

Wessex Archaeology

Park Mill Farm
Princes Risborough
Buckinghamshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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January 2004

**PARK MILL FARM, PRINCES RISBOROUGH
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Prepared on behalf of

CgMs Consulting

by

Wessex Archaeology

Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire SP4 6EB

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Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
	1.1 Project Background	1
	1.2 Location, Geology and Topography	1
	1.3 Archaeological/Historical Background	2
2	PROJECT OBJECTIVES	2
3	EVALUATION METHODOLOGY	3
	3.1 Health and Safety	3
	3.2 Fieldwork	3
4	RESULTS	4
	4.1 Introduction	4
	4.2 Ditches	4
	4.3 Pits	4
	4.4 Postholes.....	5
5	FINDS	5
	5.1 Introduction.....	5
	5.2 Pottery	5
	5.3 Animal Bone	6
	5.4 Other Finds	6
6	PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE.....	7
7	CONCLUSION	7
8	THE ARCHIVE.....	9
9	REFERENCES	9

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

APPENDIX 2: TABLE OF FINDS BY CONTEXT

Figures

- 1 Site and trench location plan showing geophysical survey results**
- 2 Plan of trenches 26, 31-34 and 38**
- 3 Selected sections**

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out an archaeological evaluation comprising 38 trenches on land at Park Mill Farm, Princes Risborough. The Site is proposed for residential development and comprises approximately 21ha of land to the west of Princes Risborough centred on NGR 480150 203680.

The majority of trenches contained little or no remains of archaeological interest. However, a concentration of features, including pits, postholes and ditches containing Early to Middle Iron Age pottery, was found in the southern part of the evaluation area. The remains suggest that there is a focus of late prehistoric settlement activity in this part of the Site.

Acknowledgements

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The fieldwork was carried out by Jamie Wright with the assistance of Jon Martin. The report was prepared by Jamie Wright with contributions from Lorraine Mepham and Stephanie Knight (Finds) and Michael Allen, Chris Stevens and Sarah Wyles (Palaeo-Environmental remains). The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Robert Wardill.

PARK MILL FARM, PRINCES RISBOROUGH BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a trenching evaluation at Park Mill Farm, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire (the Site), centred on NGR 480150 203680 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 The Site has been promoted through the Review of the Wycombe Local Plan and is now allocated for future residential development, with a planning application and supporting Environmental Statement (ES) being anticipated during 2004.

1.1.3 Following an ES Scoping Exercise and pre-application discussions with Officers of the Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeological Service, a tiered archaeological evaluation strategy was devised and this document reports on the trial trenching phase of this strategy.

1.1.4 All the works for this evaluation were carried out in compliance with a project Specification prepared by CgMs Consulting (Chadwick 2003) and subsequent Project Design (Wessex Archaeology 2003). Both documents were approved by the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Service Archaeological Officer before fieldwork commenced.

1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The Site occupies a 21ha area of land at the western edge of Princes Risborough and is separated from urban development by two railway lines. It is bounded to the south-east by the High Wycombe to Aylesbury railway line, to the north-east by industrial properties fronting Longwick Rd, to the north by field boundaries and to the west by the High Wycombe to Bicester and Banbury railway line. To the west of the Site and bordering the railway line are a sewage works, a small light industrial unit and horse paddocks.

1.2.2 The Site covers two fields separated by an east-west flowing stream. The northerly field encompasses approximately 3.6ha of the site. The southerly field occupies a gentle north-west facing slope leading down to the stream, while the northerly field lies on a south-east facing slope. Both fields have been ploughed and harrowed and covered by a recently planted winter cereal crop.

1.2.3 Approximately 2.5km to the east of the site lies the south-west to north-east line of the Chiltern Hills steeply rising from 100m to 230m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.2.4 The geology of the Site is mapped by the British Geological Survey as a boundary area between Lower Chalk and either Upper Greensand or Gault Clays. During the evaluation the geology to the north of the stream was found to be weathered Greensand. South of the stream many of the geological deposits appeared to be decayed Chalk, often present as a silty clay and occasionally containing patches of rounded very small chalk fragments. Clay-with-Flint was also found in the southern area along with possible periglacial striping with alternate bands of off-white and slightly green silty clays in some of the trenches.

1.2.5 The soils were quite heavy clay loams or silty clay loams.

1.3 Archaeological/Historical Background

1.3.1 The archaeological background of the Site has been covered extensively in an archaeological desk-based assessment (Chadwick 1998) and is summarised below.

- There is no evidence for Mesolithic activity within the Site and the current understanding of the distribution of Mesolithic landscape exploitation suggests that the Site would not have attracted such exploitation. Therefore the assessment considered the potential for Mesolithic remains to be found at the Site to be low.
- Neolithic/Bronze Age artefactual evidence from the Site and the presence of a Bronze Age/Iron Age ditched enclosure 60m to the south-east suggests there is a high potential for artefactual evidence originating from these periods. The southern half of the site in particular therefore represents an increased potential for the concentration of material representing prehistoric settlement.
- A low/no potential is suggested in the assessment for remains of Roman and Saxon evidenceto be present at the Site.
- In the medieval period, Princes Risborough comprised a small, nucleated settlement focused around the Church and Manor House with a Deer Park to the west. The full extent of the Deer Park is not known, however, part of the study Site lies within its boundaries.

1.3.2 A geophysical survey of the site carried out prior to the trenching works identified a small number of anomalies that may represent archaeological features (GSB Prospection 2003), (**Figures 1 & 2**). These included two short ditch-type anomalies associated with pit-type responses in the northern field and other pit-type responses across the Site.

2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the presence/absence, location, extent, date, character, condition, and depth of any surviving archaeological remains located within the Site.

- 2.1.2 More specifically, the evaluation will test the model of archaeological potential constructed in the desk-based assessment and clarify the nature of the magnetic anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Health and Safety

- 3.1.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) and the Management of Health and Safety regulations (1992) and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation and regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 3.1.2 A risk assessment was prepared by Wessex Archaeology before the commencement of fieldwork.

