

## ***Skipsea Grange, Skipsea, Holderness East Riding of Yorkshire***

*Report on an Archaeological Evaluation and an  
Assessment of the Results*



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**SKIPSEA GRANGE, SKIPSEA, HOLDERNESS  
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.**

**REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND  
AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS**

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# SKIPSEA GRANGE, SKIPSEA, HOLDERNESS EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

## REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS

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# **SKIPSEA GRANGE, SKIPSEA, HOLDERNESS EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.**

## **REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at Skipsea Grange, Skipsea, Holderness, East Riding of Yorkshire, centred on NGR 517400 455000 (Figure 1). Skipsea Grange lies one mile to the south east of the village of Skipsea, alongside the main road south to Hornsea, and some ten miles to the south of the town of Bridlington.

A magnetic survey undertaken by GSB Prospection Ltd has identified a plethora of anomalies associated with a settlement and field system complex that extends over an area of more than six hectares. Indeed, it was not possible to establish the full extents of the site in the time available.

The evaluation revealed that the extensive archaeological remains on the site belong to several different phases of activity. The earliest of these appears to date to the Iron Age. Although the sherds of pottery recovered from these features are very similar to sherds of Saxon pottery, there is some evidence to support an Iron Age attribution to these sherds. Small quantities of unstratified Roman pottery suggest that there was some Roman activity in the vicinity.

The main phase of activity identified in the evaluation trenches relates to Saxo Norman and medieval activity. It is likely that many of the features identified in the geophysical survey relate to this phase of settlement – certainly the location of the ridge and furrow ploughing indicates that the contemporary settlement was substantial. Evidence from this phase takes the form of boundary ditches, possible trackways, ovens/kilns and also structures, whilst the material recovered includes pottery, animal bone, fine whetstones, a lead vessel and iron tripod, as well as slag from iron smelting and smithing. This substantial settlement does not appear to have been mentioned in the Domesday Book, although it would have lain in the parish of Cleeton. The absence of common later pottery fabrics appears to indicate that it was abandoned by the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century – a period in which Skipsea Brough was also in decline.

After its abandonment, the site is likely to have become open fields until the enclosure of the land in the post-medieval period. A single post-medieval ditch was found, along with a single 17<sup>th</sup> century token and a small number of post-medieval sherds of pottery

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### **Acknowledgements**

This programme of post-excavation and assessment work was commissioned and funded by Videotext Communications. Wessex Archaeology would like to thank the staff at Videotext, and in particular Melinda Smith (Executive Producer), Rebecca Woodhead (Assistant Producer) and Kate Edwards (Researcher) for their considerable help during the recording and post-excavation work.

The extensive collaboration and enthusiastic support during the project by Frances Davies, the current owner of Skipsea Grange, is especially acknowledged.

The evaluation strategy was developed by Professor Mick Aston (Bristol University), and all fieldwork undertaken by Time Team's retained excavators with help from Phil Abramson, Karen Adams, Norah Bermingham, Dave Dixon, Chris Dyer, Gavin Thomas and John Tibbels.

The on-site recording was undertaken and co-ordinated by Nicholas Cooke, assisted by Steve Thompson, both of Wessex Archaeology and Norah 'Nodge' Bermingham, Gavin Thomas and John Tibbels. The finds were processed on-site by Steve Thompson.

The geophysical survey was conducted by John Gater, Ben Urmston and Jimmy Adcock from GSB Prospection Limited. The field survey was undertaken by Dr Henry Chapman, University of Hull.

Wessex Archaeology co-ordinated the post-excavation programme. This report was compiled by Nicholas Cooke. Specialist work and reporting was undertaken by Lorraine Mepham and Steve Thompson (finds), Stephanie Knight (animal bone) and Nicholas Cooke (coins). The illustrations were prepared by Matthew McMurray. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Nicholas Cooke.

# **SKIPSEA GRANGE, SKIPSEA, HOLDERNESS EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.**

## **REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at Skipsea Grange, Skipsea, Holderness, East Riding of Yorkshire, centred on NGR 517400 493000 (Figure 1). Skipsea Grange lies one mile to the south east of the village of Skipsea, alongside the main road south to Hornsea, and some ten miles to the south of the town of Bridlington.

1.1.2 Skipsea Grange occupies an area of relatively high ground, at *c.*20 metres aOD, in an area of gently undulating, low hills of around 10-20m in height. The land is currently under pasture that slopes gently down towards a natural valley (originally occupied by a mere) to the west.

1.1.3 This report documents the results of archaeological survey and evaluation undertaken by Time Team, and presents an assessment of the results of these works, along with recommendations for further analysis and dissemination.

#### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The Site comprises three large rectangular fields to the west and north west of Skipsea Grange (see Figure 1). The southernmost two fields belong to Skipsea Grange. All archaeological trenching was undertaken in these two fields, which generally slope down to the south and west. The northern field which was subject to some geophysical survey, but no trial trenching, belongs to Skipsea Hill Farm. This field slopes down to the north and west. The western edge of the site is defined by the course of a small stream.

1.2.2 The geology of the Holderness region as a whole predominantly comprises Quaternary glacial and post-glacial deposits overlying Cretaceous chalk bedrock. These Quaternary deposits comprise glacial tills and glacio-fluvial deposits laid down towards the end of the last major glaciation in the area – the Devensian. The Skipsea area is predominantly covered by the lower of two substantial till units – known as the Skipsea Till, which covers most of

Holderness. The upper unit, known as the Withernsea Till, is largely confined to the south east of Holderness (Van de Noort and Ellis, 1995, 9). These tills cover the remains of the former Ipswichian coastline, which lies to the east of the edge of the Yorkshire Wolds. In amongst these tills lie patches of sands and gravels left by glacio-fluvial action or by the meltwater system formed at the end of the glaciation.

- 1.2.3 The soils of the glacial tills of the Holderness region are generally clay rich. They are generally fairly fertile, especially where drainage has been improved. Characteristic features of the Holderness landscape are the meres or inland lakes. These formed in depressions in the poorly drained glacial tills that formed in the upper geology of Holderness early in the post-glacial period. Some of these, including Skipsea Mere, to the west and north west of Skipsea Grange, probably reflect the line of pre-till valleys.
- 1.2.4 The underlying geology of the Site comprises alluvium overlying glacial till (British Geological Survey, Flamborough and Bridlington Sheet 55/65, solid and drift edition). The soils comprise deep fine and coarse loams formed from chalky till.

### **1.3 Archaeological and historical background**

- 1.3.1 The history of human exploitation of the Holderness region is a complex one, stretching as far back as the Mesolithic period. Much of this history is influenced by the possibilities afforded by, and the limitations imposed by the natural landscape.
- 1.3.2 The earliest evidence for human activity in the Skipsea area dates to the Mesolithic period (c. 8,000 – 4,500 BC). The Mesolithic period was characterised by environmental change including changing sea levels, rising temperatures, and subsequent variations in associated vegetation. There was a rise in sea level after the Devensian glaciation, slowly infilling the previously mainly dry English Channel. However, the sea level rise was neither continuous nor consistent, but was punctuated with many small recessions.
- 1.3.3 The remains of Mesolithic sites are often present as small scatters of worked flint representing transient hunting camps. Hunting, gathering and fishing sustained an expanding population. Mesolithic settlement sites are extremely rare, as the population was seasonally nomadic. The low lying land of Holderness, with its fresh water meres, offered numerous possibilities for the hunter gatherers. Finds from the region include a bone harpoon found at nearby Withow in 1902. Numerous finds of microliths have been made, along with blades and scrapers from a number of sites overlooking Skipsea Mere (Harrison, 2000, 10), whilst recent work on a possible timber structure on the margins of the mere at Round Hill suggests that it may have been in

use during the Mesolithic period. Some of the associated flintwork also probably dates to the Mesolithic periods (Van de Noort and Ellis, 1995, 330).

- 1.3.4 The Neolithic period (*c.* 4,000-2,400 BC) was characterised by more visible cultural changes. Most notably this period saw the development of agriculture along with much more sedentary settlement patterns and complex ceremonial practices, although the Skipsea area does not appear to have experienced the monumental construction and elaborate material culture assemblages that happened in parts of lowland Britain.
- 1.3.5 With this shift in exploitation strategies, the human impact on the landscape increased greatly. The evidence points to the introduction of domesticated animals and cultivated cereals, in addition to new artefact types such as pottery and new types of stone tools. There is evidence for a reduction in woodland as a result of sedentism and farming, although the population may have continued to be seasonally nomadic to an extent, exploiting different areas in the winter and in the summer.
- 1.3.6 Excavations undertaken between 1978 and 1981 by Sheffield University at Skipsea Withow revealed a timber trackway, dated by radiocarbon to the Neolithic (Harrison, 2000, 11). Elsewhere, stone tools have been found, including both Greensand and flint polished axeheads. Fieldwalking in 2002 recovered a polished flint axehead from the site itself. Slightly further afield, antiquarian excavations at West Furze revealed another probable trackway, where the vertical stakes had been sharpened using a stone adze or axe, suggesting a Neolithic or Bronze Age date (Van de Noort and Ellis, 1995, 334).
- 1.3.7 Cultural complexity increased in the Bronze Age (*c.* 2,400-700 BC), which was characterised by both mixed agriculture and specialised labour linked by a complicated trade network as evidenced by imported metalwork and ceramics. From an archaeological perspective, more is generally known about this period because of better preservation. In general, site types common to the Bronze Age include major settlement/redistribution enclosures, smaller enclosures, downland farmsteads, lowland settlements, heathland farmsteads, bronze-working sites, bronze findspots, and wrecked boats.
- 1.3.8 Antiquarian finds in the area include a beaker burial found in an eroding cliff face at Whithow peat bog in 1904, whilst more recent finds include barbed and tanged arrowheads and other flint tools. A Bronze socketed axehead, dateable to the Late Bronze Age was found as a surface find near Skipsea Brough in 1948.
- 1.3.9 The Iron Age in Britain (*c.* 700 BC – AD 43) saw not only the development of technology and the introduction of iron but also the creation of a distinct

cultural area represented mainly through the burial monuments. The distinctive monument of this period in east Yorkshire is the square barrow raised over one or more burials, often lavishly furnished with grave goods, occasionally with richly decorated weapons and wheeled vehicles. Such barrows occur in large cemeteries, and have been named as representing the 'Arras Culture', a name derived from the first recognised site, Arras, near Market Weighton, excavated in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Over 350 cemeteries have been identified. In the Iron Age, formal burial appears to have been uncommon in Britain except in East Yorkshire. As a result, the 'Arras Culture' is the largest group of Iron Age burials in Britain and therefore form an important group.

- 1.3.10 Evidence for settlement organisation comes from the excavations at Wetwang Slack, where over 80 round houses with individual rectangular ditched enclosures were recorded and linked together by droveways. Other developments include the increasing sub-division of the landscape by rectilinear field, enclosure and droveway systems, thought to reflect both population growth and changing farm practices.
- 1.3.11 There is little evidence for Iron Age in the Skipsea area apart from occasional concentrations of pottery. A number of small square enclosures identified in the West Furze area from aerial photographs may represent the ploughed out remains of square barrows. There is some limited evidence for Iron Age activity on the site itself – fieldwalking in 2002 recovered a number of sherds of Iron Age pottery.
- 1.3.12 Roman Britain (AD 43 – 410) was a heavily populated and developed place relative to previous periods. A gradual 'Romanisation' of the population took place, along with a continuation of trends observed in the Iron Age. Population and settlement increased, and a hierarchical system of settlement was developed with major towns constructed in tribal areas. Much of the countryside is likely to have been intensively farmed, either by settlements similar to those predominant in the Iron Age, or by more Romanised settlement forms such as the villa.
- 1.3.13 Skipsea lies within the tribal territory of the Parisi. There are numerous Roman findspots within the area, but few sites have been excavated. A number of potential sites have also been identified from aerial photographs, many of which lie on areas of higher ground. Roman pottery was recovered from the site during the fieldwalking of 2002. On the basis of the limited evidence, it appears that the area was extensively occupied and farmed (Harrison, 2000, 18).
- 1.3.14 With the withdrawal of Roman influence in Britain, the Anglo-Saxon period (AD 410 - 1066) was initially characterised by a decline in the production

and trade of goods due to a lack of coinage. Another notable trend was a shift of power, wealth and population from urban centres to rural locations.

- 1.3.15 Early Saxon occupation in East Yorkshire dates as far back as the first half of the fifth century AD, although few early Saxon sites have been excavated in East Yorkshire. It is unclear how these Saxon settlers interacted with the native Romano-British population, with evidence from different sites suggesting both cohabitation and displacement.
- 1.3.16 The Vikings began their invasion of eastern England in the second half of the 9<sup>th</sup> century, with the Great Viking Army overwintering in the area in AD 850/1. Beverley is supposed to have been Sacked by the Danes in 866, and a Viking kingdom established at York shortly afterwards. East Anglia, Mercia and Essex all falling into Viking hands in the 870's AD. The following decades saw a Saxon recovery, with London recaptured in 886 AD, but the Vikings maintained their hold on Yorkshire. Numerous examples of Anglo-Scandinavian metalwork, sculptures and worked antler/bone objects are known from the area.
- 1.3.17 The area was subject to significant change in the medieval period (AD 1066 – 1482) which ultimately led to the creation of the settlement pattern within the landscape we see today. Skipsea itself did not exist in 1086, at the time that the Domesday Book was compiled. Instead, much of the land within the parish lay within the parish of Cleeton. Skipsea Borough itself was founded in 1160 by William Le Gros, although the castle at Skipsea, the great motte of which rises from the mere itself, is likely to date to the late 11<sup>th</sup> century.
- 1.3.18 The Domesday Book entry for Cleeton states that;  
  
*“In Cleeton Harold had 28 carucates and 1 bovate and a half to be taxed, where it was possible to have 28 ploughs. Now Drogo has 2 ploughs and 6 villeins with 1 plough and 100 acres of pasture. To this manor belongs the soke in Dringhoe and Upton, 5 carucates and a half to be taxed where it was possible to have 5 ploughs and a half. Now there is 1 villein with 2 oxen. The whole manor with its adjacent parts is 5 miles and a half long and 1 mile wide. In the time of King Edward its value was £32, now £6. “(Harrison, 2000, 22)*
- 1.3.19 Following the conquest by William in 1066, it took several years before all of England was under his rule, and perhaps the most bloody campaign of the early years of his reign was the ‘Harrying of the North’ in 1069. Large areas of land were laid waste in retribution for uprisings and discontent. The effects of this campaign are clearly visible in the Domesday Book, where the value of many manors had fallen considerably - Cleeton is a good example of this - whilst others are simply recorded as lain waste.

- 1.3.20 Prior to the conquest, Cleeton was a royal manor, but after the conquest it was granted to Drogo, a Flemish mercenary, who was responsible for the construction of the castle at Skipsea, probably in 1087. The castle acted as the seat of the lords of Holderness until the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. A defended Borough was constructed adjacent to the castle in 1160, to the west of the modern village of Skipsea.
- 1.3.21 The manor of Skipsea changed hands numerous times in the medieval period. In addition to this, there are a number of important developments in the local landscape. The first of these was the draining of Skipsea Mere, which was probably brought about in the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The second was the rapid erosion of the coastline by the sea. The thriving fishing village of Hyde was recorded as suffering from erosion as early as 1344, and by 1400 had been completely claimed by the sea. Erosion continued apace, and by the post-medieval period, Cleeton itself had suffered a similar fate (Harrison, 2000, 34).
- 1.3.22 The buildings which now make up Skipsea Grange date to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. There is no documentary evidence to indicate that either Skipsea Grange or the nearby farm complex called the Grange represent the site of a medieval grange. The present Skipsea Grange complex was built on land enclosed from open fields in 1765.

