Land east of Sutton Courtenay Lane, Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

oxfordarchaeology south

September 2016

Client: CgMs Consulting

Issue No: 1
NGR: SU 5034 9237

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Client Name:	CgMs Consulting
Client Ref No:	PGC/SM/21524/01
Document Title:	Land east of Sutton Courtenay Lane, Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire
Document Type:	Evaluation Report
Issue/Version Number:	1
Grid Reference:	NGR SU 5034 9237
Planning Reference:	P14/V1906/O
Site Code:	SUEL16
Invoice Code:	SUELEV
Receiving Museum:	Oxfordshire County Museums Service
Museum Accession No:	OXCMS: 2016.111

Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Edited by	Approved for issue by	Signature
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Document File Location	\\10.0.10.86\Projects\s\Sutton Courtenay Lane Oxfordshire\002Reports\Eval_report
Graphics File Location	\\samba\DigitalPhotos\SUEL16
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Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land east of Sutton Courtenay Lane, Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire, centred on NGR SU 5034 9237. A programme of 23 trenches were excavated, laid out to provide a good general coverage of the site. The work was undertaken within the surrounding waste ground amongst the derelict warehouses of the site. Due to restrictions caused by ground contamination, 11 of the excavated trenches were either wholly or partially abandoned.

The results of the evaluation demonstrated a high-level of archaeological activity in the northwest of the proposed development. Concentrations of prehistoric and Roman remains including large settlement enclosure ditches were identified in trenches 6-15. This activity appears to represent a distinct complex of linear and curvilinear enclosure ditches, smaller boundary ditches and discreet features comprising pits, gullies and post holes. The frequency of inter-cutting features, particularly of the enclosure ditches, was representative of a multiple phase settlement, where the re-establishment of boundaries was clearly evident. This settlement spanned the Late Iron Age to Late Roman periods, with possible hints of Saxon activity within the wider area.

The pottery assemblages dated to the middle Iron Age concentrated in trenches 7, 8, 9, and 11 in the north-west corner of the site, while the late Roman groups were recovered from trenches 6, 10, 11, 13, and 14, also in the north-west corner of the site, but extending further east and may indicate a shift in settlement focus through time at the site. Crop marks identified immediately to the north clearly shows the settlement continuing outside of the site boundary and indicate a large rectangular enclosure with internal small rectangular and circular divisions surrounded by field systems and animal enclosures.

The remains of dispersed field systems and other low-level activity were identified during the evaluation to the east and south of the settlement area. Areas of contaminated and disturbed ground were also located across the site and relate to previous phases of landscaping and warehouse development. The nature of archaeological preservation within these areas are either reduced or uncertain.

A single coin of Constantine II (AD 337-340), was found within one of the enclosure ditches. Two decorated weaving combs provide evidence for the production of domestic textile at the site. A fragment of worked antler also indicates bone working was being carried out in the vicinity. Furthermore, the environmental sampling in this area of site produced charred remains and animal bones indicative of arable farming and settlement activity within the vicinity. Fired clay fragments interpreted as oven structure were also recovered.

Two military pillboxes and two large concrete water tanks were also recorded at the north-west and south-west corners of the derelict distribution centre. These relate to the former WWII military warehouses that were located at the site.

Land East of Sutton Courtenay Lane, Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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illustrated by Markus Dylewski and Matt Bradley

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land east of Sutton Courtenay Lane, Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire.

1.1.2 Planning permission was granted for the redevelopment of the site to provide new buildings for storage and distribution, as well as ancillary facilities, car and lorry parking, service areas, access and landscaping (planning ref. P14/V1906/O).

1.1.3 The work was undertaken as a condition (condition 20) of this planning permission. A written scheme of investigation (WSI), produced by CgMs Consulting (2016) and approved by Hugh Coddington, detailed the local authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the condition. This document outline the results of the evaluation.

1.2 Location, geology and topography

1.2.1 The site was located to the south of Sutton Courtenay, comprising approximately 25.4 hectares of land centred at National Grid Reference SU 5034 9237 (Fig. 1). It was bounded to the west by Sutton Courtenay Lane, to the east and south-east by Didcot Power Station, to the south by a distribution centre and to the north by open fields.

1.2.2 The British Geological Survey records the solid geology of the site as mudstone belonging to the Gault Formation. This is overlain by superficial deposits of sand and gravel belonging to the Summertown-Radley Sand and Gravel Member across the site, except the south-western corner, which has no superficial deposits recorded. (http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html).

1.2.3 The site was roughly flat, at between 56-58m AOD. The south-west corner, defined by trench 1-3, comprised paved surfaces, rough grassland and boggy ground. The north-west corner of the site, defined by trenches 4-14 comprised rough grassland and small copses of woodland. The remainder of the site, defined by trenches 15-24, comprised primarily hard standing with some areas of cleared woodland and rough grassland and lawn.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A summary of the archaeological and historical background of the site was compiled from various sources for the WSI and has been reproduced below (CgMs, 2016).

Pre-historic

1.3.2 A number of Neolithic artefacts, predominantly of uncertain provenance, are recorded on the HER within 1km of the site.

1.3.3 The site of a Scheduled Iron Age settlement, is located immediately to the west of Sutton Courtenay Lane, opposite the site. The cropmark evidence for the site comprises a dense complex of circular features and linear ditches. Late Iron Age/Roman pottery has been collected from the site by fieldwalking. Evaluation has shown that Iron Age/Roman settlement evidence continues southwards, outside the Scheduled area.

Roman

1.3.4 Extensive cropmarks of a Roman linear village and associated regular field system are recorded in the field to the north of the site. The cropmarks extend for approximately 400m, to the site's northern boundary. A Roman cemetery, comprising five inhumations was found during the construction of a railway siding 315m south of the site. A Roman pottery vessel was recovered during the construction of an American tank shelter at Didcot depot, 790m south of the site. The area immediately to the south of the study site was investigated prior to development by evaluation and a subsequent strip, map and sample exercise, which identified a number of linear features forming parts of Roman and later field systems. A late Iron Age/early Roman field system and associated trackway were identified by excavation, 550m north-west of the site.

Saxon

1.3.5 Excavations ahead of the expansion of Didcot Power Station, 215m south-west of the site, uncovered 17 Saxon inhumation burials, dating to the 7th century and two sunken-floor buildings. Saxon features were identified within the central part of the Scheduled area part of Milton Park, to the west of Sutton Courtenay Lane, with further Saxon features identified by evaluation in the southern (unscheduled) part of Milton Park.

Post-medieval to Modern

1.3.6 John Rocque's 1761 map of Berkshire depicts the site formed from parts of three fields, with Sutton Courtenay Lane extant, forming the site's western boundary. The Sutton Courtenay Enclosure map of 1804 shows the northern site boundary formed by a farm track.

1.3.7 The 1876 Ordnance Survey shows 'Purgatory Farm' within the Plot 4b part of the site, adjacent to the middle of the northern boundary. The 1932 Ordnance Survey shows Purgatory Farm demolished, with a gravel pit shown in this area. A large wetland area is shown to the east of Sutton Courtenay Lane, in the Old Campsite area of the site, with cuttings, presumably related to gravel extraction or water management shown in the north-western and south-western parts of this area.

1.3.8 The site formed part of the Central Ordnance Depot, which was constructed in 1935, with the S-Shed and three T-Sheds shown on a plan of 1944. Post-war maps show these warehouses in their current layout with associated hardstanding areas and access roads. Four sets of railway sidings enter the site from the south and run alongside the warehouse buildings. An area of 'Water' is shown marked within the wetland part of the Old Campsite area, and a reservoir and associated structures shown in the south of Plot 4A. The railway sidings within the site appear to have been removed by time of the 1974 Ordnance Survey.

1.3.9 The desk-based assessment of the site identified a number of cropmarks within the northern part of the Old Campsite area, although their form is somewhat unclear.

1.3.10 Evaluation undertaken in the area immediately to the east of the study site, within Didcot B Power Station, identified no archaeological remains within the twelve trenches excavated (Trenches 8 -19), with significant modern disturbance sealed by 0.4-1.2m of made ground (Oxford Archaeological Unit, *Didcot 'B' Power Station Archaeological Evaluation*).

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Paul Clark, CgMs Consulting for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Hugh Coddington, who monitored the work on behalf of the Vale of White Horse District Council, for his advice and guidance.

1.4.2 The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Carl Champness. The fieldwork was directed by Peter Vellet, who was supported by Elizabeth Kennard, Mike McLean, Martin Locker and Richard Scurr. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Peter Vellet, Tom Black, Gary Jones, Ben Brown, Markus Dylewski and Magdalena Wachnik. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Geraldine Crann and Leigh Allen; Sharon Cook processed the environmental remains under the management of Rebecca Nicholson, and Susan Rawlings prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The primary aims of the evaluation were:

(i) to ensure that the presence, extent, level of significance and degree of preservation of surviving buried archaeological remains within the development site are reliably established;

(ii) to allow agreement upon the need for and scope of any further archaeological mitigation required within the development site.

2.1.2 The aims will be realised through the achievement of the following specific objectives:

(i) to seek to establish if surviving archaeological remains of any period are observed within the proposed trial trenches;

(ii) to interpret the nature of human activity at the site and to place the site within its local, regional and national context as appropriate,

(iii) to produce a site archive for deposition with Oxfordshire Museums Service and to provide information for the local Historic Environment Record to ensure the long-term survival of the excavated data.

2.2 Methodology

Evaluation trenching

2.2.1 A total of 25 trenches were proposed in the WSI, measuring 50m by 2m. A single trench (Trench 25) was abandoned prior to the commencement of the evaluation due to the proximity of High voltage electric cable within the area of the trench.

2.2.2 Of the remaining 24 trenches, a total of 23 trenches were excavated across the site, measuring between 2m and 50m by 1.8m. The trenches were laid out to provide an even coverage of the area under investigation (Fig. 2).

2.2.3 Where necessary, trenches were moved and/or shortened to avoid obstructions. These included woodland and/or thick foliage, overhead power cables, subterranean storage tanks and boggy ground. Trenches 23 and 24 were amalgamated into a single trench (23) due to space restrictions.

2.2.4 All trenches were excavated using a 16 ton 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Plate 1). 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 deposits were exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand and the appropriate use of machine.

2.2.5 Contaminated ground (asbestos containing materials and/or chemicals) was identified in Trenches 4, 5, 6, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19 and 20-23 (Fig. 2; Plate 2). These trenches were wholly or partially abandoned immediately after identifying the contaminates. Trench 15 was the only exception, where the contaminates were identified after excavation of the trench. Recording of these trenches was kept to a minimum and, when necessary, was carried out away from contaminated materials. No artefactual remains were retained from these trenches.

2.2.6 A sample of each feature was excavated and recorded to an agreed strategy with the County Archaeologist and Archaeological Consultant. Sufficient excavation was undertaken to resolve the principal aims of the evaluation.

2.2.7 Artefactual remains were recovered from both excavated features and as surface finds from unexcavated features.

Historic Building recording

2.2.8 Two concrete pillboxes were identified during ecological work preceding this evaluation. These were photographed and plans, elevations and sections drawn. Two large concrete water tanks were also identified and photographed (Fig. 2; Plates 16-21)

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches which contained archaeological remains.

3.1.2 The full details of all trenches including dimensions and depths of deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B and environmental data in Appendix C.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The general soil sequence varied considerably across the site. Where observed, a natural geology consisting of a silty sand or sand matrix with abundant flint gravel inclusions was identified. The only exception being Trench 3, where an alluvial clay was identified.

3.2.2 Trenches 6-14 and 22 comprised a soil sequence of agriculturally derived subsoil overlain by topsoil.

3.2.3 Trenches 1, 2, 3, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18 and 21 comprised a buried agriculturally derived subsoil overlain by hard standing, which in turn was overlain by further hard standing, Tarmac and/or topsoil.

3.2.4 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout. The exception to this was Trench 2, where adjacent boggy ground resulted in the complete inundation of this trench. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were identified in trenches 1, 3, 6-15, 21 and 22. The general distribution of archaeological deposits was variable and could be spatially divided between the area defined by trenches 6-15 and the remainder of site. The former represented a distinct concentration of linear, curvilinear and discrete archaeological features indicative of settlement. The remainder of the site (trenches 1, 3, 21 and 22) comprised isolated linear features with an uncertain relationship to the aforementioned concentration.

3.4 Trenches containing significant archaeology

Trench 1

3.4.1 Trench 1 contained two ditches and two pits, of which one ditch was excavated. Seven natural features, interpreted as tree throws, were also identified but not excavated (Fig. 3).

3.4.2 Ditch 102, aligned NNW-SSE, contained two naturally derived fills, basal fill 104 and upper fill 103 (Fig. 3, section 101). No artefactual material was recovered from either fill.

3.4.3 A second ditch, aligned ENE-WSW, was observed intersecting ditch 102 to the south of the intervention. Unfortunately, the relationship could not be determined due to inundation from ground water.

Trench 3

3.4.4 Trench 3 contained a single ditch, three land drains and four natural features (Fig. 4). Of the three land drains, one was observed to contain a ceramic pipe and was most likely 19th century in date, whereas the other two were identified as modern.

3.4.5 Ditch 302 was located at the north east end of Trench 3 and contained two naturally derived fills, 304 and 303 (Fig. 4, section 300; Plate 3). Basal fill 304 contained a single sherd of Roman pottery and was also subject to environmental sampling due to the presence of snail shells. Upper fill 303 contained a single sherd of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and animal bone.

3.4.6 It should be noted that Trench 3 exposed the only observed variation in natural geology on site. Whereas sandy gravel was the predominate natural on site, Trench 3 contained alluvial clays, indicating an area of floodplain deposits.

Trench 6

3.4.7 Trench 6 contained at least eight ditches, three pits and a post hole, of which three ditches and the post hole were excavated (Fig. 5 and 6).

3.4.8 Post hole 603 contained a single naturally derived fill, 604, within which no artefactual material was recovered (Fig. 6, section 600).

3.4.9 Ditches 608, 605 and 611 were identified in a homogeneous band of sediment measuring roughly 13m in width (Fig. 6, section 601; Plate 7). Ditch 608 was cut by both ditches 605 and 611 and represented the earliest identified feature in this sequence of ditches. No relationship existed between ditches 605 and 611.

3.4.10 Ditch 608 contained two naturally derived fills, 609 and 610. Basal fill 609 contained eight sherds of Roman (AD 100-410) pottery, whereas no artefactual material was recovered from upper fill 610.

3.4.11 Ditch 605 contained two naturally derived fills, 606 and 607. Basal fill 606 contained four sherds of Roman (AD 250-410) pottery and animal bone and upper fill 607 contained 15 sherds of Roman (AD 250-410) pottery, animal bone and burnt flint. Both fills were subject to environmental sampling.

3.4.12 Ditch 611 also contained two naturally derived fills, 613 and 612. Basal fill 613 contained three sherds of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery, whereas no artefactual material was recovered from upper fill 612.

3.4.13 Two sherds of post-medieval pottery, animal bone, post-medieval CBM and a Cu alloy object were recovered from the subsoil in this trench.

Trench 7

3.4.14 Trench 7 contained 13 ditches, eight pits and a single post hole, of which five ditches and the post hole were excavated (Fig. 5 and 7). Artefacts were also recovered as surface finds from six ditches and three pits, which have been tabulated in Appendices A and B.

3.4.15 Ditch 711 was cut by ditch 709 and contained a single naturally derived fill, 712. No artefactual material was recovered from fill 712. Ditch 709 also contained a single naturally derived fill, within which three sherds of middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone was recovered. (Fig. 7, section 700).

3.4.16 Ditches 727, 725 and 723 represented a series of three inter-cutting ditches, whereby ditch 723, a large probable enclosure ditch, was cut by ditch 725, which was then

subsequently cut by ditch 727 (Fig. 7, section 701). Ditches 725 and 727 represented two smaller boundary ditches.

3.4.17 Ditch 723 was only partially excavated to establish its relationship with ditches 725 and 727. It contained at least one fill, 728, within which three sherds of Roman pottery and animal bone were recovered.

3.4.18 Ditch 725 contained a single naturally derived fill, 726, within which no artefactual material was recovered.

3.4.19 Ditch 723 also contained a single naturally derived fill, 724, within which eight sherds of middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone were recovered.

3.4.20 Post hole 731 was located at the north-east end of Trench 7 and contained two naturally derived fills, 733 and 732 (Fig. 7, section 702). No artefactual material was recovered from basal fill 733, whereas animal bone was recovered from upper fill 732.

3.4.21 Artefactual material from the subsoil in this trench included 11 sherds of residual middle Iron Age and Roman (AD 50-200) pottery, animal bone, post-medieval CBM and fired clay.

3.4.22 In addition, two Iron Age bone weaving combs were recovered together from a subsoil spoil heap during the machining of Trench 7. Although they were found in an area of the trench where several linear and discreet features were identified, the combs could not be attributed to a specific feature. It should be noted that the condition of the combs was such that they most likely lay in situ in a feature prior to machining and were not within the agriculturally derived subsoil within the trench.

Trench 8

3.4.23 Trench 8 contained nine post holes, nine ditches and six pits. Of these, one post hole, three ditches and two pits were excavated (Fig. 5 and 8). Artefacts were also recovered as surface finds from two ditches, which have been tabulated in Appendices A and B.

3.4.24 Pit 803 was located at the south-east end of the trench and contained a single naturally derived fill, 804 (Fig. 8, section 800). Three sherds of middle Iron Age pottery, animal bone and flint were recovered from fill 804.

3.4.25 Post hole 805 was located immediately to the north of pit 803 and also contained a single naturally derived fill, 806 (Fig. 8, section 801). Unfortunately, no artefactual material was recovered from fill 806.

3.4.26 Pit 811 and ditches 807, 809 and 813 represented a series of inter-cutting features (Fig. 8, section 802). Pit 811 was truncated by ditches 807 and 809 and ditch 809 was subsequently cut by ditch 813. It should be noted that ditches 809 and 813 were only partially excavated to aid in establishing relationships.

3.4.27 Pit 811 contained two naturally derived fills, 812 and 821. Basal fill 812 contained one sherd of Iron Age pottery, whereas no artefactual material was recovered from upper fill 821.

3.4.28 Ditch 807 contained a single naturally derived fill, 808, within which 11 sherds of residual middle Iron Age and Roman pottery and animal bone were recovered.

3.4.29 Ditch 809 contained at least one fill, 810, within which no artefactual material was recovered.

3.4.30 Ditch 813 also contained at least one fill, 814, within which nine sherds of Roman (AD 120-410) pottery and animal bone were recovered.

3.4.31 Two sherds of middle Iron Age and Roman pottery, animal bone, post-medieval CBM and a Cu alloy object were recovered from the subsoil in this trench. A single piece of worked flint was also recovered from the topsoil in this trench.

Trench 9

3.4.32 Trench 9 contained nine ditches, one post hole, a foundation cut and its associated wall (Fig. 5 and 9; Plate 5). Of these, four ditches, the foundation cut and its associated wall were excavated. Artefacts were also recovered as surface finds from two ditches, which have been tabulated in Appendices A and B.

3.4.33 Ditches 902 and 904 were located at the north extent of the trench (Fig. 9, section 902). Both features were curvilinear in nature and situated in very close proximity to one another, however, no relationship existed between them.

3.4.34 Ditch 902 contained a single naturally derived fill, 903, within which 15 sherds of middle Iron Age pottery, animal bone and a piece of cut antler were recovered.

3.4.35 Ditch 904 contained two naturally derived fills, 919 and 905. Basal fill 919 contained three sherds of middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone and upper fill 905 contained 21 sherds of middle Iron Age pottery, animal bone, flint, shell and stone.

3.4.36 Ditches 906 and 911 were identified in a curving homogeneous band of sediment measuring 11.80m in width. Ditch 906 was cut by ditch 911, which was subsequently cut by foundation cut 917 and its associated wall, 910 (Fig. 9, section 900 and 901; Plate 8 and 9).

3.4.37 Ditch 906 contained three naturally derived fills; 909, 908 and 907. Basal fill 909 contained 21 sherds of middle Iron Age pottery and flint while upper fill 907 contained 50 sherds of residual middle Iron Age and Roman pottery, animal bone, flint, burnt stone, slag and fired clay. No artefactual material was recovered from fill 908.

3.4.38 Ditch 911 was only partially excavated and contained at least one fill, 912, which produced no artefacts.

3.4.39 Foundation cut 917 contained a single deliberately deposited fill, 918, and wall 910. Wall 910 comprised two courses of roughly hewn sandstone blocks forming the outer faces of the wall and an inner core of unworked sandstone rubble. The outer worked faces and inner rubble core were bound by a light grey coarse sandy mortar. Two sherds of Roman pottery from fill 918 and three sherds of middle Iron Age or early Anglo Saxon pottery from amongst the inner rubble core of wall 910 were recovered indicating the wall must be Roman or later in date. A mortar sample was taken from the wall.

Trench 10

3.4.40 Trench 10 contained six ditches and six pits, of which three ditches and two pits were excavated (Fig. 5 and 10).

3.4.41 Ditches 1009 and 1005 and pit 1003 represented a series of inter-cutting features at the north-eastern extent of the trench (Fig. 10, section 1002 and 1003). These were explored in two separate interventions, which demonstrated that ditch 1009 was cut by ditch 1005, which was subsequently truncated by pit 1003.

3.4.42 Ditch 1009 contained a single naturally derived fill, 1010, within which eight sherds of Roman (AD200-410) pottery and animal bone were recovered.

3.4.43 Ditch 1005 was only partially excavated in both interventions and was observed to contain at least one naturally derived fill, 1006. Seven sherds of Roman pottery and animal bone were recovered from fill 1006.

3.4.44 Pit 1003 also contained a single naturally derived fill, 1004, within which 12 sherds of Roman pottery and animal bone were recovered.

