

Archaeological evaluation at Dilmore Lane, Fernhill Heath, Worcestershire

Worcestershire Archaeology
for Lioncourt Strategic Land Ltd

January 2024



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DILMORE LANE FERNHILL HEATH WORCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological evaluation report



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SITE INFORMATION

Site name:	Dilmore Lane, Fernhill Heath, Worcestershire
Local planning authority:	Wychavon District Council
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Central NGR:	SO 86615 59541
Commissioning client:	Lioncourt Strategic Land Ltd
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Archaeological evaluation at Dilmore Lane, Fernhill Heath, Worcestershire

By Peter Lovett

With contributions by Samantha Elwell and Elizabeth Pearson

Illustrations by Laura Templeton

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Dilmore Lane, Fernhill Heath, Worcestershire (NGR SO 86615 59541). The project was commissioned by Lioncourt Strategic Land Ltd, in advance of a proposed residential development for which a planning application has been submitted to Wychavon District.

Thirty-four trenches were excavated across the site, revealing a number of pits and ditches. On the western side of the site these were generally dated to the mid-1st to 3rd century AD, with two pits dating to the Middle Iron Age. In the central and eastern parts of the site were several undated pits and ditches which were sealed beneath the subsoil, indicating a likely pre-medieval date. The Iron Age and Roman features are considered likely to be of regional significance, whilst the undated features, specifically the ditches, are of local significance and probably represent agricultural activity.

The remainder of the features were medieval or later furrows and field boundaries, of negligible significance.

This artefactual assemblage is typical for a rural Middle Iron Age and Roman site in Worcestershire, but remains significant, as previous excavations in the immediate area have not produced any archaeological material.

Minimal charred cereal crop and weed remains were recovered from the Middle Iron Age and Roman features investigated, although there is considered to be a good potential for environmental remains in deposits sealed by alluvium/colluvium.

Report

1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA) in December 2023 at Dilmore Lane, Fernhill Heath, Worcestershire (NGR SO 86615 59541). This comprised thirty-four trenches across four fields. The project was commissioned by Lioncourt Strategic Land Ltd, in advance of a proposed residential development. A planning application has been submitted to Wychavon District Council (planning reference 23/01323/OUT).

The Archaeology and Planning Advisor to Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils considered that the proposed development has the potential to impact upon possible heritage assets. Previous geophysical survey on the site has identified probable furrows and former field boundaries that align with historical mapping. The land immediately north of the site was also surveyed and this identified two adjoining rectilinear enclosures and possible associated trackways.

No brief has been prepared by the Archaeology Advisor but this evaluation conforms to the generality of briefs which have been previously issued. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2023) and approved by the Archaeology and Planning Advisor. The evaluation also conforms to the industry guidelines and standards set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists in *Standard for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2023a) and *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2023b) and the *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire* (WCC 2019).

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

The site is located on the northern side of the village of Fernhill Heath, and encompasses four fields (two only partially). Dilmore Lane borders the site on the western side, whilst to the south are properties that front onto Suffolk Way and to the east are further residential development adjacent to Station Road. The northern part of the site is bounded by agricultural land. A brook runs along the south-western edge and divides the middle fields.

The site is 7.88ha, and is laid to a mixture of pasture and crop. The topography undulates, with the north-western part of the site sitting at a high of 44.6m AOD, and the eastern side at 41.35m AOD. In the south-west it drops steeply down to 42.7m AOD before rising up again to 44.1m AOD in the south-east. The central part of the site is the lowest lying, at c 38.3m AOD.

The site is located on freely draining slightly acid loamy soils (Cranfield and Agrifood Institute 2024) of low fertility. The underlying geology comprises Sidmouth Mudstone Formation - Mudstone (BGS 2024).

2 Archaeological and historical background

2.1 Introduction

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site was previously undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (Wheeler 2023), on behalf of Lioncourt Strategic Land Ltd. The findings presented in the DBA are summarised below.

2.2 Prehistoric

No prehistoric activity is recorded on the HER in the development site itself, though the superficial deposits that are present on the site have been identified as having the potential for palaeolithic remains.

Crop marks showing adjoining rectilinear enclosures are recorded in the land immediately to the north of the site, and whilst undated are likely to be of prehistoric or Roman date.

2.3 Roman

Whilst there is no evidence of Roman activity on the site, the proposed route of the 'Upper Saltway' Roman road runs c 800m to the south-east, forming part of the network of routeways from Droitwich to the South Midlands and Chilterns. Salt production in Droitwich was a major industry under the Romans and the road network that transported the salt was heavily used, and later modified during the medieval period. Roadside settlements, supported by the salt trade, line these routes, although none are known at Fernhill Heath.

A Roman settlement is recorded on the HER at Linacres Farm approximately 1km north-west of the Site. This was partially revealed during survey for the Astley to Worcestershire Aqueduct in 1994, when evidence of a trackway and iron smithing was found (Dalwood 1996). Cropmarks nearby have yielded fieldwalking and metal detecting finds of local coarsewares, samian ware pottery, a steelyard weight, several brooches and a lead weight or pulley (WSM06062, 42357). Further settlement can be suggested on the southern side of the Droitwich Canal, where field name evidence of 'Little Black Lands' and 'Black Lands Pasture' (WSM34339, 34340) have been recorded from 18th century maps.

The HER records a number of portable antiquity finds from this period within the search area, such as three copper alloy coins (WSM64664, 65110, 65172, 77336), a lead weight (WSM64877), a copper alloy brooch (WSM65104) and a copper alloy cosmetic mortar (66201).

2.4 Medieval

HER records relating to the medieval period mainly concern land and resource management. The nearby Feckenham Forest would have been a valuable resource to the inhabitants of the surrounding villages. A boundary marking its extents in the 13th century is recorded on the HER, before it was disafforested in 1629 (WSM42160). A watermill is recorded though its position is only conjectured, HER records consider that it was approximately 200m south of the site, along the Martin Brook.

Medieval field systems can be seen at North Claines, 1km south of the site (WSM20864, 20870, 20871, 20872), and ridge and furrow can be found 25m west in the fields surrounding Tapenhall Farm. Other examples can be found along the Ladywood Road 1km to the north (WSM70008, 70023), and at Linacres Farm approximately 1km to the west (WSM36206).

2.5 Post-medieval

Fernhill Heath was an area of 19th century enclosed fields with dispersed row settlement in the north-east. Field name evidence indicates the growth of settlements, such as Stony Furlong (WSM29997) and Burnt Piece (WSM29991), forestry management (Sally Beds, WSM29996), and water management (Waterworks Meadow, WSM29994; Fishpool Hill WSM29990; and, later, Lock Piece, WSM29995).

There is a growth in farmsteads surrounding the site in this period. The earliest of these with upstanding remains are the 16th century Holy Claines Farm (WSM59467) and Upper Tapenhall Farm (WSM02894, 51914, 59564, 71470), and the 17th century Orchard Manor (WSM61107, 53457) and Tapenhall Farm (WSM51913, 59563, 52453, 60103).

Further growth of agricultural land management during this period can be seen at the site, where evidence of ridge and furrow is still extant along its southern boundary (WSM41460, 67829). Much of this would have been present below the new development along Dilmore Lane, so these vestiges at the site are all that remain of a field network that was likely to have been attached to the aforementioned Upper Tappenhall Farm, a 16th century partial farmstead now enclosed by the Dilmore Lane development. The remnants of open field systems can also be seen along the east of the Development Site (WSM40799, 40800).

The development of the Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway (WSM31664, 31665, 71948) in 1854 is reputed to have contributed to the renaming of the parish. The name Fernhill Heath was adopted in 1883; prior to that it had been known as Vernall Heath in the 18th century, and Fearnall Heath in the early 19th century. All trains to Worcester were stopped at 'Fearnall Heath' for ticket checks and it is reputed that local wits began referring to the village as 'Infernal Heath', prompting the change of name to the more respectable Fernhill Heath (Lawley 2007).

2.6 Previous archaeological work on the site

A geophysical survey and evaluation by Wessex Archaeology (2014) incorporated the southernmost 150m of the site, recording ridge and furrow, and post-medieval to modern ditches and trackways.

A further geophysical survey, of the site and the land immediately adjacent to the north, was undertaken in advance of this evaluation (SUMO 2023). This revealed two adjoining rectilinear enclosures and a possible associated trackway, along with a further irregular enclosure and possible curvilinear ditches. These were all recorded on the land to the north of the site. The anomalies recorded within the site itself are indicative of former field boundaries and ridge and furrow.

3 Project aims

The aims and scope of the project are to undertake sufficient fieldwork to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits beyond reasonable doubt;
- identify their location, nature date and preservation;
- assess their significance;
- assess the likely impact of the proposed development.

4 Project methodology

A WSI was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2023). Fieldwork was undertaken between 4 and 19 December 2024.

Thirty-four trenches, amounting to c 3,060m², were excavated over the 7.9ha site, representing a sample of just under 4%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

The trenches were laid out on a rough grid array with some positioned to interrogate geophysical anomalies. Trenches 8, 14-16, 24, and 25 were positioned over linear anomalies. Trench 7 was shifted northwards by 3m to avoid a buried drain, whilst trench 31 was shortened to 37m due to a flooded area at the north-eastern end of the trench. Trench 26 was not excavated after consultation with the Archaeology and Planning Advisor due to access constraints.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under constant archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012) and trench and feature locations were surveyed using a GNSS device with an accuracy limit set at <0.04m. On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was undertaken through a combination of structural, artefactual and environmental evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Worcestershire Archaeology. Subject to the agreement of the landowner it is anticipated that it will be deposited at Worcestershire Museum.

5 Archaeological results

5.1 Introduction

The features recorded in the trenches are shown in Figures 2-7 and Plates 1-17. The trench and context inventory is presented in Appendix 1.

5.2 Trench descriptions

5.2.1 Natural deposits across the site

The natural strata varied across the site. In the main, it was a mid reddish brown clay with occasional gravel and cobble patches, but there were bands of soft sand present. These were notably in Trenches 5 and 6, though there were smaller patches in the eastern side of the site.

5.2.2 Trench 1

Trench 1 was excavated to a depth of 1.20m before the natural strata was encountered. This depth, coupled with the very wet conditions, meant that safe access was very limited and so only a rapid survey of the trench was possible. Three features of Roman date were identified beneath layers of alluvium/colluvium, but none were hand excavated. Ditches 113 and 115 ran parallel to each other, aligned north-west to south-east, and were c 0.6m wide (41.25m AOD). Roman pottery was recovered from the top of both features, with some wood also preserved in 112, the fill of ditch 113. It was not possible to determine the species ID or whether the wood had been worked, though the fragment recovered was not a root. Between these linear features was a curvilinear gully that may represent a drip gully of a roundhouse. No dating was recovered from this feature and the relationships with the other two ditches were not clear.