## **1.4 Previous Archaeological Work**

- 1.4.1 GSB Prospection carried out a limited geophysical survey on two locations on the farm in 2003. The survey identified an unexpected complex of ditch-type responses to the west of Skipsea Grange, possibly indicating the core of a settlement. The area surveyed was not large enough for definitive interpretation. Survey in the field adjacent to Skipsea Grange revealed a series of linear type responses and an enclosure in the central area, continuing to the west.
- 1.4.2 The fields to the west of Skipsea Grange were converted to pasture in 2002. At this time the field was deep ploughed for the first time, and a field walking exercise was carried out. A polished flint hand axe and a leaf shaped arrow head were recovered, along with a collection of pottery spanning the Iron age, Roman, Norman and medieval periods. The bulk of the material is post-medieval and probably relates to the 18<sup>th</sup> century cottage that occupied the north-eastern corner of the western field until the 1970s.

## **2 METHODS**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled and provided by Videotext Communications Ltd (Videotext Communications 2004). This contains a detailed description of the research aims of the project, as well as the methodologies to be employed in achieving these aims, and these are only reproduced in summary here. The archaeological works undertaken as part of the programme comprised geophysical survey, and archaeological trial trenching.

*Geophysics Survey (by GSB Prospection Limited).*

- 2.1.2 A detailed report on the Geophysics survey has been prepared by GSB Prospection Limited, and forms part of the Site archive (GSB, 2004). Its aims and objectives are included here in summary form. Three areas (Figure 2), covering some six hectares within three fields to the west of Skipsea Grange were surveyed. This survey was undertaken a Bartington GRAD 601-2 fluxgate gradiometer. Conditions for survey were generally good - the two southern fields were under relatively short pasture, whilst the northern field had been rolled and harrowed.

## **2.2 Aims and objectives**

*Excavation.*

- 2.2.1 The stated aim of this project was to ascertain the significance of the archaeological material previously found on the Site (Videotext Communications, 2004, 4). The project offered the opportunity to use a number of archaeological techniques to examine the archaeological potential of the area. The main aims identified in the Project Design (Videotext Communications, 2004, 4) for the work were:

- to characterise the archaeological resource on the site and
- to provide a condition survey of those parts of the site investigated.

- 2.2.2 Within this general aim, the project offered the opportunity to establish the character, extent and nature of the features identified in the previous small scale geophysics survey. It was also suggested that the work carried out during this project would form an important resource for the landowners for the future management and interpretation of the Site.

## **2.3 Evaluation methods**

- 2.3.1 Ten trenches were excavated by machine as part of the evaluation. The size of these trenches varied in length and width according to their location and purpose. The location of the trenches was determined by Mick Aston in consultation with specialists and guided by the results of the geophysical survey, in order to answer specific aims and objectives of the Project Design.

- 2.3.2 All trenches were excavated using a JCB wheeled excavator equipped with a mechanical backhoe or by a small 360 degree tracked excavator. Both were equipped with toothless ditching buckets. All machine work was undertaken

under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological deposits, or where natural deposits were encountered. All trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits were planned, recorded and representative samples excavated by hand.

- 2.3.3 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts, drawings and samples. Trenches were located using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at 1:20, and all sections were drawn at 1:10. All features and deposits were photographed, using both digital and manual cameras (black and white and colour slide). All principal strata and features were related to Ordnance Survey datum and a photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained.
- 2.3.4 A sufficient sample of all deposits was examined to allow the resolution of the principal questions outlined in the aims and objectives above. Other deposits were recorded and preserved *in situ* but not excavated. Environmental samples were recovered from the interventions excavated as appropriate, including both bulk soil samples and monolith samples.
- 2.3.5 The work was carried out over 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2004. All spoil was metal detected by recommended local metal detectorists. At the completion of the work all trenches were reinstated using the excavated spoil from the trenches in accordance with the requirements of the landowner.

### **3 RESULTS**

#### **3.1 Geophysical survey (by GSB Prospection Limited)**

- 3.1.1 This survey has established that the areas surveyed contain a dense concentration of ditch and pit-type anomalies that extend throughout most of the six hectares investigated. Indeed, the full extents of the archaeological remains were not established by this survey (see Figure 2).

##### *South western field.*

- 3.1.2 In this area, the results from the southern half of the field are dominated by ridge and furrow ploughing (A). This is aligned north – south, and appears to respect the boundary to the complex indicated by a large linear anomaly (B). By contrast, the linear response (C), although on a similar alignment to the ploughing (A), appears to be from a different phase of activity. Similarly, the unusual responses (D) seem to cut into the archaeology; they coincide with a marked depression in the ground. It is suggested by Stewart Ainsworth (pers. comm.) that the responses could be indicative of a sand pit since several are marked on local maps in the vicinity.

- 3.1.3 A former cottage or barn is known to have occupied the site and this is likely to be in part responsible for the increased magnetic noise in the north east corner of this field (E).

*South eastern field*

- 3.1.4 There is a plethora of anomalies, particularly in the western half of the field where the complexity is such that it is difficult to unravel the detail of the archaeological features. There are numerous ditch lengths, some forming apparent enclosures (such as that at F, which appears to be D - shaped). The linear anomaly (G) forms a southern boundary to the complex, being a continuation of (B) in field 1. There is an apparent trackway formed by double ditches (H) though the presence of (I) confuses the picture and is another indication of multi phase activity. Although there is a rectilinearity to many of the ditches, others are curvilinear; many appear truncated, and it is impossible to establish how the features relate to each other.

- 3.1.5 In the north-eastern corner of the field the results demonstrate slightly different characteristics. There are numerous pit-like anomalies (J) and several parallel ditches with particularly strong magnetic responses (K). In the south east the fields and enclosures are more clearly defined and there appears to be less settlement type activity. The full extent of the field system could not be mapped in the time available.

*The northern field.*

- 3.1.6 A long linear transect aligned approximately east-west was investigated and then four short transects were surveyed to the north in an attempt to evaluate the extent of the archaeological complex.

- 3.1.7 It would appear that the north-eastern extent has been defined; there is a definite fall-off in the number of archaeological type responses at (L) and there appears to be simply ridge and furrow type anomalies at (M), perhaps indicating the limits of settlement activity. To the west, the ditches and enclosures appear to continue the length of the sample transect. The concentration of responses appears as strong as in the field to the south though there are suggestions that the anomalies may be diminishing some 50 or 60m north of the fence line. There are two strong curving anomalies (N and O) which are slightly different in character to those identified elsewhere though an interpretation is hindered by the incomplete nature of the sample. At (P) the strength and complexity of the responses is as great as anywhere in the southern field, clearly indicating that the settlement extends well into the northern field.

## **3.2 Excavation**

- 3.2.1 Ten trenches were opened during the course of the trenching. The location of these was determined by the results of the geophysical survey and other

trenches. The results of these trenches are described here (see Figure 1 for trench locations).

*Trench 1 (Figure 3)*

- 3.2.2 Trench 1 was targeted on the junction of two large linear anomalies, one aligned roughly north-south, and the second roughly west north west to east south east. Excavation revealed a palimpsest of archaeological features and deposits, many of which were not evident on the plot of the geophysical survey. All of the archaeological deposits within this trench were sealed both by the modern topsoil (101) and a colluvial subsoil (102), which is most likely to be post-medieval or modern in date.
- 3.2.3 Two interventions were excavated through the large steep-sided ditch aligned north south. In the southernmost of these, the ditch (106) was only recorded as containing a single fill (layer 105, a slowly accumulated secondary fill), although a notable charcoal lens was recorded within this layer. The northern intervention (120) proved rather more complicated. Once more, the main part of the silting sequence comprised a slow accumulation of material – the lower fill (119) was almost indistinguishable from the upper fill (115). However the two were stratigraphically separated by the remains of a small oven or kiln. This comprised a clay base (118), which had been lain directly on the base of the partially silted ditch (above 119). The upper surface of this clay base had been fired hard, and had been reddened by fire. This was sealed by a layer of burning (layer 117) which contained significant amounts of charcoal. This was in turn sealed by layer 116, the collapsed clay superstructure of the kiln or oven. After this oven had gone out of use, the process of silting within the ditch continued, with the formation of layer 115.
- 3.2.4 It is likely that the construction and use of this oven or kiln is linked to the charcoal lens identified within layer 105 in the southern intervention. Analysis of samples taken from layer 117 identified a number of charred plant remains, including oats as well as smaller quantities of barley and wild pea, but did not suggest a function for this feature. However, pottery recovered from layer 119 and also from layer 117, the fill of the kiln/oven, dates to the Saxo Norman period, suggesting that both the ditch and oven or kiln may be of this date. This is stratigraphically one of the latest features in this trench, as it cuts the fills of features 104 and 110.
- 3.2.5 The first of these, ditch 104, lay to the west of 120. This contained a single fill – layer 103, a slowly formed secondary fill. Only a partial profile of this ditch was revealed, and it is not clear whether this is related to any of the features identified to the east of ditch 120. The earliest of these was an irregular gully – cut 114 – aligned roughly west-east. This steep sided gully with a concave base, had been allowed to silt naturally (layer 113), and its northern edge had been cut by a later pit or ditch terminus (cut 112). This was only investigated in a single intervention, and its exact form could not be clearly ascertained. It contained a single fill – layer 111, which was cut by

both gully 110 and pit/posthole 108. Both of these contained a single secondary fill – layers 109 and 107 respectively. None of these layers or features contained any dated material, although stratigraphically all three linear features pre-date ditch 120, which probably dates to the Saxo Norman period.

- 3.2.6 Although relatively little dated material was recovered from stratified deposits, dated material recovered from the topsoil and subsoil included sherds of Iron Age or Saxon, Roman and medieval pottery as well as two stone whetstones, likely to date to the Late Saxon or medieval periods.

*Trench 2 (Figure 4)*

- 3.2.7 Trench 2 was targeted on a strong set of geophysical anomalies at the western end of the settlement, including what appeared to be two linear anomalies, one of which ran approximately north west-south east, whilst the second curved from west to east. As with Trench 1, the archaeological remains were sealed by both a modern topsoil (layer 201) and a colluvial subsoil (layer 202). This sealed an earlier colluvial subsoil – layer 203, which was cut by a number of archaeological features, whilst sealing others.

- 3.2.8 Amongst the features to cut this earlier subsoil was a kiln or oven – 216/7. Here, a layer of clay (216) had been lain directly on top of layer 203 to form the base of the kiln or oven. This was a roughly circular patch of clay, the upper surface of which had been reddened by heat and partially fired. The remains of the walls forming the superstructure can be seen in a line of stones (217). These were probably used to form the base of the walls, and may have been clay bonded. The exact form of the structure is hard to define, as is its function. Associated with this feature were a number of patches of charcoal (layer 215) which presumably represented episodic rake outs of material. Other material recovered from layer 203 included a number of pieces of slag created by iron smelting, although this not need be associated with this particular structure.

- 3.2.9 Sondages dug through subsoil 203 revealed a number of features. Amongst these were three roughly parallel gullies – gullies 206, 208 and 212. These may represent a reworking of the same boundary. Certainly gully 208, a shallow gully with moderately steep, concave sides and a concave base had silted up fully (layer 207) before it was cut by gully 206. This had a similar profile to gully 208 and also contained a single fill – layer 205 – which was virtually indistinguishable from 207. Gully 212 lay slightly further to the east, and had steep regular sides and a flat base This contained a single fill – layer 211, a secondary fill. Pottery was recovered from two of these features, both from layers 205 and 209. Both contained pottery sherds which are thought to date to the Iron Age but could be Saxon in date. A sondage excavated to the north of kiln/furnace 216/7 confirmed that gully 212 continued in this direction. This was investigated by intervention 214. Further sherds of Iron Age (or Saxon) pottery were recovered from 213, the

only fill of this intervention, as was a large portion of the frontal bone of a cow.

- 3.2.10 The final feature in this trench was a small pit – 210 - dug between gullies 208 and 212. This contained a single fill – layer 209. This was a deliberate backfill, containing a number of objects, including a large folded lead vessel, an iron tripod, a number of other pieces of iron and a pierced whetstone. This may represent the burial of a hoard of material – none of the objects were damaged, although the lead vessel had been folded up prior to deposition. The pit appears to have been dug specifically to contain these objects, which were fairly tightly packed within it. One sherd of Iron Age or Saxon pottery was recovered from this layer, whilst both the whetstone and lead vessel are likely to be Saxo Norman in date.

*Trench 3 (Figure 5)*

- 3.2.11 Trench 3 measured some 7m by 1.6m. It was targeted on the linear feature identified on the geophysics plot as forming the southern boundary of the settlement zone, separating it from the apparent ridge and furrow to the south. Machine excavation of this trench revealed the presence of three ditches sealed beneath the modern topsoil and subsoil (301 and 302 respectively). All three ditches cut the natural drift geology exposed on the base of the trench (303).
- 3.2.12 Two of these ditches – 304 and 308 ran roughly parallel to one another, and may be contemporary. 304 was the northernmost of these ditches. It was aligned roughly west – east, and had steep regular sides and a slightly concave base. It contained two fills. The lower was a primary fill (layer 310) confined to the southern edge of the cut. The upper fill, layer 305, was a mixed deposit which probably accumulated slowly. No anthropogenic material was recovered from either of these layers.
- 3.2.13 Ditch 308 was the southernmost of these ditches, and was similar in profile to 304, although its western profile had been destroyed by later truncation. This only contained a single fill – slowly formed secondary deposit 309. No artefacts were recovered from this feature
- 3.2.14 The largest of the ditches, 306, ran west – east across the trench, on a slightly different alignment. It cut through layer 309, the fill of ditch 308. The stratigraphic relationship between this ditch and 304 to the north was not established by excavation. It had irregular stepped sides and a flat base, and contained a single thick homogenous secondary fill (layer 307). No finds were recovered from this deposit – indeed the only finds from the trench were a small number of animal bones recovered from the topsoil.
- 3.2.15 It is unclear whether the three ditches excavated in this trench represent different attempts to define the same boundary, or whether ditches 304 and

308 are contemporaneous and perhaps define a trackway. Unfortunately, the absence of securely dated artefacts from any of these features cannot help resolve this, whilst not all of the features excavated are evident on the geophysics plot.

*Trench 4 (Figure 6)*

- 3.2.16 Trench 4 was 'T' shaped and measured some 11.50m long by a maximum of 6.2m at its widest point, although for much of its length, it measured some 3.3m wide. It was targeted on a substantial linear anomaly identified on the geophysics plot, apparently forming the western extent of a large D shaped enclosure (see Figure 2). Removal of the topsoil (401) revealed a palimpsest of archaeological features. A limited area of subsoil (402), perhaps colluvial in origin, was recorded, having formed in the hollow created by the densest concentration of features.
- 3.2.17 The excavation of the trench revealed a number of features which were not evident on the geophysics plot. These included a number of gullies and small discrete features at the western end of the trench. Two parallel gullies, aligned east north east to west south west were recorded in the north western corner of the trench. The northernmost of these, 411, a narrow gully with relatively steep regular sides and a flat base, contained a single undifferentiated fill – layer 410. To the south, gully 409 was slightly larger, with moderately steep regular sides and a concave base. It too contained a single undifferentiated fill – layer 408. The eastern end of this gully was truncated by a similar gully on a north – south alignment. This gully – 425 - had steep sides and a concave base. Its only fill, layer 424, was a slowly accumulated secondary fill. A second similar gully, 423, ran parallel to this, a short distance to the west, but terminated before the line of gully 409. This could indicate that these two gullies are contemporaneous. No anthropogenic material was recovered from layer 422 – the slowly formed secondary fill of 423. A small patch of darker soil lying between gullies 409 and 411 was investigated (layer 412). This proved to be a thin layer of charcoal rich material which had formed in a hollow in the underlying natural (layer 431). Pottery recovered from this layer, which appeared to be cut by both 409 and 411, dates to the Iron Age or Saxon period, and provides the only dating material for this set of features.
- 3.2.18 A small circular or sub circular pit lay to the east of gully 425. This pit (429) was relatively shallow with gently sloping sides and a flat base. The single fill – layer 430 – contained no dateable material. However, the south eastern edge of this feature was truncated by ditch 404, the large ditch aligned north – south on which the trench was targeted. At over 2m wide, this was a substantial feature, with steep slightly irregular sides and an irregular base. The profile of this feature appeared to suggest that it might have been recut at some stage, although there was no evidence for more than one fill within the cut. Only one fill was recorded – layer 403 – a homogenous secondary fill. One sherd of pottery was recovered from this fill – a very small sherd of shell

tempered pottery dated to the Saxo Norman period. This fill was sealed by the localised subsoil deposit, layer 402.

