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***Mapledurham Playing Fields, Caversham,
Reading, Berkshire***

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between July to August 2018 Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation at Mapledurham Playing Fields, Caversham, Reading. The evaluation comprised 30 trenches measuring 30m in length and c. 1.8m wide. The geophysical survey of the site indicated that there might be a number of features on the site but most of these were tested and were found to represent variations in the natural geology. Archaeological features were discovered in Trenches 1, 3, 7, 10, 11, 20 and 25.

Towards the eastern part of site within Trenches 1, 3, 7 and 10 a large D-shaped Roman enclosure was found. The area inside the enclosure was also tested within Trench 7 and two post-holes and a gully were found. The postholes measured 0.45-48m diameter and contained later Iron Age pottery. The enclosure ditches, however, contained pottery dating from the 1st-2nd century and were later than the post-holes. The presence of a samian ware mortarium fragment suggests a date after c. AD 170. The D-shaped enclosure may have been associated with several phases of occupation and potential industrial activity. The TVAS evaluation of 1998 uncovered similar Roman features located c. 250m north-west of the site, and rectangular cropmarks suggest that this site could have been part of a substantial late Iron Age/Roman rural settlement.

The site also contained four northeast-southwest aligned furrows to the north-east and a late 19th-20th century boundary ditch running roughly east-west in the centre of the site.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Carl Champness. The fieldwork was directed by Jim Mumford, who was supported by Elizabeth Kennard, George Gurney and Rachel Daniel. Survey and digitizing work was carried out by Conan Parsons. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Geraldine Crann and prepared the archive under the management of Nicky Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Reading Borough Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation and watching brief at the site of a proposed 5.9ha sports pitch improvement scheme at the Mapledurham Playing fields, Caversham, Reading. The evaluation consisted of 30 trenches measuring 30m by 2m, representing a 3% sample of the site.
- 1.1.2 This work follows on from the submission of an updated desk-based assessment (Oxford Archaeology 2018a) and geophysical survey (Magnitude 2018) that covered the proposed site, and which highlighted the potential for archaeological remains to survive, including the high potential for Palaeolithic and Roman remains. The WSI (Oxford Archaeology 2018b) outlined how Oxford Archaeology planned to undertake the archaeological evaluation works.
- 1.1.3 The work is being undertaken as part of a pre-determination investigation to support a planning application. Discussions with Kathelen Leary of Berkshire Archaeology have established the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site. This document outlines the results of the evaluation.
- 1.1.4 A further set of works is proposed for the site including 10 test pits to investigate the potential of the Boyn Hill Gravels. This additional works will be dealt with in a separate report or as an addendum at a later date.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the top of Caversham Hill and is bounded on all sides by houses which face onto Chazey Road to the south, Hewett Road to the west and St Peters Avenue to the east (centred on SU 6985 7563; Fig 1). To the north, the site is bounded by three closes of houses off the A4074 Woodcote Road. The site is currently a public park which is largely open grassland, the exception being the south-eastern corner, which is wooded. The site is generally flat although the southern third of the open area slopes from north to south. The site lies within the administrative area of Reading Borough Council.
- 1.2.2 The site is located on the Seaford and Newhaven Chalk formations which were formed approximately 71 to 89 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period. There are superficial deposits of the Boyn Hill Gravel Member which formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period overlying the site. The Boyn Hill Gravel Member is a varied gravel deposit and is mostly sand and gravel but with lenses of silt, clay or peat. This gravel member is also characterised by an abundant amount of angular flint (Geology of Britain Viewer 2018).
- 1.2.3 The area of proposed development consists of 5.9 hectares (Fig. 1) and is divided into two areas, the woods in the south-eastern corner and the open playing field area. The site lies at c 70m OD at the northern edge sloping to c 65m OD at the southern edge and is located 500m north of the River Thames.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in the 2015 desk-based assessment (Oxford Archaeology 2015) and the updated 2018 desk-based assessment (Oxford Archaeology 2018). Background information will be summarised below, focusing on elements closest to the site.
- 1.3.2 The site is situated in a landscape which was heavily utilised during the prehistoric period. The site is located just to the east of an abandoned channel of the former Thames, known as the Caversham Channel. The channel, represented by the Black Park Gravel Terrace, dates from the Late Anglian and has produced significant concentration of Palaeolithic finds. The underlying geology of the site is mapped as the Boyn Hill Gravel, which elsewhere within the study area (less than 200m from the site) has also yielded Palaeolithic finds. Should further Palaeolithic activity be recorded within the site it would be of particular significance as current research suggests the presence of a tool production site in the area. The site is considered to have a high potential to contain Palaeolithic finds and a moderate potential to contain Mesolithic to Iron Age remains. If present, Palaeolithic finds could be of regional significance or, if a tool production site was found within the site, of national significance. Any Mesolithic to Iron Age remains are more likely to be of local or regional significance.
- 1.3.3 A large amount of evidence for Roman settlement activity, including a possible Roman villa site and several possible farmsteads, have been recorded within the wider area. The site is located c. 15km north-east of the Roman town of Calleva (Silchester) and several Roman roads are thought to lead to crossings over the River Thames in close proximity to the site. In 1998, TVAS evaluated Caversham Heath Golf Course which is located 100m west of the site. The evaluation comprised 47 trenches. One of the closest of the trenches to the site was Trench 10, which was located 250m north-west of the site. Within Trench 10, fifteen archaeological features were recorded including seven post-holes/post-pads and a stakehole. Three post-holes were on a regular alignment and contained Roman pottery dating to the 1st century AD. Several intercutting pits were also found that contained six sherds of 1st/2nd century pottery. In addition, two gullies were recorded and a V-shaped ditch oriented SW-NE that was 1.35m wide and 0.65m deep. The larger ditch contained pottery of 2nd century AD date. Brick and tile was also recorded including at least one Roman tegula (TVAS 1998). The 2018 DBA includes an aerial photograph of the field covered by the 1998 evaluation. This shows rectilinear cropmarks and a number of other linear features indicating what might be a substantial Iron Age or Roman farmstead (Oxford Archaeology 2018a, plate 1). Accordingly, the site was considered to have a high potential to contain Iron Age and or Roman remains, which if present could be of regional significance.
- 1.3.4 During the early medieval and medieval periods settlement activity appears to have been focused away from the site. The medieval settlement of Caversham was almost certainly focused around or near the 12th-century church of St Peter which is located 1km south-east of the site. Accordingly, the site was considered to have a low potential to contain settlement remains dating to these periods. Medieval ridge and furrow has, however, been recorded within the boundary of the site by the HER. LiDAR analysis

and a measured earthworks survey carried out within the site have established that these remains survive as very shallow earthworks which have been substantially eroded by modern usage of the site. Such remains are considered to be of local significance.

- 1.3.5 The site appears to have been in agricultural use from the medieval through to the modern period, and was considered to have a low potential to contain significant post-medieval or modern remains. The OS 1:1200 map of 1878-81 indicates that there was a NW-SE boundary dividing two open fields during this period. This boundary line appears to have been preserved in the form of a line of trees to the west of the site and a small copse to the east of the site.

Previous archaeological field investigations

- 1.3.6 A geophysical survey was completed in July 2018 across the proposed area (Magnitude 2018). The survey identified a large possible D-shaped enclosure to the northwest of the site, probably of archaeological origin, along with other curvilinear features and potential linear ditches.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site
- ii. To assess the accuracy of the archaeological desk-based assessment and geophysical survey in determining the true potential for significant archaeological remains to exist within the site
- iii. To assess the potential for the Roman features identified in the wider area to continue within the site
- iv. To assess the artefactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits encountered
- v. To assess the impact of previous land use on the site
- vi. To inform formulation of further measures to mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains
- vii. To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Berkshire HER.

2.1.2 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- i. To further develop our understanding of the Roman agrarian landscape, and in particular to investigate how landscapes and rural settlements had varied between the upland and lowland zones
- ii. To investigate the character of artefact assemblages (eg artefacts from the Black Park, Lynch Hill and Boyn Hill terraces) with specific reference to techno-typological variability and those factors which may explain it
- iii. To understand how remains on the site may contribute towards the regional framework agenda for the Solent-Thames sub-region (Hind and Hey 2014).

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 An evaluation consisting of 30 trenches each measuring 30m x 2m was originally proposed for this site and the methodology for this was detailed in the WSI (Oxford Archaeology 2018b). The trenches were located using a Global Positioning System (GPS). This number of trenches represented a 3% sample of the 5.9 ha site, excluding areas of existing trees, services, hedgerows and other constraints.
- 2.2.2 The trench design was developed in order to target the features identified within the July 2018 geophysical survey (Fig. 2). Trenches 1, 3, 7 and 10 were proposed in order to target a possible D-shaped enclosure to the west of the site. Trenches 2, 16, 18 and 19 were proposed to target curvilinear ditches. Trench 28 was proposed to target two parallel ditches, and Trenches 4, 8 and 25 were targeted upon linear features. Trench 20 was proposed to target a possible lynchet, and Trenches 21 and 24 proposed to provide a profile through a possible furrow. The rest of the trenches (Trenches 5, 6, 9, 11, 15, 17, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29 and 30) were located to investigate potential natural features and to test blank areas within the geophysical survey.
- 2.2.3 Prior to the works, the proposed trench locations were changed slightly to avoid services or other unforeseen obstacles. Trench 28 had to be moved to avoid an existing grass pitch and Trench 25 had to be reduced in length to avoid services.
- 2.2.4 All trenches were excavated using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision.
- 2.2.5 Revealed features were hand-cleaned and sampled by hand-excavation. They were recording as outlined with the approved WSI. All finds were bagged by context throughout the evaluation and were recovered for further investigation.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation, including a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains, are presented below. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.
- 3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated (e.g. pit 102 is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3).