Sealing the linear features was a blue clay deposit of either alluvium or colluvium (104). It is not clear which process was responsible for the formation, as the trench is located at the bottom of a steep slope next to a brook. This layer was 0.16m thick and was present across the length of the trench. Fragments of wood was present in this layer, though it was not possible to recover them as the trench had become unsafe. Two further colluvial deposits were present above layer 104; 103 was a light pinkish grey clay 0.2m thick with layer 102 overlaying it, being a brownish grey sandy clay 0.45m thick. Deposit 103 contained Roman pottery dating to the 2nd-late 3rd century AD.

The subsoil present was 0.3m thick and was itself derived from an earlier colluviation. It was sealed by a dark grey brown sandy silt topsoil, 0.35m thick.

5.2.3 Trench 2

A pair of small intercutting pits was excavated at the southern end of the trench, with pit 204 cutting 206. Both were filled with grey brown sandy silts, to a depth of 0.65m, and with Middle Iron Age pottery recovered from 205, the fill of 204.

A subsoil 0.08m thick sealed the pits, which in turn was covered by a topsoil 0.15m thick.

5.2.4 Trench 3

Trench 3 had an abundance of features, being a mix of ditches and pits. Of the twelve potential features identified, four were excavated. At the western end were intercutting ditches 316 and 326 (at 43.96m AOD). Both were aligned north to south, with 316 1.30m wide and 0.69m deep. It contained four fills, all seemingly derived from low energy deposition of surrounding material, with the possible exception of the upper fill, which may have been intentionally placed to close off the ditch. No pottery or other dateable material was recovered from these fills. Ditch 316 was truncated on its western side by ditch 326. This was larger, at 3.30m wide and 0.96m deep. It contained eight fills, with deposits formed by the low energy movements of clays and silts, interspersed with thin bands of dark charcoal-rich silts, suggesting periodic dumping of domestic waste following the ditch's abandonment.

Several of the fills from ditch 326 contained pottery, with the basal fill 325 yielding two sherds of Roman fabric, whilst fills 320 and 321 had pottery dating from the mid-1st to 2nd century and 2nd to 3rd century respectively. Alongside this solidly Roman material were a number of sherds of late Iron Age to early Romano-British pottery, suggesting some span of time to the exploitation of the landscape.

Wide but shallow pit 304 lay to the east of ditch 316, 1.62m in length, 0.60m wide and 0.14m deep, lying at 43.21m AOD. It contained ten sherds of pottery, mainly Roman in date, with one piece of late Iron Age or Romano-British fabric. This was one of four small pits in a cluster (331-333), with an unexcavated linear feature to its east (334). A spread of material (330) c 4m wide lay between ditch 316 and the cluster of pits (331-333). This may represent a pit and ditch relationship but was unclear due to the ground conditions.

Another shallow pit was 307, 1.72m wide and 0.25m deep, which was cut at its southern end by posthole 311. Neither of these contained any datable evidence but are considered likely to be Roman in origin. A further posthole or small pit, 309, was located immediately to the south of 311, with a narrow spread of material that might represent a further pit feature on the northern edge of the trench (335). An unexcavated oval shaped pit, 336, lay at the eastern end of the trench.

5.2.5 Trench 4

No archaeological features were present within Trench 4 but a probable palaeochannel was identified running roughly north-east to south-west in the southern half of the trench. This was c 13m wide and 0.78m deep and filled with a reddish brown coarse sand. It was sealed by a subsoil 0.18m thick and a topsoil 0.2m thick.

5.2.6 Trench 11

Trench 11 was deeper at the western end (at 0.86m) before shallowing out slightly to the east (0.67m). The natural ground was a mid brownish red clay with pockets of gravel throughout. A small irregularly shaped pit was excavated at the western end (1105). This was 1.48m long and 0.50m wide, and only 0.12m deep, with a single fill that produced no datable remains. Its function is uncertain. A thin layer of blue clay, probably of colluvial formation (1103) appeared to seal the pit. This was 0.12m thick, and was itself sealed by a thick subsoil up to 0.42m thick. A topsoil 0.32m thick covered the trench.

5.2.7 Trench 12

Similar to Trench 4, no archaeological features were identified but a probable palaeochannel was present (1205) at the northern end of the trench. This was 16m wide and filled with a blueish brown silty clay, at least 0.50m deep. A greenish brown colluvium lay across the length of the trench, up to 0.4m thick, which in turn was sealed by a subsoil c 0.36m thick. A topsoil 0.30m thick sealed that.

5.2.8 Trench 13

A single small pit, 1304, was located at the western end of the trench, lying at 39.30m AOD. It was 0.47m wide by 0.56m long and 0.22m deep, containing no dateable material. It was sealed beneath a subsoil 0.1m thick and a subsequent topsoil 0.28m thick.

5.2.9 Trench 15

An east to west aligned ditch, 1506, was excavated in the southern half of the trench, lying at 40.40m AOD. It was 2.80m wide and 0.55m deep, with a moderate southern edge and a long shallow northern edge. It contained two fills of silty sands derived from low energy processes. No finds were recovered.

The ditch was sealed by a subsoil 0.15m thick, in turn sealed by topsoil 0.34m thick.

5.2.10 Trench 21

A single north to south aligned ditch (2106) was present in this trench. It was 1.70m wide and 0.42m deep. It contained two fills, the upper of which contained a fragment of post-medieval tile (2104). The ditch cut through the subsoil, which was 0.15m thick, and was sealed by a 0.33m thick topsoil.

The ditch aligns with unexcavated features in Trenches 17 and 20, and is considered to be of post-medieval or later date.

5.2.11 Trench 23

Two features were recorded in Trench 23; an east to west ditch (2306) that aligns with the ditch excavated in Trench 15, and a tree bole pit, 2308. Ditch 2306 was of similar dimensions and depositional sequence to 1506, but was also undated. It was sealed by the subsoil, 0.20m thick.

5.2.12 Trench 24

A shallow ditch, 2404, measuring 1.50m wide and 0.40m deep, cut through the subsoil in Trench 24. It was aligned east to west and contained no datable material. The subsoil was 0.22m thick and was sealed by a topsoil 0.2m thick.

5.2.13 Trench 30

Trench 30 was up to 0.90m deep, with a blue grey clay colluvium lying over the natural stratum of yellow clay. This colluvium, 3004, was 0.20m thick and contained a fragment of Severn Valley ware pottery. A small pit, 3006, was sealed by it. The pit was 0.54m wide and 0.12m deep. It contained no dateable material. A subsoil 0.35m thick sealed the colluvium 3004, and was in turn sealed by a topsoil 0.30m thick.

5.2.14 Trench 33

A single narrow ditch was excavated in this trench (3311). It was 1m wide and 0.35m deep, and cut the subsoil. That subsoil was 0.16m thick, and was sealed by a topsoil 0.34m thick.

5.2.15 Trench 35

Trench 35 contained four linear features. At the western end, gullies 3521 and 3523 ran perpendicular to each other, with an undefined relationship. They were of similar size and profile, c 0.80m wide and 0.25m deep with moderately sloping sides and a rounded concave base. Neither contained any datable material, though 3523 was sealed beneath the subsoil and it is presumed that 3521 was also.

Ditch 3519 was a north to south aligned feature, with steep straight sides and a V-shaped profile, lying at 42.28m AOD. It is 1.45m wide and 0.82m deep. There were five fills, showing distinct episodes of silting. The final fill may represent intentional closure. No finds were recovered from the fills, but it is sealed by the subsoil and has a different profile to any of the post-medieval ditches that have been identified on the site.

The final feature was a very shallow and irregular linear gully, comprised of two possible iterations, 3511 and 3513. These measured c 0.40m wide and 0.16m deep each, with no relationship discernible. They were undated.

The 0.12m thick subsoil sealed the archaeological features, in turn sealed by a topsoil 0.20m thick.

5.2.16 Blank trenches

These trenches were either blank or only contained furrows or modern drainage trenches:

5-10, 14, 16-20, 22, 25, 27-29, 31-32, 34.

6 Artefactual evidence

by Samantha Elwell

6.1 Introduction

The artefact report conforms to standards and guidance issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014), as well as further guidance on pottery analysis, archive creation and museum deposition created by various pottery study groups (PCRG/SGRP/MPRG 2016), the Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF 2011), and the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA 1993).

6.2 Aims

This assessment aimed to identify, sort, spot date, and quantify all artefacts and describe the range of artefacts present. The information has been used to provide an analysis of the significance of the artefacts.

6.3 Methodology

6.3.1 Recovery policy

Artefacts were recovered according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012).

The majority of artefacts collected in the field were recovered by hand but a small quantity of further material was retrieved from environmental samples. None were worthy of comment and have not been included.

6.3.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. This date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on a Microsoft Access 2007 database, with tables generated using Microsoft Excel.

The pottery was examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992; WAAS 2017). Pottery sherds that could not be identified or were too small to be identified accurately by fabric, were grouped under a miscellaneous category by broad period.

Artefacts from environmental samples were examined but none were worthy of comment and so are not included below.

Where possible, the results from analysis of this assemblage have been compared to assemblages from other local and regional sites.

6.3.3 Discard policy

Artefacts from topsoil and subsoil and unstratified contexts will normally be noted but not retained, unless they are of intrinsic interest (e.g. worked flint or flint debitage, featured pottery sherds, and other potential 'registered artefacts'). Large assemblages of post-medieval or modern material, unless there is some special reason to retain (such as local production), may be noted and not retained, or, if appropriate, a representative sample will be retained. Discard of finds from post-medieval and earlier deposits will only be instituted with reference to museum collection policy and/or with agreement of the local museum.

6.4 Results

The results are summarised in Tables 1-3.

The assemblage totalled 86 finds weighing 2.11kg (see Table 1). Finds came from eighteen stratified contexts and could be dated from the Middle Iron Age to post-medieval period.

The results below provide a summary of the finds and of their associated location or contexts by period. Where possible, dates have been allocated, and the importance of individual finds commented upon as necessary.

Using pottery as an index of artefact condition this was generally variable, with a high average sherd weight of 24g, indicating little post depositional disturbance.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight (g)
Middle Iron Age	ceramic		pot	2	18
LIA/ERB	ceramic		pot	18	418
Roman	ceramic		pot	47	1217
Medieval	ceramic		tile	6	29
Post-medieval	ceramic		pot	1	3
Post-medieval	ceramic		tile	2	141
Post-medieval/modern	ceramic		pot	1	46
undated	ceramic		fired clay	1	11
undated	ceramic		pot	1	3
undated	slag		slag	6	207
undated	stone	flint	natural	1	17
totals				86	2110g

Table 1 Quantification of site assemblage

6.4.1 Summary of artefacts by period

Later prehistoric

Pottery

Two sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery in a shell and sand tempered fabric (4.4) were identified from context (205).