3.4.45 Ditch 1011 was situated to the south-west of ditch 1009 and contained a single naturally derived fill, 1012 (Fig. 10, section 1001). Fill 1012 contained 39 sherds of Roman (AD 300-410) pottery, animal bone, flint and a Cu alloy coin of Constantine II (AD 337-340).

3.4.46 Pit 1017 contained a single naturally derived fill, 1018, within which 25 sherds of Roman (AD120-200) pottery and animal bone were recovered (Fig. 10, section 1000).

Trench 11

3.4.47 Trench 11 contained five ditches and four pits, of which one ditch and one pit were excavated (Fig. 5 and 11; Plate 6). Artefacts were also recovered as surface finds from three ditches and one pit, which have been tabulated in Appendices A and B.

3.4.48 Pit 1103 contained a single naturally derived fill, 1104, within which one sherd of middle Iron Age pottery was recovered (Fig. 11, section 1101).

3.4.49 Ditch 1107 contained three naturally derived fills; 1110, 1109 and 1108 (Fig. 11, section 1102; Plate 10). No artefactual material was recovered from basal fill 1110, whereas two sherds of residual middle Iron Age and Roman (AD 50-100) pottery from fill 1109 and 57 sherds of Roman (AD 250-410) pottery and animal bone from upper fill 1108 were recovered.

3.4.50 Five sherds of residual middle Iron Age and Roman pottery were recovered from the topsoil in this trench.

3.4.51 Animal bone and post-medieval roof tile were recovered from the topsoil in this trench.

Trench 12

3.4.52 Trench 12 contained one ditch, three pits and a single post hole (Fig. 12). Of these, one pit and the post hole were excavated.

3.4.53 Pit 1203 was located at the southern end of the trench and contained a single naturally derived fill, 1204 (Fig. 12, section 1201). No artefactual material was recovered from fill 1204.

3.4.54 Post hole 1205 was situated to the north-east of pit 1203 and also contained a single naturally derived fill, 1206 (Fig. 12, section 1200). No artefactual material was recovered from fill 1206.

Trench 13

3.4.55 Trench 13 contained two ditches, one ditch terminus, one post hole and five pits. Of these, one of each feature type was excavated. 18 natural features were also identified, of which one was excavated but not recorded (Fig. 5 and 13).

3.4.56 Ditch 1306 contained two naturally derived fills, 1308 and 1307 (Fig. 13, section 1301; Plate 11). Basal fill 1308 did not contain any artefactual material, where as upper fill 1307 contained 71 sherds of Roman (AD 250-410) pottery and animal bone.

3.4.57 Post hole 1304 was located at the SSW extent of the trench and contained a single naturally derived fill, 1305 (Fig. 13, section 1300). No artefactual material was

recovered from fill 1305. Post hole 1304 was observed to cut a natural feature, interpreted as a tree throw, although this feature was not recorded.

3.4.58 Ditch terminus 1309 contained three fills, 1314, 1313 and 1310 (Fig. 13, section 1302). Basal fill 1314 and upper fill 1310 represented naturally derived material, whereas fill 1313 may have represented a deliberate deposit of ash and/or material associated with a hearth or fire pit. No artefactual material was recovered from any of these fills.

3.4.59 Pit 1311 was situated towards the NNE extent of the trench and contained a single naturally derived fill, 1312 (Fig. 13, section 1303). No artefactual material was recovered from fill 1312.

Trench 14

3.4.60 Trench 14 contained three ditches, one post hole and five natural features (Fig. 5 and 14). Of these, two ditches and the post hole were excavated. Artefacts were also recovered as surface finds from one ditch, which have been tabulated in Appendices A and B.

3.4.61 Ditches 1408 and 1404 and post hole 1406 represented a series of inter-cutting features at the NNE extent of the trench (Fig. 14, section 1400; Plate 12). Ditch 1408 was truncated by ditch 1404 and post hole 1406. Unfortunately, no relationship existed between the latter ditch and the post hole.

3.4.62 Ditch 1408 contained two naturally derived fills, 1410 and 1409. Basal fill 1410 did not contain any artefactual material, whereas upper fill 1409 contained 37 sherds of Roman (AD 150-250) pottery, animal bone, a Roman fired clay oven/hearth plate and a Cu alloy object.

3.4.63 Ditch 1404 was situated to the NNE of ditch 1408 and contained a single naturally derived fill, 1405. Finds recovered from fill 1405 included 35 sherds of Roman (AD 250-410) pottery, animal bone, a Roman tile and stone.

3.4.64 Post hole 1406 was situated between ditches 1408 and 1404 and contained a single naturally derived fill, 1407. Seven sherds of Roman (AD 120-200) pottery, stone and fired clay was recovered from fill 1407.

Trench 15

3.4.65 Trench 15 contained eight ditches, three pits and two post holes (Fig. 15; Plate 13 and 14). No archaeological features were excavated in this trench as asbestos containing materials were identified in hard standing underlying the topsoil. The trench was planned and each feature photographed.

Trench 21

3.4.66 Trench 21 contained a single ditch and two natural features, of which the ditch was excavated (Fig. 16).

3.4.67 Ditch 2103 contained two naturally derived fills, basal fill 2105 and upper fill 2104 (Fig. 16, section 2101; Plate 15), neither of which produced any artefacts.

3.4.68 It should be noted that ditch 2103 may have formed a continuation of ditch 2203 in Trench 22.

Trench 22

3.4.69 Trench 22 contained a single ditch and six natural features, of which the ditch and a natural feature were excavated (Fig. 16). The excavated natural feature was not recorded as it was determined to be a modern animal burrow.

3.4.70 Ditch 2203 contained two naturally derived fills, basal fill 2205 and upper fill 2204 (Fig. 16, section 2201). No artefactual material was recovered from either fill.

3.4.71 It should be noted that ditch 2203 may have formed a continuation of ditch 2103 in Trench 21.

3.5 Trenches containing no significant archaeology

Trench 2 contained four natural features interpreted as tree throws and was recorded as being devoid of significant archaeology.

3.6 Trenches containing contaminated materials

3.6.1 Contaminants were identified in trenches 4, 5, 6, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23. These were primarily asbestos tiles (corrugated and flat), although toxic chemicals were also identified visually in trenches 12 and 15 and by smell in trenches 16 and 19 (Plate 2).

3.6.2 Trenches 4, 5, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 23 were abandoned immediately. No archaeological deposits or natural geology was observed in these trenches.

3.6.3 Trenches 6, 12, 21 and 22 were partially abandoned, although archaeological deposits and natural geology were identified within the trench (Plate 2).

3.6.4 Trench 15 was fully excavated despite being contaminated with asbestos-containing materials (Plate 13). These were only identified after excavation due to inclement weather during machining. Archaeological deposits were identified in this trench, although these could only be planned and photographed due to health and safety restrictions. A modern pit was also identified, containing glass bottles associated with toxic chemicals (Plate 14).

3.7 Historic building recording

3.7.1 Within the grounds, close to the north perimeter of the site, are two small sentry style pillboxes. The eastern pillbox is situated close to the east perimeter and next to the northern road bordering the derelict distribution centre. The western pillbox lies within woodland towards the west of the site (Figure 2).

3.7.2 These are square Type 26 pillboxes, which are distinguished from other types by the presence of a horizontal loophole in each of its four elevations (Figure 17). Here, the pillboxes, which are square in plan, are set approximately 0.8m into the ground (Plates 16 and 17). The reinforced concrete roof is flat with broad overhanging edges, on top of which are mounds of earth covered in vegetation. It has dimensions of 2m by 0.12m. The walls of the pillboxes are constructed of reinforced shuttered concrete 0.4m thick. The doorway, situated under the loophole on the south side of each, is reached by external steps. These are orientated east to west, ascending against the south wall and are enclosed on the north, south and west sides with a concrete wall, also 0.4m thick. The top of the wall is approximately level with the lintel of the doorway into the pillbox and so provides cover from all sides except the approach from the east.

3.7.3 On the east side of the eastern pillbox, next to the entrance to the steps, the words “No 3 POLICE PATROL” is written in white paint (Plate 17). On the east side of the western pillbox, next to the entrance to the steps, the words “No 3/4 POLICE PATROL” is written in black paint on a white background (Plate 18). The doorways into the pillboxes are 1.16m by 0.8m and two wooden doors, that swing inwards, are hung on each jamb. On the outside of the doors is a catch for a padlock and on the interior is a sliding bar (Plate 19).

3.7.4 The interior of the pillboxes is no more than 0.93m in width and 2.12m in height, suggesting that not more than two people would be stationed inside at a time. Each of the four loopholes have exterior openings with dimensions of 0.37m by 0.11m, widening to 0.57m by 0.25m embrasures (Plate 20). The interior of each pillbox features faded whitewash and bolt holes for a shelf or a rail was observed in the north wall of each, opposite the doorway.

3.7.5 These are likely to have been police sentry boxes in view of each other and with a view of the perimeter and internal road to their rear. They may have had a secondary role as a defence position in the case of an emergency.

3.7.6 In addition to the pillboxes, two large concrete water tanks were observed at the north-west and south-west corners of the derelict distribution centre, beside the road (Plate 21).

4 Finds and Environmental Summary

4.1 Finds

4.1.1 The finds recovered from the evaluation trenches were cleaned, sorted and sent to the relevant specialist. The more detailed specialist reports can be found in appendix B and are briefly summarised below:

Pottery

4.1.2 A total of 555 sherds, weighing 7.5kg, was recovered from the evaluation from a range of features identified mostly within the northwest of the site.

4.1.3 Some 18% of the assemblage dated to the middle Iron Age. This was on the basis of form – globular and, more commonly, barrel-shaped jars were recorded – and fabrics, which were predominantly sandy, but also included shelly fabrics and, to a much lesser extent, fabrics with voids denoting organic temper.

4.1.4 Middle Iron pottery was recovered from trenches 7, 8, 9 and 11, with the largest groups coming from ditch fills in trench 9. Pottery of middle Iron Age date was also recovered as residual occurrences in Roman-period groups from these trenches.

4.1.5 Three groups, from trenches 3, 6 and 11, were dated to the late Iron Age or early Roman period. All contained grog-tempered ware. Groups dated with more certainty to the early Roman period (mid-late 1st century AD) were recovered from trenches 7 and 11. Pottery diagnostic of this period included a body sherd from a rouletted beaker and a butt-beaker rim.

4.1.6 Twelve per cent of the assemblage belonged to groups dated to the mid Roman period (*c* AD 120-250), although this comprised just three groups, two from trench 14 and one from trench 10. Diagnostic elements of these groups included Central Gaulish samian ware, flanged bowls in black-burnished ware, and a bead-rimmed dish in imitation black-burnished ware. Jars and bowls also recorded were consistent with this date. Another three groups, from trenches 7 and 8, were dated more broadly to the later 1st or 2nd century AD. Two of the groups included Savernake ware, while the third comprised a handle from an olive oil amphora.

4.1.7 The late Roman period (*c* AD 250-410) was well represented. Pottery from groups dated to the period accounted for 40% of the assemblage. Pottery diagnostic of the period included dropped-flange bowls in sand-tempered reduced wares, plain-rimmed dishes, a funnel-necked beaker in Nene Valley colour-coated ware and body and base sherds in Oxford red colour-coated ware and Overwey white ware. The pottery was

recovered from trenches 6, 10, 11, 13 and 14, with the largest groups coming from trenches 11 and 13.

4.1.8 No certain Anglo-Saxon pottery was identified. Body sherds in sandy and organic fabrics from context 910 could potentially be of Saxon date, but given the quantity and condition of the middle Iron Age pottery from the site as a whole, a later prehistoric date is equally likely.

Worked bone and antler

4.1.9 Two Iron Age weaving combs and a fragment of worked antler were recovered from Trenches 7 and 9 respectively. The combs SF 1 and 2 were found together in context 701 and the antler fragment came from context 903.

Ceramic Building material

4.1.10 A small quantity of ceramic building material amounting to 16 fragments weighing 581g was recovered from six trenches from the subsoil and fills of ditches. All the pieces were broken and fragmentary, subjected to low – moderate abrasion with a low mean fragment weight of 36g.

4.1.11 There were two undiagnostic examples made in sandy fabrics that were probably of Roman date. A plain flat tile (context 1405) measuring 25mm thick probably derived from a tegula or small brick. The other piece (context 720) may have been a fragment of tegula flange, but if so it is very deformed and this identification remains uncertain.

4.1.12 The remaining pieces were all post-Roman, mostly flat roof tile of post-medieval date.

Fired clay

4.1.13 A small assemblage of fired clay and daub amounting to 29 fragments weighing 729g was recovered from four trenches (7, 9, 11, 14). The assemblage has a high mean fragment weight of 25g though all the material is fragmentary and abraded to some extent. The composition of the assemblage suggests a date of Late Iron Age-Roman.

4.1.14 The main diagnostic items were fragments of flat plates or discs, which probably served as oven or hearth furniture. These objects date to the Roman period. Two small fragments of fired clay from context 907 with a cream veneer are similar to fragments found elsewhere interpreted as oven structure from Iron Age and Roman periods.

4.1.15 A sample of ‘mortar’ from context 910, a sandstone wall, is closer in character to a chalky earthen daub or cob. If it was from the bonding material rather than the facing then any lime matrix has leached out.

Metal objects

4.1.16 Six metal finds were recovered from six different contexts. They comprise three Cu alloy finds, two iron and one aluminium object. The only closely datable object is the small Roman Cu alloy coin from context 1012, which dates to the first half of the 4th century. The shank button is post medieval or later in date and a spoon is modern.

Worked flint

4.1.17 A small assemblage of 16 struck flints was recovered from the evaluation, with almost half (7 or 44%) originating from ditch fill 905. The struck assemblage shows an early prehistoric focus, based on one potential Neolithic and an early prehistoric piece.

4.1.18 The assemblage provides evidence of earlier prehistoric activity concentrated in the area of trenches 8 and 9, probably domestic in character based on the number of tools

present. The assemblage as a whole is moderately fresh and does not appear to be heavily disturbed even though all the flint is residual in later contexts.

Animal bone

4.1.19 A total of 667 hand-collected animal bone fragments weighing 7.6kg were recovered from 37 contexts from ditch and pit fills preliminarily dated to the middle Iron Age and Roman periods. The bone assemblage produced evidence of cattle, sheep/goat, horse, pig, rodent and domestic fowl.

4.1.20 The assemblage suggests general domestic refuse, evidence of butchery is very limited and confined to bones from Roman contexts or contexts of mixed date.

4.2 Environmental summary

4.2.1 Six samples were taken from a range of suitable deposits from three separate areas across the evaluation. The samples produced charred material in poor condition, with grain, seeds and chaff preserved.

4.2.2 The wild seeds observed are of species often found in arable fields and would seem to indicate their presence either within the crops themselves as crop contaminants or growing around the periphery of the managed areas. The grain, while in too poor condition to speciate with certainty, in combination with the chaff fragments are most likely to be a glume wheat such as spelt (*Triticum spelta*) or emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*), with spelt the more likely given the provisional dating of the deposits.

4.2.3 The charred remains observed on this site would seem to indicate arable farming within the vicinity of the area evaluated.

5 Discussion

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

5.1.1 While 12 of the 24 proposed trenches were either entirely or partially abandoned due to high levels of ground contamination identified on site, the remaining trenches and those partially abandoned were accessible for investigation. Taking the areas of contamination into consideration and that these are also those likely to have been significantly truncated, few other issues arose that directly affected the reliability of the results of this evaluation.

5.1.2 Trenches 2 and 15, where inundation with water after machining due to adjacent boggy ground and ground contamination resulting in the inability to excavate and properly record archaeological features within these trenches.

5.1.3 Away from these areas the trenches were fully excavated and offered good sample coverage of the area of archaeological activity. The archaeological features and deposits identified during the evaluation are considered to be an accurate representation of the archaeological potential and preservation levels at the site.

5.2 Evaluation objectives and results

5.2.1 Sufficient features were sampled within each trench to characterise and inform about levels of archaeological potential across the site. Where intercutting features were identified, appropriate interventions were utilised to establish relationships and phases of activity. Where practicable, surface finds were collected from unexcavated features to aid in establishing more comprehensive dating of the site.

5.2.2 The evaluation achieved the aims of characterising and defining areas of archaeological potential. It was also able to identify areas of significant truncation and ground disturbance where archaeological potential may be significantly reduced.

5.3 Interpretation and significance

5.3.1 The results of the evaluation have demonstrated a high-level of archaeological activity in the north-west of the proposed development. Concentrations of prehistoric and Roman remains including large settlement enclosure ditches were identified in trenches 6-15. This activity appears to represent a distinct complex of linear and curvilinear enclosure ditches, smaller boundary ditches and discrete features comprising pits, gullies and post holes. The frequency of intercutting features, particularly of the enclosure ditches, was representative of a multi-phase settlement where the re-establishment of enclosures was clearly evident. This settlement spanned the Late Iron Age to Late Roman, with possible hints of Saxon activity within the wider area.

5.3.2 This was supported by the pottery assemblage, which provided a date range of the middle Iron Age through to the late Roman period for the site. A single coin of Constantine II (AD 337-340), found in ditch 101, further supported this date range. The presence of residual middle Iron Age pottery in several Roman contexts also supports a multi-phase site. Furthermore, the environmental sampling carried out in this area of site produced charred remains indicative of arable farming and settlement activity within the vicinity. Fired clay fragments interpreted as oven structure were also evidence of domestic activity on the site.

5.3.3 The two decorated weaving combs provide evidence for the production of domestic textile at the site (Plate 22). The fragment of worked antler also indicates bone working was also being carried out on site.

5.3.4 The results of the pottery analysis suggest that the pattern of deposition was chronologically distinct. Groups dated to the middle Iron Age were concentrated in trenches 7, 8, 9, and 11 in the north-west corner of the site, while the late Roman groups were recovered from trenches 6, 10, 11, 13, and 14, broadly within the same area, but extending further east. This may suggest a shift in settlement focus through time at the site.

5.3.5 Unfortunately, the layout and phasing of the settlement complex was not possible to ascertain based on the trench information given the frequency and complexity of the archaeological deposits revealed within the trenches. Cropmarks identified immediately to the north clearly show the settlement continuing outside of the site boundary in the form of a large rectangular enclosure with internal subsidiary rectangular and circular divisions and surrounded by a field system (Plate 4).

5.3.6 The remainder of the site (trenches 1, 3, 21 and 22) contained isolated linear features with an uncertain relationship to the aforementioned settlement complex. Ditch 302 was the only outlying feature to produce dating evidence, being late Iron Age/early Roman in date. These features most likely represent field boundaries and animal enclosures away from the main settlement.

5.3.7 Areas of contaminated and disturbed ground are located across the site as shown on figure 2, relating to previous phases of landscaping and development. The nature of archaeological preservation within these areas is either uncertain or reduced.

5.4 Conclusion

5.4.1 The evaluation identified a multi-phase settlement within the north-west of the site associated with mid Iron Age to Roman enclosures and structures. There is a clear settlement focus of mid Iron Age activity in trenches 7, 8, 9, and 11, with a possible shift to the east during the Roman period. The remains of dispersed field systems and other low-level activity were identified to the east and south of the settlement.

5.4.2 The site forms part of a much wider dispersed prehistoric to Saxon landscape within the area with nearby settlement activity identified through cropmarks and previous excavation at Bridge Farm, Sutton Courtenay (2.5km NE of site), Great Western Park (2.2km SSE of site) and Appleford Sidings (2.3km NE of site). Bridge Farm and Great Western Park both produced evidence for Iron Age and Roman settlement, while Appleford Sidings was predominately Roman.