3.2 Fieldwork

- 3.2.1 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (as amended 1999).
- 3.2.2 The initial evaluation works comprised the excavation of thirty trenches, each 25m long and 2m wide, randomly positioned across the Site and also sited to test the results of the geophysical survey (**Figure 1**). After locating evidence for archaeological activity in two of the trenches (trenches 13 & 26) a further eight trenches of varying lengths and widths were opened, three around Trench 13 and five around Trench 26.
- 3.2.3 The trenches were excavated using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator equipped with 1.8m wide toothless bucket, under the constant supervision of an archaeologist. All machine excavation proceeded until either the top of archaeological deposits or natural geology was encountered.
- 3.2.4 After machine excavation, each trench was cleaned by hand and where necessary, any features present were also investigated and excavated by hand. Discrete archaeological features were half-sectioned and ditches had segments excavated.
- 3.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were fully recorded on Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* sheets in accordance with Wessex Archaeology guidelines for fieldwork recording. A sample of all discrete and linear archaeological features was excavated. A full photographic record was kept comprising black and white negatives, colour transparencies and digital images. All site drawings were drawn at an appropriate scale, typically 1:10 for sections and 1:20 or 1:50 for plans.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Trench summaries are presented in **Appendix 1**, whilst full details are available in the project archive.
- 4.1.2 Most of the archaeological features were found in a relatively tight cluster to the south of the Site in Trenches 26, 31, 32, 34 and 38 (**Figure 2**). The features comprised pits, postholes and shallow ditches and suggest domestic occupation.
- 4.1.3 Near the east of the Site in Trench 13, a shallow ditch was identified. A second shallow ditch or possible relic of ridge and furrow ploughing was noted 180m to the north-west in Trench 8.

4.2 Ditches

- 4.2.1 The two ditches were found in Trench 34 (**3404 & 3406**), (**figure 2**). Both were shallow with **3404 (Figure 3)** being 1.35m wide and 0.32m deep and **3406** 0.85m wide and 0.15m deep. The fill of ditch **3404** contained animal bone and pottery dating to the Early to Middle Iron Age period. Ditch **3406** is likely to be a Post-medieval feature as its fill contained an iron nail of that period and no other artefactual evidence.
- 4.2.2 A wide, shallow ditch (**1304**) was found in Trench 13. Excavation produced seven fragments of Post-medieval roof tile dating it reliably to that period. This feature is similar to one found in Trench 8 (**803**) and there is a possibility that both may represent the remains of ridge and furrow agriculture.

4.3 Pits

- 4.3.1 One pit was found in Trench 26 (**2604**) and three in Trench 38 (**3804, 3809 & 3811**).
- 4.3.2 Pit **2604 (Figure 3)** in Trench 26 was the largest with a diameter at its top of 1.10m. At a depth of 0.5m it narrowed to 0.75m diameter and then widened to *c.*0.95m at its base. Its lowest fills (**2609 & 2610**) were charcoal-rich and were sampled for palaeo-environmental assessment (see **section 6** below). The fill above this (**2606**) was relatively stone-free with the latest fill (**2605**) containing burnt and unburnt stones. This may be evidence for the dumping of hearth material. This pit was excavated to a depth of 0.95m and then, because of the difficulty of excavation, augered to reveal a further 0.10m of fill. Fills throughout this feature produced pottery dating to the Early-Middle Iron Age and animal bone. Such deposits possibly represent the dumping of domestic waste.
- 4.3.3 Pit **3804 (Figure 3)** in Trench 38 extended beyond the edge of the trench but had a diameter of *c.*0.8m. All four fills (**3805-8**) were rich in charcoal and contained Early to Middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone.

- 4.3.4 Pit **3811** also extended beyond the trench but had an estimated diameter of 0.6m and a depth of 0.54m. It overhung only on the western side. Its latest and earliest fills, **3812** and **3814**, were charcoal-rich and contained Early to Middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone. The middle fill, **3813**, which was principally on the western side of the pit, was more calcareous and produced neither artefacts nor charcoal. Although this feature is described as a pit, it may have been a large posthole with fill **3813** as postpacking.
- 4.3.5 Pit **3809** was bisected by a field drain. It was similar in plan to adjacent pit **3804** and therefore it was decided not to excavate this feature.
- 4.3.6 All three excavated pits had overhanging sides or in the case of the smallest pit (**3811**), sides that were starting to show the symptoms of overhanging.

4.4 Postholes

- 4.4.1 A total of eleven postholes or stakeholes were exposed and excavated, all within 50m of each other in Trenches 26, 31, 32 and 38. No pattern could be discerned in the layout of the revealed postholes.
- 4.4.2 They varied in size from 0.46m in diameter and 0.27m in depth to 0.12m in diameter and 0.07m in depth. Representative sections are illustrated in **Figure 3**. The fills were dark grey or greyish brown in colour suggesting the presence of fragments of charcoal. Four of the postholes (**2607**, **3105**, **3107**, & **3111**) contained pottery of Early to Middle Iron Age date and one (**3105**) was sampled for palaeo-environmental assessment (see section 6 below).

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Finds were recovered from eight of the 38 trenches excavated. Apart from a few unstratified items, all finds derived from stratified feature fills. Quantities by material type and by context are presented in **Appendix 2**. The bulk of the assemblage is of later prehistoric date, with a small quantity of Post-medieval material.

5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 The pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the site. The whole assemblage is of later prehistoric date. The condition overall is fair to good, with crisp edges and unabraded surfaces. Sherds represent flint-tempered and sandy fabrics, the latter frequently burnished. Diagnostic sherds are scarce, but there is one expanded rim in a flint-tempered fabric and one applied boss in a sandy fabric (both from ditch **3404**), and one simple, upright rim in a sandy fabric (pit **2604**). On the basis of these forms, and the fabric types, a broad date range of Early to Middle Iron Age can be suggested for the assemblage.
- 5.2.2 Both fabric types occur together in some contexts (e.g. posthole **3106**) and could well be contemporary; alternatively, the flint-tempered sherds, which

are less frequent (eight sherds) could represent a slightly earlier (Early Iron Age) element within an assemblage of Middle Iron Age sandy wares – it may be noted that the primary fill of pit **2604** produced one flint-tempered sherd, while upper fills contained mainly sandy wares.

5.3 Animal Bone

5.3.1 Eighty six fragments of animal bone were recovered from the Early to Middle Iron Age deposits. They were mainly in fair condition although 12 had been badly affected by root etching. This may have masked some butchery marks or gnawing, although the latter was seen on just three bones, indicating that bones were probably not left exposed for any time before burial.

5.3.2 Due to the large numbers of rib and long bone shaft fragments and in some cases the poor condition of some of the bone pieces only a very small proportion (31%) of the assemblage was identifiable. Of the identified bones, sheep/goat (no positive goat), cattle and pig were represented almost equally (9, 8 and 7 fragments respectively). Horse bones were less common and only three were identified.

5.3.3 Ten bones could be aged, and seven measured to indicate the size of animals. One very young sheep/goat was noted and a pig under the age of 13 months. A mature pig was also in evidence. The sheep/goat and cattle bones appeared to be relatively slender and small, typical of Iron Age animals.

