Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Evaluation

Land North of Lower Luton Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire

ASE Project No: 170248
Site Code: LLR17

ASE Report No: 2017369

September 2017

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ABSTRACT

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out on land north of Lower Luton Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire. It was undertaken, by Archaeology South-East and commissioned by CgMs Consulting.

A total of eighty evaluation trenches were excavated across the 17.33ha site, partly guided by a previous geophysical survey. Of these trenches, thirty-four were found to contain below-ground archaeological remains. These comprised ditches, gullies and pits in a moderate to low density across the southern part of the site, a small enclosure in the north of the site and a group of graves to the west. Very few remains were identified across the eastern part of the site and no structural features were excavated.

Much of the activity to the south was prehistoric, spanning the periods from Neolithic to Late Iron Age. Of note was a quantity of flint which indicated flint-knapping and use in the immediate area. The small enclosure to the north of the site was dated to the Middle Iron Age by pottery from one of its ditches and from a group of possibly associated pits.

Four definite graves and a further ten probable graves were found on the west side of the evaluated site. Due to the constraints of the evaluation only one was excavated and an addendum describing and assessing the results will be issued separately. The graves are currently thought to be Anglo-Saxon in date but further work on the excavated example is required to verify this.

Post-medieval ditches are present that relate to agricultural land use activity and indicate field boundary loss during the 19th and 20th centuries. Other recorded post-medieval features included three quarry pits and a number of smaller pits. None was structural.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL), undertook an archaeological evaluation on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd at land north of Lower Luton Road, Harpenden. The site is intended for development.

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The town of Harpenden lies approximately 7 miles north of St. Albans and 6 miles south-east of Luton, in St Albans District. The site is 3.5 miles to the east of the M1.

1.2.2 The site is located on the north-east periphery of the town and is located on an irregular parcel of land, bounded to the south by Lower Luton Road, to the east by a footpath, to the north by agricultural fields, and to the west by Common Lane (Figure 1; TL 15173 15265).

1.2.3 The development site is *c.*17.33ha in extent and consists of gradually sloping agricultural land at *c.*94 AOD in the south-west, rising to *c.*102m AOD in the north-east.

1.2.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS) as Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (undifferentiated). In the south of the site, towards the River Lea, this is overlain by Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup Sand and Gravel. The northern three-quarters of the site have no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2017).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The archaeological evaluation has been carried out prior to planning determination for a proposed development.

1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation was prepared (ASE 2017a), and approved by the St Albans District Archaeological Advisor, prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken on Land north of Lower Luton Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, and assesses the archaeological potential and significance of the site.

1.4.2 The fieldwork was directed by Angus Forshaw and Robert Cullum with assistance from ASE archaeologists and carried out between the 10th July and 11th August 2017. The fieldwork was managed by Sarah Ritchie and post-excavation by Mark Atkinson and Jim Stevenson.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological background of the site has been described comprehensively in previous documents; a desk based assessment (CgMs 2017) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (ASE 2017a). The following is a summary of the most pertinent information taken mainly from the former. The locations of sites and findspots are indicated on Figure 1.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 There are few Prehistoric entries recorded within the vicinity of the site. A single Palaeolithic flint flake is recorded within the site itself (HER 1169). The find is poorly provenanced and the precise findspot is unknown. A Palaeolithic handaxe is reported from a location c. 550m to the south-west of the study site (HER 9086).

2.2.2 A significant number of flints (855 worked pieces), dating to the Mesolithic and Bronze Age periods, were discovered c. 500m to the south-east of the site (HER 10492). The discovery was made as part of the archaeological investigations prior to the expansion of Aldwickbury Golf Course. A further find of 146 flints in a pit was made at the same spot (HER 10491).

2.2.3 The drip gully belonging to a roundhouse possibly dating to the Late Bronze Age, but more likely to belong to the Early Iron Age, was discovered in advance of improvements to the Aldwickbury Golf Course (HER 10493) c. 500m to the south-east of the study site.

2.2.4 Some sherds of Iron Age Pottery were recovered from a back garden in South View Road, c. 450 to the north-west of the study site (HER 676).

2.2.5 Within the study area, the most significant find (HER 123) is located some 400m to the west of the site. The HER entry covers the discovery of a Late Iron Age burial which may belong to a high ranking member of the community. Unfortunately there is some confusion regarding the burial's location as it was reportedly discovered in the embankment of the railway line in 1867; however, construction of the line was completed in 1860. Therefore either the burial was found here in the 1850's (Luton to Dunstable Branch Line) or on the mainline (Great Northern) completed in 1867.

2.2.6 Aside from the dubious location of the Palaeolithic flint flake on the edge of the study site, further artefacts, deposits and sites of the Prehistoric period are located to the south-west and south-east of the study site along the course of the River Lea, and the better drained sands and gravels to the west of the river.

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 There are no entries on the HER belonging to this period recorded within the site itself.

2.3.2 During the archaeological works in advance of the expansion and improvement of Aldwickbury Golf Course, three ovens dated to the Roman period were found (HER 10538). A number of pits and ditches were also recorded (HER 10539). These entries are located c. 500m and 900m to the south-west of the site respectively.

2.3.3 An isolated Roman ditch is recorded c. 400m to the south of the study site (HER 5708).

2.3.4 As with the prehistoric activity, remains related to the Roman period appear to be restricted to the River Lea and the better drained land to the south and west of the river. A possible exception to this might be HER 9950, located within Marshallsheath Wood. Described as a Late Iron Age or Roman enclosure on the HER, the assigned date remains unproven and the site may relate to the adjacent medieval manor of Mackerye.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon and early medieval

2.4.1 No artefacts, deposits, structures or sites belonging to either of these periods are recorded on the HER, either within the study site or the 1km radius of the study area.

2.5 Late medieval, post medieval and modern

2.5.1 There are no HER entries belonging to the medieval period recorded within the study site.

2.5.2 The location of a windmill, which may be dated to the post-medieval period, is recorded within the site (HER 10478). However there is no physical evidence for this either on the ground or on aerial photographs. Parchmarks observed on aerial photographs, HER 7437, conform to post-medieval field boundaries that are observed on an English Heritage LiDAR Plot and appear on the Tithe Map of 1840 (see CgMs 2017, figures 3 and 6).

2.5.3 It is difficult to determine the origins of medieval activity within the study area as Harpenden is not recorded in the Domesday Book. The area falls under the much larger Manor of Wheathampstead, held by Westminster Abbey.

2.5.4 Although no proof has been found to date, it is conjectured that Marshalls Heath (HER 12480), located on the edge of the 1km radius to the east of the study site, may have medieval origins. Mackeryes Manor (HER 9743), the exact location of which is unknown, must also date to the medieval period. It is recorded that improvements were made to the manor by John of Wheathampstead (Abbot of St Albans) who died by 1465.

2.5.5 The Domesday Survey mentions 4 mills in the Manor of Wheathampstead, two of which are within the search area (HER 5819, Batford Watermill and HER 7021, Pickford Watermill). Both mills are located on the course of the River Lea.

2.5.6 The site of a possible castle (HER 501) has been discredited. The nearby Castle Farm (HER 9517) is a corruption of the original name, Causewell Farm, and dates to the post-medieval period.

2.5.7 The site of the post-medieval Pickford Bridge (HER 30441) crossing the River Lea, is c. 800m west of the site. A medieval bridge may have stood at this point and a Pykfordebrygge is mentioned in documents dated 1385 and 1396.

2.5.8 The remaining entries on the HER relate to post-medieval structures largely associated with the railway. HER 9822 (not marked on Figure 1) refers to the Harpenden Luton and Branch Line of the Great Northern Railway, a subdivision HER 9826 relates

specifically to the line within St Albans District. The railway ceased use in 1965 and the final segments of track were lifted in the early 1970's. HER 5628 and HER 7071 are two extant railway bridges. HER 5520, Waveney Road, is the site of Harpenden East Railway Station.

2.5.9 During World War II German Prisoners of War were detained at a camp located near Milford Hill (HER 10583). When the camp was demolished and houses were constructed over the area, tunnels of an unknown date were discovered in the underlying chalk (HER 10582). These are unlikely to have been escape tunnels constructed by the camps detainees. Due to a lack of any relevant cultural material the tunnels remain undated.

2.5.10 The earliest map showing the site is dated 1766 (Andrews and Dury). It shows a group of buildings in the south-west corner of the study site, representing a post-medieval farmstead (Bonny Boys Farm).

2.5.11 The Wheathampstead Tithe Map dated 1840 provides greater detail of the site and annotates the prominent buildings on and near the site clearly. The tithe apportionments identify the buildings in the south-west corner of the site as 'Bunny Boys Farm' comprising a homestead with orchard. To the south-west of the site, south of the road, lie Batford Mill and Homestead; the mill being located on the river. The remainder of the Tithe Map apportionments describe a fairly non-descript agrarian landscape.

2.5.12 Bonny Boys Farm is demolished by the time that the Ordnance Survey map of 1878 was surveyed (Figure 7). The number of fields within the site boundary was rationalised to five large fields by that date. Mackeyre End is shown to the north-east of the site. Batford Mill located to the south-west appears to have expanded with an additional building constructed on the south side of the river. A small cluster of buildings is shown to the west of the T-junction formed by Common Lane (forming the sites western boundary) and Lower Luton Road (southern boundary of the site). A footpath runs along the curved eastern boundary of the site. The Luton and Dunstable Branch of the Great Northern Railway is shown running west to east along the southern edge of the map.

2.5.13 By 1922 a small quarry pit, probably for the extraction of chalk, (HER 30863) is annotated in the north-east corner of a small field located in the south-west corner of the study site. The Lidar plot picks up this depression and two smaller depressions aligned along a former field boundary to the north. The Ordnance Survey Maps dated 1899 and 1922 note Watercress Beds to the south-east of the site between the River Lea and Lower Luton Road. The Ordnance Survey 1922 shows a significant increase in residential development at Batford, west of the study site. Manland Common, to the south of the railway, was set out ready for development.

2.5.14 The Ordnance Survey map of 1938 shows significant expansion of Harpenden to the north-east, from the original centre to the railway, and most of Manland Common had been set out with roads ready for residential development. The site itself remained unchanged.

2.5.15 The 1946 and 1959-1960 Ordnance Survey Maps both show the site as a single large field. On both maps a Prisoner of War Camp is clearly shown to the west of the site in Batford. Manland Common had been completely developed and expansion of settlement at Batford is recorded to the north of the camp. The first building associated with Batford Farm is recorded on the Ordnance Survey dated 1959-1960. The widening

of Lower Luton Road will have destroyed any elements of the Bonny Boys Farm buildings that were adjacent to the road.

2.5.16 By 1978, the study site had been divided into five fields, the PoW camp built over and Batford had become completely joined with Harpenden.

2.6 Previous archaeological work

2.6.1 Three geophysical surveys have been undertaken on the site. The first survey, by magnetometer, was undertaken by Alexander Thomas (2015). The second survey, a combination of magnetometer and ground-penetrating radar, was undertaken by Lockyer (2016). Neither of these surveys covered to whole proposed development area; they were focused within the south-west corner of the site.

2.6.2 The first report (Thomas 2015) unfortunately contains a number of inaccuracies and assumptions that do not stand up to scrutiny. A purported stone or brick building to the north of the former location of Bonny Boys Farm is quashed by the later report (Lockyer 2016) which concludes that the anomaly coincides with a test trench undertaken to establish the soil conditions on the site.

2.6.3 Thomas (2015, 1.2.2) also mentions a Roman villa at Mackerye End, although there is no evidence for the presence of a villa here and the HER contains no evidence for any Roman activity within the 1km search radius.

2.6.4 A full site magnetometer survey was undertaken in June 2017, the results of which are shown on Figure 2. The report (SUMO Services Ltd 2017) concluded that no definitive archaeological anomalies were detected during the survey. A possible enclosure was identified, near the north edge of the site, which may be of archaeological interest, but its form suggests that it was more likely to be relatively modern. Evidence for past agriculture was found in the form of responses due to ridge and furrow ploughing and field boundaries shown on historic mapping.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Project Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The general aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains and to establish their character, location, extent, date, quality and significance. Any archaeological remains uncovered by the evaluation were to be assessed against the wider background of previous fieldwork in the area.

3.1.2 Specific aims of the fieldwork were to:

- Establish the presence and nature of any medieval remains
- To determine the presence and extent of any further post-medieval remains associated with settlement in Harpenden
- Investigate if there are any prehistoric or Roman remains that tie into the wider area

3.1.3 Further specific research aims of likely relevance have been identified with reference to the East Anglian research framework:

- *Progress in dating the origins of greens and green-side settlements needs to be reviewed. Are there regional variations? (Medlycott 2011, 70)*
- *The impact of the primary communication routes on the region's development and character is of considerable interest, this includes major routes such as the Great North Road, secondary routes, railways, rivers and marine transport and ports (Medlycott 2011, 78)*
- *Research into the development and nature of post-medieval field systems and farmsteads? (Medlycott 2011, 79)*

3.2 Fieldwork Method

3.2.1 The archaeological evaluation method was conducted in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2017a) and Method Statement (ASE 2017b).

3.2.2 Seventy-five evaluation trenches were excavated under direct archaeological supervision using a 360˚ tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches each measured 50m long and 2.1m wide. Mechanical excavation was undertaken to the depth of the natural stratum and/or the top of any archaeological deposits present. All spoil heaps were scanned visually for artefacts during machining of the trenches. A contingency for five additional trenches was in place and was implemented.

3.2.3 The trenches were arranged in a pattern intended to maximise the identification of archaeological material across the site, with some locations determined by the geophysical survey results (SUMO Services Ltd 2017). All trenches were accurately located using Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment. The trenches represented a 4% sample of the evaluation area.

3.2.4 Standard ASE excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout, with all work carried out in accordance with the CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014a), *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014b) and in compliance with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

3.2.7 All stratigraphy was recorded using the ASE context recording system, with all exposed archaeological features and deposits recorded and sample excavated, except obviously modern features and disturbances.

3.2.8 Where required, a 50% sample of all contained features and a minimum of 1m length of linear features was excavated. Post-medieval and modern features were excavated as necessary in order to establish their date and significance. Features were excavated using hand tools and planned by hand and using digital survey equipment.

3.2.9 The trenches were scanned with a metal detector prior to excavation, with spoil heaps and the bases of the trenches then scanned following excavation and prior to backfilling.

3.2.10 Where present, all finds were collected from all excavated deposits and retained for specialist identification and study.

3.2.11 Bulk soil samples were collected for the purposes of the recovery of environmental material and small artefacts. Samples were taken from deposits from uncontaminated and potentially dated deposits judged to have the potential for the survival of plant macrofossils.

3.3 Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at St Albans Museums Service in due course. The contents of the primary archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Description	Number	Type
Trench sheets	80	A4 paper
Context sheets	131	A4 paper
Plan and section sheets	14	Permatrace
Environmental sample register	1	A4 paper
Bulk sample sheets	3	A4 paper
Drawing register	2	A4 paper
Site photographic register	15	A4 paper
Digital images	666	Hi-res JPGS

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Archaeological remains were encountered in 34 of the evaluation trenches and are described in sections 4.3-4.35, below. Elsewhere, the evaluation generally revealed a straightforward sequence of topsoil and subsoil deposits overlying a variable undisturbed natural geology.

4.1.2 The results from the archaeologically negative trenches are briefly described in section 4.36 and further detail on the deposit sequences recorded in them tabulated in Appendix 1.

4.1.3 Excavated trench positions are shown in Figure 2 and recorded features/deposits in Figures 3-13.

4.1.4 Some of the trenches were positioned to investigate geophysical anomalies interpreted to be indicative of possible below-ground archaeological remains (Figure 2). The geophysical survey results are alluded to where relevant in the trench descriptions.

4.2 General Soil descriptions

4.2.1 An overlying topsoil deposit was recorded in all of the trenches and was generally formed of moderately friable dark brown clayey silt, averaging between 0.08m and 0.36m thickness. Underlying subsoil deposits were present in all but fourteen of the trenches and consisted of mid brown moderately compact silty clay varying in thickness between 0.01m and 0.87m.

4.2.2 The underlying geology was mixed, consisting of compact sandy clay and gravels in the south of the site, changing into compact yellowish white chalk across the remainder of the site area.

4.2.3 All archaeological remains were encountered beneath the subsoil where present, or else directly under the topsoil where subsoil was not present, cutting into the underlying geological deposits.

4.3 **Trench 1** (Figure 3)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.38m deep
Ground level: 97.91m AOD (N), 95.44m AOD (S)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.18 – 0.33
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.11 – 0.12
1/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
1/004	Fill	Upper fill of [1/006]	-	0.30
1/005	Fill	Primary fill of [1/006]	-	0.45
1/006	Cut	Pit	2.20 x 1.35+	0.75

1/007	Fill	Single fill of [1/008]	-	0.29
1/008	Cut	Pit	1.17 x 1.00+	0.29

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 Trench 1 was located in the south-eastern corner of the site and was aligned north/south. It contained overburden deposits of dark brown clayey silt topsoil and mid brown clayey silt subsoil, overlying clay silt natural with common gravel. The trench was not targeted on any geophysical anomalies and contained two features cut into natural strata.

4.3.2 Pit [1/006] was recorded at the south of the trench and was partially exposed against the eastern baulk of the trench. It was sub-circular in plan, with a rounded base. It contained two fills. Basal fill [1/005] was a mid brownish grey silty sandy silt containing occasional charcoal flecks. The upper fill [1/004] comprised dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent flint inclusions. Pottery of prehistoric date was found within both fills, dating to the Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age, with a single earlier sherd of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date also found in [1/005].

4.3.3 Pit [1/008] was located at the northern end of the trench, against the western baulk. The pit was sub-circular in plan and contained a single fill [1/007] of loose, mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional flints. The pit was poorly defined as the fill was similar to the surrounding natural deposit, with the main differentiation being the inclusions in the fill. No finds were recovered from it and it is possible that this constitutes a natural tree throw as opposed to a pit.

4.4 **Trench 2** (Figure 4)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.40m deep
Ground level: 95.68m AOD (E), 93.98m AOD (W)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.19 – 0.24
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.10 – 0.11
2/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
2/004	Cut	Ditch	4.0+ x 0.56	0.13
2/005	Fill	Single fill of [2/004]	-	0.13

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 Trench 2 was aligned east/west and was adjacent to Lower Luton Road. The trench contained topsoil and subsoil deposits, overlying natural strata into which the remains of a single linear feature was cut. The western end of the trench was located over an area noted as magnetic disturbance on the geophysical survey.

4.4.2 Linear feature [2/004] ran north-west/south-east across the trench and measured 0.56m in width and 0.13m deep. It had moderately sloping straight sides and a flat base. It single fill [2/005] consisted of dark grey brown silty clay with common angular and sub-angular flints and rare charcoal. Two fragments of ceramic building material

(CBM) were recovered from the fill. The feature was not seen to continue into any of the trenches to the north.

4.4.3 No physical cause of the magnetic disturbance detected by geophysical survey at this location was found. It is likely this was due to disturbance / contamination resulting from the construction of the adjacent B653 road.

4.5 Trench 3 (Figure 5)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.42m deep
Ground level: 97.53m AOD (N), 96.04m AOD (S)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.17 – 0.24
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.10 – 0.18
3/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
3/004	Fill	Single fill of [3/005]	-	0.20
3/005	Cut	Pit	0.80 x 0.76	0.20
3/006	Fill	Single fill of [3/007]	-	0.11
3/007	Cut	Pit	0.40 x 0.34	0.11
3/008	Fill	Single fill of [3/009]	-	0.23
3/009	Cut	Pit	0.61 x 0.77	0.23

Table 4: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 Trench 3 was positioned in the south-eastern area of the site and was aligned north/south. It contained topsoil and subsoil deposits overlying natural clay silt and gravels. Three small pits were identified within the trench, cutting into natural deposits.

4.5.2 Pit [3/005] was circular in plan and located in the north of the trench. It had steep, almost vertical, sides leading to a flat base and contained a single fill [3/004]. The fill comprised mid brown clayey silt and included fragments of CBM and glass suggestive of a post-medieval date.

4.5.3 To the south was another pit [3/007], which measured 0.40m x 0.34m and was 0.11m deep. The pit had a poorly defined interface with the natural, containing a single fill [3/006] of mid yellowish brown sandy silt. The fill yielded three sherds of a Middle Bronze Age urn dating from the earlier part of the 2nd millennium BC.

4.5.4 A further pit [3/009] was present towards the south of the trench and was sub-oval in plan, with steep straight sides leading to a flat base. The pit measured 0.61m x 0.77m and was 0.23m in depth. It contained a single fill [3/008] of friable mid yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of fire-cracked flint.

4.6 **Trench 4** (Figure 6)

Dimensions: 50m x 2.1m x up to 0.44m deep
Ground level: 98.85m AOD (E), 97.87m AOD (W)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.18 – 0.30
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.07 – 0.20
4/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
4/004	Fill	Single fill of [4/005]	-	0.27
4/005	Cut	Pit	0.88 x 0.45	0.27

Table 5: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

4.6.1 Trench 4 was located in the southern part of the site and was aligned east/west. It contained a stratigraphic sequence of dark brown clayey silt topsoil [4/001] and mid brown clayey silt subsoil [4/002] over natural deposits of silty clay with common flint pebbles. A single feature was cut into the natural deposits.

4.6.2 A probable pit [4/005] was found in the western half of the trench. The pit was oval in plan with concave sides leading to a concave base. The feature measured 0.88m x 0.45m and 0.27m deep, and contained a single fill [4/004] of mid greyish brown clayey silt including moderate amounts of charcoal. A single worked flint flake was found within the fill.

4.7 **Trench 5** (Figure 7)

Dimensions: 50.00 m x 2.10m x up to 0.15m deep
Ground level: 95.16m AOD (E), 90.95m AOD (W)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth/Thickness (m)
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.13 – 0.15
5/002	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
5/003	Fill	Single fill of [5/004]	-	0.29
5/004	Cut	Ditch	2.3+ x 1.70	0.29
5/005	Fill	Single fill of [5/006]	-	0.20
5/006	Cut	Pit	1.08 x 0.88+	0.20

Table 6: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

4.7.1 Trench 5 was in the southern part of the site and was aligned east/west. It was located on sloping ground running downhill from east to west. The trench contained topsoil directly overlying natural deposits. A linear feature and a pit were recorded.

4.7.2 A north-east/south-west aligned ditch [5/004] was recorded in the middle of the trench and measured 1.70m wide and 0.39m deep. It had gradually sloping concave sides

and a concave base. It contained a single grey brown clayey silt fill [5/003] containing fragments of CBM, coal shale and metal sheet and wire fragments suggestive of a post-medieval date, probably 18th or 19th century. A fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem dated to 1750-1910 was also recovered. The ditch was identified as continuing into other trenches to its north, and ran parallel to an existing field boundary to its east.