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The upper and lower soil sequences appeared to vary across the site and in some cases within each trench. The topsoil ranged from grey-brown sandy silt to pale loose silt, loamy silt, fine silt and silty clay. The topsoil layer ranged in depth from 0.12m to 0.23m. The subsoil layer ranged from brown silty sand to loamy silt, sandy silt and gravel, loamy silty and silty clay. The subsoil layer ranged from 0.14m to 0.3m thick. The topsoil and subsoil contained high numbers of flints, and gravels made up 10-30% of the layers.
- 3.2.2 The variation in the upper sequences may partly reflect the erosion of the underlying Boyn Hill Gravel Member which is mostly sand and gravel but also contains lenses of silt and clay. The natural geology was encountered at a depth of 0.23m to 0.52m. It varied from silty sand or sandy silty to gravels with clayey silt, silty clay and silty gravel.
- 3.2.3 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were challenging as the temperature averaged 30°C or higher during the day. This had the effect of baking sections once they were exposed, making it difficult to see the relationships between features and fills. In addition, the high flint content made excavations difficult in the dry conditions.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in Trenches 1, 3, 7, 10, 11, 20 and 25 (Figs. 2-5) and these will be described in more detail below. Within Trench 4, an area of made ground and disturbed natural was found and this may relate to landscaping of the existing or previous playing fields. Features of a late Iron Age/early Roman date were found in Trenches 1, 3, 7 and 10 and of post-medieval date in Trenches 20 and 25.
- 3.3.2 Trenches 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12-19, 21-24, 26-30 were devoid of any features and therefore will not be discussed further. In summary, the features identified on the geophysical survey within these trenches (Fig. 2) were investigated and were found to be variations in the underlying geology of the site.

3.4 Late Iron Age to early Roman enclosure (Trenches 1, 3, 7 and 10)

- 3.4.1 The eastern part of a possible D-shaped boundary enclosure was identified during the geophysical survey. This feature appeared to comprise two possible ditches, one orientated roughly NW-SE in a curvilinear arrangement and one ditch orientated roughly east-west (Fig. 3). There appeared to be a gap between the two ditches, possibly an entrance. These two ditches were tested with Trenches 1, 3, 7 and 10.

Trenches 1 and 3 tested the NW-SE curvilinear ditch, with Trench 1 located to the north and Trench 3 to the north-east of the feature. Trenches 7 and 10 tested the southern ditch with Trench 7 also testing an area inside the enclosure.

- 3.4.2 As discussed below, Trenches 1, 3, 7 and 10 all contained archaeological features, and Ditch 104, Ditch 303, Post-holes 703 and 705 along with Ditch 1003 contained late Iron Age/early Roman pottery. Ditches 707 and 711 did not contain datable material but are considered to very probably form part of the same enclosure. It may be that several phases of activity are present but this has yet to be fully established.

Boundary ditch

- 3.4.3 Trench 1 was located in the north-western part of the site and encountered a part of the NW-SE ditch (104). This ditch was curvilinear in plan with gently sloping sides and a shallow, concave base. The ditch was 4.15m wide and 0.8m deep and contained three fills: basal fill 105, middle fill 107 and upper fill 107 (Fig. 3, Section 101; Plate 1). Basal fill 105 was a mid red-brown silty sand and contained one sherd of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery. Middle fill 106 was a dark brown-grey sandy silt and this contained 15 sherds of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery along with animal bone and ceramic building material (CBM). Upper fill 107 was a light yellow-brown silty clay with very frequent flints and this deposit contained six sherds of pottery dating to the mid to late 2nd century.
- 3.4.4 Trench 3 was located to the south-east of Trench 1 and it very probably encountered a continuation of the ditch seen in Trench 1. Ditch 303 was not fully excavated but a small part of it was tested to examine the fill. The ditch was 3m wide and one fill, 304, was tested. This fill was a mid yellow-brown clayey silt with 30% gravel, and the sampled tested contained 23 sherds of late 1st- to early 2nd-century pottery.
- 3.4.5 Trench 7 was located south of Trench 3 and it encountered a segment of the southern enclosure ditch (707) along with several internal features (discussed below). The boundary ditch (707) was 4.58m wide and 1m deep and contained three fills (708-10). It was curvilinear in plan and had shallow/concave sides and a shallow concave base (Fig. 3, Section 702; Plate 4). Basal fill 710 was mid red-brown clayey sand with infrequent flints. Middle fill 709 was a mid red-brown sandy clay with frequent flints. Upper fill 708 was a light red-brown clayey sand with frequent flints. There were no datable finds from this feature but it is likely to date broadly to the late Iron Age/Roman period along with the other sections of this ditch.
- 3.4.6 Trench 10 was located to the south-west of Trench 7 and it encountered part of the southern enclosure ditch. This part of the ditch (1003) was not excavated but a small part of it was sampled to examine the fill (1004). The ditch was 4.5m wide. The fill that was examined (1004) was a mid-dark orange-brown clayey silt with charcoal with around 10% flints. The sampled fill contained one sherd of pottery possibly dating to the 1st-2nd century.

Internal features

- 3.4.7 Along with the external boundary ditch excavated in Trench 7, internal features were also discovered including two post-holes (703 and 705) which may have been part of a structure and a gully (711) which may have been used for drainage.
- 3.4.8 Gully 711 was orientated roughly north-south and was 1.1m wide and 0.4m deep. It had steep concave sides and a shallow, concave base (Fig 3, Section 704; Plate 5). It contained one fill (712) which was a light grey-brown sandy clay with frequent flint. This fill may have represented natural silting.
- 3.4.9 Post-hole 703 was 0.2m wide and 0.48m deep and was circular in plan with steep sides and a shallow, concave base (Fig. 3, Section 701; Plate 2). It contained one fill (704) which was a mid brown-grey sandy clay with a moderate amount of flint. This fill contained four sherds of pottery dating to the late Iron Age to early Roman period.
- 3.4.10 Post-hole 705 was 0.4m wide and 0.45m deep and was circular in plan with very steep/concave sides and a shallow, concave base (Fig. 3, Section 703; Plate 3). It contained one fill (706) which was a mid grey-brown sandy clay. Fill 706 contained one sherd of later prehistoric pottery.

3.5 19th-20th century boundary ditch (Trenches 20 and 25)

- 3.5.1 A roughly east-west linear feature was identified on the geophysical survey which was tested in Trenches 20 and 25 (Fig. 5). Trench 20 was located in the centre of the site and Trench 25 was located to the east of the site (Fig. 2).
- 3.5.2 Trench 20 encountered five ditches: 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2011. Ditches 2003 and 2005 were found to be intercutting (Section 200) with 2003 found to the south and 2005 and 2007 to the north (Fig. 5). Ditches 2009 and 2011 were not excavated but were only identified in plan and a small sample of their fills was examined. Both of these ditches contained brown-grey sandy clay (2010 and 2012). Ditch 2005 was 0.9m wide and 0.3m deep and had a very shallow base. It had one fill (2006) of mid red-brown and grey sandy clay. Fill 2006 contained ten sherds of a wine bottle dating to the later 19th century. Ditch 2005 was truncated by both Ditches 2003 and 2007 and must have been earlier in the sequence of ditches. Ditch 2003 was 1.8m wide, 0.2m deep and had shallow sloping sides and a shallow concave base. It had one fill (2004) of dark brown-grey sandy clay with infrequent flint. Ditch 2007 had moderately sloped sides, a shallow sloping base and cut Ditch 2005. It contained one fill of mixed grey-brown sandy clay.
- 3.5.3 Trench 25 also contained a series of intercutting ditches and these are likely to be continuations of the ditches found in Trench 20 (Fig. 5; Fig. 6, Section 2500). Ditch 2507 appeared to be the earliest in the sequence as it was truncated by Ditch 2503, which was in turn truncated by Ditch 2505. Ditch 2507 was 1.36m wide and 0.42m deep with sides at 45° and a concave base. It contained one fill (2508): a red-brown sandy silt. Fill 2508 contained a sherd of a wine bottle of 19th-century or later date and three other sherds of glass of 20th-century or later date. Ditch 2505 was 2.4m wide and 0.46m deep with sides at 45° and a concave base. It contained one fill (2506): a grey-brown sandy clay. Ditch 2503 was the latest in the sequence and was 1.6m wide and

0.44m deep with a concave base. It contained one fill (2504) - a grey sandy clay – which contained a composite carbon rod, probably an electrical component, of 20th-century date.

3.6 Undated furrows (Trench 11)

- 3.6.1 Trench 11 was located to the north-east of the site and contained four NE-SW oriented furrows (1103, 1105, 1107 and 1109; Fig. 4). Furrows 1103, 1107 and 1109 were not excavated. They were slightly wider than the excavated furrow (1105), measuring 2.05-2.25m wide. The fills of furrows 1103, 1107 and 1109 were examined and found to be brown sandy silt (1104, 1108 and 1110) with up to 40% flints.
- 3.6.2 Furrow 1105 was excavated and was 1.75m wide. It contained one fill (1105) a mid-orange-brown sandy silt with c. 20% flints and stones.
- 3.6.3 The presence of these furrow suggests that more of NE-SW oriented furrows may be located across the site. They are undated but are likely to be medieval to post-medieval in date.

3.7 Watching brief on the geotechnical soakaway pits

- 3.7.1 A watching brief was maintained on the excavation of two soakaway pits which were 0.60m wide by 2.5m in length. No archaeology was identified either dug into the surface of the Pleistocene gravels or within the gravels themselves. No artefacts were recovered during these works.

3.8 Finds summary

- 3.8.1 Finds were recovered from a number of archaeological features including contexts 105, 106, 107, 304, 704, 706, 710, 1004, 2006, 2010, 2504 and 2508:
- Pottery from 105, 106, 107, 304, 704, 706 and 1004
 - Fired clay from 105 and 106
 - Animal bone from 104 and 106
 - An iron object from 2010
 - Burnt flint from 710,
 - CBM from 106
 - Flint from 710 and 2508

Pottery by Paul Booth

- 3.8.2 Fifty-one sherds (350g) of pottery were recovered during the evaluation and were fully recorded. These were mostly of late Iron Age to later 2nd century date, but included 8 sherds (62g) of later prehistoric (probably all middle-late Iron Age) date. The pottery recovered from Trenches 1, 3, 7 and 10 is of late Iron Age/early Roman date.
- 3.8.3 All the identified vessels, including a samian cup and a mortarium fragment, are consistent with a 2nd-century date, though the jars in context 304 could possibly be earlier. The presence of certain fabrics indicates activity in the early to mid 1st century and use of these fabrics is unlikely to have continued much after about AD 70.

Lithics by Elizabeth Kennard

- 3.8.4 An assemblage of 106 struck flints was recovered, with the vast majority found in the topsoil (47 or 49%) and subsoil (30 or 32%). The remainder derived from ditch fills 710 and 2508. These flints were residual and heavily damaged by ploughing but three could be dated to the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age.