5.3.4 No particular combinations of bone elements were apparent that could indicate specific activities, and there was nothing to suggest that the bone was anything other than general refuse. Eighteen butchery marks were noted, mainly helical fractures but also several knife cuts. Two of the three horse bones had been butchered, apparently disarticulated and split open for marrow extraction.

5.3.5 It is unusual to have such a high proportion of pig and horse bones on an Iron Age site, and it has been suggested that pigs indicate high status (Grant 1984). However with such a small assemblage it is impossible to draw any conclusions from the species proportions. The bones were also not in particularly good condition and absolute numbers of bones that could be aged or measured to indicate animal husbandry or animal size are low. Butchery practice is also typical of the Iron Age, consisting of fine knife cuts for disarticulation.

5.4 Other Finds

5.4.1 The five worked flints (four flakes and one broken blade), and possibly the burnt, unworked flint and the fired clay (small, featureless lumps), are of uncertain prehistoric date. Other finds – iron objects (including one nail from ditch **3406**), ceramic roof tile and bottle glass – are of demonstrable or probable Post-medieval date.

6 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 Two 10 litre samples from two features (pit **2604** & posthole **3105**) were analysed for environmental remains and dated to the Early to Middle Iron Age period. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred remains (charred plant and charcoal).
- 6.1.2 Overall, the charred remains were typical of those one might expect from Iron Age features.
- 6.1.3 Cereal remains were present within both samples. That from the storage pit **2604** contained several grains and glumes of probable hulled wheats (*Triticum spelta/dicoccum*). A few barley grains (*Hordeum sativum*) were also present, as well as a culm node. The sample also contained four seeds of cleavers (*Galium aparine*) and a single seed of sedge (*Carex* sp.). The sample from posthole **3104** contained fewer, but a similar range of remains with also a grain of oats (*Avena* sp.) and some fragments of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*).
- 6.1.4 The range of remains is fairly limited consisting of larger seeds and grain. The remains are most probably related to waste from the processing of cereals rather than representative of stored crops. The seeds of wild species probably then come from past crop weeds. The presence of cleavers is seen as indicative of autumn sowing, while the seed of sedge indicates a crop grown on wetter soils. The remains of hazelnut may relate to their use as wild food.
- 6.1.5 Charcoal was noted from the flots of both samples. That from the storage pit contained relatively higher quantities of wood charcoal.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1.1 The evaluation has established that there is a concentration of settlement remains in the south of the Site. These remains comprise pits, postholes and ditches dating to the Early to Middle Iron Age. The pottery evidence consists of two distinct fabric types which may represent these two periods of activity.
- 7.1.2 Two archaeological features were found to the north of the Site but these are likely to be Post-medieval in date.
- 7.1.3 The findings of the evaluation confirm the model of archaeological potential constructed in the desk-based assessment. This model suggested a concentration of material representing a prehistoric settlement might be found in the southern part of the Site.
- 7.1.4 The findings also confirm that the majority of magnetic anomalies identified by the geophysical survey did not represent archaeological remains. However, three of the largest features (pits **2604**, **3804** & **3809**) forming part of the concentration of Iron Age remains to the south of the Site are located

on or very near to anomalies suggested as archaeological in the survey results.

8 THE ARCHIVE

- 8.1.1 The project archive will be held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology at Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire, under the project code 52068. In due course the archive is to be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum in Aylesbury. It comprises two lever-arch files, a ring binder, A1/A3/A4 drawings, photographs and electronic files.

9 REFERENCES

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- GSB 2003 *Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire: Geophysical Prospection Survey Report 2003/76.* GSB Prospection
- Wessex Archaeology 2003 *Park Mill Farm, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire: Project Design for an Archaeological Evaluation.* Wessex Archaeology

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

TRENCH 1

NGR	479826, 203931, 94.3	
Dimensions	Length 25.40, Width 1.85, Max depth 0.48 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
101	Ploughsoil: Greyish brown silty clay loam with rare flint and greensand inclusions.	0-0.30
102	Natural: Degraded greensand.	> 0.30

TRENCH 2

NGR	479881, 203938, 94.7	
Dimensions	Length 25.30, Width 1.85, Max depth 0.50 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
201	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam, very rare flint inclusions and occasional greensand.	0-0.30
202	Natural: Degraded greensand.	>0.30

TRENCH 3

NGR	479945, 203965, 95.3	
Dimensions	Length 24.50, Width 1.85, Max depth 0.50 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
301	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam, very rare flint inclusions and occasional greensand.	0-0.30
302	Natural: Degraded greensand.	>0.30

TRENCH 4

NGR	479969, 203982, 95.6	
Dimensions	Length 25.40, Width 1.85, Max depth 0.43 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
401	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with very rare flint inclusions.	0-0.30
402	Natural: Degraded greensand.	>0.30

TRENCH 5

NGR	480014, 203876, 94.9	
Dimensions	Length 25.70, Width 1.80, Max depth 0.50 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
501	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with flints and occasional greensand inclusions.	0-0.30
502	Natural: Degraded greensand with rare flint inclusions.	>0.30

TRENCH 6

NGR	480053, 203906, 94.9	
Dimensions	Length 25.70, Width 1.80, Max depth 0.50 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
601	Ploughsoil: Greyish brown silty clay loam with flint inclusions.	0-0.25
602	Natural: Degraded greensand.	>0.25

TRENCH 7

NGR	480088, 203895, 96.6	
Dimensions	Length 27.50, Width 1.85, Max depth 0.45 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
701	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with flint inclusions.	0-0.25
702	Natural: Pale brown silty clay with rare small flint inclusions..	>0.25

TRENCH 8

NGR	480107, 203858, 96.3	
Dimensions	Length 30.20, Width 1.85, Max depth c. 1.0 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
801	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with flint inclusions.	0-0.30
802	Natural: Pale reddish brown silty clay with flint inclusions. A mechanically excavated slot in the east of the trench showed that the natural extended to a depth of at least 1m becoming firmer with depth.	>0.30
803	Cut: A shallow wide cut feature, probably a relic of ridge and furrow. Ran south-east to north-west and was c. 2.0m wide.	0.20
804	Fill of 803: Reddish brown silty clay. An iron nail was recovered from this fill.	0.20
	The trench was extended to the west fully to expose 803 .	

