Site 8E Middlemore, Daventry, Northamptonshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Prepared by:	Adam Fellingham (Supervisor)
Checked by:	Gerry Thacker (Senior Project Manager)
Edited by:	John Boothroyd (Senior Project Manager)
Approved for Issue by:	David Score (Head of Fieldwork)
Signature:	

……

OA South
Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0ES

t. +44 (0)1865 263 800

OA East
15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridge
CB23 8SQ

t. +44 (0)1223 850 500

OA North
Mill 3
Moor Lane Mills
Moor Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1QD
t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

e. info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w. oxfordarchaeology.com
Oxford Archaeology is a registered Charity: No. 285627

Director and Chief Executive
Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCIfA
Private Limited Company, No: 1618597
Registered Charity, No: 285627
Registered Office: Oxford Archaeology Ltd
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES

Site 8E Middlemore, Daventry

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Adam Fellingham

With contributions from Edward Biddulph, Geraldine Crann and Thomas Bruce and illustrations by Diana Chard and Charles Rousseaux

Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by ENGIE UK on behalf of Futures Homeway Limited to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed residential development of a single field measuring 1.2 hectares in area. The site is situated just off Farnborough Drive and is centered on NGR SP 56343 64821. The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref: DA/2018/0388).

The evaluation, which was undertaken over three days during May 2019, consisted of nine 30m by 1.80m trenches, one 25m by 1.80m trench and one 9m by 1.80m trench.

The evaluation revealed a rectangular middle Iron Age enclosure within the south-eastern part of the site. A large pit of similar date to the west of the enclosure contained large quantities of charcoal and small amounts of animal bone which may indicate that it was used to deposit domestic waste. A linear trackway orientated broadly north-east to south-west crossed the northern edge of the site. The trackway was formed of two parallel ditches with a central compacted metalled surface around 10m wide surviving in one location. The trackway remains undated.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Paul Brailsford of ENGIE UK who commissioned the work on behalf of Futures Homeway Limited. Thanks is also extended to Liz Mordue who monitored the work on behalf of Northamptonshire County Council, for her advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Gerry Thacker. The fieldwork was directed by Adam Fellingham, who was supported by David Pinches, Robert Backhouse, Lee Sparks and Diana Chard. Survey and digitizing was carried out by David Pinches and Diana Chard and illustrations were carried out by Charles Rousseaux. 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 ENGIE UK on behalf of Futures Homeway Limited to undertake a trial trench evaluation of the site of proposed residential development.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (planning ref: DA/2018/0388). A brief for archaeological field evaluation was set by Liz Mordue of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC 2019a). The brief identified the evaluation work as Stage 1 of a programme of archaeological investigation for the site, as outlined in the Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Investigation at Land at Middlemore Site 8E, Farnborough Drive, Daventry, Northamptonshire (NCC 2019b).

1.1.3 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by OA (OA 2019), detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the Stage 1 archaeological work of the planning condition.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site is centered on NGR SP 56343 64821, and lies within the north-eastern edge of Daventry. It is bounded by Farnborough Drive to the south-east, Claydon Road to the north-east and housing along Brampton Grange Drive and Weston Hall Lane to the west and north.

1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of a single field measuring some 1.2 hectares, which is currently given over to scrubland (Fig. 1).

1.2.3 The underlying bedrock geology is recorded as being of the Dyrham Formation, a sedimentary mix of siltstone and mudstone formed approximately 183 to 193 million years ago during the Jurassic period. The superficial geology is recorded as diamicton of the Oadby Member, a sedimentary mix of clay, silt, sand and gravels formed up to 2 million years ago during the Quaternary Period (BGS 2019).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in the Northamptonshire County Council Brief (NCC 2019a and 2019b) which states that the Middlemore area has been subject to previous archaeological work. To the north-east of Site 8E a Romano-British farmstead was excavated in advance of development in 2003, and other related peripheral activity has also been identified.

1.3.2 Within, or close to Site 8E, fieldwalking undertaken in the 1970s retrieved scatters of prehistoric flints and Romano-British pottery, although the precise locations of these were not recorded.

1.3.3 A recent geophysical survey (PSI 2019) identified a number of anomalies of potential archaeological nature, with the report noting that "The survey has provided evidence for possible archaeological activity in the form of possible enclosure, boundary and / or trackway ditches. However, the anomalies that have been identified are relatively

weak and fragmented and so a more definite interpretation for their cause cannot be made. There are a number of other weak responses present and it is not certain if these are related to anthropogenic features, and as such could be archaeological in origin, or natural feature variations".

1.3.4 The results of the geophysical survey, especially the grey scale plot, indicate part of a potential rectangular enclosure within the south-eastern part of the site, a possible trackway defined by parallel linear ditches in the north of the site, as well as other more disparate linear features and plough furrows (Fig. 2).

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aim of the evaluation was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any revealed remains in their cultural and environmental setting.

2.1.2 The specific aims and objectives were:

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 historic 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 test the results of the geophysical survey.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of 11 archaeological evaluation trenches (Trenches 1-11, Figs. 1-3) were located within the site. Their positions were designed to investigate the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey and to provide an even coverage of the site as a whole.

2.2.2 Site specific methodologies were as follows:

- All trenches were marked out according to the locations and dimensions as shown on Fig.2 of the WSI. However, Trench 10 was shortened by 5m due to the location of an unofficial public entranceway immediately adjacent to the proposed northern end of the trench. Subsequently, and with the agreement of Liz Mordue, a short additional trench, Trench 11 was excavated to investigate the area which could not be investigated in Trench 10.
- The evaluation trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon, depending upon which was encountered first. Once archaeological features were exposed, further excavation was undertaken by hand.
- Once completed, and with the agreement of Liz Mordue, the trenches were backfilled with the arisings in reverse order of excavation and compacted.

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 those trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of excavated deposits can be found in Appendix A and detailed trench plans in Figures 3-4. Finds reports are located in Appendix B and environmental reports in Appendix C.

3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated e.g ditch 102 was a feature within Trench 1, while pit 602 was a feature within Trench 6.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence between all trenches was fairly uniform. The natural clay and sand geology was overlain by subsoil (a buried plough-soil), which in turn was overlain by topsoil. The natural geology was encountered at depths between 0.40m and 0.82m below ground level (b.g.l).

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were good, and the site remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology once exposed.

3.2.3 The plough furrows identified by the geophysical survey were not present as soil marks in the surface of the natural geology.