- 3.2.19 It was not possible within the confines of the trench to establish the stratigraphic relationship between 404 and ditch 406, which lay adjacent and parallel to it to the east. This was a less substantial ditch, with had steep, slightly concave sides and a concave base. It contained a single thick secondary fill, from which a single piece of undiagnostic fired clay was recovered (layer 405). This fill was sealed by two layers which accumulated on the eastern side of the ditch – layers 419 and 420. These may represent the fragmentary remains of a buried land surface.
- 3.2.20 Ditch 406 itself cut an earlier feature – curving gully 415. This was stratigraphically the earliest feature in this sequence, and contained a single secondary fill – layer 416. This curved towards the east, where it would have been further truncated by ditch 417. This latter ditch, which may also have curved to the east, was cut through layers 419 and 420. This had steep sides and a flat base, and an unusual fill sequence. In total, this ditch contained four fills – layers 418, 432, 433 and 435. Three of these – layers 418, 435 and 433 appear to represent successive episodes of natural silting. 418 is a thick, slowly formed secondary fill, 435 is a thin secondary silt, possibly a tipline from an adjacent bank or spoil heap, and 433 was a slow tertiary silting. 432 on the other hand is a mixed deposit, probably a deliberate backfill. It is confined to the western half of the feature, and has an almost vertical edge with the other three deposits. This strongly suggests that these three deposits formed against a solid barrier, such as a wooden revetment. It is not clear why this may have been done.
- 3.2.21 Three further features lay within this trench, two of which were not excavated. These latter two are a modern land drain at the eastern end of the trench, and a roughly circular deposit of burnt or ashy material evident in the upper fill of ditch 404. This may represent a small pit or posthole (437).
- 3.2.22 The third feature is a small oven or kiln and associated flue – 413 – to the east of 417, and probably cutting 433. This contained two charcoal rich fills – layers 407 and 414 – both of which probably represent different episodes of *in situ* burning. A single fragment of animal bone was recovered from the former.
- 3.2.23 Very few of the features in this trench are well dated. Small quantities of Iron Age/Saxon and Saxo Norman pottery were found, but these are small, and may be residual in the contexts in which they were found. It is clear from the stratigraphy alone that there are a number of different phases of activity represented in the features investigated.

### *Trench 5 (Figure 7)*

- 3.2.24 Trench 5 was some 8m long, 1.65m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1m. It was targeted on two linear anomalies. Machine excavation of the topsoil and subsoil (layers 501 and 502 respectively) revealed archaeological features and deposits across much of the trench, with only small areas of undisturbed drift geology (layer 505) evident.
- 3.2.25 The northernmost feature within the trench was a linear feature, extending beyond the end of the trench. The full extents of this feature were not defined, and it was not investigated archaeologically. Only the upper fill of this feature (layer 507) was recorded in detail
- 3.2.26 An intervention was excavated to examine the nature of the feature shown on the geophysics plot – ditch 503. This ditch was aligned south west to north east and had steep stepped sides and a flat base. This contained a single homogenous, slowly formed secondary fill containing lenses of charcoal and ashy material. Much of the trench to the south of 503 appeared to contain an archaeological layer – 506. There was no time to investigate this deposit in detail, and it is possible that it represents a lower colluvial subsoil – the field drops away to the south at this point – sealing other archaeological features, including the second linear feature identified by the geophysics.
- 3.2.27 Finds from trench 5 included a number of pieces of animal bone, a horseshoe and a sherd of gazed medieval pottery. The latter remains the only evidence recovered for the date of any of the features or deposits identified in this trench.

### *Trench 6 (Figure 8)*

- 3.2.28 Trench 6 was targeted on a number of geophysics anomalies, including the eastern edge of the same D-shaped enclosure as Trench 4. Once more the removal of the topsoil (layer 601) and subsoil (layer 602) revealed a palimpsest of features cut in to the natural drift geology (603).
- 3.2.29 The latest feature in the trench is a linear feature running roughly east-west – ditch 611. Although only one intervention was partially excavated through this feature, it clearly cut the rest of the features along its line. The one intervention through this ditch established that it cut layer 605, the only fill of north - south linear 604. This did not allow the full profile of either of these features to be recorded. Neither layer 605 or layer 612 (the only recorded fill of ditch 611) contained any anthropogenic material.
- 3.2.30 At the eastern end of the ditch, 611 clearly cut the line of a second north south ditch – 610. Although time constraints meant that this latter feature could not be fully excavated, it was clearly a substantial boundary ditch, some 2.76m wide and 0.61m deep. It contained a single thick homogenous

secondary fill, layer 608. Substantial quantities of medieval pottery were recovered from this deposit.

- 3.2.31 The western edge of ditch 610 cut an earlier deposit – layer 609. This layer formed within a shallow hollow, 617, probably as the result of occupation activity. A number of sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from this deposit, as well as a single sherd of residual Roman pottery. Layer 609 sealed a layer of reworked drift geology, 613 which probably indicates that hollow 617 probably formed as the result of human or animal activity.
- 3.2.32 Ditch 610 also appeared to truncate a line of water-worn stones, 616, which may have formed part of a wall footing aligned north east – south west. A gap in this alignment of stones was filled with a compacted layer of gravel 614, which may represent the site of a threshold. A second putative wall footing, 615, of similar construction, lay roughly perpendicular to 616. Both of these possible walls were laid after layer 609 had formed, but neither is well dated.
- 3.2.33 The fill of a putative post hole – 607 – was partially investigated. This appeared to fill a small pit or posthole cutting 609. Saxo Norman and medieval pottery sherds were recovered from 606, the only recorded fill of this feature. The final feature in this trench is an ovoid pit – 618 – which was excavated in its entirety in case it contained a burial. This shallow oval pit contained a single undated fill – layer 619.

*Trench 7 (Figure 9)*

- 3.2.34 Trench 7 lay beyond the area covered by the geophysical survey. It was excavated to investigate the remains of a building on this spot within living memory, and which is shown on early Ordnance Survey maps. The topsoil (701) and a colluvial subsoil (702) were removed by machine to reveal the natural drift geology (703). No traces of the former building on this site were seen, although the natural geology was cut by three modern postholes, still containing wood. These are too small to have formed part of a substantial building. These were not recorded in detail.

*Trench 8 (Figure 1)*

- 3.2.35 Trench 8 was a large trench, some 10m by 6m, targeted on a linear geophysics anomaly. The topsoil was removed by machine to reveal the underlying drift geology (layer 803). This was cut by two wide shallow plough furrows, aligned roughly north – south. These were briefly investigated to confirm their form, but not recorded in detail.

*Trench 9 (Figure 10)*

- 3.2.36 Trench 9 was an ‘L’ shaped trench, targeted on a substantial curving anomaly identified on the geophysical survey. Here the topsoil (901) directly overlay

the natural drift geology (914), which was cut by a number of archaeological features.

- 3.2.37 The anomaly identified on the geophysical survey proved to be caused by two elongated features – 911 and 905/916. The latter was cut by a curving gully. This was investigated in two interventions – cuts 903 and 918. It was a shallow gully with steep sides and a flattish base. Each of the two interventions excavated contained a single undifferentiated secondary fill (layers 902 and 917 respectively). Eleven sherds of pottery recovered from the former of these could date to the Iron Age or Saxon periods. This curving gully clearly cut through the only fill of sub rectangular cut 905/916.
- 3.2.38 Pit 905/916 was sub rectangular, with very steep sides and a flattish base. It was excavated in quadrants, the south eastern of which was recorded as 905 and the north western as 916. Cut 905 contained a single fill – layer 904 – which was a thick homogenous deposit, probably a deliberate backfill. This was recorded as 915 in the north western intervention. The pottery recovered from 904 dates to the Iron Age or Saxon period. It was clear from intervention 916 that this feature had truncated earlier features, the truncated remains of two of which were identified at the base of the feature. Both of these features – pits 906 and 908 – were too truncated for their purpose to be clear. Both contained single truncated fills – layers 907 and 919 respectively. Neither of these layers contained any dateable material.
- 3.2.39 To the north of this, a section was dug across a second similar feature – cut 911. A second intervention through this feature could not be completed in the available time. This feature was not as regular as 905/916, with irregular sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill – layer 910. This poorly sorted fill may be a deliberate backfill. The only other feature in this trench was 913 – the terminus of a short gully, aligned west-east. This contained single fill – layer 912 – which contained no anthropogenic material.
- 3.2.40 As well as the quantities of pottery recovered from layers 902 and 904, small amounts of pottery sherds were recovered unstratified from the topsoil, including more sherds which may be Iron Age or Saxon, a sherd of sandy medieval pottery and a single sherd of post-medieval redware. Unfortunately, none of the sherds of pottery of the Iron Age or Saxon calcareous tempered fabric were diagnostic enough to date these to either period. Although the presence of Saxon material in a number of other trenches excavated might hint at a Saxon date, Iron Age pottery was recovered during the earlier fieldwalking, and curving gully 903/918 is reminiscent of a ring gully associated with an Iron Age roundhouse.

*Trench 10 (Figure 11)*

- 3.2.41 Trench 10 was targeted on a curving linear anomaly on the eastern side of the site, thought to represent the eastern boundary of the settlement. Removal of

the topsoil (1001) revealed a thick colluvial subsoil (layer 1002). A shallow modern gully (cut 1004, fill 1005) was cut into the top of this subsoil. Removal of the subsoil deposit from the northern half of the trench by machine revealed a second linear – ditch 1006, cutting the natural drift geology (1003). This ditch had steep irregular sides and a concave base, and terminated within the trench. Pottery recovered from 1007, the only fill of this feature, included sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery, the latest of which appears to date to the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## **4 FINDS**

### **4.1 Introduction.**

- 4.1.1 Finds were recovered from nine of the ten trenches excavated; no finds were recovered from Trench 7, and very little from trenches 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10. All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are summarised by trench in Table 1.
- 4.1.2 The assemblage is predominantly of medieval date, with some Anglo-Scandinavian or Saxo-Norman material; there are also sporadic occurrences of residual prehistoric and Romano-British artefacts. A small group of pottery remains at this stage of uncertain date, either Iron Age or Saxon.
- 4.1.3 Subsequent to quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned in order to gain an overall idea of the range of types present, their condition, and their potential date range. Spot dates have been recorded for selected material types as appropriate. All finds data are currently held on an Access database.
- 4.1.4 This section presents an overview of the finds assemblage, on which is based an assessment of the potential of this assemblage to contribute to an understanding of the site in its local and regional context.

**Table 1: All finds by context**

CBM = ceramic building material

<b>Material</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Pottery	13/312	10/131	-	5/25	1/4	284/3391	2/22	20/212	14/257	<b>349/4354</b>
<i>?Iron Age</i>	2/24	8/65	-	1/4	-	-	-	18/195	-	<b>29/288</b>
<i>Roman</i>	1/9	-	-	-	-	1/17	-	-	-	<b>2/26</b>
<i>Medieval</i>	10/279	2/66	-	4/21	1/4	283/3374	2/22	1/5	11/163	<b>314/3934</b>
<i>Post-medieval</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/12	3/94	<b>4/106</b>
CBM	-	-	-	-	1/225	-	-	-	3/105	<b>4/330</b>
Fired Clay	1/35	1/22	-	1/6	7/265	-	-	-	-	<b>10/328</b>
Clay Pipe	-	-	-	-	-	-	2/5	-	-	<b>2/5</b>
Flint	1/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/5	-	<b>2/6</b>
Stone	5/1669	1/55	-	1/144	-	-	-	1/25	-	<b>8/1893</b>
Glass	-	1/9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1/9</b>
Slag	31/2126	12/482	-	1/191	2/128	1/124	-	1/172	-	<b>48/3223</b>
Metalwork	2	12	-	-	1	6	8	1	1	<b>33</b>
<i>Copper</i>	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	<b>3</b>
<i>Alloy</i>	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	<b>6</b>
<i>Lead</i>	-	10	-	-	1	5	5	1	1	<b>23</b>
<i>Iron</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Animal Bone	118/2989	312/2113	6/257	3/3	-	84/939	-	-	-	<b>523/6301</b>
Shell	-	2/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>2/4</b>

## 4.2 Pottery

4.2.1 The pottery assemblage is largely of medieval date, with some Anglo-Scandinavian or Saxo-Norman material; there are also a few Romano-British and post-medieval sherds. A small group of pottery remains undated at this stage, and could be either Iron Age or Saxon. The general condition of the assemblage is good, although those sherds which are apparently residual in later contexts are generally more heavily abraded. This overview of the pottery assemblage is based on notes made after initial examination of much (but not all) of the assemblage on site by Peter Didsbury and Terry Manby.

4.2.2 The pottery has been quantified by broad ware type, correlated with known types where possible (for example, from the York or Beverley type series), although much of the medieval assemblage has been more broadly grouped. Totals by ware type/group are given in **Table 2**.

**Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type/group**

Date Range	Ware type/group	No. sherds	Weight (g)
IRON AGE or SAXON?	Rock-tempered ware	16	147
	Grog-tempered ware	2	7
	Calcareous ware	1	30
	Sandy ware	9	95
	Sandy/calcareous ware	1	9
ROMANO-BRITISH	Whiteware	1	17
	Oxidised ware	1	9
SAXO-NORMAN/MEDIEVAL	Torksey-type ware	3	96
	Shelly wares	3	37
	York gritty wares	9	217
	?Beverley Orangewares	52	593
	?Scarborough wares	6	45
	Misc. fine sandy wares	162	2110
	Misc. sandy coarsewares	63	626
	Misc. coarsewares	16	210
POST-MEDIEVAL	Stoneware	2	4
	Redware	2	102
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>4354</b>

*?Iron Age or Saxon*

4.2.3 A small group of pottery (29 sherds) remains at this stage of uncertain date. These sherds are in a variety of fabrics ranging from relatively fine sandy to

‘gritty’ quartz-tempered and rock-tempered. It includes two rim sherds, neither from forms which are particularly chronologically distinctive. These sherds are currently dated as either Iron Age or Saxon, and await further analysis to refine the dating. The largest group came from trench 9 (particularly 904), with sporadic occurrences from trenches 1, 2 and 4, where they largely appear to be residual.

#### *Romano-British*

- 4.2.4 Two sherds have been identified as Romano-British – a whiteware mortarium rim from 609, and an oxidised rim sherd, less confidently identified, from trench 1 topsoil. Both were residual finds.

#### *Saxo-Norman and Medieval*

- 4.2.5 The largest component of the assemblage is of Saxo-Norman or medieval date. The earliest material is represented by a handful of sherds of wheel thrown sandy Torksey-type ware (trenches 1, 2 and 6), including jar rims, and shelly wares (trenches 1, 4 and 6). Torksey-type ware was dominant in the 10<sup>th</sup> century and first half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century at Beverley (Watkins 1991), but does not appear to have been in use at Lincoln before c. AD 1000 (J. Young, pers. comm.). The shelly wares have a similar Saxo-Norman date range; a rim sherd from trench 6 is almost certainly a Lincolnshire product.

