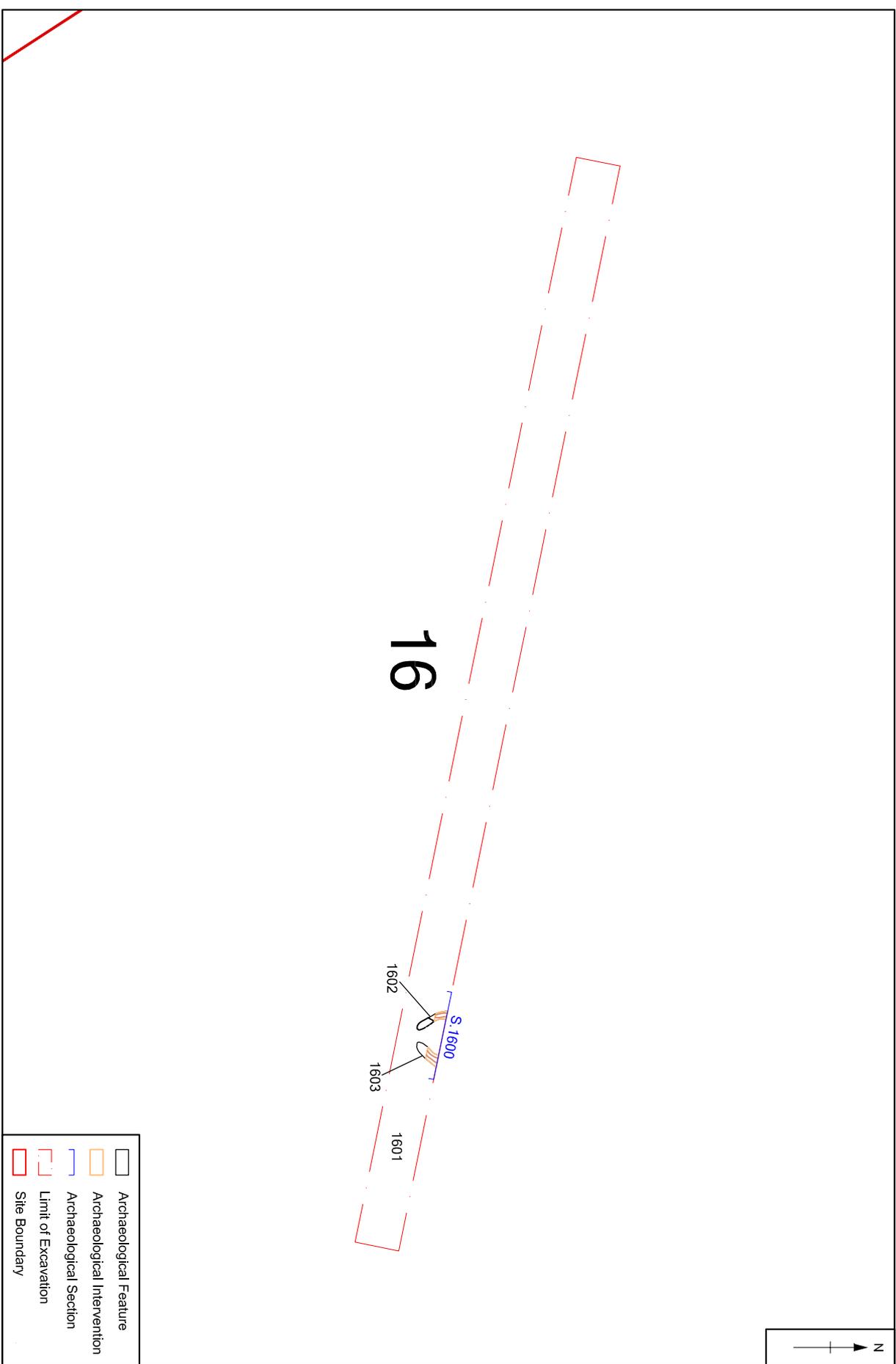


X:\Rugby (Land Adj Rokeby Primary School)\Evaluation\010\Geomatics\03 GIS Projects\RUROEV_EVAL_Figure 2_2017-06-02.mxd\benjamin.brown\05/06/2017