TRENCH 9

NGR	480171, 203922, 96.1	
Dimensions	Length 26.60, Width 1.85, Max depth 0.55 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
901	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with flint inclusions.	0-0.30
902	Natural: Pale reddish brown silty clay with flint inclusions, occasional bands of more concentrated flint and rare greensand	>0.25

TRENCH 10

NGR	480189, 203871, 97.5	
Dimensions	Length 25.30, Width 1.85, Max depth 0.75 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
1001	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with flint and chalk inclusions.	0-0.30
1002	Made- up ground: Layer of chalk rubble containing concrete and brick. It was not bottomed as it was assumed to be associated with the nearby manhole cover.	>0.25

TRENCH 11

NGR	480146, 203805, 97.4	
Dimensions	Length 25.80, Width 1.85, Max depth 0.60 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
1101	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with flint inclusions.	0-0.30
1102	Natural: Mid brown silty clay with rare chalk fragments and some flint.	>0.30

TRENCH 12

NGR	480252, 203828, 98.3	
Dimensions	Length 25.13, Width 2.20, Max depth 0.54 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
1201	Ploughsoil: Grey brown clay loam with occasional to frequent broken flint. Quite sharp lower boundary	0-0.32
1202	Natural: In west of the trench was a pale brown calcareous clay or clay loam; a degraded chalk with no solid fragments.	>0.32
1203	Natural: In the 11m at the south-east of the trench was a dark green silty clay or clay presumably formed from decayed Greensand.	>0.32

TRENCH 13

NGR	480257, 203765, 99.6	
Dimensions	Length 26.50, Width 1.85, Max depth 0.50 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
1301	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with rare flint inclusions.	0-0.25
1302	Horizon of accumulation: A mid greyish brown mixture of ploughsoil and natural.	0.25-0.38
1303	Natural: Pale grey degraded chalk.	>0.38
1304	Cut: A shallow linear feature which ran north-east to south-west <i>c.</i> 2.0m wide	0.12
1305	Fill: A pale greyish brown silty clay.	0.12

TRENCH 14

NGR	480220, 203748, 99.5	
Dimensions	Length 25.74, Width 2.04, Max depth 0.51 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
1401	Ploughsoil: Brown sandy clay loam with common shattered flint <50mm and >10mm. Sharp lower boundary.	0-0.26
1402	?: A pale brown silty loam which took a good fingerprint and was heavy. It had a sharp and horizontal boundary with 1403 below.	0.26-0.32
1403	Natural: Similar to 1402 but paler and more obviously chalk derived.	>0.32
	A field drain in the south-east of the trench ran east to west, and there was a suggestion of striping in the same direction but this was recorded after a heavy frost.	

TRENCH 15

NGR	480272, 203706, 100.9	
Dimensions	Length 28.87, Width 1.99, Max depth 0.57 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
1501	Ploughsoil: Greyish brown clay loam with broken flint inclusions and some ploughed-in stubble. Sharp boundary to 1502 below.	0-0.21
1502	?: A pale greyish brown silty clay loam with a rounded blocky structure. Undulating and defuse boundary with 1503 below. Has the appearance of a buried soil but difficult to envisage how it was buried without being truncated.	0.21- <i>c.</i> 0.33
1503	Natural: A very pale brown clay loam, degraded chalk. Mostly very fine but some pockets of <i>c.</i> 3mm chalk fragments. Two small incipient solution-holes filled with clay-with-flint.	>0.25

TRENCH 16

NGR	480162, 203762, 98.5	
Dimensions	Length 25.04, Width 1.95, Max depth 0.67 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
1601	Ploughsoil: Brown clay loam with broken flint inclusions.	0-0.28
1602	Natural: Green silty clay. Contained some broken flints and possibly got paler with depth although this may have been a result of dark organic material leaching down from the ploughsoil.	>0.28

TRENCH 17

NGR	480105, 203777, 97.3	
Dimensions	Length 25.20, Width 1.85, Max depth 0.85 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
1701	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with flint inclusions.	0-0.20
1702	Redeposited chalk: Varied in depth between 0.05m to 0.50m and contained clay mixed in. Probably the same redeposited chalk seen in Trench 10.	0.20-0.50
1703	Reddish brown silty clay: Contained rare small chalk fragments and patches of degraded greensand.	>0.50
1704	Dark brown silty clay: This was not visible through-out the whole trench but it overlay 1703.	0.30-0.40
	The cut for a apparently deep modern ?pipe trench could be seen running parallel to, and along the centre of, the trench.	

TRENCH 18

NGR	480102, 203753, 97.9	
Dimensions	Length 25.70, Width 1.85, Max depth 0.60 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
1801	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with flint inclusions.	0-0.30
1802	Clay-with-flint: Reddish brown silty clay with rare flint and chalk inclusions.	0.30-0.45
1803	Natural: Degraded greensand with occasional patches of reddish brown silty clay – poorly developed solution holes.	>0.45

TRENCH 19

NGR	480125, 203714, 98.7	
Dimensions	Length 24.00, Width 1.85, Max depth 0.55 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
1901	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam.	0-0.25
1902	Clay-with-flint: Reddish brown silty clay with rare flint inclusions and some chalk fragments.	0.25-0.38
1903	Natural: Degraded greensand with flint inclusions in patches and rare small chalk fragments.	>0.30

TRENCH 20

NGR	480097, 203687, 98.8	
Dimensions	Length 25.50, Width 1.85, Max depth 0.50 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
2001	Ploughsoil: Greyish brown silty clay loam with chalk and flint inclusions.	0-0.25
2002	Clay-with-flint: Reddish brown silty clay with flint and some chalk inclusions.	0.25-0.35
2003	Natural: Variable; a mixture of degraded chalk and degraded greensand with deeper pockets of clay-with-flint.	>0.35
	A field drain ran diagonally across the trench	

TRENCH 21

NGR	480212, 203660, 100.7	
Dimensions	Length 25.04, Width 2.19, Max depth 1.13 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
2101	Ploughsoil: Dark grey (brown) sandy clay loam with frequent broken flint inclusions. Contained pockets of 2102 towards the base but had sharp boundary with 2102 .	0-0.24
2102	Clay-with-flint: Brown clay with shattered flints and patches of ?quartz sand and areas of chalk fragments <10mm. Also occurs in poorly developed solution holes in the base of the trench.	0.24-c. 0.48
2102	Degraded chalk: Very pale brown calcareous clay. A sondage was excavated to 1.13m without exposing bedded, in situ chalk, although some clay-with-flint was covered by degraded chalk.	>0.48