3.2.4 Trenches 8, 9 and 10 contained possible linear features. These were investigated by hand excavation and shown to be of geological origin.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in six of the eleven trenches (1-2, 4-6, and 11, Figs. 3-4). The other trenches (3 and 7-10) contained no archaeological features and are not discussed further (Figs. 3-4).

3.4 Trench 1 (Figs. 3 and 7, Plates 4-6)

3.4.1 Trench 1 contained a mid-yellowish grey clay natural (110) with chalk flecking and occasional sand lenses. This was cut by a trackway, which comprised two parallel north-east to south-west aligned ditches, 102 and 104, enclosing an area of metalled gravel surface 10.20m wide (106). The surface, was encountered at 0.62m b.g.l (149.34m above Ordnance Datum - aOD).

3.4.2 The northern trackway ditch, 102, was 2.05m wide and 0.40m deep with moderately shallow sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill, 103, a soft orange-brown silty clay with chalk flecking and sub-rounded stones ranging in diameter from 20mm to 50mm, potentially derived from the adjacent metalling. The southern trackway ditch, 104, was 1.20m wide and 0.38m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. The lowest fill encountered within was a soft reddish-brown clayey sand, 108. This was overlain by a moderately firm brownish-yellow clay, 107, which was in turn overlain by a moderately firm greyish-brown silty clay, 105. The metalled

surface, 106, was only 0.08m thick, and consisted of a single layer of compacted sub-rounded stones ranging from 30mm to 80mm. The surface stopped immediately adjacent to both flanking ditches.

3.4.3 Environmental samples from both ditches, (Sample 3 from fill 103 and Sample 4 from fill 104: Appendix C), produced modern plant roots and small quantities of charcoal. Small fragments of burnt and struck flint debitage were recovered from Sample 3, but these are likely to be residual.

3.4.4 The trackway surface and ditch fills were overlain by subsoil, 101, a moderately firm mid orange-brown silty clay. This was in turn overlain by the topsoil, 100.

3.5 Trench 2 (Figs. 3 and 7, Plates 7)

3.5.1 Trench 2 contained a mid-yellowish grey clay natural, 204, with chalk flecking and sand lenses. This was cut by the southern trackway ditch, 202. The ditch was orientated north-east to south-west and was encountered at 0.62m b.g.l (148.85m aOD). It measured 0.86m wide and 0.30m deep with a slightly irregular profile, steep sided to the north-east, shallower to the south-west and a base that sloped down to the north-east. The ditch contained a single fill, 203, a moderately firm mid reddish-brown sandy clay with occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles ranging in diameter from 10mm to 25mm. The ditch was overlain by subsoil, 201, a moderately firm mid orange-brown silty clay and topsoil 200.

3.6 Trench 4 (Figs. 4 and 5, Plate 1)

3.6.1 Trench 4 contained a mid-reddish-brown sandy gravel natural, 412, with inclusions of manganese. This was cut by the eastern ditch of an Iron Age enclosure, 405. This section of ditch was orientated north-west to south-east and was encountered at 0.64m b.g.l (146.71m aOD). The ditch was 1.50m wide and 0.48m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. The lowest fill encountered within, 406, was a moderately firm greyish-yellow clayey silt which may be construction trample formed during the original excavation of the ditch. This was overlain by a moderately firm brownish-grey silty clay, 409. Finds retrieved from fill 409 include pottery dating to the middle Iron Age period, four small fragments of animal bone, burnt flint and a small fragment of fired clay. Deposit 409 was overlain by a moderately friable brownish-grey silty clay 411. The ditch was cut on its north-eastern side by a land drain.

3.6.2 An environmental sample was taken from fill 409 (Sample 1: Appendix C). In addition to modern roots the flot contained large amounts of charcoal, fragments of hazelnut, charred wheat grains and a single grass seed.

3.6.3 The ditch was overlain by subsoil, 401, a moderately firm mid orange-brown silty clay which was encountered at 0.34m b.g.l (147.01m aOD) and topsoil 400.

3.7 Trench 5 (Figs. 4 and 5, Plate 2)

3.7.1 Trench 5 contained a mid-reddish-brown sandy gravel natural, 508, with inclusions of manganese. This was cut by the northern ditch, of a late Iron Age enclosure, 502. The ditch was orientated north-east to south-west, and was encountered at 0.44m b.g.l (147.89m aOD). It measured 1.10m wide and 0.54m deep with moderately steep sides

and a slightly uneven base. The lowest fill encountered was a moderately firm brownish-yellow clayey silt, 503, again perhaps formed during the ditches original construction. This was overlain by a moderately firm brownish-grey silty clay, 506, with inclusions of charcoal. This was in turn overlain by a moderately friable greyish-brown clayey silt, 507. An environmental sample (Sample 2: Appendix 3) from fill 506 contained frequent charcoal.

3.7.2 The ditch was overlain by subsoil, 501, a moderately firm mid orange-brown silty clay which was encountered at 0.30m b.g.l (148.03m aOD and topsoil, 500.

3.8 Trench 6 (Figs. 4 and 6, Plate 3)

3.8.1 Trench 6 contained a mid-reddish-brown sandy gravel natural, 606, with inclusions of manganese. This was cut by an Iron Age pit, 602, which extended beyond the limits of the trench and was over 3m wide and 0.65m deep with moderately steep sides and a flat base. The pit was encountered at 0.44m b.g.l (148.02m aOD). The lowest fill encountered within the pit was a soft brownish-grey silty sand, 603 which contained pottery dating to the Iron Age period. This was overlain by a moderately soft brownish-grey clayey silt, 604, which contained visible charcoal. Pottery recovered from 604 also dated to the Iron Age period, and a number of stone cobbles, potentially pot boilers were also present.

3.8.2 An environmental sample taken from fill 603 (Sample 5: Appendix C) contained charcoal, charred cereal grains, chaff, and glume bases characteristic of spelt. Burnt flint, potential flint debitage and pottery sherds were also recovered from the sample (Appendix B).

3.8.3 The pit was overlain by subsoil, 601, a moderately firm mid orange-brown silty clay which was encountered at 0.15m b.g.l (148.31m aOD and topsoil, 600.

3.9 Trench 11 (Figs. 3 and 7, Plate 8)

3.9.1 Trench 11 contained a mid-yellowish grey clay natural, 1104, with chalk flecking and sand lenses. This was cut by the southern ditch of the trackway, 1102. The ditch was orientated north-east to south-west and was encountered at 0.54m b.g.l (149.46m aOD). It was 1m wide and 0.40m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. The single fill, 1103, was a moderately firm mid yellowish-grey clay with occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles ranging in diameter from 5mm to 40mm.