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User

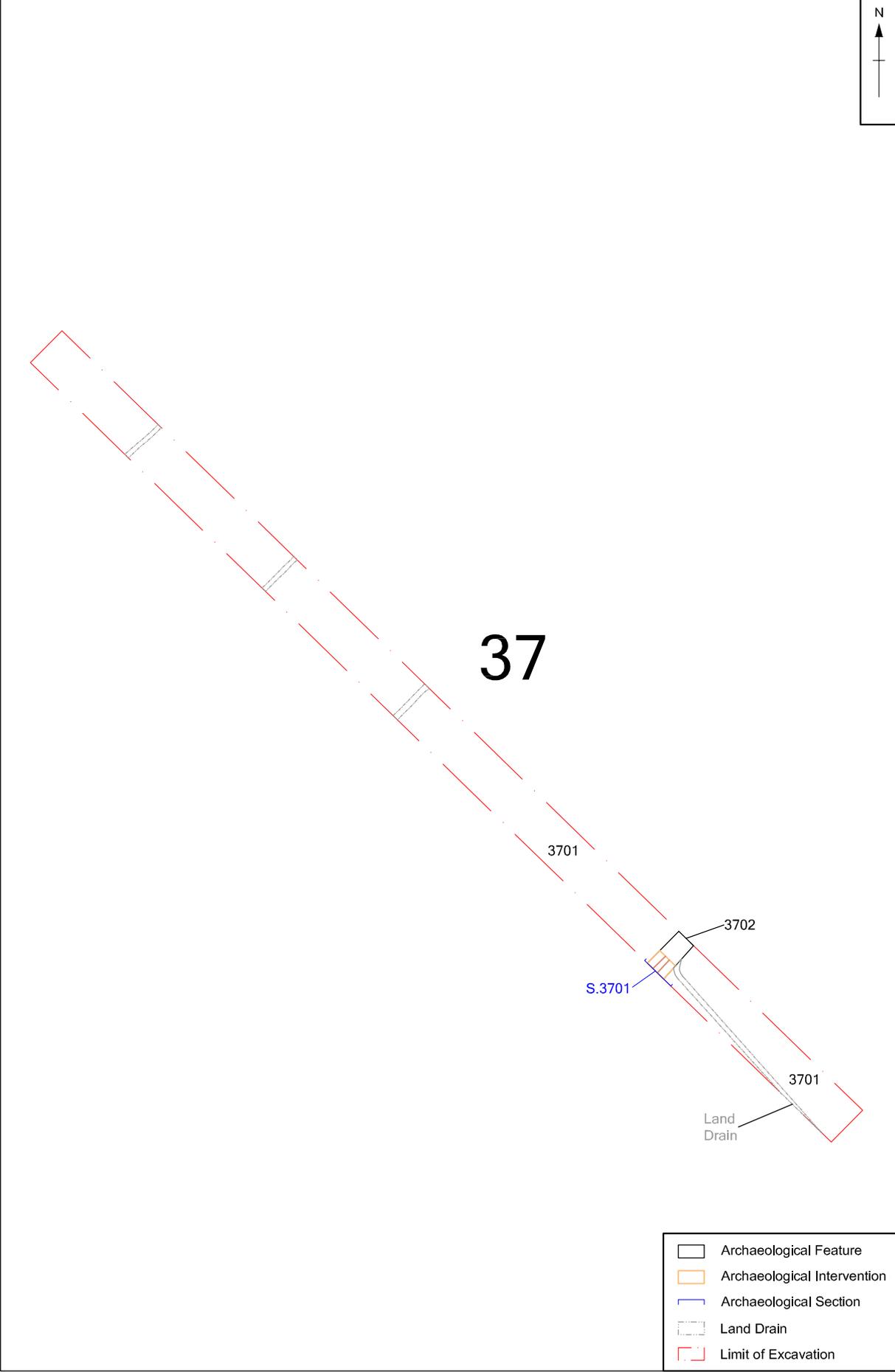
Figure 2: Trench Layout and Features as Surveyed

0 1:2,000 @ A3 100 m



	Archaeological Feature
	Archaeological Intervention
	Archaeological Section
	Limit of Excavation
	Site Boundary

