An Iron Age Pit Alignment at Engleton Lane, Brewood, Staffordshire

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An Iron Age Pit Alignment at Engleton Lane, Brewood, Staffordshire

Archaeological Excavation Report

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with contributions from John Cotter, Alex Davies and Richard Palmer

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Summary

During March 2020, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation of the site of a proposed residential development at Engleton Lane, Brewood, Staffordshire (NGR SJ 8881 0943). The excavation comprised a 100m by 6m area along with further exploratory trenches, following the length of a prehistoric pit alignment which had been discovered during a previous evaluation. A total of 44 pits were revealed, extending over a length of at least 205m on a south-west to north-east alignment, running downslope towards the River Penk. Each contained largely sterile fills whose nature suggests that the pits were left open to silt up. Charcoal from the lower fill of one pit produced a radiocarbon date of the mid 4th to early 2nd centuries cal BC, placing it in the middle Iron Age, and another pit contained pottery sherds consistent with this date. Medieval pottery from the upper fill of a further pit could be intrusive. The pit alignment was cut by a ditch of unknown date. The only other features were post-medieval furrows and a drainage gully.

Acknowledgements

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Carl Champness. The fieldwork was directed by BJ Ware, who was supported by Liberty Bennett and Nicholas Jones. Survey and digitising was carried out by Simon Batsman, Matt Bradley and Aidan Farnan. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Geraldine Crann, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) were commissioned by RPS Group Ltd, on behalf of Lovell Ltd, to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation of the site of a proposed residential development at Engleton Lane, Brewood, Staffordshire. The excavation comprised trenches that followed the length of a potential prehistoric pit alignment, which was discovered during the previous site evaluation (OA 2019).

1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the planning authority in advance of submission of a planning application. Although the local planning authority had not set a brief for the work, discussions between Shane Kelleher, Staffordshire County Council Archaeologist (SCC), and Mathew Smith (RPS), established the scope of work required. Its methodology was set out in a written scheme of investigation (OA 2020).

1.2 Location, geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies on the north-eastern edge of the village of Brewood, Staffordshire (NGR SJ 8881 0943). The area of proposed development consists of one complete pastoral field and the southern half of two adjoining pastoral fields (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The site is relatively level at *c* 100m aOD. The closest watercourse is the River Penk which is located *c* 350m north-east of the site. The wider landscape is relatively flat although it gently slopes down towards the River Penk reaching *c* 90m AOD.

1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as Mudstone and Halite-Stone, sedimentary bedrocks formed approximately 201 to 252 million years ago, with superficial deposits of diamicton (BGS online).

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 (RPS 2018), but the relevant points are summarised below.

Prehistoric period (10,000 BC–AD 43)

1.3.2 Except for the pit alignment located in the evaluation trenching (OA 2019), no significant prehistoric discoveries have been made within the vicinity of Brewood, which is largely believed to have been wooded during this period.

Roman period (AD 43–410)

1.3.3 The site lies 0.7km north-east of a scheduled Roman villa at Engleton, excavated in the early 20th century after being discovered during quarrying. However, Roman activity in the area appears to be predominantly located 1.5km to the north-east of the site within in the vicinity of Watling Street.

Medieval period (AD 410–1486)

1.3.4 Although Brewood is first mentioned in Domesday Book (1086 AD) some researchers suggest that the settlement may have originated as the focus of a Mercian (aristocratic or Royal) estate as early as the 7th or 8th century. The church held Brewood by the early 11th century and it is possible that it had been granted by a Mercian dynasty and became a minster church (Staffordshire County Council 2013).

1.3.5 The layout of Brewood reveals two possible enclosures which may have been associated with early medieval activity. The larger, rectilinear, area fossilised by the roads comprising Market Place, Sandy Lane, The Pavement and Dean Street, may have enclosed the area of the minster. The second, less regular area, formed by Bargate Street and Newport Street, to the west may have originated as a farm or possibly a green around which settlement was focused (ibid.). These enclosures are located *c* 700m south-west of the site around the area recorded by the HER as the historic settlement of Brewood (HERMST2334).

Post-medieval period (AD 1486 onwards)

1.3.6 Historic mapping demonstrates that the site was located within an area of agricultural land on the periphery of Brewood throughout the post-medieval period and modern period. Medieval strip fields were preserved within the site as field boundaries until they were gradually removed during the 19th and 20th century.

1.4 Previous archaeological investigations

1.4.1 Between October and November 2019, a total of 19 trenches were excavated across the site to assess its archaeological potential (OA 2019). Seventeen of the evaluation trenches contained no archaeological remains, with the natural geology overlain by subsoil and topsoil. A few natural features and geological variations were investigated as a precaution. A north-south aligned ditch, possibly a post-medieval field drainage ditch, was investigated in Trench 3. The only significant remains uncovered comprised a potential prehistoric pit alignment found in Trench 6 consisting of nine closely spaced pits. Even though the pits were undated and no finds were recovered, the sterile character of the fills are consistent with similar prehistoric pit alignments discovered within the area.

1.5 Aims and objectives

1.5.1 The specific aims and objectives of the excavation were:

i. To determine or confirm the general nature of the 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 determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive;
iv. To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity;
v. To determine the extent of the pit alignment and any associated features;

vi. To provide an appropriate level of reporting and records for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Staffordshire HER.

1.5.2 The programme of archaeological investigation was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by West Midlands Regional Research Framework (HE 2016).

1.6 Fieldwork methodology

1.6.1 The main excavation area was positioned to target the line of the prehistoric pit alignment to the north-east and south-west of evaluation Trench 6, and measured 150m in length and up to *c* 5.6m in width (Fig. 2). A further three 2.5–3m-wide exploratory trenches (SMS Trenches 1–3) were cut across and along the projected line of the pit alignment towards the north-east of the site. In addition, three *c* 3m-wide strip trenches were opened, perpendicular to the west and east sides of the main excavation area.

1.6.2 Topsoil and subsoil were removed under archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The trenches were sufficiently cleaned so that the number of pits and other features could be established. A total of 50% of the total number of pits (including the four pits previously investigated during the evaluation) were excavated within the main excavated area. Those within the SMS trenches were not excavated. In the first instance each pit was half-sectioned, with a selection subject to full excavation.

1.6.3 Archaeological excavation and recording were undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidance (CIfA 2014).

2 STRATIGRAPHY

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological features largely comprised a number of pits pertaining to the pit alignment, including four that were previously reported on during the evaluation stage (OA 2019). Several other features are likely to relate to subsequent agricultural activity of medieval and later date. Full details of the context descriptions can be found in Appendix A.