4.7.3 A shallow oval pit [5/006] was found at the east of the trench against the southern baulk. The visible portion of the pit measured 1.08m x 0.88m and was 0.20m in depth. Its single fill [5/005] consisted of friable dark yellow brown sandy silt containing residual struck flints.

4.8 Trench 6 (Figure 8)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.26m deep
Ground level: 91.13m AOD (NE), 88.67m AOD (SW)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.11 – 0.26
6/002	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
6/003	Fill	Single fill of 6/004	-	0.17
6/004	Cut	Ditch/gully	6.0+ x 0.76	0.17

Table 7: Trench 6 list of recorded contexts

4.8.1 Trench 6 was located toward the south-west corner of the site and was aligned north-east/south-west. It contained topsoil of dark grey brown sandy silt directly overlying natural deposits of mid brown sand and gravels. A single linear feature was identified cut into the natural deposits.

4.8.2 A single ephemeral gully [6/004] ran north-east/south-west across the northern end of the trench and continued beyond the western baulk. The gully had slightly concave sides leading to a flat base, and measured 0.76m wide and 0.17m deep. It contained a single dark grey brown sandy silt fill [6/003], with frequent small angular flint inclusions, from which both worked and burnt flints were recovered. The feature was not seen to continue into surrounding trenches.

4.9 Trench 7 (Figure 9)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.70m deep
Ground level: 86.46m AOD (WNW), 87.86m AOD (ESE)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.12 – 0.19
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.18 – 0.51
7/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
7/004	Fill	Upper fill of [7/005]	-	0.28

7/005	Cut	Hollow	9.50 x 2.10+	0.40
7/006	Fill	Basal fill of [7/005]	-	0.14

Table 8: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

4.9.1 Trench 7 was orientated west-north-west/east-south-east and located parallel to Lower Luton Road in the south-west corner of the site. It was in an area with a ferrous reading from the geophysics results. The trench contained a single feature underlying topsoil and subsoil and cut into natural deposits. The subsoil deposits within the trench were thickest in the centre of the trench.

4.9.2 A large feature [7/005], probably an infilled hollow, was recorded in the centre of the trench extending beyond the trench width and measuring 9.50m long and 0.40m deep. A 5m-long slot was excavated into the western edge of the feature, revealing a shallow sloping side leading to a flat base. The feature contained two fills, an upper fill [7/004] of friable dark brown sandy silt containing 213 struck flints and primary fill [7/006], a mid brown silty sand with common gravel inclusions. The flints from the upper fill ranged from a small number of Mesolithic/Early Neolithic pieces to Late Neolithic and Bronze Age. Since they were mostly worn by post-depositional movement, and were only present in the top fill of the hollow, it is likely that they represent a scatter from elsewhere which has been moved and deposited by later agricultural activity. They are not considered to date the feature.

4.10 Trench 9 (Figure 10)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.43m deep
Ground level: 88.09m AOD (NW), 89.65m AOD (SE)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.18 – 0.29
9/002	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
9/003	Fill	Single fill of 9/004	-	0.40
9/004	Cut	Ditch	4.3+ x 1.10	0.40
9/005	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.12 – 0.17

Table 9: Trench 9 list of recorded contexts

4.10.1 Trench 9 was in the south-west of the site and was aligned north-west/south-east. It contained a deposit of topsoil of mid grey brown sandy silt over mid brown silty sand subsoil [9/005]. Natural deposits of sand and gravels were exposed at the base of the trench. The single archaeological feature found was cut into the natural deposits at the base of the trench.

4.10.2 A small ditch [9/004] ran north-west/south-east across the trench and had moderately sloping concave sides and a concave base. The ditch measured 1.10m wide and 0.40m deep and contained a single fill [9/003] of dark brown sandy silt which yielded residual worked flints of broadly Neolithic to Bronze Age date. The feature continued into Trench 80, recorded as [80/004].

4.11 **Trench 10** (Figure11)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.30m deep
Ground level: 93.18m AOD (N), 94.00m AOD (S)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.11 – 0.19
10/002	Layer	Natural deposit	trench	-
10/003	Cut	Pit	0.68 x 0.68	0.34
10/004	Fill	Single fill of [10/003]	-	0.34
10/005	Cut	Pit	1.14 x 1.30	0.18
10/006	Fill	Single fill of [10/005]	-	0.18
10/007	Deposit	Modern deposit	12.22+ x 2.10+	0.80+

Table 10: Trench 10 list of recorded contexts

4.11.1 North/south aligned Trench 10 was located in the southern part of the site. It contained dark grey brown silty sand topsoil, overlying natural strata into which two small pits and a modern deposit were cut. The southern part of the trench was positioned over an area identified as causing magnetic disturbance on the geophysical survey and containing a former field boundary.

4.11.2 Pit [10/003] was circular in plan and measured 0.68m in diameter and 0.34m deep. It had steep, straight sides and a flat base. The feature contained a single fill [10/004] of compact mid grey brown silty sand containing rare charcoal fragments. The feature was 100% excavated after recording for finds retrieval, though none were recovered.

4.11.3 Pit [10/005] was located to the south of [10/003]. It was oval in plan and measured 1.14m x 1.30m and 0.18m in depth, with concave sides and a flat base. Its single fill [10/006] consisted of compact mid grey brown silty sand, with pottery sherds of Early Neolithic date recovered. The feature was 100% excavated after recording for finds retrieval.

4.11.4 At the southern end of the trench was an area of mottled orange brown and dark grey brown silty sand [10/007], measuring 12.22m into the trench from the southern baulk. A sondage was machine excavated to a depth of 0.80m into the fill, which contained modern inclusions of pottery and metal objects. The area matched the area of magnetic disturbance identified on the geophysics as well as coinciding with a visible hollow in the landscape suggestive of a modern backfilling. It also matches the location of a large pit noted on the 1922 and 1938 Ordnance Survey maps, but removed by the time of the 1946 map.

4.11.5 There was no evidence of the former field boundary running across the trench as suggested by the geophysical survey results.

4.12 **Trench 11** (Figure 12)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.31m deep
Ground level: 97.66m AOD (NE), 96.42m AOD (SW)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.14 – 0.19
11/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.10 – 0.12
11/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
11/004	Fill	Upper fill of [11/006]	-	0.42
11/005	Fill	Fill of [11/006]	-	0.32+
11/006	Cut	Pit	5.77 x 2.10+	1.76+
11/007	Fill	Fill of [11/006]	-	0.20
11/008	Fill	Fill of [11/006]	-	0.26
11/009	Fill	Fill [11/010]	-	0.67
11/010	Cut	Pit	1.60 x 1.31	0.67

Table 11: Trench 11 list of recorded contexts

4.12.1 Trench 11 was aligned adjacent to the field boundary dividing the southern fields and was aligned north-east/south-west. The trench was targeted across a possible geophysical anomaly running east/west across the trench. The trench contained a stratigraphic sequence of topsoil and subsoil deposits overlying natural clay with frequent gravels.

4.12.2 Circular pit [11/010] was recorded at the south-western end of the trench, with concave sides and a rounded base. The pit measured 1.60m x 1.31m and was 0.67m in depth. Its single fill [11/009] was a mid yellowish brown sandy silt containing a number of worked flints and nine sherds of Early Neolithic pottery. The pit was 100% excavated after recording, for artefact retrieval. The flints were similar in characteristics to the assemblage found in the hollow [7/005] in Trench 7, dating from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age periods. The wear on the flints is suggestive of disturbance and redeposition and it is possible that the fill of the pit derived from surface material nearby, with the flints and pottery already present as a component.

4.12.3 Within the centre of the trench was a large probable quarry pit [11/006], which measured 5.77m long and extended beyond the limits of the trench. A hand-excavated slot measuring 2.59m across and up to 1.0m below ground level was excavated on the southern edge of the feature. The excavated slot revealed four fills, all of which contained post-medieval CBM fragments, with metal and glass also found. A dark blackish brown clayey silt fill [11/008] was located at the southern edge of the fill and contained CBM fragments and post-medieval red earthenware pottery. This was overlain by fill [11/007], a mid orangey brown silty clay, with occasional flint inclusions and CBM fragments dating to the 17th or 18th centuries. Fill [11/005] continued below the base of the excavated slot and consisted of mid orangey brown silty clay, measuring >0.32m in depth and containing CBM fragments and post-medieval red earthenware pottery. The upper fill [11/004] consisted of friable dark brown clayey silt, with frequent flint inclusions along with CMB fragments dating to the 17th and 18th

centuries, shell, coal, clinker, metal wire and 19th-century bottle glass. A fragment of a jar or bread crock of a probably 19th-century form in post-medieval red earthenware was also recovered. The feature was subsequently machine-excavated, following consultation with the monitoring officer, to a depth of 2.18m below ground level, though the base was not reached. CBM fragments and a glass sherd were found at the base of the machine-excavated slot.

4.13 Trench 12 (Figure13)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.30m deep
Ground level: 99.33m AOD (N), 98.65m AOD (S)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
12/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.11 – 0.17
12/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.10 – 0.15
12/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
12/004	Fill	Single fill of [12/005]	-	0.08
12/005	Cut	Pit	0.62 x 0.36	0.08

Table 12: Trench 12 list of recorded contexts

4.13.1 Trench 12 was aligned north/south and was located in the south-eastern part of the site. It was positioned over a possible field boundary identified by the geophysical survey. The trench contained a similar stratigraphic sequence to the surrounding trenches, formed of dark brown clayey silt topsoil and mid brown clayey silt subsoil overlying natural deposits of mid brown silty clay with abundant gravels. A single pit was identified within the trench cut into natural deposits.

4.13.2 Shallow pit [12/005] was located in the southern half of the trench. It was oval in plan, measuring 0.62m x 0.36m and 0.08m deep, with concave sides leading to a flat base. It contained a single fill of dark blackish brown silty clay containing frequent burnt clay and charcoal, possibly a result of backfilling. Although it was 100% excavated for finds retrieval, no artefacts were discovered within the feature.

4.13.3 There was no evidence of the possible field boundary identified by the geophysical survey as running across the southern part of the trench.

4.14 Trench 19 (Figure 14)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 1.11m deep
Ground level: 90.12m AOD (N), 90.56m AOD (S)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
19/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.15 – 0.24
19/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.60 – 0.70
19/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-

19/004	Fill	Single fill of [19/005]	-	0.41
19/005	Cut	Ditch	2.5+ x 1.15	0.41

Table 13: Trench 19 list of recorded contexts

4.14.1 Trench 19 was located to the west of the excavation area and was aligned north/south. It contained a stratigraphic sequence of mid grey brown sandy silt topsoil overlying a thick deposit of mid orange brown clayey silt subsoil measuring up to 0.70m thick. The thickness of this deposit is probably a result of colluvium deposition, as the trench was located at the base of sloping ground. A single feature was found at the base of the trench, cut into natural deposits of mid orange brown sand and gravels.

4.14.2 A north-west/south-east orientated ditch [19/005] was found in the northern half of the trench, measuring 1.15m wide and 0.41m deep. The ditch possessed concave sides leading to a concave base, with a single fill [19/004] of friable mid greyish brown sandy silt containing frequent inclusions of small angular flints. Pottery dating to the Late Iron Age or Early Roman period and 19 probably residual struck flints of indeterminate date were recovered from this feature.

4.14.3 The trench was not targeted upon any anomalies identified from the geophysical survey results.

4.15 Trench 21 (Figure 15)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.52 deep
Ground level: 96.69m AOD (W), 92.74m AOD (E)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
21/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.19 – 0.20
21/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.13 – 0.32
21/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
21/004	Fill	Single fill of [21/005]	-	0.29
21/005	Cut	Pit	0.95 x 0.45+	0.29
21/006	Fill	Single fill of [21/007]	-	0.15
21/007	Cut	Pit	0.80 x 0.97	0.15
21/008	Fill	Single fill of [21/009]	-	0.30
21/009	Cut	Pit	1.04 x 0.80	0.30
21/010	Fill	Upper fill of [21/011]	-	0.72
21/011	Cut	Ditch/Elongated pit	3.9+ x 2.13	1.45
21/012	Fill	Basal fill of [21/011]	-	0.59
21/013	Fill	Fill of [21/011]	-	0.47
21/014	Fill	Fill of [21/011]	-	0.18

Table 14: Trench 21 list of recorded contexts

4.15.1 Trench 21 was located in the south-west field of the site and was aligned east/west. It contained an overlying topsoil of dark brownish grey clayey silt and mid brown clayey silt subsoil. Natural deposits of compact chalk were at the base of the trench. Three pits and a possible ditch were recorded cutting into the natural deposits.

4.15.2 Pit [21/005] was extended beyond the northern baulk of the trench, with the visible area measuring 0.95m wide and 0.45m+ long. The feature had concave sides and a rounded base and was 0.29m deep. It contained a single fill [21/004] of mid greyish brown clayey silt, from which no finds were recovered.

4.15.3 Two intercutting pits, [21/007] and [21/009], were located to the west of pit [21/005]. The shallower pit [21/007] was sub-oval in plan and measured 0.80m wide, 0.97m long and 0.15m deep with slightly concave sides and a flat base. The single fill [21/006] consisted of friable mid brown clayey silt. Adjacent pit [21/009] was 1.04m x 0.80m in plan and 0.30m deep, and contained a very similar mid brown clayey silt fill [21/008]. The pit had concave sides leading to a concave base. It is thought that pit [21/009] truncated pit [21/007], but the relationship was not completely clear. Neither of the excavated fills contained any finds.

4.15.4 In the western half of the site was a linear feature [21/011] measuring 2.13m wide and 1.45m in depth. The feature was aligned north-west/south-east. It had steep, near-vertical straight sides and a flat base and contained four fills. The basal fill [21/012] was formed of friable dark orange brown clayey silt containing occasional charcoal flecks and common sub angular and angular flint inclusions, and measured 0.59m thick. The fill above, [21/013], comprised compact mottled mid yellow brown and yellow white silty chalk and redeposited chalk. It probably represents a deliberate backfilling event and measured 0.47m thick. This was overlain by a lesser deposit, fill [21/014], a friable mid orange brown clay silt located on the northern side of the feature. The fill measured 0.18m thick and represents a possible slumping event on the feature edge. The upper fill [21/010] of the feature was composed of friable mid brown clayey silt with common inclusions of chalk and flint. It was unclear whether the upper fill represents a later recut of the feature or simply a backfilling event. The fill measured 2.13m wide and 0.72m in depth. There were no finds recovered from any of the excavated fills, and the feature was not detected by the geophysical survey of the site.

4.16 Trench 28 (Figure 16)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.39m deep
Ground level: 104.12 AOD (W), 107.73m AOD (E)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
28/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.15 – 0.20
28/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.10 – 0.20
28/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
28/004	Fill	Basal fill of [28/005]	-	0.22
28/005	Cut	Tree throw	1.26 x 0.67	0.22
28/006	Fill	Upper fill of [28/005]	-	0.22

Table 15: Trench 28 list of recorded contexts

4.16.1 Trench 28, in the south-eastern part of the site, contained dark brown clayey silt topsoil and mid brown clayey silt subsoil overlying compact natural chalk. The only feature identified was found underlying overburden deposits and cut into the natural strata. The trench was located over an anomaly identified as ridge and furrow by the geophysical survey. Two further possible features were investigated but were judged to be natural deposits as opposed to archaeological features.

4.16.2 The single feature [28/005] was recorded in the western half of the trench. The feature measured 1.26m x 0.67m and 0.22m deep. It was oval in plan and may have been representative of a tree throw. It had straight sides leading to an undulating base and contained two fills, a basal fill [28/004] of friable light orange brown silty clay, and an upper fill [28/006] of mid orange brown silty clay. The basal fill appeared to run underneath the natural deposits on the northern edge of the feature, suggestive of rooting activity, while the upper fill had an irregular shape. There were no finds recovered from the feature.

4.17 Trench 29 (Figure 17)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.49m deep
Ground level: 102.85m AOD (W), 102.70m AOD (E)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
29/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.14 – 0.19
29/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.06 – 0.28
29/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
29/004	Cut	Gully	2.20+ x 0.46	0.22
29/005	Fill	Single fill of [29/004]	-	0.22

Table 16: Trench 29 list of recorded contexts

4.17.1 Trench 29 was located in the eastern half of the site, was aligned north/south, and was located over linear anomalies identified as possible ridge and furrow by the geophysical survey. It contained friable mid grey brown sandy silt topsoil and mid orange brown subsoil overlying compact natural chalk, into which a single linear feature was cut.

4.17.2 Gully [29/004] was located towards the north of the trench and was aligned west-north-west/east-south-east. It measured 0.46m at its widest point and was 0.22m deep. The gully had steep straight sides leading to a flat base. Its single fill [29/005] was a moderately compact mid reddish brown silty clay with common chalk inclusions. No finds were recovered from it. This feature did not match with any anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. It is however possible that gully [34/007], in Trench 34 to the west, represents its continuation across the field. It did not appear in Trench 35 because of truncation by the quarry pit.

4.18 **Trench 33** (Figure 18)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.70m deep
Ground level: 92.36m AOD (W), 94.75m AOD (E)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
33/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.17 – 0.27
33/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.30 – 0.42
33/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
33/004	Cut	Ditch?	2.6+ x 0.99	0.12
33/005	Fill	Single fill of [33/004]	-	0.12
33/006	Deposit	Deposit	2.40 x 2.10+	0.15

Table 17: Trench 33 list of recorded contexts

4.18.1 Trench 33 was located against the western edge of the site, and was positioned over a number of parallel anomalies identified by the geophysical survey as being ridge and furrow. The trench was aligned east/west and contained a dark brownish grey clayey silt topsoil and mid brown clayey silt subsoil, overlying natural sand and gravels. The subsoil deposit was thicker than in trenches to its east, possibly as a result of colluvium deposits forming over time, as it was located at the base of a slope in the terrain.

4.18.2 Probable ditch [33/004] was aligned north-east/south-west and continued beyond the southern baulk of the trench but ended in the trench with a rounded terminal. The feature measured 0.99m wide and 0.12m deep, with straight shallow sides and a flat base. Its single fill [33/005] comprised compact mid orange brown silty sand, and appeared to be the result of gradual silting over time. This putative ditch contained no dating evidence and did not match any of the anomalies identified by the geophysics.

4.18.3 At the western end of the trench was a shallow deposit [33/006] underlying the subsoil and directly overlying the natural strata. The deposit was formed of dark grey brown silty sand containing very common gravels and occasional charcoal. There was no clear cut visible and no finds present within the deposit. It possibly represents a shallow dump of material deposited/preserved in a natural depression this location.

4.19 **Trench 34** (Figure 19)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.44m deep
Ground level: 96.85m AOD (N), 97.74m AOD (S)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
34/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.10 – 0.12
34/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.13 – 0.34
34/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
34/004	Fill	Single fill of [34/005]	-	0.24
34/005	Cut	Pit	0.70 x 0.70	0.24

34/006	Fill	Single fill of ditch	-	0.09
34/007	Cut	Gully	2.3+ x 0.46	0.09

Table 18: Trench 34 list of recorded contexts

4.19.1 Trench 34 was located in the south-western field and was aligned north/south. The trench contained mid greyish brown sandy silt topsoil and light greyish brown sandy silt subsoil overlying chalk natural. Two features were recorded cut into the natural strata. A further possible feature was investigated but was judged to be natural variation in the chalk.

4.19.2 A small possible pit [34/005] was located in the middle of the trench and was circular in plan, measuring 0.70m in diameter and 0.24m deep. It had concave sides leading to a flat base and contained a single fill [34/004] of mid yellow brown sandy silt containing frequent chalk inclusions, suggestive of backfilling with redeposited chalk. There were no finds recovered from the fill.

4.19.3 Gully [34/007] was located in the southern end of the trench and was aligned north-west/south-east. The ditch was shallow, with concave sides leading to a flat base, and measured 0.46m wide and was 0.09m in depth. The ditch contained a single fill of friable light grey brown sandy silt with frequent chalk inclusions, but no dating material. The ditch is thought to continue across the site and is visible in Trench 29 to the east.

4.20 Trench 35 (Figure 20)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.54m deep
Ground level: 101.99m AOD (NE), 103.85m AOD (SW)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
35/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.22 – 0.25
35/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.19 – 0.32
35/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
35/004	Fill	Fill on [35/005]	-	1.11
35/005	Cut	Quarry pit	8.12+ x 2.10	1.11
35/006	Cut	Pit	3.26 x 1.30+	-

Table 19: Trench 35 list of recorded contexts

4.20.1 Trench 35 was located adjacent to the north-east/south-west field boundary dividing the southern part of the site, and was aligned north-east/south-west. The trench contained a similar stratigraphic sequence to the surrounding trenches, that of mid to dark brown silty sand topsoil and light grey brown silty sand subsoil overlying natural chalk. Two large pit features were cut into the natural strata at the southern end of the trench.

4.20.2 Part of a probable quarry pit [35/005] was located at the south-west end of the trench, only its northern edge being defined. A sondage was excavated by machine following consultation with the monitoring officer. It covered the southern 4.50m of the trench to the base of the feature at 1.55m below ground level. No clear fill divisions were

revealed, with a seemingly single mottled fill [35/004] of light grey brown, mid orange brown and light yellow brown sandy silt being present to the full depth of the feature. A complete glass soda or mineral water bottle of 19th- or 20th-century date and an iron ring were found within the top 0.50m from ground level, potentially from subsided subsoil rather than the fill of the feature. There were no finds recovered from deeper within the pit itself.

4.20.3 A further large pit was present against the eastern baulk of the trench, with the visible area measuring 3.26m x 1.30m. The pit was sub-oval in plan, and was not excavated at this time, following consultation with the monitoring officer. There were no finds located on the surface fill of the feature.

4.20.4 There were no anomalies identified from the geophysical results within the confines of the trench, with the magnetic disturbance adjacent probably a result of the *in situ* field boundary in the form of a metal fence.

4.21 Trench 47 (Figure 21)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.44m deep
Ground level: 100.47m AOD (N), 100.87m AOD (S)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
47/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.11 – 0.20
47/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.12 – 0.19
47/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
47/004	Fill	Single fill of [47/005]	-	0.18
47/005	Cut	Tree throw/pit	1.04 x 1.70	0.18
47/006	Fill	Single fill of [47/007]	-	0.18
47/007	Cut	Tree throw/pit	2.20 x 1.45+	0.18

Table 20: Trench 47 list of recorded contexts

4.21.1 Trench 47 was located at the northern end of the south-western field and had a similar stratigraphic sequence of topsoil and subsoil to the surrounding trenches overlying natural chalk. The trench was aligned north/south and contained two possible features, thought likely to be tree throws.