- 4.2.6 Sherds in hard-fired, quartz-gritted, ‘pimply’ fabrics fall within the range of York ‘gritty’ wares, for which a later 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century date would be appropriate (trenches 1, 4 and 6). Vessel forms include jars, some lid-seated. The remainder of the medieval assemblage is less certainly attributed to ware type, but the sandy wares, many of them glazed, almost certainly include later York types as well as Beverley Orangewares and a few possible Scarborough wares. Later York wares and Beverley wares, mostly from trench 6, are suspension-glazed (the splashed/suspension-glazed transition is conventionally held to be c. AD 1150 in eastern Yorkshire). By the 13<sup>th</sup> century the dominant coarseware fabrics on the site are likely to have been Staxton/Potter Brompton and Beverley Orangeware types. The former are sandy coarsewares with occasional limestone inclusions, often with a grey core; there are also jar forms present here of Staxton form but in non-Staxton fabrics, some with fine sand/chalk tempering. The Beverley wares appear to be restricted to the Beverley 1-type Orangewares – an apparent absence of Beverley 2-type Orangeware suggests that this assemblage dates no later than the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century, and there is none of the Humberware that would be expected here after c. AD 1300.

### **4.3 Post-medieval**

- 4.3.1 The remaining four sherds are post-medieval, comprising two English stonewares and two coarse, glazed redwares.

### **4.4 Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay**

4.4.1 The ceramic building material recovered is all of post-medieval date and includes fragments of brick and roof tile; all came from topsoil contexts.

4.4.2 The fired clay, which consists of small, abraded and featureless fragments, is also likely to be of structural origin although of uncertain date.

#### **4.5 Worked Stone**

4.5.1 The worked stone comprises three complete whetstones (trenches 1 and 2), two of which are perforated at one end; one other possible whetstone with surface polish (trench 1); a broken, rounded pebble, possibly burnt and possibly otherwise utilised; a fragment of lava quernstone (trench 4); and two small unworked pieces, possibly non-local (trenches 1 and 9). The whetstones may be imported items – the trade in schist whetstones from Norway in the Late Saxon and medieval periods is well documented, and examples are known from York and Beverley.

#### **4.6 Slag**

4.6.1 The small quantity of slag recovered is technologically mixed. There is at least one piece of iron smithing slag, a hearth bottom from trench 4 (topsoil), but the majority of the assemblage is of much denser, ‘runnier’ texture which is characteristic of iron smelting debris. This material was concentrated in trenches 1 and 2.

#### **4.7 Metalwork**

##### *Copper alloy*

4.7.1 The three copper alloy objects comprise a post-medieval trade token from trench 2 topsoil, an oval buckle, late medieval or post-medieval, from trench 6 (608), and a stud from trench 8 topsoil.

4.7.2 The trade token (unstratified find from trench 2) was struck by tradesman Barney Buttrey in Pocklington, Yorkshire, probably in 1666. Tokens such as this were common in the mid to late 17<sup>th</sup> century. In the reigns of James I and Charles I, patents for the striking of small copper farthings were granted to a number of Royal favourites. Unfortunately, this led to problems, as the patterns rarely changed, and the coins were easy to forge. In response to this, Parliament suppressed these farthings in 1644. A new ‘authorised’ small coinage was intended, but was not introduced due to the Civil War and from 1648 onwards, tradesmen, corporations and even private individuals struck their own token. No copper coinage was issued for the duration of the Commonwealth, and tokens effectively acted as the small change for the nation. It was not until 1672 that the crown started minting small coinage once again under Charles II that the use of these tokens became prohibited. Barney Buttrey is one of only two issuers of trade tokens known from Pocklington, and struck his tokens in 1666. The parish register records his

death on July 15<sup>th</sup> 1669 (Williamson 1967, Yorkshire 252, p.1331). Pocklington lies only a short distance to the west of Skipsea, and the token was probably lost in normal circulation.

### *Lead*

- 4.7.3 Perhaps the most interesting metal object is a large vessel, straight sided, apparently lacking any handle attachment, probably cylindrical but now squashed almost flat (context 209). This was found associated with an iron tripod, although it is not clear whether the two objects were used in conjunction. Possible signs of burning on the base of the vessel noted in the field were discounted during subsequent examination, and investigation by an endoscope shed no light on the possible contents of the vessel.
- 4.7.4 The dating of this vessel is uncertain – a single small pottery sherd found in the same context is not at this stage definitively dated, and could be either Iron Age or Saxon. However, a fine whetstone recovered suggests a date in the Saxon or Saxo Norman period. Other lead vessels found in Humberside and outside the region (over 30 are known altogether) have a date range from the Roman to Anglo-Saxon periods. Some of these buckets are considered to have had a religious association, while one from Flixburgh came from a secular site and contained an entire carpenter's tool hoard (D. Evans pers. comm.).
- 4.7.5 Other lead finds appear to be waste pieces or offcuts rather than objects.

### *Iron*

- 4.7.6 As well as the tripod found with the lead vessel, iron objects include nails, a clench bolt, three horseshoes (trenches 2, 5 and 8). Other objects remain unidentified at this stage – all the iron objects are heavily corroded.

## **4.8 Other Finds**

- 4.8.1 Other finds comprise two pieces of prehistoric worked flint; two clay tobacco pipe stems; a fragment of modern vessel glass; and two small fragments of oyster shell.

## **4.9 Animal Bone**

- 4.9.1 The majority of contexts that could be spot dated contained medieval pottery, although trenches 2 and 9 appeared to be mainly Iron Age in composition. Many bones assigned here as unphased can probably be dated stratigraphically.

**Table 3: Condition of bones by phase (number of specimens)**

	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Mixed</b>	<b>Total</b>
Unphased	3	21	13	37
Iron Age		32		32
Medieval		202		202
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>271</b>

4.9.2 The vast majority of bones, and all phased fragments, were in moderate condition with very small numbers of bone in poor or mixed condition (**Table 3**). Poor condition in some deposits included bones that appeared to have been eroded.

4.9.3 Evidence for scavenger activity was present in medieval and unphased groups, and may have biased the assemblage in favour of the larger mammals and bone elements. Loose teeth formed 11% of the assemblage (a tenth of all identified fragments) and were found in all periods, suggesting that some fragmentation or reworking occurred. Of the 271 bones, 41% were identified to species, and many of the unidentified bones were rib and vertebral fragments.

#### *Animal husbandry*

4.9.4 Cattle dominated the assemblage with a smaller number of sheep/goat, and relatively high proportion of horse (**Table 4**). The slightly higher proportion of sheep/goat compared to cattle in the medieval period may be an effect of small sample size. Pigs are not well represented, although are slightly more common in the Iron Age. Dog bones were few and found singly; birds and fish were also infrequently observed, including young individual(s) in 101 and another in 109, all similar morphologically to domestic fowl. Fish bones were seen in 107 and 607.

**Table 4: Species list and percentages (number of identified specimens)**

	<b>Horse</b>	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Sheep/Goat</b>	<b>Pig</b>	<b>Dog</b>	<b>Bird</b>	<b>Fish</b>	<b>Unidentified</b>	<b>Total</b>
NISP	12	66	21	3	2	3	3	161	271
% of ID	11	60	19	3	2	3	3		

4.9.5 18% of bones could be aged, including an immature horse metapodial in 301; cattle were more commonly immature. Size information was much less abundant, with 20 measurable bones, many fairly small. Two medieval and one unphased cattle pelvis showed signs of pathological modification resulting from old age or heavy use.

### *Consumption and deposition*

- 4.9.6 Butchery marks were seen on 23 bones, including frequent helical fractures, presumably made when extracting marrow, and chops for portioning. Cuts from filleting meat or disarticulating bones were rare. Of interest in the Iron Age material is a transverse cut below the lower orbit of the cattle skull in 213, perhaps made during skinning. Only two bones were burnt.
- 4.9.7 An unusual deposit (213) contained a substantially complete cattle skull, from a horned individual with twisted and ridged horn core, lacking many of its teeth which were presumably lost pre-depositionally. Such deposits are common in Iron Age and Romano-British deposits (Grant 1984) and may have a special significance. In medieval contexts some deposits characteristic of specific activities were seen, including 601 where cattle mandibles and metatarsals were over-represented, although this may be explained by differential preservation, since these are dense elements that survive well.
- 4.9.8 In 201 a high proportion of sheep-sized bones but a smaller proportion of cattle bones were gnawed, and this could suggest differential disposal of bones from different species. For instance, smaller animals may have been butchered (and perhaps meat cooked on the bone) then the bones thrown to the dogs, while bones from larger animals were deposited directly after butchery (a large proportion of the cattle bones were 'waste' elements from the head and feet).

### **4.10 Potential and Recommendations**

- 4.10.1 This is a small but significant assemblage which can shed light on the nature, date range and scale of Saxo-Norman and medieval activity at Skipsea Grange.
- 4.10.2 The pottery assemblage is worthy of further analysis in order to refine the preliminary dating, in particular to distinguish between possible Iron Age and Saxon material. The whole assemblage will be subjected to detailed fabric and form analysis (by a specialist with knowledge of the local and regional pottery sequence) correlated with local type series where appropriate (York and Beverley for the Saxo-Norman and medieval period). Confirmation will be sought of a Lincolnshire origin for some fabric types. A small, representative selection of vessels will be illustrated.
- 4.10.3 All the metalwork, apart from the lead, will be X-radiographed as a basic record, and also to aid identification. A small selection of objects will be made for further investigative conservation work, involving cleaning and stabilisation. This will include the lead vessel, for which further conservation work will involve the investigation of any possible contents. This object will be discussed in the context of other lead vessels from the region and beyond,

in terms of its possible function(s). This object will be illustrated and/or photographed for publication.

- 4.10.4 Stone types will be identified for the whetstones, in order to confirm (or otherwise) a continental origin. One of the whetstones may be illustrated for publication.
- 4.10.5 Despite the generally good condition of the faunal assemblage, it is very small, and this fact alone limits any potential for better understanding animal exploitation. However, as residuality appears to be limited, when contextual information is available it may be possible to make very general observations on animal husbandry, consumption and deposition at this site. Further work beyond restructuring and writing this report up with parallels is not thought necessary.
- 4.10.6 Other material types occur in insufficient quantities to warrant further analysis; but information gathered as part of this assessment could be utilised in any proposed publication.

## **5 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

### **5.1 Samples taken and palaeo-environmental evidence**

- 5.1.1 Two bulk samples were taken from two medieval kiln/oven/hearths and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal.

### **5.2 Assessment Results; methods and data**

- 5.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh and the residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm, 1mm and 0.5 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded.
- 5.2.2 The flots were scanned under a x10 - x30 stereo-binocular microscope and presence of charred remains quantified (Table 6), to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and charcoal remains. Both flots were reasonably large, and contained some roots and occasional modern seeds. That from Trench 2 was notably more rooty than that from the oven.

### **5.3 Charred plant remains**

- 5.3.1 Both samples were relatively rich in plant remains containing some 50 to 100 items. That from trench 1, oven 118 contained only a single grain hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare sl*), but about thirty to forty grains of oats (*Avena*

sp.). No floret bases were recovered so it could not be ascertained whether they represent the wild or cultivated variety. However, all were quite large and given the number recovered there is a distinct possibility that they are indeed of cultivated oats (*Avena sativa*). A few weed seeds were also recovered of vetches/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) or which some had the size and appearance (an elongated hilum) of smooth tare (*Vicia tetrasperma*). Two seeds of knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) were also recovered as well as two smaller seeds of goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) and chickweed (*Stellaria media*).

5.3.2 The sample from the hearth 413, while containing less wood charcoal had some thirty to forty grains of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum* *sl*) and a similar number of charred remains of vetches/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) and oats. Seeds of other species were relatively rare with only single occurrences of the wetland plant spikerush (*Eleocharis palustris*) and orache (*Atriplex* sp.).

5.3.3 While oats is a common crop within medieval Scotland it is more associated with animal fodder in England (Greig 1991). This does not preclude the possibility that the medieval inhabitants of Skipsea Grange were also eating oats. Both barley (*Hordeum vulgare* *sl*) and free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum* *sl*) are well known from other English medieval sites and were also recovered from Wharram (Arthur 1979).

5.3.4 The quite wide variety of weed seeds within the samples also provides information as to the location and past field condition in which the crops were grown. The high presence of vetches, while possibly associated with fodder, may also be indicative of the cultivation of nitrogen poor soils. The find of spikerush is of some interest as the plant is associated with wetland and so may indicate the cultivation of wet, occasionally flooded marginal soils.

## 5.4 Charcoal

5.4.1 Charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in Table 6. The sample from the oven 118 in Trench 1 contained several largish fragments of charcoal with some occasional round wood fragments. The sample from the small hearth/oven 413 in Trench 2 contained relatively few larger fragments of wood charcoal.

## 5.5 Potential of the environmental evidence.

5.5.1 The plant remains have the potential to reveal the range of crops under cultivation and utilised by medieval villagers within the immediate vicinity. Full analysis would also have the potential to reveal a clearer picture of the cultivation methods, field conditions and how the crops were processed and stored from which the sample was derived. However, it should be noted that

this one sample may not be representative of ‘normal’ activities upon the Site, and from this point no further work is recommended.

5.5.2 Only the charcoal from oven 118 has any further potential. Analysis would reveal the range of fuel and possibly if the oven’s function is known the use of selected fuel. As above, given that only a single sample is available no further work is recommended.

5.5.3 No further work is proposed on either the charcoal or the charred pant remains from these samples.

**Table 6. Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal**

Trench no/ Feature no	Context	Sample	size litres	Flot								Residue
				flot ml	size	Grain	Chaff	Weed seeds uncharred charred	Charcoal >5.6mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm	
<b>Medieval Kiln/Oven/Hearths</b>												
Tr 1 Oven 118	117	1	4	100 <sup>5</sup>	C	-	c	A	A	-	-	-
Tr 4 hearth 413	407	2	8	100 <sup>80</sup>	A*	-	-	A*	C	-	-	-

KEY: A\*\* = exceptional, A\* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs Moll-f = freshwater molluscs; Analysis, C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs

NOTE: <sup>1</sup>flot is total, but flot in superscript = ml of rooty material. <sup>2</sup>Unburnt seed in lower case to distinguish from charred remains

## 6 DISCUSSION

6.1.1 The archaeological evaluation and geophysical work undertaken by ‘Time Team’ have been largely successful in meeting the aims set out in the project design. In addition to establishing the nature of the archaeological remains, it has also been possible to characterise a number of the features identified, and provide a rough idea of the archaeological periods represented on the site. It is clear from the evaluation that the preservation of these remains is generally good, with some of the archaeological features excavated sealed beneath colluvial subsoils. Unfortunately, given the unexpected scale of the archaeological remains exposed, it was not possible to establish the full extents of the site, nor was it possible to fully characterise the archaeological remains. However, the identification of so large a site, apparently spanning the period of the Norman conquest and relatively undisturbed by later settlement or agriculture is significant both in a regional and a national context

- 6.1.2 The magnetic survey undertaken by GSB Prospection Ltd has identified a plethora of anomalies associated with a settlement and field system complex that extends over an area of more than six hectares. In fact the limits of the archaeology could not be determined in the timescale available. Clearly further survey is required in future to establish the full extent of the site.
- 6.1.3 The scale of the archaeological remains identified by the geophysical survey is such that it was not possible to fully evaluate the archaeological remains in the time available. It is clear, however, that the favourable topology of the site, rising above the mere to the west has made it a focus of occupation from the prehistoric period onwards.
- 6.1.4 One of the problems in establishing the chronology of the site has lain in the similarity in undiagnostic body sherds of pottery dated to the Iron Age or Saxon periods. These occur in a number of different fabrics, including rock tempered wares, sand wares, calcareous wares and grog tempered wares. The presence of many of these sherds in features from Trench 1 where they were clearly sealed beneath a colluvial subsoil, through which a number of features associated with Saxo-Norman pottery had been cut might indicate that these are Iron Age in date. The presence of a cow skull within one of these features, possibly a 'structured deposit' (213), may further support this interpretation.
- 6.1.5 The main concentration of these sherds of 'Iron Age/Saxon pottery sherds' lay in Trench 9, where they represent the only dating evidence for the sequence of features. Here, the possibility that curving gully 903/918 may represent a penannular 'drip gully' around an Iron Age hut might suggest that once more the sherds are Iron Age in date. Unfortunately, it is not possible to establish this for certain on the evidence available.
- 6.1.6 Two small sherds of Romano-British pottery from this evaluation, in addition to those recovered during the earlier fieldwalking exercise on the site, point to some level of Roman activity in the area. However, none of the Roman finds were stratified, and no archaeological features or deposits can be regarded as Roman in origin.
- 6.1.7 The majority of the archaeological remains identified in the course of the fieldwork date to the Saxo-Norman or early in the medieval period. Features of this date were identified in trenches 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 whilst the boundary ditches in trenches 3 and 10 may also have their origins in this period. Indeed the distribution and alignment of the ridge and furrow ploughing identified in the geophysical survey may point to the extents of the settlement. This ploughing is likely to be contemporaneous with the medieval settlement, and suggests that much of the area subject to survey was settled in the medieval period.

