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Archaeological Evaluation Report



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Tile Kiln Farm, Stevenage

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

During October 2008, Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an evaluation by trial trenching on the land adjacent to Tile Kiln Farm, Stevenage (centred NGR: TL 259 278). The works were commissioned by CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council.

The evaluation works uncovered a medieval landscape, with a potential settlement focus, which was located immediately to the south of Tile Kiln Farm. The focus itself comprised at least four ditches which contained a high quantity of medieval pottery. Potentially associated with this activity was a field system found in the central portion of the site and a series of six large medieval quarry pits.

Two other foci of activity were noted. The first was a small undated pit containing cremated animal bone in Trench 15, which may be associated with the settlement focus and the second was an isolated late Iron Age to early Roman rubbish pit containing large pieces of locally made, grog tempered, Belgic-style pottery and burnt material in Trench 20.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 CgMs Consulting was commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council to organise an archaeological evaluation of the land adjacent to Tile Kiln Farm, Stevenage. CgMs in turn appointed Oxford Archaeology (OA) to undertake the related fieldwork.
- 1.1.2 The evaluation works comprised the excavation of 42 trenches measuring 40 m by 2 m.
- 1.1.3 The site is located to the south of Tile Kiln Farm, Stevenage and centred on grid reference TL 259 278 (Fig. 1). The area measures c. 18 ha and is bounded by Tile Kiln Farm to the north, Tile Kiln Wood to the west, Brooches Wood to the south and open farmland to the east (CgMs 2008).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on a gentle south-east facing slope at c 130 m OD. At the time of the evaluation the site was covered by a young wheat crop. The underlying geology of the site comprises till with chalk rifts overlying middle chalk (CgMs 2008).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background has already been discussed in a desk based assessment (DBA) carried out by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2007) and a geophysical survey by Stratascan (Stratascan 2007), and this will not be repeated in detail here.
- 1.3.2 In summary the desk-based research indicated the presence of prehistoric and Roman activity in the wider area. However no significant sites were identified within the proposed development area.
- 1.3.3 The geophysical survey identified a number of potential archaeological features within the investigation area, which have been targeted by this evaluation.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OA would like to thank Rob Bourn of CgMs Consulting for facilitating the works and Andy Instone of Hertfordshire County Council for his advice. OA would also like to acknowledge Laura Piper who ran the fieldwork and Roberta Marziani, Paul Leader Philip Stastney, Victoria Skipper and Mark Woodley who worked on the site.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation are as follows:

- (i) To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
- (ii) To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- (iii) To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains.
- (iv) To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- (v) To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- (vi) To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of any artefactual evidence present.
- (vii) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeo-environmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 A targeted 3% sample was excavated within the evaluation area, which was undertaken through the excavation of 42 trenches measuring 40 m by 2 m.
- 2.2.2 The methodology outlined in the written scheme of investigation (WSI) for this project (OA 2008) was closely followed on site with no modifications.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results presented in the main text of this report provide a detailed overview of the findings of the evaluation works. A comprehensive listing of individual trench descriptions and related context data can be found in Appendix A.
- 3.1.2 All recovered finds and samples are recorded in the specialist reports in appendices B and C, with a summary also provided in the detailed trench descriptions (see Appendix A). The trench descriptions also contain the dimensions of both the trenches and the features within showing the depths of the deposits and, where appropriate, the relative dating.
- 3.1.3 During the course of the evaluation a number of artefacts were recovered from the ploughsoil around the trenches, these were given the generic context number 001.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 As the site had been under arable use prior to the evaluation works the soil matrix encountered was the same across the site. This comprised a uniform clay-rich ploughsoil with an average depth of 0.30 m overlying a glacial clay natural.
- 3.2.2 The exceptions to this were trenches 38-40, which were excavated through a natural dip in the landscape. At this point a colluvial deposit, up to 0.60 m thick, was encountered beneath the ploughsoil.
- 3.2.3 Heavy rain and occasional snow meant that the majority of trenches were wet from the outset with many containing pools of standing water. However, due to the underlying chalk the water table remained low and no waterlogged remains were identified.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Of the 42 trenches excavated and recorded a total of 24 contained archaeological deposits. These deposits varied in form and density across the area, and included pits, postholes and ditch features, some of which corresponded with potential features identified in the geophysical survey (see figs 2-6).
- 3.3.2 The evaluation revealed a medieval landscape, consisting of a potential focus of settlement activity in Trench 11 (Focus A, see Figs 2 and 3), and associated quarrying and field systems to the south (see figs 3 to 6).
- 3.3.3 In addition to this, two other potentially significant features were encountered, which have been labelled Foci B and C (see figs 2, 3 and 5).
- 3.3.4 A small quantity of undated ditches (Figs 3-5), pits and postholes were also recorded. All the features described are discussed in further detail below.

3.4 Focus A and associated medieval features

- 3.4.1 Focus A lies in the north of the proposed development area, immediately to the south of Tile Kiln Farm and is focussed on Trench 11 (Fig. 3). The features discovered within this focus broadly support the findings of the geophysical survey which indicated a heightened level of activity at this location.
- 3.4.2 The archaeology identified in Focus A comprised a series of at least four ditches. The ditches were not immediately clear in plan as the area had been heavily ploughed

causing the upper fills to merge into a homogeneous layer (1109), which extended over an area measuring 15 m by 2.40 m within the trench.

- 3.4.3 This layer obscured ditches 1114, 1118 and 1108, which were only discovered following the excavation of hand-dug interventions through layer 1109.
- 3.4.4 The earliest of these ditches was 1118, which contained pottery from two distinct date ranges, the first being Roman and the second dating to the mid 12th century. As it was obscured in plan by 1109 its precise width and orientation cannot be certain but it may be up to 2 m wide and was 0.48 m deep.
- 3.4.5 Ditch 1118 was truncated by ditch 1114, which measured 1 m wide 0.48 m deep and was orientated NE-SW. No finds were recovered from this ditch.
- 3.4.6 Located approximately 5 m to the east of ditches 1114 and 1118, ditch 1108 was orientated N-S and was initially completely obscured by layer 1109. Its lower fill (1101) was rich in organic material suggesting that it had been utilised for the deposition of domestic waste. This contained a high quantity of c 14th-century pottery as well as three pieces of medieval roof tile, including one piece which can be dated to between 1200 and 1400. Both floor and roof tile of medieval date was recovered from its upper fill (1107). This fill also contained a single fragment of an early medieval horseshoe as well as two pieces of worked stone, which have been tentatively dated to the post-medieval period.
- 3.4.7 The eastern half of Trench 11 was outside the extent of layer 1109. As a result, ditches 1102 and 1111 were both clearly visible.
- 3.4.8 Ditch 1102 was seen at the north-eastern end of the trench. The ditch was 'L'-shaped, with most of the exposed feature orientated east-west, then turning north. This also had a smaller ditch branching off to the north (1111)(see fig. 3). Ditch 1102 measured 1.60 m wide and 0.73 m deep and had been allowed to silt up naturally. No finds were recovered.
- 3.4.9 Environmental samples taken from ditches 1108 and 1118 provided a varied response, ditch 1108 contained a diverse range of charred plant remains, whilst ditch 1118 was limited to garden pea, oat and wheat.

Medieval Quarry Pits

- 3.4.10 Six large medieval quarry pits were found dispersed through the centre of the proposed development area in Trenches 12, 28, 34, 35 and 37 (Fig. 2). These measured between 7.00 m and 9.50 m in diameter (see figs 3, 4 and 6).
- 3.4.11 Two of these quarry pits (3405 and 3704) were partially machine excavated to a depth of 1.20 m (the maximum safe depth given the conditions) and provided datable evidence in the form of ceramic building material (CBM). A number of fills were observed in each pit, many of which indicated episodes of deliberate backfilling. The excavated pits produced a total of 26 medieval tile fragments, including six peg tiles from Pit 3704. The tiles recovered were all made using the same fabric as those identified in Trench 11.

Field System

- 3.4.12 A linear field system was identified in the southern portion of the site, in trenches 22-24, 26-28 and 30-32 (Fig. 2). The ditches were typically between 0.40 m and 0.60 m wide no more than 0.30 m deep and were flat-based. A single piece of tile was recovered

from the ditch in Trench 22 (2203); this too was of medieval date and in the same fabric as those recovered from Trench 11.

3.5 Focus B

- 3.5.1 Focus B lay in the central portion of the site and was centred on an isolated pit (1503) in Trench 15 (Fig. 3). The pit was relatively small, measuring just 0.40 m in length and appears to have been heavily ploughed out. The pit contained a burned deposit which included 18 sherds of burnt animal bone and four sherds of burnt flint and a series of charred plant remains similar to those in Focus A.

3.6 Focus C

- 3.6.1 Focus C lay in the south-west corner of the site (Fig 5) and focussed on a single elongated pit (2002) identified in Trench 20. This pit was 2.30 m long and just 0.11 m deep and provided datable evidence in the form of late Iron Age pottery, which included four large unabraded, adjoining sherds of locally produced, grog tempered, Belgic style pottery.

3.7 The Wider Evaluation Area

- 3.7.1 A series of medieval quarry pits and a field system of possible medieval date was also identified. A number of undated ditches, pits and postholes were also recorded.

Undated and Isolated Features

- 3.7.2 Away from the specific foci of activity described above a number of trenches contained undated features which were seemingly isolated. These included postholes in trenches 10 and 14, two pits, no bigger than 1.50 m in diameter, in Trench 41 and a series of tree throws dispersed across the site (Figs 4 and 5).
- 3.7.3 Trench 37 (Fig. 4) followed the ground's natural gradient, sloping heavily north-eastwards. A colluvial deposit (3705) had accumulated at the base of this slope. Beneath the colluvium a small ditch (3718) was identified. The ditch was aligned NE-SW and was preserved to a length of 0.65 m and a depth of 0.32 m. Beyond the colluvium the ditch's south-eastern extent had been completely removed by later ploughing. No dating was recovered from the ditch but it clearly pre-dated the colluvial deposit.
- 3.7.4 A further NE-SW orientated ditch (3308) measuring 0.58 m wide and 0.17 m deep was identified in Trench 33 (Fig. 6). This was unlike the ditches identified in the nearby field system in that it had a 'V' shaped profile and had been deliberately backfilled. A single sherd of the same medieval roof tile that had been seen elsewhere on site, was recovered from its fill (3307).