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Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained two ditches and two pits, of which one ditch was excavated. Seven natural features were also identified and not excavated. Consists of Tarmac/topsoil, hard standing and a buried subsoil overlying a sandy gravel natural geology.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.73
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	47
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
100	Layer	-	0.10	Tarmac/topsoil; (topsoil) friable, dark brownish grey, clay sandy silt	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.30	Hard standing; compact, dark grey	-	-
102	Cut	0.35	0.27	Ditch; linear, SSE-NNW aligned, narrow concave base, steep straight sides	-	-
103	Fill	0.35	0.21	Ditch; firm, dark brownish grey, silty clay, common flint gravel inclusions	-	-
104	Fill	0.14	0.06	Ditch; moderately firm, mid orange grey, silty sand, abundant pea gravel inclusions	-	-
105	Layer	-	0.33	Buried subsoil; firm, mid orange brown, silty clay	-	-
106	Layer	-	-	Natural; loose, mid brownish orange, sandy gravel, abundant flint gravel and pea gravel	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of any significant archaeology. Four natural features were identified but not excavated. Consists of topsoil, hard standing and a buried subsoil overlying a clay with flint gravel natural geology.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.55
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	29
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
200	Layer	-	0.10	Topsoil; friable, dark brownish grey, clay sandy silt	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.30	Hard standing	-	-
202	Layer	-	0.15	Buried subsoil; firm, mid orange brown, silty clay	-	-
203	Layer	-	-	Natural; firm, mid orange, clay with abundant flint gravel	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained a single ditch and four natural features, of which the ditch was excavated. Consists of Tarmac, made ground and a buried subsoil overlying an alluvial clay natural geology.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.76
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
300	Layer	-	0.38	Tarmac and made ground	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.38	Buried subsoil; firm, mid brownish yellow, silty clay	-	-
302	Cut	1.40	0.62	Ditch; curvilinear, E-W aligned, narrow concave base, steep straight and moderate concave sides	-	-
303	Fill	1.40	0.16	Ditch; soft, mid orange brown, silty clay, infrequent flint gravel inclusions	Pottery, animal bone	Roman
304	Fill	1.34	0.46	Ditch; firm, dark brownish grey, silty clay, infrequent flint gravel inclusions	Pottery	Late Iron Age/early Roman
305	Layer	-	-	Natural; firm, mid light brownish orange and light grey, alluvial clay	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench was abandoned as asbestos containing materials were identified in a modern deposit. Consists of topsoil overlying a modern deposit. Natural geology was not observed.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.65
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	6
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
400	Layer	-	0.10	Topsoil; friable, dark brownish grey, clay sandy silt	-	-
401	Layer	-	>0.55	Modern deposit; loose / friable, mid grey, clay sandy silty	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench was abandoned as asbestos containing materials were identified in a modern deposit. Consists of topsoil overlying a modern deposit. Natural geology was not observed.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.15
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	6.60
Contexts						
Context	**Type**	**Width**	**Depth**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**

no		(m)	(m)			
500	Layer	-	0.10-0.20	Topsoil; friable, dark brownish grey, clay sandy silt	-	-
501	Layer	-	-	Modern deposit; loose / friable, mid to dark grey, sandy silt	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained at least eight ditches, three pits and a post hole, of which three ditches and the post hole were excavated. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a sandy gravel natural geology. The trench was shortened as asbestos containing materials were identified.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.52
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	37.50
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
600	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil; friable, dark brownish grey, sandy silt	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil; friable, mid orange brown, sandy silt	Pottery, aluminium object, animal bone, CBM	Post-medieval Modern
602	Layer	-	-	Natural; loose, mid brownish orange, sandy gravel, abundant flint gravel	-	-
603	Cut	0.50	0.17	Post hole; circular, flat base, steep stepped sides	-	-
604	Fill	0.50	0.17	Post hole; moderately firm, light to mid brownish orange, sandy silty gravel, occasional flint gravel	-	-
605	Cut	3.20	0.64	Ditch; linear, N-S aligned, flat base, steep straight and moderate convex sides	-	-
606	Fill	1.56	0.24	Ditch; moderately firm, mid to dark brown, sandy silt, abundant flint gravel inclusions	Pottery, animal bone	AD 250-410
607	Fill	3.20	0.40	Ditch; moderately firm, mid orange brown, sandy silt, occasional flint gravel inclusions	Pottery, animal bone, burnt flint	AD250-410
608	Cut	>1.20	0.72	Ditch; linear, N-S aligned, concave base, moderate straight sides	-	-
609	Fill	>1.20	0.30	Ditch; moderately firm, mid to dark orange brown, sandy silt, infrequent flint gravel inclusions	Pottery	AD 100-410
610	Fill	>1.20	0.42	Ditch; very firm, mid orange	-	-

				brown, sandy silt, occasional flint gravel inclusions		
611	Cut	>0.60	>0.68	Ditch; linear, N-S aligned, base not observed, steep concave sides	-	-
612	Fill	>0.60	0.44	Ditch; very firm, mid orange brown, sandy silt, occasional flint gravel inclusions	-	-
613	Fill	>0.34	>0.26	Ditch; moderately firm, mid to dark orange brown, sandy silt, infrequent flint gravel inclusions	Pottery	Late Iron Age/early Roman

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained 13 ditches, eight pits and a single post hole, of which five ditches and the post hole were excavated. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a sandy gravel natural geology.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.50
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	47.50
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
700	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil; friable, dark blackish brown, sandy silt	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil; firm, mid greyish brown, sandy silt	Pottery, animal bone, worked bone -two Iron Age bone weaving combs, CBM, fired clay	Mixed material of middle Iron Age Roman (AD 50-200) and Post-medieval date
702	Layer	-	-	Natural; loose, mid brownish orange, sandy gravel, abundant flint gravel	-	-
703	Cut	>2.50	-	Ditch; linear, NW-SE aligned, not excavated	-	-
704	Fill	>2.50	-	Ditch; firm, mid brownish grey, sandy silt	Pottery	AD 50-100
705	Cut	6.60	-	Ditch; linear, NW-SE aligned, not excavated	-	-
706	Fill	6.60	-	Ditch; firm, mid brownish grey, sandy silt	Pottery, animal bone, stone	Middle Iron Age
707	Cut	2.20	-	Pit; circular, not excavated	-	-
708	Fill	2.20	-	Pit; firm, mid brownish grey, sandy silt	Pottery, animal bone	Middle Iron Age

709	Cut	0.50	0.20	Ditch; linear, NW-SE aligned, flat base, shallow concave sides	-	-
710	Fill	0.50	0.20	Ditch; moderately firm, mid brownish grey, sandy silt	Pottery, animal bone	Middle Iron Age
711	Cut	0.45	0.05	Ditch; linear, NW-SE aligned, flat base, shallow concave sides	-	-
712	Fill	0.45	0.05	Ditch; moderately firm, mid brownish grey, sandy silt	-	-
713	Cut	2.50	-	Ditch; linear, NW-SE aligned, not excavated	-	-
714	Fill	2.50	-	Ditch; firm, mid brownish grey, sandy silt	Pottery, animal bone, stone, CBM	Postmedieval
715	Cut	0.75	-	Ditch; linear, NW-SE aligned, not excavated	-	-
716	Fill	0.75	-	Ditch; firm, mid brownish grey, sandy silt	Animal bone	-
717	Cut	0.45	-	Ditch; linear, NW-SE aligned, not excavated	-	-
718	Fill	0.45	-	Ditch; firm, mid brownish grey, sandy silt	Animal bone	-
719	Cut	0.35	-	Ditch; linear, NW-SE aligned, not excavated	-	-
720	Fill	0.35	-	Ditch; firm, mid brownish grey, sandy silt	Pottery, animal bone, CBM	Undated
721	Cut	0.50	-	Pit; ovoid, not excavated	-	-
722	Fill	0.50	-	Pit; firm, mid brownish grey, sandy silt	Fe Socket or ferrule	undated
723	Cut	0.40	0.22	Ditch; linear, NE-SW aligned, flat base, moderate straight sides	-	-
724	Fill	0.40	0.22	Ditch; firm, light to mid grey, sandy silt	Pottery, animal bone	Middle Iron Age
725	Cut	0.44	0.20	Ditch; linear, NW-SE aligned, flat base, steep concave sides	-	-
726	Fill	0.44	0.20	Ditch; firm, mid brownish grey, sandy silt	-	-
727	Cut	2.0	>0.19	Ditch; linear, NW-SE aligned, base not observed, moderate straight sides	-	-
728	Fill	2.0	>0.19	Ditch; firm, dark greyish brown, sandy silt	Pottery, animal bone	Roman
729	Cut	0.85	-	Pit; ovoid, not excavated	-	-

730	Fill	0.85	-	Pit; firm, mid brownish grey, sandy silt	Pottery	Roman
731	Cut	0.35	0.32	Post hole; circular, narrow concave base, steep stepped sides	-	-
732	Fill	0.35	0.20	Post hole; moderately firm, light brownish grey, sandy silt	Animal bone	-
733	Fill	0.05	0.12	Post hole; moderately firm, dark greyish brown, sandy silt	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained nine post holes, nine ditches and six pits. Of these, one post hole, three ditches and two pits were excavated. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a sandy gravel natural geology.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.60
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	47
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
800	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil; friable, dark blackish brown, sandy silt	Flint	
801	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil; firm, mid greyish brown, sandy silt	Pottery, animal bone, Cu alloy object, CBM	Middle Iron Age Roman Late post-medieval/modern
802	Layer	-	-	Natural; loose, mid brownish orange, sandy gravel, abundant flint gravel and very infrequent limestone	-	-
803	Cut	1.62	0.10	Pit; ovoid, flat base, shallow concave sides	-	-
804	Fill	1.62	0.10	Pit; moderately firm, mid greyish brown, sandy silt, infrequent flint gravel	Pottery, animal bone, flint	Middle Iron Age
805	Cut	0.70	0.05	Post hole; ovoid, flat base, shallow concave sides	-	-
806	Fill	0.70	0.05	Post hole; moderately firm, mid greyish brown, sandy silt	-	-
807	Cut	0.90	0.40	Ditch; linear, E-W aligned, narrow flat base, steep straight sides	-	-
808	Fill	0.90	0.40	Ditch; moderately loose, mid greyish brown, sandy silt, infrequent flint gravel	Pottery, animal bone, flint, stone	Roman (plus residual Middle Iron Age)
809	Cut	0.70	>0.37	Ditch; linear, E-W aligned, base not observed, steep straight sides	-	-

810	Fill	0.70	>0.37	Ditch; moderately loose, mid greyish brown, sandy silt, infrequent flint gravel	-	-
811	Cut	>0.84	0.74	Pit; sub-circular, flat base, moderate concave sides	-	-
812	Fill	>0.70	0.16	Pit; loose, light greyish brown, silty sand, common limestone inclusions	Pottery	Iron Age
813	Cut	7.45	>0.20	Ditch; linear, NE-SW aligned, base not observed, moderate straight sides	-	-
814	Fill	7.45	>0.20	Ditch; moderately firm, mid greyish brown, sandy silt	Pottery, animal bone	AD 120-410
815	Cut	5.0	-	Ditch; linear, NE-SW / E-W aligned, not excavated	-	-
816	Fill	5.0	-	Ditch; moderately firm, dark greyish brown, sandy silt, infrequent flint gravel inclusions	Animal bone	-
817	Cut	-	-	Same as 815	-	-
818	Fill	-	-	Same as 816	Pottery	AD 50-250
819	Cut	>3.40	-	Ditch; linear, NE-SW aligned, not excavated	-	-
820	Fill	>3.40	-	Ditch; moderately firm, light brownish grey, sandy silt, infrequent flint gravel inclusions	Pottery, animal bone, CBM	AD 50-200, C17-C19
821	Fill	>0.84	0.55	Pit; moderately loose, mid brownish grey, sandy silt	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained nine ditches, one post hole, a foundation cut and its associated wall. Of these, four ditches and the wall were excavated. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a sandy gravel natural geology.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.61
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	24.25
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
900	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil; friable, dark reddish brown, clay sandy silt	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.31	Subsoil; firm, mid reddish brown, clay sandy silt	-	-
902	Cut	0.30	0.10	Ditch; curvilinear, concave base, shallow concave sides	-	-
903	Fill	0.30	0.10	Ditch; friable, light greyish brown, sandy silt, very infrequent flint gravel inclusions	Pottery, animal bone, worked bone (cut	Middle Iron Age

					antler)	
904	Cut	0.96	0.52	Ditch; linear, NNW-SSE aligned, concave base, moderate straight sides	-	-
905	Fill	0.96	0.44	Ditch; friable, mid greyish brown, very infrequent flint gravel inclusions	Pottery, animal bone, flint, shell, stone	Middle Iron Age
906	Cut	0.80	0.76	Ditch; curvilinear, NE-SW aligned, flat base, moderate to steep concave sides	-	
907	Fill	0.80	0.50	Ditch; soft, mid greyish brown, sandy silt, very infrequent flint gravel inclusions	Pottery, animal bone, flint, burnt stone, slag, fired clay	Roman (plus residual Middle Iron Age)
908	Fill	0.30	0.10	Ditch; firm, mid yellowish orange, clay sand, abundant flint gravel inclusions	-	-
909	Fill	0.59	0.32	Ditch; soft, mid greyish brown, sandy silt, very infrequent flint gravel inclusions	Pottery, flint	Middle Iron Age
910	Structure	1.02	0.12	Wall; linear, aligned NW-SE, roughly hewn sandstone outer faces with a sandstone rubble inner core, bonded by light grey coarse sandy mortar, two courses remaining in situ	Pottery (MIA or Anglo-saxon?)	Roman or later
911	Cut	>0.50	0.54	Ditch; curvilinear, NE-SW aligned, flat base, moderate concave sides	-	-
912	Fill	>0.50	0.54	Ditch; soft, mid greyish brown, sandy silt, very infrequent flint gravel inclusions	-	-
913	Cut	0.45	-	Ditch; linear, NE-SW aligned, not excavated	-	-
914	Fill	0.45	-	Ditch; soft, mid to dark greyish brown, sandy silt	Pottery	Middle Iron Age
915	Cut	>2.0	-	Ditch; linear, E-W aligned, not excavated	-	-
916	Fill	>2.0	-	Ditch; soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt	Pottery, animal bone	Roman
917	Cut	1.10	0.12 – 0.18	Foundation cut; linear, NW-SE aligned, flat base, steep concave sides	-	-
918	Fill	0.06	0.06	Foundation cut; firm, mid greyish brown, silty sand, frequent flint gravel inclusions	Pottery	Roman
919	Fill	0.30	0.08	Ditch; firm, mid to dark greyish brown, sandy silt, infrequent flint	Pottery, animal	Middle Iron Age

				gravel inclusions	bone	
920	Layer	-	-	Natural; loose, mid orange and light orange white, sandy gravel, abundant flint gravel	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained six ditches and six pits, of which three ditches and two pits were excavated. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a sandy gravel natural geology.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.40
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	28.50
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
1000	Layer	-	0.10	Topsoil; friable, dark greyish brown, sandy silt	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil; firm, mid greyish brown, sandy silt	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural; loose, light brown, coarse sandy gravel, abundant flint gravel	-	-
1003	Cut	1.0	0.24	Pit; sub-circular, flat base, shallow straight sides	-	-
1004	Fill	1.0	0.24	Pit; firm, dark greyish brown, sandy silt, occasional flint gravel inclusions	Pottery, animal bone	Roman
1005	Cut	3.5	0.36	Ditch; linear, N-S aligned, wide concave base, shallow concave sides	-	-
1006	Fill	3.5	0.36	Ditch; firm, dark brown, sandy silt, occasional flint gravel inclusions	Pottery, animal bone	Roman
1007	Cut	0.65	-	Pit; ovoid, not excavated	-	-
1008	Fill	0.65	-	Pit; friable, dark greyish brown, sandy silt	-	-
1009	Cut	>0.5	>0.72	Ditch; linear, NE-SW aligned, base not observed, steep straight sides	-	-
1010	Fill	>0.5	>0.72	Ditch; firm, dark greyish brown, sandy silt, very infrequent flint gravel inclusions	Pottery, animal bone	AD 200-410
1011	Cut	1.48	0.68	Ditch; linear, N-S aligned, narrow concave base, steep concave sides	-	-
1012	Fill	1.48	0.68	Ditch; firm, dark greyish brown, sandy silt, abundant flint gravel inclusions	Pottery, Cu alloy coin, flint, CBM	Roman AD 337-340 (coin)
1013	Cut	0.60	-	Pit; ovoid, not excavated	-	-

1014	Fill	0.60	-	Pit; friable, dark greyish brown, sandy silt	-	-
1015	Cut	0.40	-	Ditch; linear, NW-SE aligned, not excavated	-	-
1016	Fill	0.40	-	Ditch; friable, dark greyish brown, sandy silt	-	-
1017	Cut	2.20	0.16	Pit; sub-circular, flat base, moderate straight sides	-	-
1018	Fill	2.20	0.16	Pit; firm, dark greyish brown, sandy silt, infrequent flint gravel inclusions	Pottery, animal bone	AD 120-200

Trench 11						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained five ditches and four pits, of which one ditch and one pit were excavated. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a sandy silty gravel natural geology.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.55
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
1100	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil; friable, dark greyish brown, sandy silt	Pottery, animal bone, CBM	Mxed material of middle Iron Age, Roman and C17-C19 date
1101	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil; firm, mid reddish brown, sandy silt	-	-
1102	Layer	-	-	Natural; loose, mid reddish brown, sandy silt gravel, abundant flint gravel	-	-
1103	Cut	0.5	0.1	Pit; sub-circular, concave base, shallow concave sides	-	-
1104	Fill	0.5	0.1	Pit; moderately firm, dark greyish brown, sandy silt, occasional flint gravel inclusions	Pottery	Middle Iron Age
1105	Cut	5.60	-	Ditch; linear, N-S aligned, not excavated	-	-
1106	Fill	5.60	-	Ditch; moderately firm, dark greyish brown, sandy silt, infrequent flint gravel inclusions	Pottery, CBM	Middle Iron Age
1107	Cut	1.85	1.12	Ditch; linear, N-S aligned, narrow concave base, steep convex sides	-	-
1108	Fill	1.85	0.77	Ditch; moderately firm, dark greyish brown, sandy silt, occasional flint gravel inclusions	Pottery, CBM, animal bone	AD 250-410
1109	Fill	1.04	0.18	Ditch; moderately firm, dark greyish brown, sandy silt, infrequent flint gravel inclusions	Pottery	AD 50-100 (plus residual Middle Iron

						Age)
1110	Fill	0.62	0.18	Ditch; moderately firm, dark brown, sandy silt, abundant flint gravel inclusions	-	-
1111	Cut	>2.95	-	Ditch; linear, NW-SE aligned, not excavated	-	-
1112	Fill	>2.95	-	Ditch; moderately firm, dark greyish brown, sandy silt, occasional flint gravel inclusions	Pottery	Roman (plus residual Middle Iron Age)
1113	Cut	1.45	-	Ditch; linear, N-S aligned, not excavated	-	-
1114	Fill	1.45	-	Ditch; moderately firm, dark greyish brown, sandy silt, frequent flint gravel inclusions	Pottery, CBM, fired clay	Late Iron Age/early Roman
1115	Cut	0.60	-	Pit; circular, not excavated	-	-
1116	Fill	0.60	-	Pit; moderately firm, dark greyish brown, sandy silt, occasional flint gravel inclusions	Pottery	Middle Iron Age

Trench 12						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained one ditch, three pits and a single post hole. Of these, one pit and the post hole were excavated. Consists of topsoil, made ground and a buried subsoil overlying a sandy gravel natural geology. A portion of the trench was abandoned as a chemical dump was identified in the made ground.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.64
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	46
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
1200	Layer	-	0.04	Topsoil; friable, dark brownish grey, sandy silt	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.35	Made ground	-	-
1202	Layer	-	0.25	Buried subsoil; firm, mid greyish brown, sandy silt	-	-
1203	Cut	0.73	0.07	Pit; oval, flat base, shallow concave sides	-	-
1204	Fill	0.73	0.07	Pit; friable, mid greyish brown, sandy silt, infrequent flint gravel inclusions	-	-
1205	Cut	0.33	0.09	Post hole; circular, flat base, moderate concave sides	-	-
1206	Fill	0.33	0.09	Post hole; friable, mid greyish brown, sandy silt	-	-
1207	Layer	-	-	Natural; loose, mid brownish orange, sandy gravel, abundant flint gravel	-	-

Trench 13		
General description	**Orientation**	NNE-SSW

Trench contained two ditches, one ditch terminus, one post hole and five pits. Of these, one of each feature type was excavated. Eighteen natural features were also identified, of which one was excavated but not recorded. Consists of topsoil, made ground and a buried subsoil overlying a sandy gravel natural geology.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.98
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	47.50

Contexts

Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil; friable, dark brownish grey, sandy silt	-	-
1301	Layer	-	0.28	Made ground	-	-
1302	Layer	-	0.38	Buried subsoil; firm, mid greyish brown, sandy silt		
1303	Layer	-	-	Natural; loose, light orange yellow, sandy gravel, abundant flint gravel	-	-
1304	Cut	0.26	0.10	Post hole; circular, concave base, moderate straight sides	-	-
1305	Fill	0.26	0.10	Post hole; moderately firm, dark brownish grey, sandy silt	-	-
1306	Cut	3.10	0.70	Ditch; linear, WNW-ESE aligned, flat base, steep concave and moderate convex sides	-	-
1307	Fill	3.10	0.47	Ditch; moderately firm, mid greyish brown, infrequent flint gravel inclusions	Pottery, animal bone	AD 250-410
1308	Fill	2.38	0.18	Ditch; moderately firm, dark greyish brown	-	-
1309	Cut	1.0	0.45	Ditch terminus; linear, NW-SE aligned, SE terminal, concave base, steep concave and convex sides	-	-
1310	Fill	0.50	0.10	Ditch terminus; moderately firm, mid greyish brown, sandy silt, infrequent flint gravel inclusions	-	-
1311	Cut	0.50	0.12	Pit; oval, flat base, steep concave sides	-	-
1312	Fill	0.50	0.12	Pit; firm, mid greyish brown, clay silt	-	-
1313	Fill	1.0	0.16	Ditch terminus; loose, light grey with white mottles, sandy silt, infrequent flint gravel inclusions	-	-
1314	Fill	0.76	0.20	Ditch terminus; soft, dark greyish brown, sandy clay silt, infrequent flint gravel inclusions	-	-

Trench 14		
General description	**Orientation**	NNE-SSW

Trench contained three ditches, one post hole and five natural features. Of these, two ditches and the post hole were excavated. Consists of topsoil, made ground and a buried topsoil and subsoil overlying a sandy gravel natural geology.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.75
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	24

Contexts

Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil; friable, dark reddish brown, clay sandy silt	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.25	Made ground	-	-
1402	Layer	-	0.20	Buried topsoil; friable, dark reddish brown, clay sandy silt	-	-
1403	Layer	-	0.15	Buried subsoil; firm, mid greyish brown, clay sandy silt	-	-
1404	Cut	0.90	0.75	Ditch; linear, NW-SE aligned, flat base, steep straight sides	-	-
1405	Fill	0.90	0.75	Ditch; firm, mid to dark greyish brown, sandy silt, infrequent flint gravel inclusions	Pottery, CBM, animal bone, stone	AD 250-410
1406	Cut	0.38	0.78	Post hole; circular, concave base, near vertical and slight undercutting sides	-	-
1407	Fill	0.38	0.78	Post hole; firm, dark greyish brown, sandy silt, very infrequent flint gravel inclusions	Pottery, stone, fired clay	AD 120-200
1408	Cut	0.95	0.78	Ditch; linear, NW-SE aligned, narrow concave base, moderate to steep straight and concave sides	-	-
1409	Fill	0.80	0.50	Ditch; firm, mid greyish brown, clay silt, infrequent flint gravel inclusions	Pottery, CBM, animal bone, Cu alloy sheet, stone, fired clay	AD 150-250
1410	Fill	0.80	0.32	Ditch; firm, mid to dark greyish brown, sandy silt, very infrequent flint gravel inclusions	-	-
1411	Cut	3.0	-	Ditch; linear, NW-SE aligned, not excavated	-	-
1412	Fill	3.0	-	Ditch; firm, dark greyish brown, sandy silt	Pottery, fired clay, Fe bar	Roman
1413	Layer	-	-	Natural; loose, light pinkish orange, sandy gravel, abundant flint gravel	-	-

