VINCENT+GORBING

North Hertfordshire Local Plan Examination in Public

Statement in respect of Matter 11: The Housing Allocations and Settlement Boundaries – the Category A Villages

January 2018

Prepared by
Vincent and Gorbing

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF MATTER 11:

The Housing Allocations and Settlement Boundaries – the Category A Villages – Pirton Village

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1.0 STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF MATTER 11

1.1 This Hearing Statement has been prepared by Vincent and Gorbing on behalf of the owner of land at Shillington Road, Pirton. The land is now in a single ownership, and, should the Inspector consider that additional dwellings are required in Pirton, the owner would be committed to providing a sensitive development in accordance with the principles of the neighbourhood plan.

1.2 The development would include a wide range of accommodation with potential to include facilities for single storey dwellings and other accommodation for people over 55, which do not currently exist in the village, providing suitable properties for existing residents to downsize or locate in the village.

1.3 Vincent and Gorbing, on behalf of the owners of land at Shillington Road, Pirton, made representations at the Regulation 19 stage of the Local Plan in relation to housing allocations in the village.

1.4 This statement addresses the questions raised by the Inspector under Matter 11 The Housing Allocations and the Settlement Boundaries – the Category A Villages.

1.5 Though a Category A Village, no housing allocations are proposed for Pirton. Why? What is the approach taken here and what is the justification for it?

1.6 Is the proposed settlement boundary:

a) consistent with the methodology for identifying the settlement boundaries?

b) appropriate and justified?

1.7 No sites have been allocated in the Plan for Pirton and, so it envisaged by the District Council that no more housing is required from now until the end of the Plan period (2031). That is a long time for no growth to take place in settlement of this size.

1.8 The modest number of units allowed for in the village over the plan period (all of which are built or committed) could result in the village 'stagnating', decreasing support for community facilities and increasing property prices in this location, making new homes unaffordable to many local people who wish to or need to live in the rural area of the District.

1.9 All of these Category A villages are sustainable locations for development, would be attractive to the market and therefore be deliverable in the short term, and could allow for at least part of the affordable housing needs in the rural areas of the District to be addressed.

1.10 We consider that there is a good case for allocating further development to this Category A village and that in so doing the character and vitality of the village will be maintained, and the site at Shillington Road is the best option. In addition, further development could provide for specific local needs such as housing for the elderly.

1.11 The village has a primary school, convenience retailing and public houses, amongst other facilities.

1.12 As set out in the draft Neighbourhood Plan, the village has the following facilities:

- *Pirton's main retail facility is a shop/Post Office which provides additional services such as laundry, dry cleaning, newspapers and magazines.*

- *Two pubs (under the same ownership).*
- *Places of worship - St Mary the Virgin Anglican church and the Methodist chapel.*
- *The Village Hall – the venue for a number of groups and clubs in the parish.*
- *The Sports and Social Club – the venue for sporting facilities in the village.*
- *The Recreation Ground with its children's play area, multi-use games area and football and cricket pitch.*
- *A second children's play area on Middle Green.*
- *The village primary school, which currently has a capacity of 147 pupils; pupil numbers at present are at just over 90% of the school's capacity.*
- *The village pre-school which has been in successful operation since 1973 and moved to a purpose-built facility within the school grounds in 2011. It can accommodate up to 32 preschool children per session.*
- *The Little Lane Allotments.*

1.13 The Neighbourhood Plan states that:

"To maintain its Category A status and promote the on-going prosperity, health and well-being of the village and other communities, it is essential to conserve and enhance Pirton's essential amenities and facilities."

1.14 These facilities would best be supported by a higher level of development.

1.15 The Preferred Options Plan (December 2014), para 12.170 said:

"Two sites are allocated in Pirton for an estimated 135 additional dwellings. Taking into account completions since 2011 and permissions at 2014 the parish is estimated to see 142 additional dwellings across the plan period."

1.16 The Proposed Submission draft (2016) says at 13.267 that:

"No sites are allocated in Pirton by this Plan. Around 94 homes have been built or granted planning permission since 2011".

1.17 As such, at the end of 2014 the District Council considered that around 140 new dwellings within the plan period was not unreasonable. The current plan says that around 94 new dwellings are likely to be provided within the plan period.

1.18 In terms of the number of dwellings in relation to the size of the settlement and its facilities, the District Council cannot now say that an additional site or sites which provide another circa 50 dwellings would be unacceptable in principle, as they already accepted in the Preferred Options document that some 142 would come forward. The site at Shillington Road can comfortably provide an additional thirty dwellings, in line with the relevant policy of the Neighbourhood Plan, or potentially a slightly higher number subject to detailed design.

1.19 Taking account of the above, it is considered that there is scope for more development in Pirton, and there are sites which could deliver that. One such site is land at Shillington Road (see Appendix 1). The site was referenced as 064N in the 2014 SHLAA. It is considered that the site this is ideally placed to provide additional dwellings for Pirton.

1.20 Details of the site at Shillington Road, Pirton, including its history in the Local Plan process, is set out in our representations to the Proposed Submission Draft Plan (16186, 29.11.16)

1.21 The key point is that site was initially in the SHLAA but was removed. In the 2012 SHLAA, the site, along with land to the south, was considered suitable, available and achievable, and was reference 064.

1.22 In the 2014, the site was split into north (N) and south (S) and 064N was removed because:

"Development here considered to have too great an impact on the setting of listed buildings and conservation area"

1.23 Site 064N therefore was not included as a proposed allocation in the 2014 plan, presumably because the SHLAA 2014 had considered that it was no longer suitable due to the potential impact on listed buildings and the adjacent conservation area.

1.24 It should be noted that the site is not within a conservation area, nor does it contain any listed buildings, and no discussion or evidence was prepared to justify its removal from the SHLAA on heritage grounds. The work carried out by the landowner however, has cast serious doubt on that decision to remove the site on heritage impact reasons.

1.25 During the session looking at Matter 5 (Housing Strategy: the spatial distribution of new housing), the Inspector queried the District Council's position that impact on a Conversation Area would potentially rule out sites from the Local Plan. We would also query that.

1.26 Much discussion also took place at that session regarding whether the strategy for development was lead by the availability of sites or not. The District Council stated that all the suitable and available sites were in the Plan. We do not agree with regards to Pirton as the site at Shillington Road, is suitable, available and achievable.

1.27 The landowners have sought to test the assertion in the 2014 SHLAA that development on this site, would have "*..too great an impact on the setting of listed buildings and conservation area"* by carrying out the following pieces of work:

- Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (CgMs – September 2016)
- Built Heritage Assessment (CgMs – November 2016)
- Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an Archaeological Evaluation (CgMs – September 2017)
- Archaeological Evaluation Report (CgMs – November 2017)
- Site Masterplan (Vincent and Gorbing January 2018)

1.28 The Desk Based Assessment and Built Heritage Assessment were submitted as appendices to the representations on the Proposed Submission Draft Plan. The Archaeological Evaluation Report is at Appendix 2 of this statement.