3.8 Finds summary

- 3.8.1 Given the quantity of archaeological features identified, a relatively small number of finds were recovered. The majority of these finds came from trenches 11 and 20 (Foci A and C) with the features away from the main foci containing few or no finds.
- 3.8.2 From the finds recovered the pottery and CBM evidence suggests two distinct phases of activity, the most significant being an early to high medieval phase centred on Trench 11. The pottery dated the majority of the activity in Trench 11 to the 12th to 14th centuries, whilst the CBM collected indicates wider medieval activity on the site.



- 3.8.3 Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery was also found in Trench 20. Flint was recovered from trenches 11, 15, 20 and 39. None, however was diagnostic, but its presence does attest to a degree of prehistoric activity on the site.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 Overall the results of the evaluation can be seen to be reliable. However there is a possibility that isolated features may survive between the trenches (Hey & Lacey, 2001).
- 4.1.2 There was a degree of vertical truncation across the evaluation area caused by ploughing, which is likely to have had an effect on the presence and recovery of artefactual evidence. This was particularly notable in Trench 37 where ditch 3718 had been completely ploughed out beyond the extent of the colluvial deposit, and in trenches 15 and 20 where the pits had been heavily vertically truncated.
- 4.1.3 The effects of ploughing were also noticeable in Trench 11 where the tops of a number of features had been ploughed out to form a homogeneous layer (1109), meaning that although the features have been described as ditches the possibility remains that some are in fact pits and that more features remain unidentified beneath this layer.
- 4.1.4 Although there were areas of standing water within the trenches, rendering excavation difficult, it did not prevent any investigation from being carried out.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The results of the evaluation are summarised below in relation to the objectives set out in the written scheme of investigation.
- 4.2.2 *To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present:* The evaluation identified three main foci of significant activity. Elsewhere within the evaluated area the evidence was largely confined to the associated field system and quarry pits and a small amount of isolated undated activity.
- 4.2.3 *To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence:* The main focus of activity on the site dated to the medieval period. A small amount of localised evidence for late Iron Age to Roman period activity was also noted.
- 4.2.4 *To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains:* On the whole the foci of activity appear to be moderately well defined where datable material was retrieved.
- 4.2.5 *To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains:* There is evidence that previous periods of ploughing have partially truncated the archaeological remains; despite this the preservation of the main foci appears to be good.
- 4.2.6 *To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present:* There was little evidence for any vertical stratigraphy of significance. The majority of archaeological features encountered appeared to be of relatively low density with the exception of Focus A, where there was a significant concentration of archaeology.
- 4.2.7 *To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of any artefactual evidence present:* Within the established foci of activity there was a reasonable quantity of well preserved artefactual material the majority of which dated to the medieval period and a small amount to the late Iron Age/Roman period. Away from these foci artefactual material was scarce. The pottery recovered was in variable condition and the CBM heavily abraded.

- 4.2.8 *To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeo-environmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present:* The environmental sampling demonstrated that the charred plant remains and charcoal on the site are well preserved. All the samples taken provided evidence for garden pea, and free threshing wheat, whilst oat, vetch and vetchling were seen in varying quantities (see Appendix C).

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 As outlined above, three main foci of activity were identified during the course of the evaluation. These ranged in date from the late prehistoric to the medieval period. The main focus of activity was of early medieval date.

The medieval remains – Focus A

- 4.3.2 Trench 11 contained a high quantity of pottery and the organic remains as well as building stone and floor and roof tile within the ditch fills suggests that a building may have stood nearby. This indicates the presence of settlement of medieval date either at the location of the trench, or in the near vicinity with the ditches discovered forming the settlement boundary.
- 4.3.3 The environmental evidence suggests that wheat grain was being grown and processed in the vicinity. The presence of Roman pottery in ditch 1118 is currently unresolved; it is likely to have come from a earlier truncated Roman feature. However, it is not possible to tell whether one of the features described is in fact Roman rather than medieval.

The medieval remains – possible associated features

- 4.3.4 The six medieval quarry pits identified have two possible functions. Either they were dug to obtain the underlying chalk for creating lime for spreading on the fields, or as is more likely to be the case, the clay was being extracted for a nearby tile works. This is made more likely by the fact that the tile fabric is similar to that of the local clay and that some of the tiles recovered were bloated and distorted and some had been re-fired suggesting that they may be the product of a local kiln, which is probably the source of the name of the farm to the north (Tile Kiln Farm).
- 4.3.5 The CBM finds from these pits indicate that their backfilling at least was contemporary with the settlement activity at Focus A.
- 4.3.6 The field system can also be tentatively dated to the medieval period. The field system was only observed in the southern central portion of the site (see fig. 6). The ditches are straight, flat-bottomed and are aligned with the natural gradient of the land suggesting that their primary function was drainage. Their form is not dissimilar from known examples of medieval assart ditches.
- 4.3.7 The field systems north-eastern most extent corresponds with an extant footpath, which is marked as a field boundary on the 1884 OS Map (CgMs 2007). Its south-western most extent corresponds with the north-east edge of Tile Kiln Wood. However no field boundary can be seen on the 1884 map on this alignment suggesting that if the field system denotes a single field then it pre-dates 1884.

Focus B

- 4.3.8 The pit identified in Trench 15 is an apparently isolated feature which remains undated. It does, however, lie between Focus A and the potentially associated field system to the south, and may represent some small scale outlying activity. However, due to the lack

of dating evidence we cannot relate the cremated remains to the settlement activity with any certainty.

- 4.3.9 The burnt bone recovered from the pit was from an unidentified species of animal. Given that the clay surrounding the pit had not been heat damaged it is clear that the remains had not been burned *in-situ*, making it possible that there is an area of food preparation nearby.

Focus C

- 4.3.10 The pit identified in Trench 20 was an isolated later prehistoric feature. Given the trenches location adjacent to the limit of the evaluation area it is possible that this feature represents the edge of an area of late Iron Age activity to the north-west of the current investigation area.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 The main archaeological evidence is for a potential medieval settlement in the northernmost corner of the site, with associated quarrying and farming activity. The quarrying and quantity of tiles found is not surprising given that the farm immediately to the north of the site is named 'Tile Kiln Farm' and that at least one tile kiln was operating in the area until the Victorian period (CgMs 2007).
- 4.4.2 The medieval period is under-represented in the Hertfordshire records (A Instone pers. comm.). The evidence indicates that there has been a form of settlement at Tile Kiln Farm since the early medieval period; it is also likely that the settlement has always been associated with tile production and agricultural activity.
- 4.4.3 There is evidence for a limited late Iron Age/Romano-British presence in the locality, but this is unsurprising given that the DBA identified both prehistoric and Roman activity within the wider evaluation area.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a greyish orange clay natural.					Avg. depth (m)	0.25
					Width (m)	2.50
					Length (m)	39.40
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
101	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a yellowish brown clay natural.					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
					Width (m)	2.50
					Length (m)	39.65
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
201	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a yellowish brown clay natural.					Avg. depth (m)	0.25
					Width (m)	2.50
					Length (m)	39.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
301	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a yellowish brown clay natural.					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
					Width (m)	2.50
					Length (m)	38.80
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date



401	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of yellow clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.28
					Width (m)	2.40
					Length (m)	38.60
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
501	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of orangey brown clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
					Width (m)	2.40
					Length (m)	39.85
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
600	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a yellowish brown clay natural.					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
					Width (m)	2.50
					Length (m)	39.25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
701	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a yellowish grey brown clay natural.					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
					Width (m)	2.50
					Length (m)	37.70
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date



801	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil overlying a natural of orangey brown clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
					Width (m)	2.50
					Length (m)	39.30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
901	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench contained two postholes cutting a natural of orangish brown clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
					Width (m)	2.50
					Length (m)	39.60
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1001	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
1002	Cut	0.28	0.05	Cut of Posthole	-	-
1003	Fill	0.28	0.05	Fill of 1002	-	-
1004	Cut	0.36	0.08	Cut of Posthole	-	-
1005	Fill	0.36	0.08	Fill of 1004	-	-
1006	Natural	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained a series of four ditches cutting a natural of orangish brown clay. The ditches were sealed by a layer of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
					Width (m)	2.40
					Length (m)	40.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1100	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1101	Fill	0.75	0.21	Fill of 1108	Pot CBM Flint Bone	Medieval 12th century
1102	Cut	1.60	0.73	Cut of Ditch	-	-
1103	Fill	0.92	0.20	Fill of 1102	-	-



1104	Fill	0.98	0.20	Fill of 1102	-	-
1105	Fill	0.17	0.16	Fill of 1102	-	-
1106	Fill	0.16	0.82	Fill of 1102	-	-
1107	Fill	0.75	0.23	Fill of 1108	Pottery Metal Stone	Medieval 14 th century
1108	Cut	0.75	0.44	Cut of Ditch	-	-
1109	Fill	0.50	0.14	Fill of 1113	-	-
1110	Group	2.40	0.14	Spread	-	-
1111	Group	-	-	Group of Linears	-	-
1112	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1113	Cut	2.40	0.14	Cut of Spread	-	-
1114	Cut	1.00	0.48	Cut of Ditch	-	-
1115	Fill	0.76	0.17	Fill of 1114	-	-
1116	Fill	2.38	0.12	Fill of 1118	Pottery Clay	Medieval 12 th century
1117	Fill	2.38	0.32	Fill of 1118	Stone	-
1118	Cut	2.40	0.48	Cut of Ditch	-	-
1119	Fill	0.42	0.22	Fill of 1114	-	-
1120	Fill	0.74	0.16	Fill of 1114	-	-