Animal Bone by Lee Broderick

- 3.8.5 A total of 4 animal bone specimens were recovered from the Roman enclosure. The assemblage was generally in very poor condition and came from two contexts. Context 105 contained fragments of a right domestic cattle mandible, from an individual at least seven years old at death. Context 106 contained three large mammal specimens. Little can be read into such a small assemblage beyond the presence of a mature domestic cattle in the late Iron Age/early Roman period on the site.

Fired clay and CBM by Cynthia Poole

- 3.8.6 Five pieces of fired clay were recovered from the Roman enclosure ditch in Trench 1 (ditch fill 105). One piece of fired clay (57g) had organic impressions, and possibly derives from an oven-type structure. Four vitrified fragments were also recovered. One fragment has two surfaces at right angles and could be part of a fire bar or furnace wall edge. All five pieces are associated with industrial activity.
- 3.8.7 An addition 5 fragments of fired clay in a fine sandy micaceous fabric with grit were recovered from context 106 and possibly derive from the same structure as the fragments in context 105. They are also likely to be of industrial origin rather than domestic. One indeterminate tile fragment (9g), possibly a tegula flange, was also recovered from ditch fill 106.

3.9 Environmental summary

By Sharon Cook

- 3.9.1 Two 20 litre bulk sample was taken from a Roman ditch fill (710), primarily for the retrieval and evaluation of charred plant remains and artefacts. The samples produced a small flot of less than 5ml, which contains fine modern roots and small fragments of charcoal <2mm in size. No charred grain, seeds or molluscs were present.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken during a period of very hot weather which had baked the features and sections. As a result it was difficult for the field team to identify the transition between features and fills. In addition, the high flint content on the site made it difficult to excavate certain deep features.
- 4.1.2 This evaluation has hinted that there may be several phases of occupation on the site including late Iron Age and early Roman. There may, however, have been some continuity of use. The presence of features within the probable D-shaped enclosure indicates that more features could survive within this area. The activity within the enclosure was not well defined during this evaluation (including the possibly Iron Age structure) but does appear to be domestic in origin with possible low-level industrial activity.

4.2 Interpretation

- 4.2.1 Five features on the site contained datable finds (104, 303, 703, 705 and 1004) and these were broadly dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. It may be that some of the features were Iron Age in date and were then reused in the Roman period or activity may have continued throughout this transitional period. Further studies of the site might reveal whether the enclosure was in use from the later middle Iron Age through to the end of the 2nd century AD.
- 4.2.2 The two post-holes (703 and 704) both contained later Iron Age pottery and may date from this period. They were 0.8m apart and may have been part of a wooden structure but this remains unclear as only two post-holes were discovered in Trench 7; there may be more located outside the boundary of the trench.
- 4.2.3 The enclosure ditches (104, 303 and 1004) were probably early Roman with fill 106 of Ditch 104 also containing six sherds of residual later prehistoric pottery. The latest datable pottery is from Ditch 104, which was part of the NW-SE enclosure ditch. The 15 sherds from the middle fill of this ditch (fill 106) were dated to the late 2nd century or later. The presence of the samian ware including a mortarium fragment in context 106 (Ditch 104) suggested a date after c. AD 170 for this fill of the enclosure ditch. The 23 sherds from fill 304 of Ditch 303 (also part of the probable enclosure) date from the mid/late 1st-early 2nd century. Ditch 1004 contained one sherd of pottery which has been tentatively dated to the 1st-2nd century. Ditch 707 was undated but is likely to be part of this enclosure group.
- 4.2.4 The features and pottery from the enclosure are comparable to those found in Trench 10 of the 1998 evaluation by TVAS, which was located c. 250m north-west of Trench 1 of this evaluation. Within TVAS Trench 10, three aligned post-holes were found that could have held upright posts c. 0.3m in diameter. Intercutting pits were also found, as well as two gullies and a V-shaped ditch oriented SW-NE. A number of these features contained 1st/2nd century pottery and 2nd century pottery, which is broadly contemporary with the pottery found during this evaluation. The 1998 evaluation also found brick and CBM including a Roman tegula indicating there may have been some

brick-built structures located c. 250m north of Trench 1 of this evaluation. The D-shaped enclosure may, therefore, have formed part of a larger early Roman farmstead or settlement which may have originated in the late Iron Age and continued until at least c. AD 170. The transitional phase between the late Iron Age and the early Roman period has been highlighted as significant in the Roman research agenda within the Solent-Thames Research Framework. This states that:

12.2.1 Sites with well-preserved deposits of both late Iron Age and Roman date should be given careful attention in order to investigate continuity of local tradition at these sites. Sampling strategies should ensure that as wide a range of contexts are sampled as possible. Excavations of deep, well-sealed features are required (as opposed to buildings) (Hey and Hind 2014).

- 4.2.5 This evaluation also revealed four furrows towards the north-east corner of the site. This suggests that the NE-SW linear features seen on the LiDAR (as presented in the 2018 desk-based assessment) may be indicative of the existence of ridge and furrow across the site. There was no sign of the east-west earthworks in Trench 11 as indicated by the 2018 desk-based assessment (Oxford Archaeology 2018a).
- 4.2.6 The presence of the roughly east-west aligned post-medieval boundary ditch (Trenches 20 and 25) is not surprising as it follows the line of a partial hedgerow in this area. It is also shown on the OS 1:2500 map of 1878-81. This boundary appears to have been well maintained as there are at least three recuts and finds indicate that it dates from the late 19th-20th century.

4.3 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.3.1 The evaluation was able to successfully test the validity of the geophysical survey. A large number of identified geophysical anomalies were found to correspond with variations in the natural geology or modern disturbance. Even the more promising looking curvilinear ditches targeted by Trenches 2, 4 and 18, were found to be of natural origin. However, the geophysical report indicated that of many of these anomalies were not definitively thought to be archaeological but could equally be the results of variations within the natural geology.
- 4.3.2 The work did, however, confirm the presence of a Roman enclosure located towards the north-west side of the site and of the post-medieval boundary ditch. The easterly extent of the Roman features was located between Trenches 1 and 10 (as predicted by the geophysical survey).
- 4.3.3 The rest of the site was found to contain only post-medieval ditches and furrows (as predicted by the geophysical results).

4.4 Significance and conclusion

- 4.4.1 The archaeology identified during the evaluation appears to indicate an early Roman enclosure which may have seen some continuity from the late Iron Age. This could be significant and the enclosure towards the north-west of the site should be investigated if unavoidably impacted by the proposed scheme. The current proposals are to re-profile the existing grass football pitches and install pitch drainage in one section of the playing fields on this area of land and the north-west of the site, and the

enclosure would, therefore, need to be investigated further before any works take place.

- 4.4.2 This evaluation has indicated that the rest of the site was used for agricultural purposes during the post-medieval period. The furrows and the post-medieval boundary ditches are less significant than the Roman enclosure.

Appendix A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
This trench contained one large Roman ditch containing pottery, CBM and animal bone.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
101	Topsoil layer			Light grey brown, soft sandy silt		
102	Subsoil layer			Light yellow brown silty sand with frequent gravel		
103	Natural			Light red brown silty sand, firm with frequent flints		
104	Cut	4.15	0.8	Ditch. Curvilinear. Gently sloping sides with a shallow concave base. The section had to be cut with a chisel due to heat conditions and high flint content		
105	Fill		0.36	Primary fill of Ditch 104. Mid red brown silty sand	Pottery, animal bone, CBM	1 sherd (LIA-ER)
106	Fill		0.38	Secondary fill of Ditch 104. Dark brown grey sandy silt	Pottery, CBM	15 sherds (Mixed – L2nd C or later)
107	Fill		0.38	Fill of 104. Light yellow brown silty clay with very frequent flints	Pottery	6 sherds (Mid to L2nd)

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench was devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Topsoil layer		0.2	Mid light beige brown loamy silt. Flint stones <2%		
201	Subsoil layer		0.14 to the east, 0.2 to	Mid orange brown sandy silt. Flint gravel <2%		

			the west			
202	Natural			Gravels, orange brown clayey silt		

Trench 3

General description					Orientation	SW-NE
This trench encountered part of the enclosure ditch excavated in Trench 1 but in this trench it was not excavated.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Topsoil layer		0.18	Mid light beige brown loamy silt. Flint stones <2%		
301	Subsoil layer		0.15	Mid beige/brown sandy silt and gravel		
302	Natural			Silty clay with gravel		
303	Cut			Ditch (unexcavated. Part of the D shaped enclosure ditch from Trench 1		
304	Fill			Fill of Ditch 303. Mid yellow brown clayey silt, gravel 30%	Pottery	23 sherds (L 1st to Early 2nd C)

Trench 4

General description					Orientation	NW-SE
The trench was devoid of archaeology. It did find disturbed natural and made ground which may be an old playing field.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.25
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Topsoil layer		0.18	East side of trench – dark grey brown sandy silt. West – Mid beige brown sandy silt		
401	Made ground		0.2	Modern made ground. Mid grey sandy silt with orange clay mottling		
402	Subsoil layer		0.10	Orange brown sandy silt – only seen in western 20m		
403	Natural layer			Mid orange brown clayey silt with flinty gravel		

Trench 5

General description					Orientation	SW-NE
The trench was devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8

					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
501	Topsoil layer			Mid yellowish brown sandy loam		
502	Subsoil layer			Yellow/brown sandy silt with frequent flints		
503	Natural			Light yellow brown sandy silt with frequent flint and gravel		

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Topsoil layer			Mid grey brown sandy loam with flint pebbles <10%.	Worked flints	
601	Subsoil layer			Mid orange brown sandy silt with frequent flint pebbles <30%		
602	Natural layer			Mid orange brown sandy silt with frequent flint and gravel		

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained one enclosure ditch 707, likely a boundary of settlement or enclosure for animals, 2 post-holes (703, 705, possible alignment as part of a structure, 1 narrow gully (711) likely for drainage.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.52
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Topsoil layer	-	0.18	A mid beige brown loamy silt		
701	Subsoil layer	-	0.32	A mid orangey clayey silt		
702	Natural layer	-	-	A mid pink/orange mix of flint gravels with clayey silt		
703	Cut	0.2	0.48	Post-hole. Circular in plan with steep sides and a shallow, concave base.		
704	Fill		0.2	Fill of post-hole 703. Mid brown grey sandy clay. Moderate amount to	Pottery	4 sherds (LIA – ER)

				flint. Poorly sorted inclusions		
705	Cut	0.4	0.45	Post-hole. Circular in plan with very steep/concave sides and a shallow, concave base.		
706	Fill			Fill of post-hole 705. Mid grey brown sandy clay	Pottery	1 sherd (L prehistoric)
707	Cut	4.58	1	Ditch. Large ditch that is curvilinear in plan with shallow/concave sides and a shallow concave base		
708	Fill		0.24	Fill of Ditch 707. Likely a secondary fill – filling up from the west. Light red brown clayey sand with frequent flints		
709	Fill		0.22	Secondary fill of Ditch 707. Mid red brown sandy clay with frequent flints		
710	Fill		0.4	Fill of Ditch 707. Mid red brown clayey sand with infrequent flints. Poorly defined in section		
711	Cut	1.1	0.4	Ditch. Linear N-S. Steep, concave sides with a shallow, concave base.		
712	Fill			Fill of Ditch 711. Light/grey brown sandy clay with frequent flint. Possible water borne fill		

Trench 8

General description

Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of brown sandy gravels.