4.21.2 Feature [47/005] was oval in plan with gradual concave sides and a slightly undulating base. The single fill [47/004] had a diffuse boundary with the natural and consisted of light yellow brown sandy silt with common chalk inclusions. The feature measured 1.04m x 1.70m and was 0.18m in depth and contained no dating evidence.

4.21.3 Probable tree throw [47/007] extended byond the western baulk of the trench, with the visible portion measuring 2.20m x 1.45m and 0.18m in depth. It had slightly undulating sides leading to an undulating base and contained a single fill [47/006] of light yellowish brown sandy silt. The fill was diffuse with the natural and contained no finds.

4.22 **Trench 49** (Figure 22)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 1.04m deep
Ground level: 93.63m AOD (NW), 93.94m AOD (SE)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
49/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.17 – 0.28
49/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.36 – 0.87
49/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
49/004	Fill	Single fill of [49/005]	-	0.18
49/005	Cut	Gully	0.9+ x 0.77	0.18

Table 21: Trench 49 list of recorded contexts

4.22.1 Trench 49 was located against the western site boundary and at the base of the sloping landscape. It contained an overlying topsoil of dark greyish brown clayey silt and a thick deposit of mid brown clayey silt subsoil, the thickness of which is suggestive of some colluvium deposits. Natural deposits of mid brown clay with common flints was found at the base of the trench, with chalk natural present at the south-east end. The trench was located overlying two linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey as ridge and furrow (continuations of those targeted by Trench 33). A single feature was identified cutting into natural deposits.

4.22.2 A shallow gully terminus [49/005] was located at the north-west end of the trench, aligned north/south, continuing off the southern trench edge. The gully had concave sides, a flat base and measured 0.77m wide and 0.18m deep, running 0.90m into the trench. The single fill [49/004] comprised a firm mid brownish grey clayey silt with frequent inclusions of gravel and flint along with flecks of charcoal, although no finds were recovered. The feature does not match with the plotted locations of geophysical anomalies.

4.23 **Trench 51** (Figure 23)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 1.00m deep
Ground level: 104.92m AOD (N), 106.92m AOD (S)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
51/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.18 – 0.36
51/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.06 – 0.40
51/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
51/004	Fill	Single fill of [51/005]	-	0.10
51/005	Cut	Gully	6.0+ x 0.78	0.10
51/006	Fill	Single fill of [51/007]	-	0.30
51/007	Cut	Natural feature	7.0+ x 1.00+	0.30
51/008	Fill	Single fill of [51/009]	-	0.30

51/009	Cut	Pit	0.90 x 0.46	0.30
51/010	Cut	Pit	7.0+ x 1.0+	-

Table 22: Trench 51 list of recorded contexts

4.23.1 Trench 51 was located in the north-west field and aligned north/south. It was located running diagonally across a slope, with the southern end at the top of the slope and the northern end at the base. The trench was positioned over a linear anomaly, identified by the geophysical survey as a former field boundary, which lies in alignment with the break of slope visible in the landscape.

4.23.2 Gully [51/005] ran north-east/south-west across the northern end of the trench. The gully measured 0.78m in width and was 0.10m deep. It had concave sides leading to a concave base and contained a single fill [51/004] composed of loose mid brownish grey clayey silt with occasional rounded flints. There were no finds from the feature. However, this linear feature coincides with a boundary shown on the 1878 OS map and, although offset to the west, must constitute the physical manifestation of the boundary anomaly identified by geophysical survey (Figure 2).

4.23.3 In the middle of the trench was an irregular feature [51/007], its eastern edge exposed and the remainder extending beyond the excavation limit. A slot measuring 1.10m wide and 0.30m in depth was excavated into the cut and revealed an irregular side leading to a flat base. It contained a single fill of friable mid brown silty sand containing frequent chalk inclusions, but with no finds. The irregular nature of the feature indicates that it may be natural in origin.

4.23.4 A small rectangular pit [51/009] was discovered in the southern half of the trench, measuring 0.90m x 0.46m and 0.30m deep. The pit contained a single fill of friable dark brown silty sand, which contained no finds, though the dark colour and loose nature of the fill was suggestive of a post-medieval or modern date.

4.23.5 The eastern edge of a substantial post-medieval feature [51/010] was located further south, extending beyond the western edge of the trench. It was not excavated and contained common bricks and CBM fragments on its surface. However, it is noted that this feature coincided with the edge of an area of magnetic disturbance identified by the geophysical survey (Figure 2).

4.24 Trench 52 (Figure 24)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.36m deep
Ground level: 107.92m AOD (W), 112.66m AOD (E)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
52/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.09 – 0.16
52/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.10 – 0.20
52/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
52/004	Fill	Single fill of [52/005]	-	0.26
52/005	Cut	Ditch	8.0+ x 0.80	0.26

52/006	Fill	Single fill of [52/007]	-	0.15
52/007	Cut	Pit	1.27+ x 1.12	0.15

Table 23: Trench 52 list of recorded contexts

4.24.1 Trench 52 was aligned east/west and was targeted over a linear feature identified by the geophysical survey. The trench contained overburden deposits of dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil and mid brown clayey silt subsoil. Natural chalk was at the base of the trench, with two archaeological features cut into it.

4.24.2 A south-west/north-east linear feature [52/005] ran across the eastern end of the trench and correlates with an anomaly identified on the geophysical survey. It measured 0.80m wide and 0.26m in depth, with concave sides leading to a flat base. The ditch contained a single fill [52/004] of dark brown clayey silt, with common chalk and flint inclusions. No finds were found within the feature. The ditch continued to the east and was also recorded within Trench 53 as [53/005]. This ditch also correlates with a boundary shown on the 1878 OS map (Figure 2).

4.24.3 To the west of the ditch was a small pit [52/007], which continued beyond the northern baulk of the trench. The visible remains measured >1.27m x 1.12m and 0.20m deep, and contained a single fill [52/006] of loose mid brown clayey silt with no finds.

4.25 Trench 53 (Figure 25)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.28m deep
Ground level: 113.49m AOD (SW), 115.46m AOD (NE)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
53/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.07 – 0.18
53/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.10
53/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
53/004	Fill	Single fill of [52/005]	-	0.21
53/005	Cut	Pit	1.14 x 1.05	0.21
53/006	Fill	Single fill of [52/007]	-	0.21
53/007	Cut	Ditch	2.1+ x 0.37	0.21

Table 24: Trench 53 list of recorded contexts

4.25.1 Trench 53 was located in the north-east field and adjacent to its western boundary, aligned north-east/south-west. The trench contained a similar stratigraphic sequence to the surrounding trenches of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural strata. The natural deposits in the trench were formed of chalk at the south-west end of the trench, and mid orange brown clay and gravel at the north-east end. There were two features cut into the natural strata at the base of the trench.

4.25.2 A small pit [53/005] was found in the north-east of the trench and was circular in plan, with concave sides and a curved base. It measured 1.05m x 1.14m and 0.21m deep

and contained a single fill of mid yellow brown silty clay [53/004]. There were no finds recovered from the feature.

4.25.3 The trench contained the continuation of ditch [52/005] from Trench 52, aligned north-west/south-east. The ditch slot [53/007] was 0.37m wide and 0.21m deep, with gradual concave sides and a concave base, with a single fill of mid orange brown silty clay and frequent chalk inclusions. There were no finds from within the feature. This ditch coincides with a boundary shown on the 1878 OS map.

4.26 Trench 58 (Figure 26)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.35m deep
Ground level: 120.45m AOD (NW), 120.74m AOD (SE)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
58/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.08 – 0.14
58/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.07 – 0.18
58/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
58/004	Fill	Single fill of [58/005]	-	0.18
58/005	Cut	Ditch	6.5+ x 0.95	0.18

Table 25: Trench 58 list of recorded contexts

4.26.1 Trench 58 was located in the north-east field and was aligned north-west/south-east. Topsoil deposits of dark brown clayey silt, and mid brown clayey silt subsoil deposits were present across the length of the trench overlying compact clay natural. A single linear feature was identified cut into natural deposits. The trench was targeted on two large discrete and one possible linear geophysical anomalies. A single linear archaeological feature was identified running east/west across the south-eastern half of the trench.

4.26.2 Shallow ditch [58/005] measured 0.95m wide and 0.18m deep, with moderately sloping sides leading to a flat base. It contained a single fill [58/004] of compacted mid brown silty clay, with common inclusions of angular flints and charcoal flecks. Small fragments of CBM and two iron objects, including a stake, were recovered from the base of the fill. The ditch roughly approximates with the location of a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey and is likely to be the remains of a post-medieval field boundary or drain.

4.27 Trench 62 (Figure 27)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.53m deep
Ground level: 108.27m AOD (N), 110.09m AOD (S)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
62/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.13 – 0.27

62/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.17
62/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
62/004	Fill	Single fill of [62/005]	-	0.31
62/005	Cut	Pit	1.15 x 1.25	0.31

Table 26: Trench 62 list of recorded contexts

4.27.1 Trench 62 was located in the centre of the north-west field, aligned north/south, and contained overburden deposits of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural chalk. The trench was not targeted on any geophysics results, but lay across a linear ferrous anomaly. A single feature was identified within the trench, and two irregular patches within the chalk were also investigated and judged to be of natural origin.

4.27.2 Pit [62/005], located at the northern end of the trench, was oval in plan and measured 1.15m wide and 0.31m in depth. It had moderately sloping concave sides and contained a single fill [62/004] of friable mid greyish brown clayey chalk. There were no finds from within the feature.

4.28 Trench 63 (Figure 28)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.45m deep
Ground level: 100.74 AOD (W), 106.67m AOD (E)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
63/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.17 – 0.20
63/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.25
63/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
63/004	Fill	Single fill of [62/005]	-	0.25
63/005	Cut	Gully	3.0+ x 0.38	0.25
63/006	Cut	Grave cut	2.91 x 0.60	-
63/007	Cut	Grave cut	0.40+ x 0.50+	-
63/008	Cut	Grave cut	1.95+ x 0.56	-
63/009	Cut	Grave cut	2.09 x 0.57	-
63/010	Fill	Upper fill of [63/006]	-	-
63/011	Fill	Fill of [63/006]	-	-
63/012	SK	Skeleton in [63/006]	-	-

Table 27: Trench 63 list of recorded contexts

4.28.1 East/west orientated Trench 63 contained overlying topsoil deposits of dark grey brown sandy silt, with subsoil of mid brown sandy silt limited to the eastern end of the trench. Chalk natural was recorded at the base, with five features cut into the base of the trench. The trench was located on sloping ground running from east to west, and was not targeted upon anomalies identified by geophysical survey.

4.28.2 A shallow linear cut [63/005] ran north-east/south-west across the eastern end of the trench, with steep sharp sides and a flat base. The feature contained a single fill of soft mid brown clayey silt [63/004], with occasional chalk inclusions and a single find of an iron bar fragment of post-medieval date near the base of the feature. The gully continued in Trenches 65 and 73 to the north-east, where it was also excavated. It aligns with a boundary shown on historic OS mapping.

4.28.3 In the centre of the trench were four roughly rectangular features aligned north-east/south-west ([63/006], [63/007], [63/008] and [63/009]), three of which continued beyond the trench baulk. Cut [63/006], the only one completely within the confines of the trench, was investigated and revealed to be a grave containing skeletal remains. This grave was not fully excavated at the time although, following consultation with the monitoring officer, the fills were investigated in order to ascertain whether any grave goods were present which may be used as dating evidence.

4.28.4 Grave cut [63/006] contained two fills, the upper fill [63/010] comprising loose light brown-white silty chalk, indicative of backfilled material. The underlying fill was formed of very friable redeposited chalk, and included the skeletal remains [63/012], as well as what appeared to be metal buckle and knife remains, though these were all left *in situ*. The grave cut measured 2.91m long and 0.60m wide, and was excavated to a depth of 0.30m below the top of the natural chalk.

4.28.5 Subsequent to this evaluation phase, the rest of grave [63/010] has been excavated and the skeleton and grave good objects removed. The results of this additional work and of the analysis of the grave contents will be the subject of an addendum to this report.

4.28.6 The three other probable graves identified within the trench were not excavated. However, the top of a human skull within grave [63/009] was found during cleaning of the trench base.

4.29 Trench 64 (Figure 29)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.45m deep
Ground level: 100.84 AOD (N), 103.34m AOD (S)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
64/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.12 – 0.19
64/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.13 – 0.17
64/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
64/004	Fill	Single fill of [64/005]	-	0.57
64/005	Cut	Pit	1.98 x 0.90+	0.57

Table 28: Trench 64 list of recorded contexts

4.29.1 Trench 64 was towards the north-west of the site and was aligned north/south, with overburden deposits of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural chalk recorded. Three features were investigated within the trench, two of which were interpreted as natural, based on fill type and diffuse nature of cut, and a possible pit.

4.29.2 A possible pit [64/005] was located in the north of the trench and against the western baulk. It measured 1.98m wide and 0.57m deep, with concave sloping sides and a concave base. The single fill [64/004] was formed of mid brown clayey silt with occasional flint inclusions. There were no finds recorded from within the feature.

4.30 Trench 65 (Figure 30)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.78m deep
Ground level: 103.93m AOD (W), 109.05m AOD (E)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
65/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.20 – 0.24
65/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.32 – 0.62
65/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
65/004	Fill	Single fill of [65/005]	-	0.24
65/005	Cut	Gully	3.0+ x 0.53	0.24

Table 29: Trench 65 list of recorded contexts

4.30.1 Trench 65 was positioned east/west, crossing a steep bank, which marks an earlier field boundary. The stratigraphy varied along the length of the trench, with the higher ground in the east containing a thick subsoil deposits underlying topsoil, while the western end contained topsoil directly over natural chalk deposits.

4.30.2 A small gully [65/005] was located towards the east of the trench. It was aligned north-east/south-west, measuring 0.53m wide and 0.24m deep. The gully cut was straight sided with a flat base, and contained a single fill [65/004] of light brown clay silt. Small fragments of bone were recovered from the fill. This gully continued into Trench 73 to the north and Trench 63 to the south. It coincided with a field boundary identified by both the geophysical survey and historic OS mapping.

4.31 Trench 67 (Figure 31)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.37m deep
Ground level: 113.56m AOD (NE), 113.49m AOD (SW)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
67/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.10 – 0.14
67/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.01 – 0.09
67/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
67/004	Fill	Single fill of [65/005]	-	0.75
67/005	Cut	Pit	2.20 x 0.81+	0.75

Table 30: Trench 67 list of recorded contexts

4.31.1 Trench 67 was aligned north-east/south-west, set against the eastern boundary of the north-west field, with a dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil and mid brown sandy subsoil overlying chalk natural. A single pit was found cut into the base of the trench.

4.31.2 Probable pit [67/005] measured 2.20m wide and 0.75m deep, and continued beyond the western baulk of the trench. It contained a single, sterile fill [67/004] of mid orange brown silty clay, and had concave sides with a rounded base.

4.32 Trench 73 (Figure 32)

Dimensions: 50.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.43m deep
Ground level: 111.30m AOD (E), 106.48m AOD (W)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
73/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.08 – 0.18
73/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	0.10 – 0.18
73/003	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
73/004	Cut	Gully	2.6+ x 0.99	0.24
73/005	Fill	Single fill of [73/004]	-	0.24
73/006	Cut	Pit	0.35 x 0.35	0.39
73/007	Fill	Single fill of [73/006]	-	0.39
73/008	Fill	Upper fill of [73/010]	-	0.42
73/009	Fill	Basal fill of [73/010]	-	0.15
73/010	Cut	Ditch	2.6+ x 0.83	0.51
73/011	Fill	Upper fill of [73/018]	-	0.22
73/012	Fill	Fill of [73/018]	-	0.40
73/013	Cut	Pit	1.85+ x 1.84+	0.80
73/014	Fill	Basal fill of [73/013]	-	0.30
73/015	Fill	Fill of [73/013]	-	0.16
73/016	Fill	Fill of [73/018]	-	0.42
73/017	Fill	Basal fill of [73/018]	-	0.40
73/018	Cut	Ditch	2.8+ x 2.50	1.04
73/019	Fill	Upper fill of [73/013]	-	0.36
73/020	Fill	Fill of [73/018]	-	0.24
73/021	Cut	Pit	0.92 x 0.5+	0.90
73/022	Fill	Basal fill of [73/021]	-	0.10
73/023	Fill	Fill of [73/021]	-	0.06
73/024	Fill	Upper fill of [73/021]	-	0.76
73/025	Fill	Basal fill of [73/027]	-	0.52
73/026	Fill	Upper fill of [73/027]	-	0.40

73/027	Cut	Pit	1.6+ x 1.28	0.68

Table 31: Trench 67 list of recorded contexts

4.32.1 Trench 73 was located towards the northern extent of the site area, and was positioned over a possible ditched enclosure and a linear field boundary anomaly both identified by the geophysical survey. The trench was located at the top of a slope running east to west, with the western end of the trench at the base of the slope. It contained overlying topsoil and subsoil deposits over natural chalk.

4.32.2 A shallow gully [73/004] ran across the western end of the trench on a north-east/south-west alignment. The gully measured 0.99m wide and was up to 0.24m in depth, with shallow sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill [73/005] of friable mid brown sandy silt with chalk inclusions, but no finds. The gully was a continuation of the linear feature found within Trenches 51, 63 and 65 and coincided with the linear geophysical anomaly. It represents a known field boundary shown on historic OS mapping.

4.32.3 A small square pit [73/006] was recorded to the east of gully [73/004], measuring 0.35m wide and 0.39m in depth. It had vertical sides and a flat base, with a single fill [73/007] of friable dark orange brown sandy silt. There were no finds recovered.

4.32.4 Ditch [73/010], running across the middle of the trench on a north-east/south-west alignment, correlated with the western side of the geophysical enclosure anomaly. The ditch had steep straight sides and a U-shaped base, with two fills. It contained an upper fill [73/008] of compact mid brown clayey silt, and a lower fill [73/009] of light brown white weathered chalk, probably a result of initial weathering/slumping.

4.32.5 Towards the east of the trench, the eastern boundary ditch of the enclosure was also identified as ditch [73/018]. This was a more substantial cut, aligned north-east/south-west and measured 2.50m wide and 1.04m in depth, containing five fills. The basal fill [73/017] was very friable light greyish white silty chalk, most likely a deliberate backfill. Set in the bottom of this fill was a cow skull, located upside down on the base of the cut, perhaps indicative of a placed deposit. A small number of pottery sherds of prehistoric date and struck flints were also found. The pottery was of hand-made sandy fabrics dating to the Middle Iron Age. Above this was fill [73/020], against the eastern edge of the ditch and only present on the southern side. This fill is perhaps a slumping event of mid grey brown sandy silt, containing no finds. Fill [73/016] was comprised of firm light brown sandy silt with occasional chalk inclusions with no finds. The fill [73/012], immediately above, was a similar mid brownish grey sandy silt, and included lenses of darker grey brown and light grey brown sandy silt within it. Again, no finds were recovered. The upper fill [73/011] was 0.22m thick and formed of mid grey brown sandy silt, with occasional charcoal flecks. Sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery, in a similar sandy fabric to those found in [73/017], as well as flint tempered ware, were recovered from it together with worked flints. Six small fragments of post-medieval CBM were also recovered, however. Since this was the top fill of the feature it is possible that these were intrusive from an unseen plough scar or surface penetration. No CBM was recovered from the lower fills.

4.32.6 While not readily visible in plan, enclosure ditch [73/018] was found to cut through three pits. Pit [73/013] was located to the east of ditch [73/018] and was truncated by it on its western side. The surviving part of the pit was >1.84m x >1.85m and up to 0.80m in depth, containing three fills, with a steep undercutting sides and an undulating base. The basal fill [73/014] was formed of very compacted light brownish white redeposited chalk, with occasional charcoal inclusions. The deposit above, [73/015], was an

isolated area of mid brown clayey silt, suggestive of a dumped deposit into the pit. It contained no finds. The upper fill [73/019] contained sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery in the same fabrics as those from ditch [73/018], worked flints and burnt flints, and was composed of firm mid brownish grey sandy silt. Again, seven fragments of post-medieval CBM were retained from this top fill of the feature. Like those from the top fill of ditch [73/008], they are likely to be intrusive from ploughing. Additionally, some metalworking waste was found in this deposit, probably from smithing activity nearby. Whether this is also intrusive or contemporary is not known.

4.32.7 Pit [73/021] extended beyond the northern trench baulk and was truncated on its western side by ditch [73/018]. The pit had concave, slightly undercutting, sides leading to a flat base, and measured 0.92m wide and 0.90m in depth. The basal fill [73/022] was formed of very compacted greyish-white re-deposited chalk with occasional charcoal flecks. The overlying deposit [73/023] was a slightly lighter mid yellow brown redeposited chalk, with common chalk inclusions, but contained no finds. The upper fill [73/024] was a light yellow brown chalk with clayey silt, and contained frequent inclusions of chalk and sub-angular flints. This fill contained sherds of Middle Iron Age sandy fabric pottery along with worked flints and burnt flint. The fill is probably a result of deliberate backfilling.

4.32.8 The third pit [73/027] was to the west of, and cut by, ditch [73/018]. The pit measured 1.28m wide and 0.68m in depth, possessed concave sides leading to an undulating base, and contained two fills. The basal fill [73/025] consisted of a compacted light yellow-white redeposited chalk layer with common charcoal inclusions as well as large angular flints. The upper fill [73/026] comprised mid yellow brown clayey silt, which contained no finds. Being cut by the enclosure ditch, this pit is of Iron Age or earlier date.

4.33 Trench 76 (Figure 28)

Dimensions: 40.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.41m deep
Ground level: 105.69m AOD (E), 100.81m AOD (W)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
76/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.18 – 0.41
76/002	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
76/003	Cut	Grave cut	1.04+ x 0.53	-
76/004	Cut	Grave cut	1.41 x 0.45	-

Table 32: Trench 76 list of recorded contexts

4.33.1 Trench 76 was an additional trench deployed as a contingency following consultation with the monitoring officer. The trench was located to the immediate south of Trench 63 in order to ascertain the extent of the group of graves recorded in that trench. It was aligned east/west and measured 40m in length, with topsoil directly overlying natural chalk across the length of the trench. There were two possible grave cuts within the trench.

4.33.2 Probable grave cut [76/003] continued beyond the southern baulk of the trench, with approximately half of its full extent visible. As exposed, it measured >1.04m in length

and 0.53m wide. The feature was not excavated. The upper fill of the feature comprised yellowish-white redeposited chalk.

4.33.3 A further possible grave cut [76/004] was aligned east/west within the trench and measured 1.41m x 0.45m. It was roughly rectangular in plan, with an upper fill of light orange brown silty sand with common chalk inclusions. It was not excavated during this evaluation phase.