Trench 12

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained one quarry pit and one drainage ditch cutting a natural of yellow clay.	Avg. depth (m)	0.35
	Width (m)	2.40
	Length (m)	39.60

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1201	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
1202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1203	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-
1204	Fill	0.75	0.24	Fill of 1205	-	-
1205	Cut	0.75	0.24	Cut of Ditch	-	-
1206	Fill	9.50	-	Fill of 1207	-	-
1207	Cut	9.50	-	Cut of Quarry Pit	-	-

Trench 13

General description	Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a yellowy green brown clay natural.	Avg. depth (m)	0.30
	Width (m)	2.50
	Length (m)	38.90



Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1301	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
1302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 14						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained a single posthole cutting a natural of orange brown clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
					Width (m)	2.50
					Length (m)	39.95
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1400	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
1401	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1402	Cut	0.30	0.05	Cut of Posthole	-	-
1403	Fill	0.30	0.05	Fill of 1402	-	-
Trench 15						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained six linear ditches and one pit cutting a natural of orange yellow clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.20
					Width (m)	2.50
					Length (m)	40.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1501	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
1502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1503	Cut	0.22	0.20	Cut of Pit	-	-
1504	Fill	0.22	0.20	Fill of 1503	Cremated Bone Flint	-
1505	Group	-	-	Group of six ditches	-	-
1510	Cut	0.18	0.17	Cut of Ditch	-	-
1511	Fill	0.18	0.17	Fill of 1510	-	-
1512	Group	-	-	Pit Group	-	-
Trench 16						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil overlying a natural of orangey brown clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
					Width (m)	2.40
					Length (m)	39.91



Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1600	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1601	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 17						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying a natural of orange brown clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
					Width (m)	2.40
					Length (m)	39.95
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1700	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1701	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 18						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying an orange brown clay natural.					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
					Width (m)	2.45
					Length (m)	39.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1800	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1801	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
1802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 19						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of ploughsoil overlying an orange brown clay natural.					Avg. depth (m)	0.33
					Width (m)	2.50
					Length (m)	40.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1900	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil	-	-
1901	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 20						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained a single pit in the northern end of the trench. The remainder of the trench comprised soil and subsoil over a yellow brown clay natural.					Avg. depth (m)	0.29
					Width (m)	2.40



Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2000	Layer	-		Topsoil	-	-
2001	Layer	-		Subsoil	-	-
2002	Cut	0.90	0.11	Cut of Pit	-	-
2003	Fill	0.90	0.04	Fill of 2002	Pottery	Late Iron Age
2004	Fill	0.90	0.07	Fill of 2002	Pottery Flint	Late Iron Age
2005	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 21						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained a single tree throw cutting a natural of orange brown clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.27
					Width (m)	2.50
					Length (m)	40.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2101	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-
2102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2103	Cut	2.50	0.22	Cut of Tree Throw	-	-
2104	Fill	2.50	0.22	Fill of 2103	-	-
Trench 22						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained a single linear ditch cutting a natural of reddish orange clay .					Avg. depth (m)	0.22
					Width (m)	2.50
					Length (m)	40.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2201	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
2202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2203	Cut	0.85	0.15	Cut of Frost Fracture	-	-
2204	Fill	0.85	0.15	Fill of 2203	-	-
Trench 23						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained a series of four north-south orientated linear ditches cutting a natural of orange clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
					Width (m)	2.40
					Length (m)	38.40
Contexts						



context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2301	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
2302	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
2303	Fill	1.25	0.30	Fill of 2304	-	-
2304	Cut	1.25	0.30	Cut of Ditch		--
2305	Group	0.40	-	Group of three N-S linears	-	-
2306	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 24						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained six NNW-SSE orientated linear ditches cutting a natural of yellow brown clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.18
					Width (m)	2.50
					Length (m)	40.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2401	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
2402	Layer	-	0.88	Upper Clay Natural	-	-
2403	Layer	-	-	Lower Clay Natural	-	-
2404	Cut	1.10	0.22	Cut of Ditch	-	-
2405	Fill	1.10	0.22	Fill of 2404	-	-
2406	Cut	-	-	Cut of Ditch	-	-
2407	Fill	-	-	Fill of 2406	-	-
2408	Cut	-	-	Cut of Ditch	-	-
2409	Fill	-	-	Fill of 2408	-	-
2410	Cut	-	-	Cut of Ditch	-	-
2411	Fill	-	-	Fill of 2410	-	-
2412	Cut	-	-	Cut of Ditch	-	-
2413	Fill	-	-	Fill of 2412	-	-
2414	Cut	-	-	Cut of Ditch	-	-
2415	Fill	-	-	Fill of 2414	-	-
Trench 25						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil overlying a natural of orange brown clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.18
					Width (m)	2.50
					Length (m)	40.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2501	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-



2502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
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Trench 26

General description Trench contained a series of six north-south orientated linear ditches cutting a natural of yellow clay.	Orientation	NW-SE
	Avg. depth (m)	0.35
	Width (m)	2.40
	Length (m)	39.20

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2601	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
2602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2603	Fill	0.65	0.28	Fill of 2605	-	-
2604	Fill	0.50	0.08	Fill of 2605	-	-
2605	Cut	0.65	0.28	Cut of Ditch	-	-
2606	Group	-	-	Group of six N-S Ditches	-	-

Trench 27

General description Trench contained four linear ditches and one land drain cutting a natural of orange clay.	Orientation	NE-SW
	Avg. depth (m)	0.40
	Width (m)	2.50
	Length (m)	40.00

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2701	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
2702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2703	Layer	-	-	Subsoil	-	-
2704	Cut	0.38	0.21	Cut of Ditch	-	-
2705	Fill	0.38	0.21	Fill of 2704	-	-
2706	Cut	0.60	0.19	Cut of Ditch	-	-
2707	Fill	0.60	0.19	Fill of 2706	-	-
2708	Cut	0.15	0.12	Cut of Ditch	-	-
2709	Fill	0.15	0.12	Fill of 2708	-	-
2710	Cut	0.90	0.20	Cut of Ditch	-	-
2711	Fill	0.90	0.20	Fill of 2710	-	-
2712	Cut	-	-	Cut of Ditch	-	-
2713	Fill	-	-	Fill of 2712	-	-

Trench 28

General description Trench contained three ditches and one quarry pit cutting a natural	Orientation	NW-SE
	Avg. depth (m)	0.30



of red clay.					Width (m)	2.40
					Length (m)	39.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2801	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
2802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2803	Fill	0.61	0.25	Fill of 2808	CBM	Medieval
2804	Fill	0.60	0.20	Fill of 2808	-	-
2805	Fill	0.40	0.20	Fill of 2808	-	-
2806	Fill	0.26	0.12	Fill of 2808	-	-
2807	Fill	0.60	0.14	Fill of 2808	-	-
2808	Cut	9.50	0.50	Cut of Quarry Pit	-	-
2809	Group	0.50	-	Ditch Group	-	-
2810	Fill	0.16	0.15	Fill of 2808	-	-
Trench 29						
General description Trench contained a single tree throw cutting a natural of orange brown clay.					Orientation	NW-SE
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
					Width (m)	2.20
					Length (m)	39.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2900	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
2901	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
2902	Cut	5.80	0.12	Cut of Tree Throw	-	-
2903	Fill	5.80	0.12	Fill of 2902	-	-
2904	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 30						
General description Trench contained five north-south orientated linear ditches cutting a natural of brownish orange clay.					Orientation	NE-SW
					Avg. depth (m)	0.25
					Width (m)	2.50
					Length (m)	39.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3001	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
3002	Layer	-	0.19	Subsoil	-	-
3003	Cut	0.60	0.20	Cut of Ditch	-	-
3004	Fill	0.60	0.20	Fill of 3003	-	-



3005	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
3006	Cut	0.18	0.27	Cut of Field Drain	-	-
3007	Group	-	-	Group of five N-S linears	-	-
Trench 31						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained six north-south orientated ditches cutting a natural of orange brown clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
					Width (m)	2.40
					Length (m)	39.10
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3100	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
3101	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
3102	Cut	1.02	0.24	Cut of Ditch	-	-
3103	Fill	1.02	0.24	Fill of 3102	-	-
3104	Group	-	-	Group of five N-S linears	-	-
3105	Natural	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 32						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained one ditch and two pits were cutting a clay natural.					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
					Width (m)	2.40
					Length (m)	39.40
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3201	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
3202	Layer	-	0.22	Natural	-	-
3203	Fill	0.56	0.18	Fill of 32004	-	-
3204	Cut	0.56	0.18	Cut of Ditch	-	-
3205	Fill	0.62	0.12	Fill of 32007	-	-
3206	Fill	0.44	0.23	Fill of 32007	-	-
3207	Cut	0.94	0.36	Cut of Pit	-	-
3208	Fill	0.50	0.23	Fill of 32009	-	-
3209	Cut	0.55	0.28	Pit Cut	-	-
Trench 33						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained two ditches and two tree throws cutting a red clay natural.					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
					Width (m)	2.40
					Length (m)	38.00



Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3301	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
3302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
3303	Fill	0.40	0.30	Fill of 3304	-	-
3304	Cut	0.80	0.30	Cut of Tree Throw	-	-
3305	Fill	0.34	0.27	Fill of 3306	-	-
3306	Cut	0.64	0.27	Cut of Tree Throw	-	-
3307	Fill	0.58	0.17	Fill of 3308	CBM	Medieval
3308	Cut	0.58	0.17	Cut of Ditch	-	-
3309	Group	-	-	Ditch Group	-	-
Trench 34						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained two Quarry Pits cutting a natural of reddish orange clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.24
					Width (m)	2.50
					Length (m)	39.50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3401	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
3402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
3403	Cut	>2.50	-	Cut of Quarry Pit	-	-
3404	Fill	>2.50	-	Fill of 3403	CBM	Medieval
3405	Cut	2.50	>1.50	Cut of Quarry Pit	-	-
3406	Fill	2.50	0.60	Fill of 3405	CBM	Medieval
3407	Fill	1.65	1.20	Fill of 3405	-	-
3409	Layer	-	0.35	Natural Clay	-	-
3410	Layer	-	0.25	Natural Clay	-	-
3411	Layer	-	-	Natural Clay	-	-
Trench 35						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained two ditches and one quarry pit cutting a natural of orange brown clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.26
					Width (m)	2.45
					Length (m)	40.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3500	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
3501	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-



3502	Cut	1.18	0.31	Ditch Cut	-	-
3503	Fill	1.18	0.31	Fill of 3502	-	-
3504	Cut	0.25	0.14	Ditch Cut	-	-
3505	Fill	0.25	0.14	Fill of 3504	-	-
3506	Cut	1.80	-	Cut of Quarry Pit	-	-
3507	Fill	1.80	-	Fill of 3506	-	-
Trench 36						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a single tree throw cutting a natural of orange clay. A series of naturally occurring features were also noted.					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
					Width (m)	2.50
					Length (m)	37.70
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3601	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
3602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
3603	Cut	1.50	0.19	Natural Feature	-	-
3604	Fill	1.50	0.19	Fill of 3603	-	-
3605	Cut	0.90	0.12	Natural Feature	-	-
3606	Fill	0.90	0.12	Fill of 3605	-	-
3607	Cut	1.90	0.14	Natural Feature	-	-
3608	Fill	1.90	0.14	Fill of 3607	-	-
3609	Cut	2.20	0.40	Cut of Tree Throw	-	-
3610	Fill	2.20	0.38	Fill of 3609	-	-
3611	Fill	0.40	0.19	Fill of 3609	-	-
3612	Group	-	-	Group	-	-
Trench 37						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained one quarry pit and one ditch cutting a natural of reddish orange clay. The ditch (3718), was sealed by a layer of colluvium and had been ploughed out at its south-western end.					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
					Width (m)	2.40
					Length (m)	38.70
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3701	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
3702	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil	-	-
3703	Fill	0.24	0.50	Fill of 3704	CBM	Medieval
3704	Cut	7.00	>1.17	Cut of Quarry Pit	-	-
3705	Layer	-	0.30	Colluvium	-	-



3706	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
3707	Fill	0.60	0.18	Fill of 3704	-	-
3708	Fill	3.80	0.33	Fill of 3704	-	-
3709	Fill	3.00	0.24	Fill of 3704	-	-
3710	Fill	2.80	0.17	Fill of 3704	-	-
3711	Fill	5.60	0.28	Fill of 3704	-	-
3712	Fill	3.60	0.20	Fill of 3704	-	-
3713	Fill	1.80	0.18	Fill of 3704	-	-
3714	Fill	2.40	0.30	Fill of 3704	-	-
3715	Fill	2.00	0.34	Fill of 3704	CBM	Medieval
3716	Fill	0.65	0.08	Fill of 3718	-	-
3717	Fill	0.65	0.21	Fill of 3718	-	-
3718	Cut	0.65	0.32	Cut of Dutch	-	-
Trench 38						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained a single Tree Throw cutting a natural of orange-brown clay. A layer of colluvium overlay the natural.					Avg. depth (m)	0.80
					Width (m)	2.45
					Length (m)	39.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3800	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
3801	Layer	-	0.35	Colluvium	-	-
3802	Layer	-	0.15	Colluvium	-	-
3803	Cut	1.40	0.50	Cut of Tree Throw	-	-
3804	Fill	1.40	0.25	Fill of 3803	-	-
3805	Fill	1.40	0.25	Fill of 3803	-	-
3806	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
3807	Layer	-	0.40	Colluvium	-	-
Trench 39						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil, subsoil and colluvium overlying a natural of orangey brown silty clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.70
					Width (m)	2.50
					Length (m)	38.70
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3901	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
3902	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-



3903	Layer	-	0.40	Colluvium	-	-
3904	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 40						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil, subsoil and colluvium overlying a natural of sandy clay.					Avg. depth (m)	1.10
					Width (m)	2.40
					Length (m)	39.90
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4000	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
4001	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
4002	Layer	-	0.60	Colluvium	-	-
4003	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 41						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained two pits cutting a natural of red clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.25
					Width (m)	2.40
					Length (m)	38.70
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4101	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
4102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4103	Fill	0.45	0.32	Fill of 4104	-	-
4104	Cut	0.45	0.32	Cut of Pit	-	-
4105	Fill	0.40	0.12	Fill of 4106	-	-
4106	Cut	0.40	0.12	Cut of Pit	-	-
Trench 42						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil overlying a natural of red clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
					Width (m)	2.40
					Length (m)	38.80
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
42001	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
42002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Iron Age and Roman pottery

By Paul Booth

Introduction

- B.1.1 Some 19 sherds (444 g) of late Iron Age and Roman pottery were recovered during the evaluation, from two contexts: 1116 (5 sherds, 72 g) and 2004 (14 sherds/372 g). The pottery was rapidly scanned and recorded using codes set out in the system employed for all Roman pottery from OA projects (Booth 2007). The full records are on sheets which are contained in the project archive.
- B.1.2 The pottery was in variable condition. It included a number of relatively fresh sherds, but other sherds were quite abraded and some surfaces were eroded.

Fabrics

- B.1.3 Identification of fabric was at a fairly generalised level, usually at an intermediate stage of the fabric/ware definition hierarchy used in the recording system. Brief descriptions of the fabrics present in the group, or familiar names of well-known wares, are given with quantification in Table B.1 below.

Table B.1 – Quantification of pottery fabrics

Ware	Description	No.sh.	Weight (g)	Comment
E10	Shell tempered 'Belgic type' coarse ware	5	20	Coarse, possibly not pottery
E810	Grog- and sand-tempered 'Belgic type' coarse ware	7	275	Jar
O57	Hadham oxidised coarse ware	3	10	
O80	Coarse grog-tempered oxidised ware	1	59	
R20	Sandy reduced coarse ware	1	3	
R30	Medium sandy reduced coarse ware	1	2	
R90	Coarse grog-tempered reduced ware	1	75	'Storage jar' fabric

- B.1.4 The fabrics are all probably or demonstrably of local/regional origin. Only O57 is assigned to a specific source with some confidence. The other 'Romanised' fabrics (R20 and R30) only occurred as tiny, undiagnostic sherds and their sources are unknown. The 'Belgic type' material cannot be assigned to known sources, but was probably produced locally.

Forms, context and chronology

- B.1.5 Only a single vessel was represented by a rim. This was a jar of Thompson (1982) type B1-2 in a standard grog and sand-tempered 'Belgic type' fabric E810, four joining sherds (266 g) of which came from context 2004. The other material in this group was of comparable, ie broadly of late Iron Age character, except for the single fragment of fabric R30. If the latter is not intrusive the group could still date to the early post-conquest period, and the date range for the jar (ibid., 97) is consistent with this. The group from context 1116 contained no feature sherds of any kind, but is likely to be of broadly early Roman date (ie later 1st-2nd century).

B.2 Medieval Pottery

By Paul Blinkhorn

Introduction

- B.2.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 197 sherds with a total weight of 1999 g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 0.70. It comprised mainly medieval wares of the mid 12th – 14th centuries, although a single post-medieval sherd and a small group of apparently stratified Late Iron Age material was also present.

Fabric

- B.2.2 The following fabrics were noted.:
- B.2.3 F1: Calcareous sandy ware. Moderate to dense sub-rounded quartz up to 1mm, most less, rare rounded calcareous material up to 2mm. Pale grey to reddish-brown surfaces with a darker core. Medieval, 12th – 14th C? 1 sherd, 43 g, EVE = 0.
- B.2.4 F10: Hertfordshire Grey ware, reduced sandy wares, probably from a number of sources, some of which are as-yet unknown (Turner-Rugg 1993). Mid 12th – 14th century (Turner-Rugg 1993). 141 sherds, 1603 g, EVE = 0.45.
- B.2.5 F11: Hertfordshire Glazed ware, mid 14th – 15th century. (Jenner and Vince 1983). Salmon-pink sandy fabric, vessels usually highly decorated glazed jugs. 1 sherd, 24 g, EVE = 0.
- B.2.6 F330: Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1400 (McCarthy 1979). Products of numerous known and very probably many unknown kilns on the Jurassic limestone of west Northants/east Bedfordshire. Pale buff through virtually all colours to black, moderate to dense shelly limestone fragments up to 3mm, and any amount of ironstone, quartz and flint. Full range of medieval vessel types, especially jars and bowls, and 'Top Hat' jars. 25 sherds, 198 g, EVE = 0.25.
- B.2.7 F360: Sandy Coarseware, AD1100-1400 Moderate to dense quartz up to 1mm. Similar wares are known throughout East Anglia and the East Midlands. 2 sherds, 33 g.
- B.2.8 F425: Glazed Red Earthenwares: 16th – 19th century. Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was made at a large number of centres. 1 sherd, 15 g.
- B.2.9 LIA: Late Iron Age. Moderate to dense shelly limestone, some sherds appear wheel-thrown. 26 sherds, 83 g, EVE = 0.
- B.2.10 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table B.2. Each date should be regarded as a terminus post quem. The range of fabric and vessel types is typical of sites in the region. It is dominated by local pottery in the form of Hertfordshire Grey wares, and a single sherd from a Hertfordshire Glazed ware jug along with small quantities of shelly wares from a Bedfordshire or Northamptonshire source, and a small quantity of sandy medieval wares. The last-named are from unknown sources, but similar wares have been noted at Green Lane, Letchworth (Blinkhorn in print), Tempsford in Bedfordshire (ibid. 2005, 56) and Caldecote Deserted Medieval Village near Baldock (Whittingham forthcoming), and the source of the coarsewares is thought to lie somewhere between Bedford, Letchworth and Cambridgeshire.