1.29 The Built Heritage Assessment concluded the following:

1.30 *"It has been found that, due to the Site's topography and open character, outwardfacing views from within the Site boundary are relatively uninterrupted. However, dense vegetation that exists along the Site boundary sufficiently screens views into the Site from the public realm. It is only at the narrow access point off Shillington Road that direct intervisibility is obtainable. Outward-facing views of surrounding development are nonetheless restricted to the roofline of the agricultural buildings at Rectory Farm, as well as the residential dwellings to the northeast."*

1.31 *"It is suggested that, through careful masterplanning, development proposals will need to take into account the existing character along Shillington Road to ensure that development can better integrate with its surroundings. Certain measures to minimise harm include distancing development away from the Site boundary, establishing appropriate landscaping, applying a corresponding form, massing and scale, and a suitable palette of materials that are in keeping with existing development"*

1.32 The conclusion of the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (6.7 & 6.8) stated that:

1.33 *"The site is considered likely to have a moderate to high potential for Bronze Age and Anglo-Saxon evidence, and a low archaeological potential for all periods Geophysical survey with the site has indicated that the potential identified can potentially be associated with a limited number of possible archaeological remains recorded within the site. Due to their localised nature, it is considered that following further investigation, such remains could be appropriately mitigated against, or preserved in-situ by means of careful masterplanning.*

1.34 *Overall, it is concluded that there is no overriding archaeological constraint to any proposed allocation of the site for development."*

1.35 In summary the Archaeological Report has concluded the following.

1.36 *"Although a spread of archaeological features was identified across the site, it appears that the features of greatest interest are located in an approximately 50m wide band along the northern boundary of the site adjacent to Shillington Road. In this area the features primarily consisted of pits and ditches dated to the Late Saxon/Medieval period representative of peripheral settlement activity such as field boundaries, quarrying and rubbish disposal. These features are spatially and chronologically different from the middle Saxon remains scheduled to the south of the site, and it is not considered that Historic England could draw any direct associations with such remains.*

1.37 *These remains are potentially chronologically similar to the scheduled Medieval moated enclosure to the north of the site, but the features identified within the site are fairly ubiquitous to this period, and it is not considered that Historic England could demonstrate that such remains were a direct extension of the moated enclosure and thus of national significance and worthy of being preserved in-situ.*

1.38 *In general, the archaeological remains adjacent to Shillington Road could be considered of regional significance, but ultimately could be subject to a programme of mitigation in the form an archaeological excavation, resulting in their removal from site. As such it is not considered that such remains are a constraint to the masterplanning process.*

1.39 *The remaining archaeological features found on the site consisting of probable medieval field boundaries have been frequently found on neighbouring sites. These ditches are of minimal interest and no further archaeological work would be required in this area, and no constraints posed to the masterplanning process.*

1.40 The masterplanning process will still require consideration of any potential settings issues associated with the adjacent designated assets (Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Conservation Area), but adoption of a sensitive masterplan design should be able to address these issues."

1.41 In conclusion, the suite of technical work which has been carried out on the site has confirmed that sensitive development on this site could be undertaken, which would have no unacceptable impact on heritage assets.

1.42 As stated above, in the 2012 SHLAA all the undeveloped land to the east of Priors Hill (064) was considered suitable, available and achievable. At that time both the 064N and 064S were identified in the SHLAA, but 064N was then withdrawn due to concerns about the potential impact on heritage assets.

1.43 With regards to the Local Plan, the site which was identified as 064S in the 2014 SHLAA was included in the Local Plan Preferred Options December 2014 (reference PT1 – Land east of Priors Hill – 88 dwellings).

1.44 In 2016 064S/PT1 was designated as a Scheduled Monument (Anglo-Saxon Settlement West of Pirton Village), however, in November 2016 the boundary of that designation was altered by Historic England, and the southern part of the site is now excluded from the Scheduled Monument. Some 30 dwellings are now being promoted by JPP Ltd on that part of the site.

1.45 Site 064S/PT1 was removed from the local plan and the majority of the site cannot be developed due to the Scheduled Monument. The development which would have taken place on the remainder of site 064S/PT1 could now be provided on site 064N and the southernmost part of 064S/PT1.

1.46 Previously therefore, there was no objection in principle to the expansion of the village, and thus its boundary, to the west up to Priors Hill.

1.47 The settlement boundary in the Submission Draft Plan includes the land to the south (064S/PT1), but excludes the subject site, which does not appear to make any sense. The village boundary should be logical and maintain regular areas of land within the boundary. Priors Hill to the west of both sites, up to Shillington Road in the north is a reasonable boundary to the village in this direction, and so would include both site 064S/PT1 and 064N, as in the 2012 SHLAA.

1.48 It seems logical that the boundary of the village could be revised to the west, to fall along Priors Hill, and include all undeveloped land east of Priors Hill.

1.49 During the session looking at Matter 5 (Housing Strategy: the spatial distribution of new housing), there was discussion regarding the potential for a revision to policy which would allow in principle, development which was outside of, but adjoined the settlement boundaries, subject to all the other normal planning considerations. In fact, the Inspector pointed out to the District Council that this approach had been followed by some other planning authorities.

1.50 Whilst we consider that the boundary of Pirton should be revised to include all the undeveloped land east of Priors Hill, we would also support an approach which meant that development which was outside the settlement boundary, but which adjoined that boundary, was not unacceptable in principle.

1.51 The site at Shillington Road is available for development now. However, if it is considered that the site should not be developed in the short term, then it could be allocated to meet the development needs of the later part of the plan period.

1.52 A masterplan has been prepared for the site which is included at Appendix 3. The masterplan takes account of the findings of the heritage and archaeology work. It shows an organic approach to the development, including a range of housing types and styles, using appropriate materials which are in keeping with the character and history of the village.

1.53 This is not an "estate" development and can also be provided on a phased basis over a period of years. Construction is readily serviceable as the site has direct access to the highway, and does not require access through sensitive village areas.

1.54 The development will provide a mix of housing units. There is a perceived shortage of accommodation suitable for elderly in the village. Local residents wish to down size but cannot. The development provides suitable accommodation for this local need with the potential to support some very light care assistance to residents or shared facilities.

1.55 This development can also provide other local benefits, such as affordable housing, and other appropriate planning obligations. The foot path along the southern field can be improved, which would give good level access to the village centre.

Conclusion

1.56 Should the Inspector consider that additional dwellings are required in Pirton, the site at Shillington Rd (064N) should be allocated.

1.57 These representations have demonstrated that the land at Shillington Road Pirton has previously been considered acceptable for residential development (SHLAA 2012), but was subsequently removed from the SHLAA because of the potential impact on heritage assets. There is no evidence available as to why that decision was taken.

1.58 A suite of technical work has been undertaken in relation to archaeology and built heritage and has demonstrated that through careful design, an acceptable scheme could be devised for the site. Consideration of the site and its surroundings has been carried out to demonstrate that there are no other technical, environmental or planning impediments to developing the land.

1.59 Setting aside heritage issues it is considered that the principle of development in this location should be acceptable to the District Council due to the site to the south's previous allocation. The site was considered acceptable in 2012 and that is still the case.