4.34 Trench 77 (Figure 28)

Dimensions: 45.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.31m deep
Ground level: 104.97m AOD (E), 100.50m AOD (W)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
77/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.18 – 0.31
77/002	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
77/003	Cut	Grave cut	0.98 x 0.79+	-
77/004	Cut	Possible Grave cut	0.77 x 2.07+	-

Table 33: Trench 77 list of recorded contexts

4.34.1 Trench 77 was a further contingency trench positioned to try to ascertain the extent of the grave group. The trench was positioned to the immediate north of Trench 63, and contained dark grey brown topsoil directly overlying natural chalk. There were two possible grave features identified within the trench.

4.34.2 Possible grave cut [77/003] extended beyond the southern baulk of the trench, with the visible portion of the feature being sub-rectangular in shape and measuring 0.98m wide and >0.77m in length. The upper fill was a mid yellow brown silty sand with very common chalk. This grave was not excavated.

4.34.3 Cut [77/004] extended beyond the northern baulk, and may in fact be of natural origin rather than a grave cut, with more ephemeral and less regular edges being apparent. It was, however, roughly rectangular in plan and measured 0.77m wide and >2.07m in length, and was recorded as possibly representing an additional grave cut. It was not excavated.

4.35 Trench 78 (Figure 28)

Dimensions: 30.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.26m deep
Ground level: 104.04m AOD (E), 100.90m AOD (W)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
78/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.14 – 0.20
78/002	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
78/003	Cut	Grave cut	1.51+ x 0.78	-

78/004	Cut	Grave cut	2.26 x 0.84	-
78/005	Cut	Grave cut	1.69 x 0.48	-
78/006	Cut	Grave cut	1.47+ x 0.60	-
78/007	Cut	Grave cut	0.55+ x 0.74	-
78/008	Cut	Grave cut	1.05+ x 0.78	-

Table 34: Trench 78 list of recorded contexts

4.35.1 Trench 78 was located to the immediate south of Trench 76 and was a further contingency trench in order to clarify the extent of the grave group. The trench had the same stratigraphic sequence as the surrounding trenches and at its east end contained two definite grave cuts, as well as a further four probable grave cuts, all of which were aligned north-east/south-west.

4.35.2 Grave cuts [78/006] and [78/008] were confirmed graves, with the tops of the skulls exposed during the machining and cleaning of the trench base. The cuts both continued beyond the trench edge and measured >1.47m x 0.60 and >1.05m x 0.78m respectively. Both features contained upper fills of light yellow brown sandy silty with common chalk inclusions. Neither was excavated.

4.35.3 The other four probable grave cuts ([78/003], [78/004], [78/005] and [78/007]) were rectangular in plan and orientated on the same alignment as the two proven grave cuts. They visible part of the graves measured between 0.55m – 2.26m long and 0.48m – 0.84m in width. None of these graves were excavated, but all contained similar upper fills of light yellow brown sandy silt with very common chalk inclusions.

4.36 Trench 80 (Figure 33)

Dimensions: 55.00m x 2.10m x up to 0.39m deep
Ground level: 86.98m AOD (SW), 89.31m AOD (NE)

Context	Type	Description	Length & Width (m)	Depth / Thickness (m)
80/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	0.10 – 0.30
80/002	Layer	Natural deposits	trench	-
80/003	Fill	Single fill of [80/004]	-	0.27
80/004	Cut	Ditch	2.3+ x 2.00	0.27

Table 35: Trench 80 list of recorded contexts

4.36.1 Contingency Trench 80 was aligned north-east/south-west and was positioned in between Trenches 6 and 9 to investigate whether this area may contain features, as had been suggested by geophysics results previous to the 2017 survey (Thomas 2015 and Lockyer 2016). The trench contained topsoil deposits over a varied natural, which was formed of chalk at the north-east end, with silt and gravel natural deposits to the south-west of the trench. A single feature was identified in the north-east end of the trench.

4.36.2 Ditch [80/004] ran north-west/south-east across the trench and measured 2m wide and 0.27m in depth. It had slightly stepped sides and a flat base, and contained a single fill [80/003] of dark yellowish brown sandy silt. There were no finds recovered from the fill. This feature was the continuation of ditch [9/004] in Trench 9.

4.37 Archaeologically Blank Trenches

4.37.1 Forty-six of the evaluation trenches (8, 13-18, 20, 22-27, 30, 31, 32, 36-46, 48, 50, 54-57, 59-61, 66, 68-72, 74-75, 79) contained no archaeological remains. The detail of the basic deposit sequence recorded in each of these is presented in Appendix 1.

4.37.2 Trenches 39 and 40 were both located over an area identified as showing magnetic disturbance on the geophysical survey. The disturbance proved to be a result of modern dumping, excavated to a maximum depth of 1.31m within Trench 39 and 0.50m in Trench 40. The material was mixed, formed of dark blackish brown silty clay, redeposited chalk with silty clay and dark brown silt clay. Modern inclusions of wood, metal and CBM were found across the fills.

4.37.3 Five of the trenches (41, 56, 58, 68, 74) were targeted on geophysics anomalies identified as possibly of archaeological origin. There were no corresponding archaeological features found within these trenches.

4.37.4 Trench 75 was moved slightly to the south-west of its original location due to its proximity to overhead cables and the trench boundary. The trench was not targeted on any geophysical anomalies and there were no archaeological remains found within the trench.

4.37.5 Trench 79 was an additional trench that was excavated as a contingency, as agreed by the monitoring officer. The trench was located in the north-west of the trench in order to ascertain the extent of the grave cuts found in Trenches 63, 76, 77 and 78. The trench was aligned east/west and was 15m to the south of Trench 78. No archaeological features were encountered in the trench.

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A moderate assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at Land north of Lower Luton Road, Harpenden. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 36). In addition, four finds were assigned registered finds numbers (Table 42). These were packaged and recorded individually and are stored in Stewart tubs with silica gel. None of the registered finds require further conservation. All finds have been packed and stored following CIfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Slag	Weight (g)	Iron	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	CTP	Weight (g)	FCF	Weight (g)	Fired Clay	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)
us	36	306																						
1/004			5	16																				
1/005	1	10	2	12																				
2/005					2	30																		
3/004	4	50			1	14																		
3/006	13	10	3	98																				
3/007																	6	106						
4/004	1	4																						
5/003	7	180			6	250	2	64			12	86			1	2	1	70						
5/005	15	216															1	26						
6/003	6	62															4	136						
7/004	277	2686															11	206						
8/002	3	40	1	6													5	164						
9/001	1	<2															1	126						
9/003	18	152															2	20						
10/006	4	20	2	42																				
11/004					7	376	2	10	1	2	2	12											4	86
11/005			1	6	3	10																		
11/006					2	118															1	6		
11/007					6	158																		
11/008					3	26																		
11/009	235	2068	9	58													14	420						
19/004	25	176	3	48																				
35/002																					1	660		
35/007																			1	2				
58/004					2	4			1	22														
63/004											1	208												
65/004													5	2										
73/011	1	42	6	26	7	38							2	6			11	446						
73/017	6	38	1	6									84	510			8	276					8	10
73/019	17	272	7	56	3	44	1	40	10	450			3	74			4	298						
73/024	1	26	6	16									28	40			8	526						
80/001	3	26																						
Total	*674*	*6384*	*46*	*490*	*42*	*1068*	*5*	*114*	*12*	*474*	*15*	*513*	*122*	*632*	*1*	*2*	*76*	*2820*	*1*	*2*	*2*	*666*	*12*	*96*

Table 36: Finds quantification

5.2 **Flintwork** Karine Le Hégarat

Introduction

5.2.1 The evaluation resulted in the recovery of 532 pieces of struck flint weighing 6160g. It also produced 76 fragments of burnt unworked flint weighing 2820g. The artefacts were recovered through hand collection. The assemblage contains no chronologically diagnostic pieces, but based on morphological and technological traits the flintwork reflects human activity from the Late Mesolithic to the Late Bronze Age with the Middle Neolithic / Early Bronze Age being best represented. Another characteristic of the assemblage is that, overall, the material appears chronologically mixed and the absence of coherent group(s) suggests re-deposition.

Methodology

5.2.2 The pieces of struck flint were individually examined and classified using standard set of codes and morphological descriptions (Butler 2005 and Inizan *et al*. 1999). Basic technological details as well as further information regarding the condition of the artefacts (evidence of burning or breakage, degree of cortication and degree of edge damage) were recorded. Dating was attempted when possible. All data have been entered onto a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, and it is summarised in Table 37.

Contexts	Flakes*	Bladelet, blade-like flake	Irregular waste	Core	Retouched form	Total	%
7/004	161	43	-	4	5	213	40.0%
11/009	151	23	11	1	2	188	35.3%
Remaining assemblage	93	24	4	4	6	131	24.6%
Total	*405*	*90*	*15*	*9*	*13*	*532*	*100.0%*
%	*76.1%*	*16.9%*	*2.8%*	*1.7%*	*2.4%*	*100.0%*	

Table 37: Flintwork quantification (* = includes thinning flake and core face/edge rejuvenation flake); unworked burnt flint fragments are excluded

Provenance

5.2.3 With the exception of 22 pieces that were collected in the far north of the site (from Trenches 73 and 80), the majority of pieces came from the southern part of the site (mainly south of the former field boundaries). Three quarters of the assemblage came from two features (Table 37); hollow [7/005] in the south-east of the site produced 213 pieces (40% of the total assemblage), and pit [11/010], also in the south of the site, produced 188 pieces (35.3% of the total assemblage). Amongst the remaining 93 pieces, 34 were found unstratified, and 59 pieces came from 17 contexts in 11 trenches. These contexts represent mainly pits and ditches but also the topsoil and the subsoil. The majority produced small quantities of struck flints (between one and six pieces), but pits [5/005] and [73/015] contained 13 and 15 flints respectively, and ditches [9/004] and [19/005] contained 16 and 19 pieces respectively. Given the mixed nature of the assemblage, the flints from hollow [7/005], the flint from pit [11/010] are considered as individual groups and the remaining flints are discussed together.

Raw material and condition

5.2.4 The colour of the raw material selected for the manufacture of the lithics varies from mid to dark grey and occasionally mid to dark brown. Where present the cortex is

mostly stained and slightly weathered. Its thickness varies considerably, ranging from <1mm to 9mm. Inclusions are occasionally recorded (principally on the grey-coloured flint), but overall the fine grained flint appears to be of good flaking quality. Nodules would have been readily available from superficial deposits such as clay-with-flints (BGS 2017). A single cortical piece from pit [11/010] displays an orange band below a thin black outer surface, which is characteristic of Bullhead flint.

5.2.5 The condition of the pieces of flints was variable. No artefacts display fresh edge condition, and evidence of pieces with heavily abraded edges indicative of successive depositions or trampling was occasionally recorded. In fact a large proportion of the artefacts exhibits slight to moderate signs of weathering indicating that the flints endured a certain degree of post depositional disturbance. A total of 213 pieces were recorded as broken, and just five pieces were burnt. In total, 166 pieces were re-corticated to varying degrees. The majority of pieces displayed only incipient traces of bluish white surface discolouration, but other pieces were entirely re-corticated (for example the pieces from the upper fill [73/013] of pit [73/019]). Overall the edge and the surface conditions of the flints within the same features varies. This is the case for the two large groups from hollow [7/005] and pit [11/010], and this variability suggests mixing of the flintwork.

Technology and dating

5.2.6 A large proportion of the assemblage consists of débitage products (Table 37). Amongst this group, unmodified flakes are the best represented (405 pieces), but bladelets, blades and blade-like flakes are also evident (90 pieces). Bladelets and blades with parallel lateral edges and ridges as well as platform abrasion reflects a blade-orientated industry, and this indicates presence during the Mesolithic or the Early Neolithic (Ford 1987); however, it should be noted that some of the blades and bladelets are less regular, and these are likely to be later, being the result of knapping accidents. No large concentrations were noticed, and this material was principally found mixed with later flints. Nonetheless, although no diagnostic pieces such as microliths or microburins were found, two single platform blade cores (context [7/005] and unstratified) and a retouched core face edge rejuvenation bladelet (context [7/005]) demonstrate knapping activity during that period.

5.2.7 The flake-based character of the assemblage suggests a date spanning from the Middle Neolithic to the Bronze Age, but based on technological ground, a large proportion of the flakes are likely to date from the Middle Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age. Flakes were irregular, and a mixed hammer mode was noted. While the majority of pieces display plain platform and minimal preparation, other pieces indicate that more care was taken while knapping (for example narrow or winged platforms with limited preparation). In addition to the two single platform blade cores already mentioned, the assemblage contained seven cores; two single platform flake cores (ditch [5/004] and pit [5/006]), two multiplatform flake cores (hollow [7/005] and topsoil [9/001], two multiplatform blade cores (hollow [7/005] and pit [11/010]) and a fragmentary core (hollow [7/005]). The majority of the cores are likely to predate the Middle Bronze Age. A core face edge rejuvenation flake from [7/005] provides also evidence for a careful reduction strategy.

5.2.8 Modified pieces were relatively uncommon representing 2.4% of the assemblage (n=13). They include a piecer, a possible awl, three end scrapers, seven retouched flakes and a retouched bladelet. Unfortunately the majority are only minimally retouched, and none of these pieces are particularly chronologically diagnostic. Only a broad Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date can be proposed for the majority of them. The exception is the end scraper from ditch [9/004]. It is made on a flake and displays

fine direct retouch forming a convex curve on the distal end. It is likely to be Middle Neolithic / Early Bronze Age in date.

Hollow [7/005] and pit [11/010]

5.2.9 Both hollow [7/005] and pit [11/010] produced large quantities of worked flint (Tables 38 and 39). The hollow extended beyond the width of the trench (2.10m); and although incomplete, the current assemblage corresponds to approximately 10 pieces per m^2. In both features, the assemblages appear to be of mixed date. The surface and edge conditions of the pieces are also suggestive of redeposition, although the pieces may not have travelled a great distance. Material deriving from both blade-orientated industry and flake-orientated industry was recorded in both features. Based on technological traits, the majority of the pieces are likely to date from the Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age, but a small Mesolithic or Early Neolithic component was also present in both features. No obvious refits were noted, but some pieces appear to derive from the same nodules, especially in [7/005]. No pottery was recovered from hollow [7/005], but nine sherds possibly or probably of Early Neolithic date were found in pit [11/010]. Some of the pieces of flint could be contemporary with the pottery. No flints were recovered from the primary fill of hollow [7/005]. This part of the site was used as arable fields, and overall it is likely that the flints represent material from disturbed surface scatters that moved down the slope and accumulated in natural and archaeological features.

Category	**Pieces**
Flake	159
Blade	18
Bladelet	10
Blade-like	15
Thinning flake	1
Core face edge rejuvenation flake	1
Single platform blade core	1
Multiplatform blade core	1
Multiplatform flake core	1
Fragmentary core	1
End scraper	2
Retouched flake	2
Retouched bladelet	1
Total	*213*

Table 38: Flintwork from hollow [7/005], secondary fill [7/004]

Category	**Pieces**
Flake	151
Blade	10
Blade-like	6
Bladelet	7
Irregular waste	11
Multiplatform blade core	1
Retouched flakes	2
Total	*188*

Table 39: Flintwork from pit [11/010], fill [11/009]

5.2.10 A relatively small amount of burnt unworked flint fragments (2820g) was recovered from 13 contexts in eight trenches (Trenches 3, 5-9, 11 and 73). Unlike the worked flint, the largest quantity of the unworked flint came from the north of site in Trench 73 (1579g). The majority of the fragments were heavily calcined to a mid-grey colour. This type of material is intrinsically undatable, although often associated with prehistoric activity.

5.2.11 In addition, three bulk soil samples (<01> from [1/005], <02> from [11/009] and <03> from [7/004]) produced small amounts of worked flint and burnt unworked flint. The material has not been quantified though it has been examined for the presence of diagnostic pieces – no such pieces were identified.

Discussion

5.2.12 The assemblage from this evaluation provides evidence for prehistoric presence. No chronologically diagnostic pieces were found, but based on technological and morphological traits the flintwork suggests presence mainly during the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age. A small Mesolithic or Early Neolithic component was present, and a few pieces are likely to be later. Two relatively large groups were found, but the edge and surface condition of the flints suggest some movement, and for the most part the assemblage is likely to represent disturbed surface scatters. It provides limited evidence for knapping activity, but tools were uncommon.

5.3 Prehistoric and Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 A small assemblage of prehistoric and Roman pottery was recovered from the site, amounting to 45 sherds, weighing 484g. The assemblage is largely composed of fairly undiagnostic bodysherds which makes dating uncertain in some cases. However, there appears to be material from quite a number of different periods, including the Early Neolithic, Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, Middle Bronze Age, Early/Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age/early Roman period. At present, the pottery has been examined with a x20 binocular microscope for the purposes of spot-dating and characterisation but has not been fully recorded to a fabric and form type-series. It is recommended that the pottery should be retained and fully integrated into any pottery assessment or analysis programme in the event of further archaeological work at the site.

5.3.2 Three pits located near the southern end of the site, [1/006], [10/005] and [11/010], contained pottery possibly or probably of the Early Neolithic Plain Bowl tradition. All of these contained small groups of fairly low-fired flint-tempered sherds, some with fairly dense quartz-free matrices and some containing coarser quartz sand. Unfortunately all of these fabrics are at the finer, better-sorted end of the spectrum for Early Neolithic wares, with flint generally only ranging up to *c*.2.5-3mm. This makes it difficult to entirely rule out the possibility of a LBA/EIA date. Each of the pits also contain one or more tiny, partial rim sherds but all are so small as to make it difficult to determine the overall orientation and profile of the vessel. Nevertheless all appeared to be simple beaded or out-turning rims which would be in keeping with Plain Bowl forms. In fill [11/009] of pit [11/010], the probable Early Neolithic pottery was associated with a very large group of flints dating to the Neolithic to Early Bronze Age.

5.3.3 Although [1/004], the lower fill of pit [1/006], seemed to contain entirely Early Neolithic pottery, its upper fill, [1/005], contained one Early Neolithic sherd (which seemed to be of the same vessel of a sherd represented in [1/004]) and another sherd of probable Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date. This piece is associated with an oxidised fabric containing moderate grog of 1-2mm and rare fine flint in a similar size range. It is of

medium wall-thickness and appears to have a trace of linear impressed decoration at the very edge of the sherd. All of these attributes suggest that it most likely belongs to a Grooved Ware or Beaker vessel. Other earlier Bronze Age ceramic traditions are possible but these would more typically be associated with thicker-walled vessel forms.

5.3.4 Fill [3/006] of pit [3/007] contained large, fresh, conjoining sherds from a Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury (DR) urn with a biconical profile. The sherds, from the rim/shoulder area, feature an applied vertical cordon/flattened lug running from the shoulder to the rim and a series of finger impressions along the shoulder area. The fabric of this vessel is unusually fine for DR pottery – with sparse flint of 1-2mm and possibly with some rare fine grog, though this is difficult to distinguish form the background clay matrix. Interestingly, the vertical cordon/flattened lug appears more in keeping with the Ardleigh DR group of north-east Essex/south-west Suffolk than of the Lower Thames DR group (Brown 1995); however, it is possible that this trait is indicative of a relatively early date within the DR tradition, since many of the more highly decorated, grog-tempered Ardleigh vessels seem to belong to the Early/Middle Bronze Age transition in the second quarter of the 2nd millennium BC.

5.3.5 All of the pottery from Trench 73 at the northern end of the site appears to be of Iron Age date. This includes pottery from fills [73/011] and [73/017] of ditch [73/018], fill [73/019] of pit [73/013] and fill [73/024] of pit [73/021]. The vast majority of the pottery recovered from this trench was associated with hand-made sandy fabrics which are typical of the Middle Iron Age. One caveat to bear in mind is that it is difficult to distinguish sandy fabrics of Middle Iron Age and Early Saxon date in the absence of feature sherds. In context [73/019] however, these fabrics were associated with a rim from a typical Middle Iron Age ovoid jar with tooled horizontal line decoration below the rim; in contexts [73/011] and [73/024] undiagnostic bodysherds in sandy fabrics were associated with prehistoric flint-tempered fabrics, possibly indicating a transitional Early/Middle Iron Age date; and in [73/017], only one relatively fine sandy flint-tempered ware was recovered, which may date anywhere in the earlier part of the Iron Age. Overall then, it seems unlikely that any of the hand-made sandy wares from Trench 73 are of Early Saxon date although possibly mid Saxon burials have been recorded on the site. In contexts [73/011] and [73/019], small fragments of late medieval/early post-medieval ceramic building material were also recovered, suggesting that the pottery may be residual.

5.3.6 Finally, Late Iron Age/early Roman grog-tempered pottery was recovered from subsoil deposit [8/002] and from fill [19/004] of ditch [19/005]. The latter feature contained two conjoining rimsherds from a necked storage jar alongside a tiny residual flint-tempered sherd of indeterminate prehistoric date.

5.4 **Post-Medieval Pottery** by Helen Walker

5.4.1 A total of four sherds weighing 66g was recovered from three contexts. The pottery consists entirely of post-medieval red earthenware and none is closely datable, spanning the 16th to 19th centuries. However, that from context [11/004] comprises a very thick-walled sherd with an all over glaze which is likely to be from a large storage jar or bread crock datable to the 19th century, although an earlier date cannot be entirely ruled out. The pottery from [11/008] comprises two very abraded sherds showing signs of fire-blackening and may derive from muck spreading of farmyard midden material.

5.4.2 The sherd from context [11/005], the fill of a quarry pit, comprises an internally-glazed

thickened everted rim perhaps from a small dish or bowl. In spite of the fact this is a rim sherd, it is not of a closely datable type and again could date any time between the 16th and 19th centuries. There is not enough pottery to indicate significant activity at this site during the post-medieval period and no further work is required on the pottery.

5.5 Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.5.1 A total of thirty-nine pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 986g were collected from eleven contexts across six evaluation contexts; Trenches 2, 3, 5, 11, 53 and 73. All the material was quantified by form, weight and fabric and recorded on standard recording forms. This information was then entered into a digital Excel database. Fabric descriptions were developed with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope and use the following conventions: frequency of inclusions as sparse, moderate, common or abundant; the size of inclusions as fine (up to 0.25mm), medium (up to 0.25 and 0.5mm), coarse (0.5-1.0mm) and very coarse (larger than 1.0mm).

5.5.2 The assemblage mostly comprised tile fragments in three fabric types, T1, T2 and T3, descriptions for which are provided below in Table 40. None of the roof tile is particularly dateable and only one of the thirty-four flat tile fragments even had a partial peg hole, which appeared to be round but not enough survived to be sure. Based on the level of firing and the general characteristics of the different fabrics, it is suggested that T1 may be the latest of the fabric types, dating to the later 18th-19th century, whilst T2 and T3 may be earlier, c.17th-18th century.