3.9.2 The ditch was overlain by subsoil, 1101, a moderately firm mid orangeish-brown silty clay and was encountered at 0.33m b.g.l (149.67m aOD) and contained, within the northern end of the trench, a concentration of sub-round stone ranging in size from 40mm to 60mm. This was overlain by the topsoil, 1100.

3.10 Finds summary

3.10.1 Finds were fairly sparse with only a few fragments of pottery, likely of middle Iron Age date recovered by hand. Finds recovered from environmental samples included fragments of burnt flint, struck flint waste, small pottery sherds and a single piece of fired clay.

3.10.2 Environmental samples recovered from five locations contained charcoal, charred cereal and grass seeds, generally in poor condition.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The distribution of trenches covered an appropriate sample of the area to be affected by impacts from the proposed development. Within the trenches the stratigraphic sequences were well understood. The site has shown that archaeological features within the site have remained relatively undisturbed by medieval / post-medieval ridge and furrow identified on the geophysical survey.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The evaluation tested the veracity of the previous geophysical survey. It identified the presence of archaeological features, and the extent of these. Where possible, the date of the excavated features has been established through means of recovered artefacts. The condition and state of preservation of the revealed remains has been assessed, as has the site's potential to preserve environmental remains.

4.3 Interpretation

Iron Age features (Figs. 4-6, Plates 1-3)

4.3.1 The enclosure ditch revealed by the geophysical survey is, within the confines of the site, broadly rectangular in form, with the long axis orientated north-west to south-east. Analysis of the pottery suggests that the ditches started to infill in the middle Iron Age. The three fills within the two ditches sample excavated may indicate that it was in use for some period of time, although there was no evidence that the ditches were maintained or recut. The small quantities of charred plant remains recovered from the environmental samples indicate that crop processing was being undertaken in the wider area, but probably not adjacent to the enclosure. The pit within Trench 6 contained larger amounts of charred remains and finds, including pottery sherds and possible pot boilers. This suggests that this represents domestic waste, which indicates settlement in the vicinity.

The trackway (Figs. 3 and 7, Plates 4-8)

4.3.2 Although the ditches defining each side of the trackway could be traced across the northern edge of the site on the geophysics, the metalled surface of the trackway was only revealed within Trench 1, and consisted of a single layer of compacted sub-rounded stones. The absence of the surface in Trench 2 may be explained by a greater impact from more recent ploughing, as suggested by the southern trackway ditch which in this location was some 80 to 100mm shallower than those in Trench 1. The southern trackway ditch in Trench 11 was of similar depth to those in Trench 1, although the Trench did not extend far enough to the north to test whether the metalled surface survived in this area.

4.3.3 Interpretation of the trackway is problematic given the lack of any dating from any of the ditches. The majority of the archaeology excavated during previous phases of work in the immediate area has been of Roman date. However, the trackway's form is not that of a major Roman road, where larger stones were used to form the basal layer often overlain by layers of compacted material, and its width, at 10.2m would fall

within the outer limit of recorded Roman roads. Rather, it may be a structure of convenience, short lived in its use, as indicated by the lack of finds recovered from the fills, and the one or two fills within each excavated segment. Neither does the trackway conform to the broadly north-west to south-east alignment of the major ditches of Roman date uncovered during previous work in Plot 2 to the east.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The Iron Age enclosure and pit containing potential domestic waste is significant in an area where the majority of previous excavation has uncovered remains of Roman date. Further work may help to investigate any continuity of occupation post conquest.

4.4.2 The trackway is currently difficult to ascribe a degree of significance to. It was clearly a large and important structure, and further work would be required to better understand its date and associations.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	N/NW-S/SE
Trench contained a cobbled trackway with two ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.62
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
100	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil/plough soil	-	-
102	Cut	2.05	0.40	Northern trackway ditch	-	-
103	Fill	2.05	0.40	Fill of 102	-	-
104	Cut	1.20	0.38	Southern trackway ditch	-	-
105	Fill	1.20	0.27	Fill of 104	-	-
106	Surface	9.80	0.08	Metalled trackway surface	-	-
107	Fill	0.20	0.08	Fill of 104	-	-
108	Fill	0.10	0.01	Fill of 104	-	-
109	Structure	-	-	Land drain	-	-
110	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained the southern ditch of the trackway. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.62
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
200	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil/plough soil	-	-
202	Cut	0.86	0.30	Southern trackway ditch	-	-
203	Fill	0.86	0.30	Fill of 202	-	-
204	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.68
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.32	Subsoil/plough soil	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 4

General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained part of an enclosure ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.64
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
400	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil/plough soil	-	-
402	Cut and fill	-	-	Modern Geotech feature Not excavated	-	-
403	Cut	-	-	Modern brick filled ditch Not excavated	-	-
404	Fill	-	-	Fill of 403	-	-
405	Cut	1.50	0.48	Eastern enclosure ditch	-	-
406	Fill	1.20	0.02	Fill of 405	-	-
407	-	-	-	VOID	-	-
408	-	-	-	VOID	-	-
409	Fill	1.48	0.46	Fill of 405	Pot	Iron Age
410	-	-	-	VOID	-	-
411	Fill	0.90	0.21	Fill of 405	-	-
412	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	N/NW-S/SE
Trench contained part of an enclosure ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
500	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil/plough soil	-	-
502	Cut	1.10	0.54	Northern enclosure ditch	-	-
503	Fill	0.68	0.04	Fill of 502	-	-
504	Cut	-	-	Modern brick filled ditch Not excavated	-	-
505	Fill	-	-	Fill of 504	-	-
506	Fill	1.04	0.23	Fill of 502	-	-
507	Fill	1.12	0.20	Fill of 502	-	-
508	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a single pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**

600	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil/plough soil	-	-
602	Cut	3+	0.65	Charcoal rich pit		
603	Fill	1.10+	0.40-0.50	Fill of 602	Pot	Iron Age
604	Fill	3+	0.25	Fill of 602	Pot	Iron Age
605	Cut and fill	-	-	Modern brick filled ditch Not excavated	-	-
606	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	N/NW-S/SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.54
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
700	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil/plough soil	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	N/NE-S/SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.75
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
800	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil/plough soil	-	-
802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.62
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
900	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.32	Subsoil/plough soil	-	-
902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	N/NW-S/SE

Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and clay.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.82
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1000	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.50	Subsoil/plough soil	-	-
1002	Cut	-	-	Geological feature	-	-
1003	Fill	-	-	Geological feature	-	-
1004	Cut and fill	-	-	Area of tree throw and rooting	-	-
1005	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					**Orientation**	N/NW-S/SE
Trench contained the southern ditch of the trackway. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and clay.					**Length (m)**	9
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.54
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1100	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil	-	-
1101	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil/plough soil	-	-
1102	Cut	1	0.40	Southern trackway ditch	-	-
1103	Fill	1	0.40	Fill of 1102	-	-
1104	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Edward Biddulph