2.2 Middle Iron Age pit alignment

2.2.1 The main excavation area revealed an alignment of 37 closely spaced pits, including four that were investigated during the evaluation (Trench 6). A further seven pits were revealed to the north-east within exploratory trenches positioned across and along the projected line of this alignment (SMS Trenches 1 and 3). No further pits were revealed within the third exploratory trench positioned further to the north-east (SMS Trench 2).

2.2.2 The pits formed a slightly sinuous line orientated on an approximate NE–SW alignment that extended for a length of at least 205m. Within SMS Trench 3 the pit alignment appeared to terminate or abruptly change alignment towards the SE, as indicated by the position of the two adjacent pits at its NE extent. The pits were spaced *c* 0.5–1.0m apart, though this increased within the NE part of the alignment to *c* 1.2–1.7m. Measuring the distance between the estimated centroid of each pit, the spacing becomes more consistent and rarely varied significantly from 3.5–3.7m. Pits were absent in two places near to the north-east of the excavated area, north-east of pit 2006. Also, there was no corresponding pit at the south-east end of the excavated area beyond pit 2063. It is not clear whether the lack of a pit here represented a terminus or change in the direction of the pit alignment or if there was a simply an 'absent' pit.

Feature	Section no.	Dimensions (m)	Depth (m)	No. of fills	Description
2067	2014	2.54 x 2.3	0.42	1	Oval, moderate sides and concave base
2006	2001	2.38 x 2.30	0.58	2	Sub-circular, shallow concave sides and flat base
2003	2000	1.94 x 1.95	0.36	2	Sub-circular, gradual sides, flat base
2010	2002	2.75 x 2.25	0.6	3	Sub-circular, shallow concave sides and base
2015	2002	2.46 x 2.30	0.68	3	Irregular in plan with shallow concave side and irregular base
2019	2004	1.72 x 1.50	0.38	2	Circular with moderate concave sides and base
2022	2005	2.5 x 2.4	0.5	3	Sub-rectangular with moderate sides and concave base

2026	2006	2.60 x 2.50	0.55	5	Sub-circular with moderate concave sides and flat base
2027	2007	2.94 x 2.90	0.55	3	Sub-circular with moderate-steep sides and flat base
2031	2006	5.50 x 2.40	0.53	3	Sub-oval with moderate concave sides and flat base
2041	2009	2.96 x 2.0	0.6	6	Oval with moderate sides and concave base
2040	2008	3.34 x 2.00	0.56	3	Oval with moderate sides and concave base
2055	2011	2.54 x 1.80	0.4	2	Oval, steep sides, flat base
2058	2012	2.66 x 2.32	0.73	4	Sub-circular with moderate concave sides and flat base
2063	2013	2.66 x 2.38	0.5	3	Sub-circular with moderate concave sides and flat base

Table 1. Summary of the pits (from north-east to south-west)

2.2.3 A total of 15 pits were excavated, in addition to the four that were sectioned during the evaluation phase. Table 1 gives a summary of the dimensions and profile for each pit. Most of the excavated pits were sub-circular or oval in shape and had shallow to moderately steep concave sides with a narrow flat or slightly concave base. They did not vary significantly in size or depth and on average each pit measured about 2.6m in length and 0.55m in depth. A notable exception was pit 2031, which measured *c* 5.5m in length. This was also the only instance where two pits (2031 and 2026) apparently intersected each other, though the relationship between the two could not be established (see Section 2006). It is possible that the excavated section pertains to a single pit (2026) and that the south-western edge of the second pit (2031) actually lay beyond the excavated area and was mis-identified in plan. If correct, this would allow for two separate pits that were of similar sizes to the other pits within the alignment.

2.2.4 Up to six fills were identified within the pits, though the majority contained only two or three fills. Within 12 of the pits the primary fill comprised a thick deposit of friable to firm light–mid blueish silty or sandy clay with moderate to frequent small pebbles/stones and occasional larger stones. These fills were sterile and rarely contained charcoal flecking. Their nature suggests that the pits were open for a sufficient time to allow for water and debris to accumulate at their base. The secondary and upper fills were darker and sandier in composition and were often more mottled in nature. These contained varying amounts of manganese flecking and small stones and charcoal flecking was also more prevalent.

2.2.5 A small amount of pottery was recovered from the sole fill (2068) of pit 2067, comprising 14 highly abraded and small sherds, all probably from the same vessel. This is likely to be of early or middle Iron Age date. Charcoal (*Alnus*/*Corylus*) from an environmental sample from a lower fill (2017) of pit 2015 produced a radiocarbon date of 370–190 cal BC (SUERC-93868; Table 2), indicating that this pit had begun to fill during the middle Iron Age.

Lab. no.	Material	Context	Feature	$\Delta^{13}C$ ($^{0}/_{00}$)	Radiocarbon Age BP	Calibrated Age 95.4% confidence
SUERC-93868	Charcoal (*Alnus*/*Corylus*)	2017	2015	-26.1	2198 ± 26	370–190 cal BC

Table 2. Radiocarbon date. The date has been calibrated using OxCal4 and the IntCal13 atmospheric calibration curve. The calibrated date range has been rounded out to the nearest 10 years

2.2.6 Two small sherds of medieval pottery, probably dating to *c* 1150–1300, were recovered from the top fill (2050) of pit 2040. This could indicate that the pits remained as shallow hollows into the medieval period, though it could simply be that the sherds are intrusive.

2.3 Later features

2.3.1 Several linear features and a small pit comprised the only other features present, two which can be shown to post-date the pit alignment. Ditch 2069 was aligned approximately ENE–WSW and cut across pit 2067 at the northern end of the pit alignment. It measured 1.50m wide and 0.22m deep and had shallow sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with soft mottled brown and yellowish grey silty sand with frequent manganese flecks and stones but contained no finds. Cutting the northern edge of pit 2010 (Section 2002), located within the northern part of the pit alignment, was a small circular pit (2009). It measured *c* 1.0m in diameter and 0.20m in depth and contained no finds.

2.3.2 Within the two perpendicular trenches on the west side of the main excavated area, three NE–SW aligned furrows were revealed. One of the furrows was investigated (2051) and was shown to be cut by a ditch (2053) orientated on the same alignment (Section 2010). The furrow measured 1.0m and 0.53m deep and is likely to have cut the subsoil (2000); it is presumably later medieval or post-medieval in date. Steep-sided ditch 2053 measured 1.38m wide and 0.50m deep and contained post-medieval pottery and roofing tile, together suggesting an 18th century date. The ditch is likely to have been a post-medieval land drain and was potentially the same feature as undated ditch 2069 to the north.