- 6.1.8 Because of the limited nature of the excavations, and the presence of earlier remains on the site, it is not possible with certainty to assign phases to many features identified on the geophysical survey. To do this would require further targeted excavation. Indeed, excavation has shown that in some places earlier features are masked by successive subsoil deposits, whilst a number of features excavated were not evident on the geophysics plot.
- 6.1.9 Despite this it is clear that the site was the focus of a substantial rural settlement from the 10<sup>th</sup> or early 11<sup>th</sup> century through to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century. This settlement appears to have been enclosed by a series of boundary ditches, some of which were recut, whilst there were also internal divisions. From trenches 1 and 2 to the west, evidence in the form of kilns or ovens, as well as quantities of slag and a hearth bottom point to processing or cooking as well as some industrialisation. This may indicate that the messier aspects of medieval life had been confined to the western end of the settlement. The small oven or kiln excavated in trench 4 is smaller and more likely to be for domestic use.
- 6.1.10 Very little evidence for structures was recovered from many of the trenches, although small pits or postholes were excavated. Where one putative structure has been identified – in trench 6 – this interpretation is based on a set of crude foundations, presumably for supporting a timber cill-beam.
- 6.1.11 The origins and nature of this settlement are unclear – too little has been excavated to indicate with confidence how extensive the settlement was at different times. It was clearly a substantial settlement by the time of the Domesday book, but does not appear to be mentioned there – Cleeton itself was destroyed by the sea, whilst the location of its two outlying manors – Dringhoe and Upton are both known. Without further geophysical survey and excavation on the site, it is difficult to be certain of the extent and nature of the settlement throughout this time including whether there is a manor or a chapel within the complex. Neither is it clear why the settlement ceased to be inhabited, apparently in the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, although it is clear from documents that the new settlement at Skipsea Brough was also in a state of decline, with only three of thirteen crofts occupied.
- 6.1.12 There is little evidence for activity on the site in the later medieval or post-medieval periods. The land probably reverted to common land until its enclosure in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The boundary ditch in trench 10 is likely to date to this time, although it is not clear whether this followed the line of an earlier ditch.
- 6.1.13 The evaluation and geophysical survey undertaken by Time Team at Skipsea Grange have identified a previously unknown multi-period site with evidence for Iron Age (or Saxon) and Saxo Norman and medieval settlement on the site and some evidence for Roman activity. The excavations have revealed

that in general these remains are well preserved, and that in some areas colluvial subsoils have protected the archaeological features well from more recent ploughing.

## **7 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK**

- 7.1.1 In the light of the potential significance of the archaeological remains identified at Skipsea Grange, it is recommended that a short article be prepared for incorporation within an appropriate local archaeological journal. This should set out the background to the project, present the results of the geophysical survey and the trial trenching, and should discuss the significance of the site on both a regional and local level. Some work will be needed on the finds assemblage in order to refine the dating of the ceramic assemblage and highlight parallels for some of the other objects – notably the lead vessel.

## **8 THE ARCHIVE**

- 8.1.1 The archive, which includes all artefacts, written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigation is undertaken, is currently held at the offices of Wessex archaeology under the Site code PF 04 and Wessex archaeology project No 55763. The paper archive is contained in two lever arch files. In due course, Time Team will transfer ownership of the archive to Frances Davies, the current owner of Skipsea Grange.

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## APPENDIX 1. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS.

<b>Trench 1</b>	Length: 10.21m max	Width: 3.66m max	Max depth: 1.37m	Ground level: 16.60m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Description</b>		
101	Layer	Topsoil. A greyish brown sandy loam. Heavily root disturbed. A fairly thin topsoil.		
102	Subsoil	Subsoil. A mid brown silty sand, possibly colluvial in origin		
103	Layer	A grey brown sandy silt containing occasional medium sized angular flint pebbles. A slowly formed secondary fill, the only fill of ditch 104. This deposit was cut by ditch 120		
104	Cut	Ditch. A short stretch of ditch visible in the north west corner of the trench, aligned west-east. Its full width was not exposed. It contained a single fill – layer 103.		
105	Layer	A grey brown sandy silt containing occasional small rounded and angular flint pebbles. Contains small lenses of charcoal and charcoal flecks. A slowly formed secondary fill, the only fill of ditch 106. One of the lenses of charcoal may represent waste material from the nearby hearth or kiln.		
106	Cut	Ditch. A substantial ditch aligned north - south. The southernmost of two interventions through this ditch. At this point, the ditch contained a single undifferentiated fill, layer 105.		
107	Layer	A yellowish brown silty sand with a thick lens of charcoal near the base of the deposit. The secondary fill of a small undated pit or posthole – 108		
108	Cut	Small ovoid posthole/pit, with very steep sides and an irregular, generally concave, base. Contains a single fill – layer 107. Cut through 111, the only fill of a ditch or pit aligned roughly west-east		
109	Layer	A yellowish brown sandy silt containing occasional medium sized angular flints. The only fill of 110, a shallow gully. A well sorted fill, probably a secondary fill. This deposit is cut at its western end by ditch 120.		
110	Cut	A small gully, aligned roughly west – east, with moderately steep, concave sides and a concave base. This may be the same as 104, although the profile differs significantly. This contained a single fill – layer 109. This was cut through layer 111, the only fill of a ditch or pit aligned roughly west-east		
111	Layer	A grey brown sandy silt containing occasional medium angular flint pebbles. A slowly formed secondary fill – the only fill of pit/ditch 112. This deposit is cut by both 108 and 110.		
112	Cut	Ditch or pit. This is probably a wide shallow terminus of a linear feature or a sub rounded shallow pit. As excavated, this had regular moderately steep sides with a concave base It contained a single fill – layer 111. It cut layer 113, the only fill of a gully to the south – gully 114.		
113	Layer	A yellowish brown sandy silt containing occasional medium angular pebbles. A very sterile fill – no obvious charcoal. The only fill of a gully aligned west-east (gully 114). This deposit was cut by feature 112, the terminus of a pit or ditch.		
114	Cut	Ditch. A partially truncated gully, aligned west-east containing a single fill, layer 113. This was steep sided with a concave base although the northern edge was truncated by 112.		
115	Layer	A dark greyish brown sandy silt containing occasional small and medium sub angular to sub rounded flints. The upper fill of 120. A slowly accumulated tertiary fill, derived from the breakdown of the surrounding land surface. It may have formed as the result of ploughing or the colluvial movement of soils.		

116	Layer	A yellow clay, with brown mottling. A dump of degraded clay, very similar to layer 118. Fill of ditch 120. This may represent the collapsed superstructure of a small oven or kiln, of which 118 forms the base. This structure was clearly built within the partially silted ditch.
117	Layer	A black sandy silty containing large quantities of charcoal. Fill of 120. A thin layer of <i>in situ</i> burning overlying the floor of a kiln or oven (layer 118) and sealed by what seems to be its collapsed superstructure (layer 116).
118	Layer	A yellow clay with brown mottling, the upper surface of which is burnt red, and blackened by fire. The floor of an oven or kiln. This oven or kiln was built within the hollow formed by a partially silted medieval ditch.
119	Layer	A dark greyish brown sandy silt containing occasional small and medium sub angular to sub rounded flint pebbles. Fill of 120. Very similar to 115, but stratigraphically divided by kiln/oven 116/117/118. A slowly formed secondary deposit.
120	Layer	Ditch. The cut of a large ditch, aligned north-south. The full profile of this ditch was not revealed, as it was decided to leave the kiln/oven <i>in situ</i> , although it clearly had steep slightly concave sides. Contains five fills – layers 115, 116, 117, 118 and 119.
121	Layer	Natural drift geology – a fairly compact yellow sand containing frequent small and medium rounded and sub rounded flint gravels.

<b>Trench 2</b>		Length: 7.60m max	Width: 7.58m max	Max depth: 1.15m	Ground level: 15.49m OD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Description</b>			
201	Layer	Topsoil. A greyish brown sandy loam. Heavily disturbed by modern roots.			
202	Layer	Subsoil. A mid brown silty sand. A buried subsoil, which may have been partially created through colluvial action.			
203	Layer	A dark greyish brown silty sand containing moderate angular and sub angular flint gravels. A buried colluvial subsoil.			
204	Layer	Natural sands and gravels. A fine yellow sand containing very frequent small and medium rounded and sub rounded flint gravels.			
205	Layer	A greyish brown sandy silt, containing occasional small rounded and sub rounded flint pebbles. This is the only fill of gully 206. The full width of this deposit was not revealed. Probably a slowly accumulated secondary fill.			
206	Cut	Gully. A shallow gully aligned north west to south east. The full extents of this gully were not revealed in the excavated section. It had steep slightly concave sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill – layer 205. This gully cut 207, the only fill of gully 208.			
207	Layer	A greyish brown sandy silt, containing occasional small rounded and sub rounded flint pebbles. This is the only fill of gully 208. Probably a slowly accumulated secondary fill. Cut by gully 206			
208	Cut	Gully. A shallow gully aligned north west to south east. It had moderately steep slightly concave sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill – layer 207. Cut by gully 206, which may have been dug to replace it.			
209	Layer	A light greyish brown sandy silt, containing frequent small rounded and sub rounded flint pebbles. This is the only fill of pit 210, and probably represents a deliberate backfill. It contained both objects 3 and 4 a lead vessel and iron tripod, which appear to have been deliberately buried in this pit. This layer also contained a stone whetstone.			
210	Cut	Pit. Cut of a pit apparently dug to contain a lead vessel and an iron tripod. This contains a single deliberate backfill, layer 209, and probably dates to the Saxo Norman period.			
211	Layer	A dark greyish brown sandy silt, containing very occasional small angular and sub angular flint pebbles. This is the only fill of gully 212. Probably a slowly accumulated secondary fill.			

212	Cut	Gully. A shallow gully aligned north west to south east. It had steep straight sides and a flat base, and contained a single fill – layer 211. Probably the same gully as 214. May be Iron Age in date.
213	Layer	A dark greyish brown sandy silt, containing very occasional small angular and sub angular flint pebbles. This is the only fill of gully 214. Probably a secondary fill.
214	Cut	Gully. A shallow gully aligned north west to south east. It had steep straight sides and a flat base, and contained a single fill – layer 211. Probably the same gully as 212. May be Iron Age in date. This feature was sealed by a considerable depth of colluvial subsoil (layer 203)
215	Layer	A very dark grey sandy silt containing very occasional small rounded and sub rounded flint gravels. A layer of possible rake-out associated with furnace/kiln 216/217. Lies above colluvial subsoil 203.
216	Layer	A yellow clay with occasional brown mottling. An oval layer of clay lain on top of 203, the colluvial subsoil. Shows signs of heat reddening – probably represents the base for a kiln or hearth. This layer is associated with 217 and 215
217	Layer	A curvilinear setting of stones used to form the body of oven/kiln superstructure. This was probably supported by a clay superstructure, now gone. This lay directly above clay layer 216, the base of a furnace/kiln.
218	Layer	A greyish brown sandy silt, containing occasional small rounded and sub rounded flint pebbles. This is the only fill of gully 219. This was a slowly accumulated secondary fill, very similar to layer 207.
219	Cut	Gully. A shallow gully aligned north west to south east. It had moderately steep slightly concave sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill – layer 218. This gully probably cuts 207, the fill of 208, but this relationship was far from clear.

<b>Trench 3</b>		Length: 7.00m	Width: 1.60m	Max depth: 1.40m	Ground level: 15.57m OD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Description</b>			
301	Layer	Topsoil. A mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub angular and sub rounded flints.			
302	Layer	Subsoil. A mid brown silty clay, with a slightly reddish tinge.			
303	Layer	Natural. Light yellowish grey sands and gravels.			
304	Cut	Ditch. The cut of a boundary ditch aligned west-east. This ditch has steep straight sides and a concave base. This is the northernmost of three apparently parallel ditches in this trench. It contains two fills – layers 305 and 310. It is unclear whether this is contemporary with either of the other ditches.			
305	Layer	A mid brown sandy silt containing occasional small sub rounded and sub angular flints. The upper, secondary, fill of ditch 310.			
306	Cut	Ditch. The cut of a boundary ditch aligned west-east. A substantial ditch, with irregular stepped sides and a slightly concave base. This ditch appears to cut layer 309, although this relationship is not certain. Contains a single fill, layer 307.			
307	Layer	A dark grey brown sandy silt containing small sub angular and sub rounded flints. A thick homogenous deposit, the only fill of 306. This represents a thick undifferentiated secondary fill.			
308	Cut	Ditch. A small ditch aligned west-east, with moderately steep concave sides and a concave base. The southernmost of a series of three ditches on the same alignment. Contains a single fill – layer 309.			
309	Layer	A mixed deposit – a mid brown sandy silt containing occasional patches of light yellow sandy gravel. This secondary fill represents the only fill of ditch 308.			
310	Layer	A mottled mid and light yellowish brown sandy silt containing rare small sub rounded flints. The primary fill of ditch 304, confined to the southern edge of the feature.			

<b>Trench 4</b>		Length: 11.50m	Width: 6.20m	Max depth: 1.51m	Ground level: 17.48m OD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Description</b>			
401	Layer	Topsoil. A dark brown sandy clay containing frequent small flint pebbles. Root disturbed modern topsoil and turf			
402	Layer	Subsoil. A dark brown sandy clay containing frequent small pebbles. . This subsoil may well be colluvially derived.			
403	Layer	A grey brown silty clay containing occasional flint pebbles This homogenous secondary fill is the only fill of ditch 404, and is cut by small pit 429.			
404	Cut	Ditch. A wide enclosure ditch aligned north north east to south south west. This ditch has steep slightly irregular sides and an irregular base. This ditch contains a single homogenous fill – secondary fill 403.			
405	Layer	A dark grey silty clay containing frequent flint pebbles. A thick, slowly formed, secondary fill. The only fill of ditch 406			
406	Cut	Ditch. A wide shallow ditch containing a single secondary fill – layer 405. This ditch was aligned north north east to south south west, and had steep sides with a slightly concave base. This ditch cut layer 416, the fill of 415, an earlier ditch on the same alignment.			
407	Layer	A very dark grey / black clay containing occasional medium pebbles. This sticky black/dark grey clay deposit was the result of <i>in situ</i> burning. This was the upper fill of the flue associated with a hearth or kiln.			
408	Layer	A greyish brown silty clay containing occasional medium flint pebbles. The only fill of a shallow gully – 409. Cut by 425.			
409	Cut	Gully. A shallow narrow gully, with moderately steep regular sides and a concave base, and is aligned west-east. This gully contains a single fill – layer 408 – and cuts both 412 and 423.			
410	Layer	A dark grey silty clay containing occasional small pebbles. The only fill of gully 411.			
411	Cut	Gully. A shallow gully running west-east at the western end of the trench. This had relatively steep regular sides and a flat base. Contained a single fill – layer 410.			
412	Layer	A dark brown silty clay containing frequent charcoal inclusions. This thin layer of charcoal rich material filling a sub circular hollow in the natural (layer 431). This deposit is but by features 409 and 411.			
413	Cut	A shallow curving gully, with moderately steep sides and a flat base. This gully contained 2 fills – 407 and 414, and probably acted as a flue for a hearth or kiln. This contained <i>in situ</i> burning.			
414	Layer	A blackish brown clay containing occasional charcoal inclusions. The lower fill of flue 413, this may well have been formed by <i>in situ</i> burning related to the use of this gully as a flue for a kiln or oven.			
415	Cut	Ditch. A shallow curvilinear gully aligned roughly east north east to west south west. This has relatively steep regular sides and a concave base, and contains a single fill – layer 416. This is one of the stratigraphically earliest features in the trench.			
416	Layer	A greyish orange silty clay containing occasional medium sized flint pebbles. This is an undifferentiated secondary deposit, the only fill of gully 415. It is cut by ditch 406.			
417	Cut	Ditch. A linear ditch, aligned north east to south west, with steep, mainly straight sided ditch with a flat base. This ditch cut layer 416, and contained three layers – 418, 433 and 435.			
418	Layer	A dark grey brown silty clay containing occasional medium sized flint pebbles. A thick, slowly formed secondary fill over a considerable period of time, and derived from the erosion of the surrounding topsoil and subsoil.			
419	Layer	A dark grey silty clay containing occasional medium sized flint pebbles. A possible buried subsoil or turfline visible in the south section of the trench. Layer 420 forms part of the same sequence. This was possibly a fairly early land surface.			