1.60 The site can be brought forward in a sensitive way as illustrated on the masterplan, respecting the setting of adjoining buildings by appropriate design and setbacks, and enhancing the village.

1.61 The development will also include a wide range of accommodation to include the provision of affordable housing for the village and dwellings suitable for those over 55 wishing to downsize, thereby meeting the needs of the village and North Herts over the plan period to 2031.

Word count: 3000

APPENDIX 1

SITE BOUNDARY

EXISTING VILAGE BOUNDARY

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BY JPP LAND LTD

LAND AT SHILLINGTON ROAD PIRTON

Site location

PROJECT NO	DRAWING NO	REV
5166	100	
DRAWN	DATE	SCALE
HNA	JANUARY 2018	1:5000

T: +44 (0) 1438 316 331
planners@vincent-gorbing.co.uk
vincent-gorbing.co.uk
Vincent and Gorbing Limited, Sterling Court
Norton Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG1 2JY

APPENDIX 2

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Land at Shillington Road
Pirton
Hertfordshire

November 2017

Land at Shillington Road, Pirton, Hertfordshire, SG5 3QJ:

An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Local Planning Authority:	**North Hertfordshire District Council**
Planning Reference:	**N/A**
Central National Grid Reference:	**TL 1425 3185**
Site Code:	**HSRP17**
Report No.	**R13077**
Written and researched by:	**Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne** **Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd**
Project Manager:	**Mark Hinman**
Commissioning Client:	**CgMs Consulting Ltd**
Contractor:	**Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd** **Central Office** **The Granary** **Rectory Farm** **Brewery Road** **Pampisford** **Cambridgeshire** **CB22 3EN**
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November 2017

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Shillington Road, Pirton, Hertfordshire SG5 3QJ. (NGR TL 1425 3185) between the 10th and the 18th of October 2017. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd in support of a proposal for allocation contained within the draft North Hertfordshire District Local Plan. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

The earliest activity was evidenced by a single small pit of Early Neolithic date, which contained a small assemblage of worked flint. Limited quantities of residual worked flint were also present in later features throughout the site. A very small quantity of residual Roman and Middle Saxon pottery was also recovered from a small number of features.

The principal result of the evaluation was the recording of a number of Late Saxon to medieval settlement-edge related features consisting of boundary and drainage ditches, which formed part of a larger field system. Large rubbish and quarry pits, with associated finds assemblages of ceramic building material, pottery and metalwork of predominantly medieval (mid-12th to 14thth-century) date were also identified.

The finds indicate nearby domestic and agricultural activity and may indicate contemporaneous, but not immediately direct, association with the early use of the medieval Moated Site and Associated Enclosure at Rectory Farm, located to the north of the study site. Similarly, other than a possible Middle Saxon feature there is no evidence that the site directly relates to the West of Pirton Village Scheduled Monument (Priors Hill) located to the south and must therefore be viewed as discrete evidence of later Saxon settlement.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Shillington Road, Pirton, Hertfordshire, SG5 3QJ (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 1425 3185) from the 10th to the 18th of October 2017 (Figures 1, 2).

1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd in support of a proposal for allocation contained within the draft North Hertfordshire District Local Plan. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Chris Clarke (Clarke 2017). Archaeological work was monitored by Alison Tinniswood and Simon Wood of Hertfordshire County Council (HCC).

1.4 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.

1.5 A total of 15 trial trenches were excavated and recorded. These were split into 2x70, 1x50m and 22x30m trenches, totalling 1700m2. (Figures 1, 2)

1.6 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at the North Hertfordshire District Council Museum.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The underlying geology of the site is Chalk of the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey; Website 1), present in the study site as (102). This was sealed in a number of the trenches (Trenches 5, 8, 10, 11, 13-20 and 25) by a dark brown clay colluvium (237). This was overlain by the subsoil (101), a mid-brown-grey clay, which in turn was sealed by the topsoil (100), a dark to mid-brown-grey clayey-silt.

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 Pirton is located at the east end of the Chilterns, approximately 4.5km north-west of Hitchin and 11km north of Luton. The study site is located just to the west of the village, and comprises a single field with an area of approximately 2.6ha, which is currently under pasture. The site is bounded to the north-west by Shillington Road, to the east by the village of Pirton, to the south-east by the West of Pirton Village Scheduled Monument and to the west by Priors Hill (Figure 2).

2.2.2 The topography within the site incorporates a gradient, gently falling from the southeast boundary towards Shillington Road, located to the northwest. Ground level adjacent to the southeast boundary is recorded at a height of 74.06m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), decreasing to approximately 64.31m AOD adjacent to the northwest boundary, a fall of c.10m.

2.2.3 There are no watercourses, or naturally occurring bodies of water, located within the site, although parts of the course of the moat at Rectory Farm, located to the north of the site are fed by a small stream. The area of Pirton lies within the floodplain of the River Hiz.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

3.1.1 The site lies in an area of known archaeological significance, as recorded in the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER). The information below is taken from the HER, as well as the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (CgMs 2016) previously undertaken for the site. The area of the village of Pirton has been recognised as an area of high archaeological potential, due to the preservation of multiple scheduled monuments and heritage assets in the local area. The most relevant to the current site are the West of Pirton Village Scheduled Monument (Priors Hill), located adjacent to the south-east, and the Rectory Farm Moated Enclosure located to the north-west, across Shillington Road. Other nearby areas of significance includes the Scheduled Monument of Toot Hill Motte and Bailey Castle and Shrunken Village, located nearby to the south-east. Pirton has also been targeted for a program of test-pitting from 2007-2015 as part of the University of Cambridge Currently Occupied Rural Settlements (CORS) project (Websites 2 & 3).

3.2 Prehistoric

3.2.1 There are no finds of Palaeolithic date within the study area.

3.2.2 The trial trenching undertaken at Priors Hill immediately to the southeast of the site, recovered a small number of residual worked flints thought to be Mesolithic or Neolithic in date (Archaeological Solutions 2015)

3.2.3 By the 1st millennium, i.e. 1000 BC, the landscape was probably a mix of extensive tracts of open farmland, punctuated by occasional earthwork burial and ceremonial monuments from distant generations, with settlements and ritual areas at a low density across the landscape.

3.2.4 The 2015 programme of geophysical survey and trail trenching on the adjacent Priors Hill site identified two ring ditch features, measuring c.30m and c. 15m in diameter in the south-west area, which are interpreted as possible ploughed out Bronze Age barrows (Archaeological Solutions 2015b). The sampling of the ring ditches during the trial trenching did not

produce any reliable dating evidence in order to confirm the origin of these features (MHT31109, TL 14317 31717). As such, the attribution of a Bronze Age date to these features remains hypothetical. The investigation also recorded a cattle burial, for which a radiocarbon date returned a Middle Bronze Age date, although the report author noted this date could be anomalous (Archaeological Solutions 2015a). The only Prehistoric artefact recovered was a single residual pottery sherd attributed to the Later Prehistoric in general.