3 ARTEFACTS

3.1 Prehistoric pottery *by Alex Davies*

3.1.1 Prehistoric pottery was recovered from a single context, 2068. This comprised 14 sherds weighing 12g, all probably from a single vessel. The material is in poor condition and the sherds highly abraded. There are no rims, feature sherds or decoration. The fabric contains a moderate quantity of quartz sand up to 1mm in size, and rare quantities of larger pieces of quartzite. The fabric also contains rare golden glistening plate-like pieces of probable pyrite. Due to a lack of diagnostic features the sherds cannot be considered well dated, although they probably belong to the early or middle Iron Age.

3.2 Medieval and later pottery *by John Cotter*

3.2.1 A total of five sherds of post-Roman pottery, weighing 18g, were recovered from two contexts. The pottery comprises ordinary domestic medieval and post-medieval wares typical of the Staffordshire area. Given the small quantity present, this has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below. Post-medieval fabric codes used here are those of the Museum of London (MOLA 2014).

Context 2050 (Spot-date c 1150–1350?)

3.2.2 Two sherds (weight 8g). Joining pieces from an abraded body sherd. Fairly coarse sandy fabric with a broad grey core, a brownish internal surface and a black (probably sooted) external surface. The fabric is not very diagnostic. It is fairly low-fired with abundant medium-coarse quartz inclusions, mostly rounded, and some possible chert inclusions. The sherd is possibly from the lower wall of a cooking pot. A medieval date is very likely – probably between the 12th and 14th centuries. The fabric resembles that of cooking pots in Deritend ware (*c* 1175–1350), which was produced in Birmingham.

Context (2054) (Spot-date: c 1700–1800)

3.2.3 Three sherds (weight 10g). Two small body sherds from a thin-walled vessel (drinking vessel?) in Staffordshire-type red-slipped glazed ware (STRSB). This has a fine sandy yellowish fabric with a highly glossy/shiny black glaze all-over on both sides and overlying a thin dark red-brown slip. One of the two sherds in this fabric is burnt and vitrified. The largest of the three sherds here (8g), also a body sherd, has a very abraded external surface. It has a sandy orange-red fabric and is probably a local post-medieval red earthenware (PMR) of 17th–18th century date.

3.3 Ceramic building material *by John Cotter*

3.3.1 Three pieces of ceramic building material weighing 31g were recovered. Given the small amount this has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below.

Context 2054 (Spot-date: 16th to 18th century?)

3.3.2 Three pieces (31g). One larger body fragment from a flat roof tile in a coarse orange-red fabric. Thickness 17mm. Probably post-medieval. One small scrap possibly from

the same roof tile as previous. One small shapeless scrap in a soft orange-red fabric, possibly from a post-medieval brick.

3.4 Other finds

3.4.1 The only other finds were seven fragments of iron slag weighing a total of 177g from post-medieval ditch fill 2054.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL AND OSTEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

4.1 Charred plant remains *by Richard Palmer*

Introduction

4.1.1 40L bulk samples were taken from five pits from the pit alignment, primarily for the retrieval of charred plant remains (CPR), small bones and artefacts.

4.1.2 The samples were processed in their entirety using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine to 250µm (flot) and 500µm mesh (residue). The residue fractions were sorted by eye and all bone and artefacts removed while the flot material was sorted using a low power (x10) binocular microscope to extract cereal grains and chaff, smaller seeds and other quantifiable remains.

4.1.3 Identifications of wild seeds was undertaken with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers *et al*. 2006) and comparison with modern reference material. Classification and nomenclature of plant material follows Stace (2010).

Results

4.1.4 Full details of the samples and flot material are presented in Table 3. Few charred plant remains are present, with only three items in total within the assemblage. The material was in generally poor condition and portions of the flots consist of coal-like and clinker-like material. Charcoal is present in all samples, usually in small quantities, and larger fragments often have surface staining.

4.1.5 The recovered material offers little potential for developing any further interpretation. There is insufficient identifiable charcoal making the assemblage unsuitable for wood species identification.

Sample no		1	2	3	4	5
Context no		2017	2050	2030	2062	2068
Feature		2015	2040	2027	2058	2067
Description		Pit fill	Pit fill	Pit fill	Pit fill	Pit fill
Date/Phase						
Volume (L)		40	40	40	40	40
Flot Volume (ml)		25	50	50	25	25
Proportion of flot sorted		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Wild Species						
Vicia/Lathyrus sp. 3mm	vetch	1				
Galium sp.	bedstraw					1
Poaceae	grass seed				1	
Charcoal						
>4mm		18	10	1	2	2
4–2mm		6-25	6-25	6-25	6-25	6-25

Table 3: Charred plant remains and charcoal

5 DISCUSSION

5.1.1 Later prehistoric pit alignments are a known in many areas of the Midlands. Several have been investigated in Staffordshire, though mainly in the eastern part of the county, particularly around the Trent-Tame confluence (Buteux and Chapman 2009). Such alignments have been subject to considerable debate regarding their chronology and function, though it is generally agreed that they functioned as symbolic landscape or territorial divisions, rather than as physical barriers to the movement of people or livestock (Thomas 2003; Cunliffe 2005, 432). Most appear to date to between the late Bronze Age and the middle Iron Age, though some belong to other periods. A review of pit alignments undertaken by Waddington (1997) divided such alignments into three broad chronological categories. The earliest, dating from late Neolithic, comprises double and widely spaced pit alignments that often held substantial posts. A second category of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age date usually comprises single alignments of closely spaced rectangular and sometimes oval pits with occasional evidence for posts. A third category is of Iron Age/Romano-British date, usually comprising single pit alignments with little evidence for posts.

5.1.2 It is clear from the single-line and closely spaced arrangement of the pits at Brewood that the alignment here falls into either the second or third category. The radiocarbon date from a lower fill of pit 2015 indicates that this feature had begun to infill at some point between the mid 4th and early 2nd centuries cal BC, a date range that falls within the middle Iron Age. This is corroborated by the recovery of early or middle Iron Age pottery from pit 2067. There was no evidence that any of the pits ever held wooden posts, and indeed a thick accumulation of water-lain bluish clay at the base of many of them would suggest that they remained open over a protractive length of time. In addition, the nature of their subsequent fills suggests that they had naturally silted up, rather than being deliberately backfilled. A similar process has been observed in other Iron Age pit alignments (eg Webley 2007). The scarcity of artefacts or charred plant remains that was obtained from the pits suggests that there was no contemporary settlement in the near vicinity.