Figure 3: Trench 16



- Archaeological Feature
- Archaeological Intervention
- Archaeological Section
- Land Drain
- Limit of Excavation

Figure 4: Trench 37

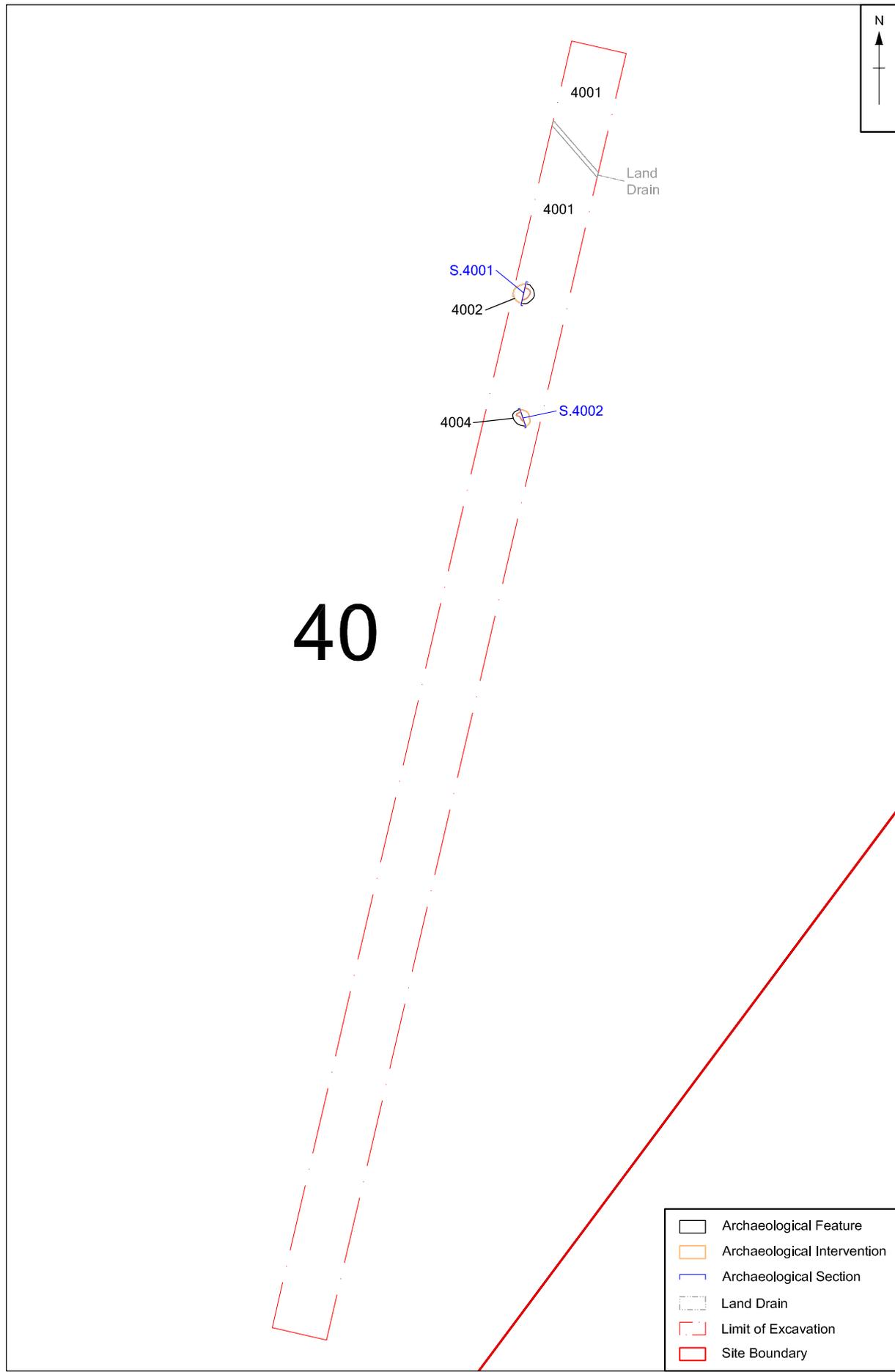


Figure 5: Trench 40

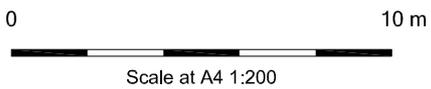
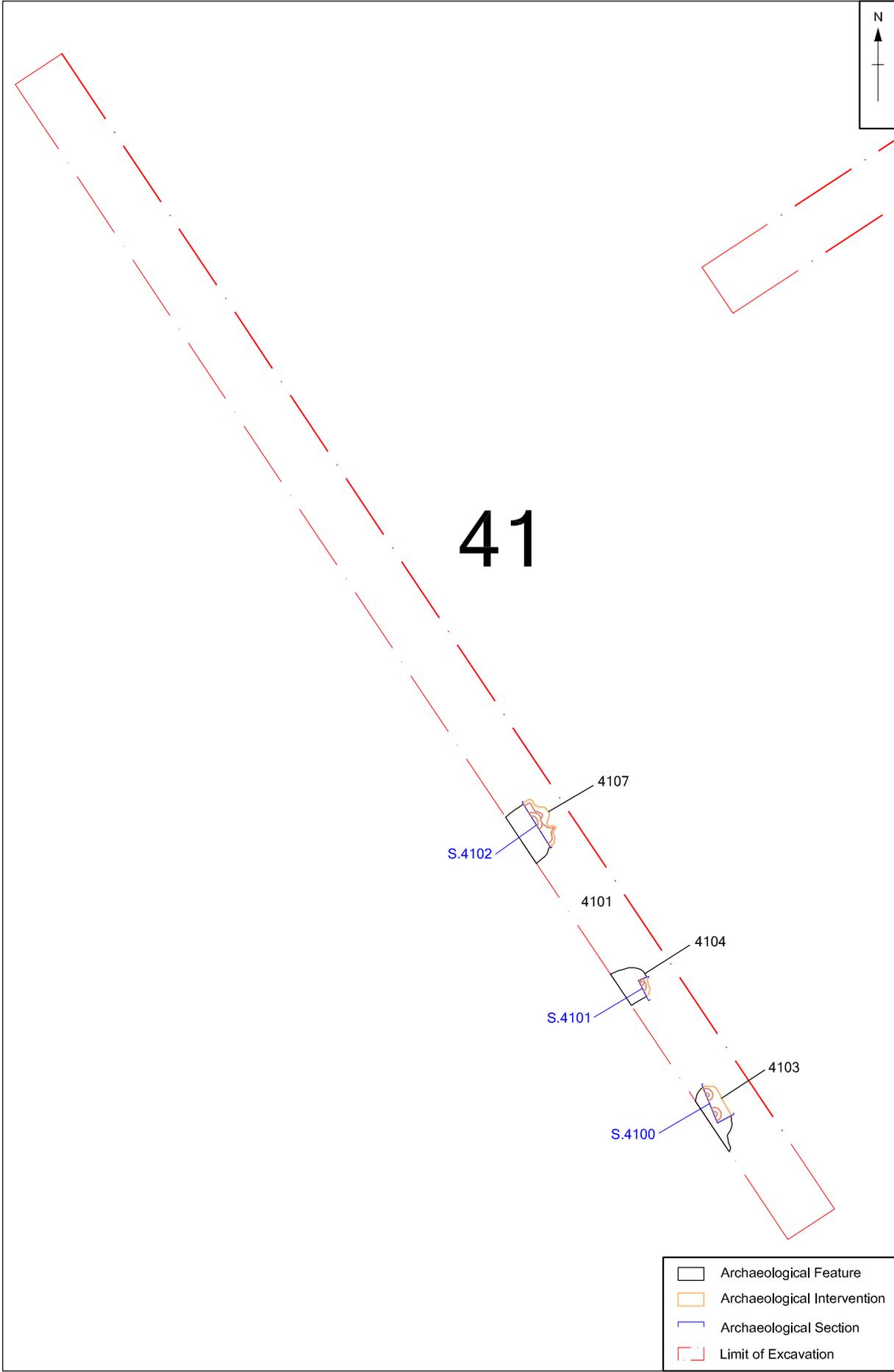