3.2.5 The HHER contains an entry relating to a hoard of four axes and a lump of metal dating to the Bronze Age, recorded as discovered somewhere in the Pirton area (MHT553, TL 142 318). The location of the HHER places the entry within the site boundary, although this is unlikely to be the origin of the discovery due to the vague nature of the record.

3.2.6 A pot base of probably Iron Age date (though possibly Anglo-Saxon) was found c.150m southeast of the site (MHT195, TL 144 317).

3.3 Roman

3.3.1 There are a number of records for Roman evidence within the study area on the HHER. The most significant of these entries is associated with the excavation of a pit and segment of ditch containing a small number of Roman artefacts during an evaluation at Pollard's Way, approximately 150m to the southeast of the site (MHT18649, TL 14433 31797). A single pit containing Roman pottery was found at Pirton Primary School, located a short distance to the east of Pollard's Way (MHT17170, TL 14519 31836).

3.3.2 A number of isolated artefacts have also been recorded within the study, including pottery sherds found to the east of the site at a distance in excess of 200m (MHT1475, TL 1459 3176; MHT1477, TL 147 317), and a spindle whorl found c150m southeast of the study site (MHT1480, TL 144 317).

3.3.3 The recent archaeological evaluation undertaken at Priors Hill did not identify any features attributed to the Roman period. Artefacts recovered from this period were limited to a handful of residual pottery fragments.

3.4 Anglo-Saxon

3.4.1 The archaeological investigations at Priors Hill found extensive evidence for enclosed Anglo-Saxon settlement adjacent to the study site. The initial geophysical survey recorded a number of discrete and linear features of interest (Archaeological Solutions 2015b). Subsequent investigation of these geophysical anomalies by means of trial trenching recorded a concentration of features dating to between the 5th and 9th century focused in the eastern and southern parts of the Priors Hill site. These features consisted of a concentration of postholes, a cluster of pits which incorporated a contemporary inhumation burial, and possible boundary ditch (Archaeological Solutions 2015a; 1434415, TL 1430 3173; MHT31108, TL 14318 31718).

3.4.2 The HHER records a number of records relating to the late Saxon/early medieval period. It is thought that there was a fortified ditch surrounding the village, prior to the Norman castle being constructed (MHT32; VCH, 1912).

3.4.3 Archaeological investigations at The Fox, c300m east of the site found evidence of late Anglo-Saxon occupation surrounding a well-defined cemetery containing 40 individuals, with three buildings around it, one of which is likely to an early church (MHT9677, TL 1473 3185; MHT9676, TL 1473 3185). A late Anglo-Saxon penny was found c2500m south of the study site (MHT9470, TL 14308 31504).

3.5 Late Medieval

3.5.1 At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, Pirton (referred to as Peritone) was assessed as a very large settlement, with 77 households and four water mills (Open Domesday 2017). The manor had been held by the Archbishop of Canterbury prior to the Domesday Survey, and by the Limesi family following the Survey.

3.5.2 The Church of St Mary, which is Grade I listed, lies c375m southeast of the study site. The original church dates from the 12th century with alterations in the 14th and 15th centuries (MHT4315, TL 1413 3198).

3.5.3 The most notable feature of Pirton is the Scheduled area which includes the

motte of Toot Hill, believed to have been erected in the 12th century, and the earthworks within the bailey. The Scheduled Monument also includes an area to the south of the bailey known as 'The Bury' which was a planned village respecting the castle. There are also earthworks including holloways, ponds and house platforms within the bailey around the motte (1012325, MHT32, MHT746, TL 1472 3152). The area of Great Green, a short distance to the west of the motte, was later used for watering cattle grazing on the common (MHT12427, TL 14555 31545).

3.5.4 Archaeological investigations, including a programme of test pitting across the village have revealed extensive medieval settlement activity. The village was nucleated around the motte and bailey and seemed to be at its largest in the 11-14th centuries, contracting after this time (MHT16620, TL 1470 3178).

3.5.5 Excavations at The Fox, c300m east of the site, found well preserved medieval occupation, continuing from the early Medieval period (MHT9676, TL 1473 3185).

3.5.6 A third Scheduled Monument, the Moated Site and associated enclosure at Rectory Farm is located on the opposite side of Shillington Road from the study site, and consists of a square shaped moat with an adjoining moat to the northeast. The southwest corner of the moat has been infilled and a 17th century farmhouse constructed in that area (1009451, MHT2221, TL 1418 3200).

3.5.7 Traces of ridge and furrow were identified at Priors Hill during the evaluation of the site (Archaeological Solutions 2015a & 2015b), while further traces of ridge and furrow have been recorded c125m to the southwest (MHT15956, TL 1403 3137); c225m to the north (MHT9059, TL 1421 3210); and c250m to the northwest (MHT4715, TL 139 320).

3.5.8 An isolated lead alloy seal die of 12th or 13th century date was found c250m south of the site (MHT9471, TL 14300 31500).

3.5.9 A number of residual medieval pottery sherds were recovered from a test pit

at Burge End Lane approximately 125m to the northeast of the site (MHT13757, TL 14445 32035).

3.6 Post-Medieval & Modern

3.6.1 A review of the data held by the Portable Antiquaries Scheme (PAS) records the recovery of an Elizabethan coin from the general area of Pirton (MHT21635-MHT21637; BH-FAD07). The data provided by the HHER, without specific grid reference, locates the find within the site, but due to the PAS policy of only publicising the general area of the discovery to the nearest kilometre, it is unlikely the coin in question originates from the study site itself.

3.6.2 Druy and Andrew's map of 1766 shows the study site located within open ground, associated with stands of trees, on the western edge of Pirton Village. The general character of the site remains unaltered on the Ordnance Survey Drawing of 1804.

3.6.3 The 1818 Pirton Enclosure map depicts the site as a single field called 'Walnut Tree Close' owned by The Reverand Sir J. Filmer. The character of the site remains unaltered in 1822.

3.6.4 The Ordnance Survey map of 1881 indicates that the site still remains within a single field in which no features of interest are marked. The layout of the site remains unaltered between 1896 and 1948.

3.6.5 By 1960 a small enclosure for an orchard or young woodland has been created in the western part of the site. By 1982 this enclosure and trees has been removed with the site returned a single extensive field. The layout remains unaltered up to the present day.

3.7 Geophysical Survey

3.7.1 In August 2016, a geophysical survey was undertaken within the study site in order to determine the presence of any archaeological features within the site (Stratascan 2016) (Figure 3). The results of the survey were limited to the identification of a possible archaeological enclosure associated with two anomalies that may represent evidence of burnt remains. Evidence for the

possible enclosure is represented by a disparate series of very weak (at the limit of detection) linear anomalies and trends which could equally represent an enclosure or modern agricultural trends. The interpretation of the possible burnt remains is equally tentative.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of 25 trial trenches (1700m2), distributed evenly across the site (Figure 3). Three of the trenches were targeted on the results of the geophysical survey; Trenches 5 and 6 on the possible enclosure in the south-west of the study area, and Trench 14 on the two discrete anomalies identified. All the trenches were able to be excavated.

4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 12-ton tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil, subsoil and colluvium deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools. Overburden deposits were set aside beside each trench and examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval.