5.1.3 The full extent of the pit alignment at Brewood was not established with any degree of certainty. It presumably could not have extended further to the north-east than the River Penk which is located *c* 390m north-east of the north-easternmost pit in SMS Trench 3. It is possible that the alignment turned abruptly to the south-east at this point, though it is not possible to determine whether the two pits here were contemporary. Moreover, no pits were revealed within the evaluation trenches to the south-east of this point, though it is feasible that they lay outside the line of this postulated return. Nonetheless, such right-angle returns are feature of single-pit alignments at the Milfield Complex, Northumberland, such as at Ewart I (Waddington 1997, 26 and fig. 2). The fact that the Brewood pit alignment was laid out on a perpendicular orientation to the River Penk may not be coincidental. Pit alignments in many other parts of the Midlands run down towards and lie at right angles to rivers, as was the case for several of the alignments around Catholme, Staffordshire, which appear to have divided the landscape into a series of blocks on the western side of the River Trent (Buteux and Chapman 2009). Several other pit alignments in the Midlands

were aligned on older monuments, but we have no evidence that this was the case at Brewood.

5.1.4 There was at least one gap within the northern part of the pit alignment and potentially a second at its southern extent where there was an absence of a pit. This would appear to be deliberate as there is no evidence that the pits here were truncated. Presumably such gaps marked entrances through the boundary which, at *c* 4m wide, were sufficient to allow the passing of livestock and people. An assessment of the Milfield Complex, Northumberland, suggested that such entrances were employed to manage movement across them, implying that access needed to be controlled (Waddington 1997, 12).

5.1.5 The size and the close spacing of the pits have parallels to excavated examples of similar single-line pit alignments such as at Ibstock, Leicestershire (Clarke 2013), located *c* 60km east of the site. Here the alignment consisted of a slightly sinuous line of 34 pits. The spacing between the pits, when measured from their centroids, is also very similar to the Brewood pits, at *c* 3m. A cremation burial radiocarbon dated to cal AD 0–130 was placed in the top of one of the pits. The placing of the cremation on top of the pit appears to have been deliberate and it is suggested that its placement was reaffirming ancestral links to the boundary or perhaps sealing or closing the pit alignment. The boundary here also appears to have influenced the layout of a nearby Roman settlement. A recently excavated pit alignment at Lichfield, Staffordshire, revealed a line of at least 13 pits located immediately adjacent to or within an Iron Age activity area that included a ring-gully and several four-post structures. Unlike the Brewood alignment, some of the pits here contained heat-cracked pebbles, evidently detritus from the settlement. Nonetheless, no actual dating evidence was recovered from the pits themselves (Portch and Palmer 2020).

5.1.6 The pit alignment at Brewood, at least within the area of the site, appears to have influenced the layout of the existing field boundaries, which are presumably at least medieval in origin. Several furrows and a land drain of medieval and/or post-medieval date were found to run parallel to the pit alignment.

6 PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVING

6.1 Publication

6.1.1 It is proposed to submit an edited version of this report to the *Transactions of the Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society*, a peer reviewed journal.

6.2 Archiving, retention and disposal

6.2.1 The site archive will be deposited with The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery under accession number STKMG:2020:LH:15.

6.2.2 The pottery has the potential to inform research through re-analysis and should be retained. The ceramic building material and slag has little potential for further analysis and could be discarded.

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APPENDIX A CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Cut No	Section No	Dimensions (m)	Depth (m)	Fill Position	Description	Comment	Finds	Sample No
2000							Topsoil		
2001							Subsoil		
2002							Natural		
2003		2000	1.94 x 1.95	0.36		Subcircular, gradual sides, flat base	Pit		
2004	2003	2000		0.24	1	Soft light brown grey sandy silt with freq. pebbles, occ. charcoal	Pit fill		
2005	2003	2000		0.14	2	Friable mid brownish grey sandy silt with freq. pebbles and occ. Charcoal	Pit fill		
2006		2001	2.38 x 2.30	0.58		Subcircular, shallow concave sides and flat base	Pit		
2007	2006	2001		0.46	1	Friable mid blueish grey sandy clay with moderate pebbles	Pit fill		
2008	2006	2001		0.14	2	Soft light brown grey sandy silt with freq. pebbles, manganese flecks	Pit fill		
2009		2002	1.0 x 1.0	0.2		Subcircular, shallow concave sides and base	Small pit (poss. cuts pit 2010)		
2010		2002	2.75 x 2.25	0.6		Subcircular, shallow concave sides and base	Pit		
2011	2009	2002		0.2	1	Soft light brown grey sandy silt with occ. pebbles, charcoal, manganese frags	Pit fill		
2012	2010	2002		0.2	1	Soft mottled blueish grey sandy clay with occ. pebbles, charcoal, manganese frags	Pit fill		

Context	Cut No	Section No	Dimensions (m)	Depth (m)	Fill Position	Description	Comment	Finds	Sample No
2013	2010	2002		0.23	2	Soft mottled mid-light brown sandy clay with freq. pebbles and manganese and occ. charcoal	Pit fill		
2014	2010	2002		0.23	3	Soft mottled mid brown/grey silty sand with freq. pebbles and manganese and occ. charcoal	Pit fill		
2015		2002	2.46 x 2.30	0.68		Irregular in plan with shallow concave side and irregular base	Pit		
2016	2015	2003		0.06	1	Friable mid orangey grey sandy silt	Pit fill		
2017	2015	2003		0.34	2	Firm mid blueish grey silty clay with moderate stones and occ. charcoal	Pit fill		1
2018	2015	2003		0.32	3	Firm mid orangey grey sandy silt with moderate stones	Pit fill		
2019		2004	1.72 x 1.50	0.38		Circular with moderate concave sides and base	Pit		
2020	2019	2004		0.14	1	Friable light brown grey clay sand with occ. Stones	Pit fill		
2021	2019	2004		0.24	2	Friable mid grey-brown silty sand with occ. Stones	Pit fill		
2022		2005	2.5 x 2.4	0.5		Sub-rectangular with moderate sides and concave base	Pit		
2023	2022	2005		0.14	1	Slight firm light grey-brown silty sand with occ. stones	Pit fill		
2024	2022	2005		0.24	2	Friable mid grey-brown silty sand with occ. stones	Pit fill		