TRENCH 22

NGR	480184, 203603, 100.9	
Dimensions	Length 27.31, Width 1.95, Max depth 0.42(m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
2201	Ploughsoil: Grey clay loam with much broken flint.	0-0.20
2202	Degraded chalk: Very pale brown calcareous clay. In plan are several areas of brown clay-with-flint and some rounded chalk fragments <5mm. The clay-with-flint only survived in solution hole type features and not as a horizontal layer.	>0.20

TRENCH 23

NGR	480140, 203582, 100.5	
Dimensions	Length 25.80, Width 1.85, Max depth 0.60 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
2301	Ploughsoil: Grey sandy clay loam with many broken flints, especially towards the base where they form an almost solid barrier.	0-0.23
2302	Clay-with-flint: Pale brown sandy clay with many broken flints. It survived as a horizontal layer throughout the trench and as deeper pockets within 2303.	0.23-0.37
2303	Degraded chalk: Very pale brown calcareous clay containing patches of rounded chalk fragments <5mm.	>0.37

TRENCH 24

NGR	480146, 203527, 101.0	
Dimensions	Length 26.24, Width 2.32, Max depth 0.51 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
2401	Ploughsoil: Grey fine sandy or silty clay loam containing common broken flints.	0-0.21
2402	Clay-with-flints: Pale brown silty clay with abundant broken flints and some rounded chalk fragments<15mm. Survived as pockets within 2403.	0.21-0.33
2403	Degraded ?chalk : Calcareous and almost slimy clay. This had a greenish tint to it.	>0.33

TRENCH 25

NGR	480172, 203487, 101.7	
Dimensions	Length 25.80, Width 1.85, Max depth 0.60 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
2501	Ploughsoil: Grey fine sandy clay loam containing many fractured flints.	0-c. 18
2502	Degraded chalk: Pale brown calcareous clay.	>0.18

TRENCH 26

NGR	480053, 203526, 99.4	
Dimensions	Length 24.26, Width 2.10, Max depth 0.60 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
2601	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with flint inclusions.	0-0.30
2602	Clay-with-flint: Dark reddish brown silty clay with frequent flint.	0.30-0.60
2603	Degraded chalk: Pale grey degraded chalk natural with flint inclusions.	>0.60
2604	Pit: Circular in plan with a slight hour glass profile. It was cut into a small solution hole. Hand excavated to a depth of 0.95m and augered to establish its full depth.	1.04
2605	Fill of 2604: A very dark grey, almost black, silty clay loam containing flint inclusions. Produced pottery, animal bone, probably burnt stone and contained charcoal.	0.14
2606	Fill of 2604: Predominantly brown, but dark grey near the centre, fine sandy clay loam with very few inclusions, although some chalk fragments and some flints were noted. It was relatively stone-free. The darker colour in the centre had probably leached down from 2605 above.	c. 18
2607	Posthole: Circular in plan, vertical sides and flat base. 0.27m diameter.	0.19
2608	Fill of 2607: A grey brown silty clay loam containing some stone and pottery.	0.19
2609	Fill of 2604: A brown silty loam containing flint fragments and chalk flecks. It trowelled shinier than 2606 and had a greasier feel.	c. 0.28
2610	Fill of 2604: The lowest layer exposed was a very dark grey silty loam containing natural flint. It had a moist and organic feel and much charcoal was visible. Sample taken for environmental analysis.	c. 0.30

TRENCH 27

NGR	479997, 203373, 99.5	
Dimensions	Length 33.85, Width 1.85, Max depth 0.50 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
2701	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with chalk and flint inclusions.	0-0.28
2702	Clay-with-flint: A mid brown silty clay with small chalk inclusions.	0.28-0.38
2703	Degraded chalk: Degraded chalk natural with flint inclusions and occasional patches of clay-with-flint.	>0.38

TRENCH 28

NGR	480091, 203379, 100.7	
Dimensions	Length 26.90, Width 1.85, Max depth 0.50 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
2801	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with flint and chalk inclusions.	0-0.25
2802	Clay-with-flint: Pale brown silty clay with chalk and flint inclusions.	0.25-0.35
2803	?Periglacial stripes: Hint of off-white and greenish stripes at right-angle to the line of the trench – both silty clays.	>0.35

TRENCH 29

NGR	480054, 203352, 100.2	
Dimensions	Length 28.87, Width 1.85, Max depth 0.85 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
2901	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with flint and chalk inclusions.	0-0.35
2902	Clay-with-flint: A brown silty clay with chalk and flint inclusions.	0.35-0.45
2903	?Periglacial stripes: As in Trench 28 there was a suggestion of off-white and greenish stripes. Small solution holes filled with clay-with-flint also present.	>0.45

TRENCH 30

NGR	480075, 203314, 100.6	
Dimensions	Length 25.41, Width 1.85, Max depth 0.52 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
3001	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with flint and chalk inclusions.	0-0.30
3002	Interface: A mixture of ploughsoil and natural.	0.30-0.35
3003	Degraded chalk: Very pale brown calcareous clay with a band of clay-with-flint..	>0.35

TRENCH 31

NGR	480051, 203505, 99.5	
Dimensions	Length 25.73, Width 4.35, Max depth 0.60 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
3101	Ploughsoil: Grey brown silty clay loam with quite common broken flint inclusions.	0-0.24
3102	Clay-with-flints: Brown fine sandy clay with fractured flints. Formed a horizontal layer with irregular intrusions into 3103 below.	0.24-0.40
3103	?Periglacial stripes: Mixture of degraded chalk fragments <30mm in an off-white clay chalk powder and greenish silt loam/silty clay.	>0.40
3104	Fill of 3105: A dark grey silty clay loam containing one large flint and producing pottery and animal bone. The only fill.	0.21
3105	Posthole: Measured 0.67m by 0.48m with a key-hole shape suggesting a recut although longitudinal sectioning revealed only one fill.	0.21
3106	Fill of 3107: A dark grey silty clay loam containing medium natural flint and pottery. There was a suggestion of brown clay postpacking along the southern edge.	0.25
3107	Posthole: An almost circular, 0.48m diameter, vertical sided posthole cut into decayed chalk and broken flint.	0.25
3108	Fill of 3109: A dark grey silty clay loam with large natural flint and some animal bone.	0.18
3109	Posthole: This was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.38m and bowl-shaped in section.	0.18
3110	Fill of 3111: A dark grey silty clay loam with broken natural flint down the southern edge. Produced charcoal flecks, ?pottery and >?bone.	0.19
3111	Posthole: Near circular in plan (0.35m by 0.34m) with vertical sides and a rounded base.	0.19
3112	Fill of 3113: A greyish brown silty clay loam containing small natural flints. Noticeably paler colour than the other postholes in this trench. No artefacts were recovered.	0.13
3113	Posthole: Almost circular (0.33m by 0.27m) and bowl-shaped in section. It was cut into a small patch of clay-with-flint.	0.13