4.1.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoilheaps were scanned by metal-detector as they were encountered.

4.1.4 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).

4.1.5 All features were investigated and recorded in order to properly understand the date and nature of the archaeological remains on the site and to recover sufficient finds assemblages to assess the chronological development and socio-economic character of the site over time.

4.1.6 Discrete features such as pits and postholes were at least 50% excavated, linear features were investigated via 1m wide slots. Features were hand excavated to the base of the cut, unless safety reasons dictated otherwise.

4.2 Recording Methodology

4.2.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica GS014 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

4.2.2 Manual plans and section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10 or 1:20).

4.2.3 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits recorded during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.

4.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital Photographs were taken of all archaeological features and deposits and black and white film photographs were taken when considered appropriate by the excavator and supervisor.

4.2.5 Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from the site (IfA 2001; Walker 1990; Watkinson 1981).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. Features and deposits are first split into feature type, and then described in numerical cut order. Archaeological features and deposits were sealed by the subsoil or colluvium, unless otherwise stated. The principal result of the fieldwork was the discovery of a number of near settlement medieval features (focused around the 12th century) mainly comprised of pits and ditches.

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 1	**Figure -**		**Plate -**	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30m		Level of Natural (m OD): 67.77	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Maximum Depth (m)**	
			E End	**W End**
Topsoil	(100)		0.33	0.30
Subsoil	(101)		-	0.36
Natural	(102)		0.33+	0.39+
Summary Trench 1 was located at the western end of the site area. The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.				

5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 Trench 2 contained two parallel ditches one of which was aligned north-east to south-west, with the other aligned east to west. The trench also contained a single small pit. Material recovered from a pit within the trench dated it to the medieval period.

5.3.2 Ditch [143] was located centrally within the trench and was aligned east to west, extending out of the limits of excavation in both directions. It was moderately wide but shallow, measuring c. 0.80m wide by 0.16m deep. It contained a single fill (142); a light brown-grey silty-clay which contained no

finds. The ditch was cut by Pit [147] to the south-west.

5.3.3 Ditch [145] was located centrally within the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west, extending beyond the limits of excavation in both directions. It was moderately wide but shallow, measuring c. 1m wide by 0.13m deep. It contained a single fill (144), a light brown-grey silty-clay which contained no finds.

5.3.4 Pit [147] was located centrally within the trench and was circular in plan with a steeply-sloping round-based profile (0.45m wide x 0.07m deep). It had a single fill (146), a dark grey-brown silty-clay which contained a single piece of peg tile, dating to AD 1300-1600. The pit cut Ditch [143] to the north-east.

TRENCH 2	**Figure 4**		**Plate -**	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 30m		Level of Natural (m OD): 69.03	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Maximum Depth (m)**	
			N End	**S End**
Topsoil	(100)		0.28	0.28
Subsoil	(101)		0.32	0.45
Natural	(102)		0.34+	0.47+
Summary Trench 2 was located at the western end of the site area. The trench contained two ditches, which were aligned north-east to south-west. The trench also contained a single small pit. Material recovered from the pit dated it to the medieval period.				

5.4 Trench 3

5.4.1 Trench 3 contained a single small pit, which did not contain datable material.

5.4.2 Pit [104] was located to the west within the trench and was circular in plan with a near-vertical flat-based profile (0.30m wide x 0.05m deep). It had a single fill (103), a mid-grey clayey-silt which contained no finds.

TRENCH 3	**Figure 5**		**Plate -**
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 69.03	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Maximum Depth (m)**	

		E End	**W End**
Topsoil	(100)	0.30	0.25
Subsoil	(101)	0.34	0.34
Natural	(102)	0.34+	0.34+

Summary

Trench 3 was located in the south-western corner of the site area.

The trench contained a single small pit, which did not contain datable material.

5.5 Trench 4

5.5.1 Trench 4 contained a single ditch, which was aligned north-east to south-west and contained pottery dating to the Late Saxon to medieval periods. The trench also contained a single small pit, which contained pottery and tile dating to the Georgian period.

5.5.2 Ditch [108] was located centrally within the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west, extending beyond the limits of excavation in both directions. It was moderately wide but shallow, measuring c. 0.85m wide by 0.13m deep. It contained a single fill (107), a light brown-grey clayey-silt which a small assemblage of pottery dating to AD 1000-1300. Based on shared alignment and profile, [108] is considered to be the same ditch as [111] in Trench 5 and [113] in Trench 6.

5.5.3 Pit [106] was located towards the southern end of the trench and was circular in plan with a moderately-sloping round-based profile (0.60m wide x 0.13m deep). It had a single fill (105), a mid-grey-brown clayey-silt which contained a small assemblage of pottery dating from AD 1740-1830 and a single piece of tile dating to AD 1300-1600. The greater degree of confidence that can be assigned to the pottery date suggests that the feature can be assigned to the Georgian period.

TRENCH 4	**Figure 5**	**Plate -**
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 71.63

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Maximum Depth (m)**	
		N End	**S End**
Topsoil	(100)	0.24	0.20
Subsoil	(101)	0.35	0.31

Natural	(102)	0.36+	0.32+

Summary

Trench 4 was located in the south-western corner of the site area.

The trench contained a single ditch, which was aligned north-east to south-west and contained pottery dating to the Late Saxon to medieval periods. The trench also contained a single small pit which contained pottery and tile dating to the Georgian period.

5.6 Trench 5

5.6.1 Trench 5 contained three ditches, one of which was aligned north to south, another north-west to south-east, with the remaining example being aligned north-east to south-west. None of the features contained datable material.

5.6.2 Ditch [109] was located to the west within the trench and was aligned north to south, carrying on out of the limits of excavation in both directions. It was wide but shallow, measuring c. 1.80m wide by 0.08m deep. It contained a single fill (110), a light grey silt which contained occasional chalk inclusions.

5.6.3 Ditch [111] was located centrally within the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west, extending beyond the limits of excavation in both directions. It was moderately wide but shallow, measuring c. 0.70m wide by 0.08m deep. It contained a single fill (112), a light grey silt which contained occasional chalk inclusions. Based on shared alignment and profile, [111] is considered to be the same ditch as [108] in Trench 4 and [113] in Trench 6.

5.6.4 Ditch [121] was located to the east within the trench and was aligned north-west to south-east, extending beyond the limits of excavation in both directions. It was moderately wide but shallow, measuring c. 0.82m wide by 0.29m deep. It had two fills; an upper fill (123), a 0.21m thick mid-brown silty-clay which contained no finds and a basal fill (122), a 0.08m thick light-grey-brown clayey-silt, which contained no finds.

TRENCH 5	**Figure 6**		**Plate -**	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 70m	Level of Natural (m OD): 70.06		
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Maximum Depth (m)**	
			E End	**W End**
Topsoil	(100)		0.27	0.19

Subsoil	(101)	0.50	0.37
Colluvium	(237)	0.71	-
Natural	(102)	0.72+	0.38+

Summary

Trench 5 was located at the western end of the site area. The trench formed the shape of a 'cross' in plan in conjunction with Trench 6.
Trench 5 contained three ditches, one of which was aligned north to south, another north-west to south-east, with the remaining example being aligned north-east to south-west. None of the features contained datable material.