Introduction

B.1.1 Thirty-six sherds of pottery, weighing 125g, were recovered from the evaluation. Fabrics were assigned codes from OA's standard recording system for later Iron Age and Roman pottery, fabrics being defined by their principal inclusion type (Booth 2016). Any rims were quantified by estimated vessel equivalents (EVE), which measure the surviving proportion of the rim circumference (thus, 0.5 EVE equals 50%). The following fabrics were noted:

- S3 Medium fine shelly fabric
- SA3 Medium fine fabric with shell and sand inclusions
- SM2 Fine micaceous fabric with shell inclusions

Description

Context	Sherds	Weight (g)	Description	Spot-date
409	1	3	Body sherd. Dark grey surfaces and core. Uncertain fabric: ?shell and ironstone	Iron Age
409	2	7	Sample 1. Body sherd, fabric S3	Iron Age
603	1	1	Tiny fragment. Uncertain fabric: ?shell	Iron Age
604	1	10	Junction of base and lower wall. Dark grey exterior surface, buff interior surface, red-brown core. Fabric SM2	Iron Age
604	31	104	Sample 5. Two non-joining rim sherds from slack-profiled jar (fabric S3; total EVE of 0.12). Body sherds in fabrics SA3, SM2	Iron Age
Total	36	125		

B.1.2 The assemblage was dominated by shelly fabrics. In some cases, shell was supplemented by other inclusions, such as sand, mica and possibly ironstone. Some of the sherds also had linear voids, suggesting organic inclusions. All the fabrics were relatively fine. Just one form was identified by rim – a slack-profiled jar, in a shelly fabric recovered from context 604, a fill of pit 602.

B.1.3 The dominance of shell inclusions and the jar rim indicate an Iron Age date for the assemblage. The use of shell during the Iron Age was long-lived in the region and closer dating is difficult, but the pottery would not be out of place in the middle Iron Age.

B.1.4 The condition of the assemblage was poor overall; the mean sherd weight (weight divided by sherds) is just 3.4g, indicating a high level of fragmentation. However, the rim sherd is relatively large, suggesting that the pottery was not necessarily deposited very far away from areas of use.

B.2 Bone, fired clay, flint and burnt flint, stone.

By Geraldine Crann

Material	Context	Sample number	Description
Bone	409	1	4 small fragments, 1g
	604	5	6 small fragments, 2g
Fired clay	409	1	1 amorphous piece, no surfaces/edges, 17g
Flint	103	3	1 possibly worked blade-like piece, 1 small chip, 3g
	409	1	1 small chip, 1g
	604	5	5 small chips, 2g
Burnt flint	103	3	3 fragments, unworked, 1g
	409	1	2 fragments, unworked, 1g
	604	5	12 fragments, unworked, 6g
Stone	604	5	12 fragments of stone cobbles, pot boilers, 972g

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Thomas Bruce

Introduction

C.1.1 Five samples were taken from the evaluation works primarily for the retrieval and assessment of Charred Plant Remains (CPR) and the recovery of bones and artefacts.

Method

C.1.2 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 and a magnet used to extract any magnetic material. The dried flot was scanned using a binocular microscope at approximately x 10 magnification. Identification of charred remains was undertaken under the supervision of Sharon Cook. Nomenclature follows Stace (2010).

Results

C.1.3 The majority of the samples produced charcoal with very little in the way of other identifiable charred remains. Samples 1 and 5, however, did produced small quantities of nuts, seeds, grains and chaff. The dried residues produced a small amount of finds.

C.1.4 Sample 1 was taken from an Iron Age enclosure ditch located within Trench 4 (feature number: [401]; fill (409)) and consisted of a strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) silty clay loam. The sample produced a flot of approximately 100ml and contained frequent modern plant roots and seeds along with charred remains. Recovered charcoal showed some external encrustation and clinkered fragments, but was in good overall condition with roundwood present and 50+ potentially identifiable fragments (>2mm). Six charred cereal grains were recovered and identified as wheat (*Triticum* sp.). These were in fair to good condition, although some were partially fragmented and clinkered. Four charred fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) were identified and were in fair condition. A single charred grass seed (Poaceae) was present but in poor condition.

Artefacts recovered from the dried residues included small amounts of animal bone (burnt and unburnt), pottery, fired clay, flint debitage and fragments of burnt flint.

C.1.5 Sample 2 was taken from what is believed to be the same Iron Age enclosure ditch as Sample 1, but located within Trench 5 (feature number [502]; fill (506)) and is composed of a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty clay. The sample produced a flot of approximately 50ml which included a large amount of modern plant roots. Charcoal was frequent and in fair condition with some external encrustation. No roundwood was present from the 25+ fragments of potentially identifiable charcoal (>2mm). Other CPR present was poorly preserved, appeared vitrified, and was too fragmented and clinkered to identify. No artefacts were recovered from the dried residues.

C.1.6 Sample 3 was taken from an undated trackway found within Trench 1 (feature number [102]; fill (103)) and consisted of a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty clay. The sample produced a flot of approximately 40ml, the majority of which was modern plant roots and seeds. A very small amount of charcoal was recovered, however, only four fragments are potentially identifiable (>2mm). Other CPR is in poor condition and too fragmented and clinkered the identify.

From the dried residues, only a small amount of potential flint debitage and burnt natural flint stone was recovered.

C.1.7 Sample 4 was also taken from the same undated trackway from Trench 1 (feature number: [104]; fill (105)) and consisted of a brown (7.5YR 4/4) silty clay loam. The sample produced a flot of approximately 100ml, however the majority of this consisted of modern plant roots and seeds, including uncharred goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.). No charcoal >2mm was present and there was very little charcoal <2mm. The charcoal that was present appeared fairly clean and robust. Small fragments (<4mm) of anthracite were also noted to be present. No finds were present in the dried residues.