5.5.3 Almost half the assemblage in terms of fragment count and 61% in terms of weight came from trench 11. Included in this was the single B1 brick, recovered from [11/004], and much of the T3 tile. Fragments of T1 were also collected from [11/004] and [11/007]. The B1 brick fragment was of reasonable size and included a surviving edge with a slightly rounded arris, although no measurable dimensions. It had been subject to intense heat which had caused the fabric to vitrify but there were still some apparent inclusions within the matrix, and distinguishing white quartz moulding sand. Based on the few surviving features an early post-medieval date of later 16th-17th century date is suggested.

5.5.4 The remaining four brick fragments came from Trench 73, contexts [73/011] and [73/019], and were all highly abraded, lacking any original surfaces, and made from very low-fired fabric B2. They were also all coated in a thin layer of soft and fine lime mortar, suggesting these and the accompanying small tile fragments that were equally covered in lime mortar had been used in rubble foundations or as hard core. Although it is likely this reuse post-dates the original manufacture date of the bricks, the low-fired and quartz-rich quality of the brick fabric suggests a c.16th century date, and these brick fragments most likely represent the earliest dating CBM from the evaluation.

Fabric	Description
B1	Red and well-fired fabric with sparse very coarse quartz and hard white inclusions. NB. The only example of this fabric is vitrified.
B2	Low-fired orange fabric with abundant sorted opaque quartz and burn out chaff on some examples.
T1	Hard, reddish fabric with sparse coarse quartz and calcareous inclusions. Some paler bands in the fabric of some fragments

T2	Orange fabric with common mixed quartz, medium-very coarse.
T3	Orange fabric with common medium angular quartz and black speckle.

Table 40: Fabric descriptions for ceramic building material

5.6 **Fired Clay** by Elke Raemen

5.6.1 Context [35/007] contained an amorphous fired clay fragment in an orange fabric with common medium quartz.

5.7 **Clay Tobacco Pipe** by Elke Raemen

5.7.1 A single clay tobacco pipe stem fragment weighing 1g was recovered from [5/003]. The fragment dates between c. 1750 and 1910.

5.8 **Glass** by Elke Raemen

5.8.1 Two pieces of glass weighing 664g were recovered from two different contexts. A green wine bottle body shard was recovered from [11/006]. The fragment is of 19th-century date. Context [35/002] contained a complete, cylindrical soda or mineral water bottle in aqua glass and with '10' or '01' embossed beneath the base. The bottle measures 285mm high with a diameter of 83mm at the shoulder tapering to 76mm at the base. It is of mid 19th- to mid 20th-century date.

5.9 **Geological Material** by Luke Barber

5.9.1 The evaluation recovered seven pieces of stone, weighing 154g, from four individually numbered contexts. Context [11/004] produced two small fresh pieces of coal (10g), while context [5/004] contained two partially burnt but unabraded pieces of coal shale (64g). Both types are likely to have been imported during the post-medieval period but they could be intrusive. Context [58/004] contained a 20g fragment of ferruginous concretion/boxstone while [73/019] produced a 20g worn nodule of iron pyrites. Both types are likely to be of relatively local origin. Context [73/019] also produced a 40g fragment from a dull purple quartzite cobble. The piece may well have been available locally through fluvial or glacial reworking. Although ideal for use as a sharpening or polishing stone no use wear was noted on the fragment.

5.10 **Metallurgical Remains** by Luke Barber

5.10.1 An insignificant quantity of slag was recovered from the site. The 4g scrap of black, slightly aerated, clinker from context [11/004] is almost certainly of post-medieval origin, being waste from burning coal. Context [73/019] was the only deposit which produced true metalworking waste: 13 pieces (430g) of quite fresh mid/dark grey well aerated by dense iron slag, some pieces showing areas of vitrification. Although strictly speaking undiagnostic of process, it is strongly suspected the material relates to a period of iron smithing.

5.10.2 Two environmental residues produced magnetic material (contexts [1/005] and [11/009]: 2g and 8g respectively). These were carefully scanned under x10 magnification for any signs of micro slags. None were found – the material consisting solely of sub-rounded granules of ferruginous siltstone whose magnetic properties had been enhanced through burning.

5.11 Bulk Metalwork by Elke Raemen

5.11.1 A small assemblage of ironwork totalling 15 fragments (weight 513g) was recovered from three different contexts. Included are ten sheet fragments (2mm thick) from [5/003]. The same context also contained a wire and strip fragment. Two further wire fragments were found in [11/004] whereas [63/004] contained a cast iron bar fragment with rectangular section (26 by 18mm; 67mm+ long). All material is 18th- or 19th-century date.

5.12 Animal Bone by Hayley Forsyth-Magee

5.12.1 A small assemblage of animal bone containing 43 fragments weighing 632g was recovered from the excavation. The assemblage was retrieved through hand-collection with the majority of the assemblage in a moderate state of preservation, with some signs of surface erosion evident. The assemblage contains domestic and wild fauna. No complete long bones are present within the assemblage.

5.12.2 The assemblage has been recorded onto an Excel spreadsheet in accordance with the zoning system outlined by Serjeantson (1996). Wherever possible the fragments have been identified to species and the skeletal element represented (Schmid 1972). Elements that could not be confidently identified to species, such as long-bone and vertebrae fragments, have been recorded according to their size and categorised as large, medium or small mammal. Mammalian age at death data has been collected for each specimen where observable, the state of epiphyseal bone fusion has been recorded as fused, unfused and fusing. The assemblage contains no measurable long-bones and no ageable mandibles. Specimens have been studied for signs of butchery, burning, gnawing, non-metric traits and pathology.

5.12.3 A limited range of taxa have been identified (Table 41). The assemblage is dominated by mammal bones, with taxa identified including cattle, horse and pig as well as large and medium mammals and rabbit bones.

Taxa	**NISP**
Cattle	1
Horse	1
Pig	1
Large mammal	5
Medium mammal	3
Rabbit	2
Total	*13*

Table 41: Animal bone NISP (Number of Identifiable Specimens) count

5.12.4 Of the 43 faunal bone fragments present, 13 were identified to taxa (Table 41). Both meat and non-meat bearing bones are present within the assemblage.

5.12.5 Ditch fill [65/004] produced a rabbit lumbar vertebrae and a fragmented rabbit scapula. Ditch fill [73/011] contained a medium mammal long bone fragment and a large mammal tooth fragment. Ditch fill [73/017] contained a fragmented cattle skull from a small/short horn breed, as well as fragments of scapula and long bone from medium mammals and a juvenile unfused pig humerus. Pit fill [73/019] produced a large mammal long bone fragment with evidence of charring, a large mammal radius shaft fragment and an adult horse maxillary 1st premolar, in wear. Pit fill [73/024] yielded two large mammal scapula fragments.

5.12.6 Adult and juvenile animals are represented within the assemblage based on the limited fusion data available. The animal bone assemblage suggests that domestic refuse disposal was undertaken in this area. No evidence of butchery, gnawing, non-metric traits or pathology were observed.

5.13 **Shell** by Elke Raemen

5.13.1 A small assemblage comprising 13 fragments of shell (weight 94g) was recovered from two different contexts. Four fragments representing one oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) were found in [11/004]. The shell displays some minor parasitic activity. The same context also contained an incomplete whelk.

5.13.2 Eight complete land snails were found in [73/017]. All eight are common garden snails (*Cornu aspersum*).

5.14 **Registered Finds** by Elke Raemen

5.14.1 Four finds were allocated unique registered finds numbers (RF <1> to <4>; Table 42). The possible whetstone has been discussed with the geological material. The remaining finds are all three of iron, and date to the 18th or 19th century. Included are a large suspension or attachment ring, a complete peg or stake and a point which could have derived from a number of things, including a tool, railing and agricultural machinery.

RF No	Context	Object	Material	Wt (g)	Period
1	73/019	WHET	STON	50	PMED
2	58/004	PEG/STAKE	IRON	293	PMED
3	58/004	UNK	IRON	4	PMED
4	35/002	RING	IRON	217	PMED

Table 42: Summary of the Registered Finds

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Mariangela Vitolo

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Three bulk sediment samples were taken in order to recover environmental material such as charred plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and Mollusca as well as to assist finds recovery. The samples were taken from the fills of a Bronze Age pit and Prehistoric pit and layer. The following report summarises the contents of the samples and the contribution that the environmental remains can make to discussions of diet, agrarian economy and environment at the site.

6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 The samples measured 40L in volume and were processed by flotation in their entirety; the flots and residues were captured on 250µm and 500µm meshes respectively and were air dried. The dried residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 43). Artefacts recovered from the samples were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 44). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

6.3 Results

<1> pit fill [1/005], <2> pit fill [11/009], <3> layer [7/004]

6.3.1 The flot matrix yielded a large amount of uncharred material, including rootlets and seeds of goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.). This material indicates disturbance and represents modern contaminants that infiltrated the deposits through root action. No charred plant remains were identified. Charcoal occurred frequently in the flots but it was very fragmented and it did not warrant identification work.

6.3.2 Finds from the residues included mostly worked and fire cracked flint, a small amount of magnetic material and a small pottery fragment.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 The environmental samples from Land north of Lower Luton Road, Harpenden, yielded no charred plant remains and very fragmented charcoal. This paucity could be due to circumstances of deposition or the nature of the deposits.

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	1/005	Pit	40	*	<1	**	<1	Pot * 1g/ Flint * 13g/ Mag Mat >2mm *** 3g/ Mag Mat <2mm *** 3g
2	11/009	Pit	40	*	<1	*	<1	Flint * 17g/ FCF ** 78g/ Mag Mat <2mm *** 3g/ Mag Mat >2mm *** 3g
3	7/004	Spread	40	*	<1	*	<1	FCF * 208g/ Flint ** 262g

Table 43: Environmental sample residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm
1	1/005	2.5	20	20	30	10	* *Chenopodium* sp.	*	**	****
2	11/009	5	35	35	60	10	* Chenopodium sp.		**	****
3	7/004	1	10	10	50	10				***

Table 44: Environmental sample flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

7.1.1 The majority of trenches revealed a similar sequence of undisturbed natural geological deposits overlaid by a 0.01m-0.87m thickness of subsoil deposits (present in 64 of the trenches) and/or topsoil of 0.08-0.36m thickness, averaging 0.25m.

7.1.2 Of the 80 trenches excavated, 34 contained archaeological features. These were encountered directly under subsoil where present, or else beneath the topsoil, and were cut into the natural deposit.

7.1.3 A generally low density, low complexity and limited range of types of remains were present across the site. However, an increased density and intercut complexity of remains was recorded in the north of the site (Trench 73), in the west of the site (Trenches 63, 76, 77, 78) and to an extent in the south (Trenches 1 – 7, 9 – 11 and 19).

7.1.4 The recorded remains comprised ditches, gullies, pits and grave cuts. Cultural material was generally fairly sparse within the excavated fills, and within the overlying subsoil and topsoil as established by metal detecting.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

7.2.1 Subsoil deposits were identified in sixty-four trenches. It is likely that the subsoil had been removed elsewhere by ploughing. However, no significantly greater disturbance of the tops of archaeological remains in trenches devoid of subsoil was noted.

7.2.2 Thicker subsoil deposits were encountered in the north of the site within Trenches 46, 51 and 65. This is likely due to an accumulation of material against a field boundary ad it lies at the top of a break of slope adjacent to the position of a field boundary visible on historic mapping. Thicker deposits in the southern part of the site within Trenches 19, 20 and 32 are likely a result of colluvial movement downhill, as the trenches are located at the bottom of an incline.

7.2.3 Modern deposits and backfill were encountered in Trenches 10, 39 and 40. These represent truncated areas of the site, which have later been backfilled.

7.2.4 The recorded archaeological features were truncated by agricultural activity from above, but they were well-defined and survived in good condition beneath the surface ploughing. Other than the ploughing and digging of field boundaries there were few other impacts on feature survival.

7.3 Correlation of geophysical survey and evaluation results

7.3.1 The effectiveness of the geophysical survey in its detection of anomalies indicative of the presence of below-ground archaeological remains is

demonstrated to be variable. Some historic field boundary remains, particularly in the north of the site, have been accurately identified, though it is noted that the features identified in this area are much smaller than suggested by the geophysics. This could be in part due to the topography of the area, with the stepping of the landscape and subsoil build up perhaps resulting in the stronger signal. Two of the east/west boundaries identified on the geophysics were recorded as ditches, running across Trench 58 and Trench 52. The ditch running across Trench 52 continued into Trench 53, though this was not recognised by the geophysics. Further linear features were identified as geophysical anomalies, as running across Trench 58, Trench 68 and Trench 74, though these did not correlate directly with recorded archaeological features. A ditch in Trench 54 was found a few metres to the north of its predicted alignment.

7.3.2 An enclosure anomaly was identified in the north-east of the site in Trench 73. The feature correlated with archaeological features on the ground, though the associated pits had not been detected by the geophysical survey. Further possible pits in the north-east field suggested by the geophysical survey, within Trenches 56 and 58, were shown not to correlate with archaeological features. Areas with ferrous anomalies were also noted across the site, and did not relate to below-ground archaeological features, with those near field boundaries being the result of the metal fence dividing the site providing survey interference.

7.3.3 The various discrete geophysical anomalies interpreted as archaeological pits were not found by the evaluation. Conversely, virtually none of the excavated pits and postholes were previously detected as anomalies – most significantly, this included graves in the vicinity of Trenches 63 and 76-78. While it is possible that at least some of the larger pit-like geophysical anomalies plotted elsewhere across the site will indicate the positions of below-ground features, it is clear that the incidence of pits and of small features such as post-holes and gullies will be far greater than suggested by the geophysical survey results.

7.4 Discussion of the archaeological remains by period

Neolithic and Early Bronze Age

7.4.1 A sizeable assemblage of worked flint from the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods was recovered from several features to the south of the site, in particular hollow [7/005] and pit [11/010]. Due to the abraded nature of the flints it is likely that they were not necessarily completely contemporary with the features in which they were found, but they are strongly indicative of flint-working in the vicinity, and probably a knapping area on the site itself. The flints from [11/010] may be contemporary with the feature, as pottery of the same period was also recovered from the fill.

7.4.2 Three pits located near the southern end of the site, [1/006], [10/005] and [11/010], contained pottery of the Early Neolithic Plain Bowl tradition. In addition, the top fill of [1/006] yielded a late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age sherd. Whether the pottery is contemporary with the features or residual is not clear, but it seems possible that at least [11/010] could be of the date.

Middle Bronze Age

7.4.3 Fill [3/006] of pit [3/007] yielded sherds from a Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury urn. A single feature of the date is not indicative of major activity, but it does show a certain continuity of a human presence of this period in the southern part of the site.

Middle Iron Age

7.4.4 The Middle Iron Age finds all came from Trench 73 - the intervention designed to discover whether the enclosure tentatively identified by the geophysical survey was present in the archaeological record. The west and east enclosure ditches ([73/010] and [73/018] respectively) were found in the expected locations and, while [73/010] did not contain dating evidence, pottery of hand-made sandy fabrics which are typical of the Middle Iron Age was recovered from the fills of ditch [73/018]. This ditch was stratigraphically later than three pits. [73/013], [73/021] and [73/027], two of which contained similar pottery. In two fills, contexts [73/011] and [73/024], the sandy fabrics were associated with prehistoric flint-tempered fabrics, possibly indicating a transitional Early/Middle Iron Age date for the pits. No features were found in the enclosure interior, other than perhaps pit [73/027].

7.4.5 The enclosure was small, at 29m x 18m, and its function has yet to be established but, speculatively, it may represent a stock enclosure. Its date can be tentatively placed in the Middle Iron Age.

Other prehistoric features.

7.4.6 Four features were found in the south of the site which contained undiagnostically prehistoric finds. These included two pits [3/009] and [4/005], the hollow containing a large quantity of worked flints [7/005] and a ditch which crossed Trench 9 ([9/004]) and Trench 80 ([80/004]). Together with the more securely dated features these are part of a general prehistoric activity which seems to occur in the southern part of the site over a long period of time.

Late Iron Age to Early Roman

7.4.7 A ditch in Trench 19, on the west side of the site, yielded two conjoining rimsherds from a necked storage jar in grog-tempered pottery of this date. In the absence of any other finds the ditch may potentially be Late Iron Age or Early Roman. However, it is equally possible that they were residual in a later feature.

Anglo-Saxon

7.4.8 Four certain graves and a further ten probable graves were discovered on the west side of the site in Trenches 63, 76, 77 and 78. The majority of these were orientated within a few degrees of south-west to north-east, although two ([76/003] and [77/004]) were north-south. Of the four in which skeletal remains were revealed ([63/006], [63/009], [78/006] and [78/008]), the skulls were all at the south-west end of the graves.

7.4.9 Due to the constraints of the project only one of the burials has been excavated and the remains have yet to be dated. However, in the opinion of the excavators, supported by the good condition of the bones and the associated metalwork finds, it is currently believed that the burials are Anglo-Saxon in date. This will be corroborated (or refuted) by further specialist analysis and

reported in an addendum to this report at a later date. It is probable that these graves constitute the remains of an unenclosed cemetery. While it is likely that further burials are present in this western part of the site, an estimate of numbers is not possible. Distribution of graves would, however, appear to be sporadic across this vicinity.

7.4.10 If the burials are indeed of Anglo-Saxon origin, the settlement to which they belonged is unknown. There are no other remains of the period on the site and no known activity registered on the HER within 1km of the site. They are located near the crest of a hill which slopes down to the west, and it is possible that a settlement was present at the bottom of the hill in the vicinity of Common Lane outside the western edge of the site. A burial ground would have been visible from this location.

Medieval

7.4.11 There is a complete absence of evidence from the later medieval period, possibly indicating a hiatus in the use of the land at this date.

Post-medieval and modern

7.4.12 A total of 16 features can be dated to the post-medieval and modern periods. Eight of these are field boundary features, most of which were predicted by the geophysical survey or shown on historic OS mapping. In particular, the north-west to south-east boundary in the middle of the north-west field was recorded in three trenches (51, 65 and 73). A ditch which did not appear to be a boundary was found in Trench 2 ([2/004]). Three quarry pits were recorded ([11/006], [35/005] and [51/010]) and the remainder were smaller pits of indeterminate function. No structural remains were recorded in the evaluation.

Undated

7.4.13 A number of the recorded features contained no diagnostic dating material. Most of these also lacked spatial patterning or morphological characteristics that allow them to be accorded a period date. They included eleven pits, four ditches or gullies and four possible tree throws. They were scattered across the site.

7.5 Consideration of research aims

7.5.1 The research aims, set out in the WSI (ASE 2017a) and reiterated in section 3.1 above, are considered here in the light of the evaluation results.

7.5.2 The evaluation has successfully addressed the general aims of the works. It has identified the presence/absence, type, date and distribution of archaeological remains within the development site, and has verified the results of the preceding geophysical survey.

Site specific aims

- *To establish the presence and nature of any medieval remains*

7.5.3 No later medieval remains were present on the site. Early medieval remains in the form of fourteen certain or probable graves of tentative Anglo-Saxon date were discovered on the west side of the site.

- *To determine the presence and extent of any further post-medieval remains associated with settlement in Harpenden*

7.5.4 The post-medieval discoveries on the site were mostly associated with field boundaries and agriculture. These appeared to have been relatively late landscape features, most being depicted on historic mapping from the 19th century. There was little to shed light on the settlement of Harpenden beyond the fact that it possessed an agricultural periphery.

- *To investigate if there are any prehistoric or Roman remains that tie into the wider area*

7.5.5 The prehistoric remains within the site spanned a number of periods from the Early Neolithic onwards. The presence of a quantity of flints dating from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age can be compared and contrasted with the 855 worked pieces, dating to the Mesolithic to Bronze Age periods discovered c.500m to the south-east of the site (HER 10492 on Figure 1). A fairly low, but consistent level of activity across the site, particularly in the south, can be seen in a wider context of probably agricultural landuse. The discovery of an enclosure tentatively dated to the Middle Iron Age may also fit into a pattern of rural settlement in this part of Hertfordshire.

Research aims with reference to the East Anglian research framework:

- *Progress in dating the origins of greens and green-side settlements needs to be reviewed. Are there regional variations? (Medlycott 2011, 70)*

- *The impact of the primary communication routes on the region's development and character is of considerable interest, this includes major routes such as the Great North Road, secondary routes, railways, rivers and marine transport and ports (Medlycott 2011, 78)*

7.5.6 There were no useful data from the site which can address these two aims.

- *Research into the development and nature of post-medieval field systems and farmsteads (Medlycott 2011, 79)*

7.5.7 The field boundaries on the site were well established by the map regression exercise, the geophysical survey and the excavated archaeological remains. While there is nothing unusual in the pattern of fields, there is a potential to observe the development from possible ridge-and-furrow agriculture as recorded by the geophysical survey into larger open fields which retained the same general orientation. No farmsteads were present on the site.

7.6 Conclusions

7.6.1 The evaluation has demonstrated the presence of below-ground archaeological features in 34 of the 80 excavated trenches. These remains mainly comprise ditches, pits and grave cuts, and generally represent a low density across the site. The eastern part of the site would appear to be mainly devoid of archaeological remains.

7.6.2 There is evidence for prehistoric land use within the site. To the south there were a number of prehistoric features which together demonstrate a general background of activity over a long period between the Neolithic and the Late Iron Age/Early Roman periods. This includes a scatter of flints which is suggestive of a knapping site. There is no discernible focus to this activity and no obvious settlement sites. However, to the north, set at a distance from this activity, was a small enclosure of potentially Middle Iron Age date.

7.6.3 A group of fourteen graves tentatively ascribed to the Anglo-Saxon period was discovered on the west side of the site. One of these has been excavated and is awaiting examination by specialists. These remains are likely to constitute an unenclosed cemetery belonging to a rural community. This is an important discovery as Anglo-Saxon cemeteries are rare in Hertfordshire, and no known Anglo-Saxon finds have been previously made in the vicinity of this site.

6.6.4 The post-medieval features encountered by the evaluation relate to the enclosure of the agricultural landscape or else to quarrying activities within it. These features are mostly recorded by historic mapping and, as such, are already well evidenced and understood.

7.6.5 The recorded archaeological remains survive below *c*.0.26-0.52m of topsoil and, in places, subsoil deposits. It is judged that construction works such as excavation of foundation and service trenches, creation of roads, ground reduction and landscaping, and heavy plant movement will have the potential to adversely impact upon them.