420	Layer	A light brown silty clay containing frequent small flint gravels. This layer forms part of the same sequence of buried land surfaces as 419, which it seals. It is unclear whether this represents a buried turfline, or whether it is a buried subsoil.
421	Cut	A circular posthole with rounded sides and a concave base. This contains a single fill, layer 422.
422	Layer	A dark grey / black clay, the only fill of posthole 421, probably formed over a period of time, probably as a secondary fill.
423	Cut	Gully. A shallow drainage gully, aligned north east to south west. It had steep slightly concave sides and a concave base. This contains a single fill – layer 424.
424	Layer	A grey brown silty clay containing frequent small flint pebbles. The only, secondary, fill of shallow gully 423.
425	Cut	Gully. A linear gully, aligned roughly north-south, containing a single fill – layer 424. This cuts layer 408, the only fill of gully 409.
426	Layer	A grey brown silty clay. The only fill of gully 423. Probably a slowly formed secondary deposit.
427	Cut	Gully. A short stretch of gully, aligned roughly west-east. This has very steep sides and a flat base, and contained a single fill – layer 428. This may have been a beamslot, dug to contain a cill beam for a building.
428	Layer	A grey brown silty clay containing occasional small flint pebbles. The only fill of gully 427, a possible beamslot. It is not clear how this deposit formed.
429	Cut	A circular or sub circular pit with moderately steep sides and a flat base. This contained a single fill – layer 430. Not enough of this feature was excavated to determine its function for certain.
430	Layer	A grey brown silty clay containing frequent small flint gravels. The only fill of a small pit – 429. This fill, probably a secondary fill, was cut by 404, a medieval ditch.
431	Layer	A dark brown or orange brown compacted silty clay containing occasional small flint pebbles. This is the ‘natural’ geology within the trench.
432	Layer	A brown silty clay with light brown patches containing frequent medium sized flint pebbles. This is a very mixed deposit, which appears to fill the western half of 417. It is not clear whether this represents a deliberate backfill, or not.
433	Layer	A dark brown silty clay containing occasional small flint pebbles. Tertiary silting of cut 417. This layer appears to be cut by 434. A slowly accumulated deposit.
434	Layer	An unusual cut, with a vertical eastern edge and a stepped western edge and a slightly concave base. This follows the line of an earlier cut – the vertical eastern edge means that this must either have been revetted or immediately backfilled.
435	Layer	A mid brown silty clay. This is a thin secondary deposit within cut 417, sealing 418 and sealed by 433. The western half of this deposit is truncated by 434.
436	Layer	A grey brown silty clay containing occasional medium flint pebbles. The upper fill of an unexcavated linear feature.
437	Layer	A roughly circular deposit of burnt or ashy material, possibly representing a small pit or posthole. This was not excavated.

<b>Trench 5</b>		Length: 8.00m	Width: 1.65m	Max depth: 1.10m	Ground level: 16.97m OD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Description</b>			
501	Layer	Topsoil. A mid brown silty clay			
502	Layer	Subsoil. A light brown silty clay.			
503	Cut	Ditch. Aligned south west to north east and with steep stepped sides and a flat base. A substantial boundary ditch.			
504	Layer	A dark greyish brown / black silty clay containing common charcoal inclusions and fragments of fired clay. A homogenous secondary fill.			
505	Layer	A light yellowish brown clay. Natural geology.			
506	Layer	A layer of mid brown clay. Possibly the upper fill of an unexcavated feature.			
507	Cut	An unexcavated ditch aligned west east.			
508	Layer	A mid grey brown silty clay. The only visible fill of ditch 507.			

<b>Trench 6</b>		Length: 13.64m	Width: 4.52m	Max depth: 0.85m	Ground level: 17.12m OD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Description</b>			
601	Layer	Topsoil. A mid to light brown silty clay containing rare small sub angular flint pebbles. Modern turf and topsoil.			
602	Layer	Subsoil. A light yellow brown silty clay containing very rare small sub angular flints.			
603	Layer	A mid yellow silty clay. The natural drift geology within the trench.			
604	Cut	Ditch. The cu of a ditch aligned north-south at the western end of trench 6. This contained a single fill – layer 605, and was cut by a later ditch, aligned west-east.			
605	Layer	A mottled mid to dark grey brown silty clay containing rare small sub rounded pebbles. The only fill of ditch 604, which was cut by later ditch 611. This was a gradually accumulated secondary fill.			
606	Layer	A dark grey brown / black silty clay containing rare large stones and occasional medium flints. The only fill of small pit or posthole 607, which was not fully excavated.			
607	Cut	A roughly circular small pit or posthole, containing a single fill, which contains some stone packing. Only partially excavated.			
608	Layer	A mid to dark grey brown silty clay containing occasional sub rounded small flints. A homogenous fill – lies within ditch 610. Cut by ditch 611.			
609	Layer	A dark grey / black silty clay containing occasional small flint pebbles. The upper fill of a shallow hollow in the subsoil – 617. Probably represents a gradually accumulated deposit. Cut by ditch 610.			
610	Cut	Ditch. A linear ditch aligned north south, with steep regular sides and a flat base. This contained a single fill – deposit 608. This ditch cuts layer 609, the fill of hollow 617, and may also truncate wall footing 616 to the north.			
611	Cut	Ditch. A linear ditch aligned east-west. This has steep regular sides and a flat base. This contains a single fill – layer 612. It appears to be the latest feature in this trench, and cuts layers 605 and 608. Time constraints meant that this ditch could not be fully excavated, and only a partial profile was recorded.			
612	Layer	A light to mid yellowish brown silty clay. The only fill of ditch 611 – appears to represent a gradual silting in the form of a secondary fill.			
613	Layer	A mid greyish brown silty clay with light yellow mottling containing moderate amounts of small flint pebbles. A deposit of reworked natural in the base of hollow 617. May represent a trampled occupation layer. Possible wall footings 615 and 616 were probably lain on top of this deposit.			
614	Layer	A light brown sandy gravel containing frequent small flint pebbles. A compacted layer of gravel, perhaps lain to provide a firm footing as a threshold of a building.			
615	Layer	Possible wall footing aligned north west to south east. The possible remains of a wall footing comprising a number of large stones in a shallow scoop. This may represent the remains of footings for a clay or cob wall.			
616	Layer	Possible wall footing aligned north east to south west. The possible remains of a wall footing comprising a number of large waterworn stones in a shallow scoop. This may represent the remains of footings for a clay or cob wall. This lies roughly perpendicular to possible footing 614.			
617	Cut	Hollow. A shallow hollow, perhaps a working hollow or occupation hollow. This predates the construction of wall footings 615 and 616. It has shallow concave sides and a flat base.			
618	Cut	An oval pit. This was fully excavated in case it turned out to be a grave. It had shallow concave sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill – layer 619.			
619	Layer	A mid grey brown silty clay – the only fill of scoop or pit 618. This was a well sorted secondary fill.			

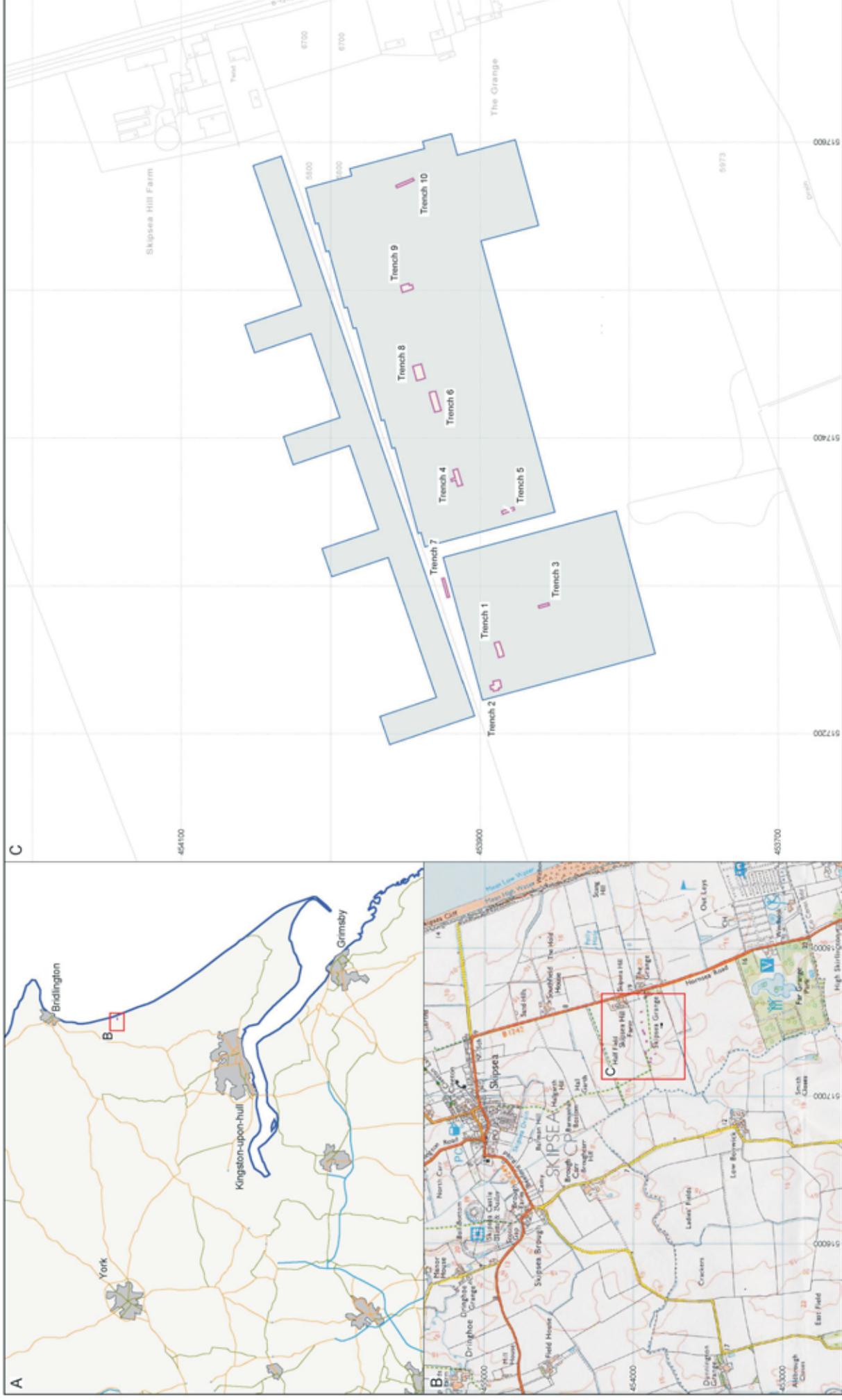
<b>Trench 7</b>		Length: 13.00m	Width: 1.65m	Max depth: 0.40m	Ground level: 17.52m OD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Description</b>			
701	Layer	Topsoil. Greyish brown sandy loam. Root disturbed with very few visible inclusions.			
702	Layer	Subsoil. An orange brown sandy silt containing very occasional small and medium rounded to sub rounded flint pebbles.			
703	Layer	Natural. An orange brown sand containing frequent medium rounded to sub angular flint pebbles.			
N.B. The subsoil in this trench was cut by a number of modern postholes, still containing fragments of wooden post) which were not recorded in detail, but are recorded in plan.					

<b>Trench 8</b>		Length: 10.05m	Width: 6.00m	Max depth: 0.30m	Ground level: m 17.43m OD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Description</b>			
801	Layer	Topsoil. A greyish brown silty loam containing very occasional sub rounded and sub angular small and medium flint pebbles (small and medium)			
802	Layer	Natural. Orange brown clay containing occasional small and medium angular and sub angular flint pebbles.			
803	Layer	Plough furrow. A wide plough furrow, possibly modern			
804	Layer	Plough furrow. A wide plough furrow, possibly modern			

<b>Trench 9</b>		Length: 7.52m	Width: 4.47m	Max depth: 0.45m	Ground level: 17.19m OD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Description</b>			
901	Layer	Topsoil. A grey brown silty loam containing occasional sub rounded pebbles.			
902	Layer	A grey brown sandy silt containing occasional medium rounded flint pebbles. The only fill of gully 903. A secondary fill.			
903	Cut	Gully. A curvilinear gully with very steep regular sides and a flat base. Similar to a curving gully around a prehistoric round house. Possibly served as a drip gully or a drainage gully. Contains a single fill, layer 902.			
904	Layer	A grey brown silty sand. A thick homogenous deposit, possibly a deliberate backfill. Not a well sorted deposit. The only fill of 905, a sub rectangular pit.			
905	Cut	Pit. A sub rectangular pit with very steep, almost vertical sides and a flat base. This contains a single fill – layer 904. This cut through the fills of pits 906, 908 and 916.			
906	Cut	Pit. A ? sub circular pit cut by 905, containing a single surviving fill, layer 919. Much of this pit was truncated.			
907	Layer	An orange brown sandy silt containing occasional medium angular flint pebbles. The only fill of pit 908. This is a fairly well sorted secondary fill.			
908	Cut	Pit. An ovoid pit cut, truncated by pit 905. Only contains a single surviving fill – layer 907.			
909	Number not used				
910	Layer	A dark greyish brown sandy silt containing very occasional medium sub rounded and sub angular flint gravels. The only fill of 911, probably a deliberate backfill.			
911	Cut	Pit/ditch. An irregular shaped cut, possibly a linear or elongated pit. Two interventions were excavated through this feature, but only one was fully excavated and recorded. This contains a single poorly sorted fill – layer 910			
912	Layer	A dark greyish brown sandy silt containing very occasional small sub rounded flint pebbles A slowly formed secondary fill. The only fill of gully 913.			
913	Cut	Gully. A short stretch of a shallow gully with steep straight sides and a flat base. Terminates within the trench. Contains a single secondary fill – layer 912.			
914	Layer	An orange brown sandy silt containing very frequent small and medium sub rounded and sub angular flint pebbles. Natural geology within the trench.			

915	Layer	A greyish brown silty sand containing very occasional small rounded flint pebbles. A fairly well sorted secondary fill, the only fill of pit 916.
916	Cut	Pit. A sub rectangular pit truncated by pit 905. Only one fill survives – layer 915.
917	Layer	A dark greyish brown sandy silt. The only fill of gully terminus 918.
918	Cut	Gully. A curvilinear gully, with moderately steep, regular sides and a concave base. Contained a single fill – layer 917, a secondary fill
919	Layer	An orange brown sandy silt containing very occasional very small rounded flint gravels. The only fill of 906, an ovoid pit. This was truncated by pit 905. A secondary fill.