C.1.8 Sample 5 was taken from an Iron Age pit located within Trench 6 (feature number: [602]; fill (604)) and consisted of a brown (7.5YR 4/4) sandy loam. The sample produced a flot of approximately 300ml, of which 100ml was scanned. A large amount of charcoal was recovered, with an excess of 200 potentially identifiable fragments >2mm present within the scanned portion of the flot. Recovered charcoal was in good condition, with little encrustation, and roundwood was noted to be present. Six indeterminate charred cereal grains were present within the flot, however the condition of these was poor and they appear to be vitrified, suggesting exposure to intense heat. Additionally, several fragments of chaff were identified. Five charred glume base fragments were recovered, as well as a fragmented spikelet fork, the inside of which was slightly encrusted. These fragments display the characteristics of spelt (*Triticum spelta*), however they are too fragmented to definitively identify. Other charred taxa include two dock seeds (*Rumex* sp.) and five heavily fragmented indeterminate grass seeds (Poaceae).

C.1.9 Artefacts recovered from the dried residues included a small amount of burnt animal bone, fragments of burnt stone (including flint), possible flint debitage, and a moderately frequent number of pottery sherds.

Discussion and Recommendations

C.1.10 The presence of cereal grains and common crop contaminants, such as dock and grasses, within the flot is an indication that arable farming was being practised within the surrounding landscape. This is consistent with the dating of the features, as within Iron Age Britain the cultivation of glume wheat, such as spelt, was common and often occurred alongside the cultivation of barley (Van der Veen, 1992). The charred nature of these grains and seeds, as well as the presence of glume bases, provides evidence that these were being processed but due to the relatively small amounts found within the samples it is likely that this was being done some distance away. The vitrified grains found in the pit (Sample 5) differ from the more well preserved grains found within

the enclosure ditch (Sample 1) and indicate they have been subject to a more intense heat source. It suggests the use of the pit for domestic waste (hearth waste, accidental burning of grains etc.) while the inclusions within the ditch may be accidental. Hazelnuts are also known to be widely consumed during this period and were an important resource during the Iron Age (Wright et al. 2009 and Lopez-Doriga 2015).

C.1.11 The lack of any CPR or bones/artefacts from the trackway samples is quite typical for this sort of feature but could suggest the lack of any settlements nearby.

C.1.12 The condition of the charcoal, seeds and grain within this sample indicates that charred material survives well on this site and if further excavation is carried out, it is recommended that sampling should take place, ideally from a range of datable features across the site. This sampling should be carried out in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (e.g. English Heritage 2011, Oxford Archaeology 2017).

C.1.13 The flot warrants retention until all works on the site are complete although at this stage it is not expected that further work on the material will be required.

Sample No.	Context No.	Area/Trench	Feature/Deposit	Date	Sample vol. (L)	Flot vol. (ml)	Charcoal >2mm	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Nuts	Other	Notes
1	409	4	405	LIA	35	100	+++	++		+	+		7.5YR 4/6 silty clay loam. Frequent modern roots. Frequent charcoal <2mm.
2	506	5	502	LIA	38	50	++						10YR 5/6 silty clay. Frequent modern roots. Moderately frequent charcoal <2mm.
3	103	1	102	U/D	35	40	+						10YR 5/6 silty clay. Frequent modern roots. Frequent charcoal <2mm.
4	105	1	104	U/D	40	100							7.5YR 4/4 silty clay loam. Frequent modern roots and seeds. Infrequent charcoal <2mm.
5	604	6	602	LIA	35	300	++++	++	++	++			7.5YR 4/4 sandy loam. Moderately frequent modern roots. Very frequent charcoal <2mm.

APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Site 8E Middlemore, Daventry
Site code:	DAMI19
Event number:	ENN109479
Grid Reference	SP 56343 64821
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	May 2019, 3 days
Area of Site	1.2 hectares
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be retained until such time as accession to a Northamptonshire museum becomes possible.
Summary of Results:	Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by ENGIE UK on behalf of Futures Homeway Limited to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed residential development of a single field measuring 1.2 hectares in area. The site situated just off Farnborough Drive and is centered on NGR SP 56343 64821. The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref: DA/2018/0388). The evaluation, which was undertaken over three days during May 2019, consisted of nine 30m by 1.80m trenches, one 25m by 1.80m trench and one 9m by 1.80m trench. The evaluation revealed a rectangular middle Iron Age enclosure within the south-eastern part of the site. A large pit of similar date to the west of the enclosure contained large quantities of charcoal and small amounts of animal bone which may indicate that it was used to deposit domestic waste. A linear trackway orientated broadly north-east to south-west crossed the northern end of the site. The trackway was formed of two parallel ditches with a central compacted metalled surface around 10m wide surviving in one location. The trackway remains undated.