Figure 6: Trench 41

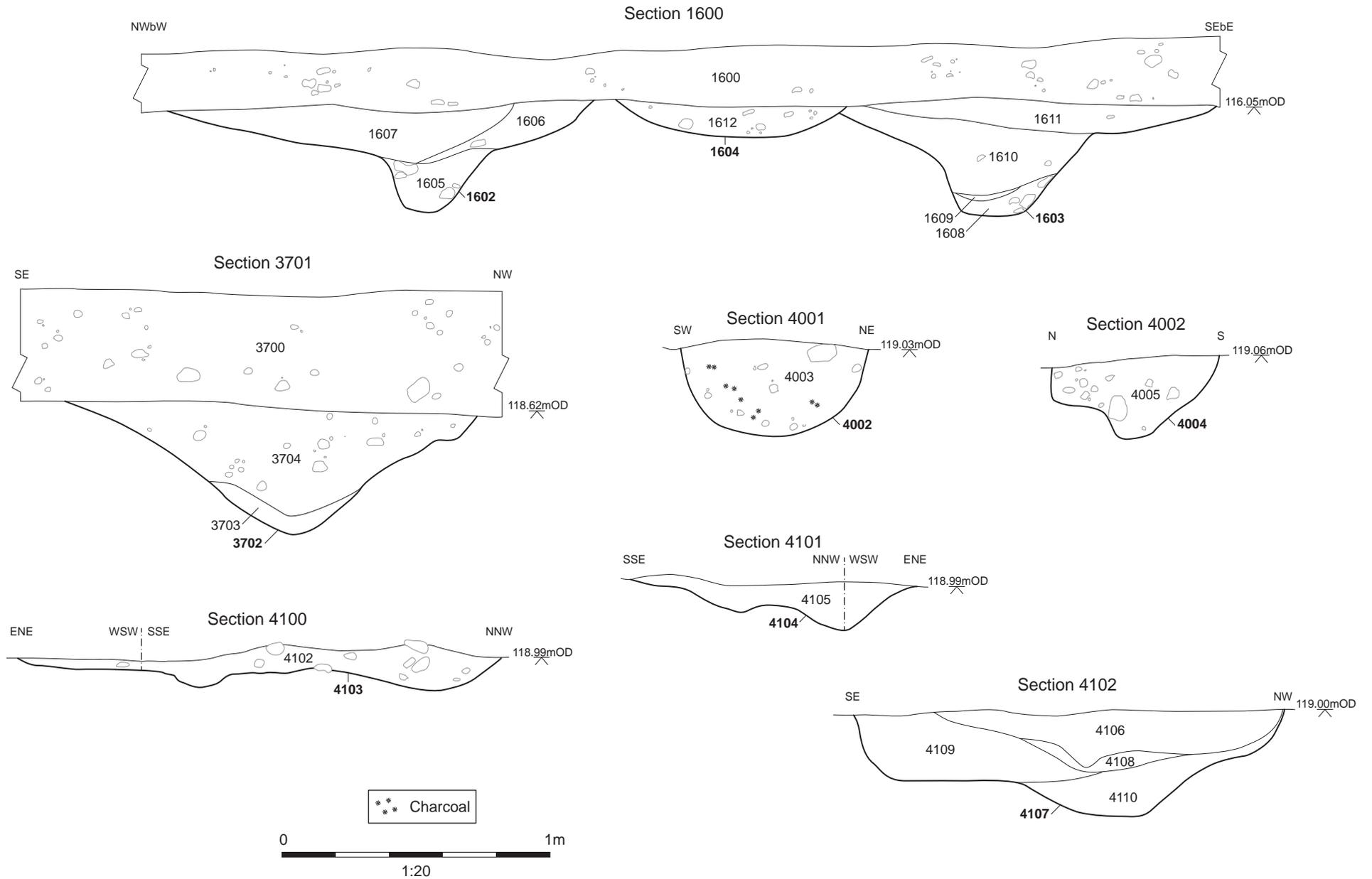


Figure 7: Trenches 16, 37, 40 and 41 sections



Plate 1: Trench 16, ditches 1602 and 1603



Plate 2: Trench 37, boundary ditch 3702



Plate 3: Trench 6, buried soil and made ground



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