- B.2.11 The vessel assemblage appears typical, with the rimsherds mainly from jars (EVE = 0.45) and bowls (EVE = 0.17), with the bowls rims all in shelly ware. A rim and handle from a Hertfordshire Greyware jug was also present (EVE = 0.08).

Table B.2 – Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

	LIA		F1		F330		F360		F10		F11		F425		
Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
1													1	15	M16th C
1101					12	126			57	758					M12th C
1107					11	68			78	790	1	24			M14th C
1116			1	43	2	4	2	33	6	55					M12th C
2004	26	83													LIA
Total	26	83	1	43	25	198	2	33	141	1603	1	24	1	15	

- B.2.12 The Hertfordshire Glazed ware, the defining pottery type for mid-14th century contexts, is usually quite a rare find, and the fact that there is a sherd present at this site may mean that other contexts are of that date, but lacking the defining ware.

B.3 Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay

By Cynthia Poole

Introduction

- B.3.1 A total of 35 fragments (1,102 g) of ceramic building material (CBM) and 12 pieces (182 g) of burnt clay were recovered from six trenches. The material was mainly found in the fills of ditches and quarry hollows. The condition of the assemblage was heavily abraded and the mean fragment weight (MFW) was low at 31 g from the tile and 15 g for the fired clay. The assemblage has been recorded on a spreadsheet which forms part of the archive. Fabrics have been characterised with a x10 hand lens.

Fabrics

- B.3.2 The ceramic building material assemblage is almost entirely made in the same fabric. This is an oxidised orange, red or brown clay and occasionally reduced grey clay, which in a few pieces is finely laminated with thin cream streaks. It contains a high density of medium and coarse quartz sand, usually clear but sometimes white giving a distinct speckled appearance to the fabric, common maroon-red ferruginous clay pellets (c 1-3 mm) and a low density of stone grits, usually angular flint, mostly less than 6 mm but occasionally up to 13 mm in diameter. These larger grits may be a fine limestone. A few pieces have a very coarse moulding sand with white quartz sand common.
- B.3.3 There was one other fabric observed which was made in a fine possibly micaceous clay containing rounded clay pellets measuring up to 7 mm which were similar to the clay matrix and red maroon ferruginous rounded clay grits, which measured up to 5 mm in diameter.

- B.3.4 The fired clay is a sandy clay with ferruginous pellets which looks very similar to the soil adhering to it, suggesting it derives from the local clay natural or subsoil. The tile fabrics are quite similar and could also derive from the local clays.

Forms

- B.3.5 The majority of the assemblage consists of flat roof tile, of which a few pieces could be positively identified as peg tile from the remains of square and diamond shaped peg holes 15 mm wide. The tiles were 12-16 mm thick and fairly evenly finished though edges could be somewhat irregular. There overall character suggests a medieval date which is supported by the present of a fragment with a patchy dark greenish brown glaze. This is probably a piece of glazed ridge tile rather than peg tile and of 13-15th century date.
- B.3.6 A number of floor tiles varying in thickness from 25 to 31 mm were plain and unglazed. One was quite roughly finished, whilst another had a smooth chamfered edge indicative of being made in a mould. There is no indication that any were glazed originally.
- B.3.7 A number of amorphous fragments could be either brick or floor tile, though the less refined character of the fabric of some pieces suggest brick was present in the assemblage also.
- B.3.8 The fired clay was amorphous and only lightly baked, and as a result lost any original shaping (if it existed) whilst being transported wet in the finds bag. Its general appearance and similarity to the soil adhering suggests it derives from the local natural clay and probably derived from the floor of a hearth or oven set into the clay surface.

Discussion

- B.3.9 A number of the pieces from Trench 11 had been over- or re-fired as the roof tile was bloated and distorted. This raises the question of the whether, in view of the name of the adjacent farm and fields whether these are the product of local tile kilns. The uniformity of the fabric and apparent similarity to the local clay in conjunction with some overfired and burnt fragments, which may have been either built into a kiln structure or in the case of the bloated fragment be a waster, points to such a possibility. The presence of quarry pits, which are likely to be medieval in date, could well be associated with the digging of clay for tile production. Although the quantity of tile is sparse in the area of the evaluation, it hints that the place name may have some basis in fact and that tile was produced somewhere in the vicinity during the medieval period.

Table B.3 – Quantification of ceramic building material by form

Forms	Count	Wt (g)	MFW	Comments
Roof: flat	19	432	23	
Roof: peg	7	165	23.5	Two peg holes
Floor	4	453	113	One glazed
Indeterminate	5	52	10	Probably brick or floor
Fired clay	12	182	15	Amorphous
Total CBM	35	1102	31	
Total FC	12	182	15	

Table B.4 – Summary of assemblage by context



Context	Count	Wt (g)	MFW	Material	Form	Obj date
001	1	55	55	CBM	Roof: peg	Med
1101	1	59	59	CBM	Roof: flat	13-15th C
1101	2	25	12.5	CBM	Roof: flat	Med
1107	1	103	103	CBM	Floor	Med
1107	1	261	261	CBM	Floor	Med
1107	1	33	33	CBM	Roof: flat	Med
1116	12	182	15.17	"Fired" Clay	FC: Unid	-
2204	1	24	24	CBM	Roof: flat	Med
2803	6	101	16.83	CBM	Roof: flat	Med
3307	1	28	28	CBM	Roof: flat	Med
3404	3	94	31.33	CBM	Roof: flat	Med
3406	2	14	7	CBM	Misc	Med
3406	2	11	5.5	CBM	Roof: flat	Med
3703	2	89	44.5	CBM	Floor?	Med
3703	3	38	12.67	CBM	Misc	Med
3703	6	110	18.33	CBM	Roof: peg	Med
3715	2	57	28.5	CBM	Roof: flat	Med

B.4 Animal Bone

By Lena Strid

- B.4.1 A single cattle tooth was found on site, along with a small quantity of burnt animal bone from environmental sampling.

B.5 – The Animal Bone

Context No.	Sample No.	Description
1101		Single cattle tooth , weighing 11g.
1101	<1>	1 sherd burnt animal bone, species unidentifiable, weighing 1g.
1504	<2>	18 sherds burnt animal bone, species unidentifiable, weighing 12g.

B.5 Worked Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

Description and dating

- B.5.1 Context 1107 produced two stones almost certainly designed as 'bricks' including one made from a quartzite cobble and another carefully shaped from a large flint. The flint 'brick' measures 190 x 100-110 x 65 mms, which is slightly thicker than the smallest typical medieval bricks (Blair 1991, 226); this may suggest a post-medieval date. Particular attention has been paid to one of the long edges suggesting this is the part of the 'brick' that was visible. The third piece of stone retained from context 001 is a highly burnt fragment of shelly limestone with worked face; the degree of heat damage suggests it may have been used in the structure of a kiln or similar.

B.6 – The Worked Stone

Ctx	Descrip	Illust	Notes	Size	Wt (g)	Lithology
1107	Flint 'brick'	Yes	Flint cobble carefully knapped to be brick shape and size. Presumably intended for use structurally, particular attention having been paid to one of the long edges	Measures 190 x max 110 but mainly 100 x 65mm	2000	Flint
1107	Stone 'brick'	No	Square stone, possibly altered in shape which may have been used structurally as has 5 of 6 very square sides and is roughly brick sized	Measures 140 x 110 x 70mm	1850	Quartzite cobble
1	Worked stone of indeterminate function	No	Small thin bit of stone, possibly used structurally, very heavily burnt	Measures > 15mm thick	41	Fine grained shelly limestone

B.6 Flint

By Geraldine Crann

- B.6.1 A total of three pieces of worked flint were recovered from 2 contexts from the site. A further 24 fragments of burnt flint and 34 fragments of unworked flint were recovered from the site.

B.7 – The Flint

Context No.	Description
1504	<2> 1 debitage flake on dark brown flint, 3 dorsal scars, distal edge and proximal end truncated.
3903	2 possible debitage fragments. 1 with 15% cortex, abraded grey-brown flint with inclusions. 1 with 10% cortex, mottled light grey flint with many inclusions, 2 hinge terminations.
1101	<1> 20 fragments, weighing 12g, with no worked flint diagnostic characteristics, likely to be plough shatter.
1116	3 fragments of flint, weighing 21g, with no worked flint diagnostic characteristics, likely to be a mixture of plough shatter/potlid fractures.
1504	<2> 4 fragments of thermally altered flint, a mixture of fractured and fire reddened being present.
1504	<2> 2 fragments, weighing 19g, with no worked flint diagnostic characteristics, likely to be a mixture of plough shatter/potlid fractures
2004	<3> 9 fragments, weighing 299g, with no worked flint diagnostic characteristics, likely to be a mixture of plough shatter/potlid fractures.
2004	<3> 20 fragments of thermally altered flint, a mixture of fractured and fire reddened being present.

Technology and Dating

- B.6.2 The material recovered from contexts 1504 and 3903 consists of one flake and two possible debitage pieces. The material is not diagnostic, but points to some prehistoric activity on the site.

**Discussion**

- B.6.3 The small quantities of worked flint recovered limits the interpretation of the material beyond illustrating a human presence in the local area during the earlier prehistoric period.

B.7 Metalwork

By Ian Scott

- B.7.1 Three metal finds have been found; these are described below by context.