<b>Trench 10</b>		Length: 12.20m	Width: 1.95m	Max depth: 2.88m	Ground level: 15.83m OD
<b>Context</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Description</b>			
1001	Layer	Topsoil. A greyish brown silt loam containing occasional small an medium rounded and sub rounded flint pebbles.			
1002	Layer	Subsoil. A yellowish brown silty clay containing occasional small and medium rounded pebbles			
1003	Layer	A yellowish brown silty clay containing moderate small and medium sub rounded and rounded flint pebbles			
1004	Cut	Ditch. A linear, aligned north south, with moderately steep, concave sides and a concave base. Cut through the topsoil, and containing a single secondary fill – layer 1005.			
1005	Layer	A dark grey brown sandy silt containing occasional small angular flint pebbles. A gradually accumulated secondary fill. The only fill of gully 1004.			
1006	Cut	Ditch. A substantial boundary ditch sealed beneath the subsoil. A deep, steep sided feature, with a concave base. Contains a single fill – layer 1007			
1007	Layer	A mid orange brown sandy silt containing occasional small flint pebbles. A thick slowly formed secondary fill. The only fill within boundary ditch 1006.			



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Wessex Archaeology

Site location plan, showing geophysical survey areas and trenches



Geophysical survey results



Geophysical survey interpretation



- Archaeology
- Ridge and Furrow
- ? Sand Pit
- Trend
- Ferrous
- Trenches



Geophysical data courtesy of GSB Prospection Ltd

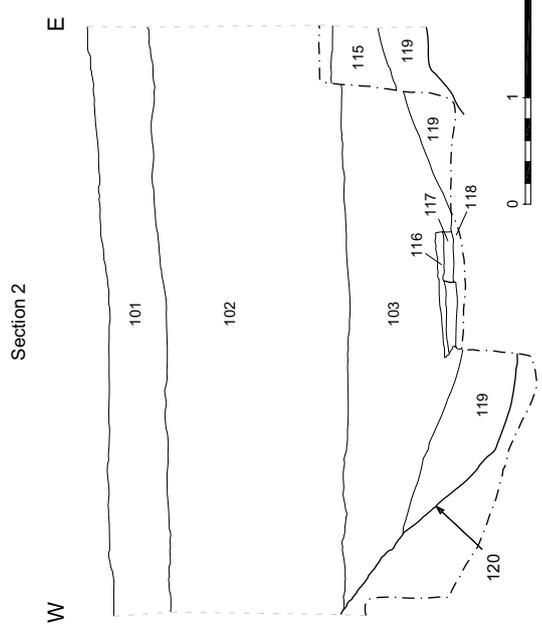
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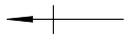
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Ditch 120 with hearth base 118, ashy layer 117 and collapsed klin lining 116 *in situ*.

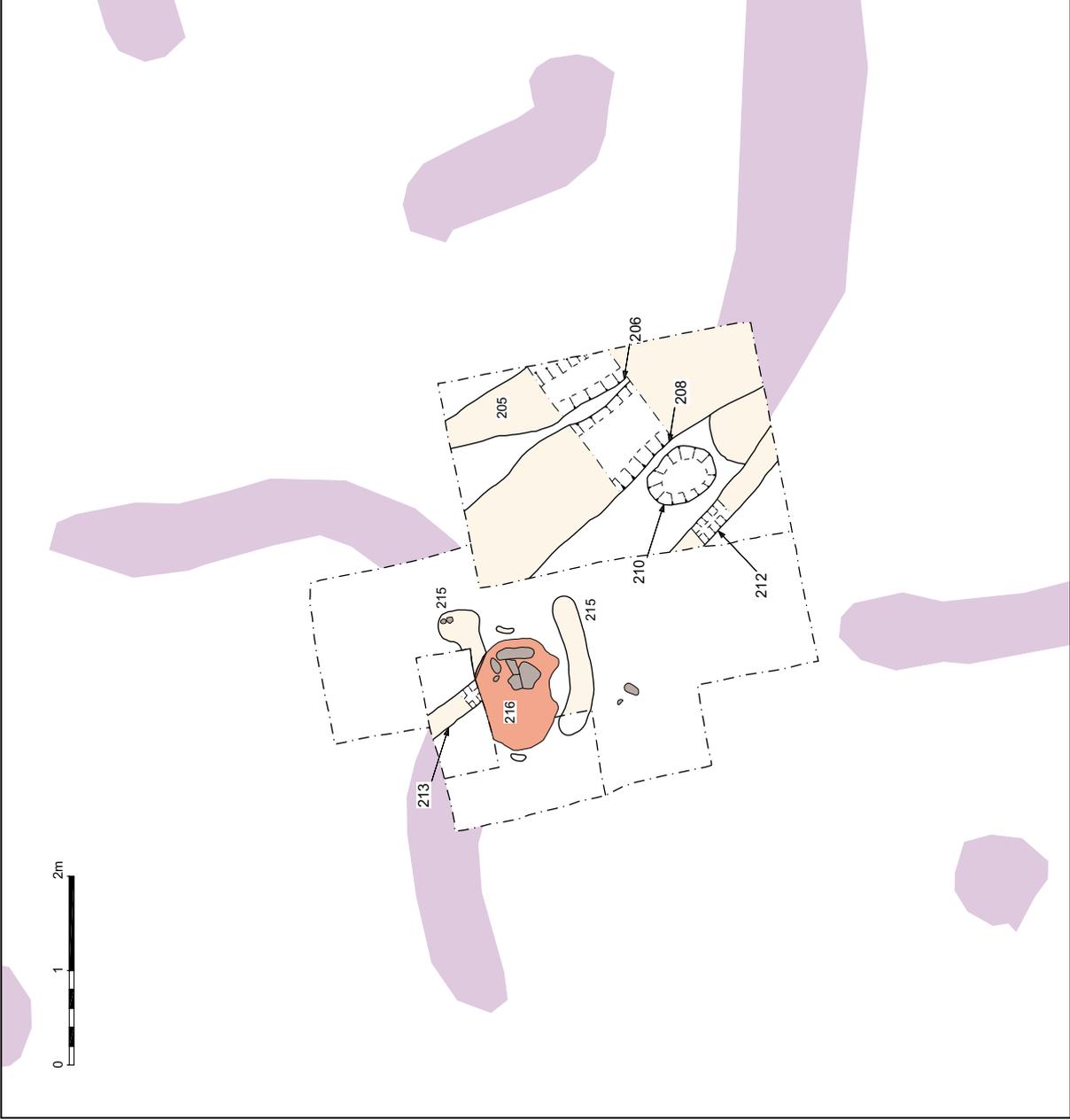


- Geophysical Anomalies
- Fired clay



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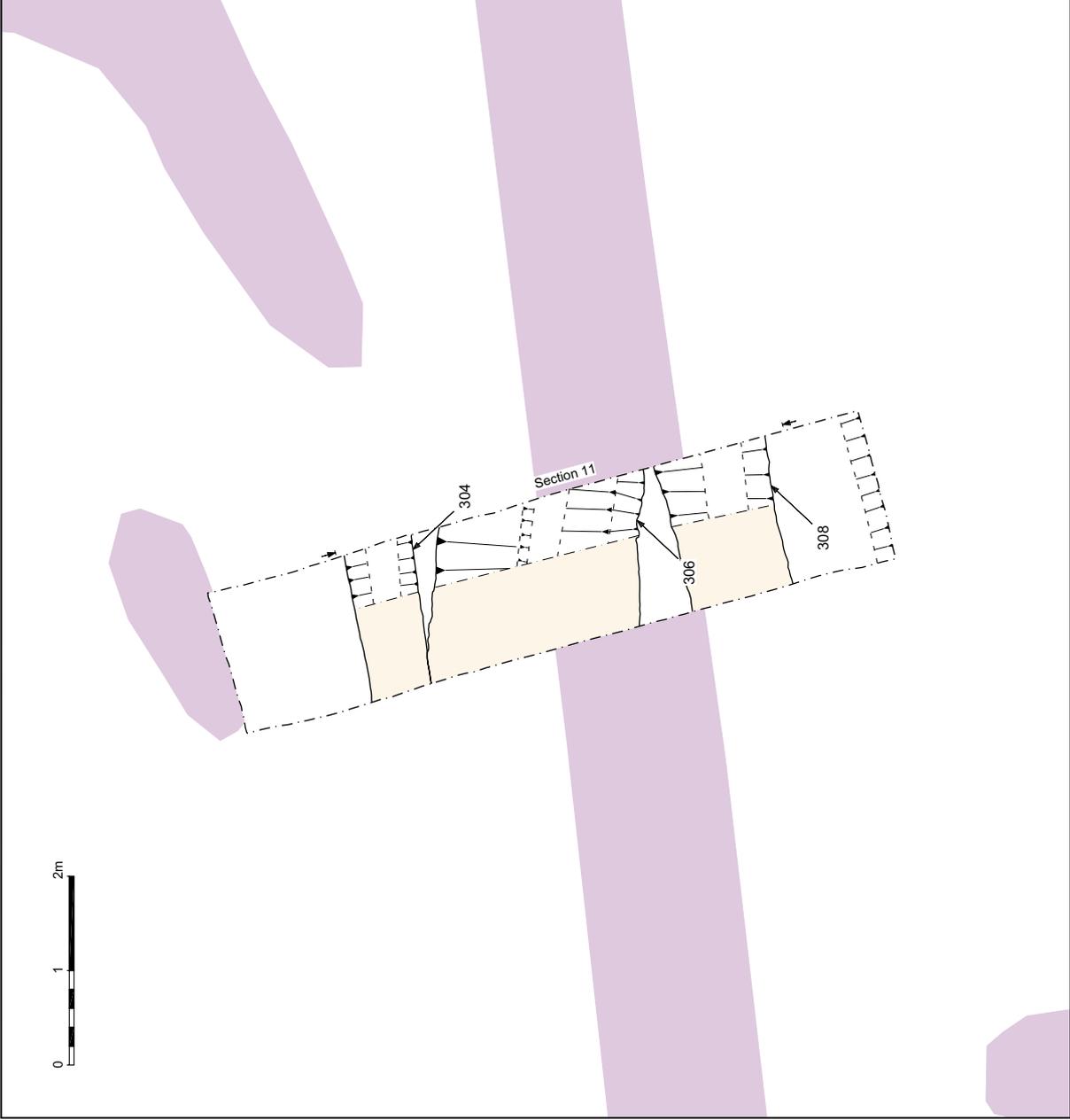
Lead vessel and iron tripod under excavation.



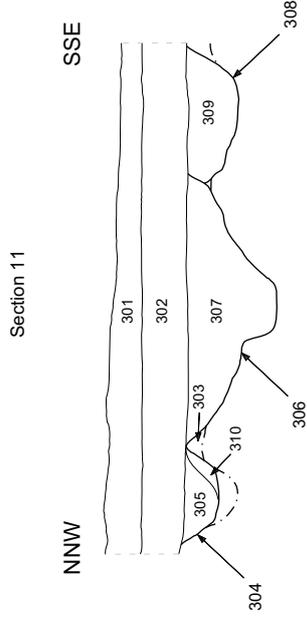
Lead vessel (Object No. 3) and iron tripod (Object No. 4) *in situ*.

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Ditches in Trench 3 from the north west



- Geophysical Anomalies
- Fired clay

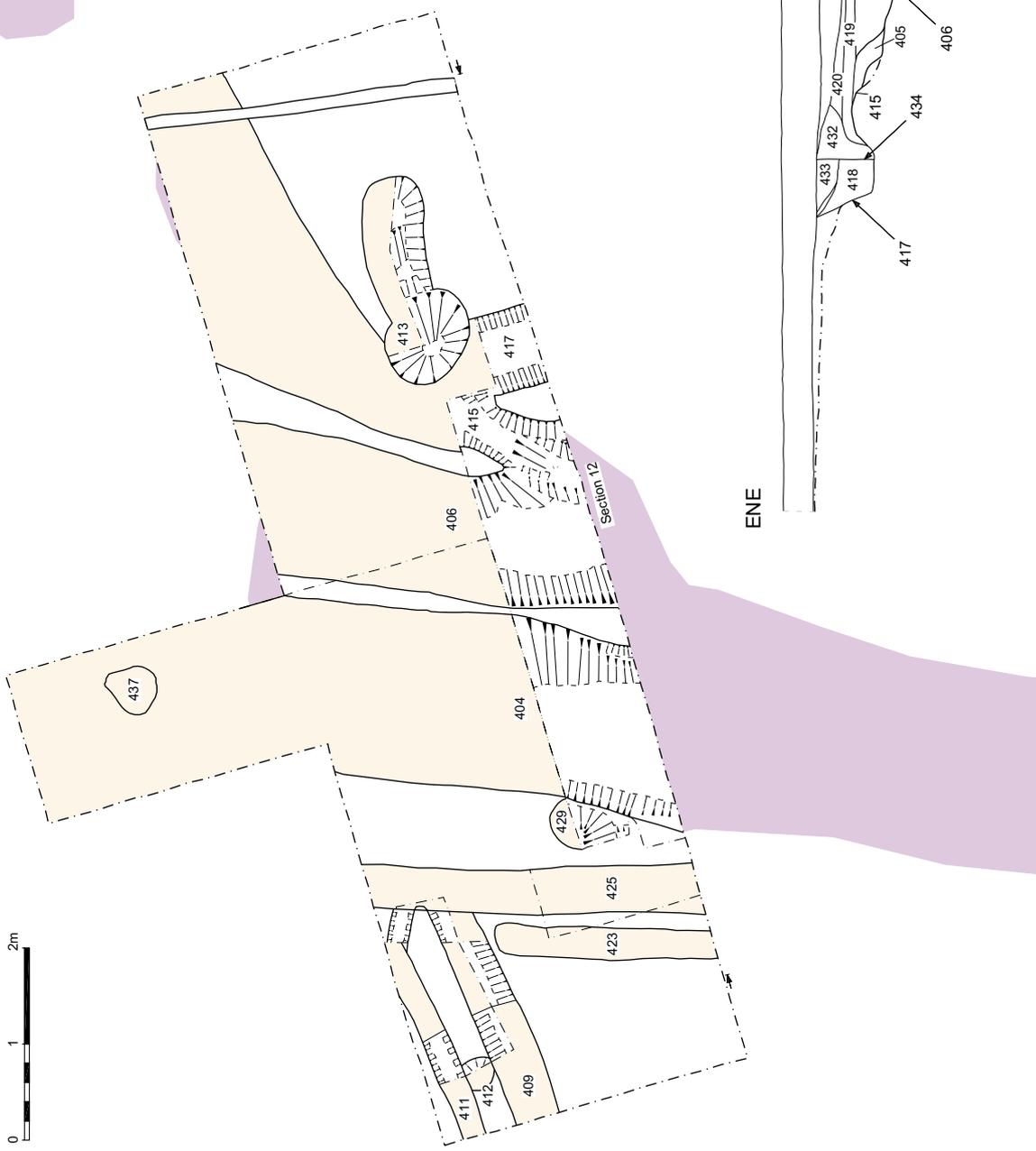


Trench 3 plan & section

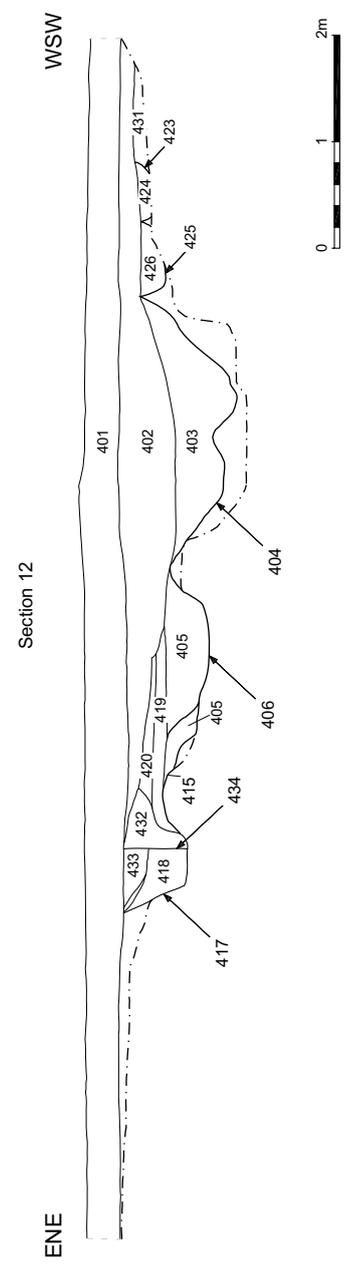
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Figure 5