Late Iron Age to Early Roman

Pottery

Eighteen sherds of cooking pots and possible bowls were identified in handmade Malvernian ware (fabric 3).

Roman

Pottery

Roman pottery was predominantly represented by locally made Severn Valley wares (fabric 12, 12.1, 12.2); two wide-mouthed jar rims were identified (Webster types 22 and 23) providing a date range of 2nd to 3rd century AD for contexts 103 and 321. Small sherds of regional and imported wares, including Black-burnished ware (fabric 22) and samian ware (fabric 43), were also identified.

The pottery varied in levels of surface abrasion while retaining a higher than average sherd weight. Mending holes were identified on two sherds of the Severn Valley ware.

Medieval

Tile

Six fragments of tile were identified from context 302.

Post-medieval

Pottery

Pottery included a small, hard and micaceous sherd which resembled plant pot fabric (fabric 100). One sherd of Worcester porcelain (fabric 83.1; context 3402) is of a type commonly found on agricultural land surrounding the city, as it would become incorporated into midden heaps and so spread about as a result of manuring (Laura Griffin, pers comm).

Tile

Tile of this period was limited to two pieces weighing 141g.

Undated

One piece of fired clay and six pieces of slag constituted the undated material.

broad period	fabric code	fabric common name	count	weight (g)
Middle Iron Age	4.4	Shell and sand	2	18
Late Iron Age/Early Roman	3	Malvernian ware	18	418
Roman	12	Severn Valley ware	32	847
Roman	12.1	Reduced Severn Valley ware	1	47
Roman	12.2	Oxidised organically tempered Severn Valley ware	10	295
Roman	22	Black-burnished ware, type 1 (BB1)	1	4
Roman	43	Samian ware	2	3
Roman	98	Miscellaneous Roman wares	1	21
Post-medieval	100	Miscellaneous post-medieval wares	1	3
Post-medieval/modern	83.1	Worcester porcelain	1	46

Table 2 Quantification of pottery assemblage by fabric

context	material class	object specific type	count	weight (g)	start date	end date	period	TPQ
103	ceramic	pot	2	51	2 nd C	L3 rd C	Roman	2 nd - late 3 rd century AD
113	ceramic	pot	7	580			Roman	Roman
115	ceramic	pot	1	10			Roman	Roman
205	ceramic	pot	2	18			Middle Iron Age	Middle Iron Age
302	ceramic	pot	2	12			Roman	Medieval
	ceramic	tile	6	29			medieval	

305	ceramic	pot	1	3			undated	Roman
	ceramic	pot	1	4			Roman	
	ceramic	pot	1	26			LIA/ERB	
	ceramic	pot	3	45			Roman	
	ceramic	pot	1	47			Roman	
	ceramic	pot	1	4			Roman	
	ceramic	pot	2	3			Roman	
318	ceramic	pot	1	8			Roman	Roman
	ceramic	pot	1	8			Roman	
	ceramic	pot	1	21			Roman	
	slag	slag	1	43			undated	
320	ceramic	pot	6	34			LIA/ERB	Roman
	ceramic	pot	2	56	m1 C	4 C	Roman	
	ceramic	pot	2	50	m1 C	2 C	Roman	
	ceramic	pot	1	3			post-medieval	
	slag	slag	1	38			undated	
321	ceramic	pot	7	114			LIA/ERB	Roman
	ceramic	pot	3	17			Roman	
	ceramic	pot	2	75	2 nd C	3 rd C	Roman	
323	ceramic	pot	4	244			LIA/ERB	Roman
	ceramic	pot	10	64			Roman	
	slag	slag	4	126			undated	
324	ceramic	pot	1	14			Roman	Roman
325	ceramic	pot	2	120			Roman	Roman
2104	ceramic	tile	1	82			post-medieval	post-medieval
3004	ceramic	pot	2	28			Roman	Roman
3402	ceramic	pot	1	46			post-medieval/modern	post-medieval
	ceramic	tile	1	59			post-medieval	

3504	stone	natural flint	1	17			undated	undated
3520	ceramic	fired clay	1	11			undated	undated

Table 3 Summary of context dating based on artefacts

6.5 Discussion

This site assemblage is typical for a rural site in Worcestershire, but remains significant, as previous excavations in the immediate area have not produced any archaeological material (Wessex Archaeology 2014).

6.6 Significance and recommendations

Should a further stage of fieldwork take place these artefacts should be retained for inclusion with the latter archive. The assemblage should be retained due to a lack of significant archaeological material found in the area previously.

7 Environmental evidence

by Elizabeth Pearson, MCIfA

7.1 Introduction

The environmental project conforms to guidance by ClfA (2023a and b) on archaeological evaluation, further guidance by English Heritage (2011) and the Association for Environmental Archaeology (1995).

7.2 Methodology

7.2.1 Sampling policy

Samples were taken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (2012). A total of four samples (of 10 litres) were taken from the site (Table 4).

7.2.2 Processing and analysis

The samples were processed by flotation using a Siraf tank. The flots were collected on a 300µm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residues were scanned by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammer scale. The flots were scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology, and a seed identification manual (Cappers *et al* 2012). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (2010).

7.2.3 Animal bone

Animal bone was identified with the aid of modern bone reference collections housed at the Worcestershire Archaeology offices and identification guides (Schmid 1972 and Hillson 1992). It was quantified according to weight (g) and count and tabulated by context.

Context	Sample	Fill of	Description	Period	Sample volume (L)	Volume processed (L)	Residue assessed	Flot assessed
205	1	204	Fill of pit [204]	Middle Iron Age	10	10	Yes	Yes
318	2	326	Fill of ditch [326]	Roman	10	10	Yes	Yes
1204	4	1205	Fill of paleochanel [1205]	Undated	10	10	Yes	Yes
3516	3	3519	Fill of ditch [3519]	Undated	10	10	Yes	Yes

Table 4: List of bulk samples

7.2.4 Discard policy

Remaining soil sample and residues (post scanning) will be discarded after a period of three months following submission of this report unless there is a specific request to retain them. No retention of flots and sorted remains from bulk samples, and hand-collected animal bone is recommended.

7.3 Results

7.3.1 Charred plant macrofossils and wood

The results are summarised in Tables 5 and 6.

Middle Iron Age

Environmental remains were poorly preserved in Middle Iron Age and Roman deposits, consisting of only occasional charred grains of free-threshing wheat in fill 205 of pit 204.

Roman

A single charred grain of annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*), which may have been a weed of cereal grain or crop waste, was noted in fill 318 in ditch 326.

A sample of waterlogged wood fragments from fill 114 of ditch 115 was unidentifiable, but demonstrate the potential for waterlogged remains to survive in this area of the site.

Uncharred remains from both phases, consisting of mainly root fragments are assumed to be modern and intrusive as they are unlikely to have survived in the soils on site for long without charring or waterlogging.

Context	Sample	Large mammal	Insect	Charcoal	Charred plant	Unch*	Artefacts	Comments
205	1	occ		mod	occ	occ	occ pot, fired clay	
318	2	occ*		occ	occ	occ	occ fired clay, pot, heat-cracked stones	*burnt
1204	4		occ	occ		occ		

3516	3	occ*		occ		occ	occ heat-cracked stone	*tooth
------	---	------	--	-----	--	-----	------------------------	--------

Table 5: Summary of environmental remains; occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant, * = probably modern and intrusive, ** = oyster shell/fragments/burnt bone

Context	Sample	Preservation type	Species detail	Category remains	Quantity/diversity
205	1	ch	<i>Triticum</i> sp (free-threshing) grain	grain	+/low
205	1	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low
205	1	unch*	unidentified root fragments (herbaceous)	misc	+/low
318	2	ch	<i>Poa annua</i> grain	grain	+/low
318	2	unch*	<i>Rubus</i> sp, Caryophyllaceae sp indet, <i>Carex</i> sp (3-sided) nutlets	seed	+/low
318	2	unch*	unidentified stem fragments, unidentified root fragments (herbaceous)	misc	+/low
1204	4	unch*	unidentified root fragments (herbaceous), unidentified herbaceous fragments	misc	+/low
3516	3	unch*	unidentified stem fragments, unidentified root fragments (herbaceous), unidentified herbaceous fragments	misc	+/low

Table 6: Plant remains from bulk samples

Key:

preservation	quantity
ch = charred	+ = 1 - 10
unch*= waterlogged or uncharred	++ = 11- 50
	+++ = 51 - 100
	++++ = 101+
	* = probably modern and intrusive

7.3.2 Animal bone

A small assemblage totalling six fragments (16g) was hand-collected during fieldwork (Table 7). These were mostly unidentifiable due to their small size, providing no definitive information on butchery, age and pathology. One bone showed evidence of weathering and one of burning. No further work was considered necessary on this assemblage.

ext	Description	Provisional date	Taxa	Count	Weight (g)	Ageable bones/teeth	Measurable bones	Butchery types	Pathology	Weathering	Burning	Comments
320	Fill of ditch [326]	Roman		2	3	No	No	n/a	No	Yes	No	Slight mottling from waterlogging
323	Fill of ditch [326]	Roman	Medium mammal	1	5	No	No	n/a	No	No	No	rib?
324	Fill of ditch [326]	Roman		1	2	No	No	n/a	No	No	Yes	
325	Fill of ditch [326]	Roman		1	4	No	No	n/a	No	No	No	
3504	Fill of furrows [3505]	?Medieval		1	2	No	No	n/a	No	No	No	
Totals				6	16							

Table 7: Hand-collected animal bone

7.4 Discussion

The small quantities of charred cereal crop debris is not unexpected as the site is located on soils of low fertility, hence the farming economy is not likely to have been predominantly arable in character. The potential for recovering assemblages of charred cereal crop remains, which would be of significance for analysis, is considered to be low on this site. The limited animal bone recovery may also have been a factor of local soil as animal bone is often not well preserved in slightly acid soil conditions.

7.5 Significance

The environmental remains are of negligible significance, all being products present in small quantities or the result of modern/intrusive activity.

7.6 Recommendations

7.6.1 Further analysis

No further work is recommended on the remains from bulk samples and hand-collected animal bone. Targeted sampling of waterlogged deposits is recommended should further fieldwork take place.

8 Discussion

The results of the evaluation demonstrate localised areas of significant archaeological activity, with large parts of the site revealing only medieval or later agricultural remains, either furrows or old field boundaries. Where more significant archaeological remains were encountered, they were sealed beneath the subsoil, usually between 0.40-0.5m below the current ground level, though in places the overburden was much greater, up to 1m below the surface. Conversely, those features in Trench 3 were under the least amount of modern soils, being no more than 0.35m below. This may be a reflection of later agricultural practices, as no furrows were encountered in that part of the site.