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Appendix 1: Summary of archaeologically blank trenches

Trench	Context	Description	Depth/thickness	Height (m AOD)
8	8/001	Topsoil	0.14 – 0.18	86.91 – 88.43
	8/002	Subsoil	0.12 – 0.17	86.79 – 88.25
	8/003	Natural		86.64 – 87.93
13	13/001	Topsoil	0.11 – 0.17	99.76 – 101.13
	13/002	Subsoil	0.14 – 0.16	99.65 – 100.98
	13/003	Natural		99.57 – 100.80
14	14/001	Topsoil	0.16 – 0.22	102.57 – 104.14
	14/002	Subsoil	0.07 – 0.10	102.47 – 103.98
	14/003	Natural		102.37 – 103.81
15	15/001	Topsoil	0.15 – 0.20	101.22 – 102.23
	15/002	Subsoil	0.06 – 0.20	101.13 – 102.03
	15/003	Natural		101.00 – 101.94
16	16/001	Topsoil	0.14 – 0.24	97.83 – 101.14
	16/002	Subsoil	0.10 – 0.16	97.70 – 101.02
	16/003	Natural		97.25 – 100.85
17	17/001	Topsoil	0.16 – 0.23	95.16 – 96.78
	17/002	Subsoil	0.02 – 0.24	95.00 – 96.59
	17/003	Natural		94.92 – 96.31
18	18/001	Topsoil	0.15 – 0.16	90.77 – 94.44
	18/002	Subsoil	0.04 – 0.22	90.57 – 94.30
	18/003	Natural		90.36 – 94.09
20	20/001	Topsoil	0.11 – 0.18	91.58 – 91.78
	20/002	Subsoil	0.20 – 0.46	91.32 – 91.37
	20/003	Natural		91.01 – 91.16
22	22/001	Topsoil	0.18 – 0.22	99.21 – 100.69
	22/002	Subsoil	0.16 – 0.23	99.10 – 100.42
	22/003	Natural		99.00 – 100.15
23	23/001	Topsoil	0.16 – 0.20	101.00 – 104.39
	23/002	Subsoil	0.00 - 0.16	100.86 – 104.21
	23/003	Natural		100.86 – 103.90
24	24/001	Topsoil	0.14 – 0.25	104.59 – 106.06
	24/002	Subsoil	0.00 – 0.09	104.33 – 105.90
	24/003	Natural		104.33 – 105.80

Trench	Context	Description	Depth/thickness	Height (m AOD)
25	25/001	Topsoil	0.12 – 0.22	105.91 – 107.58
	25/002	Subsoil	0.10 – 0.14	105.69 – 107.36
	25/003	Natural	n/a	105.26 – 107.19
26	26/001	Topsoil	0.21 – 0.23	109.31 - 110.76
	26/002	Natural	n/a	108.99 – 110.38
27	27/001	Topsoil	0.18 – 0.21	107.54 – 109.23
	27/002	Subsoil	0.00 – 0.14	107.36 – 109.00
	27/003	Natural	n/a	107.22 – 108.93
30	30/001	Topsoil	0.15 – 0.19	94.67 – 99.22
	30/002	Natural	n/a	94.39 – 98.83
31	31/001	Topsoil	0.16 – 0.21	93.71 – 94.52
	31/002	Subsoil	0.04 – 0.18	93.50 – 94.34
	31/003	Natural	n/a	93.34 – 94.16
32	32/001	Topsoil	0.09 – 0.26	91.41 – 92.93
	32/002	Subsoil	0.20 – 0.55	91.17 – 92.83
	32/003	Natural	n/a	90.49 – 92.38
36	36/001	Topsoil	0.21 – 0.24	106.32 – 106.48
	36/002	Natural	n/a	106.11 – 106.13
37	37/001	Topsoil	0.18 – 0.21	108.22 – 111.40
	37/002	Natural	n/a	108.09 – 111.13
38	38/001	Topsoil	0.20 – 0.29	112.06 – 112.26
	38/002	Modern dump (E end)	0.30	111.99
	38/003	Natural	n/a	111.83 – 111.93
39	39/001	Topsoil	0.06 – 0.10	113.24 – 114.93
	39/002	Subsoil	0.18 – 0.29	113.14 – 114.83
	39/003	Modern dump	0.09 – 0.19	114.05
	39/004	Modern dump	0.13 – 0.62	113.89
	39/005	Modern dump	0.09	113.42
	39/006	Natural	n/a	112.65 – 114.56
40	40/001	Topsoil	0.07 – 0.13	112.92 – 113.91
	40/002	Subsoil	0.12 – 0.28	112.81 – 113.78
	40/003	Natural	n/a	112.71 – 113.44
41	41/001	Topsoil	0.10 – 0.24	116.51 – 118.68
	41/002	Subsoil	0.10 – 0.15	116.22 – 118.56
	41/003	Natural	n/a	115.96 – 118.44

Trench	Context	Description	Depth/thickness	Height (m AOD)
42	42/001	Topsoil	0.06 – 0.16	116.13 – 116.92
	42/002	Subsoil	0.06 – 0.10	115.97 – 116.90
	42/003	Natural	n/a	115.87 – 116.86
43	43/001	Topsoil	0.17 – 0.22	114.32 – 116.29
	43/002	Natural	n/a	114.12 – 116.05
44	44/001	Topsoil	0.18 – 0.27	112.10 – 114.74
	44/002	Natural	n/a	112.03 – 114.45
45	45/001	Topsoil	0.13 – 0.21	110.36 – 110.39
	45/002	Natural	n/a	110.16
46	46/001	Topsoil	0.09 – 0.36	103.60 – 108.76
	46/002	Subsoil	0.71	106.42
	46/003	Natural	n/a	103.43 – 108.50
48	48/001	Topsoil	0.17 – 0.20	94.54 – 98.84
	48/002	Subsoil	0.02 – 0.28	94.35 – 98.68
	48/003	Natural	n/a	94.13 – 98.43
50	50/001	Topsoil	0.10 – 0.19	98.50 – 103.52
	50/002	Subsoil	0.13 – 0.38	98.40 – 103.31
	50/003	Natural	n/a	98.28 – 102.54
54	54/001	Topsoil	0.04 – 0.08	115.76 – 118.09
	54/002	Subsoil	0.08 – 0.10	115.68 – 117.99
	54/003	Natural	n/a	115.50 – 117.65
55	55/001	Topsoil	0.02 – 0.15	117.82 – 119.09
	55/002	Subsoil	0.10 – 0.15	117.70 – 119.07
	55/003	Natural	n/a	117.50 – 119.07
56	56/001	Topsoil	0.05 – 0.13	119.27 – 119.94
	56/002	Subsoil	0.08 – 0.13	119.21 – 119.81
	56/003	Natural	n/a	119.02 – 119.67
57	57/001	Topsoil	0.05 – 0.08	121.56 – 121.65
	57/002	Subsoil	0.09 – 0.13	121.45 – 121.52
	57/003	Natural	n/a	121.32
59	59/001	Topsoil	0.09 – 0.14	117.68 – 120.57
	59/002	Subsoil	0.06 – 0.14	117.57 – 120.43
	59/003	Natural	n/a	117.48 – 120.08
60	60/001	Topsoil	0.04 – 0.07	116.02 – 117.48
	60/002	Subsoil	0.15 – 0.20	116.91 – 117.44

Trench	Context	Description	Depth/thickness	Height (m AOD)
	60/003	Natural	n/a	115.80 – 117.34
61	61/001	Topsoil	0.10 – 0.24	110.48 – 114.95
	61/002	Subsoil	0.07 – 0.20	110.33 – 114.76
	61/003	Natural	n/a	110.25 – 114.56
66	66/001	Topsoil	0.08 – 0.14	109.23 – 112.58
	66/002	Subsoil	0.00 – 0.12	109.08 – 112.46
	66/003	Natural	n/a	108.96 – 112.07
68	68/001	Topsoil	0.09 – 0.17	118.13 – 119.63
	68/002	Subsoil	0.00 – 0.16	118.04 – 119.56
	68/003	Natural	n/a	118.04 – 119.42
69	69/001	Topsoil	0.07 – 0.09	119.97 – 122.70
	69/002	Subsoil	0.12 – 0.22	119.88 – 122.61
	69/003	Natural	n/a	119.72 – 122.40
70	70/001	Topsoil	0.14 – 0.24	123.35 – 124.03
	70/002	Subsoil	0.00 – 0.12	123.21 – 123.79
	70/003	Natural	n/a	123.16 – 123.74
71	71/001	Topsoil	0.13 – 0.15	123.68 – 124.30
	71/002	Subsoil	0.07 – 0.10	123.61 – 124.15
	71/003	Natural	n/a	123.54 – 124.05
72	72/001	Topsoil	0.14 – 0.21	122.35 – 123.91
	72/002	Subsoil	0.00 – 0.14	122.14 – 123.70
	72/003	Natural	n/a	122.11 – 123.57
74	74/001	Topsoil	0.12 – 0.22	102.47 – 105.64
	74/002	Natural	n/a	102.11 – 105.23
75	75/001	Topsoil	0.12 – 0.17	100.76 – 104.13
	75/002	Subsoil	0.13 – 0.32	100.64 – 103.96
	75/003	Natural	n/a	99.89 – 103.67
79	79/001	Topsoil	0.12 – 0.14	99.52 – 103.82
	79/002	Subsoil	0.00 – 0.19	99.40 – 103.68
	79/003	Natural	n/a	99.37 – 103.53

APPENDIX 2: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Summary

Site name and address: Land north of Lower Luton Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 5DN		
County: Hertfordshire	District: St Albans	
Village/Town: Harpenden	Parish: Harpenden	
Planning application reference: Pre-application		
HER Enquiry reference:		
Funding source: CgMs Consulting		
Nature of application: Residential development		
Present land use: Agricultural		
Size of application area: 17.33 ha	Size of area investigated: 0.80 ha	
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 15173 15265		
Site code (if applicable) LLR 17		
Site director/Organization: Angus Forshaw, Archaeology South-East		
Type of work: Archaeological evaluation		
Date of work	Start: 10/07/2017	Finish: 11/08/2017
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: St Albans Museum		
Related HER Nos:	Periods represented: Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Anglo-Saxon, post-medieval	
Relevant previous summaries/reports none		
Summary of fieldwork results: A total of eighty evaluation trenches were excavated across the 17.33ha site, partly guided by a previous geophysical survey. Of these trenches, thirty-four were found to contain below-ground archaeological remains. These comprised ditches, gullies and pits in a moderate to low density across the southern part of the site, a small enclosure in the north of the site and a group of graves to the west. Very few remains were identified across the eastern part of the site and no structural features were excavated. Much of the activity to the south was prehistoric, sporadically covering the periods from Neolithic to Late Iron Age. Of note was a quantity of flint which indicated flint-knapping and use in the immediate area. The small enclosure to the north of the site was dated to the Middle Iron Age by pottery from one of the ditches and a group of pits. Four definite graves and a further ten probable graves were found on the west side. Due to the constraints of the evaluation only one was excavated at this stage. The graves are currently thought to be Anglo-Saxon in date but further work is required to verify this. Post-medieval ditches are present that relate to agricultural land use activity and indicate field boundary loss during the 19th and 20th centuries. Other post-medieval features included three quarry pits and a number of smaller pits. None was structural.		
Author of summary: Robin Wroe-Brown	Date of summary: 06/09/17	

Appendix 3: OASIS Form

Project details

Project name	**Land north of Lower Luton Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire**
Short description of the project	A total of eighty evaluation trenches were excavated across the 17.33ha site, partly guided by a previous geophysical survey. Of these trenches, thirty-four were found to contain below-ground archaeological remains. These comprised ditches, gullies and pits in a moderate to low density across the southern part of the site, a small enclosure in the north of the site and a group of graves to the west. Very few remains were identified across the eastern part of the site and no structural features were excavated. Much of the activity to the south was prehistoric, sporadically covering the periods from Neolithic to Late Iron Age. Of note was a quantity of flint which indicated flint-knapping and use in the immediate area. The small enclosure to the north of the site was dated to the Middle Iron Age by pottery from one of the ditches and a group of pits. Four definite graves and a further ten probable graves were found on the west side. Due to the constraints of the evaluation only one was excavated at this stage. The graves are currently thought to be Anglo-Saxon in date but further work is required to verify this. . Post-medieval ditches are present that relate to agricultural land use activity and indicate field boundary loss during the 19th and 20th centuries. Other post-medieval features included three quarry pits and a number of smaller pits. None was structural.
Project dates	Start: 10-07-2017 End: 11-08-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LLR17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	170248 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	ENCLOSURE Middle Iron Age
Monument type	PIT Early Neolithic
Monument type	GRAVE Early Medieval
Monument type	FIELD BOUNDARY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FLINT Neolithic
Significant Finds	POTTERY Neolithic
Significant Finds	JUG Middle Iron Age
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	General structure plan/local plan/minerals plan guidance

Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE ST ALBANS HARPENDEN Land north of Lower Luton Road, Harpenden
Postcode	AL5 5DN
Study area	17.33 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 15173 15265 51.823665213478 -0.328670462426 51 49 25 N 000 19 43 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 86.05m Max: 124.09m

Project creators

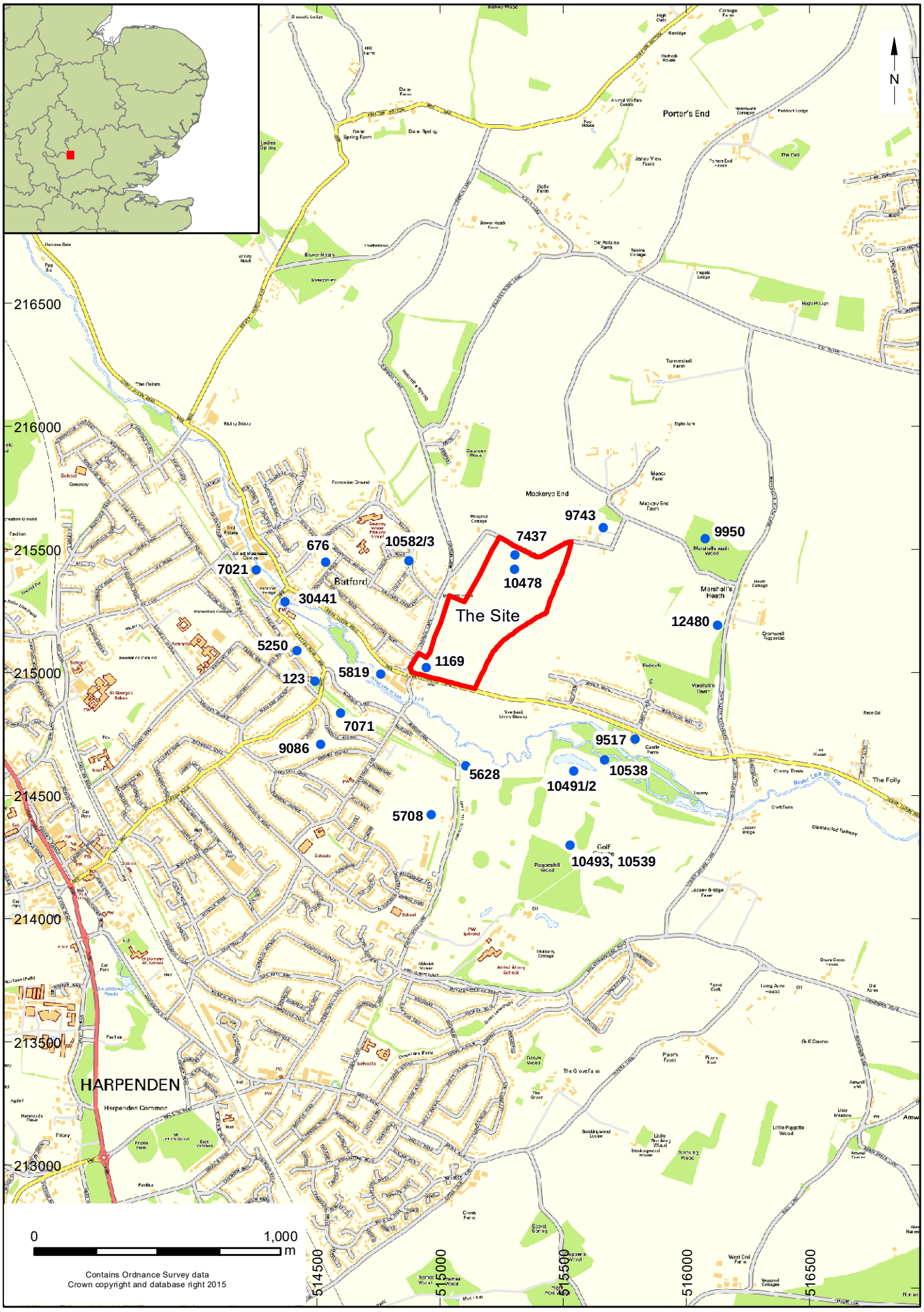
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	ASE/CgMs
Project director/manager	Sarah Ritchie
Project supervisor	Angus Forshaw
Type of sponsor/funding body	Kier Construction

Project archives

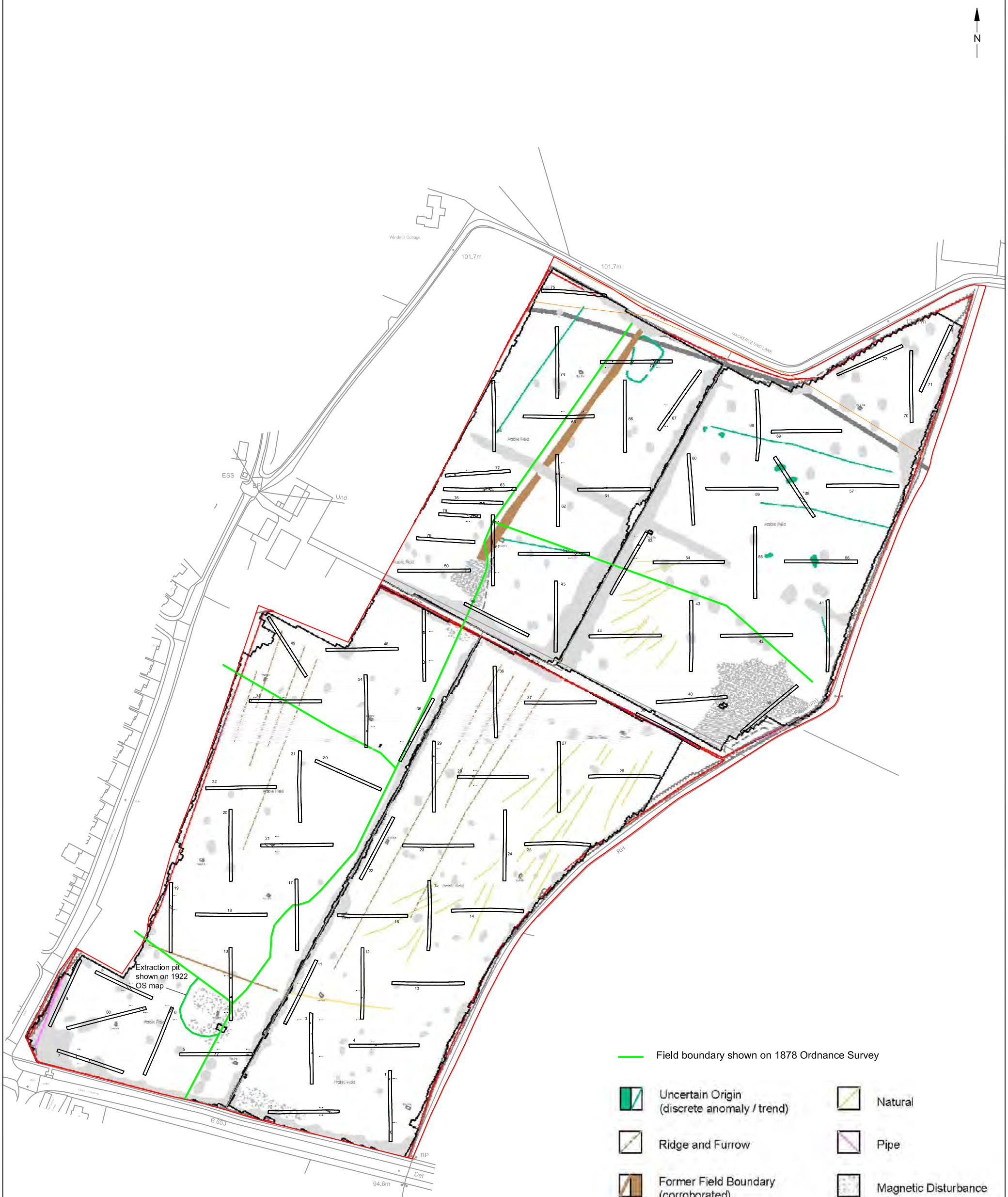
Physical Archive recipient	St Albans (Verulamium) museum
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Human Bones","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	St Albans (Verulamium) museum
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Human Bones","Metal","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	St Albans (Verulamium) museum
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Human Bones","Metal","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Section","Survey ","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