Context	Cut No	Section No	Dimensions (m)	Depth (m)	Fill Position	Description	Comment	Finds	Sample No
2025	2022	2005		0.38	3	Friable mid grey-brown silty sand with occ. stones	Pit fill		
2026		2006	2.60 x 2.50	0.55		Sub-circular with moderate concave sides and flat base	Pit (intercutting with 2031?)		
2027		2007	2.94 x 2.90	0.55		Sub-circular with moderate-steep sides and flat base	Pit		
2028	2027	2007		0.15	1	Friable mid-light blueish grey sandy clay with freq. pebble and manganese	Pit fill		
2029	2027	2007		0.3	2	Friable mottled mid brownish orangey grey silty sand clay with freq. pebbles and occ. manganese	Pit fill		
2030	2027	2007		0.27	3	Friable mid brownish grey silty sand with freq. pebbles and manganese	Pit fill		3
2031		2006	3.50 x 3.40	0.53		Sub-oval with mod. Concave sides and flat base	Pit		
2032	2031	2006		0.06	1	Friable mid orangey brown silty sand with freq. stones	Pit fill		
2033	2031	2006		0.18	2	Firm mid greyish blue silty clay with mod. Stone and occ. charcoal	Pit fill		
2034	2031	2006		0.33	3	Friable mid orangey grey silty clay with moderate stones and occ. manganese and charcoal	Pit fill		
2035	2026	2006		0.11	1	Friable mid orangey brown silty sand with freq. stones	Pit fill		
2036	2026	2006		0.15	2	Firm mid greyish blue silty clay with mod. stones and occ. charcoal	Pit fill		

Context	Cut No	Section No	Dimensions (m)	Depth (m)	Fill Position	Description	Comment	Finds	Sample No
2037	2026	2006		0.31	3	Friable mid grey-brown sandy silt with occ. stones	Pit fill		
2038	2026	2006		0.16	4	Friable mid orangey grey silty clay with occ. Charcoal and manganese	Pit fill		
2039	2026	2006		0.22	5	Friable dark greyish brown sandy silt with mod. Stones and manganese	Pit fill		
2040		2008	3.34 x 2.00	0.56		Oval with moderate sides and concave base	Pit		
2041		2009	2.96 x 2.0	0.6		Oval with moderate sides and concave base	Pit		
2042	2041	2009		0.2	1	Firm light blue grey clay with mod.	Pit fill		
2043	2041	2009		0.08	2	Firm mid orange brown clay with occ. Stones	Pit fill		
2044	2041	2009		0.14	3	Firm mid brown/grey sandy clay with occ. Stones	Pit fill		
2045	2041	2009		0.24	4	Friable mid brown gey sand with occ. stones	Pit fill		
2046	2041	2009		0.18	5	Friable dark grey brown clay sand with occ. Stones	Pit fill		
2047	2041	2009		0.2	6	Friable dark grey brown clay sand with occ. Stones	Pit fill		
2048	2040	2008		0.27	1	Friable light blueish grey silty sandy clay with freq. pebbles and ironstone	Pit fill		
2049	2040	2008		0.34	2	Friable light brown-grey/orange mottled sandy clay, freq. pebbles and manganese	Pit fill		

Context	Cut No	Section No	Dimensions (m)	Depth (m)	Fill Position	Description	Comment	Finds	Sample No
2050	2040	2008		0.35	3	Friable mid brownish grey silty sand, occ. pebbles and manganese	Pit fill	Pottery	2
2051		2010	0.98 wide	0.34		Linear with flat base	Furrow		
2052	2051	2010		0.34	1	Friable mid orangey brown sandy silt . with mod. Stones, occ. Charcoal	Furrow fill		
2053		2010	1.38 wide	0.5		Linear with steep sides and flat base	Ditch (drainage?)		
2054	2053	2010		0.5	1	Friable dark brown sandy silt. Mod stones and occ. Charcoal	Ditch fill	Pottery, CBM, slag, flint	
2055		2011	2.54 x 1.80	0.4		Oval, steep sides, flat base	Pit		
2056	2055	2011		0.2	1	Soft light blueish grey sandy clay with freq.. Stones	Pit fill		
2057	2055	2011		0.24	2	Friable mid-light grey silty sandy with mod. pebbles and occ. manganese	Pit fill		
2058		2012	2.66 x 2.32	0.73		Sub-circular with mod. concave sides and flat base	Pit		
2059	2058	2012		0.2	1	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt with frequent stones	Pit fill		
2060	2058	2012		0.22	2	Firm mid blueish grey sandy clay with moderate stones	Pit fill		
2061	2058	2012		0.36	3	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with occ. stones	Pit fill		
2062	2058	2012		0.2	4	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt with occ., stones, manganese and charcoal	Pit fill		4
2063		2013	2.66 x 2.38	0.5		Sub-circular with moderate concave sides and flat base	Pit		

Context	Cut No	Section No	Dimensions (m)	Depth (m)	Fill Position	Description	Comment	Finds	Sample No
2064	2063	2013		0.08	1	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt with freq. stones	Pit fill		
2065	2063	2013		0.14	2	Firm mid blueish grey silty clay with freq. stones and occ. Charcoal	Pit fill		
2066	2063	2013		0.36	3	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with mod. Stones and occ. manganese	Pit fill		
2067		2014	2.54 x 2.3	0.42		Oval, moderate sides and concave base	Pit		
2068	2067	2014		0.2	1	Moderate compact light blueish grey sandy clay with freq. large stones	Pit fill	Pottery	5
2069		2014	1.5 wide	0.22		Linear E-W, shallow sloping sides and concave base	Ditch, cuts pit 2067		
2070	2069	2014		0.22	1	Soft mottled brown and yellowish grey silty sand with freq. manganese and stones	Ditch fill		

APPENDIX B SITE SUMMARY

Site name:	Engleton Lane, Brewood, Staffordshire
Site code:	BRE20
Grid reference:	NGR SJ 8881 0943
Type:	Excavation
Date and duration:	10/3/2020 to 23/03/2020
Area of site:	0.11ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA South, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in due course, under the following accession number: STKMG:2020:LH:15
Summary of results:	The excavation comprised a 100m by 6m area along with further exploratory trenches, following the length of a prehistoric pit alignment which had been discovered during a previous evaluation. A total of 44 pits were revealed, extending over a length of at least 205m on a south-west to north-east alignment, running downslope towards the River Penk. Each contained largely sterile fills whose nature suggests that the pits were left open to silt up. Charcoal from the lower fill of one pit produced a radiocarbon date of the mid 4th to early 2nd centuries cal BC, placing it in the middle Iron Age, and another pit contained pottery sherds consistent with this date. Medieval pottery from the upper fill of a further pit could be intrusive. The pit alignment was cut by a ditch of unknown date. The only other features were post-medieval furrows and a drainage gully.