Trench 15						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained eight ditches, three pits and two post holes. No archaeological features were excavated as asbestos containing materials were identified in hard standing underlying the topsoil. Consists of topsoil, hard standing and a buried subsoil overlying a sandy gravel natural geology.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.65
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
1500	Layer	-	0.10	Topsoil; friable, dark greyish brown, sandy silt	-	-
1501	Layer	-	0.20	Buried subsoil; friable, mid brownish grey, sandy silt	-	-
1502	Layer	-	-	Natural; loose, mid brownish orange and light white grey, sandy gravel, abundant flint gravel	-	-
1503	Layer	-	0.18	Hard standing; loose/friable, light orange grey, sandy gravel	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench was abandoned as asbestos containing materials and chemicals were identified in a modern deposit. Consists of hard standing overlying a modern deposit. Natural geology was not observed.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.10
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	4
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
1600	Layer	-	0.20	Hard standing	-	-
1601	Layer	-	>0.90	Modern deposit; firm, mixed (black, mid grey and mid brown), sandy silty clay	-	-

Trench 17						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench was abandoned as asbestos containing materials were identified in a modern deposit. Consists of topsoil overlying a modern deposit. Natural geology was not observed.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.10
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	18
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
1700	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil; friable, dark greyish brown, clay sandy silt	-	-
1701	Layer	-	>0.90	Modern deposit; friable/loose, light to mid grey,	-	-

				sandy silt		

Trench 18						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of any significant archaeology. A large modern feature and two natural features were identified, none of which were excavated. Consists of hard standing and a buried subsoil overlying a sandy gravel natural geology.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.54
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	26
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
1800	Layer	-	0.10	Hard standing	-	-
1801	Layer	-	0.44	Buried subsoil; friable, mid greyish brown, clay sandy silt	-	-
1802	Cut	>19	>1.08	Modern feature	-	-
1803	Fill	>19	>1.08	Modern feature; moderately firm, mixed (dark grey, black and light yellowish grey), clay silt and sandy gravel	-	-
1804	Layer	-	-	Natural; loose/friable, light white grey with mid brown mottles, sandy gravel	-	-

Trench 19						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench was abandoned as asbestos containing materials and chemicals were identified in a modern deposit. Consists of topsoil overlying a modern deposit. Natural geology was not observed.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.26
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	3.70
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
1900	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil; friable, dark brownish grey, clay sandy silt	-	-
1901	Layer	-	>0.10	Modern deposit; loose, light brownish grey, sandy silt	-	-

Trench 20						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench was abandoned as asbestos containing materials were identified in a modern deposit. Consists of topsoil overlying a modern deposit. Natural geology was not observed.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.14
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	16.90
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
2000	Layer	-	0.14	Topsoil; friable, dark greyish	-	-

				brown, clay sandy silt		
2001	Layer	-	-	Modern deposit; friable, mid grey, sandy silt	-	-

Trench 21						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained a single ditch and two natural features, of which the ditch was excavated. Consists of hard standing and a buried subsoil overlying a sandy gravel natural geology. The trench was shortened as asbestos containing materials were identified.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.65
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	17
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
2100	Layer	-	0.45	Hard standing	-	-
2101	Layer	-	0.20	Buried subsoil; firm, mid brown, sandy silt	-	-
2102	Layer	-	-	Natural; loose, light grey, sandy silt, abundant flint gravel	-	-
2103	Cut	1.32	0.32	Ditch; linear, E-W aligned, flat base, moderate convex sides	-	-
2104	Fill	1.32	0.24	Ditch; moderately firm, mid to dark brownish grey, sandy silty clay, infrequent flint gravel inclusions	-	-
2105	Fill	0.98	0.10	Ditch; loose, mid grey, clay sandy silt, common flint gravel and pea gravel inclusions	-	-

Trench 22						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained a single ditch and six natural features, of which the ditch and a natural feature were excavated. The excavated natural feature was not recorded. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a sandy gravel natural geology. The trench was shortened as asbestos containing materials were identified.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.50
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	25
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
2200	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil; friable, dark greyish brown, sandy silt	-	-
2201	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil; firm, mid reddish brown, sandy silt	-	-
2202	Layer	-	-	Natural; loose, light reddish brown, sandy silty gravel, common flint gravel	-	-
2203	Cut	0.70	0.44	Ditch; linear, E-W aligned, concave base, steep straight sides	-	-
2204	Fill	0.70	0.26	Ditch; moderately firm, mid	-	-

				greyish brown, sandy silty clay, common flint gravel inclusions		
2205	Fill	>0.39	0.22	Ditch; firm, mid grey, sandy silty clay, infrequent flint gravel and common pea gravel inclusions	-	-

Trench 23						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench was abandoned as asbestos containing materials were identified in a modern deposit. Consists of topsoil overlying a modern deposit. Natural geology was not observed.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.10
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	2.20
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
2300	Layer	-	0.10	Topsoil; friable, dark greyish brown, clay sandy silt	-	-
2301	Layer	-	-	Modern deposit; friable, mid brownish grey, sandy silt	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Edward Biddulph

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 A total of 555 sherds, weighing 7.5kg, was recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage was scanned to identify diagnostic forms and fabrics and to assign each context group with a ceramic spot-date. Late Iron Age and Roman wares were given OA's standard fabric codes (Booth, nd). Earlier Iron Age fabrics were identified on the basis of principal inclusion type, and labelled accordingly (A sand, S shell, V vegetable/organic). Forms were given a simple description. The assemblage was quantified by sherd count and group weight in grammes. Table B.1 contains a list of fabrics encountered. A summary of the pottery is provided in Table B.2.

Fabric/ware	Description
Iron Age	
A	Quartz sand fabric
S	Shelly fabric
V	Vegetable/organic fabric
Late Iron Age and Roman	
A11	South Spanish amphora fabric
B11	Dorset black-burnished ware
B30	Imitation black-burnished ware
C10	Shelly ware
C11	Late Roman shelly ware
C80	Flint-tempered fabric
E40	Late Iron Age/early Roman shell-tempered ware
E80	Late Iron Age/early Roman grog-tempered ware
F51	Oxford red/brown colour-coated ware
F52	Nene valley colour-coated ware
M22	Oxford white ware mortarium fabric
M41	Oxford red/brown colour-coated ware mortarium fabric
O10	Fine oxidised ware
O20	Sandy oxidised ware
O21	Oxford sandy oxidised ware
O24	Overwey white ware
Q20	White-slipped oxidised ware
R10	Fine reduced ware
R20	Coarse sand-tempered reduced ware
R30	Medium sand-tempered reduced ware
R90	Coarse-tempered reduced ware

R95	Savernake grog-tempered ware
S30	Central Gaulish samian ware
S40	East Gaulish samian ware
W10	Sandy white ware
W12	Oxford fine white ware
W14	Nene Valley white ware
Post-Roman	
Z30	Post-medieval wares

Table B.1: List of recorded fabrics

Description

B.1.2 Some 18% of the assemblage by sherd count was from groups dated by pottery to the middle Iron Age. This was on the basis of form – globular and, more commonly, barrel-shaped jars were recorded – and fabrics, which were predominantly sandy (A), but also included shelly fabrics (S) and, to a much lesser extent, fabrics with voids denoting organic temper (V). The sandy pottery was of varying coarseness, with both fine and granular fabrics represented. Pottery containing glauconitic inclusions or greensand was also present. Some of the pottery, particularly that in the finer fabrics, was burnished or decorated with a red haematite slip.

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Spot-date
303	1	25	Body sherd R20-?glauconitic	Roman
304	1	30	Body sherd E40 (includes grog)	LIA/ER
601	2	38	Body sherds Z30, Q20	Post-med
606	4	102	Necked jar (R30-pre-fired incision/notch on rim), funnel-necked beaker (R30), body sherd fabric S	AD 250-410
607	15	184	Dropped flange bowl (R30), necked jars (R30), body sherds O20, E80	AD 250-410
609	8	290	Jar rim and beaker base (O10), near-complete flask SF6 (R30)	AD 100-410
613	3	15	Body sherds E80, fabric A	LIA/ER
701	11	173	Barrel-shaped jar (fabric A), body sherds R10, R95	AD 50-200 (+residual MIA)
704	1	12	Body sherd from rouletted beaker (O20)	AD 50-100
706	6	86	Body sherds fabrics S, A, haematite-coated	MIA
708	6	78	Jar with flat out-turned rim (fabric S)	MIA
710	3	14	Body sherds fabrics A, S	MIA
724	8	135	Body and base sherds fabric A	MIA
728	3	25	Body sherds R30, fabric S	Roman
730	2	2	Body sherds R30	Roman
801	2	297	Barrel-shaped jar (A), base sherd R30	Roman (+residual MIA)

803	3	38	Jar (S), body sherd fabric A	MIA
808	11	202	Body sherds R10, fabric A	Roman (+residual MIA)
811	1	5	Body sherd fabric A	IA
814	9	94	Body and base sherds B11, R30, E80	AD 120-410
818	1	326	Dressel 20 handle (A11)	AD 50-250
820	8	138	Jars (R30), body sherds R95, R90	AD 50-200
903	15	78	Body sherds fabric fabric A	MIA
905	21	223	Barrel-shaped jar (fabric A), body sherds fabrics S, V	MIA
907	50	488	Globular jars (A), flagon handle (R30-?burnt oxidised), body sherds R30, O20, fabric A haematite coated	Roman (+residual MIA)
909	21	646	Large sherds from barrel-shaped jar (fabric A)	MIA
910	3	55	Body sherds fabrics A, V	MIA or early AS?
914	2	37	Body and base sherds fabric A	MIA
916	4	10	Body sherds R10, fabric A	Roman
918	2	18	Jar (R30)	Roman
919	3	8	Body sherds fabrics A, S	MIA
1004	12	72	Body sherds R30, O10, fabric A	Roman
1006	7	32	Body sherds R10, fabrics A, S	Roman
1010	8	92	'Cooking pot' (B11), body sherds R30	AD 200-410
1012	39	345	Bowl (F51), jars (R30, C11), body sherds M41, M22, S30/40	AD 300-410
1018	25	253	Flanged bowls (B11, R30), jar (R30), Drag. 33 cup (S30-limestone-rich)	AD 120-200
1100	5	52	Barrel-shaped jar (fabrics A), body sherds R30, fabric A haematite-coated	Roman (+residual MIA)
1104	1	24	Base sherd fabric A	MIA
1106	7	39	Body sherds fabrics A, S	MIA
1108	57	432	Globular beaker (R10), jar (R30), globular jar (fabric A), body sherds W12, ?O24	AD 250-410
1109	2	47	?Butt beaker (W10), base sherd glauconitic and haematite coated	AD 50-100 (+residual MIA)
1112	7	89	Jar/beaker (R10), jar (S), body sherds R30, fabric A	Roman (+residual MIA)
1114	1	22	Body sherd E80	LIA/ER
1116	2	10	Body sherds fabrics A, S	MIA
1307	71	1460	Dropped flange bowl (R30), plain-rimmed dish (B11), funnel-necked beaker (F52), necked jars (R20, R30,	AD 250-410

			O20), flagon/flask (O10), body sherds F51, O21, E80, C80, C10	
1405	35	200	Jar (R30), plain-rimmed dish (B11), body sherds F51, F60, O10, fabric S	AD 250-410
1407	7	30	Body sherds B11, R20, R30, S30	AD120-200
1409	37	389	Bead-rimmed dish (B30), necked jars (R30), narrow-necked jar/flask (R30), bowl (O10), body sherds W14, R20-glauconitic, R90	AD 150-250
1412	2	6	Body sherds R30, fabric A	Roman
TOTAL	555	7466		

Table B.2: Summary of the pottery

B.1.3 Some 18% of the assemblage by sherd count was from groups dated by pottery to the middle Iron Age. This was on the basis of form – globular and, more commonly, barrel-shaped jars were recorded – and fabrics, which were predominantly sandy (A), but also included shelly fabrics (S) and, to a much lesser extent, fabrics with voids denoting organic temper (V). The sandy pottery was of varying coarseness, with both fine and granular fabrics represented. Pottery containing glauconitic inclusions or greensand was also present. Some of the pottery, particularly that in the finer fabrics, was burnished or decorated with a red haematite slip.

B.1.4 Middle Iron pottery was recovered from trenches 7, 8, 9 and 11, with the largest groups coming from ditch fills in trench 9. Pottery of middle Iron Age date was also recovered as residual occurrences in Roman-period groups from these trenches.

B.1.5 Three groups, from trenches 3, 6 and 11, were dated by pottery to the late Iron Age or early Roman period. All contained grog-tempered ware (E80). Groups dated more certainly to the early Roman period (mid-late 1st century AD) were recovered from trenches 7 and 11. Pottery diagnostic of this period included a body sherd from a rouletted beaker and a butt-beaker rim.

B.1.6 Twelve per cent of the assemblage by sherd count belonged to groups dated to the mid Roman period (*c* AD 120-250), although this comprised just three groups, two from trench 14 and one from trench 10. Diagnostic elements of these groups included Central Gaulish samian ware (S30), flanged bowls in black-burnished ware (B11), and a bead-rimmed dish in imitation black-burnished ware (B30). Jars and bowls also recorded were consistent with this date.

B.1.7 Another three groups, from trenches 7 and 8, were dated more broadly to the later 1st or 2nd century AD. Two of the groups included Savernake ware (R95), while the third comprised a handle from a Dressel 20 olive oil amphora (A11).

B.1.8 The late Roman period (*c* AD 250-410) was well represented. Pottery from groups dated to the period accounted for 40% of the assemblage by sherd count. Pottery diagnostic of the period included dropped-flange bowls in sand-tempered reduced wares (R30), plain-rimmed dishes in fabric B11, a funnel-necked beaker in Nene Valley colour-coated ware (F52), and body and base sherds in Oxford red colour-coated ware (M41 and F51) and Overwey white ware (O24). The pottery was recovered from trenches 6, 10, 11, 13 and 14, with the largest groups coming from trenches 11 and 13.

B.1.9 No certain Anglo-Saxon pottery was identified. Body sherds in sandy and organic fabrics from context 910 could potentially be of Saxon date, but given the quantity and

condition of the middle Iron Age pottery from the site as a whole, a later prehistoric date is equally likely.

Condition and deposition

B.1.10 The mean sherd weight (weight / number of sherds) of the assemblage overall is 13g, while that for pottery from groups dated to the middle Iron Age, the mid Roman period and the late Roman period is 14g, 9g and 12g respectively. These values are consistent with an assemblage that is relatively fragmented, though not to an extreme level. Some of the pottery was well preserved, particularly among the middle Iron Age material (for example, the mean sherd weight for middle Iron Age group 909, which contained large sherds, was 30g), and this is reflected in the higher value for the middle Iron Age pottery overall. These values suggest that the pottery, especially that of later prehistoric date, was deposited reasonably close to the location of pottery use.

B.1.11 It should be noted, however, that middle Iron Age pottery was recovered as residual occurrences in Roman-period groups from trenches 7, 8, 9 and 11, indicating that the assemblage had to some degree been disturbed and redeposited after initial discard.

B.1.12 The results of the spot-dating suggest that the pattern of deposition was chronologically distinct. Groups dated to the middle Iron Age were concentrated in 7, 8, 9, and 11 in the north-west corner of the site, while the late Roman groups were recovered from trenches 6, 10, 11, 13, and 14, also in the north-west corner of the site, but extending further east. Potentially, this points to shift in settlement focus through time.

B.2 Animal bone

By Rebecca Nicholson

B.2.1 A total of 667 hand-collected animal bone fragments weighing 7.6kg were recovered from 37 contexts at Sutton Courtenay Lane, Didcot. The majority of bones come from ditch and pit fills preliminarily dated to the Middle Iron Age and Roman periods (Table 1).

B.2.2 The bones were rapidly recorded by context with readily identifiable elements identified to species or family. Notes were made of the potentially ageable and measurable bones for the main domesticates in order to assess potential following Baker and Worley (2014). The presence of large, medium and small mammal bones was noted but fragments of each have not been individually quantified, all fragments not readily identifiable to species being scored as indeterminate in Table 1. References to “large mammal” relate to cattle-sized fragments and “medium mammal” to sheep/goat- or pig-sized fragments. A record of the assemblage as a spreadsheet will be retained with the site archive. Where mention is made of likely ages based on epiphyseal fusion Habermehl (1975) has been used as a guide.

B.2.3 Bone condition is generally fair-good, but many bones exhibit modern breaks. Animal gnawing, principally from dog or fox, is evident on bones from 11 contexts. Very few bones (3) are burnt.

B.2.4 By fragment count caprines (sheep or goat) dominates in the small middle Iron Age assemblage with cattle becoming more numerous in the Roman period, a finding which is typical for this area and periods. Only one ageable mandible is present, from a lamb of 2-6 months old (ageing after Payne 1973 and O'Connor 1988), in subsoil layer 701, which contains material dating from middle Iron Age to post-medieval. Fusion evidence is a little more frequent for the caprine bones and includes evidence for young lambs in Middle Iron Age ditch fill (724) and pit fill (804). Several bones from at least three very

young lambs are also present in ditch fill (907) which includes material of both middle Iron Age and Roman date.

B.2.5 Cattle bones include elements from adult and younger animals, judging from the epiphyseal fusion evidence, an unfused distal femur in (606) and an unfused proximal tibia in (1405) indicating animals of no more than 4 years old, while a tibia from (1100) comes from an animal of between 2 and 4 years old suggesting an animal slaughtered in its prime, for meat. Older animals are indicated by the fusion of late-fusing elements such as a lumbar vertebra in (1006). No ageable mandibles are present. An almost complete metacarpal in early-mid Roman ditch fill (820) is fused and potentially measurable.

B.2.6 Horse is represented by loose teeth including a very worn mandibular M1 in mid-late Roman ditch fill (1010), as well as metapodial fragments in Roman ditch fill (1004) and a pelvis fragment(acetabulum, fused) in ditch fill (1040).

B.2.7 Small numbers of pig bones and loose teeth were recovered from Middle Iron Age and Roman deposits. A fused pig scapula in middle Iron Age or Roman ditch fill (808) comes from an animal of at least a year old.

B.2.8 Two bird bones were identified, both domestic fowl. While a small, bantam-sized coracoid from mid-late Roman ditch fill (606) is likely to represent a bird from that period, a much larger femur in subsoil layer (801) is likely to be of much more recent date. Fowl are usually associated with urban or high status Roman sites such as villas; outside of grave deposits chicken bones are very rarely recovered from rural sites (Cool 2006, 100-102).

B.2.9 Although the bones were mixed and frequently fragmented, suggesting general domestic refuse, evidence of butchery is very limited and confined to bones from Roman contexts or contexts of mixed date. Several small knife cuts to the cranial articular surface of a cattle thoracic vertebra in (1008) suggests dismemberment, as do fine cuts to the proximal articular surface of a cattle humerus in (907) and to the distal epiphysis of a cattle femur in (606). Parallel knife cuts to a large mammal limb bone shaft fragment in (1012) are more likely to relate to filleting of the meat from the bone. A slender sheep/goat (probably sheep) metatarsal from mid-late Roman ditch fill (1010) has circular holes cut into the proximal articular surface and into the adjacent shaft, which were probably produced in order to extract the marrow. Other bones, principally those of cattle, may have been smashed for marrow removal but the chop marks, if present, are difficult to distinguish from natural breaks.

B.2.10 In very general terms the middle Iron Age and Roman remains appear fairly typical for the region and can usefully be compared with the assemblages from the nearby site of Great Western Park Didcot (Strid forthcoming). The presence of domestic fowl in a Roman context may indicate the presence of a villa or other Romanised settlement nearby. Further information regarding animal husbandry at the site can not be gained from such small sample of bones, but if further excavations take place on the site the bones should be included in the full excavation report.

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Phase	Mid IA	Late IA/early Roman	Early-Mid Roman	Middle Roman	Middle-late Roman	Roman	Post-medieval/ modern	Unphased or MIA/Roman
Context								
Cattle	5		1		12	6	1	11
Sheep/goat	10			1	8	1	1	33
Horse	1				5	2		
Pig	1				1	1		1
Rodent		1						
Domestic fowl					1			1
Frog/Toad		3						
Indeterminate mammal	89	8	4	9	106	72	4	169
TOTAL	**106**	**12**	**5**	**10**	**133**	**82**	**6**	**215**
Weight (g)	793	1	186	54	2364	1331	180	2369

Table 1. Number of Fragments

B.3 Metal finds

By Ian Scott

Introduction

B.3.1 There are just six metal finds from six different contexts. They comprise three Cu alloy finds, two iron and one aluminium object. The only closely datable object is the small Roman Cu alloy coin (no. 4) from context 1012, which dates to the first half of the 4th century. The shank button (No. 2) is post medieval or later in date and the spoon modern (No. 1).

Context 601	(1)	**Spoon bowl**, from modern aluminium table spoon. L extant:
Context 801	(2)	**Button**, small plain flat circular shank button, with cast in wire loop. Late post medieval or modern. Cu alloy. D: 16mm. SF 3
Context 722	(3)	Possible **socket** or **ferrule**, formed from rolled iron. Possibly a socket from a tool or blade. L extant: 100mm

Context 1012	(4)	Æ 3/4 of Constantine II (AD 337-340), laureate, cuirassed bust right '[Const]AN[tin]VS IVN NOB C'; 'Gloria Exercitus' issue with single *vexillum* between two standing soldiers. D: 18mm x 16mm. SF 5
Context 1409	(5)	**Sheet**, thin fragment or offcut of cu alloy sheet. 44mm x 15mm. SF 4
Context 1412	(6)	**Bar**, square section, flattened at one end. L: 85mm.