Context 1001

- B.7.2 Chisel-like object, with wide-splayed blade with rounded edge. The stem is untapered and circular in section. The strongly curved cutting edge suggests that this not a chisel. Possibly a form of spud used for cleaning mud from ploughs and other equipment, although spuds are more usually socketed. Not closely dateable. L 170 mm

Context 1107

- B.7.3 Horseshoe heel fragment. The shoe has a pointed heel with a thickened ('upset') or possibly folded calkin. The horseshoe is probably an early medieval form. L 64 mm

Context 3406

- B.7.4 Clamp or nail fragment. Curved fragment probably from a small dog or clamp. L 51 mm.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

By Laura Strafford

C.1 Introduction

- C.1.1 This report describes four bulk environmental samples taken from the field evaluation at Tile Kiln Farm, Stevenage, in October 2008.
- C.1.2 The bulk environmental samples were taken from a range of secure contexts for the recovery of charred plant remains (CPR) and artefacts. Sample <1> (1101) was taken from a pit and has been identified on site as late Saxon/early Medieval. Sample <2> (1504) is from an undated pit. Sample <3> (2004) is from a late Iron Age pit, whilst sample <5> (1117) is from a ditch and is dated as late Saxon/early Medieval.

C.2 Aims

- C.2.1 Sampling was undertaken to:
- Describe the soils and sediments.
 - Determine whether ecofacts and environmental evidence (such as plant remains, animal bone, human bone and molluscs) are present.
 - Determine the quality, range, state and method of preservation of any ecofactual evidence.
 - Recover and identify any small artefacts.
 - Make further recommendations about sampling for future excavations at the site.

C.3 Methodology

- C.3.1 The bulk samples were processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine, with the flot collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residue (the material which does not float) sieved to 500µm. All flots and heavy residues were dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains.
- C.3.2 The flots were scanned for charred plant remains (CPR) using a binocular microscope at approximately x15 magnification. Identifications were made with guidance from Dr. Wendy Smith, but without comparison to Oxford Archaeology's reference collection and should, therefore, all be seen as provisional. Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (1997).

C.4 Results

Sediment

- C.4.1 Sample <1> (1101) was taken from a pit and was a moist, firm, reddish yellow clayey silt loam. 38L was processed for the recovery of CPR, bone and artefacts.
- C.4.2 Sample <2> (1504) was taken from a pit containing cremated animal bone and was a compact soft and sticky yellowish brown clay. 40L was processed for the recovery of CPR, bone and artefacts, with the remaining 50L processed for the recovery of bone and artefacts.

- C.4.3 Sample <3> (2004) was taken from a pit and was a yellowish brown moist sandy silt loam. 37L was processed for the recovery of CPR, bone and artefacts.
- C.4.4 Sample <4> No sample was taken.
- C.4.5 Sample <5> (1117) was taken from a ditch and was a light yellowish brown silt loam which was fairly compacted and moist. 39L was processed for the recovery of CPR, bone and artefacts.

Bones and Artefacts

- C.4.6 Finds from the samples are detailed in Table C.2. As a whole the samples did not produce a great variety or quantity of artefacts. Sample <5> (1117) did not produce any finds. The remaining samples all produced possible flint debitage, with burnt flint also present in samples <2> (1504) and <3> (2004). Sample <1> (1101) and <3> (2004) produced an amount of fairly large (>10mm) fragments of pottery, and sample <2> (1504) produced some cremated human bone.

Charred Plant Remains (CPR)

- C.4.7 Table C.1 summarises the assessment results for the CPR. The samples produced limited CPR (e.g. cereal grains, weed seeds, etc.). All the flots contained some modern material including large amounts of modern plant root.
- C.4.8 Although charcoal was well preserved and abundant in all samples, it was generally small (less than 2 mm) and therefore unidentifiable. Samples <1> (1101), <2> (1504) and <3> (2004) produced some larger pieces of charcoal from the heavy residues, although not enough individual fragments to make up an adequate assemblage. Van der Veen and Fieller (1982) have strongly argued that assemblages of <100 identifications are unlikely to be of interpretable value, and none of the evaluation samples produced charcoal that was both >100 fragments and large enough to be identifiable.
- C.4.9 Sample <1> (1101) was undoubtedly the richest CPR sample, containing a large quantity of free-threshing wheat grain (*Triticum* sp (p)) which appears highly clinkered, suggesting burning to a very high temperature. Garden pea (*Pisum sativum* L.), common vetch (*Vicia sativa* L.) and vetchling (*Lathyrus* sp.) were also common. An amount of long grass, likely to be oat (*Avena* sp) was noted, along with weed seeds (including orache - *Atriplex* sp), some modern seeds and abundant charcoal and modern plant root.
- C.4.10 Sample <2> (1504) had similar CPR to sample <1> (1101), but identifiable material was not nearly so abundant. Garden pea (*Pisum sativum* L.) and free threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp(p)) were both present in small numbers, along with a large amount of charcoal and modern plant root.
- C.4.11 Sample <3> (2004) contained very few garden pea (*Pisum sativum* L.), weed seeds including orache (*Atriplex* sp.), and free threshing type wheat (*Triticum* sp(p)). Also present were two *Cecilioides acicula* molluscs (a burrowing species) abundant charcoal remains and modern plant roots.
- C.4.12 Sample <5> (1117) contained very few garden pea (*Pisum sativum* L.) and oat (*Avena* sp), and some free threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp (p)). Also present were large quantities of charcoal and modern plant roots.



C.5 Discussion and Recommendations

- C.5.1 The evaluation samples suggest charred plant remains (including charcoal) on this site are well preserved, but the potential for other palaeoenvironmental indicators (waterlogged plant remains, insects, pollen and molluscs) appears to be low.
- C.5.2 Whilst the range of CPR from the other samples was very limited, the results from sample <1> (1101) demonstrates the survival, quantity and some diversity of charred plant remains and, therefore suggests that significant charred remains could be more plentiful in the vicinity. At present, it is recommended that the CPR from sample <1> (1101) should be considered alongside any samples generated from future excavations at the site.
- C.5.3 Other Saxon/Medieval sites with published plant macrofossil assemblages in Hertfordshire can be found at St Albans, Hertfordshire (Murphy, M. 1993) and from the Romano-British period at Chells, near Stevenage (Murphy, P. 1999).
- C.5.4 Future excavations should target a range of securely dated features across the site, and should be in accordance with the most recent Oxford Archaeology Sampling Guidelines (OA 2005) and English Heritage Sampling Guidelines (EH 2002).



C.1 – Charred Plant Remains

Sample No	Context No	Feature Type	Sample Volume (L.)	Date/ Phase	Flot vol (ml)	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Other CPR	Animal Bone	Charcoal	Molluscs	Comments on CPR	CPR Potential
1	1101	Pit fill	38	sax/ med	50	++ ++		+ +	++ +		++ ++		ca. 50% of flot scanned. Abundant charcoal present, although most fragments <2mm and unidentifiable. Small amount of larger fragments of charcoal retrieved from heavy residues. Large amount of free threshing wheat (<i>Triticum</i> sp(p)) observed, much of which is highly clinkered. Some grass seed/oats (<i>Avena</i> sp) noted. Common vetch (<i>Vicia sativa</i> L.), vetchling (<i>Lathyrus</i> spp) and garden pea (<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.) noted. Some uncharred modern (?) seeds observed. Large quantity of modern root. CPR assessed as GOOD/charcoal assessed as POOR as unlikely to generate more than 100 identifiable fragments in flot and heavy residue together due to small size.	B
2	1504	Crem. pit	40	?	200	+			+		++ ++		ca. 50% of flot scanned. Abundant charcoal present, although most fragments <2mm. Small amount of charcoal retrieved from heavy residues. Very few garden pea (<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.) and wheat (<i>Triticum</i> sp(p)) fragments identified. Abundant uncharred modern (?) seeds. Large quantity of modern root present. CPR assessed as POOR/charcoal rich yet unlikely to generate more than 100 identifiable fragments from flot and heavy residue together due to small size.	C

Sample No	Context No	Feature Type	Sample Volume (L.)	Date/ Phase	Flot vol (ml)	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Other CPR	Animal Bone	Charcoal	Molluscs	Comments on CPR	CPR Potential
3	2004	Pit	37	LIA/ RB	100	++		+ +	+		++ ++	+	Entire flot scanned. Abundant in charcoal but most <2mm. Unlikely to be more than 100 identifiable fragments. Very small amount of wheat (<i>Triticum</i> sp(p)), garden pea (<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.) and orache (<i>Atriplex</i> sp.). Abundant modern plant root. Three <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> molluscs observed. CPR assessed as POOR/charcoal rich but unlikely to generate many identifiable pieces.	C
5	1117	Ditch	39	sax/ med	125	++			+		++ ++		Entire flot scanned. Modern root present. Very sandy – most of volume of flot made up of sand. Abundant charcoal, but most <2mm. Small amount of wheat (<i>Triticum</i> sp(p)) , oat (<i>Avena</i> sp) and garden pea (<i>Pisum sativum</i> L.). CPR assessed as POOR/charcoal rich but unlikely to produce 100 identifiable fragments from flot and residue together.	C

Key: + = < 10 items, ++ = 10 – 50 items, +++ = 50 – 100 items, ++++ > 100 items. CPR Potential scores: A** = extremely rich sample with > 1000 identifications, A* = rich sample with > 500 identifications, A = rich sample with 300 – 500 items, B = sample with between 100 to 300 identifiable items, usually closer to 100 and C = sample with < 50 items. Y = yes, N = No and ? indicates doubt. Shaded rows indicate those samples selected for full analysis or potentially for full analysis.

Table C.2. Number of finds recovered from heavy residues.

Sample Number	Context Number	Mammal Bone	Pottery	Flint Debitage	Burnt flint	CBM	Cremated Bone
1	1101	<5	-	<25	-	<5	-
2	1504	-	-	<5	<5	-	<25
3	2004	-	<25	<25	>25	-	-
5	1117	-	-	-	-	-	-

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APPENDIX E. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Tile Kiln Farm, Stevenage

Site code: GRAVTK08

Grid reference: NGR: TL 259 278

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 20-31 October 2008

Area of site: 18 ha

Summary of results: Excavation of 42 Trenches measuring 40 m by 2 m. Three foci of archaeological activity were identified, including an area of early medieval settlement and an area of potential prehistoric activity.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the North Hertfordshire Museum Resource Centre in due course.