TRENCH 32

NGR	480020, 203525, 99.1	
Dimensions	Length 26.65, Width 2.08, Max depth 0.47 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
3201	Ploughsoil: Grey brown silty clay loam with frequent small flint inclusions.	0-0.31
3202	Clay-with-flints: A brown silty clay with much broken flint. Formed a horizontal upper surface and an undulating lower surface some of which survived below the level of machining.	0.31-0.41
3203	Degraded chalk: Many very small chalk fragments in an off-white to grey clay. Field-drains are backfilled in places with greensand.	>0.41
3204	Post/stakehole: This was circular in plan and bowl-shaped in section. Although with a diameter of 0.15m it was small it was convincing as an archaeological feature.	0.08
3205	Fill of 3204: Greyish brown silty clay loam containing very small chalk fragments. No artefacts were retrieved.	0.08
3206	Posthole: In plan this was circular with a diameter of 0.25m and in section it was bowl-shaped.	0.08
3207	Fill of 3206: A greyish brown silty clay loam containing occasional chalk flecks and some fractured flint. No artefacts were observed.	0.08
3208	Posthole: With a diameter of 0.27m and vertical sides this was the most substantial posthole in the trench.	0.20
3209	Fill of 3208: A greyish brown silty clay loam with chalk fragments and some natural flint. No artefacts recovered.	0.20
1102	Natural: Mid brown silty clay with rare chalk fragments and some flint.	>0.30

TRENCH 33

NGR	480052, 203549, 99.3	
Dimensions	Length 25.45, Width 2.24, Max depth 0.50 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
3301	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with common flint inclusions.	0-0.25
3302	Clay-with-flint: A reddish brown silty clay with common flint inclusions and rare chalk flecks.	0.25-0.40
3303	Degraded chalk: Decayed chalk comprised of a mixture of off white very small chalk fragments and pale grey calcareous clay. Incipient solution hollows containing 3302 were also present.	>0.40

TRENCH 34

NGR	480086, 203527, 99.9	
Dimensions	Length 25.86, Width 1.85, Max depth 0.50 (m)	
Context	Description	Depth (m)
3401	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with rare flint and chalk inclusions.	0-0.22
3402	Clay-with-flint: A dark brown silty clay with rare flint inclusions.	0.22-0.40
3403	Degraded chalk: Decayed chalk with bands of clay-with-flint.	>0.40
3404	Ditch: Shallow sides to an irregular base. 1.35m wide.	0.32
3405	Fill of 3404: A pale brown silty clay with chalk and flint inclusions. Pottery and animal bone were recovered.	0.32
3406	Ditch: A 0.85m wide shallow feature.	0.15
3407	Fill of 3406: A pale brown silty clay with few inclusions. A nail was the only artefact.	0.15

TRENCH 35

NGR	480246, 203748, 99.8	
Dimensions	Length 15.09, Width 2.21, Max depth 0.65 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
3501	Ploughsoil: Grey clay loam rare or no stones.	0-0.20
3502	?Clay-with-flint: A pale brown fine sandy clay that extended the length of the trench. It appeared quite calcareous and had no flint. It <i>may</i> have been solifluction as it sealed a frost crack in chalk 3503	
3503	Degraded chalk: Very pale brown calcareous clay with strong brown fine sand filled frost cracks. The frost cracks, max. width of c. 50mm, were definitely sealed by 3502 .	>0.30

TRENCH 36

NGR	480233, 203760, 99.4	
Dimensions	Length 35.62, Width 1.97, Max depth 0.48 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
3601	Ploughsoil: Greyish brown fine sandy clay loam.	0-0.25
3602	Clay-with-flints: A pale brown silty clay containing fractured flints.	0.25-0.35
3603	Decayed chalk: A very pale brown calcareous clay.	>0.35
	Frost cracks filled with a fine brown sand were noted.	

TRENCH 37

NGR	480256, 203790, 99.1	
Dimensions	Length 28.39, Width 1.98, Max depth 0.43 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
3701	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown fine sandy clay loam with rare flint inclusions and some CBM.	0-0.21
3702	Clay-with-flint: Only in the north of the trench was a thin layer of pale brown clay containing little flint.	0.21-0.32
3703	Degrade chalk: Very pale brown calcareous clay.	>0.30