5.7 Trench 6

5.7.1 Trench 6 contained two ditches, one of which was aligned east to west, with the remaining example being aligned north-east to south-west. None of the features contained datable material.

5.7.2 Ditch [113] was located centrally within the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west, extending beyond the limits of excavation in both directions. It was moderately wide but shallow, measuring c. 0.80m wide by 0.12m deep. It contained a single fill (114); a light grey silt which contained occasional chalk inclusions. Based on shared alignment and profile, [113] is considered to be the same ditch as [108] in Trench 4 and [111] in Trench 5.

5.7.3 Ditch [120] (Section 107; Figure 11; Plate 1) was located to the north the trench and was aligned east to west, carrying on out of the limits of excavation in both directions. It was wide and deep, measuring c. 2.14m wide by 0.94m deep. It had three fills; an upper fill (117), a 0.25m thick light brown-grey silty-clay which contained frequent snail shells and rare chalk inclusions, a middle fill (118), a 0.16m thick dark brown grey silty-clay which contained no finds, and a basal fill (119), a 0.44m thick mid-to light brown-grey silty-clay which contained rare chalk inclusions. The feature was previously identified by the geophysical survey undertaken on the site.

TRENCH 6	**Figure 6**	**Plate 1**
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 70m	Level of Natural (m OD): 70.89

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Maximum Depth (m)**

		N End	**S End**
Topsoil	(100)	0.19	0.20
Subsoil	(101)	0.44	0.29
Natural	(102)	0.46+	0.30+

Summary

Trench 6 was located at the western end of the site area. The trench formed the shape of a 'cross' in plan in conjunction with Trench 5.
Trench 6 contained two ditches, one of which was aligned east to west, with the remaining example being aligned north-east to south-west. Neither of the features contained datable material.

5.8 Trench 7

5.8.1 Trench 7 contained a single small pit, which contained a small assemblage of Early Neolithic struck flint.

5.8.2 Pit [149] (Section 120; Figure 11) was located to the northern end of the trench and was oval in plan with a moderately-sloping round-based profile (0.60m wide x 0.13m deep). It had a single fill (148), a mid-brown clayey-silt which contained a small assemblage of flint.

TRENCH 7	**Figure 7**		**Plate -**
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 65.76	

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Maximum Depth (m)**	
		N End	**S End**
Topsoil	(100)	0.26	0.29
Subsoil	(101)	0.45	0.50
Natural	(102)	0.52+	0.52+

Summary

Trench 7 was located at the western end of the site area.
Trench 7 contained a single small pit, which contained a small assemblage of Early Neolithic struck flint.

5.9 Trench 8

5.9.1 Trench 8 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 8	**Figure 7**	**Plate -**
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 64.95

Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.28	0.31
Subsoil	(101)	0.59	0.62
Colluvium	(237)	0.88	0.92
Natural	(102)	0.94+	0.95+

Summary

Trench 8 was located in the north-western corner of the site area.
The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

5.10 Trench 9

5.10.1 Trench 9 contained two ditches, both of which were aligned north to south. The trench also contained a single large pit. None of the features contained datable material.

5.10.2 Ditch [158] was located towards the centre of the trench and was aligned north to south, extending beyond the limits of excavation in both directions. It was wide but shallow, measuring c. 1.90m wide by 0.32m deep. It had two fills; an upper fill (156), a 0.24m thick light to mid-grey-brown silty-clay which contained a single piece of cattle-sized animal bone and a basal fill (157), a 0.08m thick light-grey clay which contained no finds.

5.10.3 Ditch [161] was located to the east within the trench and was aligned north to south, carrying on out of the limits of excavation in both directions. It was moderately wide but shallow, measuring c. 0.81m wide by 0.17m deep. It had two fills; an upper fill (159), a 0.11m thick mid-to dark brown clay which contained no finds and a basal fill (160), a 0.05m thick light to mid-brown-grey clay which contained rare chalk inclusions.

5.10.4 Pit [199] (Section 133; Figure 11; Plate 2) was located to the eastern end of the trench and was circular in plan with a steeply-sloping concave-based profile (2.70m wide x 0.98m deep). It had three fills; an upper fill (196), a 0.43m thick light to mid-grey-brown clay which contained rare chalk inclusions, a middle fill (197), a 0.48m thick light to mid-grey clay which contained rare chalk inclusions, and a basal fill (198), a 0.16m thick light

grey silty-clay, which contained no finds.

TRENCH 9	**Figure 7**		**Plate 2**	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30m		Level of Natural (m OD): 65.92	
Deposit		**Context No.**	**Maximum Depth (m)**	
			E End	**W End**
Topsoil		(100)	0.28	0.30
Subsoil		(101)	0.46	0.45
Natural		(102)	0.47+	0.47+
Summary Trench 9 was located in the western end of the site area. Trench 9 contained two ditches, both of which were aligned north to south. The trench also contained a single large pit. None of the features contained datable material.				

5.11 Trench 10

5.11.1 Trench 10 contained four ditches, two of which were aligned north-east to south-west, with the remainder being aligned north-west to south-east. The trench also contained three intercutting shallow pits. One of the pits contained a small quantity of material of a Roman date, which is presumed to be residual (See Section 6.2). One of the ditches contained material which dated it to the Early to Middle Saxon periods, although its upper fill did contain medieval tile.

5.11.2 Ditch [168] was located at the northern end of the trench and was aligned north-west to south-east, extending beyond the limits of excavation in both directions. It was narrow and shallow, measuring c. 0.52m wide by 0.18m deep. It had a single fill (167), a mid-to dark brown-grey clay which contained no finds.

5.11.3 Ditch [171] was located centrally within the trench and was aligned north-west to south-east, carrying on out of the limits of excavation in both directions. It was moderately narrow and shallow, measuring c. 0.64m wide by 0.19m deep. It had two fills; an upper fill (169), a 0.14m thick mid-to dark grey-brown clay which contained tile dating to AD 1300-1600 and a single piece of cattle sized animal bone, and a basal fill (170), a 0.09m thick light to

mid-grey silty-clay which a small assemblage of pottery dating to AD 450-850 and rare chalk inclusions. The ditch cut Ditch [174] to the south.

5.11.4 Ditch [174] was located centrally within the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west, carrying on out of the limits of excavation in both directions. It was moderately wide and shallow, measuring c. 0.76m wide by 0.24m deep. It had two fills; an upper fill (172), a 0.18m thick mid-to dark grey-brown clay which contained no finds and a basal fill (173), a 0.07m thick light to mid-grey silty-clay which contained rare chalk inclusions. The ditch was cut by Ditch [171] to the north.

5.11.5 Ditch [182] was located to the south of the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west, extending beyond the limits of excavation in both directions. It was moderately wide and shallow, measuring c. 0.78m wide by 0.18m deep. It had two fills; an upper fill (180), a 0.15m thick mid-to dark brown-grey clay which contained no finds and a basal fill (181), a 0.07m thick light to mid-brown-grey silty-clay which contained rare chalk inclusions. Based on shared alignment and profile, [182] is considered to be the same ditch as [166] in Trench 13 and [192] in Trench 18.