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Figure 1: Site location map

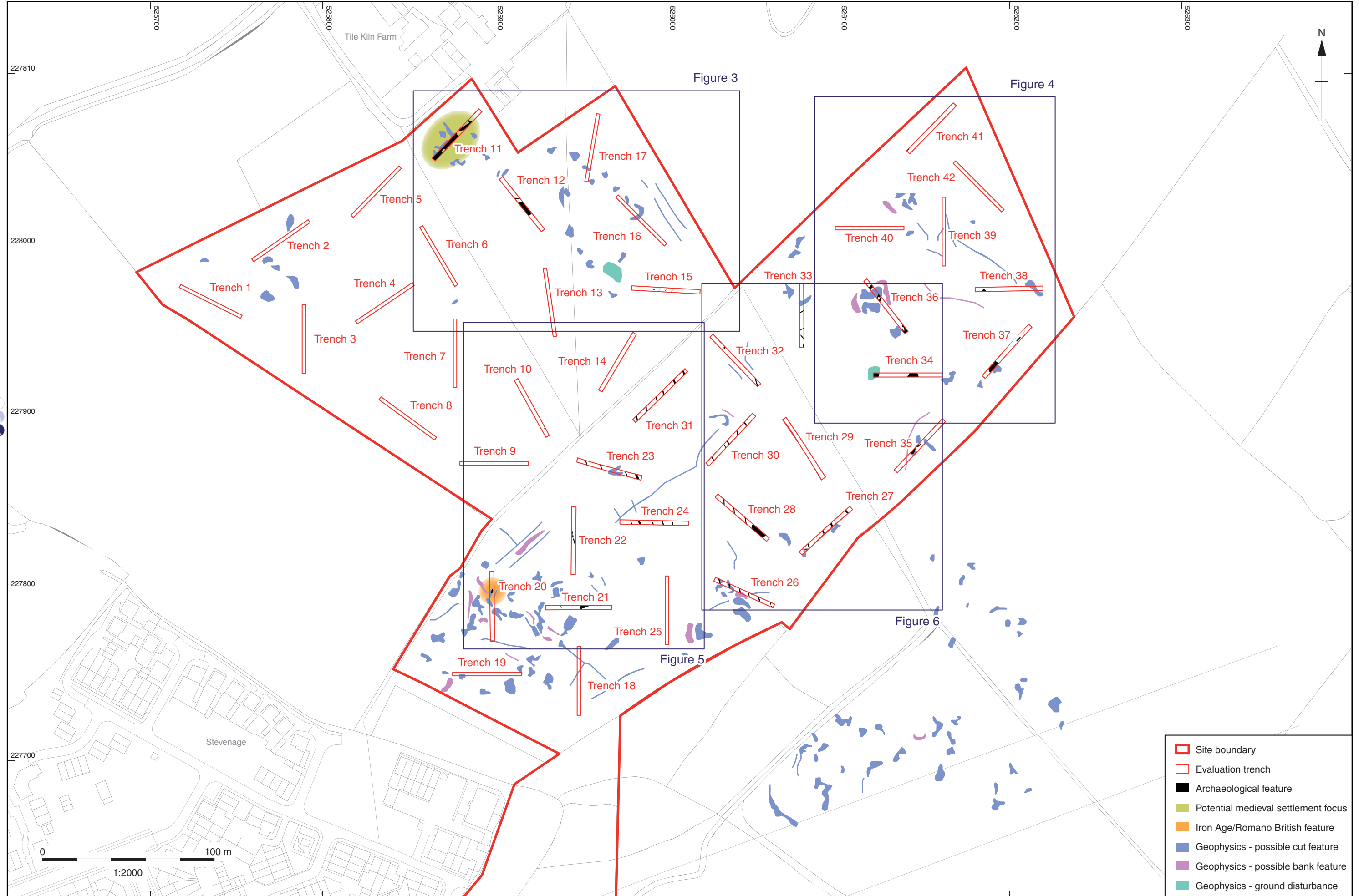


Figure 2: Plan of trenches showing geophysics

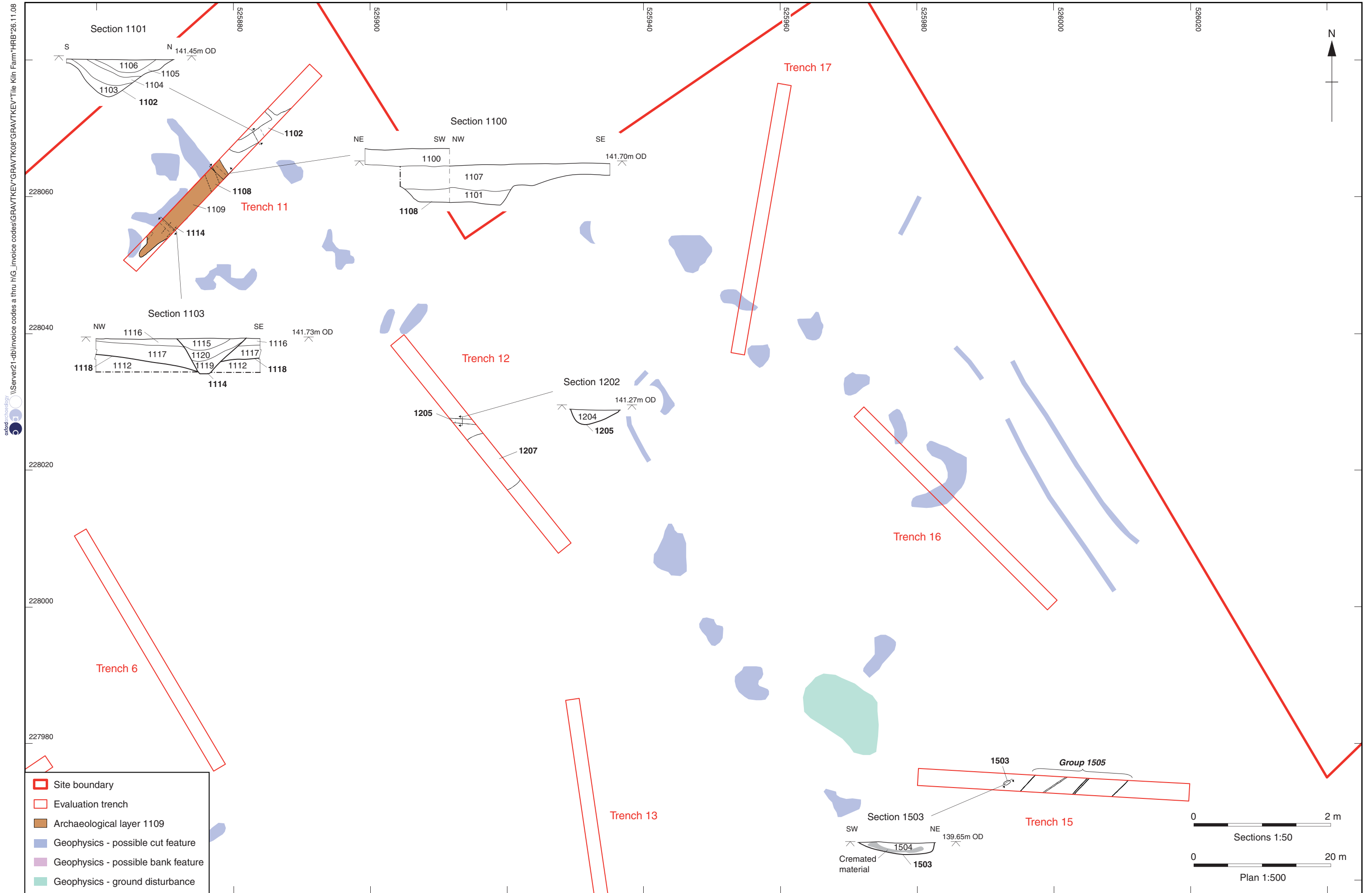


Figure 3: Archaeology in the northern field, including Foci A and B

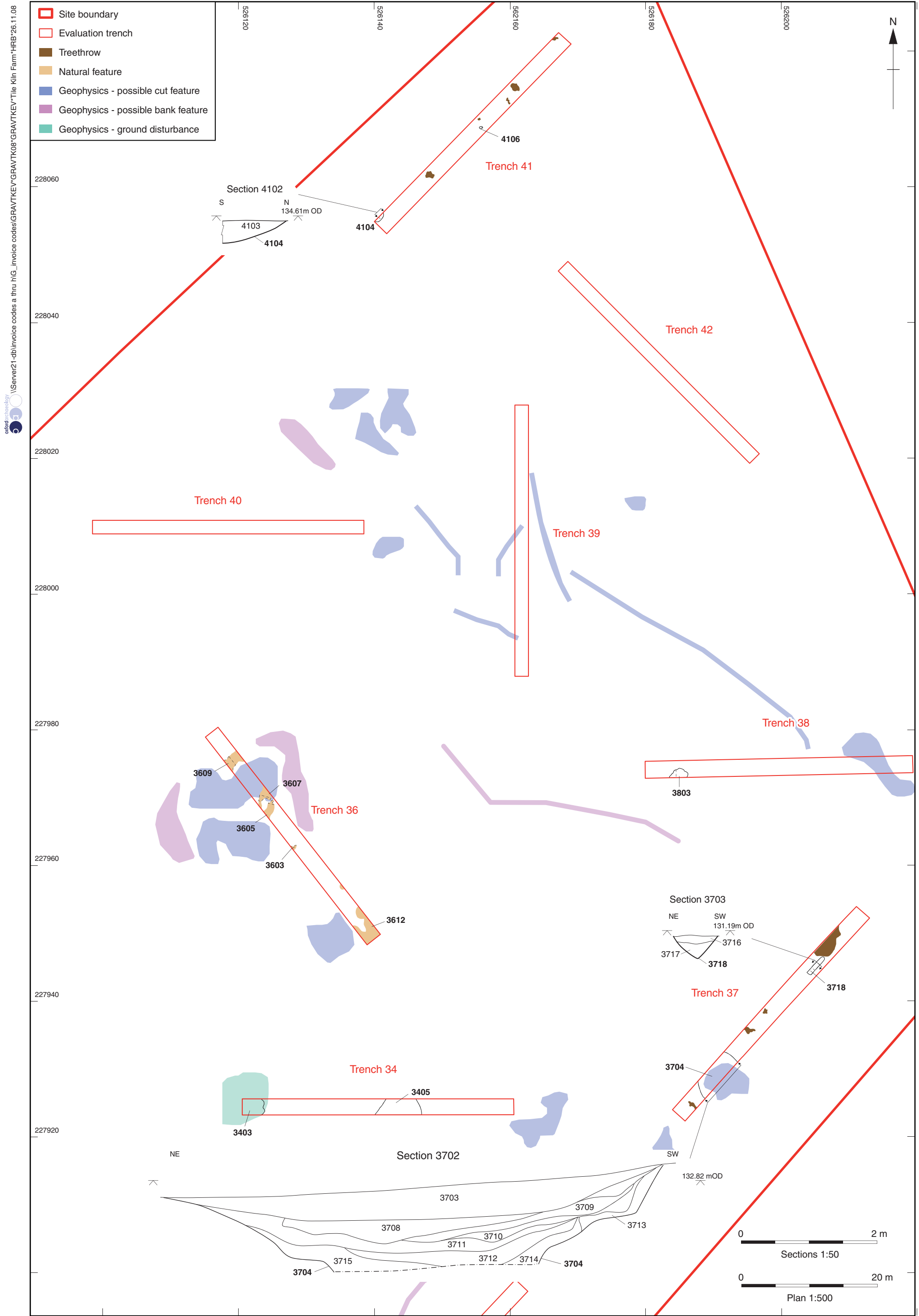