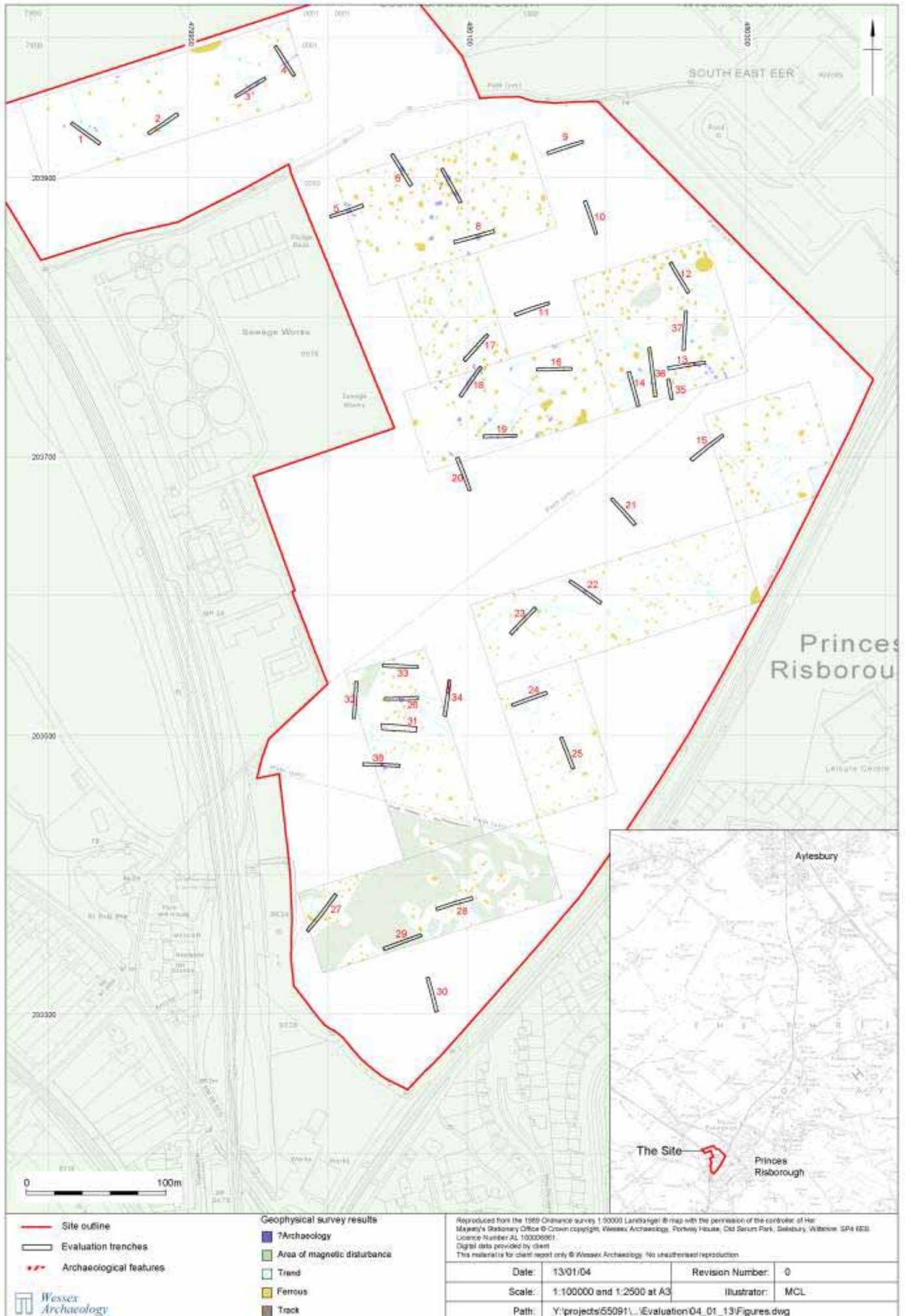
TRENCH 38

NGR	480041, 203479, 99.6	
Dimensions	Length 26.74, Width 1.85, Max depth 0.55 (m)	
Context	<i>Description</i>	Depth (m)
3801	Ploughsoil: Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with chalk and flint inclusions.	0-0.35
3802	Clay-with-flint: Brown silty clay with fractured flint. In this trench the clay-with-flint was deeper than seen elsewhere on the Site.	>0.35
3803	Degraded chalk: Very pale brown calcareous clay. At the level of machining the ratio of 3802/3803 was c. 50/50.	>0.50
3804	Pit: This was approximately circular with a diameter of c. 0.75m. Its sides were vertical to undercut and its base almost horizontal. It extended beyond the trench.	0.66
3805	Fill of 3804: The top fill was a very dark grey brown silty clay which produced pottery, animal bone and charcoal.	0.38
3806	Fill of 3804: A dark grey brown silty clay with chalk fragments and lenses. Bone, pottery, charcoal and burnt stone were all present.	0.20
3807	Fill of 3804: An almost black silty clay. As with 3805 and 3806 this contained animal bone and charcoal but no pottery.	0.15
3808	Fill of 3804: The lowest fill comprised decayed chalk probably eroded from the sides. No artefacts were retrieved although charcoal was noted.	0.12
3809	Pit: Almost touching pit 3804 and with it probably forming geophysical anomaly, this pit had a diameter of 0.85m. It was not excavated as a field drain cut through its centre.	Not excavated.

3810	Fill of 3809: A dark grey brown silty clay with charcoal flecks.	Not excavated.
3811	Pit: A c.0.6m diameter small pit or large posthole that extended beyond the trench. It had vertical to overhanging sides and a flat base.	0.53
3812	Fill of 3811: This top fill was a very dark grey brown containing pottery, animal bone and charcoal flecks.	0.42
3813	Fill of 3811: A brown silty clay containing abundant chalk flecks and rare charcoal. It was more mineral than organic.	0.25
3814	Fill of 3811: Dark grey brown silty clay containing some chalk and flint. No artefacts were recovered but charcoal was noted.	
3815	Posthole: A 0.3m diameter posthole.	Not excavated.
3816	Posthole: Cut by field drain. An estimated diameter of 0.2m.	Not excavated.

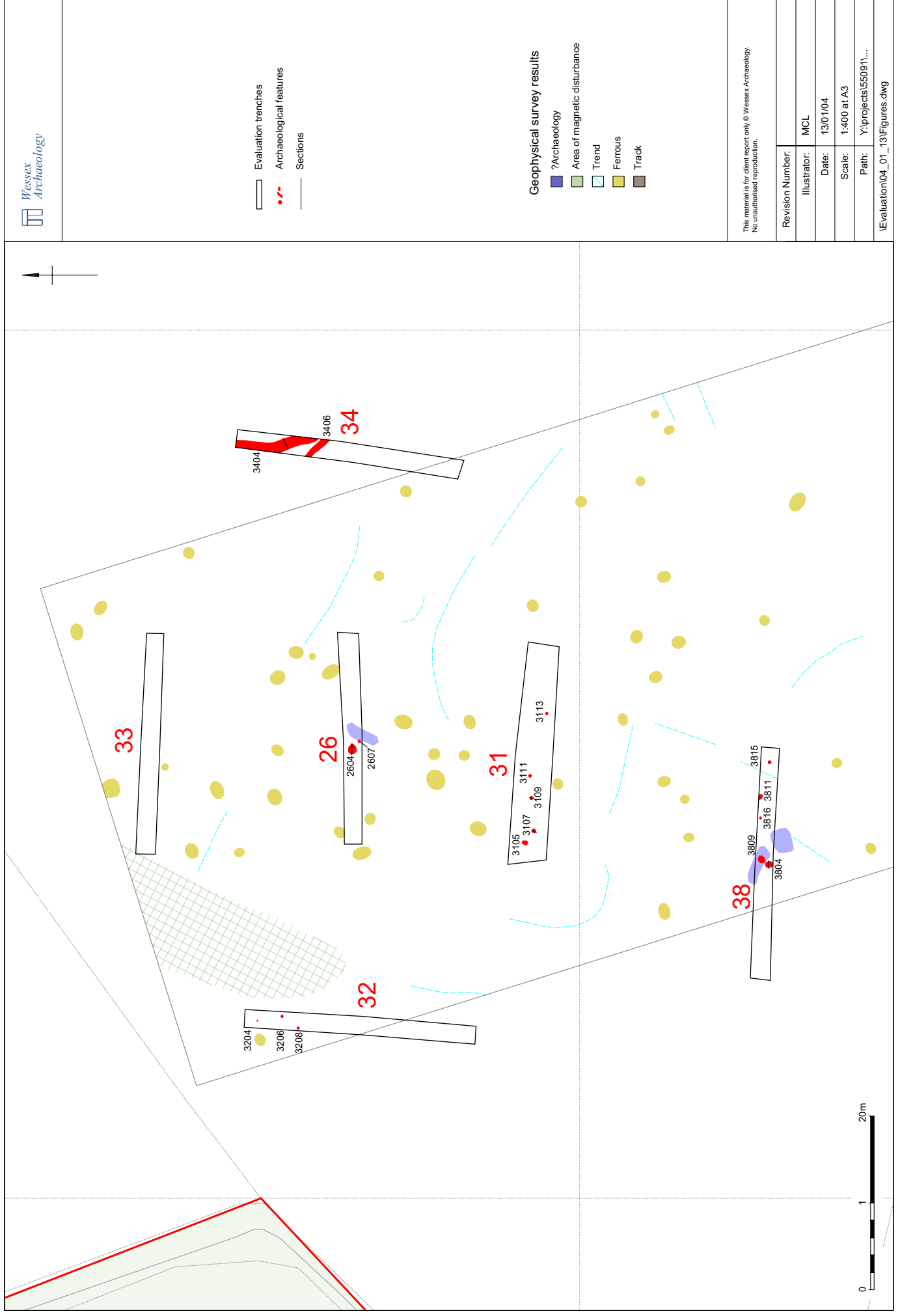
APPENDIX 2: TABLE OF FINDS BY CONTEXT
(number / weight in grammes)