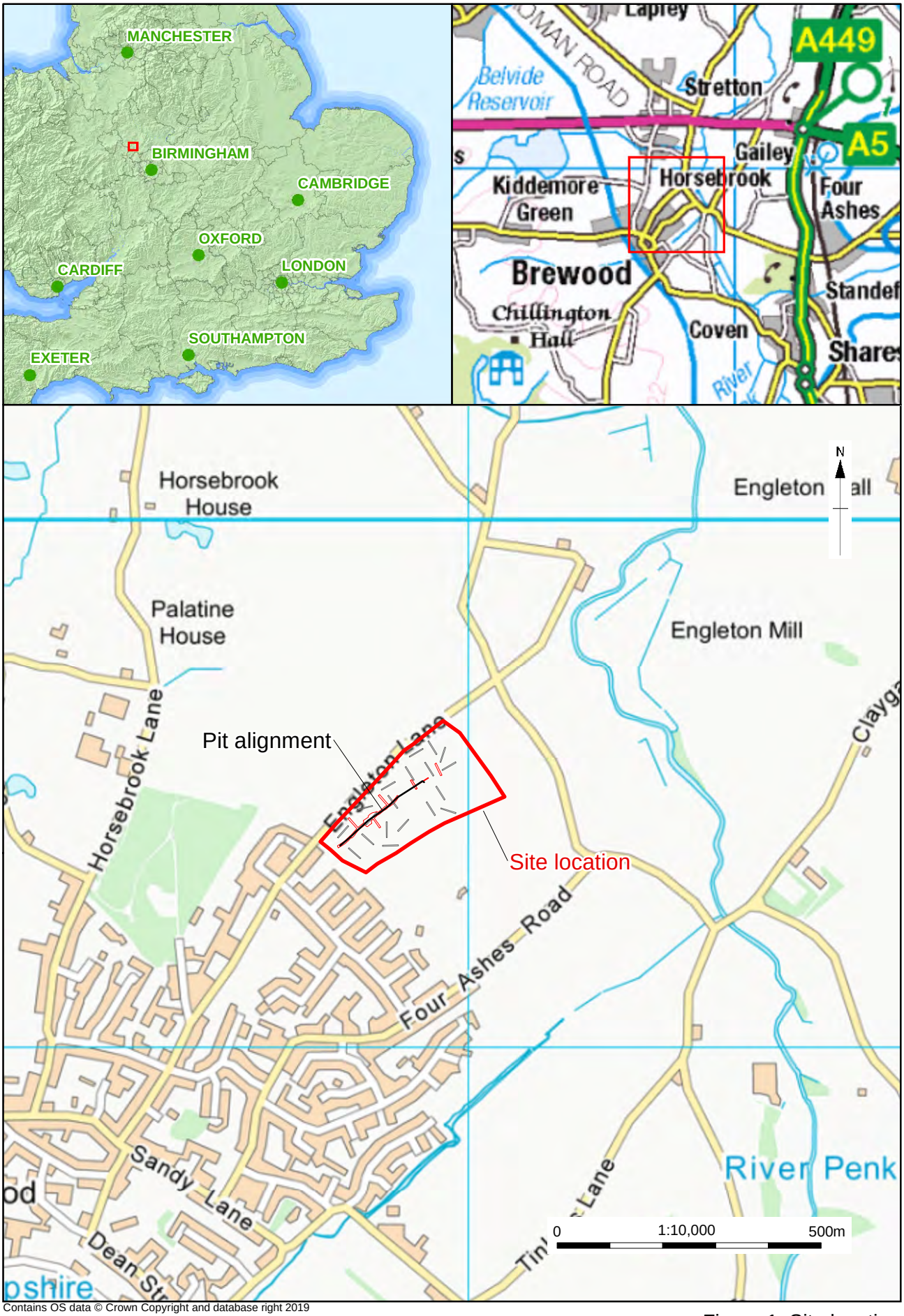

Figure 1: Site location

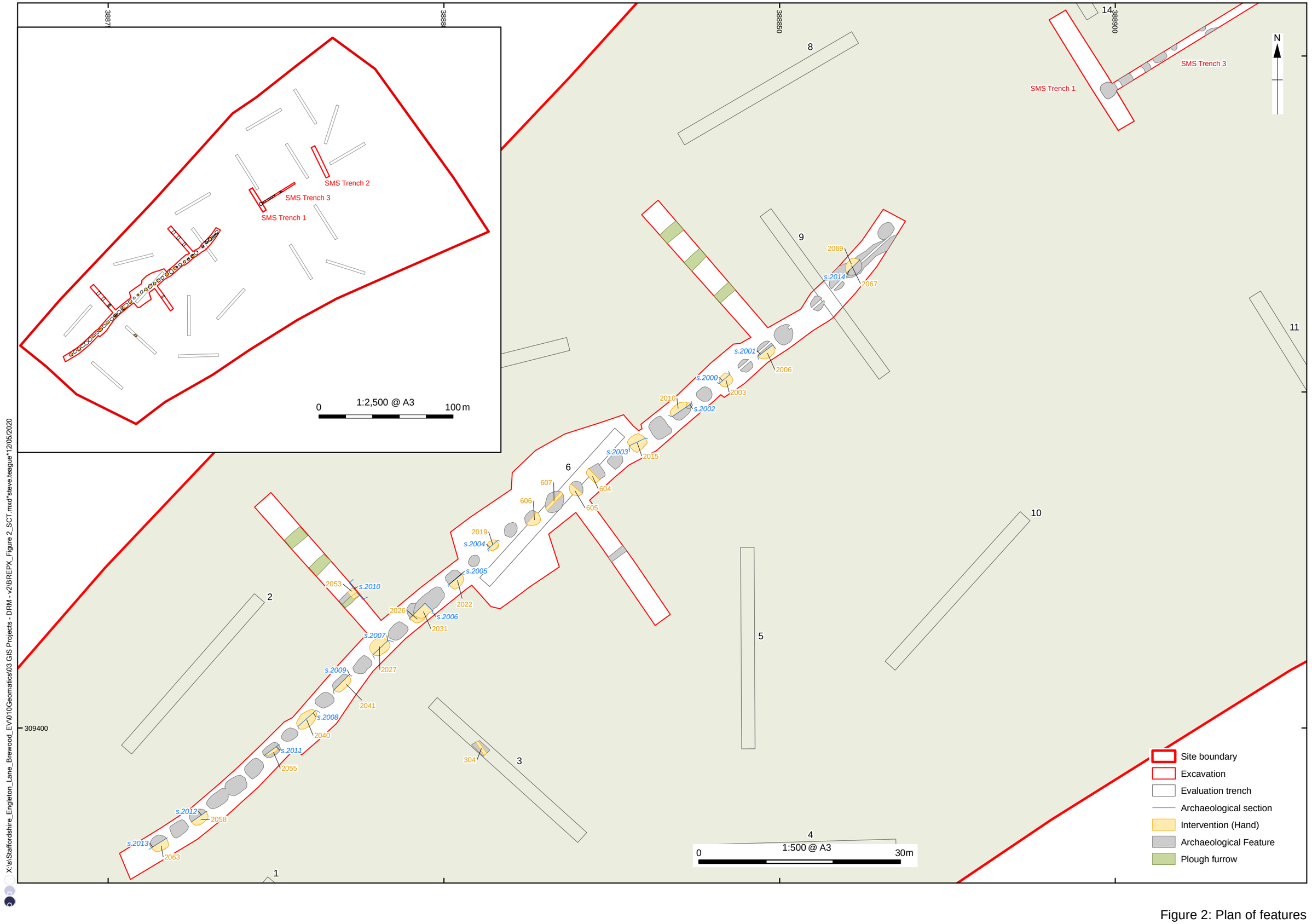

Figure 2: Plan of features

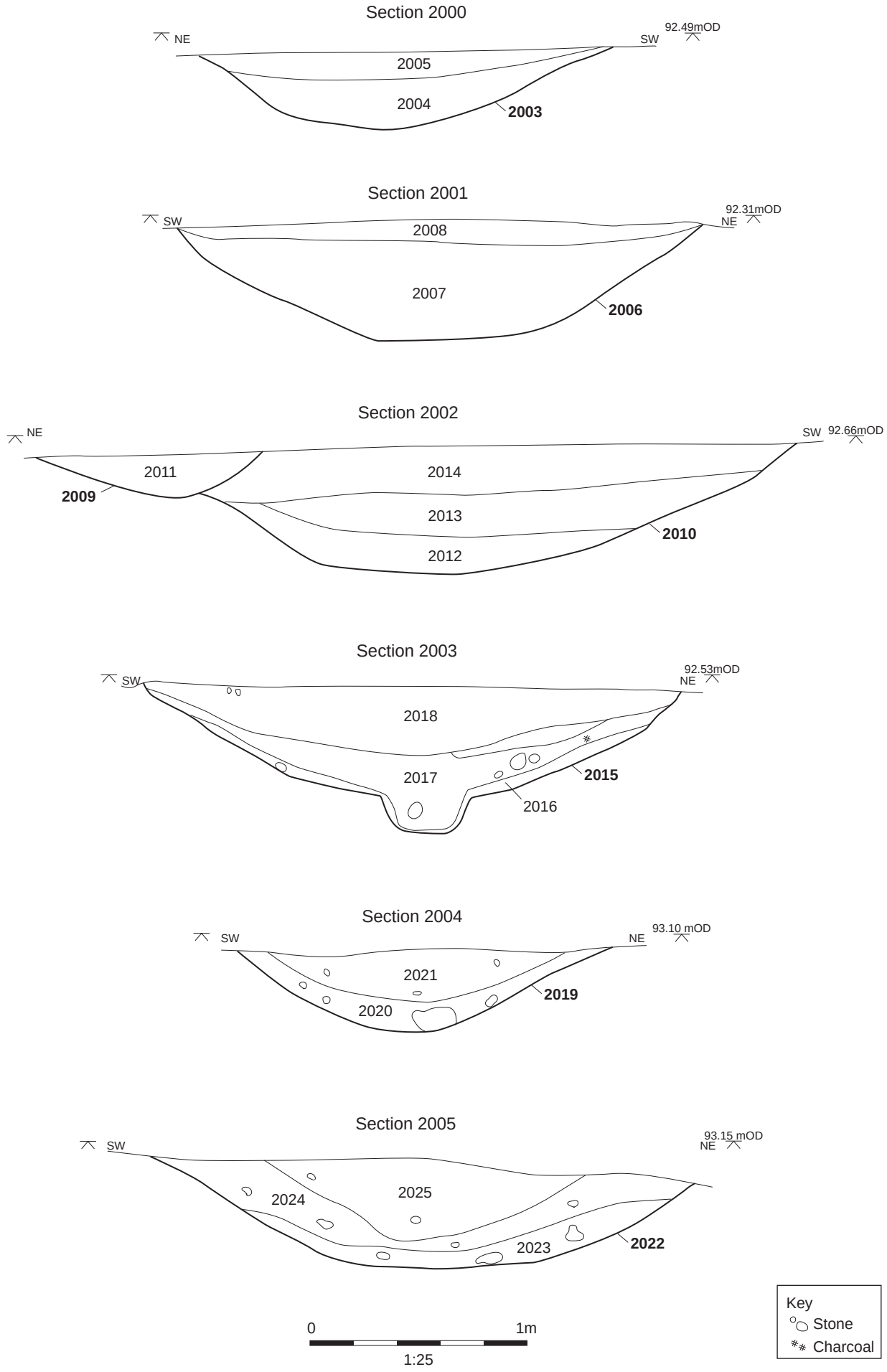

Figure 3: Sections 2000 - 2005

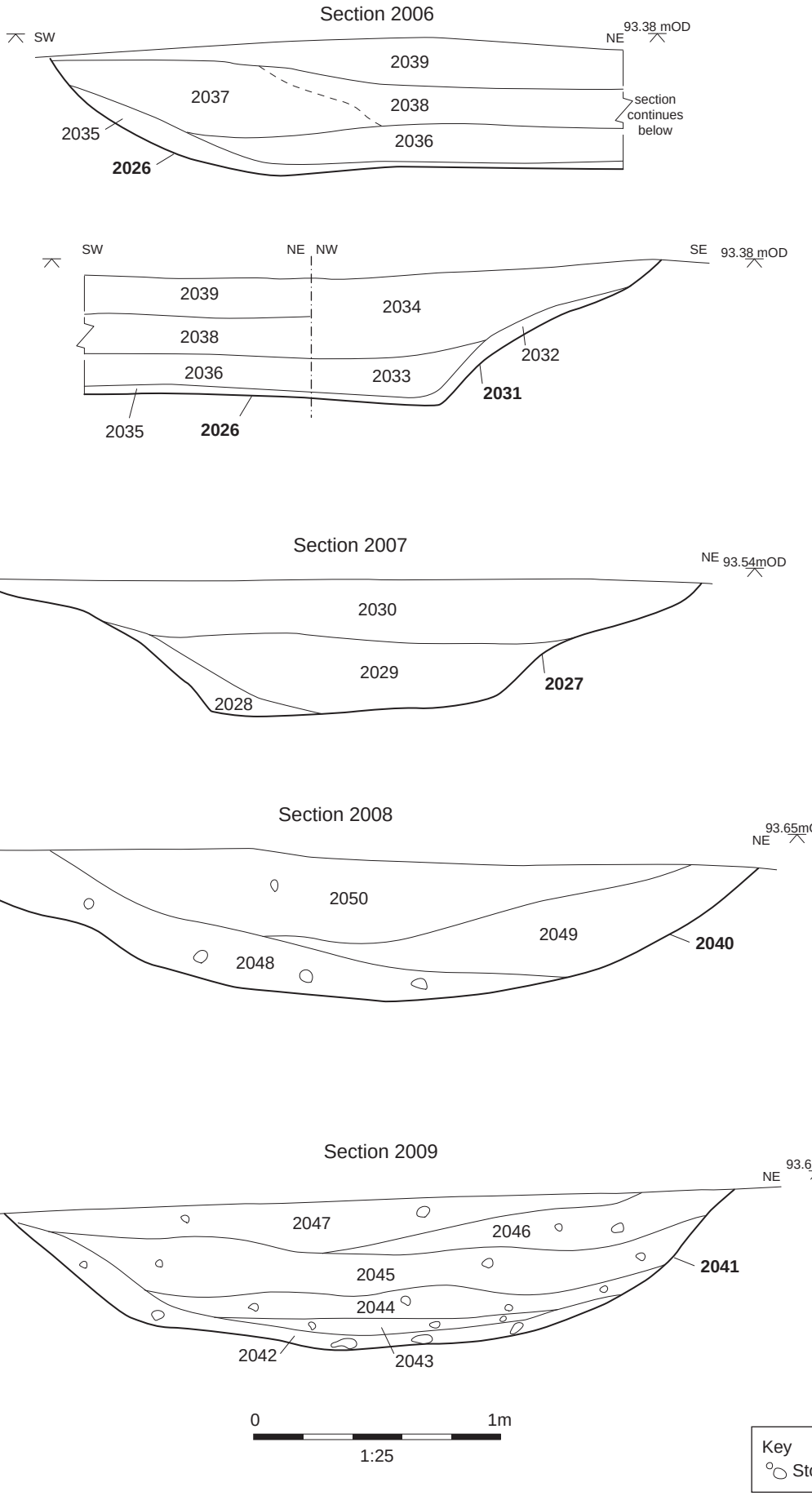