B.4 Worked bones and antler

By Leigh Allen

B.4.1 Two Iron Age weaving combs and a fragment of worked antler were recovered from the evaluation at Sutton Courtenay Lane. The combs SF 1 and 2 were found together in context 701 and the antler fragment came from context 903.

B.4.2 SF 1 is a relatively short weaving comb (L: 108mm) with a decorated rectangular butt or terminal, a tapering shank or handle and six of its eight teeth remaining. The teeth which are cut parallel with the long axis of the comb are rectangular at the base where they join the handle and taper to rounded points, the interdentate notches are V-shaped. The four middle teeth are longer than the two teeth on either edge this appears to be by design rather than wear. All the surviving teeth show a degree of wear on one side in the form of a slight thinning just below the tip. The shaft which is undecorated is widest at the dentate end (W: 26mm) and tapers quite markedly towards the butt end. The rectangular butt or terminal of the comb is decorated with two incised crosses side by side inside an incised rectangular frame.

B.4.3 SF 2 is an incomplete weaving comb with only one of the six teeth surviving (L: 114mm). The narrow shaft (20mm) is roughly straight sided and although lightly polished through wear the surface appearance is undulating and unworked. The surviving tooth has a rectangular section where it joins the shaft and tapers to a rounded point; it flares outwards from the shaft and the interdentate notches are u-shaped. There are two crude incised grooves running across the comb just above the interdentate notches and traces of another groove (decoration or possibly wear) across the base of the surviving tooth and two of the tooth stumps. The other end of the comb is missing and it is possible that this is in fact a double ended weaving comb.

B.4.4 Weaving combs are generally believed to have been used to separate the threads on vertical warp weighted looms. Collections of weaving combs have been recovered from Glastonbury and Meare, Maiden Castle and Danebury. The majority of the combs from Danebury had square/rectangular terminals (Sellwood 1884, 371) but the closest parallel for the decoration on the butt end of SF 1 comes from Meare Village East (Coles 1987, fig 3.38, No. HH16).

B.4.5 The fragment of antler from context 903 is from the tip of a tine the base shows evidence of cut marks and hints at bone working being carried out in the vicinity.

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B.5 Shell

Identified by Rebecca Nicholson

B.5.1 A single fragment of ?Razor clam shell weighing 2g was recovered from context 905, environmental sample 4.

B.6 Slag

Identified by Geraldine Crann

Context	Description
304	<6> small fragments of slag, 72g, recovered from environmental sample
905	<4> small fragments of slag, 32g, recovered from environmental sample
907	<5> small fragments of slag, 85g, recovered from environmental sample
907	1 piece slag, 4g

B.7 Ceramic Building Material

By Cynthia Poole

B.7.1 A small quantity of ceramic building material amounting to 16 fragments weighing 581g was recovered from six trenches from the subsoil and fills of ditches. The assemblage has been recorded on an Excel spreadsheet and is summarised in table 1. All the pieces were broken and fragmentary, subjected to low – moderate abrasion with a low mean fragment weight of 36g.

B.7.2 There were two undiagnostic examples that were probably of Roman date. They were made in sandy fabrics and the plain flat tile (context 1405) measured 25mm thick suggesting it derived from a tegula or small brick. The other piece (context 720) may have been a fragment of tegula flange, but if so it is very deformed and this identification remains uncertain.

B.7.3 The remaining pieces were all post-Roman, mostly flat roof tile of post-medieval date. The roof tile measured 13-15mm thick except for one peg tile measuring 11mm thick. This had part of a circular peg hole of uncertain size centred 23mm and 35mm from the top and side edges respectively. Two tiles had a shallow indented or wiped margin 15 and 19mm wide alongside the edge. The roof tile cannot be more closely dated than 17th-19th century, though the general finish and thickness suggests it may be from the earlier end of this range. The only brick recovered was a small fragment of post-medieval type, made in a sandy fabric heavily gritted with flint.

B.7.4 The tile fabrics can be broadly classified as post-medieval red ware, generally sandy, some having a close affinity to Oxford tile fabric IIIB, whilst a smaller number were more like fabric IVA/B with cream calcareous laminations. The fabrics IIIB and IVA/B are generally regarded as Medieval in date, but exploitation of clays and production from the same localities may have continued during the post-medieval period.

B.7.5 The tile has probably become incorporated incidentally in the ploughsoil and fills of ditches as a result of agricultural activities.

Cntxt	Nos	Wt (g)	Form	Fab Gp	Spot date	Comments
601	2	126	Roof: flat	PMRW (Ox IIIB type)	Pmed: C17-19	Wiped margin 15mm wide
701	1	66	Roof: flat	PMRW (Ox IIIB type)	Pmed: C17-19	
714	1	32	Roof: flat	PMRW (OX IVA/B type)	Pmed: C18-19	
720	4	76	Indet	sandy	U ?RB	
801	1	79	Roof: flat	PMRW	Pmed: C17-19	
820	1	11	Roof: flat	PMRW (Ox IIIB type)	Pmed: C17-19	
1012	1	20	Brick	Flint gritted	Pmed: C17-19	
1100	1	62	Roof: flat	PMRW	Pmed: C17-19	Wiped margin 19mm wide
1100	1	39	Roof: flat	PMRW (OX IVA/B type)	Pmed: C17-19	
1100	1	32	Roof: flat	PMRW	Pmed: C17-19	
1100	1	16	Roof: peg	PMRW	Pmed: C17-19	Fragmentary circular peg hole.
1405	1	22	Flat tile	RB sandy	RB	
Total	16	581				

Table 1: Summary and quantification of ceramic building material by context

B.8 Fired Clay

By Cynthia Poole

B.8.1 A small assemblage of fired clay and daub amounting to 29 fragments weighing 729g was recovered from four trenches (7, 9, 11, 14). The assemblage has a high mean fragment weight of 25g though all the material is fragmentary and abraded to some extent. The composition of the assemblage suggests a date of Late Iron Age-Roman. The assemblage has been recorded on an excel spreadsheet and is summarised in Table 1.

B.8.2 The majority of diagnostic pieces derive from flat plates or discs with a smooth flat upper surface burnt black or heat discoloured and a rough lower surface frequently covered in coarse cereal chaff impressions. They range in thickness between 18 and 36mm. No edges survived, so overall shape and size cannot be deduced. Typically, these plates may be circular, rectangular or polygonal and generally tend to fall in 200-300mm size range, though estimates based on curvature of edges indicate some may be as large as 750mm in diameter. The examples from trench 14 come from ditch fills of middle Roman date and the possible piece from trench 11 from a LIA-ER ditch fill. They are a regular component of late Iron Age and early Roman fired clay assemblages in the Thames valley and east Midlands. They were the dominant form of fired clay at Bridge Farm, Sutton Courtenay (Poole 2016) and in the Roman phase at Didcot Great Western site (Poole 2016). The circular discs are more widespread with examples known from Watkins Farm (Allen 1990, 53), Farmoor (Lambrick and Robinson 1979, 53-4) and Alchester (Booth 2001). The rectangular plaques have been found at Castle Hill (Booth 2010, 67). Both varieties of discs and plaques were found at Gill Mill, where the main period of use of this form was during the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD (Poole forthcoming (2017)) and at Didcot (Poole in prep) they occur throughout the Roman period.

B.8.3 Another piece of oven or hearth furniture may be represented by a well fired fragment from subsoil layer 701. The surviving areas of moulded surfaces suggested it derived from the corner of an object, but the piece was too damaged to discern its form. It is more likely to derive from a triangular brick or similar type of object rather than a plate. Trench 7 produced material of middle Iron Age and Roman date and the fragment could derive from either period.

B.8.4 Two small fragments of fired clay from context 907 had a single flat moulded surface with remnants of a cream veneer, possibly puddled chalk used as a wash, coating the surface. Such a finish rarely occurs in profusion, but has been observed on fragments interpreted as oven structure from Iron Age and Roman periods.

B.8.5 The fired clay fabrics were all sandy, containing variable quantities and grades of quartz sand and red or black iron oxide grits, possibly decayed glauconite in some cases. Some contained coarser grits of clay pellets, limestone and a white fine-grained sandstone. The latter occurred in some of the plates and was similar to fabrics found at Didcot Great Western Park suggesting a similar geological source or that the plates came from a workshop specialising in their production.

B.8.6 A sample of 'mortar' from context 910 appears to be a chalky earthen daub or cob type material with a flat rendered surface and rough back. It probably derives from the rendered face of a wall, either of a building or external yard wall. It was sampled from a sandstone wall and if it was from the bonding material rather than the facing then any lime that may have formed the bonding material has leached out.

Cntxt	Nos	Wt (g)	Spot date	Fabric	Class	Form	Comments
701	1	77	U	sandy	Oven furniture	Indeterminate	Moulded surfaces possibly corner fragment, but surfaces very damaged
907	2	8	IA-Ro?	chalky	Structural	Oven?	Single smooth surface on each piece is coated with a thin white ?chalky veneer
910	11	85	U	chalky earth	Structural	Wall	Unfired chalky earthen cob type material with flat rendered surface; 14-20mm thick.
1114	1	22	LIA-Ro?	sandy	Oven furniture	Plate?	Surface fired light brown; 18mm th
1407	2	34	U	gritty	Utilised	Indeterminate	Single flat moulded surface; 35mm th.
1409	2	140	LIA-Ro	QV Gl Sst	Oven furniture	Plate	Upper surface burnt black, base covered in chaff impressions; 27mm th.
1412	5	282	LIA-Ro	QV Gl Sst	Oven furniture	Plate	Upper surface burnt dark grey; lower surface covered with chaff impressions; 38mm th.
1412	5	81	LIA-Ro	Q	Oven furniture	Plate	Upper surface burnt dark grey; lower surface covered with chaff impressions; 36mm th.

Table 1: summary and quantification of fired clay by context

References

Allen, T G, 1990 *An Iron Age and Romano-British enclosed settlement at Watkins Farm, Northmoor, Oxon*, Thames Valley Landscapes: the Windrush Valley, Vol **1**, Oxford Univ. Committee for Archaeology, Oxford

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G, Cramp, K, Lamdin-Whymark, H and Webley, L *Castle Hill and its Landscape; Archaeological Investigations at the Wittenhams, Oxfordshire*, Oxford Archaeology Monograph **9**

Lambrick, G and Robinson, M, 1979, *Iron Age and Roman riverside settlements at Farmoor, Oxfordshire*, Oxford Archaeological Unit Report **2** and CBA Res. Rep. **32**

Poole, C, forthcoming (2017) Fired clay in P Booth and A Simmonds *Later prehistoric landscape and a Roman nucleated settlement in the lower Windrush Valley at Gill Mill, near Witney, Oxfordshire,* Oxford Archaeology Thames Valley Landscapes

Poole, C, in prep Fired clay from Great Western Park, Didcot, Oxfordshire

Poole, C, 2016 Ceramic building material and fired clay in P Booth and C Poole *Sutton Courtenay, Bridge Farm Post-Excavation Assessment Report Bridge Farm, Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire Archaeological Post-Excavation Assessment Report* OA client report unpub.

B.9 Worked flint

By Elizabeth Kennard

Introduction

B.9.1 A small assemblage of 16 struck flints was recovered from this evaluation, with almost half (7 or 44%) originating from a single ditch fill 905.

B.9.2 The assemblage from ditch fill 905 is moderately flake based (blade index of 28%, 2 out of 7) and these were struck from quite basic flake cores using thermal chunks and split large nodules of flint. The technology utilised was usually direct hard-hammer percussion and the flakes nearly all display broad platforms, hard hammer bulbs and simple flaking patterns. However a single example was seen with a faceted platform and hard hammer bulb. There was no evidence of any platform preparation. The sole blade was also hard hammer struck with plain platform, hard hammer bulb, and simple flaking pattern.

B.9.3 A single multi platform flake core was also recovered, although no refits or refit groups could be seen. The core is quite small and measures 43mm, by 47mm by 32mm and weighed 66g.

B.9.4 There was one retouched piece in the form of a broken end and side scraper and two possible retouched pieces, a potential microdenticulate, and piercer, however due to the general condition of the pieces they are not certain. Utilisation was very common, with 7 out of 12 (58%) of the main pieces showing edge wear, or possible edge wear.

B.9.5 No burnt unworked flint was observed, however three examples of heavily burnt irregular waste were recovered.

B.9.6 The remainder of the struck assemblage amounts to a dual partial crested flake which was lightly burnt, and a side trimming flake. A piece of natural unworked flint was also included in the assemblage.

B.9.7 The struck assemblage shows a prehistoric focus, based on one potential Neolithic and an early prehistoric piece. The thinness and blade-like nature of the pieces also supports this. The assemblage indicates a potential prehistoric background concentrated around trenches 8 and 9, and the moderate number of tools present

suggests a domestic setting. The assemblage as a whole is moderately fresh and does not appear to be heavily disturbed even though all the flint is residual in later contexts.

Context	type	sub-type	notes	date
607	Irregular waste x 2		heavily burnt	
800	flake x 1	inner	indeterminate hammer mode	
803	blade x 1	inner	soft-hammer struck, possible microdenticulate	EPH
808	Scraper end and side x 1	misc trimming	distal segment of blade	?Neo
905	Irregular waste x 1		One example, heavily burnt	
905	Core multi platform flakes		2 platform, the larger heavily spurred and multiple knapping attempts seen.	
905	flakes x 3	Inner x 2, distal trimming x 1, misc trimming x 1	Mostly with moderate edge damage and hard hammer struck with plain platforms	
905	Blade x 2	Distal trimming x2	1 x Utilised, hard hammer struck with plain platform, 1x distal segment	
907	Flakes x1	side trimming	medial segment, moderately damaged	
907	Blade x 1	inner	Heavily corticated, with cortical platform and hard hammer struck	
909	Crested flake	Inner duel partial	Distal segment, lightly burnt	
1012	natural			

Discussion and recommendations

B.9.8 The flints from the evaluation should be fully integrated into any future analysis arising from any further investigation on the site.

B.10 Worked stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

Summary

B.10.1 A total of 15 pieces of stone were retained for analysis. Two of these are utilised and the rest are unworked and can be discarded.

B.10.2 One large sandstone cobble measuring 114 x 95 x 64mm has some wear across one end consistent with use as a hammerstone (1413, 928g). Another smaller flatter cobble measuring 77 x >48 x 29mm has smoothed almost polished faces suggesting it may have been used as a smoother or polisher (714, 148g), but it is possible that this wear is natural. Neither stone is intrinsically datable.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

C.1.1 Six samples were taken from the evaluation at Sutton Courtney Lane, Didcot in August 2016. All were taken from ditch fills provisionally dated to the Roman period. All samples were 40l in volume and with the exception of sample <6> (304) were a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy loam with a high percentage of gravel. Sample <6> was a light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) sandy silt loam with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded stones.

C.1.2 The samples were processed in their entirety by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine. The flot was collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residues sieved to 500µm; both were dried in a heated room, after which the residue was sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. 50 ml of each flot was scanned using a binocular microscope at approximately x10 magnification.

Results

C.1.3 All flots, with the exception of sample <6>, include large quantities of modern material including roots, seeds and insects. Most of the charred material is in poor condition, with grain and the majority of other seeds and chaff fragmented. The burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula* is present in all samples and probably intrusive. The majority of charcoal observed is small and unsuitable for species identification, but there are a few fragments within samples <4> and <5> which may be identifiable given time. Details of the charred remains from the scanned portion of the flots are given in Table 1.

C.1.4 The material observed is fairly standard for samples of this nature and date with the condition of the material indicating that this is probably the result of secondary deposition, possibly during field manuring. The wild seeds observed are of species often found in arable fields and would seem to indicate their presence either within the crops themselves as crop contaminants or growing around the periphery of the managed areas. The grain, while in too poor condition to speciate with certainty, in combination with the chaff fragments are most likely to be a glume wheat such as spelt (*Triticum spelta*) or emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*), with spelt the more likely given the provisional dating of the deposits.

C.1.5 The greater amount of charred material within the samples from Trenches 6 and 9 may be indicative of a closer position to the related settlement, while the differences between lower fill (606) and upper fill (607) from ditch [605] may be an indication that the lower fill formed over a shorter period of time than the upper allowing less extraneous material to be incorporated.

Sample <6>

C.1.6 Sample <6> was very different in terms of both soil and material observed from the remainder of the samples. As well as containing a much higher proportion of silt with fewer inclusions, there were very few charred remains observed within the flot from this sample and a much lower proportion of intrusive modern material. There was a quantity of clinker or fuel ash within the flot but only occasional fragments of charcoal noted and no charred seeds or grain in the scanned portion. The flot was extremely rich in snails including both land snails and freshwater snails which comprised almost the entirety of

the measured volume. This is likely to be an indication of an area of regular waterlogging or flooding very different in nature from the other areas of the site.

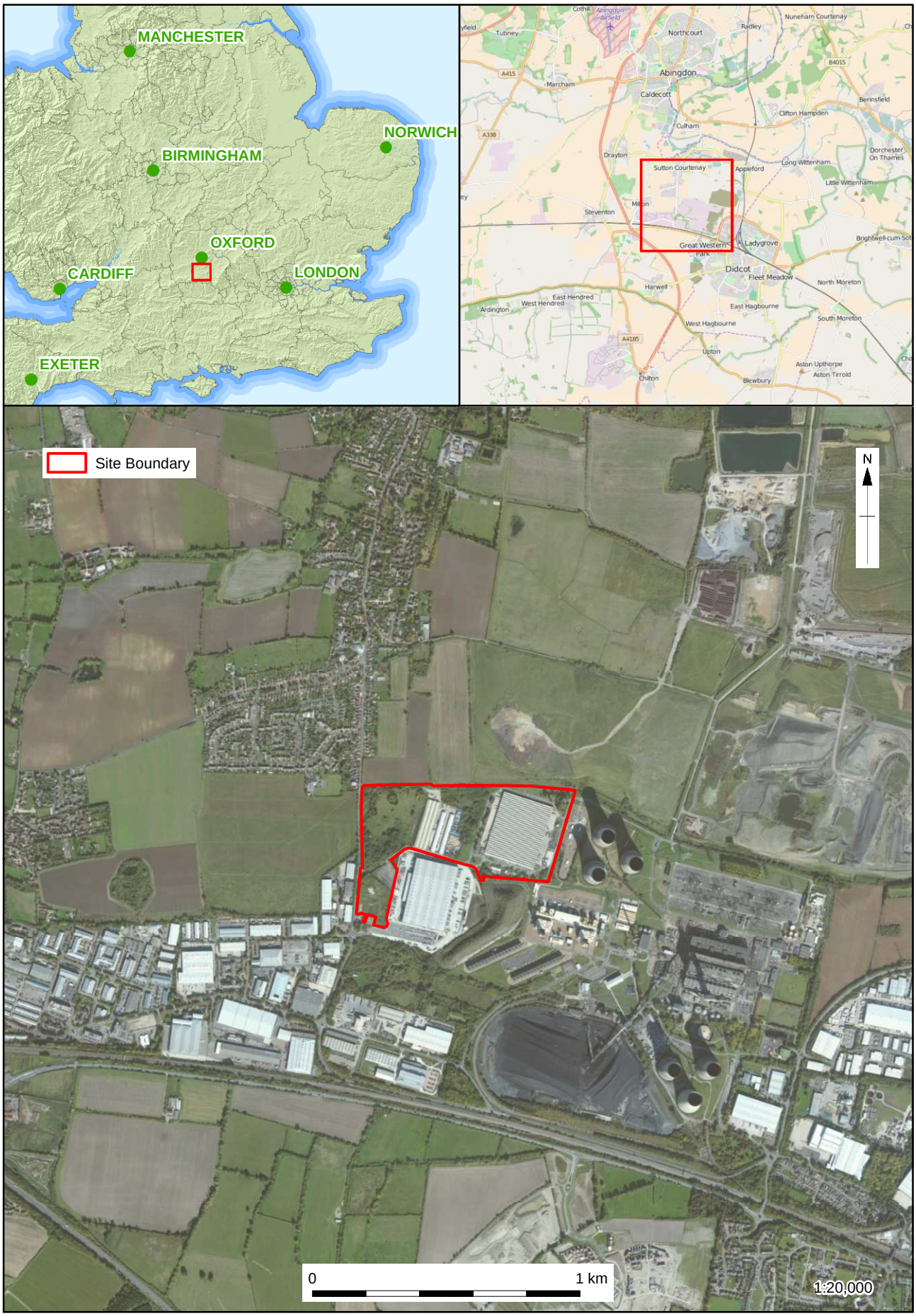
Sample No	***Context No***	***Trench No***	***Cut No***	***Flot Vol (ml)***	***Comments***
1	1405	14	[1404]	125	4 unidentified charred grain, 2 fragments of chaff, 5 grass seeds (Poaceae), 2 unidentified charred wild plant seeds
2	606	6	[605]	25	2 unidentified grain, 2 grass seeds (Poaceae)
3	607	6	[605]	50	8 unidentified grain, 2 wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains, 20 chaff frags, 2 oat/brome (*Avena/Bromus*) seeds, 3 grass (Poaceae) seeds, 1 hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) fragment, I unidentified wild plant seed, 1 *Anthemis cotula* seed, 1 *Chenopodium* sp. seed
4	905	9	[904]	300	13 unidentified grains, 19 chaff fragments, 2 grass seeds (Poaceae), 6 fragments of oat/brome (*Avena/Bromus* sp.), 1 silicified field gromwell seed *(Lithospermum arvense*)*,* 1 unidentified wild plant seed, 1 *Chenopodium* sp. seed, 1 heavily encrusted Caryophyllaceae seed, 4 legume fragments
5	907	9	[906]	50	6 unidentified grain, 1 wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain, 17 chaff fragments, 7 oat/brome (*Avena/Bromus*) seed fragments, 2 grass seeds (Poaceae), 2 unidentified wild plant seeds, 1 Caryophyllaceae seed, 1 Polygonaceae seed, 1 *Chenopodium* sp. seed, 1 *Galium* sp. frag, 1 legume
6	304	3	[302]	100	No charred seeds or grain noted

Conclusion

C.1.1 The charred remains observed on this site would seem to indicate arable farming within the vicinity of the area evaluated. While the charred remains appear in fairly poor condition, they do survive at this site and it is hoped that samples taken from other features such as pits would show less damage due to a more stable context. The area around Trench 3 should be considered in any further work for examination of the snails by incremental sampling to build up a picture of the deposition of material and any other features in this area should possibly be checked for evidence of waterlogging although no waterlogged material was noted within the sample from this trench. Any future excavations should incorporate a sampling policy in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (e.g. Oxford Archaeology 2005 and English Heritage 2011).