Figure 4: Archaeology in the northeastern field, including the medieval quarry pits

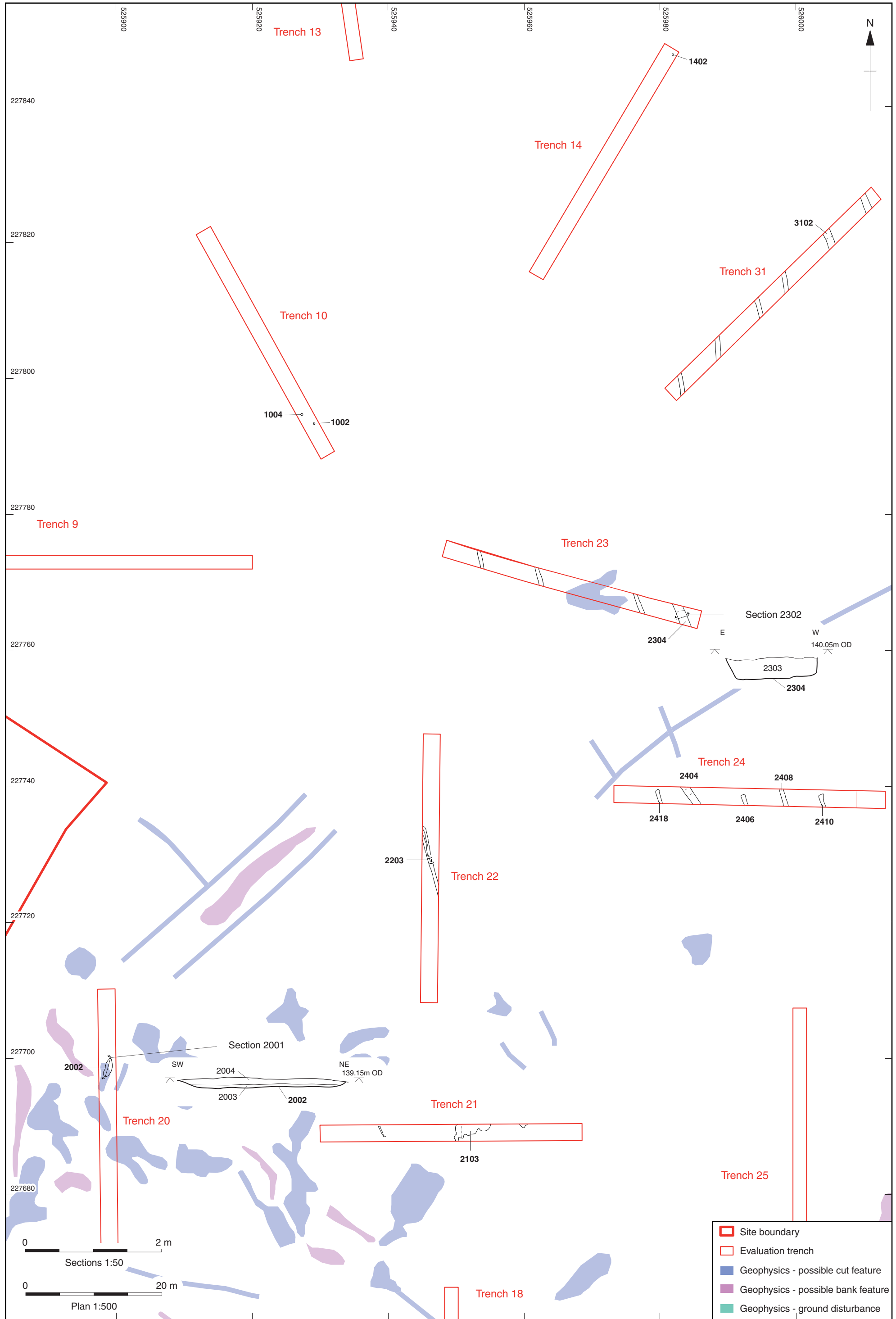


Figure 5: Archaeology in southern field, including Focus C

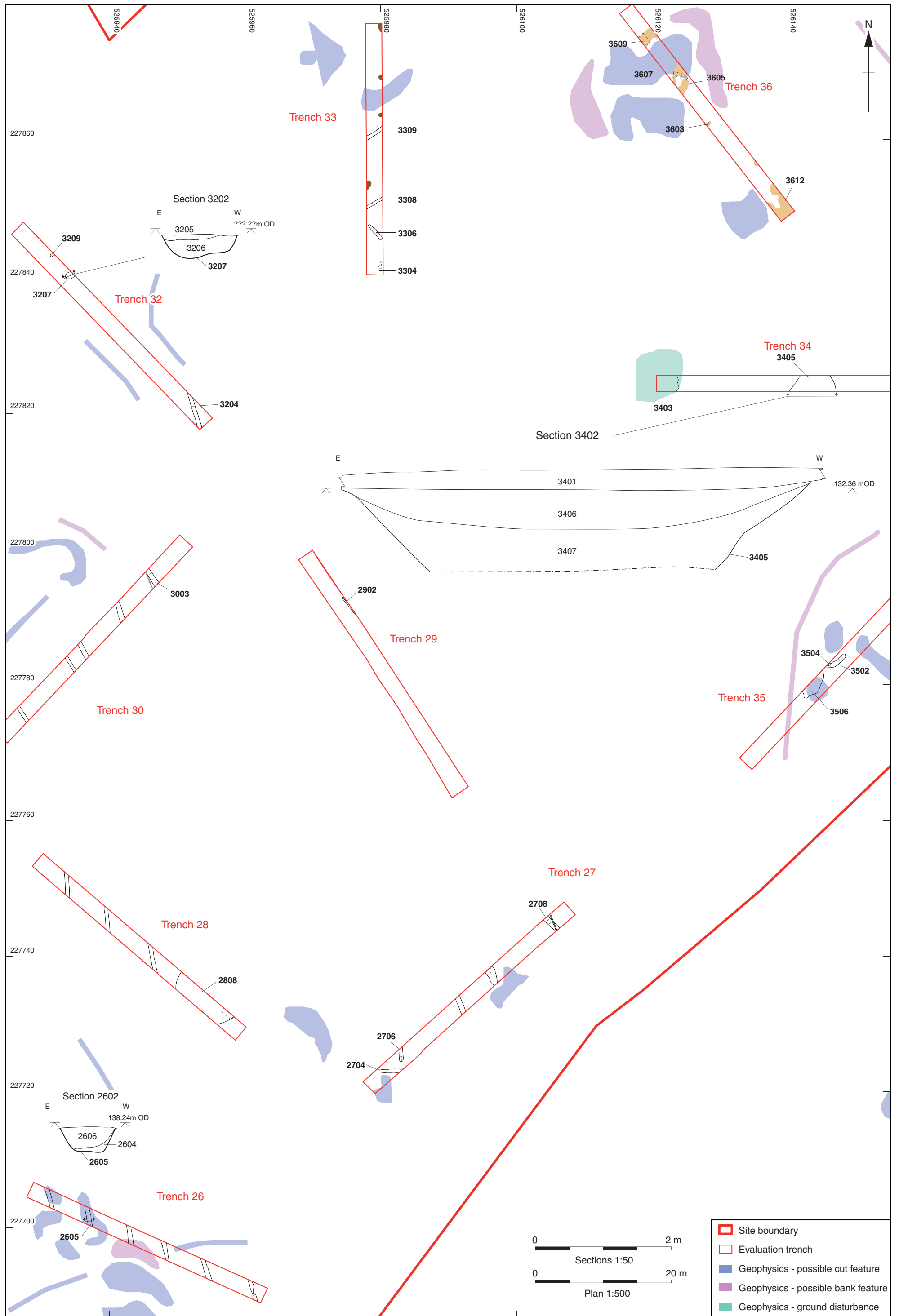


Figure 6: Archaeology in the central fields, including the medieval field system



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