The Iron Age and Roman activity that is present in the western part of the site, specifically in Trenches 1-3, is probably associated with the cropmark enclosures identified immediately to the north. The density of features in Trench 3, and the subsequent paucity of remains to the south and east, may indicate a southern extent for the activity relating to the western most cropmark enclosure. Topographically, the ground drops off to the south, towards the brook at the base of the slope, with the features in Trench 3 lying on the edge of a slight plateau.

The presence of both Middle Iron Age and Roman features is indicative of prolonged exploitation of the landscape, possibly with continuity of settlement throughout. The well-preserved sherds of Late Iron Age pottery that was recovered from ditch 326, alongside 1st to 3rd century Roman pottery reinforces such a hypothesis.

The features identified, albeit briefly, in Trench 1 demonstrate the amount of alluvial/colluvial formation since the Roman period. The presence of wood from within the Roman features and overlying colluvial deposits demonstrates the environmental potential of that part of the site.

The lack of any archaeological features in Trench 6 may indicate a southern limit to the activity relating to the eastern of the two cropmarks enclosures, with no further features of note recorded in the field directly south of the trench either.

The ditches that were identified as being sealed by the subsoil in the eastern part of the site, whilst undated, are considered likely to be of Roman or earlier date, and may represent field boundaries away from the focus of settlement. Ditch 3519 may be an exception to this, as though it did not contain any artefacts, it was of a different form and profile to any of the other ditches on this part of the site. Further, the depositional sequence was more varied, showing a greater amount of seasonal in-wash.

The ditch in Trenches 17, 20, and 21 aligns well with a field boundary present on the 1843 Tithe Map, as does ditch 2404 to a different boundary. The undated pits that were excavated in the central and eastern part of the site are difficult to assess, but were often isolated and irregular in shape.

Only the more recent features, those of medieval or later date, were present as anomalies in the geophysical survey, so the results of that survey should not be considered an accurate representation of the archaeological potential of the site.

9 Significance

The archaeological remains identified in the evaluation are of varying significance. The Iron Age and Roman activity on the western side of the site may be considered of regional significance, offering as it does the opportunity to investigate the possible continuity of rural settlement from the later prehistoric into the Roman period (White and Hodder 2018, 12).

The undated but pre-medieval ditches (those that were sealed by the subsoil) that were present in the south and east of the site are considered to be of local significance, likely to be elements of a prehistoric or Roman agricultural landscape.

The remnant furrows and post-medieval field boundaries are of negligible significance, reflecting the agricultural regime of more recent times.

10 Summary and conclusions

Thirty-four trenches were excavated across the site, revealing a number of pits and ditches. On the western side of the site these were generally dated to the mid-1st to 3rd century AD, with two pits dating to the Middle Iron Age. In the central and eastern parts of the site were several undated pits and ditches which were sealed beneath the subsoil, indicating a probable pre-medieval date. The Iron Age and Roman features are considered to be of possible regional significance, whilst the undated features, specifically the ditches, are of local significance and probably represent agricultural activity.

The remainder of the features were medieval or later furrows and field boundaries, of negligible significance.

Minimal charred cereal crop and weed remains were recovered from the Middle Iron Age and Roman features investigated, although there is considered to be a good potential for environmental remains in deposits sealed by alluvium/colluvium.

This artefactual assemblage is typical for a rural Middle Iron Age and Roman site in Worcestershire, but remains significant, as previous excavations in the immediate area have not produced any archaeological material.

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved. Conditions were suitable in most of the trenches to identify the presence or absence of archaeological features, although the rapid ingress of water into Trench 1 impeded the recording. It is considered that the nature, density and distribution of archaeological features provides an accurate characterisation of the development site as a whole.

11 Project personnel

The fieldwork was led by Peter Lovett, ACIfA, assisted by Sophie Hobday.

The project was managed by Tom Vaughan, MCIfA. The report was produced and collated by Peter Lovett. Specialist contributions and individual sections of the report are attributed to the relevant authors throughout the text.

12 Acknowledgements

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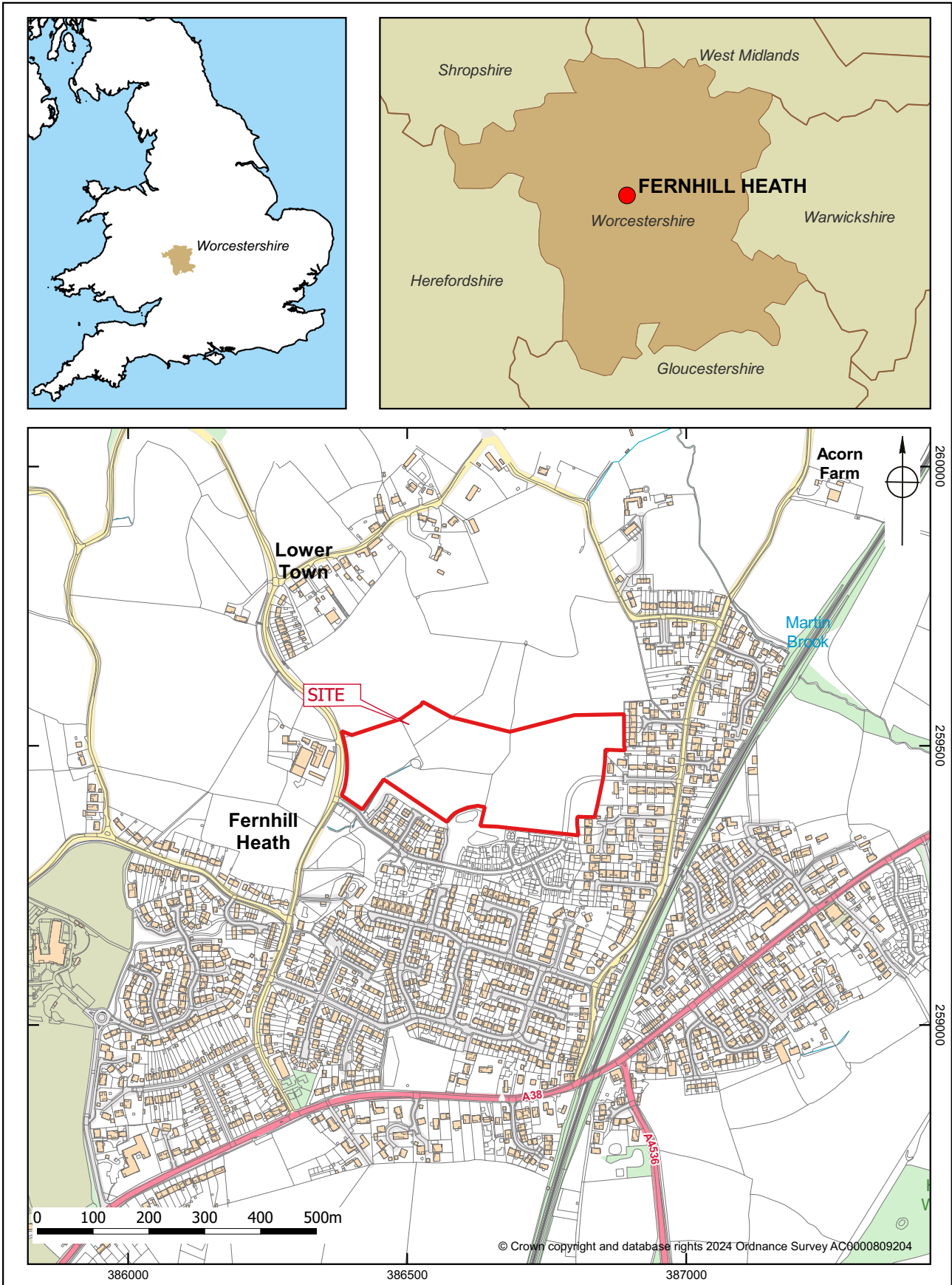
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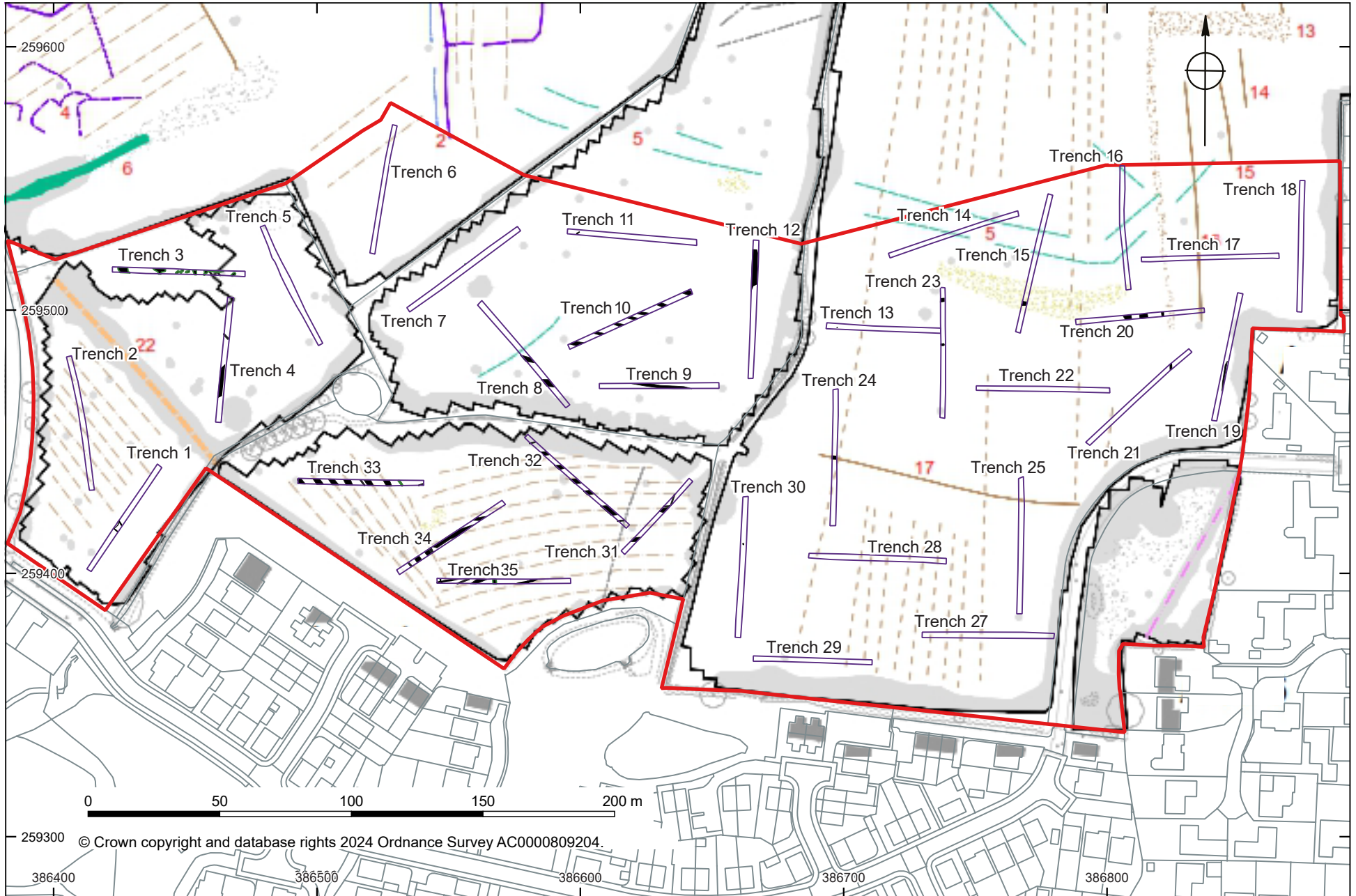
Figures