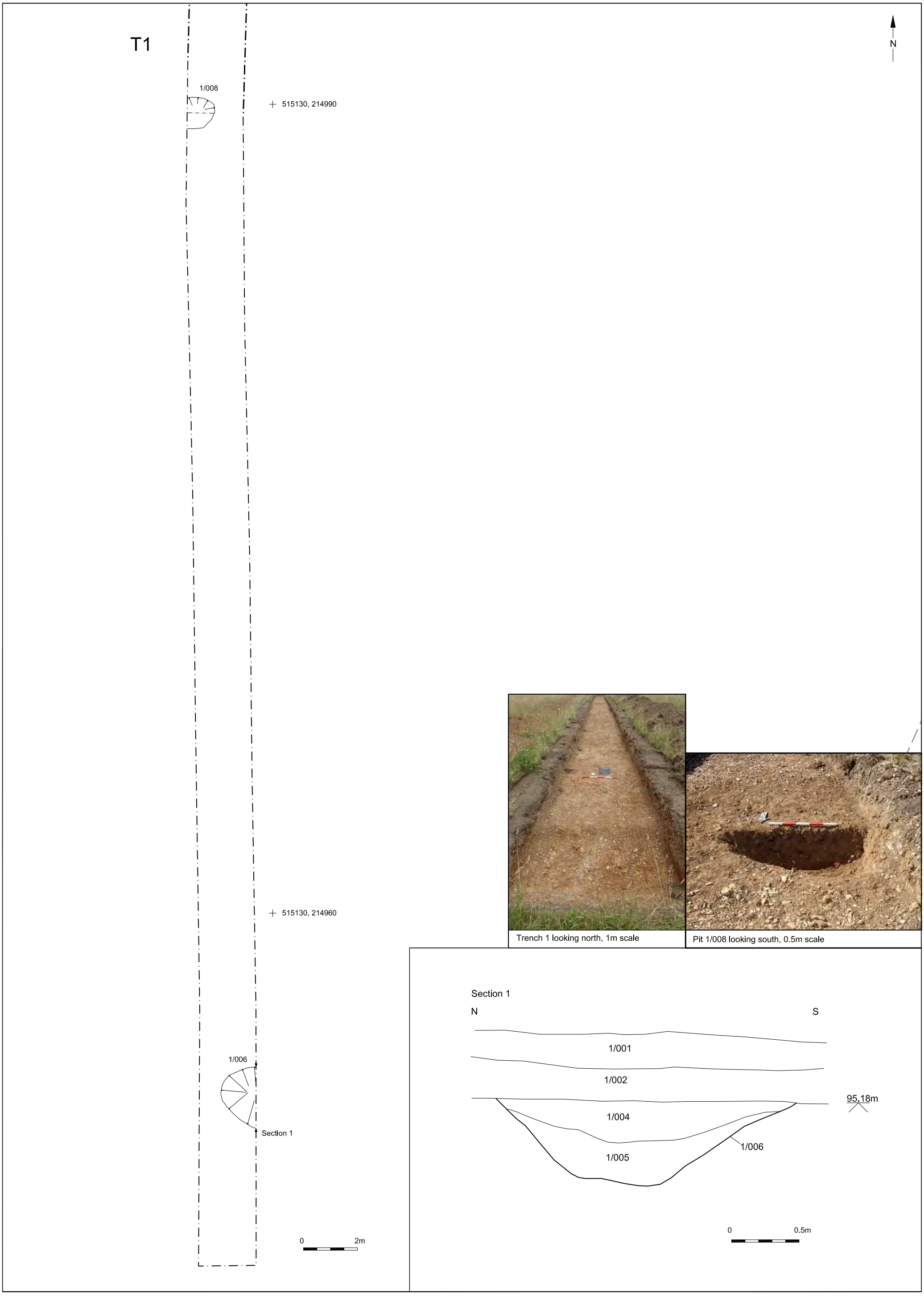
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation, land north of Lower Luton Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Forshaw, A.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Wroe-Brown, R.
Other bibliographic details	ASE report number 2017369
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	ASE
Place of issue or publication	Witham
Description	A4 report
Entered by	Robin Wroe-Brown (r.wroe-brown@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	6 September 2017



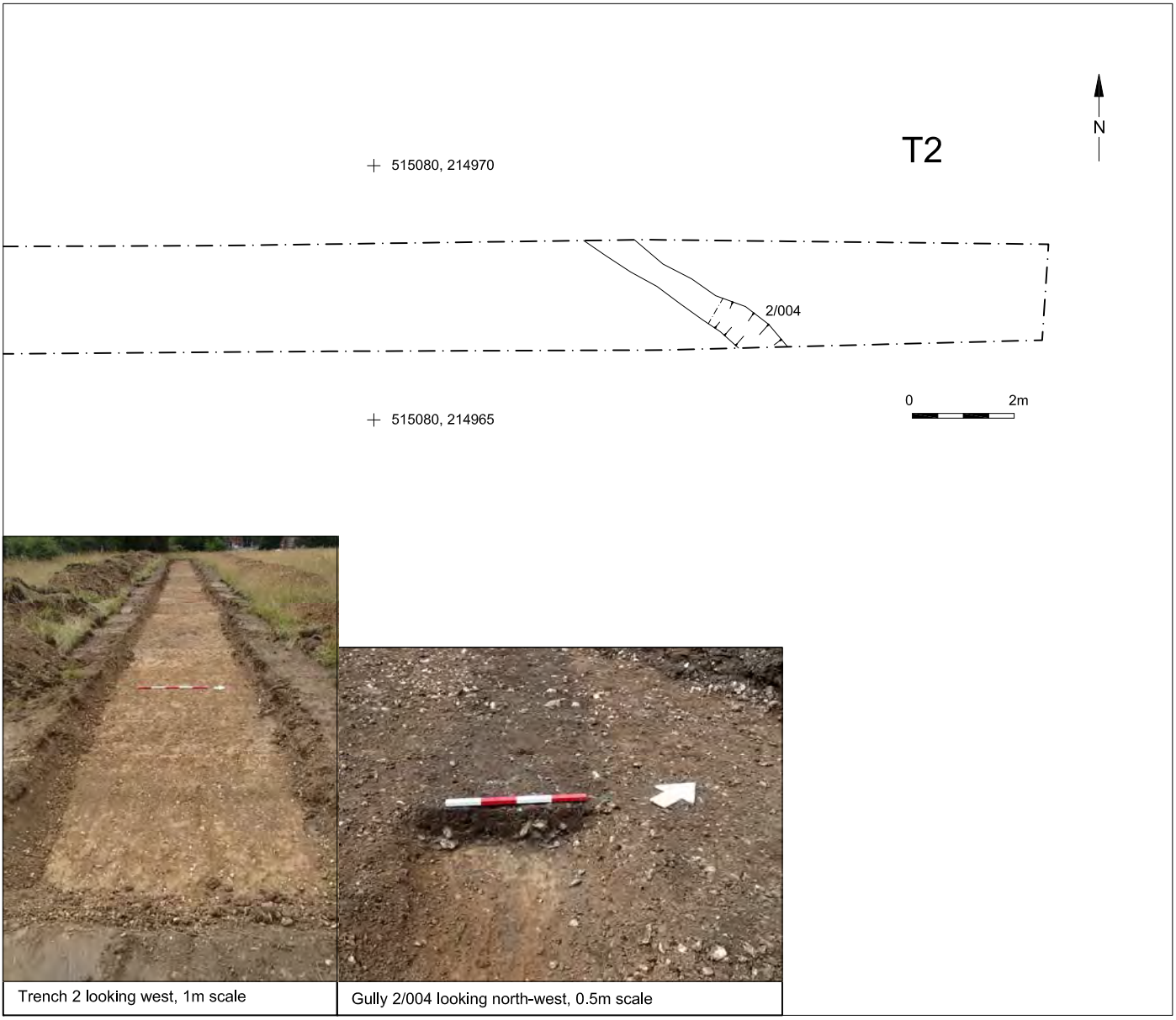
© Archaeology South-East		Land north of Lower Luton Road, Harpenden	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170248	Sept 2017	Site location	
Report No: 2017369	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		Land north of Lower Luton Road, Harpenden	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 170248	Aug 2017	Trench location with geophysical survey and former field boundaries	
Report Ref: 2017369	Drawn by: APL		



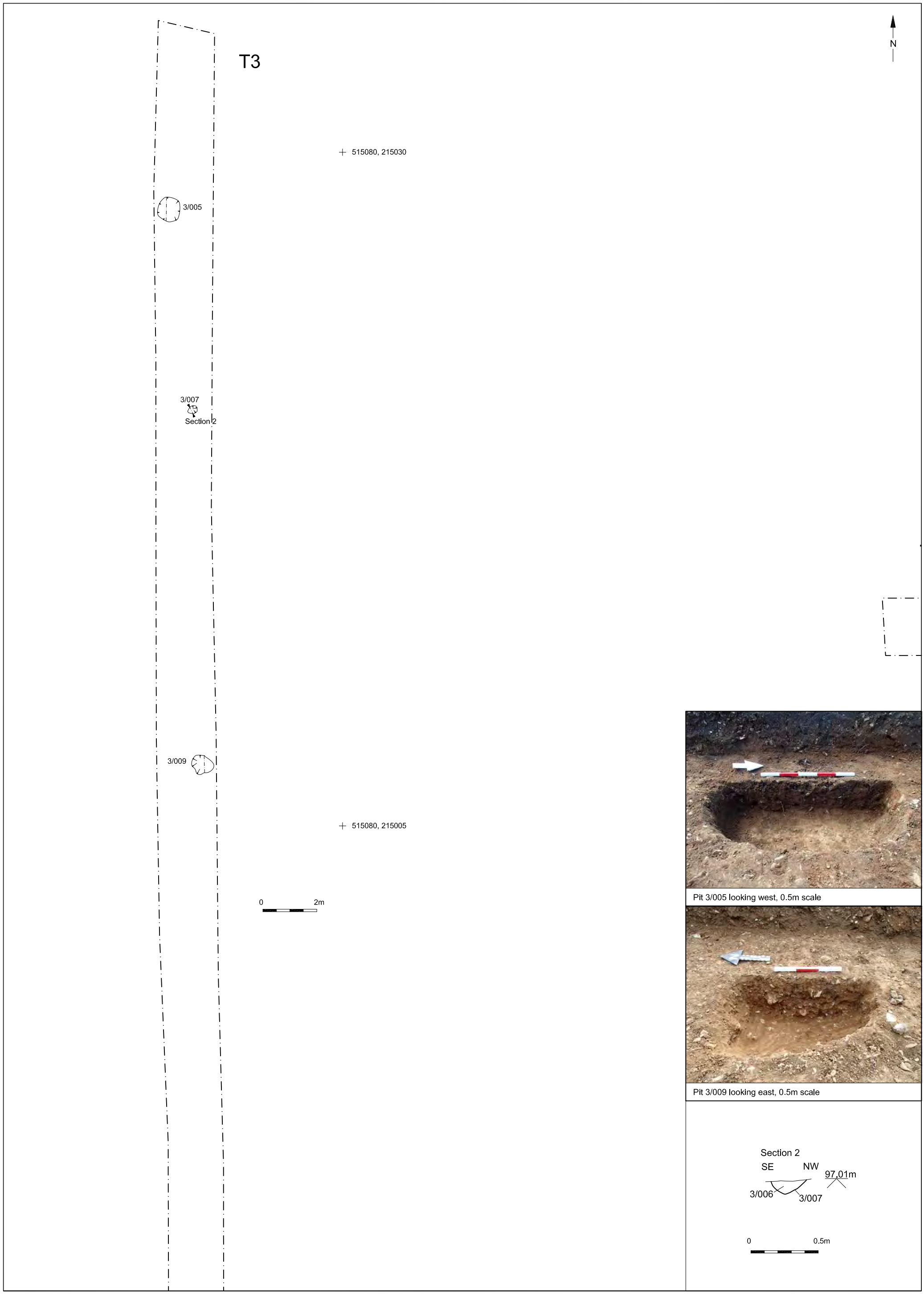
© Archaeology South-East		Land north of Lower Luton Road, Harpenden	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 170248	Aug 2017	Trench 1 plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017369	Drawn by: APL		



Trench 2 looking west, 1m scale

Gully 2/004 looking north-west, 0.5m scale

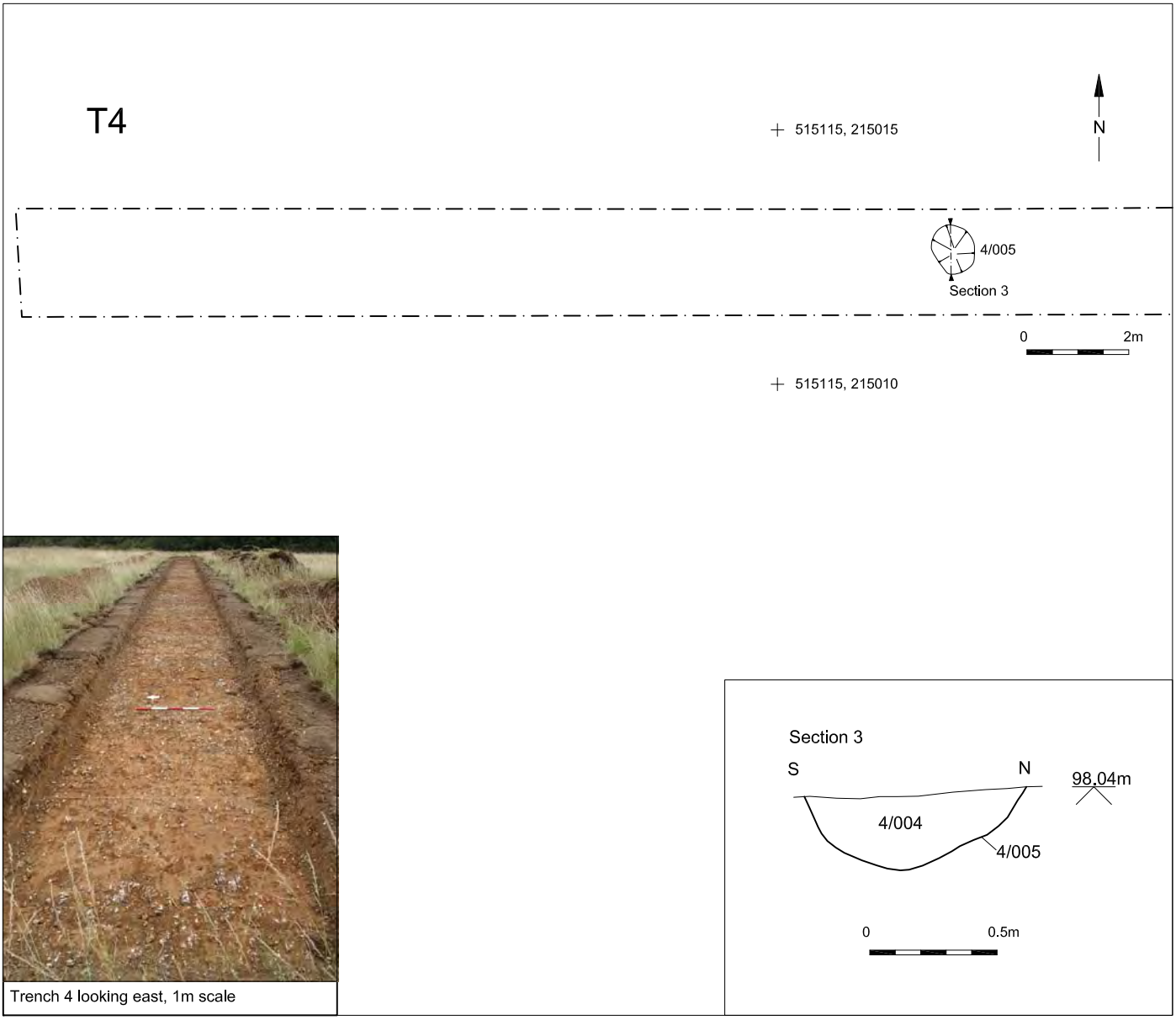
© Archaeology South-East		Land north of Lower Luton Road, Harpenden	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 170248	Aug 2017	Trench 2 plan and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017369	Drawn by: APL		



Pit 3/005 looking west, 0.5m scale

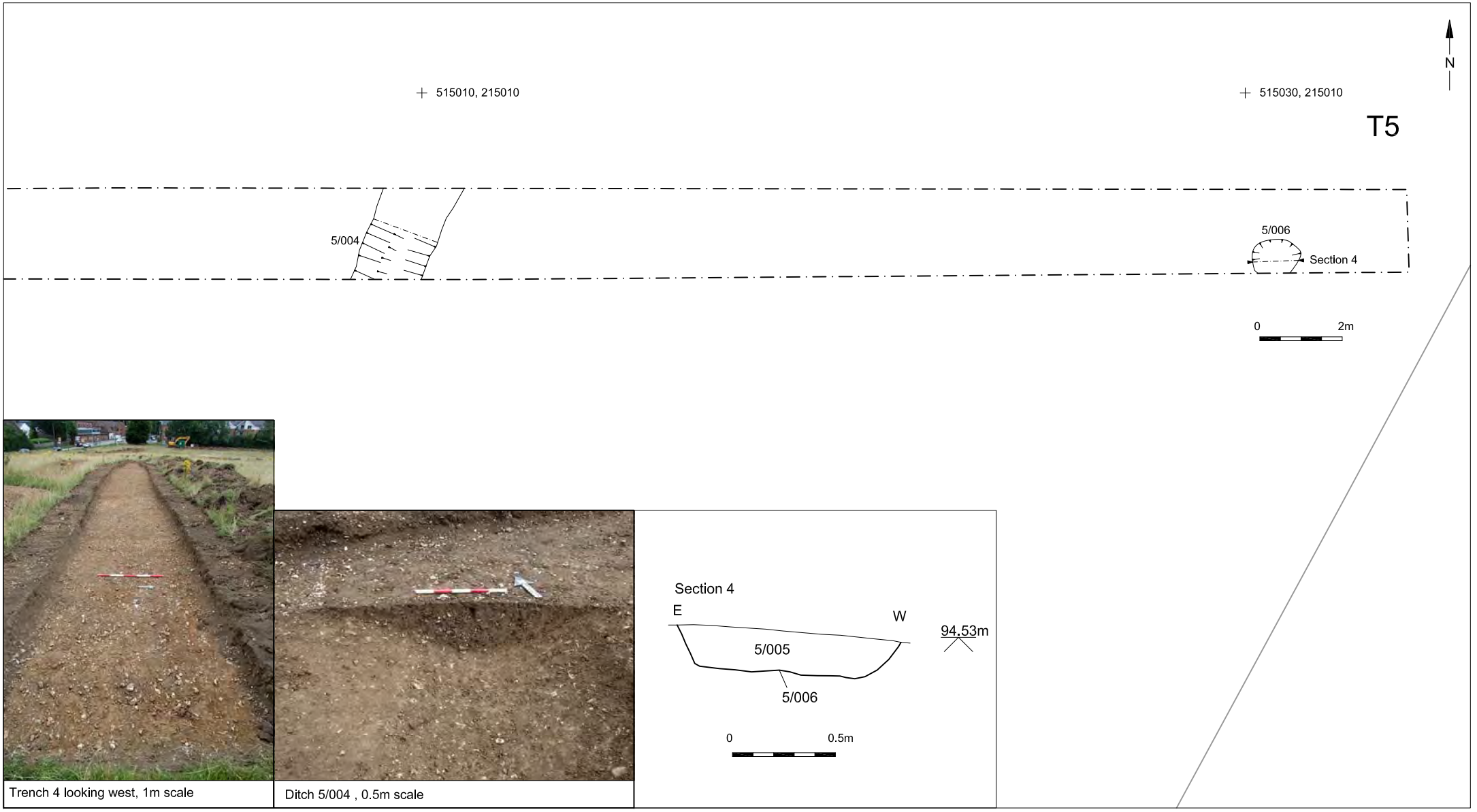
Pit 3/009 looking east, 0.5m scale

© Archaeology South-East		Land north of Lower Luton Road, Harpenden	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 170248	Aug 2017	Trench 3 plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017369	Drawn by: APL		



Trench 4 looking east, 1m scale

© **Archaeology South-East**		Land north of Lower Luton Road, Harpenden	Fig.6
Project Ref: 170248	Aug 2017	Trench 4 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017369	Drawn by: APL		



Trench 4 looking west, 1m scale

Ditch 5/004 , 0.5m scale

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Project Ref: 170248	Aug 2017	Trench 5 plan, section and photographs	
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Trench 6 looking south-west, 1m scale

N

514975, 215040

T6

Section 5

6/004

514980, 215030

0 2m

Section 5

NW SE 90.78m

6/003 6/004

0 0.5m

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Project Ref: 170248	Aug 2017	Trench 6 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017369	Drawn by: APL		

N

T7

514915, 215010

0 2m

7/005

Section 6

514915, 215000

Trench 7 looking east, 1m scale

Section 6
W E

7/001

7/002

7/004

7/006

7/005

85.70m

0 0.5m

Hollow 7/005 , 1m scale

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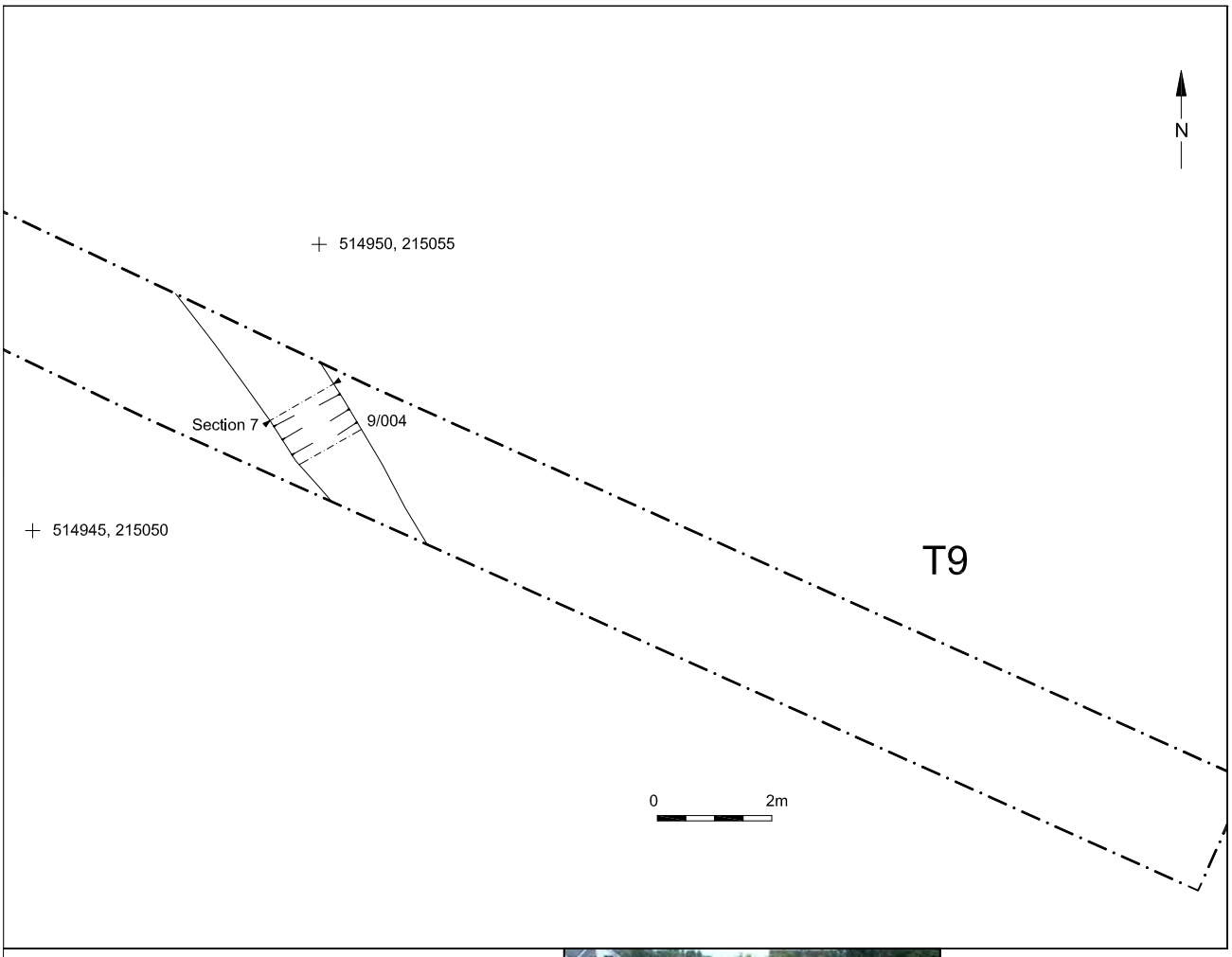
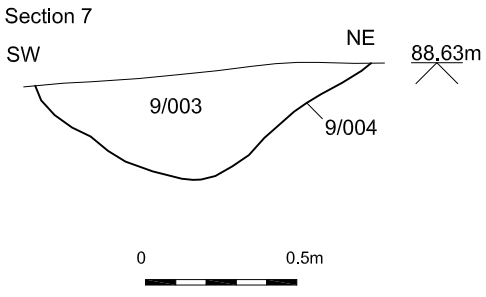
Project Ref: 170248	Aug 2017	Trench 7 plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017369	Drawn by: APL		