Appendix D. Summary of Site Details

Site name:	Land east of Sutton Courtenay Lane, Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire
Site code:	SUEL16
Grid reference:	NGR SU 5034 9237
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	2 weeks; 15/08/16 – 31/08/16
Area of site:	24.5 hectares
Summary of results:	The results of the evaluation have demonstrated a high level of archaeological activity in the north-west of the proposed development. Concentrations of prehistoric and Roman remains including large settlement enclosure ditches were identified in trenches 6-15. This activity appears to represent a distinct complex of linear and curvilinear enclosure ditches, smaller boundary ditches and discrete features comprising pits, gullies and post holes. The frequency of inter-cutting features, particularly of the enclosure ditches, was representative of a multiple phase settlement, where the re-establishment of boundaries was clearly evident. This settlement spanned the Late Iron Age to Late Roman, with possible hints of Saxon activity within the wider area.
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS:2016.111



X:\s\Sutton Courtenay Lane Oxfordshire\010Geomatics\03 GIS Projects\Figures\Figure1_060916.mxd*gary.jones*06/09/2016

Figure 1: Site location

X:\s\Sutton Courtenay Lane Oxfordshire\010Geomatics\03 GIS Projects\Figures\Figure2_060916.mxd*matt.bradley*30/09/2016

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

0 1:2,500 @ A3 150 m

Figure 2: Trench location plan

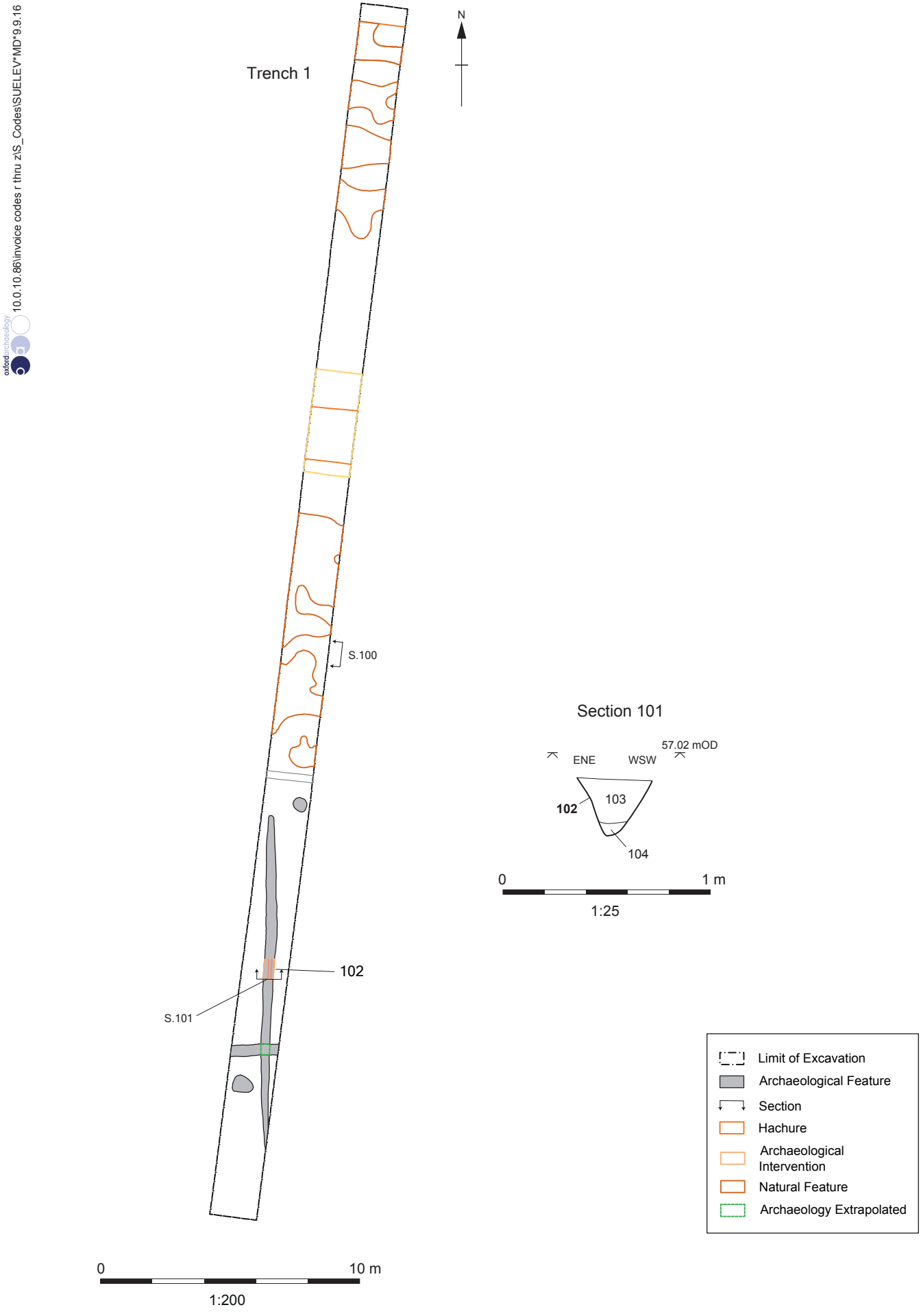


Fig. 3: Trench 1; trench plan and section 101 of ditch 102

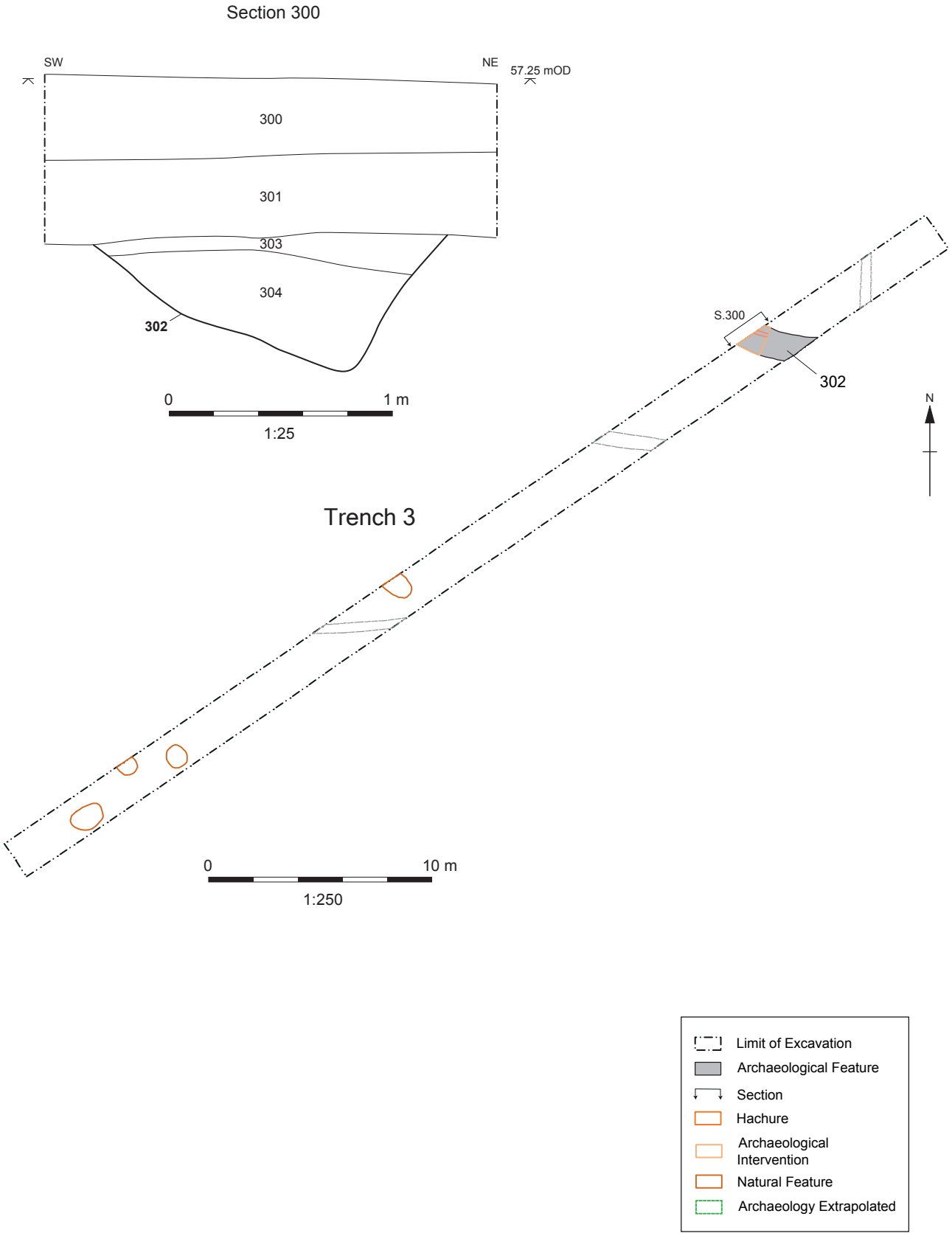


Fig. 4: Trench 3; trench plan and section 300 and ditch 302

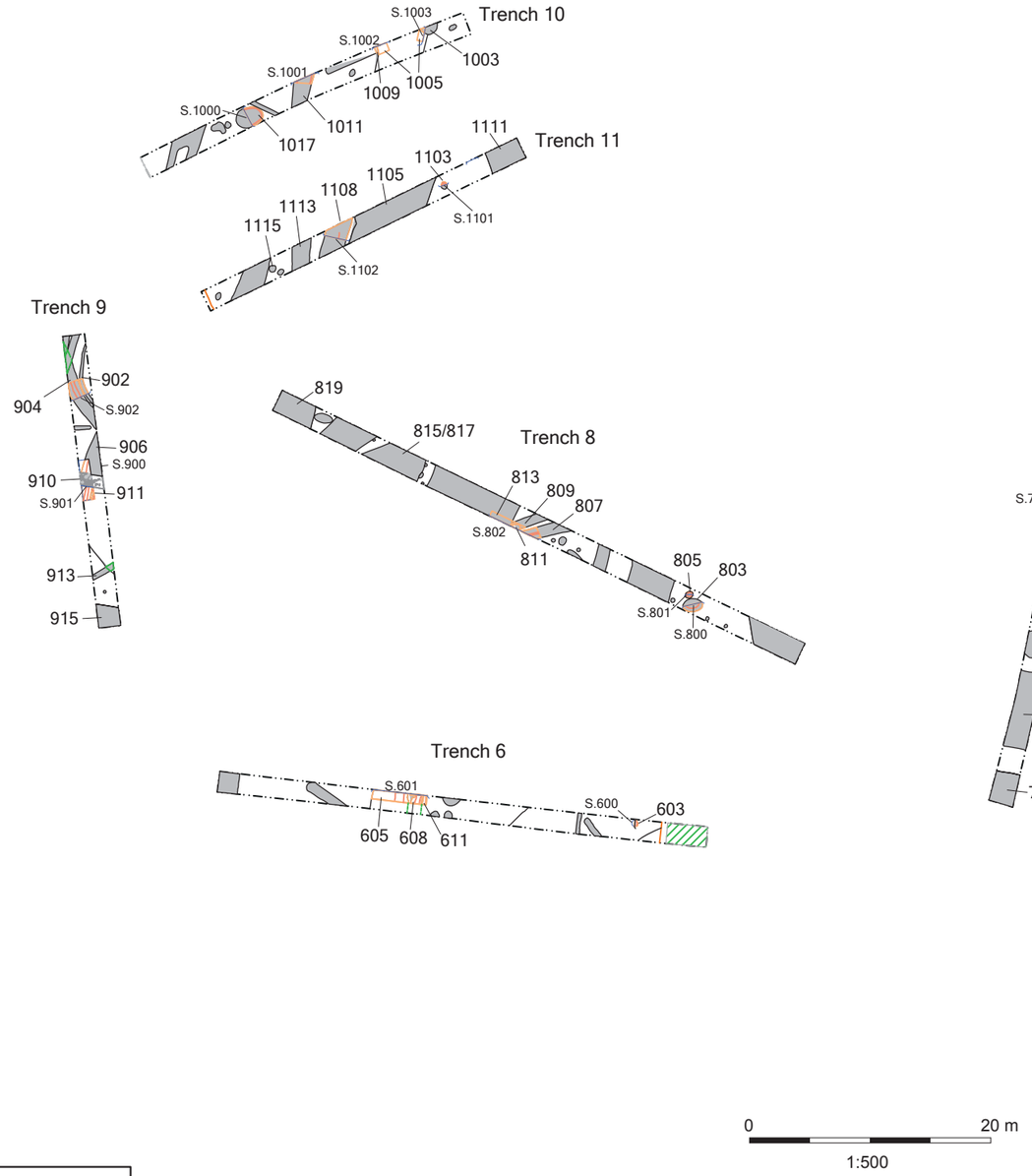


Fig. 5: Plan of trenches 6 – 14 showing concentration of archaeology in north-west corner of site

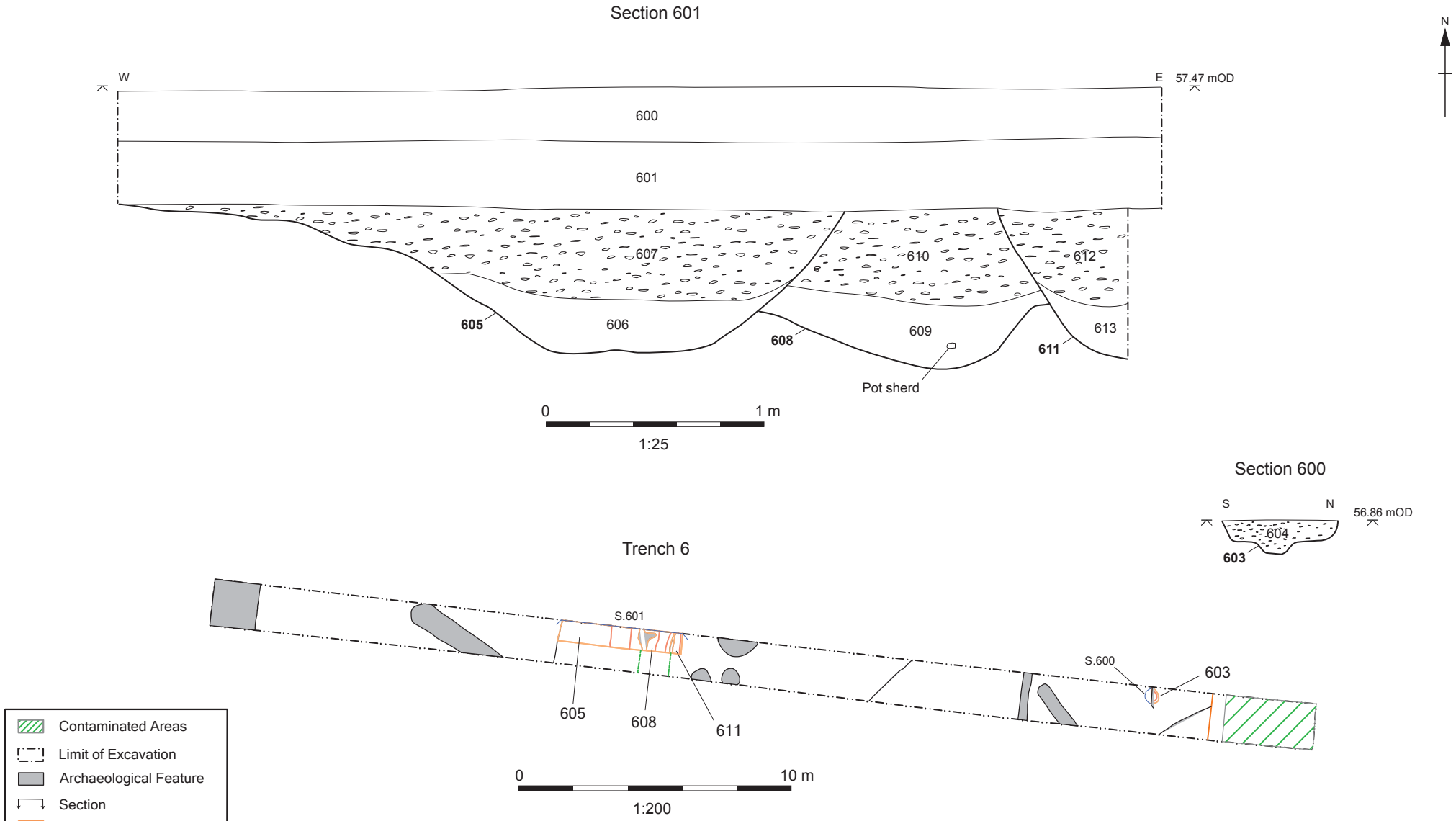


Fig. 6: Trench 6; trench plan, section 600 of post hole 603 and section 601 of ditches 605, 608 and 611

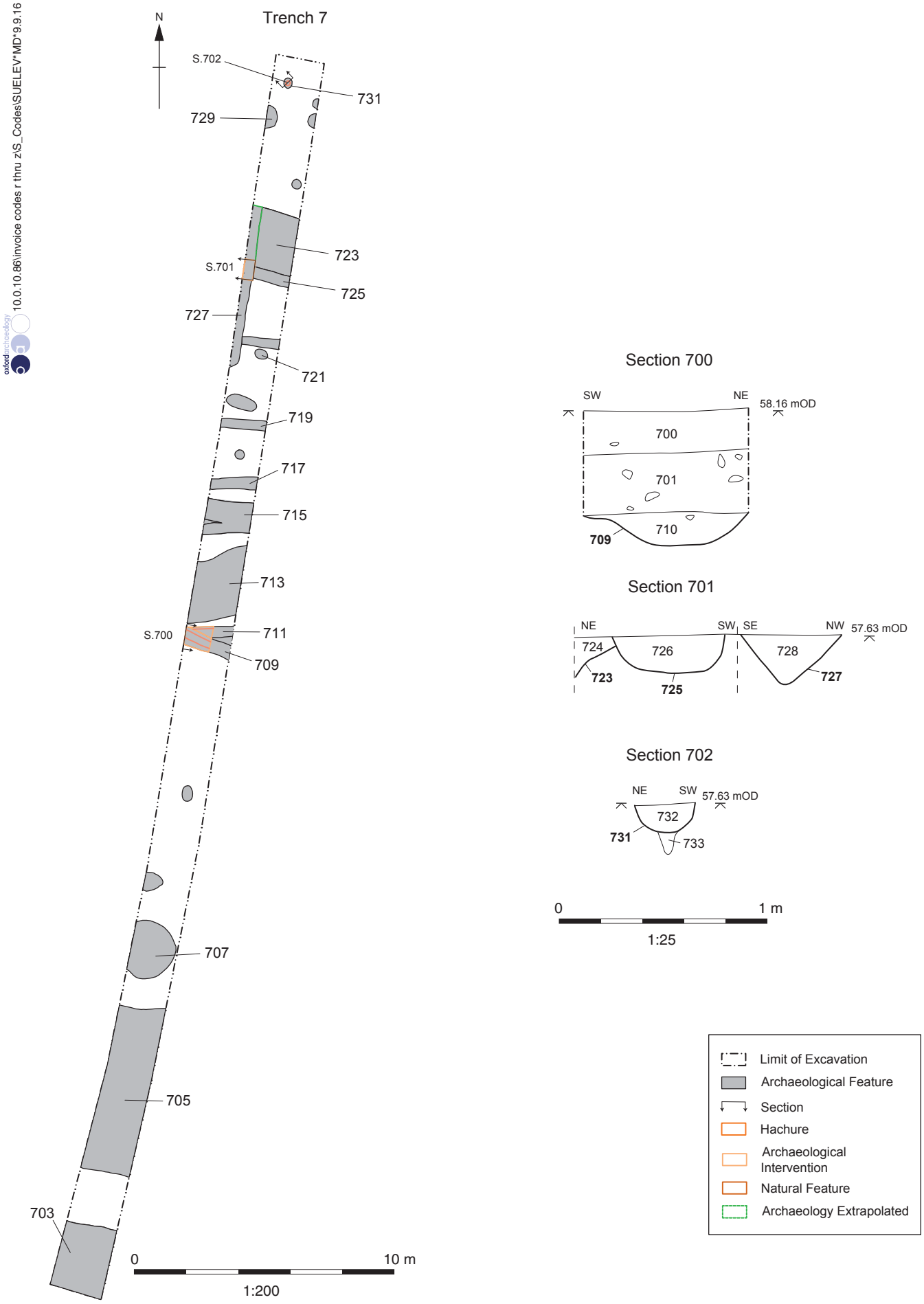


Fig. 7: Trench 7; trench plan, section 700 of ditch 709, section 701 of ditches 723, 725 and 727 and section 702 of post hole 731