By Laura Templeton, MCIfA



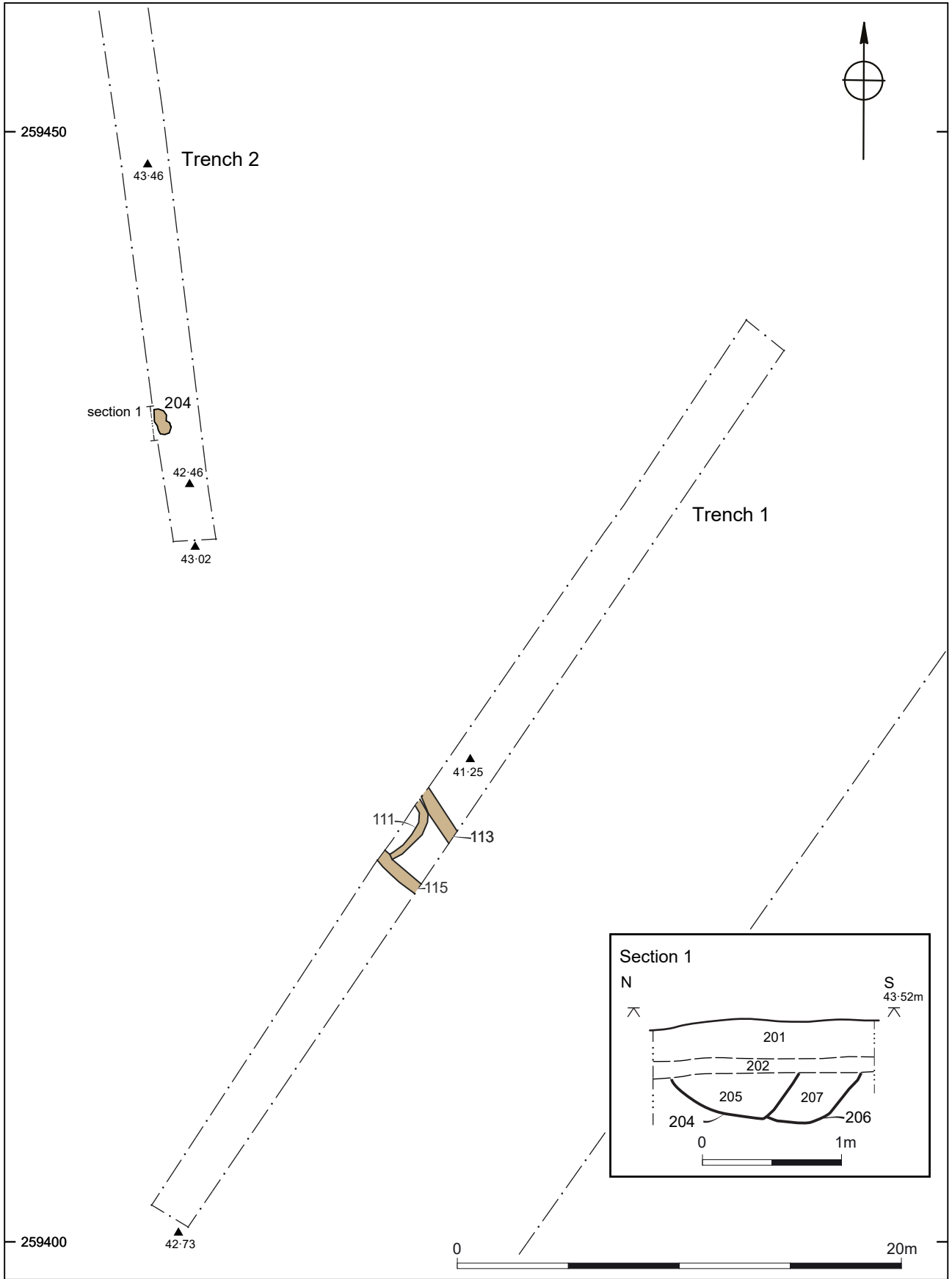
Location of Site

Figure 1



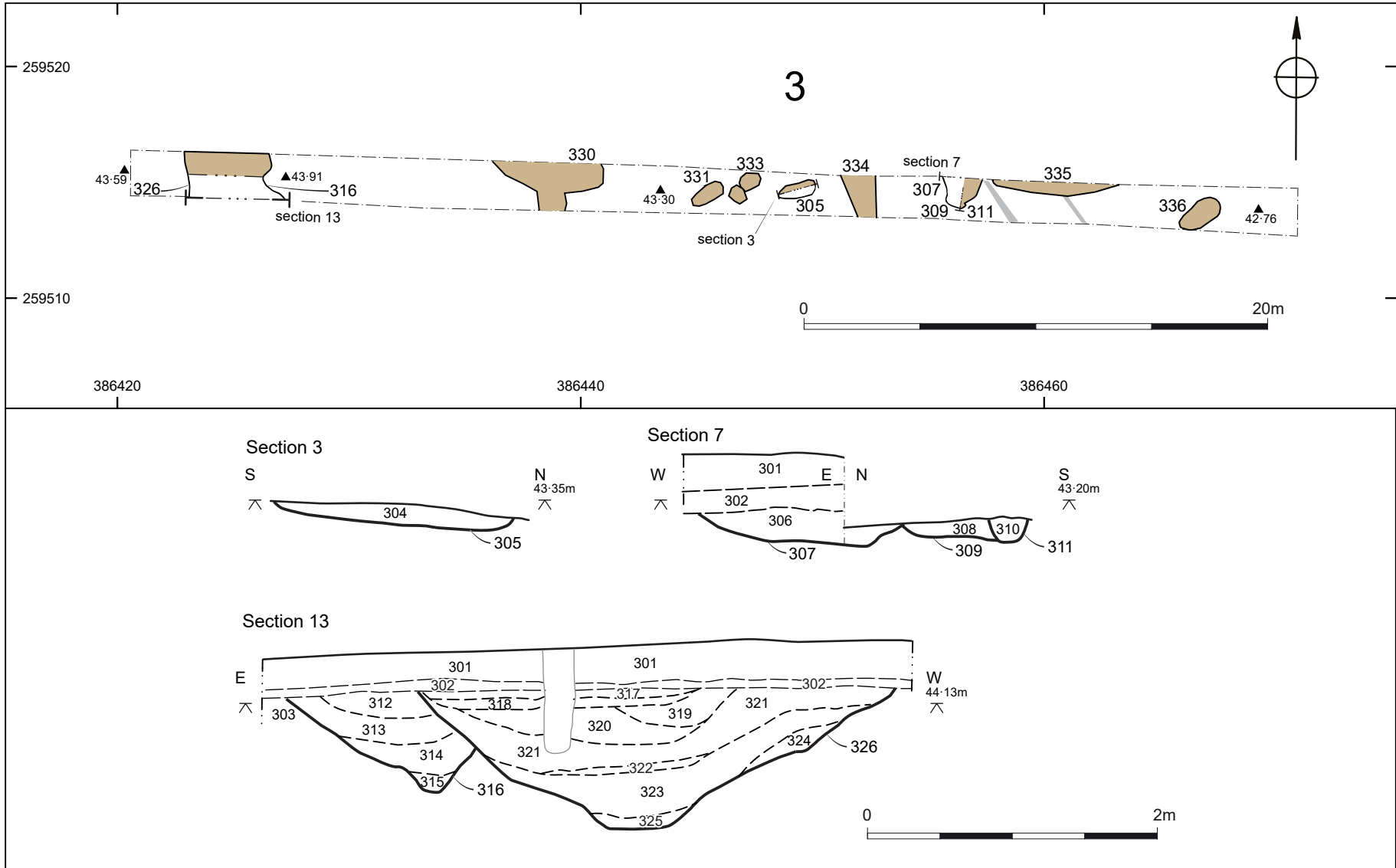
Trench Plan shown over the geophysical survey.