Recording features in Trench 4 - photo from north east



- Geophysical Anomalies
- Modern land drain

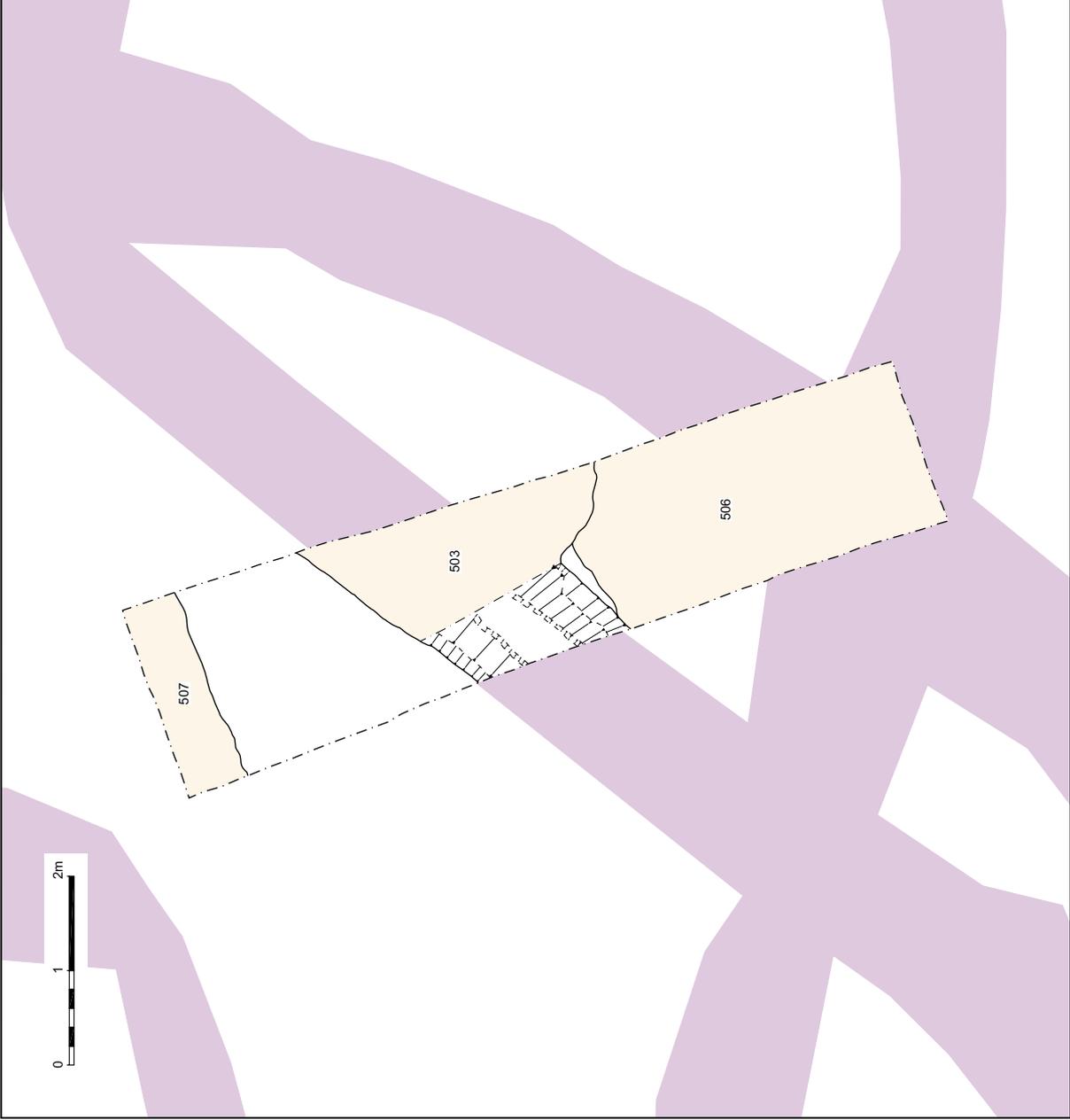


Trench 4 plan & section

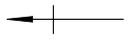
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Figure 6



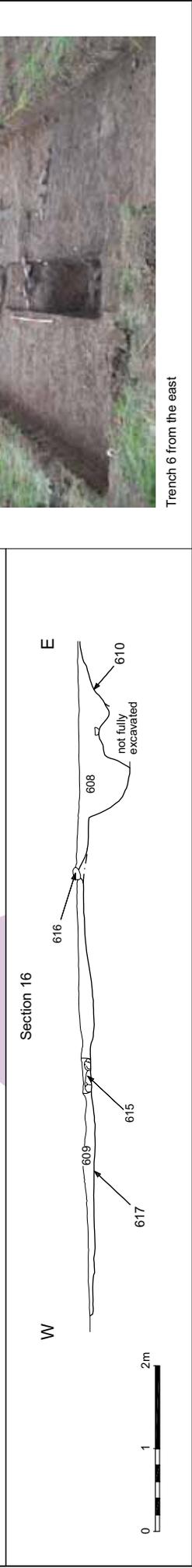
Ditches in Trench 3 from the north west.



Geophysical Anomalies

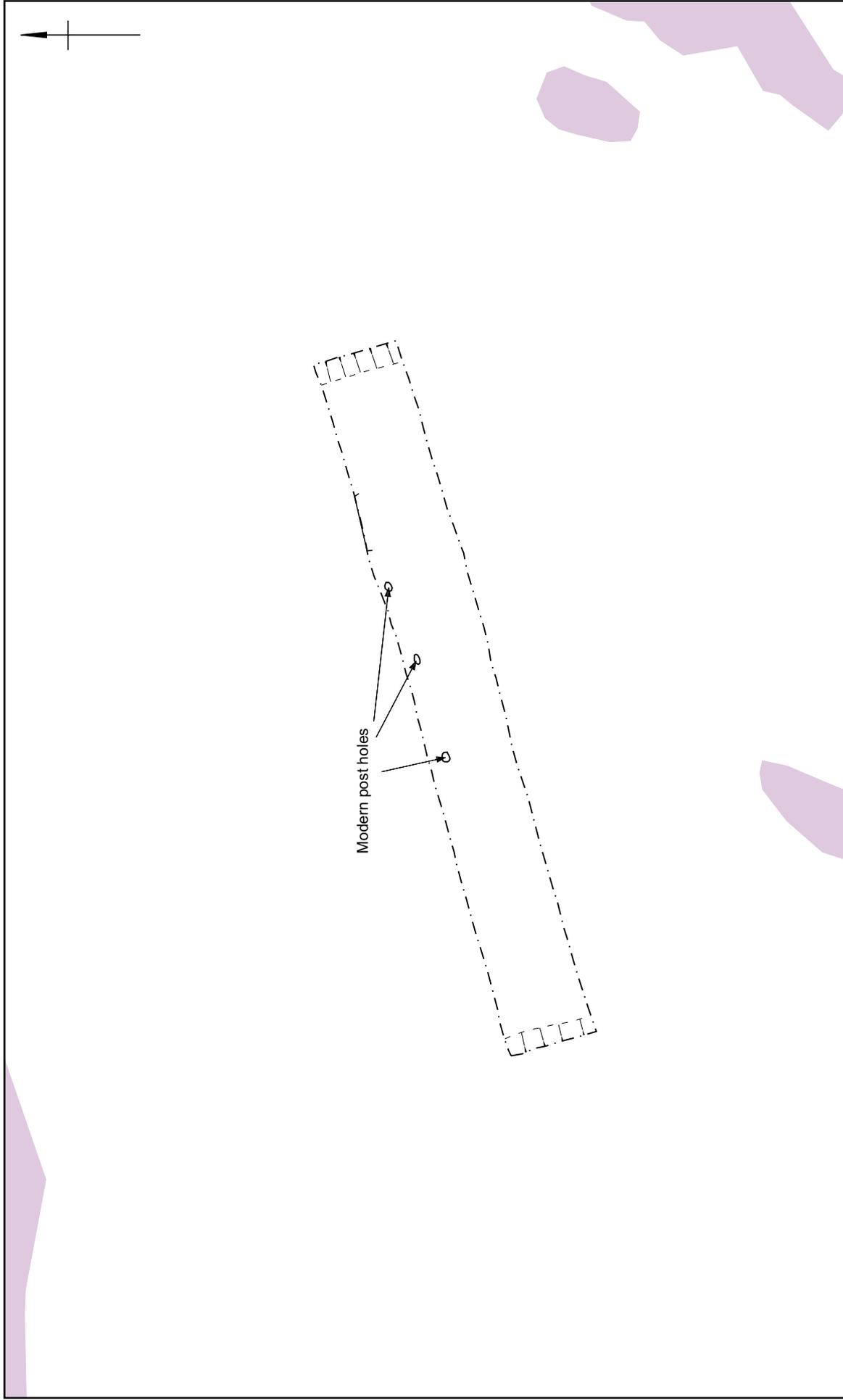
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Trench 6 from the east

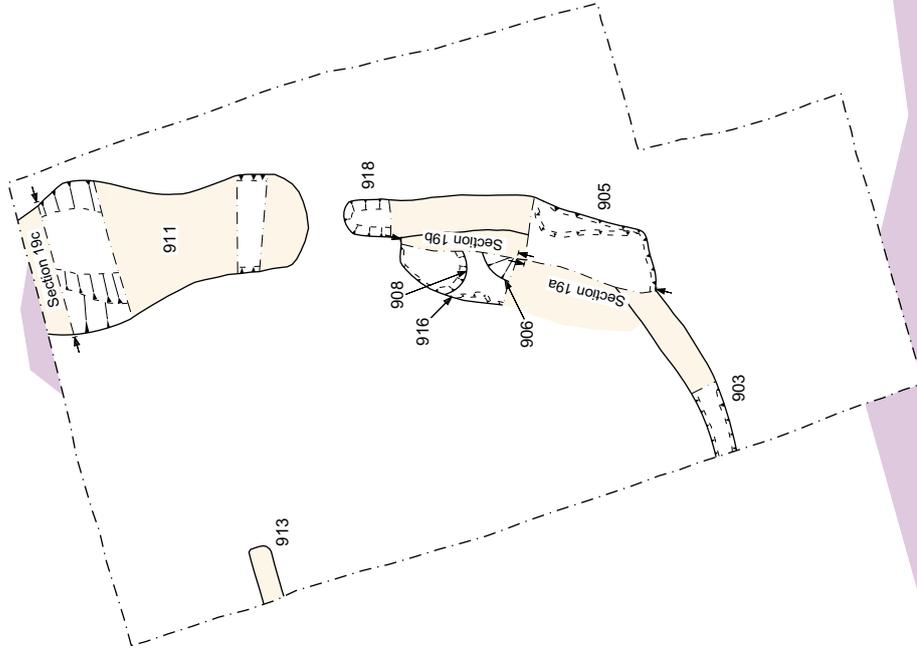
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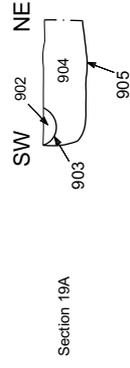
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Trench 7 plan

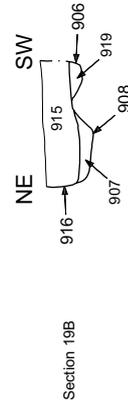
Figure 9



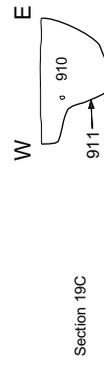
Trench 9 from south



Section 19A



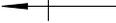
Section 19B



Section 19C

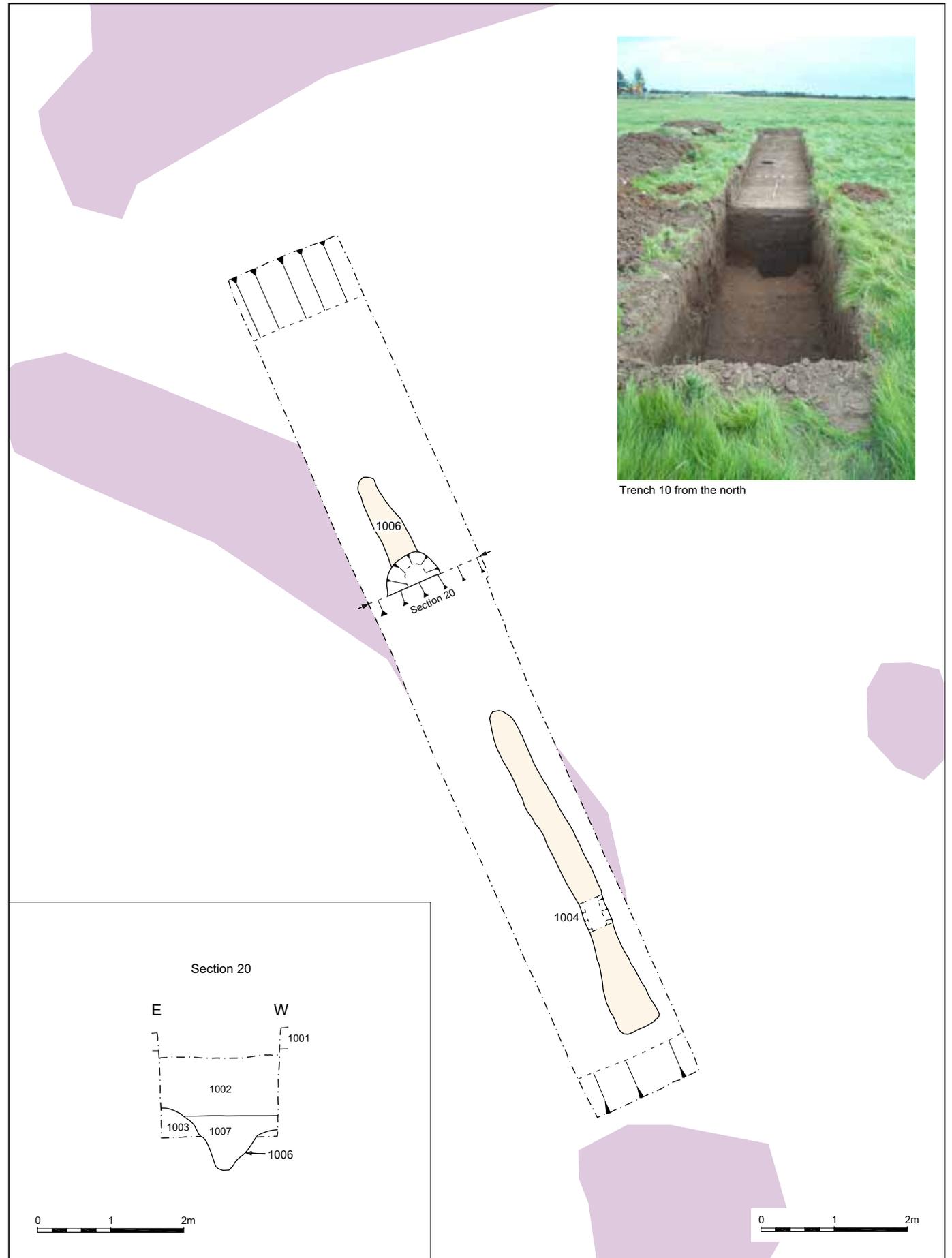


Geophysical Anomalies



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Trench 10 from the north

Geophysical Anomalies



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Trench 10 plan and section

Figure 11



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