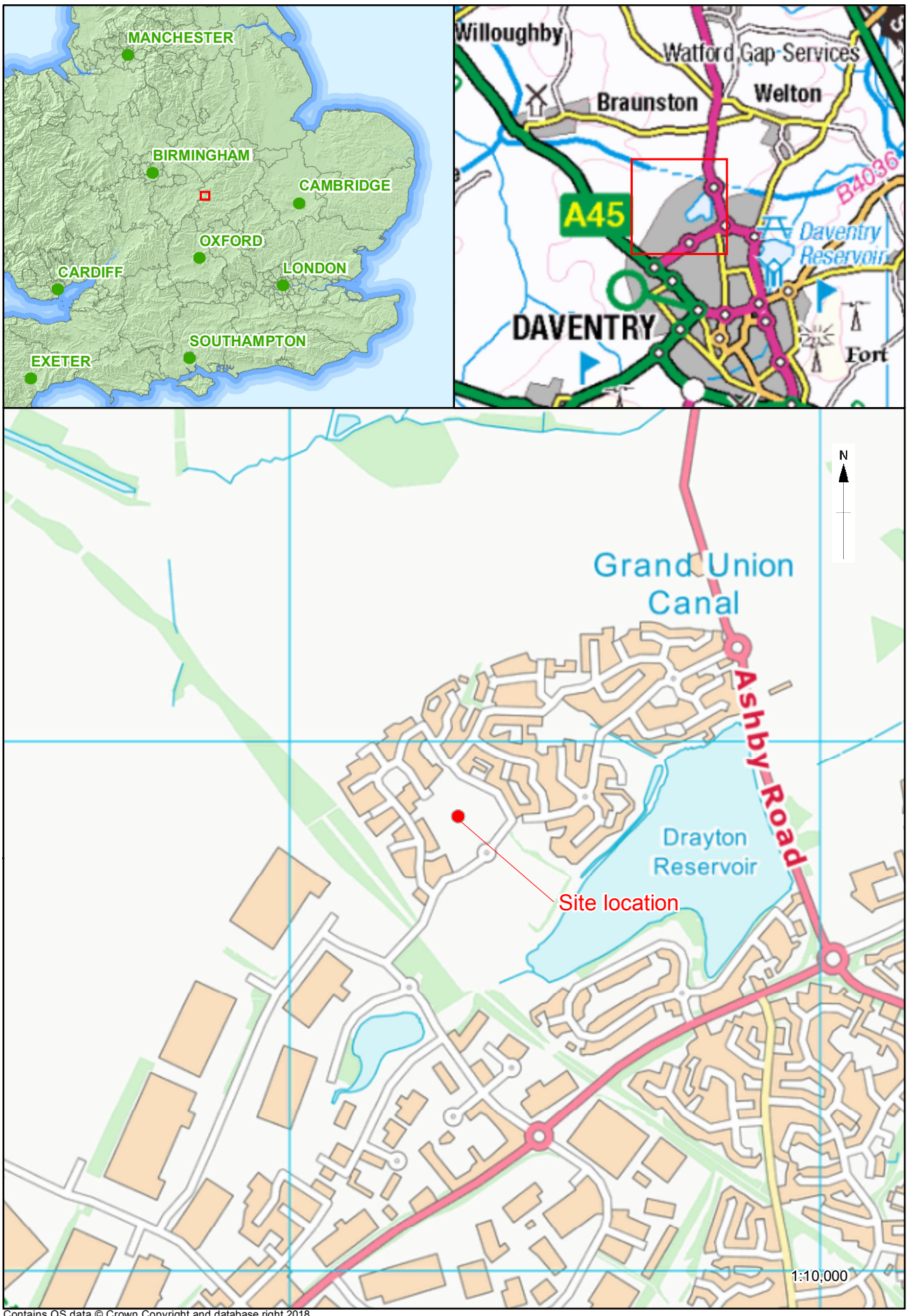
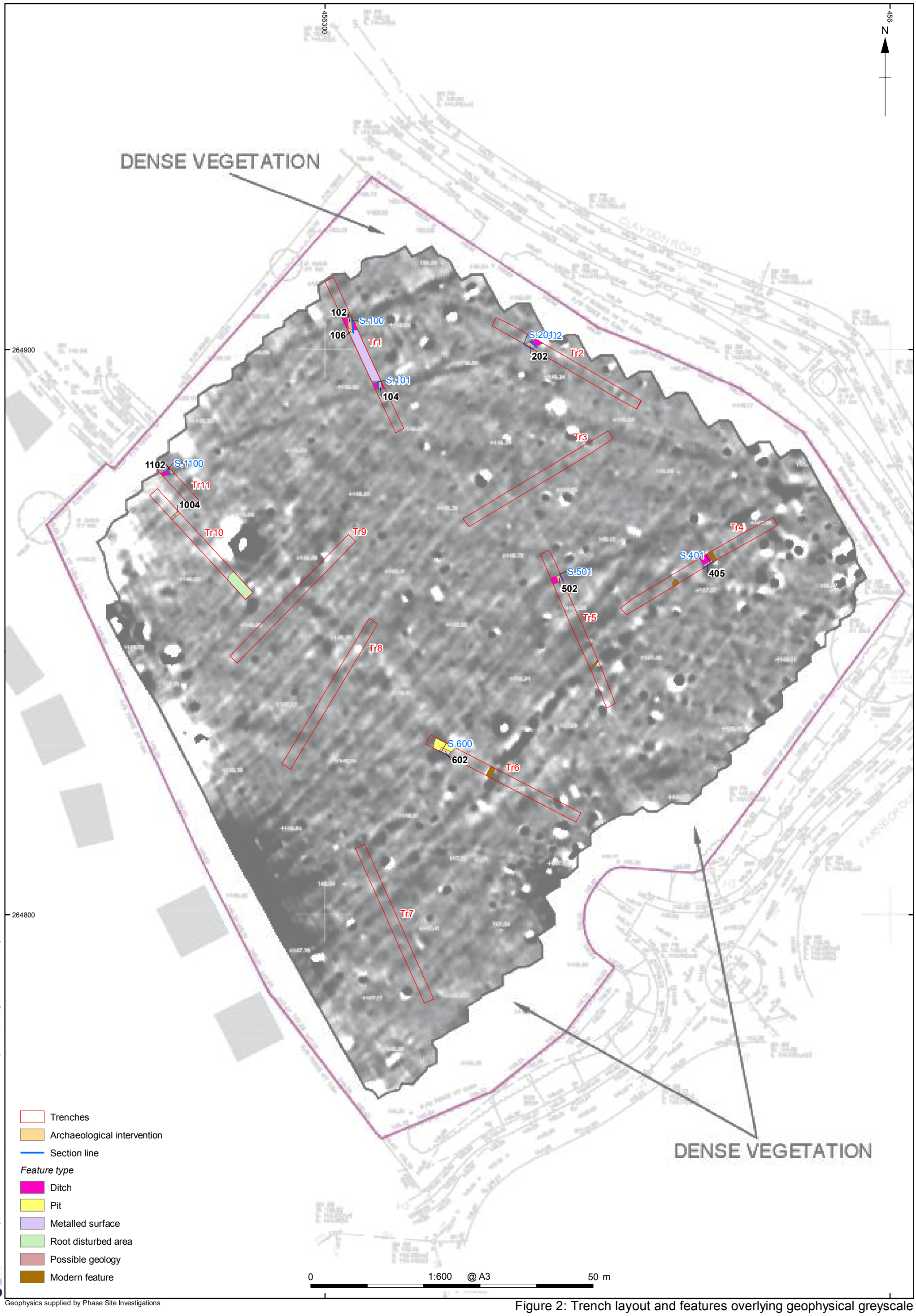