Figure 2



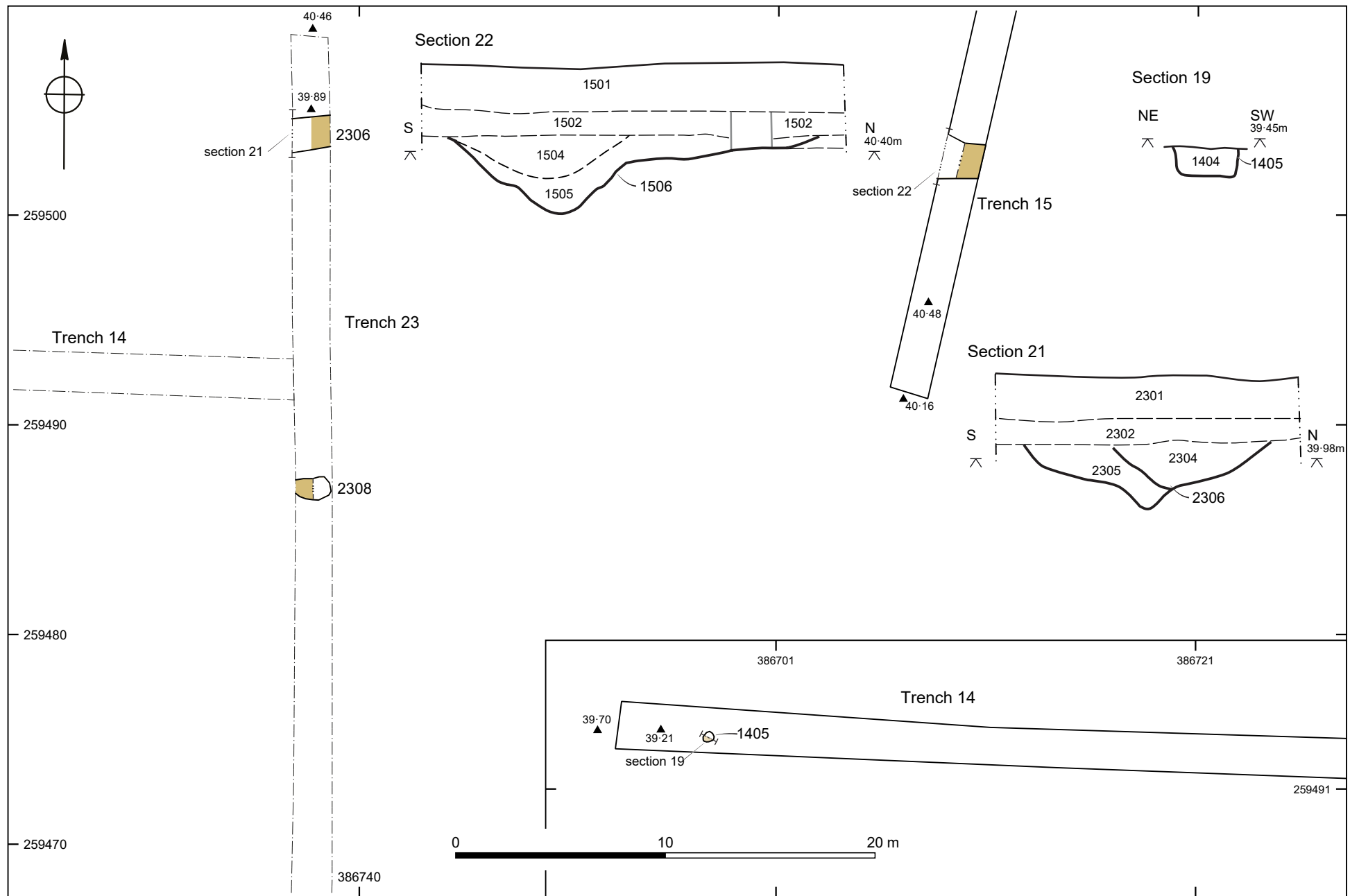
Trench 1 and 2 features

Figure 3



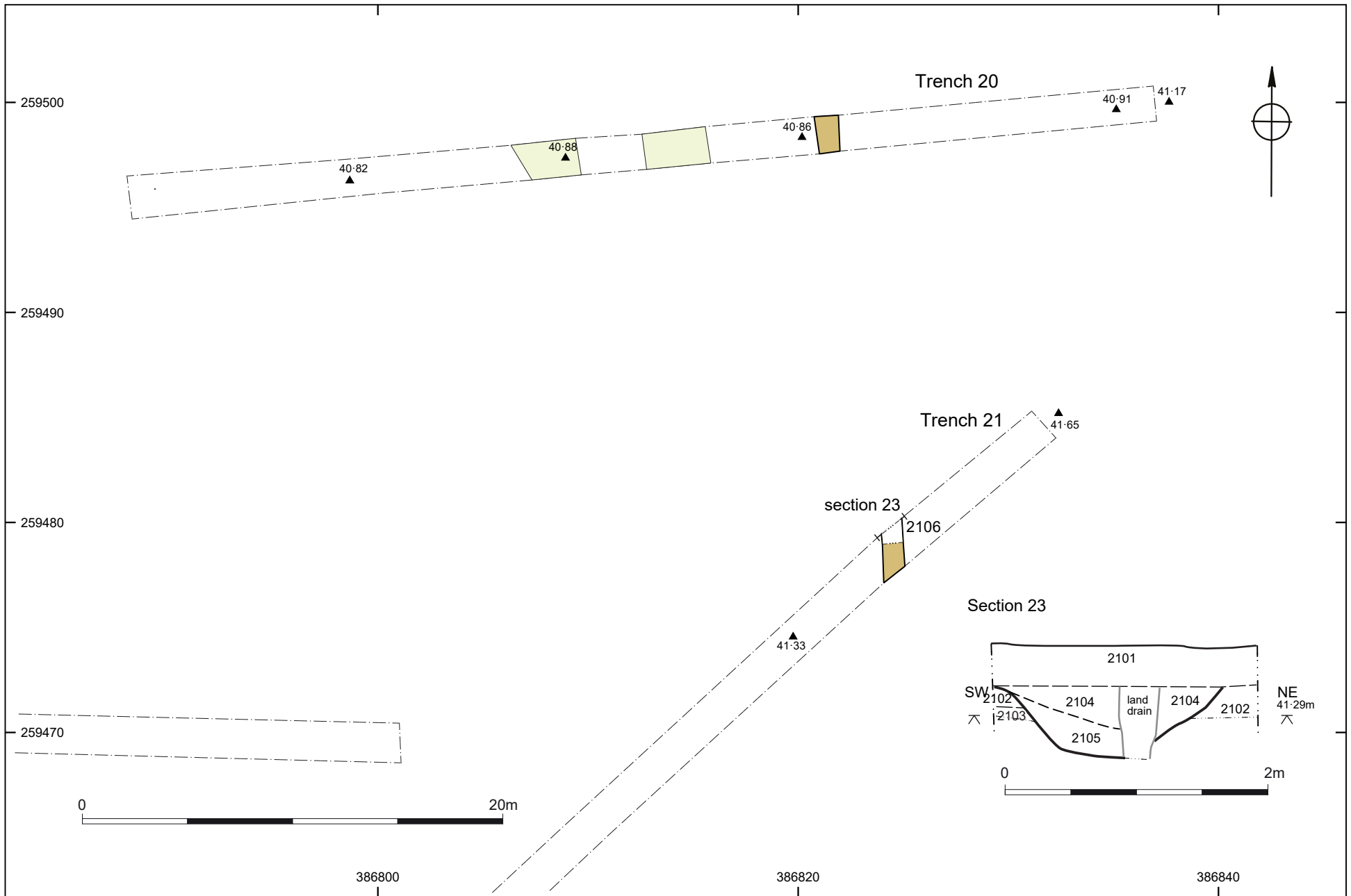
Trench 3 Plan and features

Figure 4



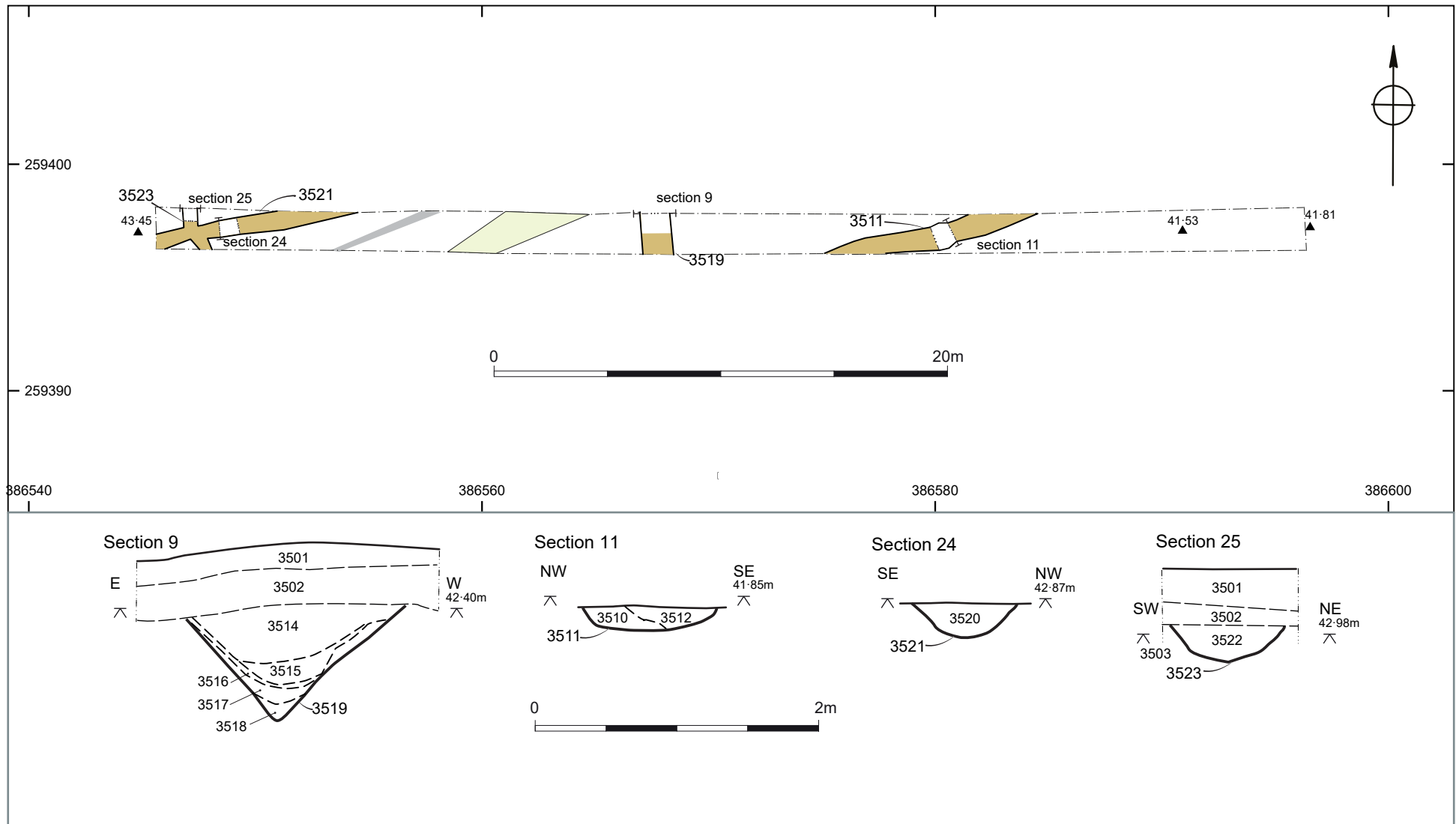
Trenches 14, 15 and 23 plan and sections

Figure 5



Trenches 20 and 21 plan and section

Figure 6



Trench 35 plan and sections

Figure 7

Plates



Plate 1 Trench 1 general shot showing conditions, 1m scale, looking north-east



Plate 2 Section of Trench 1, showing depth and profile of soil formation, 2x 1m scales, looking north-west



Plate 3 Ditch 115 in foreground with curvilinear feature 111 above, 2x 1m scales, looking north-east