5.11.6 Pit [176] (Section 127; Figure 11; Plate 3) was located towards the centre of the trench and was sub circular in plan with a moderately-sloping concave-based profile (1.41m wide x 0.25m deep). It had a single fill (175): a mid-to dark brown-grey clay which contained no finds. The pit cut Pit [179] to the south.

5.11.7 Pit [179] (Section 127; Figure 11; Plate 3) was located to the south within the trench and was not fully visible in plan with a gently-sloping concave-based profile (1.05m wide x 0.38m deep). It had two fills; an upper fill (177), a 0.29m thick mid-grey-brown silty-clay which contained a small assemblage of dating to AD 50-400, a small assemblage of animal bone and a basal fill (178), a 0.10m thick light grey silty-clay which contained very rare chalk inclusions. The pit was cut by Pit [176] to the north and Pit [187] to the south.

5.11.8 Pit [187] (Section 127; Figure 11; Plate 3) was located to the south within the trench and was sub circular in plan with a moderately to gently-sloping

concave-based profile (1.01m wide x 0.32m deep). It had two fills; an upper fill (185), a 0.28m thick mid-brown clay which contained no finds and a basal fill (186), a 0.06m thick dark to mid-grey-brown clay which contained no finds. The pit cut Pit [179] to the north.

TRENCH 10	**Figure 8**		**Plate 3**	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 64.65		
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Maximum Depth (m)**	
			N End	**S End**
Topsoil	(100)		0.25	0.33
Subsoil	(101)		0.68	0.69
Colluvium	(237)		0.80	-
Natural	(102)		0.82+	0.73+

Summary

Trench 10 was located centrally in the site area.

Trench 10 contained four ditches, two of which were aligned north-east to south-west, with the remainder being aligned north-west to south-east. The trench also contained three intercutting shallow pits. One of the pits contained a small quantity of material of a Roman date, which is presumed to be residual, whereas one of the ditches contained material which dated it to the Early to Middle Saxon periods, although its upper fill did contain medieval tile.

5.12 Trench 11

5.12.1 Trench 11 contained five ditches, four of which were aligned north-west to south-east, with the remaining example being aligned north-east to south-west. The trench also contained five pits, three of which formed part of a large intercutting area of archaeology in the centre of the trench. Material recovered from one of the pits dated it to the Late Saxon to medieval periods, whereas another two pits and two ditches contained material dating them to the medieval period.

5.12.2 Ditch [211] was located in the western end of the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west, extending beyond the limits of excavation in both directions. It was moderately wide and shallow, measuring c. 0.80m wide by 0.13m deep. It had a single fill (212), a dark grey silty-clay which contained

no finds.

5.12.3 Ditch terminus [215] was located to the west within the trench and was aligned north-west to south-east, extending beyond the limits of excavation to the north-west, while terminating in the centre of the trench. It was narrow and shallow, measuring c. 0.16m wide by 0.10m deep. It had a single fill (216), a mid-grey silty-clay which contained a single piece of pig bone and rare chalk inclusions.

5.12.4 Ditch [225] (Section 144; Figure 11; Plate 4) was located towards the centre of the trench and was aligned north-west to south-east, extending beyond the limits of excavation to the north-west. It was not fully visible in plan, measuring c. 0.39m wide by 0.08m deep. It had a single fill (224), a dark grey silty-clay which contained rare charcoal. The ditch cut Pit [223] to the west and was cut by Ditch [227] to the east.

5.12.5 Ditch [227] (Section 144; Figure 11; Plate 4) was located to the east of the trench and was aligned north-west to south-east, carrying on out of the limits of excavation in both directions. It was wide and shallow, measuring c. 1.20m wide by 0.26m deep. It had a single fill (226), a dark grey silty-clay which contained a small assemblage of pottery dating to AD 1150-1400, a moderate assemblage of animal bone and occasional charcoal flecks. The ditch cut Ditch [225] and Pit [223] to the west, as well as Pit [232] to the east. It was cut by Pit [229] to the east.

5.12.6 Ditch [232] (Section 144; Figure 11; Plate 4) was located to the east within the trench and was aligned north-west to south-east, carrying on out of the limits of excavation in both directions. It was wide and moderately deep, measuring c. 1.90m wide by 0.53m deep. It had a single fill (231), a light grey silty-clay which contained pottery dating to AD 1200-1400, a small assemblage of animal bone and occasional chalk inclusions. The ditch was cut by Ditch [227] and Pit [229] to the west.

5.12.7 Pit [213] was located to the west within the trench and was sub rectangular in plan with a steeply-sloping flat-based profile (1.40m wide x 0.10m deep). It had a single fill (214), a dark grey silty-clay which contained no finds.

5.12.8 Pit [218] was located to the west of the trench and was sub circular in plan with a moderately-sloping concave-based profile (1.15m wide x 0.24m deep). It had a single fill (217), a mid-grey-brown silty-clay which contained a small assemblage of pottery, including Developed St Neots type pottery dating to AD 1000-1300.

5.12.9 Pit [221] was located centrally within the trench and was approximately sub circular in plan with a vertically-sided flat-based profile (c.3.50m wide x 0.70m deep). It had three fills; an upper fill (219), a unexcavated light to mid-yellow-grey silty-clay which contained no finds, a middle fill (220), a unexcavated dark brown clay which contained pottery dating to AD 1150-1400 and a basal fill (233), a 0.70m thick dark grey silty-clay which contained pottery dating to AD 1200-1350, including sherds from a large rounded jug and a decorated sherd of Hertfordshire type greyware, two pieces of tile dating to AD 1300-1600 and a small assemblage of animal bone. The feature was not fully excavated due to its considerable size, and cut Pit [223] to the east.

5.12.10 Pit [223] (Section 144; Figure 11; Plate 4) was located centrally within the trench and was not fully visible in plan, its sides were truncated and it had flat-based profile (c.0.75m wide x 0.18m deep. It had a single fill (222); a mid-brown-grey clay which contained a Hertfordshire greyware type jar rimsherd dating to AD 1150-1400 and a small assemblage of animal bone. The feature was not fully excavated due to its considerable size, and was cut by Ditch [225] to the east and Pit [221] to the west.

5.12.11 Pit [229] (Section 144; Figure 11; Plate 4) was located centrally within the trench and was sub-circular in plan with a gently-sloping concave-based profile (0.91m wide x 0.15m deep). It had a single fill (228), a mid-to dark grey silty-clay which contained rare charcoal flecks. The pit cut Ditch [232] to the east and Ditch [227] to the west.