Orientation

NE-SW

Length (m)

30

Width (m)

1.8

Avg. depth (m)

0.35

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Topsoil layer		0.23	Mid grey brown sandy silt with flint pebbles c.20%		
801	Subsoil layer		0.18	A mix orange brown sandy silt with flint pebbles 20%		
802	Natural layer			Orange brown sandy gravels with silt patches		

Trench 9

General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of mixed clayey silt with gravels.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Topsoil layer		0.2	A mid/light beige brown sandy silt. Flint stones c 5%		
901	Subsoil layer		0.19	A mid orange brown sandy silt with flint pebbles <15%		
902	Natural layer			Mixed clayey silt with gravels		

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	SW-NE
Trench contained a continuation of the ditch seen in trenches 1, 3, and 7.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Topsoil layer			Mid beige brown loamy silt		
1001	Subsoil			Mid orange brown clayey silt		
1002	Natural			Mixed flint gravels with mid pink/orange clayey silt		
1003	Cut	4.5		Ditch (unexcavated). Length 1.8 in trench		
1004	Fill		0.25	Fill of ditch 1003. Mid dark orange brown clayey silt with charcoal. Flint stones (10%)	Pottery	1 sherd (1st-2nd C?)

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained four NE-SW furrows.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Topsoil layer			Mid grey brown sandy silt. Flint pebbles 15%		
1101	Subsoil layer			Mid orange brown sandy silt with flint		
1102	Natural layer			Mid brown orange sandy gavel		
1103	Cut	2.25		Furrow NE-SW (unexcavated)		

1104	Fill			Fill of furrow 1103. Mid orange brown		
1105	Cut	1.75		Furrow NE-SW (machine excavated)		
1106	Fill			Fill of furrow 1105. Mid orange brown sandy silt stones c20%		
1107	Cut		2.3	Furrow NE-SW (unexcavated)		
1108	Fill			Fill of furrow 1107. Mid grey brown sandy silt flint stones c. 40%		
1109	Cut		2.05	Furrow NE-SW.		
1110	Fill			Fill of Furrow 1109. Mid grey brown sandy silt with flint stones c40%		

Trench 12

General description

The trench was devoid of archaeology. Two darker gravel deposits were investigated and it was determined that they were geological features.

Orientation

SW-NE

Length (m)

30

Width (m)

1.8

Avg. depth (m)

0.3

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Topsoil layer		0.2	Mid beige brown sandy silt flints 5%		
1201	Subsoil layer		0.15	Mid orange brown sandy silt		
1202	Natural			Gravels, orange brown clayey silt		
1203	Natural		56	Geological gravel deposit		
1204	Natural		57	Geological gravel deposit		

Trench 13

General description

The trench was devoid of archaeology.

Orientation

NW-SE

Length (m)

30

Width (m)

1.8

Avg. depth (m)

0.35

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Topsoil layer		0.18	Mid light beige brown loamy silt		
1301	Subsoil layer		0.2	Mid orange brown sandy silt		
1302	Natural			Gravels, orange brown clayey silt		

Trench 14

General description

Orientation

NW-SE

The trench was devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Topsoil layer		0.23	Mid grey brown sandy silt. Flint pebbles 10-20%		
1401	Subsoil layer		0.21	Mid orange brown sandy silt. Flints 30%		
1402	Natural			Gravels, orange brown sandy gravels with clayey silt patches		

Trench 15						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
The trench was devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Topsoil layer		0.16	Mid beige brown sandy silt. Flint pebbles 10%	Ceramics (modern). Worked flint	
1501	Subsoil layer		0.15	Mid orange brown sandy silt. Flint pebbles 30%	Worked flint	
1502	Natural			Mid orange brown sandy silt with a band of gravel		

Trench 16						
General description					Orientation	SW-NE
The trench was devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Topsoil layer		0.2	Mid beige brown loamy silt		
1601	Subsoil layer		0.3	Mid orange brown sandy silt. Flint pebbles 20%		
1602	Natural			Mid orange brown sandy silt		

Trench 17						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.23

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1700	Topsoil layer			Mid yellow brown sandy loam		
1701	Subsoil layer			Mid red brown sandy silt with moderate gravel		
1702	Natural layer			Mid brown red silty sand with firm, frequent gravel		

Trench 18						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. The ring feature on the geophysical survey was a variation in the natural					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.31
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1800	Topsoil layer			Mid pale loose silt with infrequent stone inclusions		
1801	Subsoil layer			Mid grey brown silt/clay with frequent small stones		
1802	Natural layer			Mid red brown silty gravel		

Trench 19						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.29
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1900	Topsoil layer			Light grey brown sandy loam, moderate amount of gravel	Worked flints	
1901	Subsoil layer			Mid yellow brown sandy silt with firm frequent gravel	Worked flints	
1902	Natural layer			Light yellow brown sandy silt with frequent gravel		

Trench 20						
General description					Orientation	SW-NE
					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8

Trench contained a series of recuts for a field boundary. Section 2000 shows 2003/2005 and 2007. Ditches 2009 and 2011 were only seen in plan.					Avg. depth (m)	0.42
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2000	Topsoil layer			Light grey brown fine silt		
2001	Subsoil layer			Mid grey brown gravelly silt with frequent poorly sorted flints		
2002	Natural layer			Pale yellow orange clayey silt with frequent poorly sorted round stones and flints		
2003	Cut	1.8	0.2	Ditch NW-SE with shallow sloping sides, a shallow concave base.		
2004	Fill			Fill of Ditch 2003. Dark brown grey sandy clay with infrequent flint.		
2005	Cut	0.9	0.3	Ditch NW-SE with unknown sides, a very shallow concave base. Cut by 2003 and 2007		
2006	Fill			Fill of Ditch 2005. Mid red brown and grey sandy clay		
2007	Cut			Ditch NW-SE with moderately sloped sides, a shallow sloping base. Cuts 2006		
2008	Fill			Fill of Ditch 2007. Mixed grey brown sandy clay		
2009	Cut			Ditch. Not excavated. NW-SE		
2010	Fill			Fill of Ditch 2009. Mid brown grey sandy clay		
2011	Cut			Ditch. Not excavated. NW-SE		
2012	Fill			Fill of Ditch 2011. Light brown grey sandy clay		

Trench 21						
General description					Orientation	SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

2100	Topsoil layer		0.12	Mid yellow brown sandy loam		
2101	Subsoil layer		0.14	Mid red brown silty sand		
2102	Natural layer			Mid brown silty sand		

Trench 22						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. This trench was moved to the north					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.22
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2200	Topsoil layer			Mid brown sandy loam	Worked flint	
2201	Subsoil layer			Mid brown yellow sandy silt with frequent flint/gravel	Worked flint	
2202	Natural layer			Light brown yellow sandy silt with frequent flint gravel		

Trench 23						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2300	Topsoil layer			Mid grey brown sandy silt. Flint pebbles 40%	Worked flint	
2301	Subsoil layer			Mid orange brown sandy silt. Flint pebbles 40%	Worked flint	
2302	Natural layer			Mid brown sandy silt with flint gravel		

Trench 24						
General description					Orientation	SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2400	Topsoil layer			Light grey brown sandy loam		

2401	Subsoil layer			Mid yellow brown sandy silt with frequent flint gravel	Worked flint	
2402	Natural layer			Light yellow brown with sandy silt and frequent gravel		

Trench 25

General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained the NW-SE boundary ditch					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2500	Topsoil layer			Mid grey brown sandy silt. Flint pebbles 30%		
2501	Subsoil layer			Mid orange brown sandy silt with flint pebbles 30%		
2502	Natural layer			Mid brown orange clayey silt with gravels		
2503	Cut	1.6	0.44	Ditch. Concave base. NW-SE		
2504	Fill			Fill of Ditch 2503. Mid brown grey sandy clay		
2505	Cut	2.4	0.46	Ditch. Base concave, sides 45 degrees. Truncated by Ditch 2503. NW-SE		
2506	Fill			Fill of Ditch 2505. Mid grey brown sandy clay		
2507	Cut	0.42	1.36	Ditch. Concave base, sides 45 degrees. Truncated by ditch 2505. NW-SE		
2508	Fill			Fill of Ditch 2507. Mid red brown sandy silt		

Trench 26

General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2600	Topsoil layer			Mid grey brown loamy silt. Flint pebbles 20%		
2601	Subsoil layer			Mid orange brown clayey silt. 40% flint pebbles	Worked flint	
2602	Natural layer			Mid orange brown clayey silt with flint gravel patches		

Trench 27						
General description					Orientation	SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2700	Topsoil layer		0.19	Mid grey brown sandy silt. Flint pebbles 40%	CBM, glass, worked flint	-
2701	Subsoil layer		0.16	Mid orange brown sandy silt. Flint pebbles 60%		
2702	Natural layer			Mid brown orange sandy silt with gravel		

Trench 28						
General description					Orientation	SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2800	Topsoil layer			Dark grey silty clay loam, with charcoal and flinty gravel (10%)		
2801	Subsoil layer			Yellow brown silty clay loam with flinty gravel		
2802	Natural layer			Light yellow brown silty clay with flinty gravel		

Trench 29						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2900	Topsoil layer			Mid brown sandy loam with moderate gravel	Worked flints	
2901	Subsoil layer			Mid yellow brown sandy silt with frequent gravel	Worked flints	
2902	Natural layer			Light yellow brown sandy silt with frequent gravel		

Trench 30						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.3

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3000	Topsoil layer			Mid grey brown sandy silt with flint pebbles 40%.	CBM, glass, worked flint	
3001	Subsoil layer			Mid orange brown sandy silt with flint pebbles 60%.	Burnt flint, worked flint	
3002	Natural layer			Mid orange sandy gravel with silt		

Appendix B FINDS REPORTS

B1 Pottery

By Paul Booth

Introduction

- B.1.1 Fifty-one sherds (350g) of pottery were recovered during the evaluation and were fully recorded. These were mostly of late Iron Age to later 2nd century date, but included 8 sherds (62g) of later prehistoric (probably all middle-late Iron Age) date. The pottery was recorded by context group using the system employed for later prehistoric and Roman pottery from OA projects (Booth 2014). Details of fabrics, vessel forms and decoration etc were recorded using standardised codes which allow ready comparison between assemblages in the region. Quantification was by sherd count, weight and rim equivalents (REs). The methodology is in line with recently-published standards (PCRG et al. 2016). The full records are on paper sheets which are contained in the project archive.
- B.1.2 The pottery was in relatively poor condition with a mean sherd weight (MSW) of only 6.9g. A few sherds were specifically noted as being abraded, but evidence for surface treatment (such as burnishing or slip on samian ware) survived occasionally. The pottery is summarised by context in Table B.1.1.