Plate 4 Pits 204 and 206 in Trench 2, 1m scale, looking west



Plate 5 Ditch 326 in Trench 3, looking south, 2x 1m scales



Plate 6 Pit 305 in Trench 3, 1m scale looking north



Plate 7 Pit 307, Trench 3, 1m scale, looking east



Plate 8 Section of Trench 4, showing soil profile, 1m scale, looking east



Plate 9 Posthole 1304, 0.40m scale, looking south-east



Plate 10 Ditch 1506, looking west, 2x 1m scales



Plate 11 Ditch 2106, looking north-west, 1m scale



Plate 12 Ditch 2306, looking west, 1m scale



Plate 13 Ditch 2404, Trench 24, looking east, 1m scale



Plate 14 Ditch 3311, Trench 33, looking south, 1m scale



Plate 15 Ditch 3519 in Trench 35, looking north, 1m scale



Plate 16 Ditch 3521, looking west, 1m scale



Plate 17 Ditch 3523, looking north, 1m scale

Appendix 1: Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation: NE-SW	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
100	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 1	0.35 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
101	Deposit	Colluvium of Trench 1	0.30 (avg.)	Compaction: firm Colour: light brownish pink Composition: clay	
102	Deposit	Colluvium of Trench 1	0.45 (avg.)	Compaction: firm Colour: brownish grey Composition: clay	
103	Deposit	Colluvium of Trench 1	0.20 (avg.)	Compaction: firm Colour: light pinkish grey Composition: clay	
104	Deposit	Natural of Trench 1		Compaction: firm Colour: mid blue Composition: clay	
110	Fill	Fill of ditch [111]		Compaction: wet, friable Colour: dark brownish grey Composition: pebbly clay	
111	Cut	Cut of ditch			
112	Fill	Fill of ditch			
113	Cut	Cut of ditch			
114	Fill	Fill of pit			
115	Cut	Cut of pit			

Trench 2

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation: NW-SE	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
201	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 2	0.15 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
202	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 2	0.08 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: silty clay	
203	Deposit	Natural of Trench 2		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay	
204	Cut	Cut of pit	0.32	Shape in plan: regular, oval Break at top: sharp Sides: moderate, straight Break at base: gradual Base: flat	
205	Fill	Fill of pit [204]	0.32	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
206	Cut	Cut of pit	0.36	Shape in plan: regular, circular Break at top: sharp Sides: steep, straight Break at base: gradual Base: rounded	
207	Fill	Fill of pit [204]	0.36	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: dark greyish black Composition: sandy silt	

Trench 3

Length: 30		Width: 1.8		Orientation: N-S	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
301	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 3	0.21 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
302	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 3	0.18	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid	

			(avg.)	reddish brown Composition: medium clayey sand
303	Deposit	Natural of Trench 3	0.16 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay
304	Cut	Cut of pit	0.14	Shape in plan: regular, suboval Break at top: sharp Sides: moderate, concave Break at base: gradual Base: rounded
305	Fill	Fill of pit [304]	0.14	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: mid greyish brown Composition: sandy silt
306	Fill	Fill of pit [307]	0.25	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid yellowish grey Composition: sandy silt
307	Cut	Cut of pit	0.25	Shape in plan: regular, subcircular Break at top: gradual Sides: shallow, straight Break at base: gradual Base: flat
308	Fill	Fill of pit [309]	0.1	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid yellowish grey Composition: silty clay
309	Cut	Cut of pit	0.1	Shape in plan: regular, subcircular Break at top: sharp Sides: concave Break at base: gradual Base: flat
310	Fill	Fill of posthole [311]	0.16	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: light yellowish grey Composition: coarse silty sand
311	Cut	Cut of posthole	0.16	Shape in plan: regular, circular Break at top: sharp Sides: steep, concave Break at base: gradual Base: rounded
312	Fill	Fill of ditch [316]	0.2	Compaction: loose Colour: light pinkish grey Composition: medium sand
313	Fill	Fill of ditch [316]	0.18	Colour: dark yellowish grey Composition: coarse sand
314	Fill	Fill of ditch [316]	0.27	Compaction: loose Colour: light greyish yellow Composition: coarse sand
315	Fill	Fill of ditch [316]	0.12	Compaction: loose Colour: light yellowish grey Composition: medium sand
316	Cut	Cut of NS ditch	0.72	Sides: moderate, concave Break at base: gradual Base: rounded
317	Fill	Fill of ditch [326]	0.08	Compaction: loose Colour: mid brownish grey Composition: sandy silt
318	Fill	Fill of ditch [326]	0.07	Compaction: loose Colour: dark greyish black Composition: sandy silt
319	Fill	Fill of ditch [326]	0.25	Compaction: friable Colour: dark orangey red Composition: silt
320	Fill	Fill of ditch [326]	0.26	Compaction: firm Colour: mid red Composition: silty clay
321	Fill	Fill of ditch [326]	0.26	Compaction: friable Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: sandy clay
322	Fill	Fill of ditch [326]	0.05	Compaction: loose Colour: dark black Composition: silt
323	Fill	Fill of ditch [326]	0.31	Compaction: firm Colour: pinkish brown Composition: clay
324	Fill	Fill of ditch [326]	0.18	Compaction: friable Colour: red Composition: clay
325	Fill	Fill of ditch [326]	0.06	Compaction: loose Colour: light yellowish grey Composition: medium clayey sand
326	Cut	Cut of NS ditch	1.12	Shape in plan: regular, linear Break at top: gradual Sides: steep, straight Break at base: gradual Base: rounded
328	Fill	Fill of land drain		

329	Cut	Cut of land drain
330	Cut	Possible ditch
331	Cut	Oval pit
332	Cut	Small pit
333	Cut	Small pit
334	Cut	Ditch
335	Cut	Spread
336	Cut	Pit

Trench 4

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation: E-W	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
401	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 4	0.20 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
402	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 4	0.18 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: medium clayey sand	
403	Deposit	Natural of Trench 4	0.08 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay	
404	Fill	Fill of paleochanal [405]	0.78	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: reddish brown Composition: coarse sand	
405	Cut	Cut of NESW paleochanal	0.78	Shape in plan: regular, linear	

Trench 5

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation:	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
501	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 5	0.24 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
502	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 5	0.12 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: silty clay	
503	Deposit	Natural of Trench 5		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay	

Trench 6

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation: N-S	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
601	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 6	0.24 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
602	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 6	0.10 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: medium clayey sand	
603	Deposit	Natural of Trench 6		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay	

Trench 7

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation: NE-SW	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
701	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 7	0.22 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
702	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 7	0.35 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: silty clay	
703	Deposit	Colluvium of Trench 7	0.30 (avg.)	Compaction: wet, firm Colour: light bluish grey Composition: clay	
704	Deposit	Colluvium of Trench 7	0.10 (avg.)	Compaction: firm Colour: dark bluish grey Composition: clay	
705	Deposit	Natural of Trench 7		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: yellowish brown Composition: clay	

Trench 8

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation: NW-SE	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
801	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 8	0.26 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
802	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 8	0.25 to 0.36	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: silty clay	
803	Deposit	Natural of Trench 8		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay	

Trench 9

Length: 25		Width: 1.8		Orientation: E-W	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
901	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 9	0.22 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
902	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 9	0.15 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: silty clay	
903	Deposit	Alluvium of Trench 9	0.14 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid pinkish brown Composition: silty clay	
904	Deposit	Natural of Trench 9	0.60 to 0.40	Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay	
905	Fill	Fill of furrow [906]		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: sandy clay	
906	Cut	Cut of NWSE furrow		Shape in plan: regular, linear	

Trench 10

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation: NE-SW	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
1001	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 10	0.28 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
1002	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 10	0.10 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: silty clay	

1003	Deposit	Natural of Trench 10	Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay
1004	Fill	Fill of furrow [1005]	Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: sandy clay
1005	Cut	Cut of furrow	
1006	Fill	Fill of furrow [1007]	Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: sandy clay
1007	Cut	Cut of furrow	
1008	Fill	Fill of furrow [1009]	Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: sandy clay
1009	Cut	Cut of furrow	

Trench 11

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation: E-W	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
1100	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 11	0.32 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
1101	Deposit	Natural of Trench 11		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay	
1102	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 11	0.42 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, malleable Colour: mid yellowish brown Composition: silty clay	
1103	Deposit	Colluvium of Trench 11	0.12 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, malleable Colour: mid bluish grey Composition: silty clay	
1104	Fill	Fill of pit [1105]	0.12	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: silty clay	
1105	Cut	Cut of pit	0.12	Shape in plan: regular, suboval Break at top: sharp Sides: steep, straight Break at base: sharp Base: flat	

Trench 12

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation: N-S	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
1201	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 12	0.27 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid greyish brown Composition: clayey silt	
1202	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 12	0.34 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid brownish pink Composition: sandy clay	
1203	Deposit	Alluvium of Trench 12	0.35 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, firm Colour: light greenish grey Composition: clay	
1204	Fill	Fill of paleochanel [1205]	>	Compaction: moist, firm Colour: light bluish grey Composition: clay	
1205	Cut	Cut of NESW paleochanel	>	Shape in plan: linear	
1206	Deposit	Natural of Trench 12		Compaction: firm Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: clay	

Trench 13

Length: 50 Width: 1.8 Orientation: E-W

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
1301	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 13	0.28 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt
1302	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 13	0.10 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: mid greyish pink Composition: medium clayey sand
1303	Deposit	Natural of Trench 13		Compaction: moist, loose Colour: light red Composition: medium sand
1304	Cut	Cut of pit	0.22	Shape in plan: oval Break at top: sharp Sides: steep, straight Break at base: sharp Base: flat
1305	Fill	Fill of pit [1304]	0.22	Compaction: friable Colour: mid brownish grey Composition: silty clay

Trench 14

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation: NE-SW	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
1401	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 14	0.35 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
1402	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 14	0.38 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: mid greyish pink Composition: medium clayey sand	
1403	Deposit	Natural of Trench 14		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay	

Trench 15

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation: NE-SW	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
1501	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 15	0.34 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
1502	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 15	0.15 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: mid greyish pink Composition: medium clayey sand	
1503	Deposit	Natural of Trench 15		Compaction: moist, loose Colour: light yellow Composition: sand	
1504	Fill	Fill of ditch [1506]	0.34	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid greyish brown Composition: medium silty sand	
1505	Fill	Fill of ditch [1506]	0.26	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: light brownish grey Composition: sand	
1506	Cut	Cut of EW ditch	0.59	Shape in plan: regular, linear Break at top: gradual Sides: moderate, concave Break at base: gradual Base: rounded	

Trench 16

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation: NW-SE	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
1601	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 16	0.32 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
1602	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 16	0.15	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: mid	

			(avg.)	greyish pink Composition: medium clayey sand
1603	Deposit	Natural of Trench 16		Compaction: moist, loose Colour: light reddish yellow Composition: sand