Tr.	Context	Description	Animal Bone	Worked Flint	Pottery	Other Finds
8	-	unstratified	1/1		3/26	2 iron; 2 tile
13	1305	ditch 1304	2/1			7 tile
23	-	unstratified		2/65		
26	2605	pit 2604	29/358	2/18	24/461	1 burnt flint
26	2606	pit 2604	21/114	1/8	5/48	1 fired clay
26	2608	posthole 2607			1/3	
26	2610	pit 2604	1/9		1/24	1 fired clay
29	-	unstratified				1 glass
31	3104	posthole 3105	3/8		1/8	
31	3106	posthole 3107			2/11	
31	3110	posthole 3111	1/7		1/6	
34	3405	ditch 3404	13/74		7/56	
34	3407	ditch 3406				1 iron
38	3805	pit 3804	13/76		2/9	
38	3806	pit 3804	18/171			
38	3807	pit 3804	1/34			
38	3812	pit/p'hole 3811	8/63		2/90	
TOTALS			111/916	5/91	49/742	



Site and trench location plan showing geophysical survey results

Figure 1

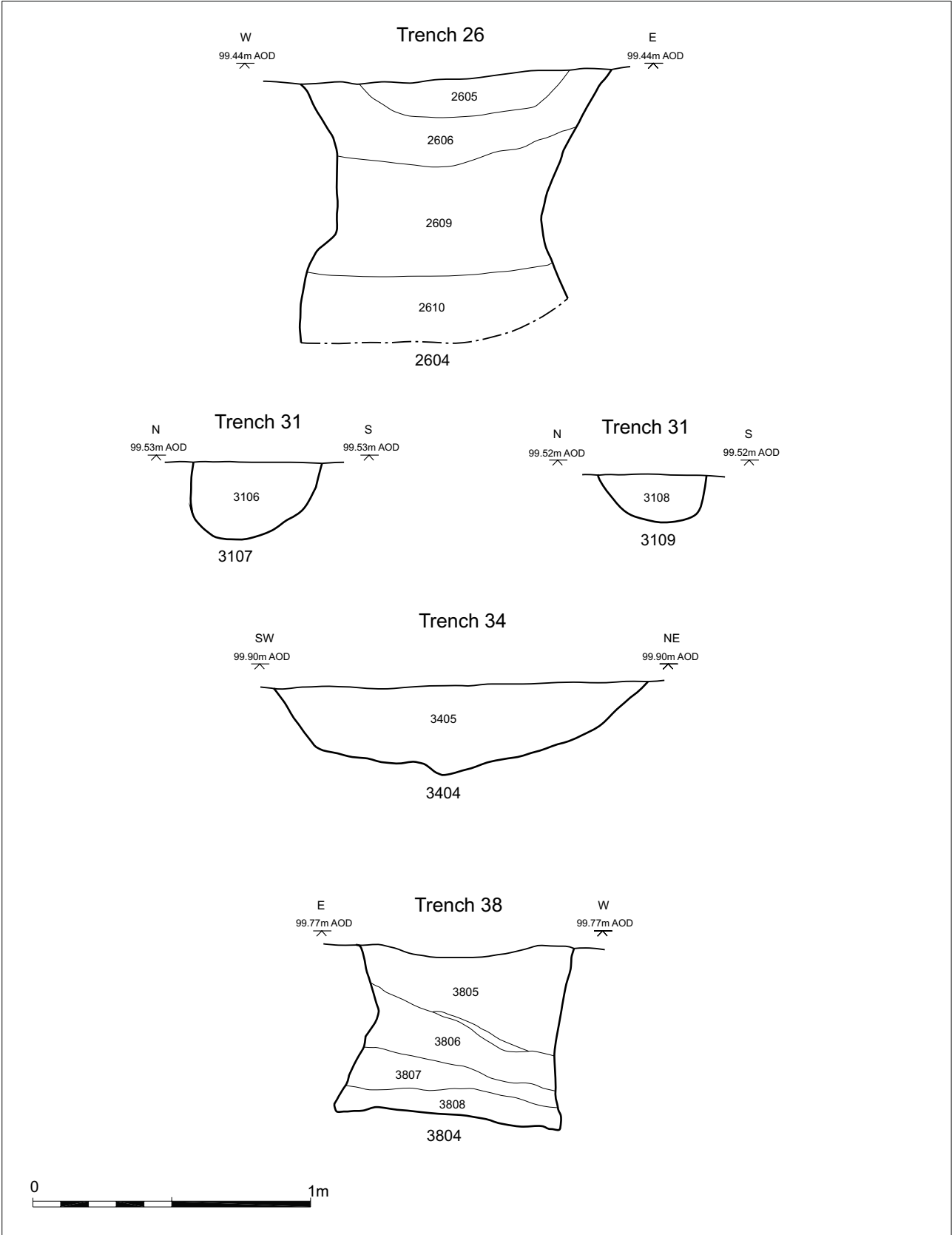


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Close-up of trenches 26, 31-34 and 38

Figure 2



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THE TRUST FOR WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LTD.
Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Tel:(01722) 326867 Fax:(01722) 337562

E-mail:info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk
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