Table B.1.1 Summary of pottery found on the site

Context	No. sherds	Weight (g)	Ceramic date	Comment
105	1	5	Late Iron Age/early Roman?	
106	15	93	Late 2C (or later)	6 sherds (51g) later prehistoric (1 bowl rim). RB includes cup and ?dish rims
107	6	65	Mid-late 2C?	Flagon, cup and ?dish rims
304	23	160	Mid/late 1C-early 2C	4 jar rims
704	4	18	Late Iron Age/early Roman?	2 sherds (11g) later prehistoric (1 ?jar rim)
706	1	3	Later prehistoric?	Abraded
1004	1	6	1-2C?	Base angle
TOTAL	51	350		

- B.1.3 Later prehistoric pottery came from contexts 106, 704 and 706. Context 706 contained a single small sherd with sand, flint and grog inclusions, to which a broad later

prehistoric date can be assigned. The other two groups were mixed, also containing later material. The two sand-tempered sherds in context 704 comprised an abraded straight everted rim sherd and a tiny fragment, associated with grog and sand-tempered sherds of the E80 group (see below). It is possible that the latter were also of later prehistoric (ie pre-conquest) date. Contexts 704 and 706 were fills of adjacent postholes; their pottery suggests a later Iron Age date for the structure of which they were part. The larger group from context 106 was definitely of later 2nd century (or later) date, but included later prehistoric sherds in two distinct traditions. Three sherds (11g) were in fabrics tempered primarily with flint, but also containing organic and sand inclusions. The other three sherds (40g) might all have been from a single vessel in a fabric tempered primarily with common medium sand inclusions but also containing sparse organic inclusions. The vessel was probably a globular bowl with a short slightly out-turned rim. All the sherds had some trace of burnish, and one was burnished internally as well as externally, a characteristic consistent with the globular bowl form. A date in the later part of the middle Iron Age (roughly 2nd-1st century BC) is likely for this vessel.

B.1.4 Late Iron Age and Roman pottery fabrics are listed below in the ware group sequence set out in the OA recording system. Where possible, fabric codes in the National Roman pottery fabric reference collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) are also given (in bold).

- S30. Central Gaulish samian ware (incl. **LEZ SA 2**). 2 sherds, 5g. Cup rim.
- S40. East Gaulish (Trier?) samian ware (**TRI SA?**). 1 sherd, 3g. Mortarium fragment
- W12. Oxford fine white ware (**OXF WH**). 1 sherd, 10g. Flagon rim.
- E30. Coarse sand-tempered LIA/ERB fabrics. 2 sherds, 43g.
- E80. Grog-tempered LIA/ERB ('Belgic type') fabrics (**SOB GT**). 4 sherds, 22g.
- O10. Fine oxidised wares. 2 sherds, 3g.
- O20. Coarse sand-tempered oxidised wares. 1 sherd, 2g.
- O50. Miscellaneous oxidised wares. 1 sherd, 2g.
- R20. Coarse sand-tempered reduced wares. 24 sherds, 155g. 4 jar rims, 1 bowl/dish.
- R30. Medium sand-tempered reduced wares. 1 sherd, 10g.
- R90. Coarse grog-tempered reduced wares. 3 sherds, 30g.

B.1.5 Most sherds could not be assigned to a known source, although the majority of the coarse wares (E, O and R fabrics) are likely to have been of relatively local origin and none was attributable to the Oxford industry. The single sherd of fabric W12 was the only Oxford product identified. This was the almost complete rim of a small flagon of a type not exactly matched in Young's (1977) corpus, but with some characteristics of his types W4 and W6.3.

B.1.6 The vessel forms in sandy fabric R20 were simple jars and a straight-sided dish/bowl. The jars were probably all medium-mouthed types, three with curving everted rims and the fourth with a more angled everted rim.

- B.1.7 All the identified vessels, including the samian ware examples (a cup of the form known as O&P pl LV no 13 (Webster 1996, 67) and a mortarium fragment) are consistent with a 2nd-century date, though the jars in context 304 could possibly be earlier. The presence of E30 and E80 fabrics indicates activity in the early to mid 1st century and use of these fabrics is unlikely to have continued much after about AD 70. Evidence from elsewhere in the region suggests a progression from the sand-tempered component of the E ware tradition (ie E30 fabrics) to the coarse sand-tempered R20 reduced wares through the middle and later 1st century. The present assemblage, though very small, is potentially consistent with such a progression. It is impossible to say if the overall assemblage represents continuous activity on the site from the later middle Iron Age through to the end of the 2nd century AD, but this is possible. The later 2nd century date for feature 104 (contexts 105-107) is suggested by the samian ware and perhaps by the Oxford white ware flagon, though the latter cannot be dated very closely. Most notable is the presence of the samian ware mortarium fragment in context 106. Although tiny, this is a notable occurrence in a small rural assemblage, and is indicative of a date after c AD 170 at the earliest.
- B.1.8 This small assemblage is of value for dating and should be retained. In the event of further work it should be reconsidered in association with any additional material.

B2 Small finds

By I R Scott

- B.1.9 There are just two small finds. One is a very heavily corroded and encrusted fragment of iron bar with a square section, which cannot be dated (context 2010); the other is a fragment of a composite carbon rod (context 2504) which looks to be of 20th-century or later date. This information is summarised in table B.2.1

Table B.2.1 Summary of small finds

Context 2010	(1)	Bar, very corroded and encrusted bar fragment of square section. Very little metal survives; just enough give a magnetic reaction. Fe. Not measured
Context 2504	(2)	Composite carbon rod. Hard central core (D: 8mm) and hard outer layer (overall D: 16mm). One end appears to have been slightly ground down to a D: 15mm; L extant: 70mm. Probably an electrical component.

B3 Lithics

By Elizabeth Kennard

- B.1.10 An assemblage of 106 struck flints was recovered from this evaluation, with the vast majority found in the topsoil (47 or 49%) and subsoil (30 or 32%). The remainder derived from ditch fills 710 and 2508. The blade index for the assemblage was very low at 5%.

- B.1.11 The assemblage from ditch fill 710 consists of seven main pieces, 21 sieved chips and five burnt unworked flints weighing 9g and is entirely flake based with three pieces of irregular waste which could be natural. The technology utilised was usually soft-hammer percussion and the flakes nearly all display soft hammer bulbs. There was no evidence of any platform preparation.
- B.1.12 Two multiplatform flake cores were also recovered. The core from topsoil 2300 has two opposed platforms and is small and quite well worked. The second, from subsoil 3001 is large with two platforms at right angles with large squat flake removals. Both appear late Neolithic to early Bronze Age in date.
- B.1.13 Three notched pieces, two retouched flakes, an end scraper and a miscellaneous retouched heavily fractured flint with possible scraper retouch on the one surviving edge were found. A further six pieces with possible retouch were observed but due to the general condition of the pieces this identification is not certain. All retouched pieces were on flake blanks. Utilisation was common, with 12/106 or 13% of the main pieces showing edge wear or possible edge wear.
- B.1.14 The remainder of the struck assemblage amounts to a single dual partial crested flake, 59 flakes, two blade fragments, three bladelets and two pieces of irregular waste. A piece of natural unworked flint was also included in the assemblage.
- B.1.15 The condition of the majority of the flint is poor, with 55% showing heavy or plough damage. The flint from the features was almost exclusively seen to have light edge damage or was fresh.
- B.1.16 The struck assemblage shows a late prehistoric focus, and includes two late Neolithic/early Bronze Age flake cores. The low blade index and the squat nature of the flakes, with large platforms and simple flaking patterns, also support this suggestion. The assemblage indicates a potential prehistoric background, with a slight concentration around the south eastern half of site. The assemblage as a whole shows moderate to heavy plough damage and was clearly heavily disturbed.

Discussion/recommendations:

- B.1.17 The flints from the evaluation should be fully integrated into any future analysis arising from further investigation on the site.