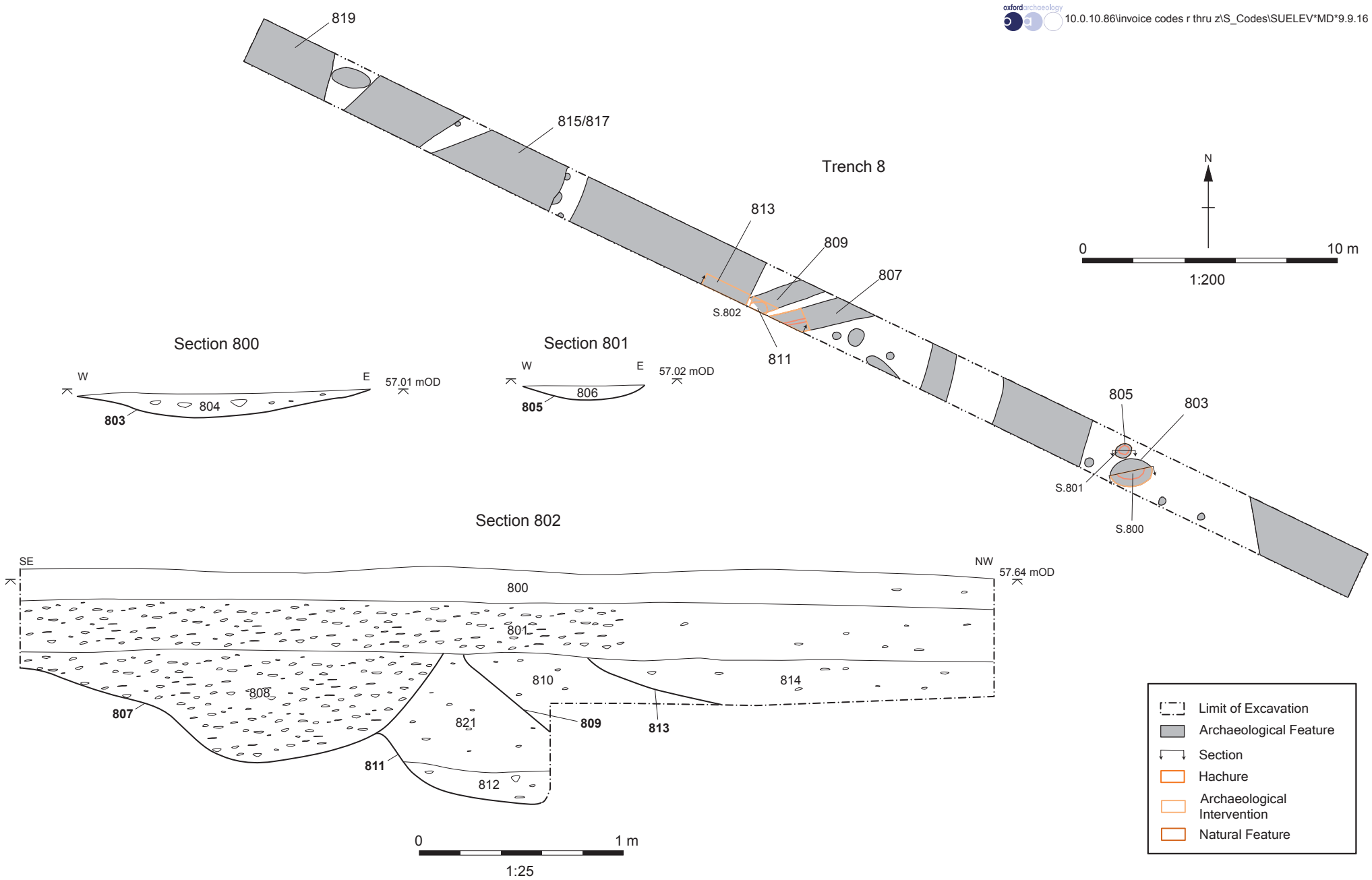
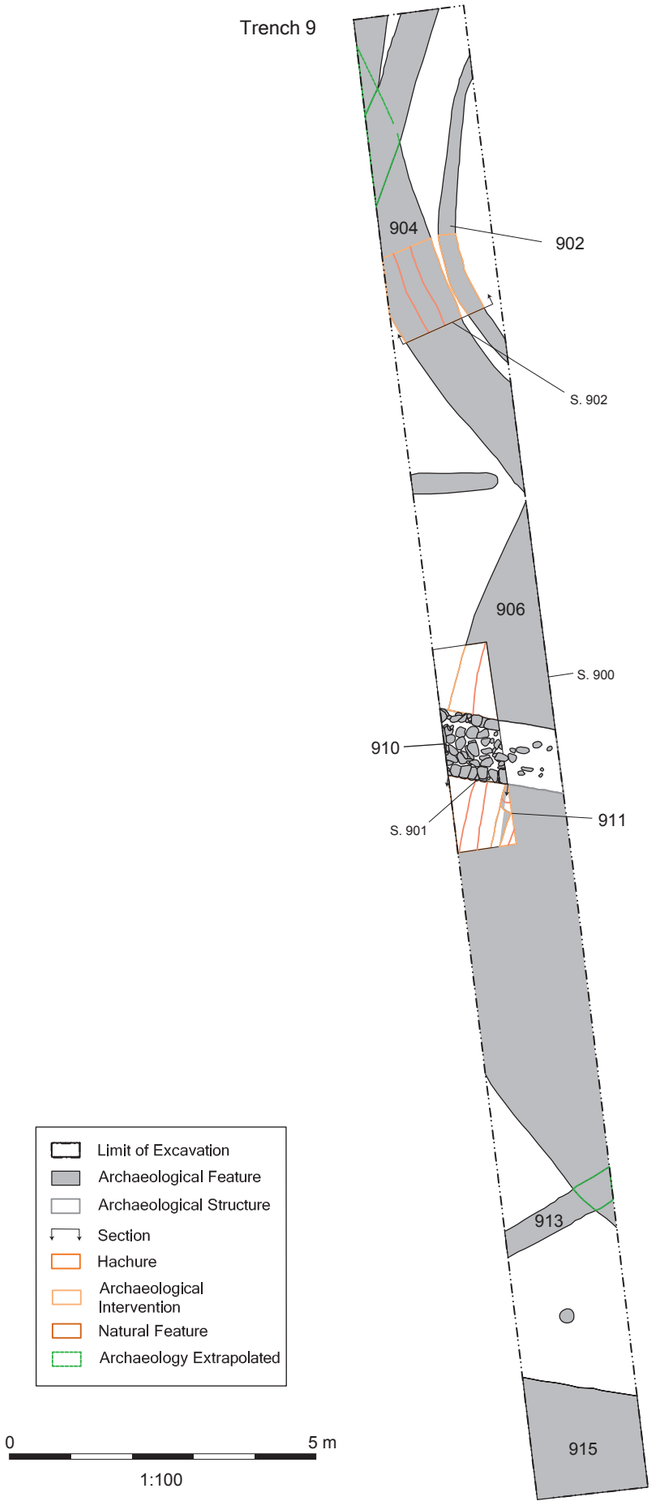
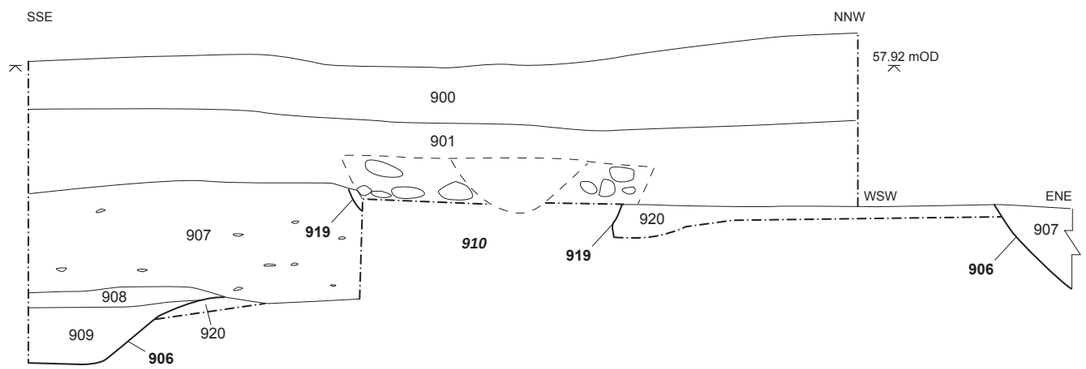


Fig. 8: Trench 8; trench plan, section 800 of pit 803, section 801 of post hole 805 and section 802 of ditches 807, 809, 813 and pit 811

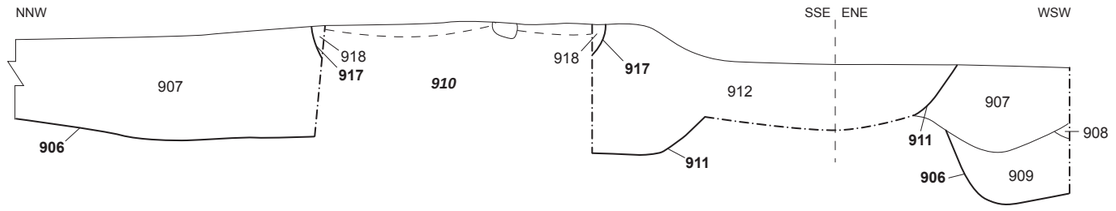
Trench 9



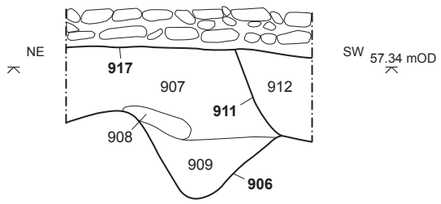
Section 900



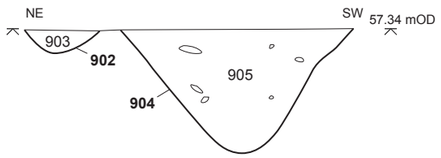
Continuation of section 900



Section 901



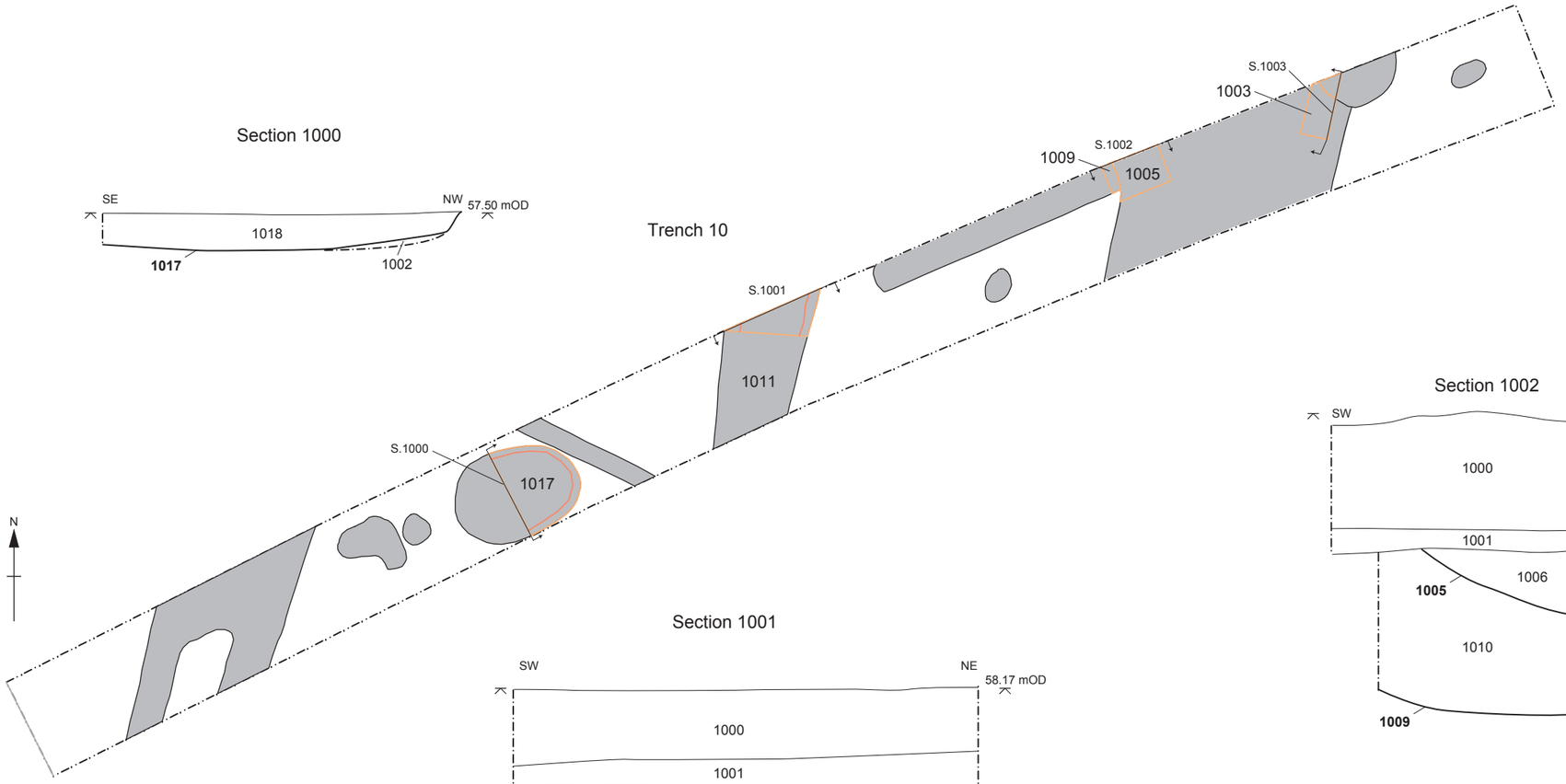
Section 902



0 1 m
1:25

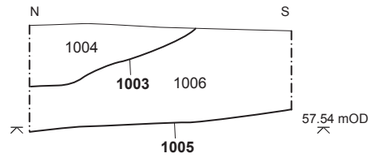
Fig. 9: Trench 9; trench plan, section 900 and 901 of wall 910 and ditches 906 and 911 and section 902 of ditches 902 and 904

Trench 10

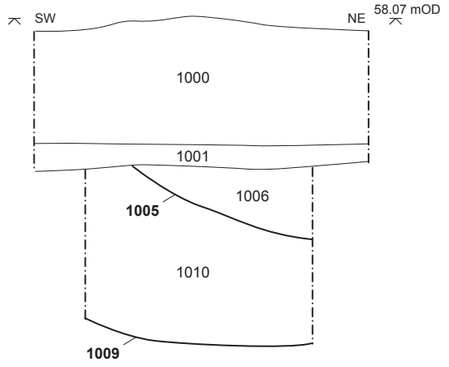


Section 1000

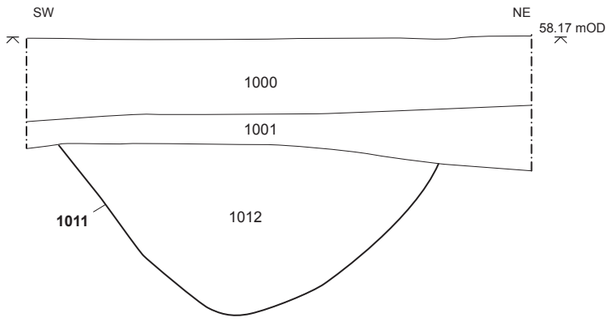
Section 1003



Section 1002



Section 1001



Limit of Excavation
Archaeological Feature
Archaeological Structure
Section
Hachure
Archaeological Intervention
Natural Feature
Archaeology Extrapolated

0 5 m
Plan 1:100

0 1 m
Sections 1:25

Fig. 10: Trench 10; trench plan, section 1000 of pit 1017, section 1001 of ditch 1011, section 1002 of ditches 1005 and 1009 and section 1003 of pit 1003 and ditch 1005

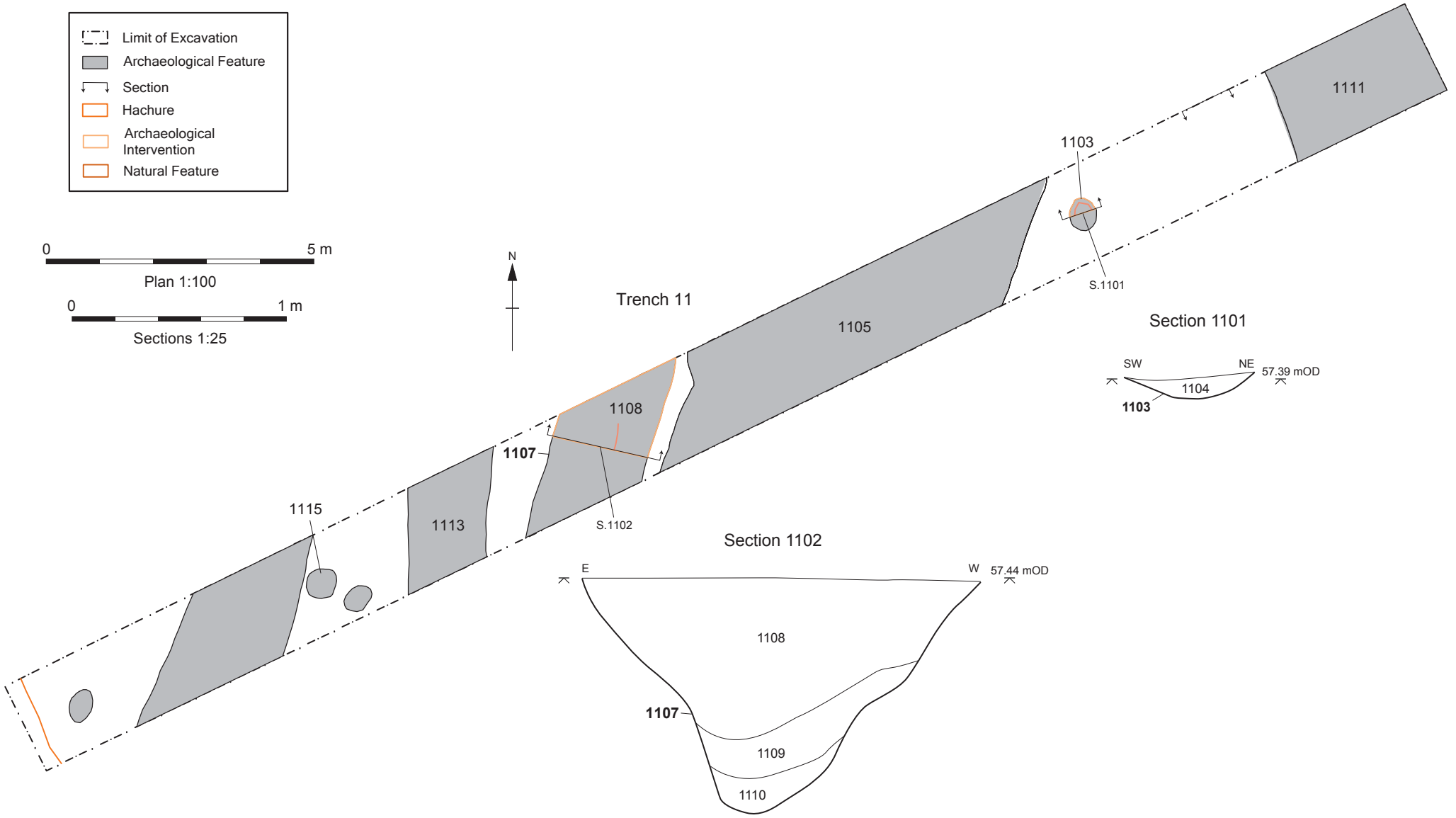


Fig. 11: Trench 11; trench plan, section 1101 of pit 1103 and section 1102 of ditch 1107

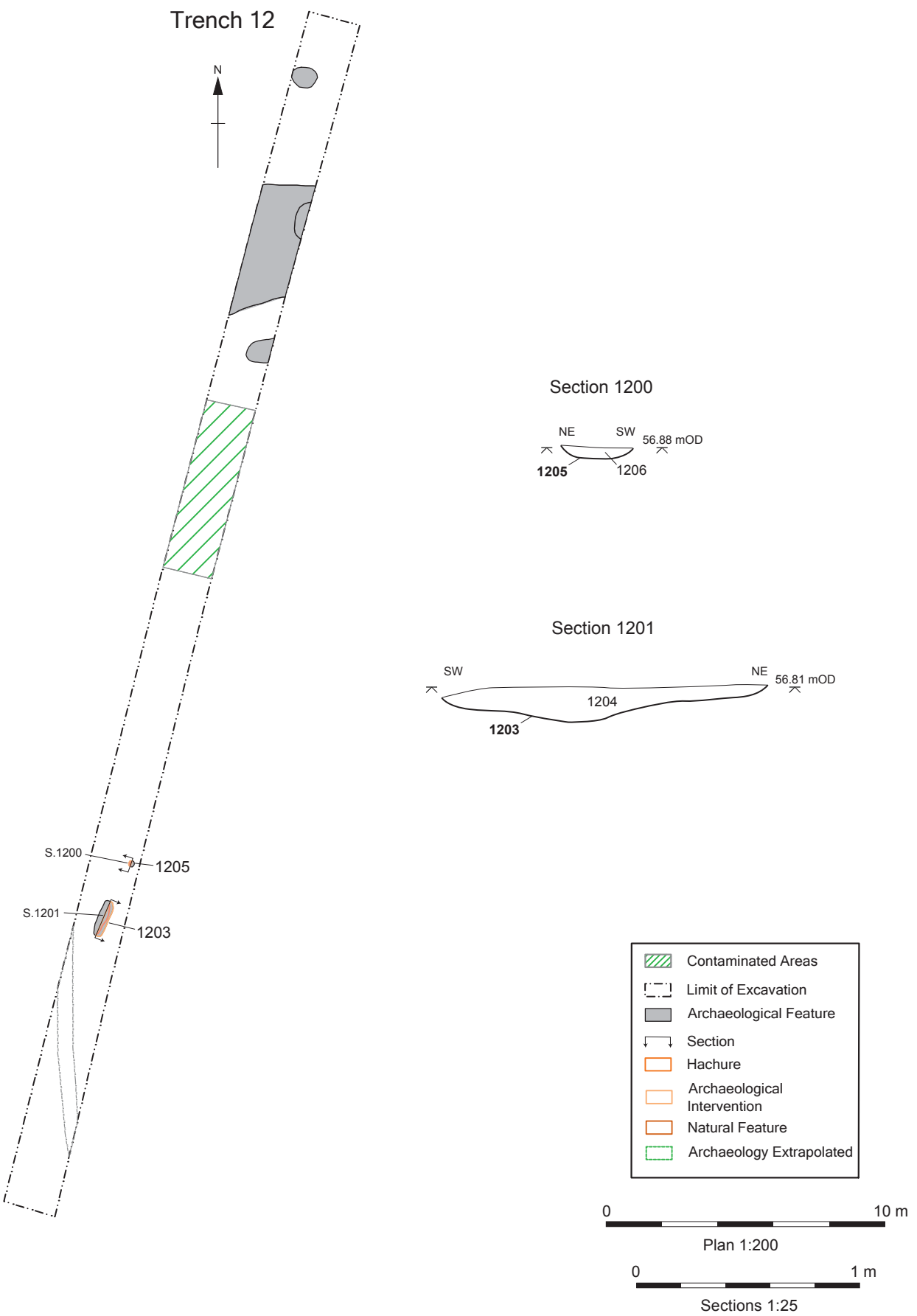


Fig. 12: Trench 12; trench plan, section 1200 of post hole 1205 and section 1201 of pit 1203