Figure 1: Site location



Geophysics supplied by Phase Site Investigations

Figure 2: Trench layout and features overlying geophysical greyscale

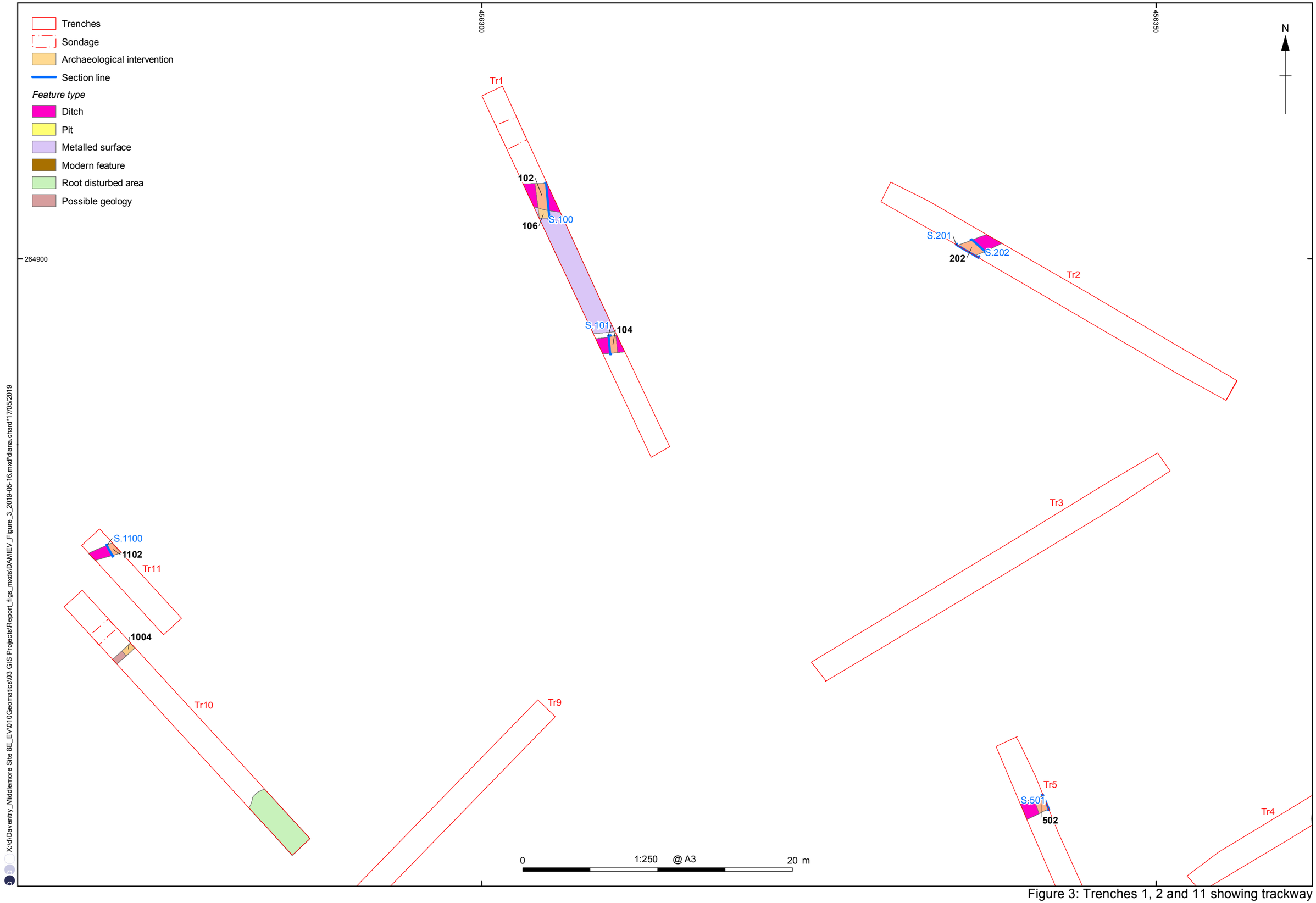


Figure 3: Trenches 1, 2 and 11 showing trackway

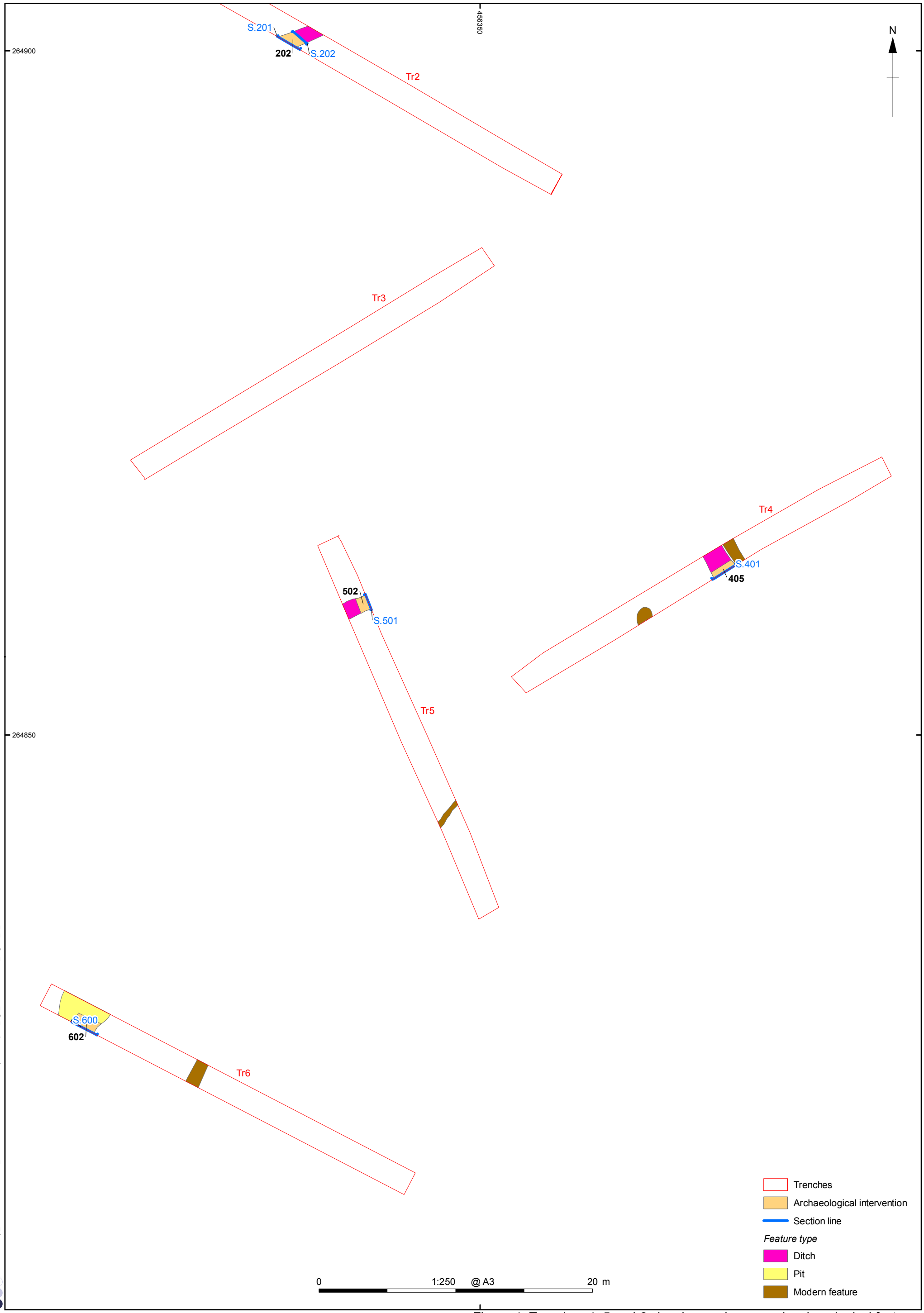


Figure 4: Trenches 4, 5 and 6 showing enclosure and archaeological features

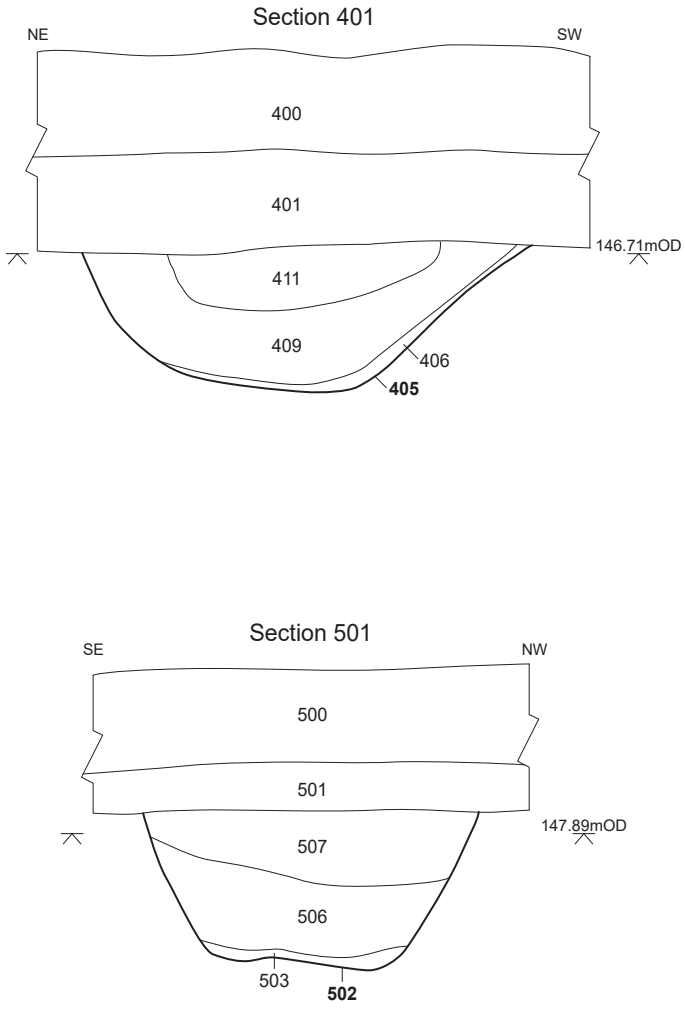


Figure 5: Sections through the late Iron Age enclosure ditch

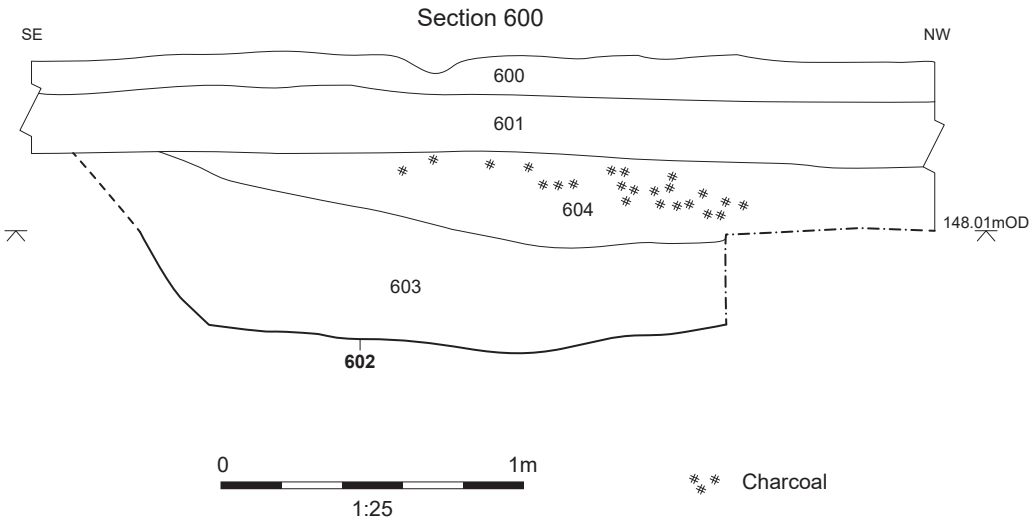