Table B.3.1 Summary of worked flint found

Context	Type	Sub-type	Notes	Date
101	Flake x2	Distal trimming Inner	Potential retouch, with modern edge damage. Distal piece with possible use wear.	
101	Notch	Inner flake	Possible notch retouch, hard hammer plain platform	L Neo-EBA
102	Flake	Inner	Possible use wear	
600	Flake	Misc trimming	Possible notch retouch on left and distal edges though likely plough damage due to patination and unshed micro flakes	
600	Notch	Inner flake	Small notch on lower left edge with modern damage on top. Hard hammer with cortical platform	L Neo-EBA

Context	Type	Sub-type	Notes	Date
1200	Flake	Distal trimming	Modern damage to platform	
1500	Flake x 2	Distal trimming Side trimming	Distal piece, possibly utilised. Likely machine made as in fresh condition.	
1501	Flake	Preparation	Short squat piece with hard hammer bulb and thermal platform	
1501	Retouched flake	Inner	Medial right piece with semi abrupt retouch along right edge	
1501	Natural	Machine struck		
1800	Flake	Side trimming	Long flake with hard hammer bulb and plain platform	
1801	Flake x 4	Inner Misc trimming Distal trimming Preparation	Short squat flake, hard hammer bulb and plain platform. Possibly Machine made as very fresh looking. Possible retouch though piece is clearly plough damaged. Distal piece with modern damage.	
1801	Natural	Machine made		
1900	Irregular waste		Heavily burnt	
1900	Flake x 2	Inner	1x heavily burnt segment, 1x distal segment with modern damage	
1901	Flake x 3	Side trimming x 2 Preparation	Both are short and squat, one with hard hammer bulb and plain platform, one with an indeterminate bulb and cortical platform. Proximal piece with modern damage.	
1901	Bladelet	Distal trimming	Indeterminate bulb and plain platform with spur and no preparation.	
2000	Flake x 3	Preparation Side trimming Inner	Hard hammer bulb with plain platform. Squat with hard hammer bulb and dihedral platform. Medial segment with heavy damage.	
2200	Flake x 3	Inner	One proximal, one medial and one right lateral piece. The proximal piece has a hard hammer bulb, and the lateral piece a soft hammer. Both have cortical platforms	
2201	Bladelet	Distal trimming	Proximal piece with soft hammer bulb and plain platform with no preparation	
2201	Flake x 5	Preparation Inner Side trimming Distal trimming	Possibly machine made. Hard bulb with shattered platform, possible light use on distal edge. Possibly machine made. Right lateral segment with hard hammer and plain platform.	
2201	Retouched flake	Preparation	Abrupt retouch/moderate use along left edge with plough damage removing the retouch in the middle	
2300	Core	Multiplatform flake core	Small core with opposed platforms	L Neo-EBA

Context	Type	Sub-type	Notes	Date
2300	Flake x 3	Preparation x 2 Distal trimming	One with possible notch retouch on distal end and use on right edge. One distal segment with possible use on distal edge. Left segment with hard hammer and plain platform.	
2301	Flake x 8	Inner x 1, Side trimming x 4 Preparation, x 2, misc trimming x 1	All hard hammer with plain platforms, 1 with possible retouch, 1 with possible use wear	
2301	Blade x 2	1 distal trimming, 1 x inner	Utilised distal segment	
2301	Crested flake	Dual partial on misc trimming flake	Hard hammer with cortical platform	
2400	Flake	1 x misc trimming, 1 x side trimming	Possible retouch, hard hammer bulbs and plain platform	
2401	Misc retouch	Inner flake	Heavy scraper? Body has thermal flake removals and plough damage	LPH
2401	Flake x 5	3 x side trimming, 1 x preparation, 1 x inner	Possible use wear on 2 all hard hammer with mostly plain platform	
2401	Bladelet	Inner	Medial segment utilised	
2508	Notch	Misc trimming flake	Notch on right with trowel damage	
2601	End scraper	Side trimming flake	Retouch on distal end heavily damaged in middle	
2601	Flake	Side trimming	Distal piece	
2700	Flake	Misc trimming	Hard hammer with thermal platform	
2900	Flake x 2	Side trimming	1 proximal and 1 distal piece. Possible use	
2901	Flake	Misc trimming	Possible use	
3000	Flake x 2	1x side trimming, 1x distal trimming	Possible use, both hard hammer and plain platforms	
3000	Bladelet	Side trimming	Use wear	
3001	Core	Multiplatform flake core	crystalline inclusions and large squat hard hammer flake removals from two platforms at right angles from each other	BA
3001	Flake x 6	2 x preparation, 3 x side trimming, 1 x distal trimming	Mostly hard hammer struck with plain platforms	
3001	Irregular waste			
710	Burnt unworked		5 pieces weighing 11g Sample 1, Ditch [707]	
710	Sieved chips x 21		Sample 1, Ditch [707]	
710	Flake		All inner flakes, 2 with soft hammer bulbs Sample 1, Ditch [707]	
710	Irregular waste x 3		Likely natural Sample 1, Ditch [707]	
710	Natural		Sample 1, Ditch [707]	

B4 CBM and fired clay

By Cynthia Poole

Context	Description
105	Fired clay: one piece with organic impressions, possibly from an oven-type structure and four vitrified fragments. One fragment has two surfaces at right angles and could be part of a fire bar or furnace wall edge. All five pieces are associated with industrial activity, 57g
106	CBM: one indeterminate tile fragment, possibly a tegula flange, 9g Fired clay: 5 fragments, possibly from same structure as (105), in fine sandy micaceous fabric with grit. Likely to be of industrial origin rather than domestic.

B.1.18 The fired clay and CBM from the evaluation should be fully integrated into any future analysis arising from further investigation on the site.

B5 Glass

By I R Scott

B.1.19 There are 15 pieces of vessel glass, ten of which are clearly part of a single wine bottle. None of the glass need date earlier than the second half of the 19th century, and probably dates from the end of the century or later.

Table B.5.1 Summary of glass found

Context 2006	(1)	Wine bottle , 10 x sherds (at least two refitting pairs of sherds) from the base and lower body of cylindrical wine bottle. Moulded bottle with moulded base. Possibly made in a turn mould. Later 19th-century. Dark green glass. Base D: 90mm.
	(2)	Bottle? Small body sherd possible from the corner of vessel with a strongly mould profile. Form of vessel or bottle uncertain. Brown or amber glass. Probably late 19th-century or 20th-century.
Context 2508	(3)	Wine bottle? Small sherd from shoulder of bottle, with a mould line or possibly a slightly recessed panel for a label. Moulded bottle, method of moulding uncertain. Probably 19th-century, possibly later
	(4)	Bottle. 3 x body sherds, one small and two very small (no clear refits). A possible mould line is visible on largest sherd. Colourless glass. Possibly 20th-century or later in date.

Appendix C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

B.1.20 Two 20 litre bulk sample was taken from a Roman ditch fill (710) in Trench 7 during the evaluation, primarily for the retrieval and evaluation of charred plant remains (CPR) and artefacts. The unprocessed sample was described as strong brown silty loam (munsell colour 7.5YR 5/8) with c. 5% subangular flint >10mm, and c. 10% subangular stones <10mm.

Method

B.1.21 The bulk sample was processed in its entirety at Oxford Archaeology using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine. The flot was collected in a 250µm mesh and the heavy residues in a 500µm mesh and were dried. The residue fractions were sorted by eye while the flot material was sorted using a low power (x10) binocular microscope to extract cereal grains and chaff, smaller seeds and other quantifiable remains.

Results

B.1.22 The samples produced a small flot of less than 5ml which contains fine modern roots and small fragments of charcoal <2mm in size. No charred grain, seeds or molluscs are present. Small quantities of flint were extracted from the residues and this may be the only datable material from this sample since no material suitable for radiocarbon dating was present.

Conclusion

B.1.23 Although the material in this sample demonstrates that charred plant remains survive on this site, little can be said with regard to site activity with such a small dataset. Field ditches rarely produce large quantities of charred material unless close to areas of settlement, so the paucity of charred remains in this sample is not unexpected.

Recommendations

B.1.24 It is difficult to make sampling recommendations for future excavations based on such a small dataset, but in general, if further excavation is carried sampling should focus on areas considered to be close to habitation or ditch fills where charred remains or other domestic debris is suspected. All sampling should be carried out in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (e.g. Oxford Archaeology 2017 and Historic England 2011).

B.1.25 This flot does not require retention in the archive.

C.2 Animal bone

By Lee Broderick

B.1.26 A total of 4 animal bone specimens were recovered from the site, all of which were collected by hand. This material was recorded in full, with the aid of the Oxford Archaeology skeletal reference collection and standard identification guides, using a diagnostic zone system (Serjeantson, 1996).

Description

B.1.27 The assemblage was generally in very poor condition (Behrensmeyer 1978, stage 5) and came from two contexts. Context (105) contained fragments of a right domestic cattle (*Bos taurus taurus*) mandible, from an individual of at least seven years old at death (Jones and Sadler, 2012). It becomes increasingly difficult to age mandible older than this but, in any case, the third molar, which would provide data for interpreting this, is absent from the assemblage. Context (106) contained three large mammal specimens.

Conclusions

B.1.28 Little can be read into such a small assemblage beyond the presence of a mature domestic cattle in the late Iron Age/early Roman period on the site.

B.1.29 The assemblage should be considered a low priority for retention.

Appendix D BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Appendix E

SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

site name:	Mapledurham Playing Fields, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire
site code:	CAMP 18
Grid Reference	SU 69847 75639
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	23/07/18 – 03/08/18
Area of site	5.9 hectares
Location of archive:	The archive will be held at Oxford Archaeology until it can be combined with any later works on the site and will be deposited with Reading Museum.
Summary of Results:	<p>Between July to August 2018 Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation at Mapledurham Playing Fields, Caversham, Reading. The evaluation comprised 30 trenches measuring 30m in length and c. 1.8m wide. The geophysical survey of the site indicated that there might be a number of features on the site but most of these were tested and were found to represent variations in the natural geology. Archaeological features were discovered in Trenches 1, 3, 7, 10, 11, 20 and 25.</p> <p>Towards the eastern part of site within Trenches 1, 3, 7 and 10 a large D-shaped Roman enclosure was found. The area inside the enclosure was also tested within Trench 7 and two post-holes and a gully were found. The postholes measured 0.45-48m diameter and contained later Iron Age pottery. The enclosure ditches, however, contained pottery dating from the 1st-2nd century and were later than the post-holes. The presence of a samian ware mortarium fragment suggests a date after c. AD 170. The D-shaped enclosure may have been associated with several phases of occupation and potential industrial activity. The TVAS evaluation of 1998 uncovered similar Roman features located c. 250m north-west of the site, and rectangular cropmarks suggest that this site could have been part of a substantial late Iron Age/Roman rural settlement.</p> <p>The site also contained four northeast-southwest aligned furrows to the north-east and a late 19th-20th century boundary ditch running roughly east-west in the centre of the site.</p>