Trench 9 looking north-east, 1m scale

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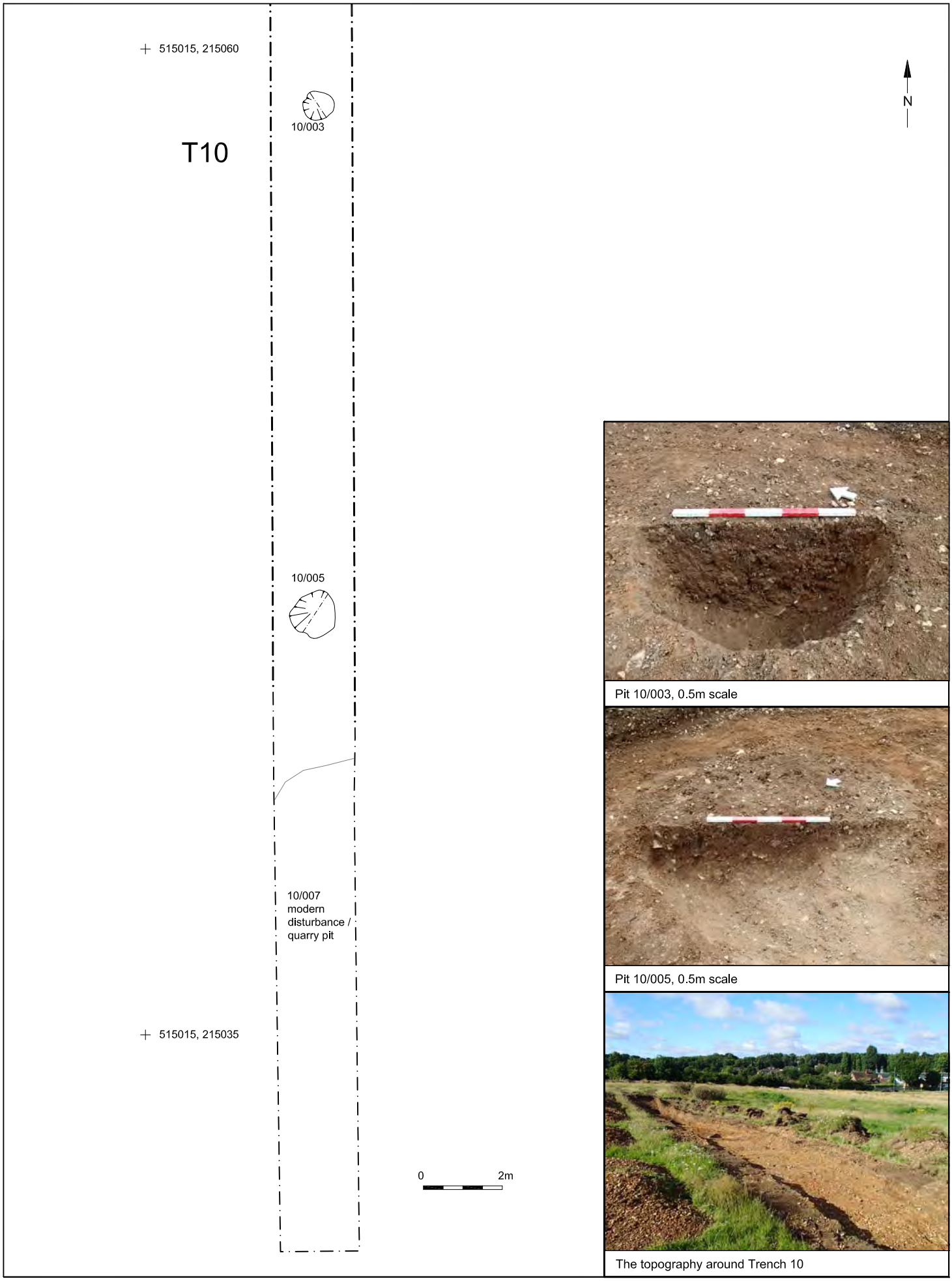
Project Ref: 170248	Aug 2017	Trench 9 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017369	Drawn by: APL		



Pit 10/003, 0.5m scale

Pit 10/005, 0.5m scale

The topography around Trench 10

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Project Ref: 170248	Aug 2017	Trench 10 plan and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017369	Drawn by: APL		

Trench 11 looking north-east, 1m scale

N

515065, 215055

T11

11/006

Ditch 11/006, 1m scale

Section 8

S N

96.46m

11/009

11/010

0 0.5m

515065, 215030

Section 8

11/010

0 2m

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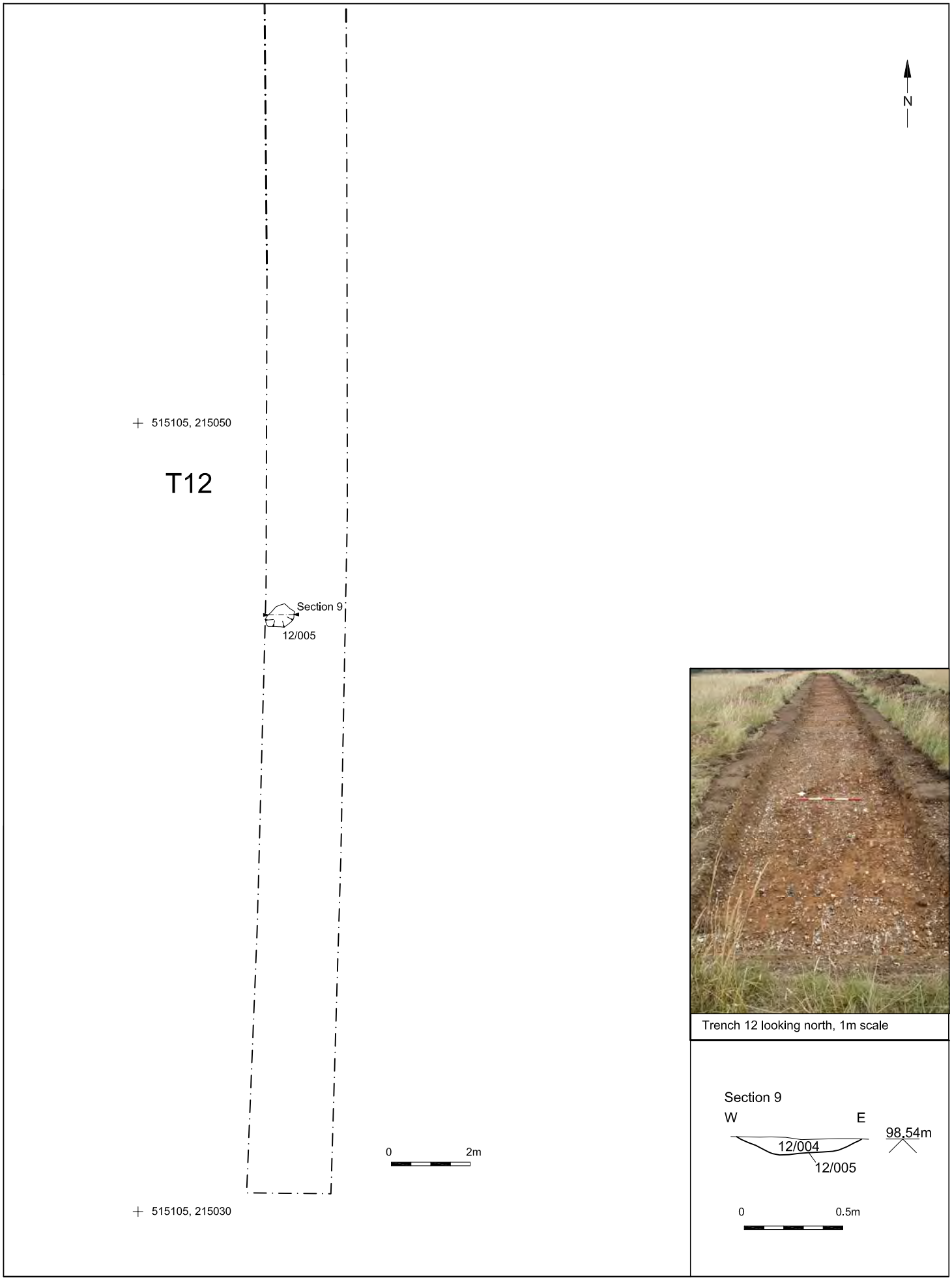
Project Ref: 170248	Aug 2017	Trench 11 plan, section and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017369	Drawn by: APL		



Trench 12 looking north, 1m scale

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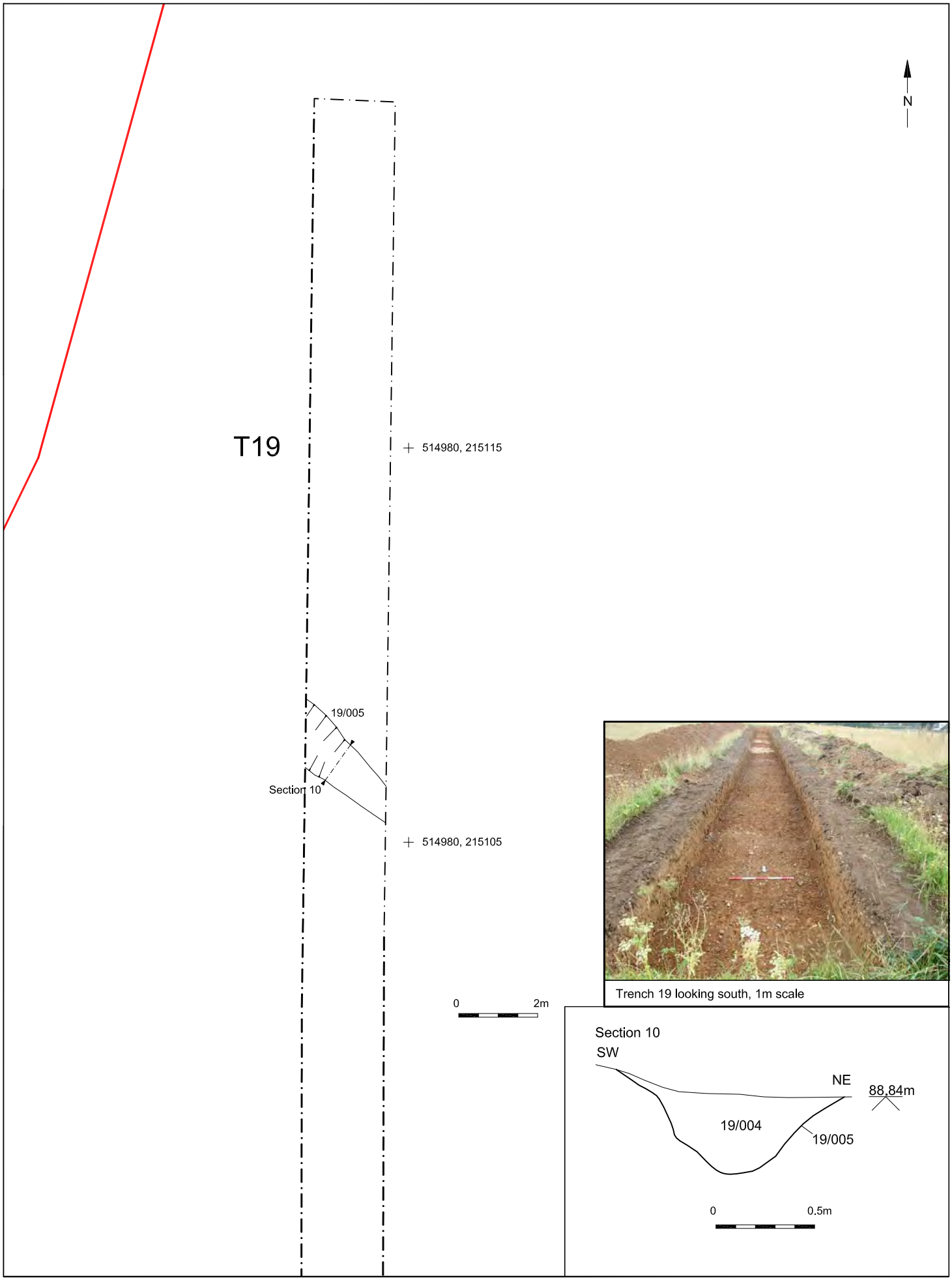
Project Ref: 170248	Aug 2017	Trench 12 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017369	Drawn by: APL		



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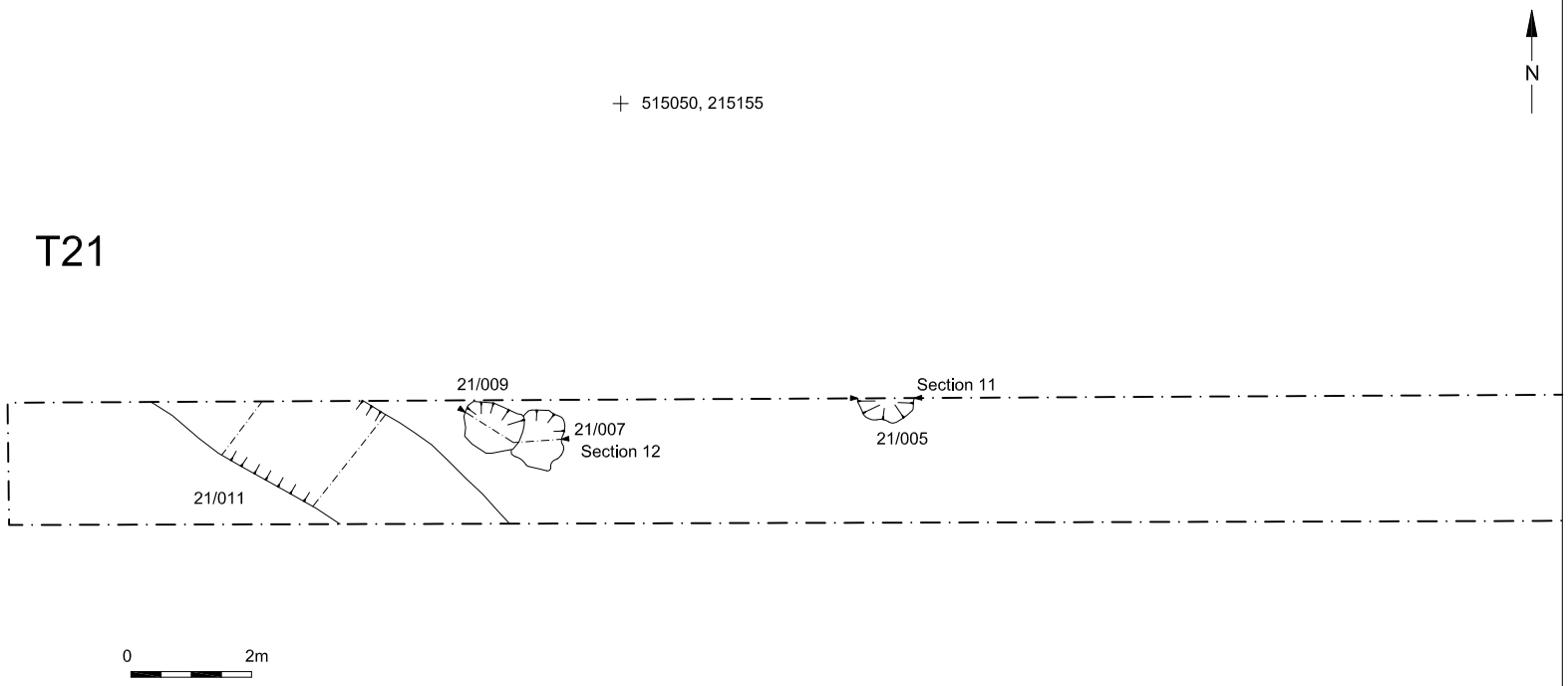
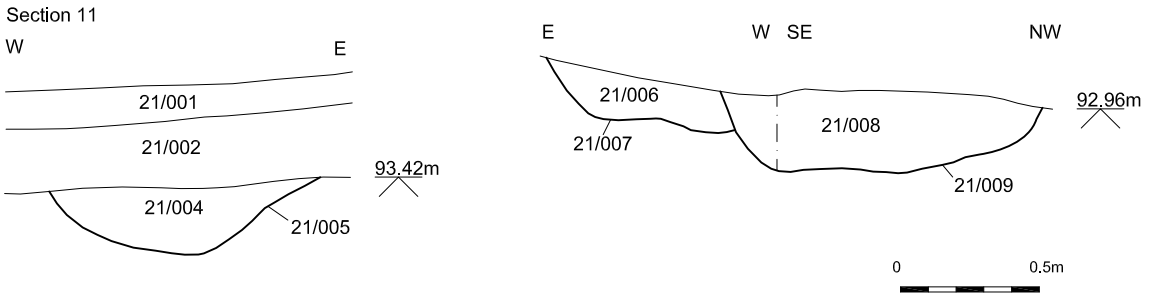
Project Ref: 170248	Aug 2017	Trench 19 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017369	Drawn by: APL		

Trench 21 looking east, 1m scale



Ditch 21/011 , 1m scale



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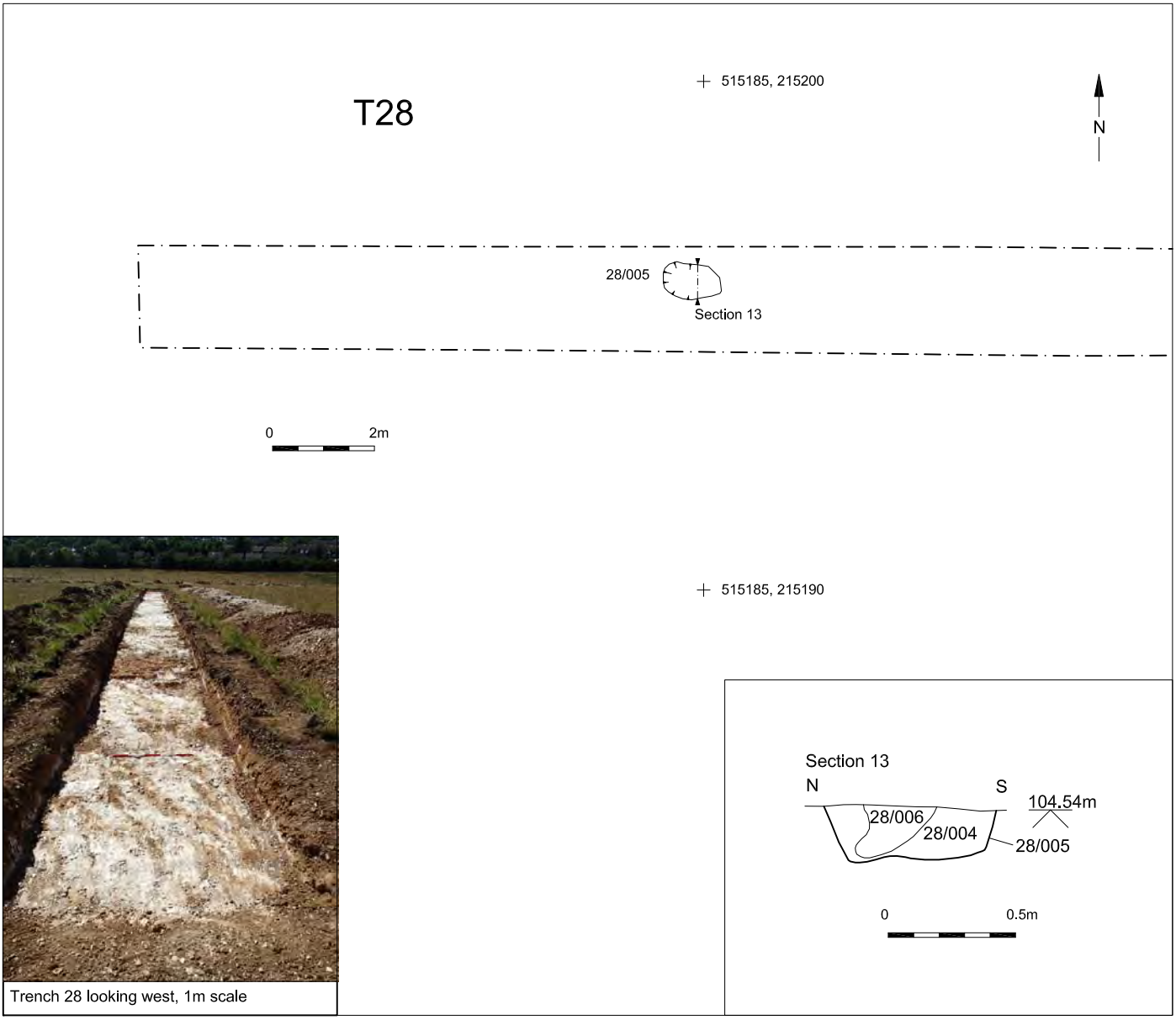
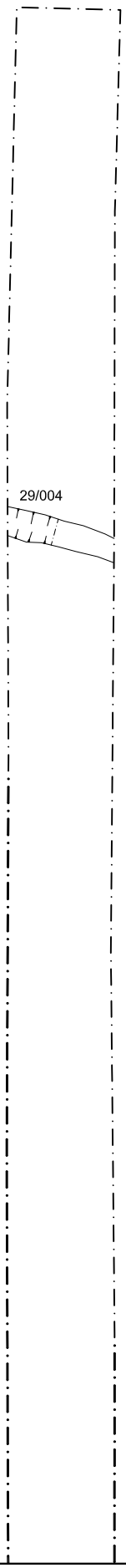
Project Ref: 170248	Aug 2017	Trench 21 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017369	Drawn by: APL		



Trench 28 looking west, 1m scale

© Archaeology South-East		Land north of Lower Luton Road, Harpenden	Fig.16
Project Ref: 170248	Aug 2017	Trench 28 plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2017369	Drawn by: APL		



Trench 29 looking south, 1m scale

Ditch 29/004, 0.5m scale

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Project Ref: 170248	Aug 2017	Trench 29 plan and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017369	Drawn by: APL		