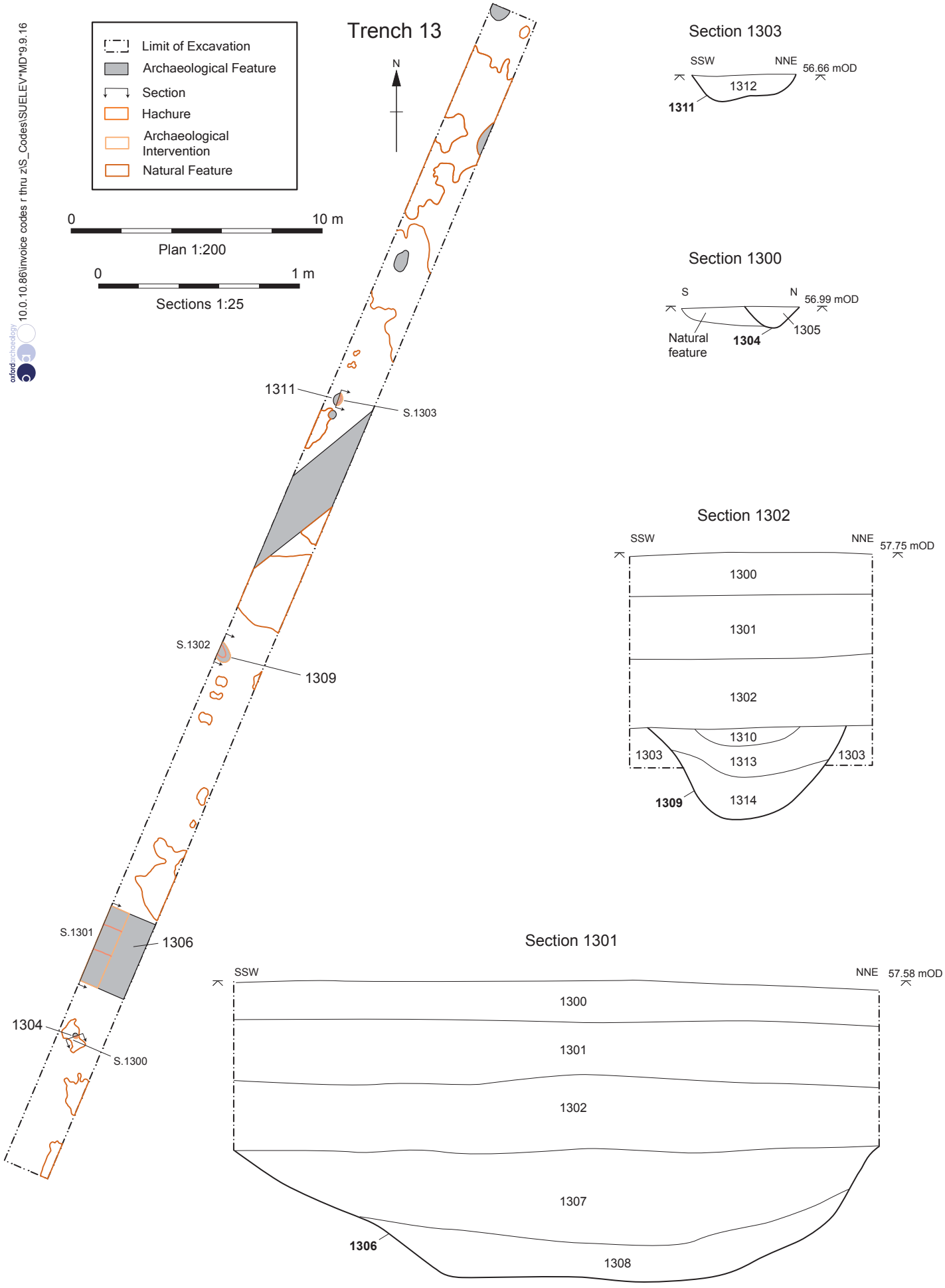


Fig. 13: Trench 13; trench plan, section 1300 of post hole 1304, sections 1301 of ditch 1306, section 1302 of ditch terminus 1309 and section 1303 of pit 1311

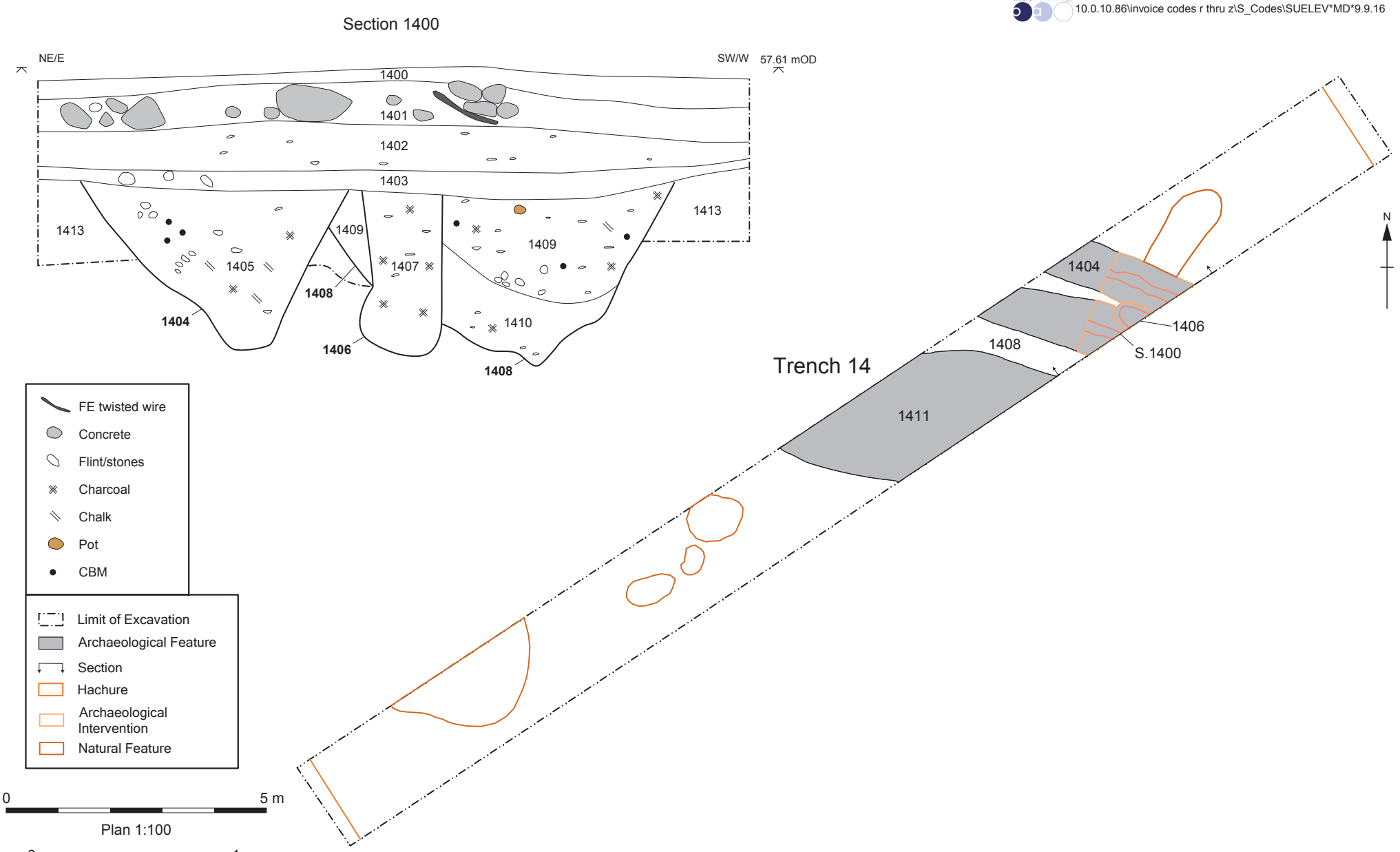


Fig. 14: Trench 14; trench plan and section 1400 of post hole 1406 and ditches 1404 and 1408

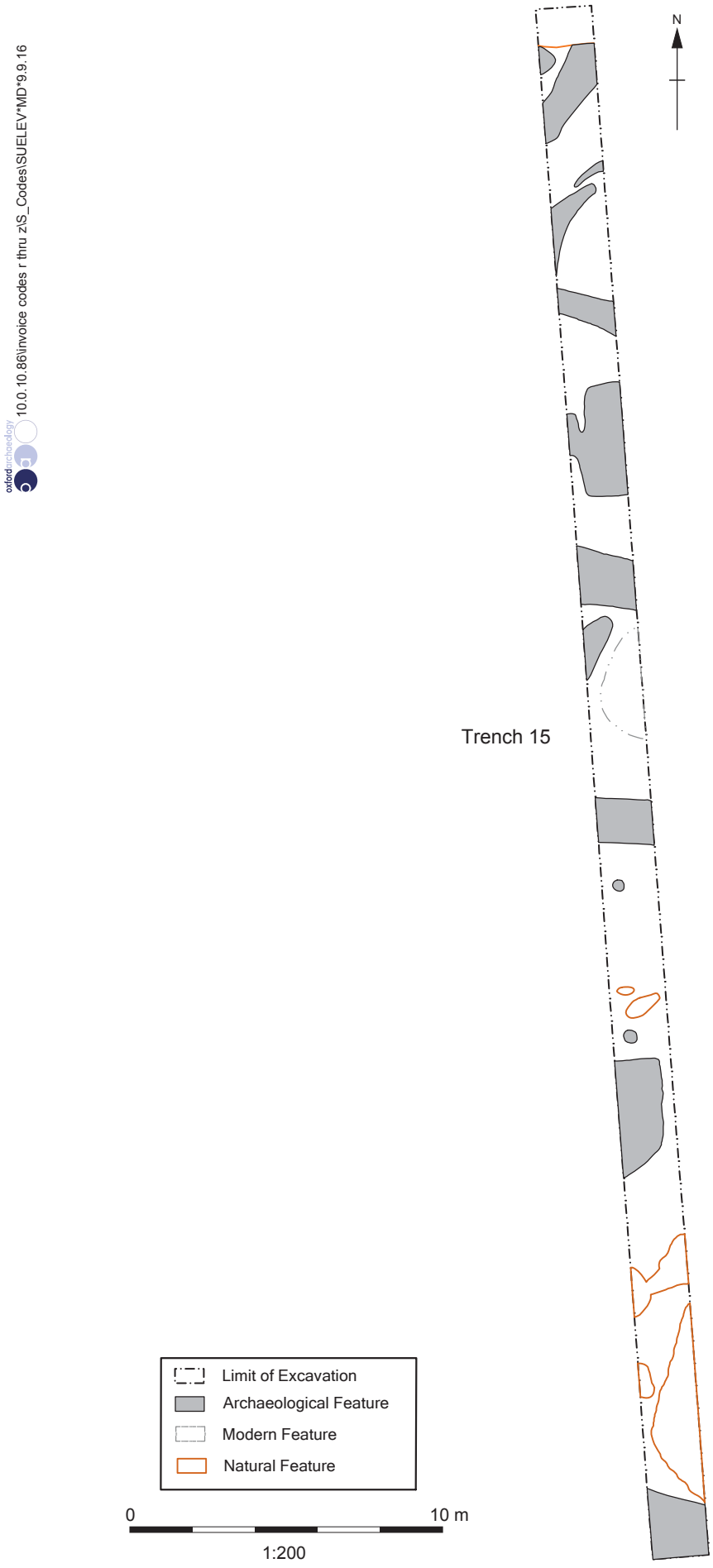


Fig. 15: Trench 15, trench plan

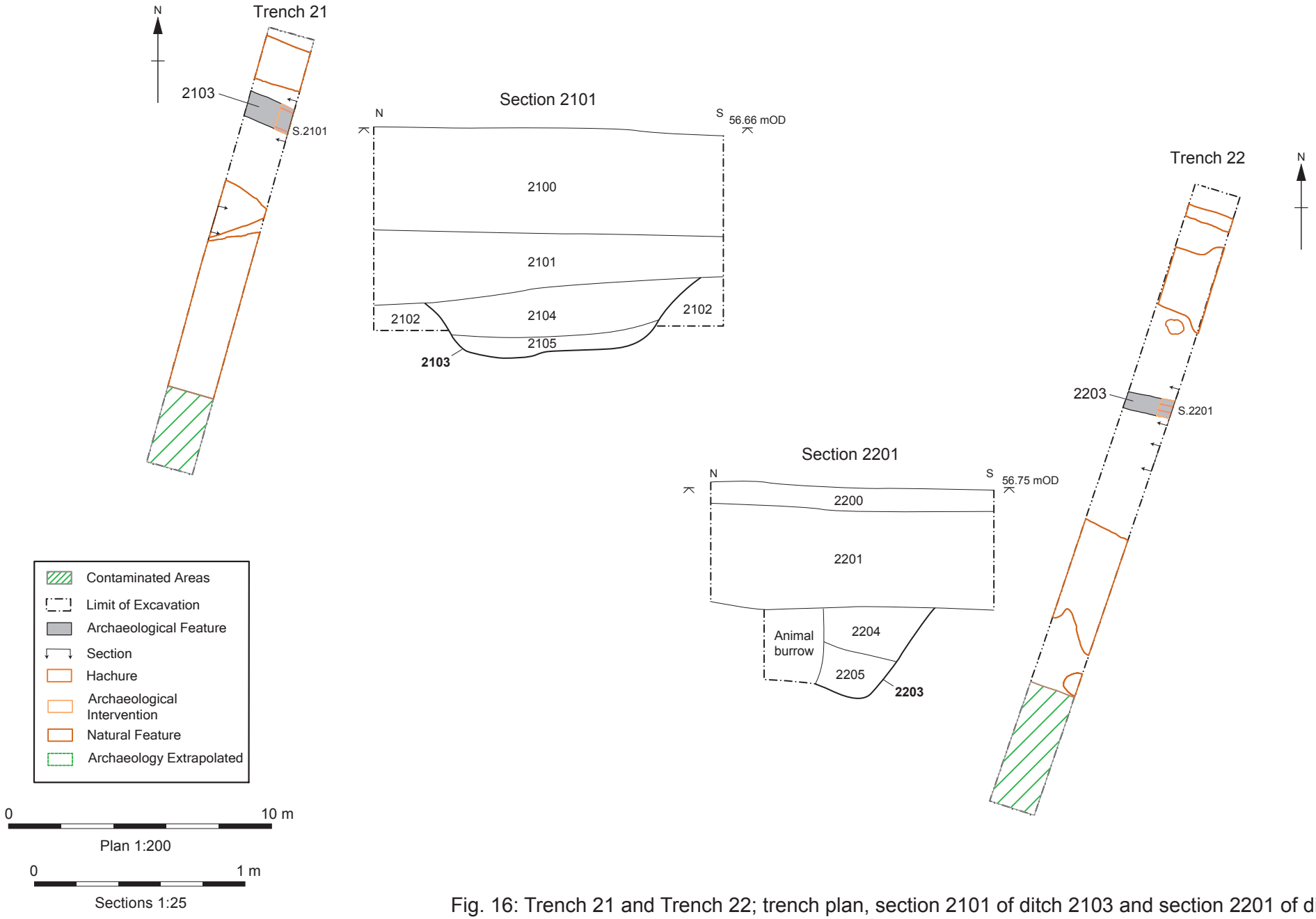


Fig. 16: Trench 21 and Trench 22; trench plan, section 2101 of ditch 2103 and section 2201 of ditch 2203

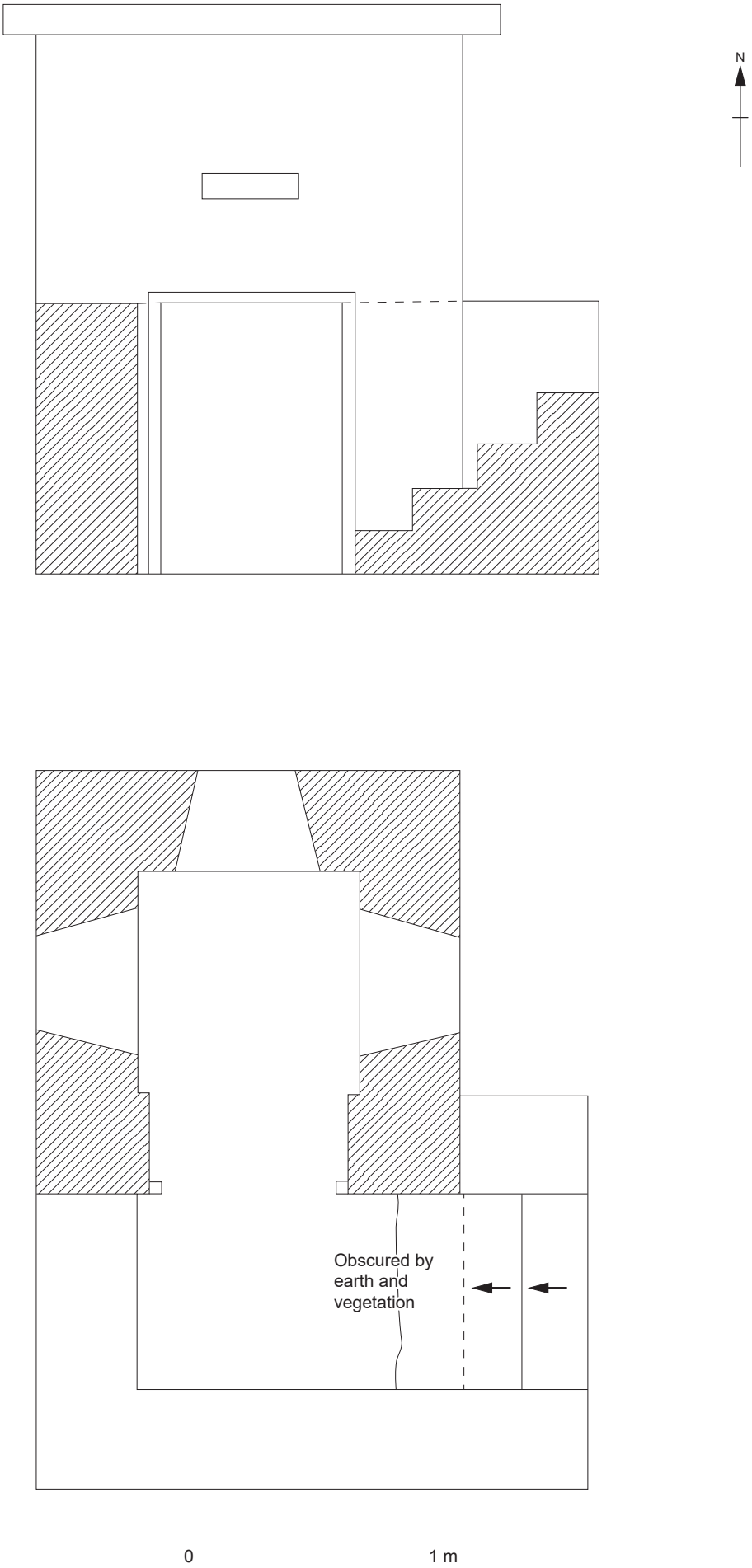


Figure 17: Elevation and plan of northern parameter Pillbox

Plate 1 Trench 23; excavation of trench, facing east-south-east (cover photo)

Plate 2 Trench 12; showing chemical contaminates, facing south-east

Plate 3 Trench 3; section 300 of ditch 302, facing north-east

Plate 4 Google maps image showing crop marks to the north of the site

Plate 5 Trench 9; pre-excavation view of trench, facing south

Plate 6 Trench 11; pre-excavation view of trench, facing north-east

Plate 7 Trench 6; section 601 of ditches 605, 608 and 611, facing north

Plate 8 Trench 9; section 900 of ditch 906, foundation cut 917 and wall 910, facing west

Plate 9 Trench 9; section 901 of ditches 906 and 911 and profile of wall 910, facing north

Plate 10 Trench 11; section 1102 of ditch 1107, facing south

Plate 11 Trench 13; section 1301 of ditch 1306, facing west-north-west

Plate 12 Trench 14; oblique view of section 1400 of post hole 1406 and ditches 1404 and 1408, facing east

Plate 13 Trench 15; view of trench, facing south

Plate 14 Trench 15; modern pit containing chemical bottle dump, facing north-east

Plate 15 Trench 21; section 2101 of ditch 2103, facing east-south-east

Plate 16 Western Pillbox, looking north-west

Plate 17 Eastern Pillbox, looking west

Plate 18 Western Pillbox, looking west

Plate 19 Door in Eastern Pillbox, looking south-west

Plate 20 Loopholes in Western Pillbox, looking north-west

Plate 21 Large concrete water tank at north-west corner of the derelict distribution centre, looking south

Plate 22 Discovery of a decorated weaving comb (SF1)

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