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Figure 1: Site location

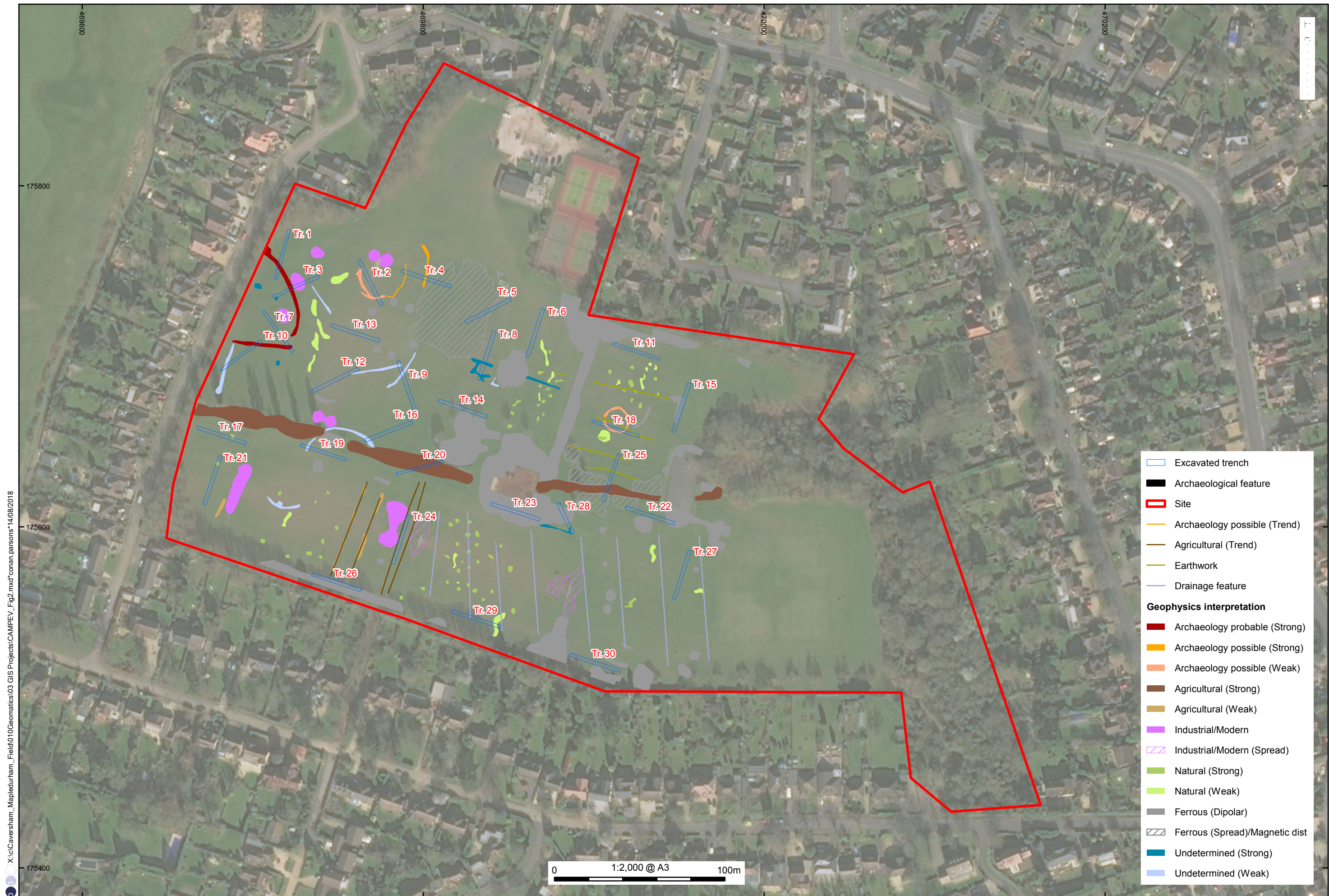


Figure 2: Excavated trench plan with geophysical interpretation

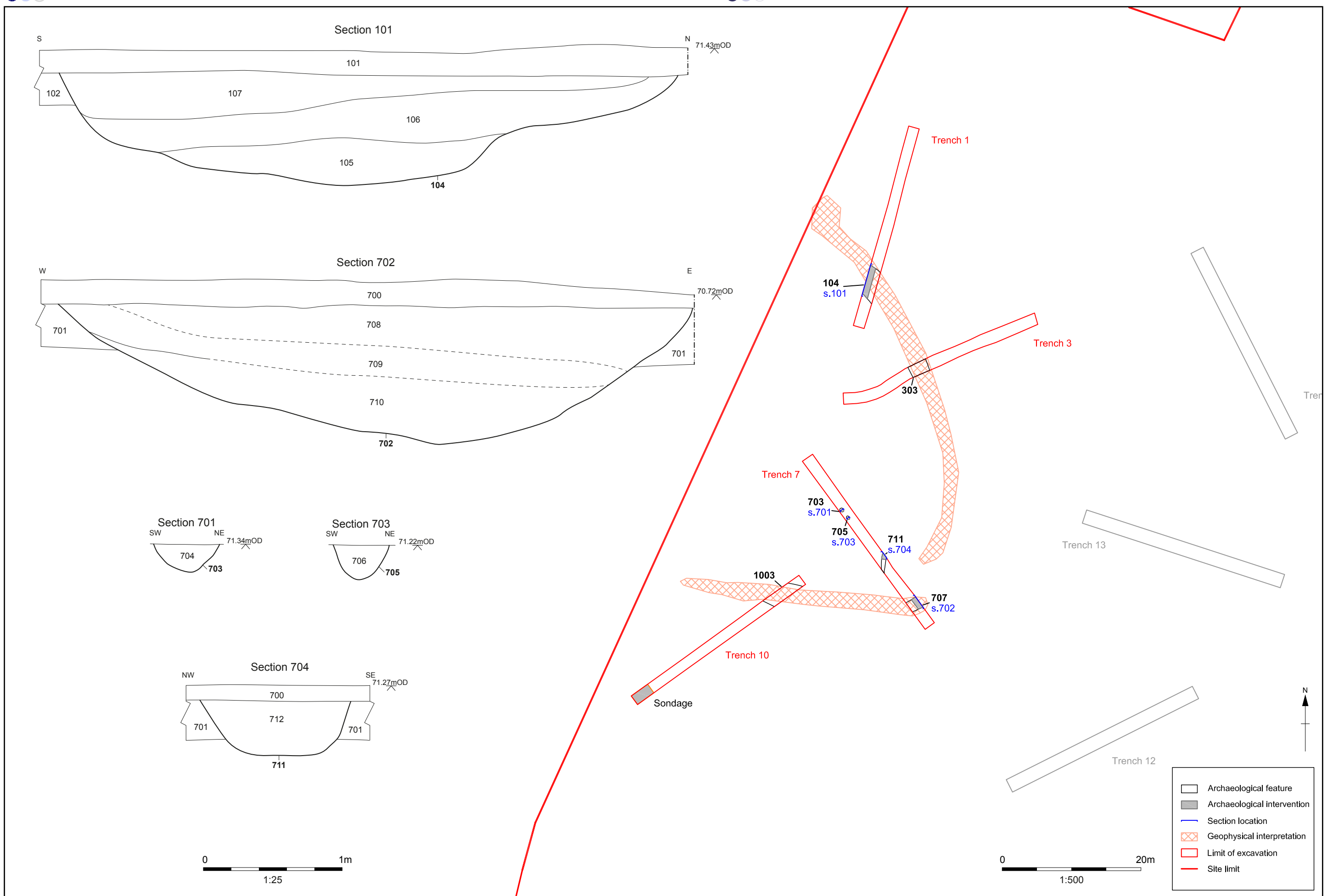
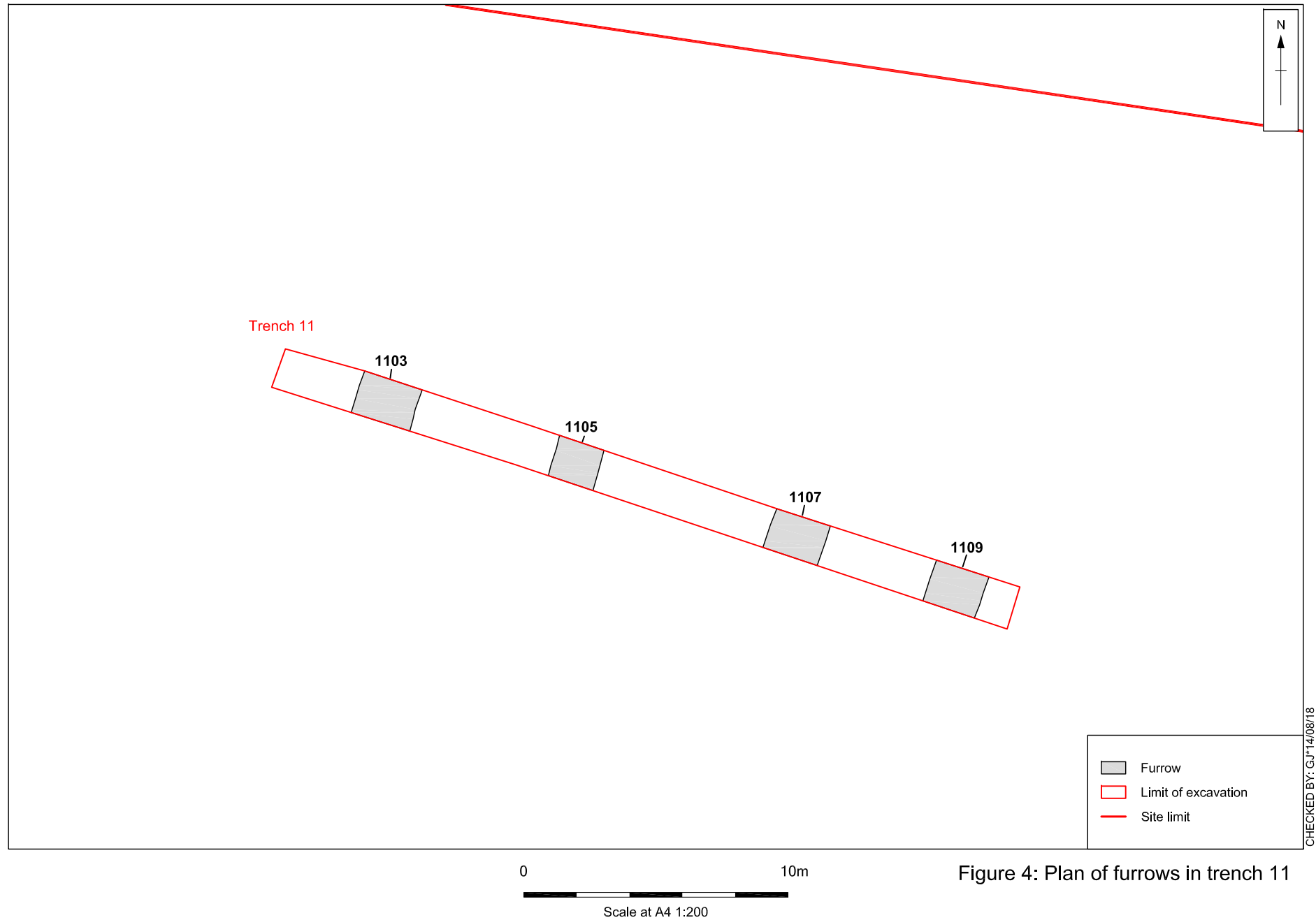
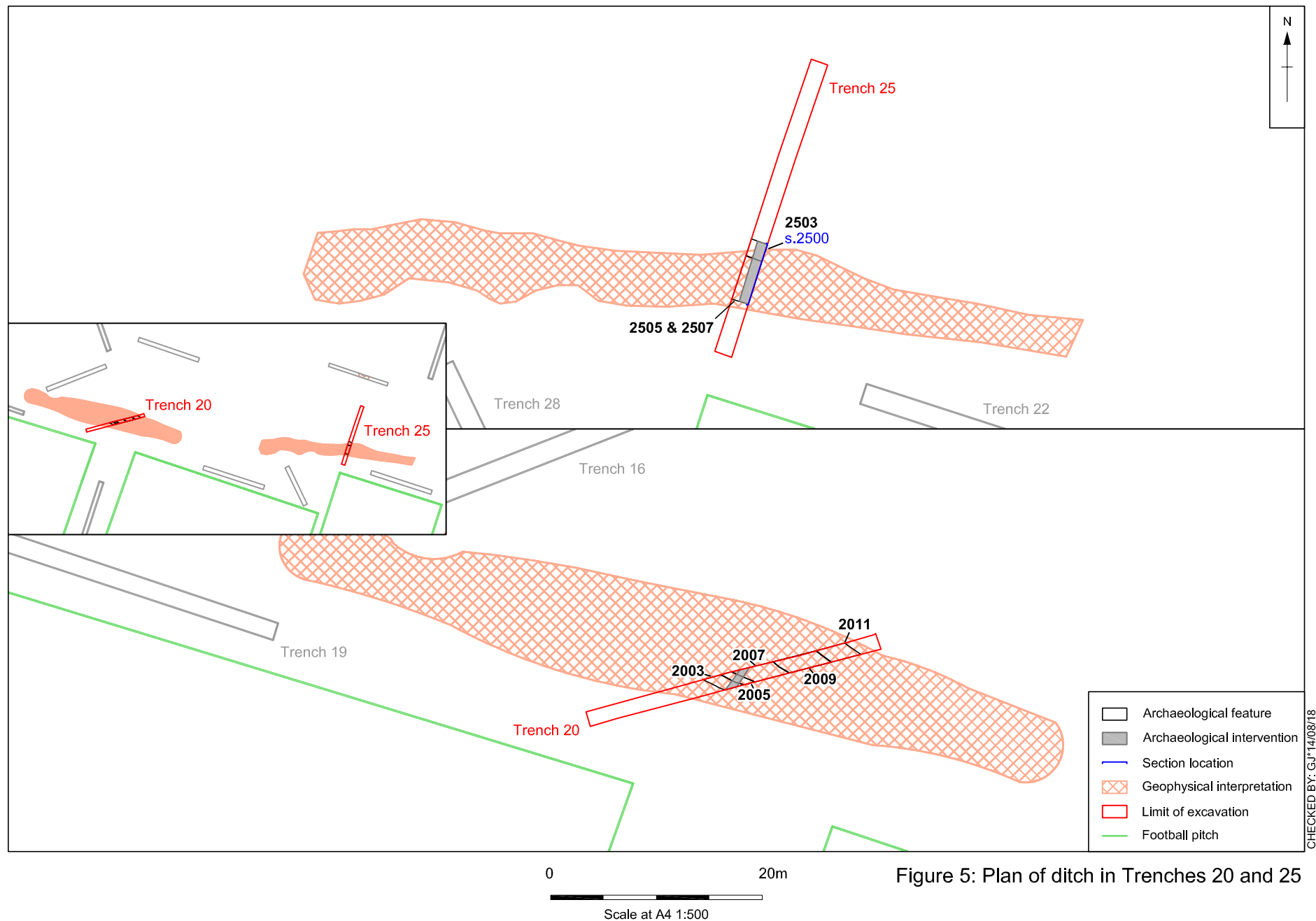