Figure 4: Sections 2006 - 2009

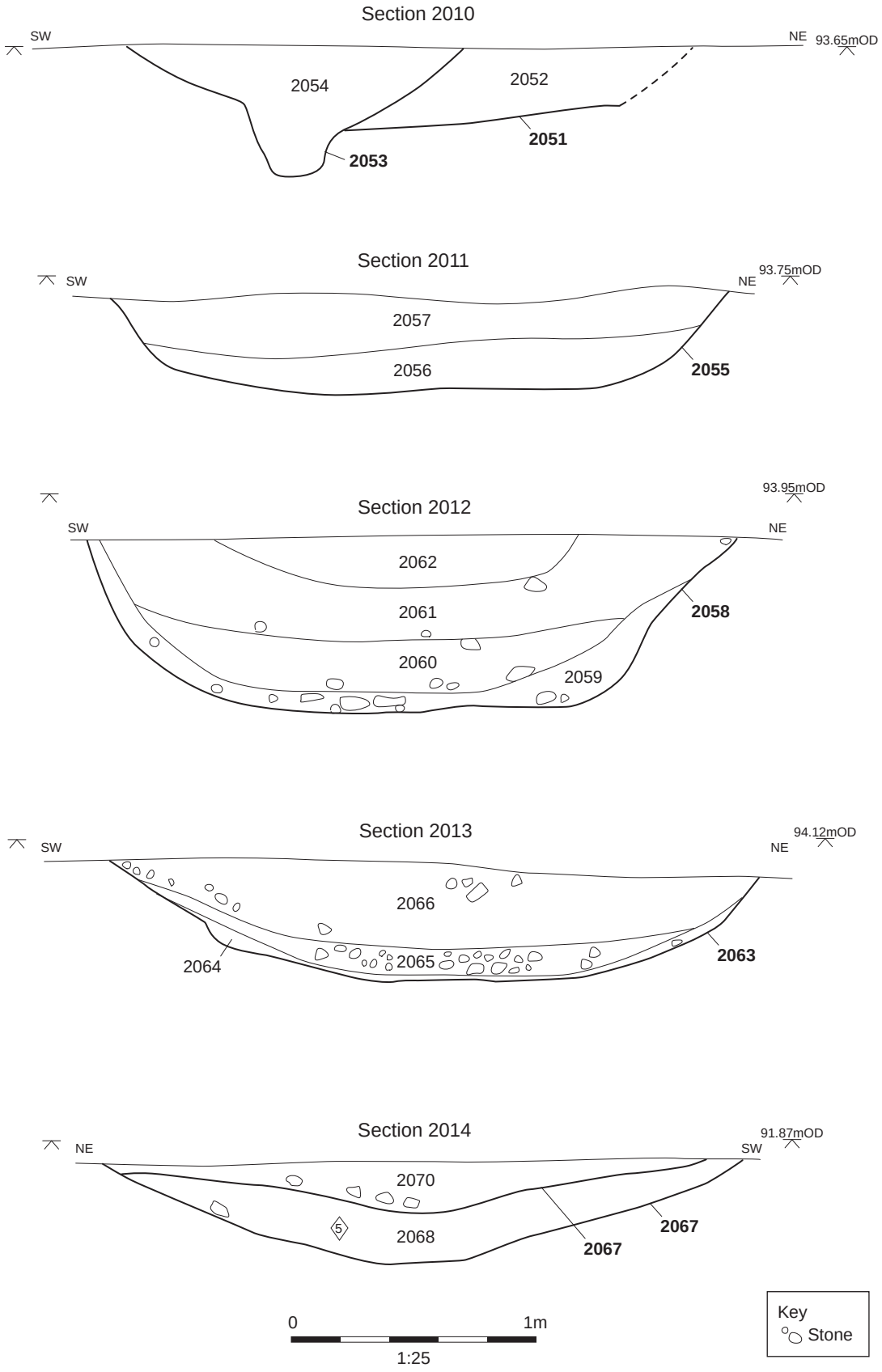

Figure 5: Sections 2010 - 2015

Plate 1: General view of pit alignment, view towards NE

Plate 2: Pits 2009 and 2010, view towards SE

Plate 3: Pit 2019, view towards NW

Plate 4: Pit 2022, view towards NW

Plate 5: Pits 2026 and 2031, view towards N

Plate 6: Pit 2041, view towards NW

Plate 7: Pit 2058, view towards NW

Plate 8: Ditch 2053 and furrow 2051, view towards NE

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