Figure 6: Section of late Iron Age pit 602

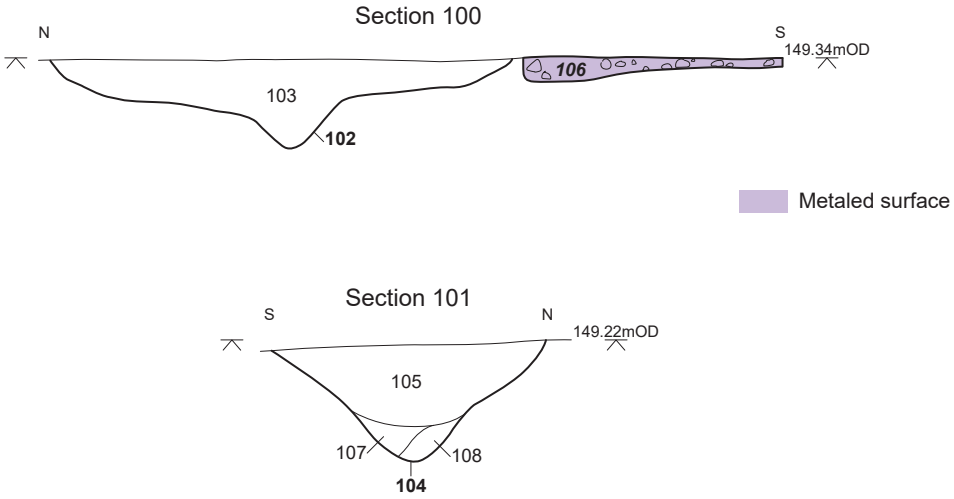


Figure 7: Sections through the trackway

Plate 1: Iron Age enclosure, eastern ditch 405

Plate 2: Iron Age enclosure, northern ditch 502

Plate 3: Iron Age pit 602

Plate 4: Trackway, northern ditch 102

Plate 5: Trackway, southern ditch 104

Plate 6: Trackway metalled surface 106

Plate 7: Trackway, southern ditch 202

Plate 8: Trackway, southern ditch 1102

oxfordarchaeology

Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com