Figure 3: Plan and sections of enclosure in trenches 1, 3, 7 and 10





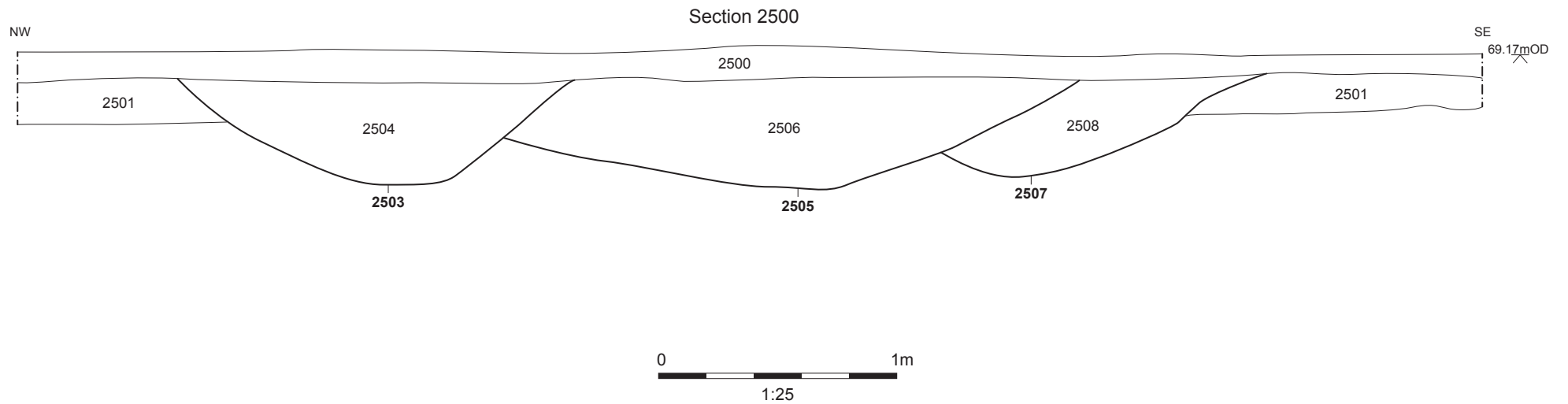


Figure 6: Trench 25 section



Plate 1: Trench 1 showing Ditch 104, facing south-east



Plate 2: Trench 7 showing Post-hole 703, facing west



Plate 3: Trench 7 showing Post-hole 705, facing west



Plate 4: Trench 7 showing Ditch 707, facing north-east

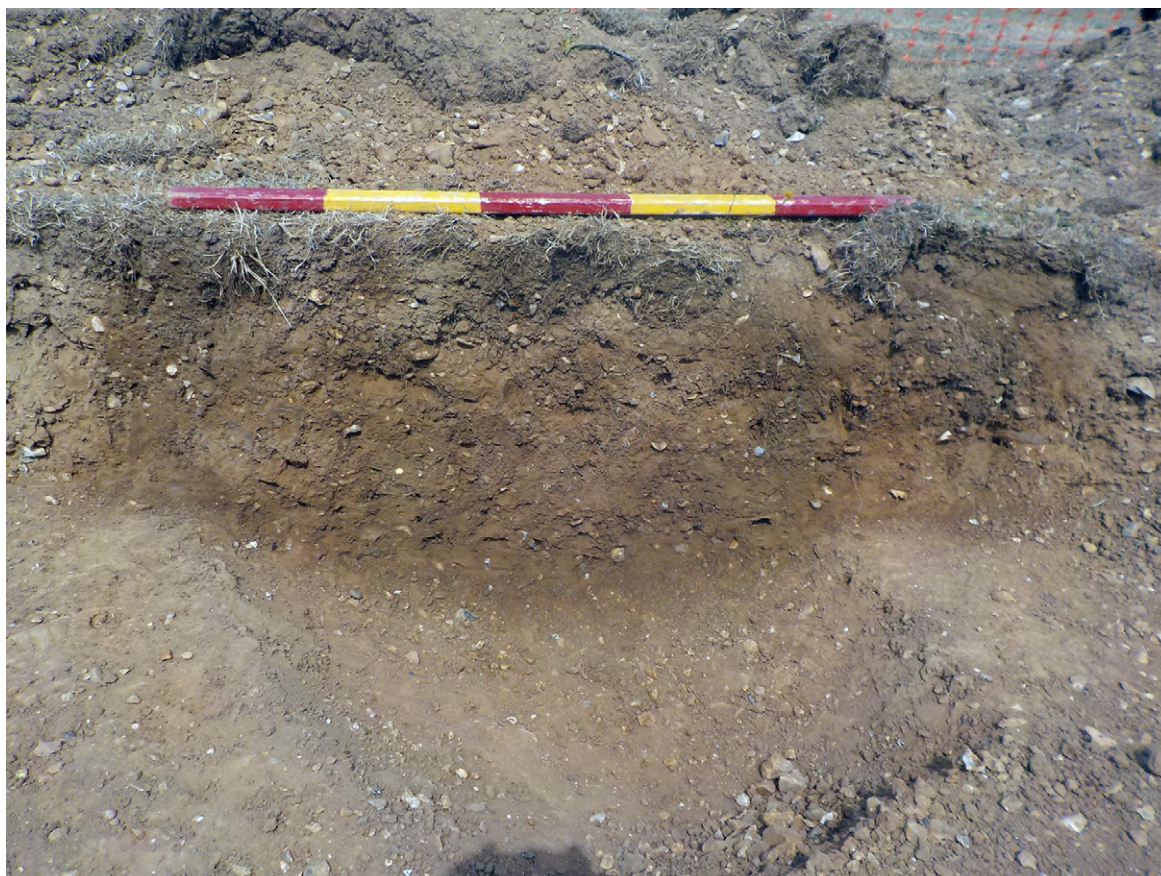


Plate 5: Trench 7 showing Ditch 711, facing north



Plate 6: Trench 11 showing Furrow 1105 facing north-east



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