Trench 17

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
Length: 50	Width: 1.8	Orientation: E-W		
1701	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 17	0.32 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt
1702	Deposit	Natural of Trench 17		Compaction: moist, loose Colour: light red Composition: medium sand

Trench 18

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
Length: 50	Width: 1.8	Orientation: N-S		
1801	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 18	0.35 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt
1802	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 18	0.10 to 0.00 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: mid greyish pink Composition: medium clayey sand
1803	Deposit	Natural of Trench 18		Compaction: moist, loose Colour: light red Composition: medium sand

Trench 19

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
Length: 50	Width: 1.8	Orientation: NE-SW		
1901	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 19	0.34 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt
1902	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 19	0.16 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: silty clay
1903	Deposit	Natural of Trench 19		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay

Trench 20

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
Length: 50	Width: 1.8	Orientation: E-W		
2001	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 20	0.22 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt
2002	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 20	0.24 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: mid greyish pink Composition: medium clayey sand
2003	Deposit	Natural of Trench 20		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay
2004	Fill	Fill of ditch [2005]		Compaction: moist, loose Colour: mid

reddish brown Composition: medium silty sand

2005 Cut Cut of NS ditch

Trench 21

Length: 50	Width: 1.8	Orientation: NE-SW		
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
2101	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 21	0.33 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt
2102	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 21	0.15 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: silty clay
2103	Deposit	Natural of Trench 21		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay
2104	Fill	Fill of ditch [2106]	0.32	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: medium silty sand
2105	Fill	Fill of ditch [2106]	0.28	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: light brownish grey Composition: medium clayey sand
2106	Cut	Cut of NS ditch	0.54	Shape in plan: regular, linear Break at top: gradual Sides: moderate, concave Break at base: gradual Base: flat

Trench 22

Length: 50	Width: 1.8	Orientation: E-W		
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
2201	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 22	0.30 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt
2202	Deposit	Natural of Trench 22		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay

Trench 23

Length: 50	Width: 1.8	Orientation: E-W		
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
2301	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 23	0.34 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt
2302	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 23	0.20 to 0.00 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: mid greyish pink Composition: medium clayey sand
2303	Deposit	Natural of Trench 23		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay
2304	Fill	Fill of ditch [2306]	0.32	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: light grey Composition: sand
2305	Fill	Fill of ditch [2306]	0.3	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: light yellowish grey Composition: medium sand
2306	Cut	Cut of EW ditch	0.5	Shape in plan: regular, linear Break at top: gradual Sides: shallow, straight Break at base: sharp Base: rounded
2307	Fill	Fill of tree throw	0.15	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid yellowish brown Composition: sandy clay

2308	Cut	Cut of tree throw	0.15	Shape in plan: irregular, suboval Break at top: gradual Sides: moderate, concave Break at base: imperceptible Base: uneven
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Trench 24

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation:	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
2401	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 24	0.20 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
2402	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 24	0.22 (avg.)	Compaction: friable Colour: pinkish brown Composition: clay	
2403	Deposit	Natural of Trench 24		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay	
2404	Cut	Cut of EW ditch	0.4	Shape in plan: regular, linear Break at top: gradual Sides: moderate, concave Break at base: gradual Base: rounded	
2405	Fill	Fill of ditch [2404]	0.4	Compaction: firm Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: silty clay	

Trench 25

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation: N-S	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
2501	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 25	0.32 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
2502	Deposit	Natural of Trench 25		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay	

Trench 26 not excavated

(after consultation with the Curator, due to access issues)

Trench 27

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation: E-W	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
2701	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 27	0.32 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
2702	Deposit	Natural of Trench 27		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay	

Trench 28

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation: E-W	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
2801	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 28	0.33 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	

2802 Deposit Natural of Trench 28 Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay

Trench 29

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation: E-W	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
2901	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 29	0.32 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
2902	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 29	0.12 to 0.00 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: silty clay	
2903	Deposit	Natural of Trench 29		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay	

Trench 30

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation: N-S	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
3001	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 30	0.30 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
3002	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 30	0.35 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: mid brownish pink Composition: medium clayey sand	
3003	Deposit	Natural of Trench 30		Compaction: wet, firm Colour: light greyish yellow Composition: clay	
3004	Deposit	Colluvium of Trench 30		Compaction: wet, malleable Colour: mid greyish blue Composition: silty clay	
3005	Fill	Fill of pit [3006]	0.1	Compaction: wet, friable Colour: dark bluish grey Composition: silty clay	
3006	Cut	Cut of pit	0.1	Shape in plan: oval Break at top: gradual Sides: shallow, concave Break at base: imperceptible Base: rounded	

Trench 31

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation: NE-SW	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
3101	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 31	0.28 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
3102	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 31	0.10 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: silty clay	
3103	Deposit	Natural of Trench 31		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay	
3104	Fill	Fill of furrow [3105]		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: sandy clay	
3105	Cut	Cut of furrow			

Trench 32

Length: 50 Width: 1.8 Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
3201	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 32	0.14 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt
3202	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 32	0.10 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: silty clay
3203	Deposit	Natural of Trench 32		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay
3204	Fill	Fill of furrow [3205]		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: sandy clay
3205	Cut	Cut of furrow		

Trench 33

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation: E-W	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
3301	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 33	0.20 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
3302	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 33	0.12 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: silty clay	
3303	Deposit	Natural of Trench 33		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay	
3304	Fill	Fill of furrow [3305]		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: sandy clay	
3305	Cut	Cut of furrow			
3306	Fill	Fill of furrow [3307]		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: sandy clay	
3307	Cut	Cut of furrow			
3308	Fill	Fill of furrow [3309]		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: sandy clay	
3309	Cut	Cut of furrow			
3310	Fill	Fill of ditch [3311]	0.35	Compaction: friable Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
3311	Cut	Cut of ditch	0.35	Shape in plan: regular, linear Break at top: sharp Sides: moderate, concave Break at base: gradual Base: rounded	

Trench 34

Length: 50		Width: 1.8		Orientation: NE-SW	
Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description	
3401	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 34	0.18 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt	
3402	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 34	0.10 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: silty clay	
3403	Deposit	Natural of Trench 34		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay	
3404	Fill	Fill of furrow [3405]		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: sandy clay	
3405	Cut	Cut of furrow			
3406	Fill	Fill of furrow [3407]		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: sandy clay	

3407	Cut	Cut of furrow	
3408	Fill	Fill of furrow [3409]	Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: sandy clay
3409	Cut	Cut of furrow	

Trench 35

Context	Feature type	Context type	Height/depth	Deposit description
Length: 25		Width: 1.8	Orientation:	
3501	Deposit	Topsoil of Trench 35	0.22 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, loose Colour: dark greyish brown Composition: sandy silt
3502	Deposit	Subsoil of Trench 35	0.12 (avg.)	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: silty clay
3503	Deposit	Natural of Trench 35		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid brownish red Composition: clay
3504	Fill	Fill of furrows [3505]		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: sandy clay
3505	Cut	Cut of furrows		
3507	Fill	Fill of furrow [3508]		Compaction: moist, firm Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: sandy clay
3508	Cut	Cut of furrow		
3510	Fill	Fill of pit [3511]	0.07	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid greenish grey Composition: silty clay
3511	Cut	Cut of pit	0.07	Shape in plan: regular, subcircular Break at top: sharp Sides: steep, concave Break at base: gradual Base: rounded
3512	Fill	Fill of pit [3513]	0.07	Compaction: moist, friable Colour: mid greenish grey Composition: silty clay
3513	Cut	Cut of pit	0.07	Shape in plan: regular, subcircular Break at top: sharp Sides: steep, concave Break at base: gradual Base: rounded
3514	Fill	Fill of ditch [3519]	0.42	Compaction: friable Colour: mid pinkish brown Composition: sandy silt
3515	Fill	Fill of ditch [3519]	0.16	Compaction: friable Colour: light Composition: medium silty sand
3516	Fill	Fill of ditch [3519]	0.03	Compaction: friable Colour: mid reddish brown Composition: sandy clay
3517	Fill	Fill of ditch [3519]	0.1	Compaction: firm Colour: mid red Composition: clay
3518	Fill	Fill of ditch [3519]	0.22	Compaction: firm Colour: dark red Composition: clay
3519	Cut	Cut of NS ditch	0.83	Shape in plan: regular, linear Break at top: sharp Sides: steep, straight Break at base: sharp Base: tapered
3520	Fill	Fill of ditch [3521]	0.24	Compaction: firm Colour: dark reddish brown Composition: silty clay
3521	Cut	Cut of ditch	0.24	
3522	Fill	Fill of ditch [3523]	0.26	Compaction: firm Colour: dark reddish brown Composition: silty clay
3523	Cut	Cut of ditch	0.26	

Appendix 2: Summary of project archive (WSM 80484)

TYPE	DETAILS*
Artefacts and Environmental	Animal bones, Ceramics
Paper	Drawing, Plan, Section
Digital	GIS, Images raster/digital photography, Spreadsheets, Survey, Text

**OASIS terminology*

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Worcestershire Archaeology. Subject to the agreement of the landowner it is anticipated that it will be deposited at Worcestershire Museum.

Appendix 3: Summary of data for HER

WSM 80484

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight (g)	start date	end date	Specialist report? (note 2)	Key assemblage? (note 3)
middle Iron Age	ceramic		pot	2	18			Y	Y
LIA/ERB	ceramic		pot	18	418			Y	Y
Roman	ceramic		pot	39	985			Y	Y
Roman	ceramic		pot	2	75	2 nd c	3 rd c	Y	Y
Roman	ceramic		pot	2	51	2 nd c	L3rd c	Y	Y
Roman	ceramic		pot	2	50	m1 c	2 c	Y	Y
Roman	ceramic		pot	2	56	m1 c	4 c	Y	Y
medieval	ceramic		tile	6	29			Y	Y
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	1	3			Y	N
post-medieval	ceramic		tile	2	141			Y	N
post-medieval/modern	ceramic		pot	1	46	1750	2000	Y	N
undated	ceramic		fired clay	1	11			N	N
undated	ceramic		pot	1	3			N	N
undated	slag		slag	6	207			N	N
undated	stone	flint	natural	1	17			N	N

Summary of artefacts

Context	Sample	Large mammal	Insect	Charcoal	Charred plant	Unch*	Artefacts	Comments
205	1	occ		mod	occ	occ	occ pot, fired clay	
318	2	occ*		occ	occ	occ	occ fired clay, pot, heat-cracked stones	*burnt
1204	4		occ	occ		occ		
3516	3	occ*		occ		occ	occ heat-cracked stone	*tooth

Summary of environmental remains; occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant, * = probably modern and intrusive, ** = oyster shell/fragments/burnt bone