TRENCH 11	**Figure 9**		**Plate 4**
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 64.31	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Maximum Depth (m)**

		E End	**W End**
Topsoil	(100)	0.30	0.32
Subsoil	(101)	0.58	0.62
Colluvium	(237)	0.68	-
Natural	(102)	0.70+	0.63+

Summary

Trench 11 was located centrally in the site area.
Trench 11 contained five ditches, four of which were aligned north-west to south-east, with the remaining example being aligned north-east to south-west. The trench also contained five pits, three of which formed part of a large intercutting area of archaeology in the centre of the trench. Material recovered from one of the pits dated it to the Late Saxon to medieval periods, whereas another two pits and two ditches contained material dating them to the medieval period.

5.13 Trench 12

5.13.1 Trench 12 contained three ditches, two of which were aligned north-east to south-west, with the remaining example being aligned north-west to south-east. The trench also contained a single pit. Material recovered from the pit and two of the ditches date them to the Late Saxon to medieval periods.

5.13.2 Ditch terminus [205] was located to the west within the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west, extending beyond the limit of excavation to the north-east. It was moderately wide and shallow, measuring c. 1.15m wide by 0.12m deep. It had a single fill (204), a mid-grey-brown clayey-silt which contained a small assemblage of pottery dating to AD 1150-1400 and a single iron nail.

5.13.3 Ditch [207] was located centrally within the trench and was aligned north-west to south-east, carrying on out of the limits of excavation in both directions. It was narrow and shallow, measuring c. 0.38m wide by 0.09m deep. It had a single fill (206), a mid-grey-brown clayey-silt which contained no finds. The ditch was cut by Ditch [209] to the east.

5.13.4 Ditch [209] was located centrally within the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west, carrying on out of the limits of excavation in both directions. It was narrow and shallow, measuring c. 0.35m wide by 0.05m

deep. It had a single fill (208), a mid-grey-brown clayey-silt which contained a small assemblage of Early medieval sandy ware pottery dating to AD 1000-1300. The ditch cut Ditch [207] to the west.

5.13.5 Pit [202] was located to the east within the trench and was sub circular in plan with a gently to moderately-sloping flat-based profile (2.50m wide x 0.28m deep). It had a single fill (203), a dark grey-brown silty-clay which contained a small assemblage of Early medieval sandy ware pottery dating to AD 1000-1200, a single iron strip in the form of a shank with a flat, semi-circular head and a single piece of sheep-sized animal bone.

TRENCH 12	**Figure 8**		**Plate -**	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30m		Level of Natural (m OD): 64.74	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Maximum Depth (m)**	
			E End	**W End**
Topsoil	(100)		0.28	0.33
Subsoil	(101)		0.58	0.50
Natural	(102)		0.61+	0.51+

Summary

Trench 12 was located centrally in the site area.
Trench 12 contained three ditches, two of which were aligned north-east to south-west, with the remaining example being aligned north-west to south-east. The trench also contained a single pit. Material recovered from the pit and two of the ditches dated them to the Late Saxon to medieval periods.

5.14 Trench 13

5.14.1 Trench 13 contained two ditches, both of which were aligned north-east to south-west. Neither of the features contained datable material.

5.14.2 Ditch [164] (Section 123; Figure 11; Plate 5) was located centrally within the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west, carrying on out of the limits of excavation in both directions. It was wide and deep, measuring c. 1.36m wide by 0.76m deep. It had two fills; an upper fill (162), a 0.56m thick dark to mid-grey-brown clay which contained no finds and a basal fill (163), a 0.12m thick mid-to light grey silty-clay which contained no finds.

5.14.3 Ditch [166] was located to the north within the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west, carrying on out of the limits of excavation in both directions. It was narrow in plan, measuring c. 0.45m wide. It had a single fill (165), a mid-to dark brown-grey clay which contained no finds. Based on shared alignment and appearance, [166] is considered to be the same ditch as [182] in Trench 10 and [192] in Trench 18 and was therefore left unexcavated.

TRENCH 13	**Figure 8**		**Plate 5**	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 30m		Level of Natural (m OD): 65.92	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Maximum Depth (m)**	
			N End	**S End**
Topsoil	(100)		0.30	0.28
Subsoil	(101)		0.48	0.41
Colluvium	(237)		-	0.49
Natural	(102)		0.49+	0.50+
Summary Trench 13 was located centrally in the site area. Trench 13 contained two ditches, both of which were aligned north-east to south-west. None of the features contained datable material.				

5.15 Trench 14

5.15.1 Trench 14 contained a single large pit. The feature did not contain datable material. Two possible features that were identified in this trench in the geophysical survey of the site were found not to be present upon excavation.

5.15.2 Pit [134] was located to the north-east within the trench, its full extent and shape in plan could not be ascertained, although it had a steeply-sloping flat-based profile (c.2.85m wide x 0.68m deep). It had a single fill (133), a light grey-brown silty-clay which contained no finds.

TRENCH 14	**Figure 9**		**Plate -**	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 50m		Level of Natural (m OD): 67.13	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Maximum Depth (m)**	
			NE End	**SW End**
Topsoil	(100)		0.26	0.22
Subsoil	(101)		0.52	0.40

Colluvium	(237)	-	0.73
Natural	(102)	0.57+	0.75 +

Summary

Trench 14 was located centrally in the site area.

Trench 14 contained a single large pit. The feature did not contain datable material.

5.16 Trench 15

5.16.1 Trench 15 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 15	**Figure -**		**Plate -**
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 70.76	

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Maximum Depth (m)**	
		N End	**S End**
Topsoil	(100)	0.24	0.22
Subsoil	(101)	0.55	0.36
Colluvium	(237)	0.59	-
Natural	(102)	0.60+	0.38+

Summary

Trench 15 was located centrally in the site area.

Trench 15 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

5.17 Trench 16

5.17.1 Trench 16 contained a single small possible posthole. The feature did not contain datable material.

5.17.2 Posthole [115] was located to the west within the trench and was sub circular in plan with a steeply-sloping concave based profile (c.0.20 wide x 0.12m deep). It had a single fill (116), a mid-brown silty-clay which contained no finds.

TRENCH 16	**Figure 9**		**Plate -**
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 69.17	

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Maximum Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**
Topsoil	(100)	0.24	0.28

Subsoil	(101)	0.36	0.48
Colluvium	(237)	0.51	0.64
Natural	(102)	0.56+	0.66+

Summary

Trench 16 was located centrally in the site area.
Trench 16 contained a single small possible posthole. The feature did not contain datable material.

5.18 Trench 17

5.18.1 Trench 17 contained a single ditch, which was aligned north-east to south-west. The feature did not contain datable material.

5.18.2 Ditch [124] was located centrally within the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west, carrying on out of the limits of excavation in both directions. It was narrow and shallow, measuring c. 0.40m wide by 0.06m deep. It contained a single fill (125), a light grey silty-clay which contained very rare charcoal flecks.

TRENCH 17	**Figure 9**	**Plate -**
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 67.63

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Maximum Depth (m)**	
		NW End	**SE End**
Topsoil	(100)	0.22	0.26
Subsoil	(101)	0.41	0.54
Colluvium	(237)	0.48	-
Natural	(102)	0.52+	0.61+

Summary

Trench 17 was located centrally in the site area.
Trench 17 contained a single ditch, which was aligned north-east to south-west. The feature did not contain datable material.

5.19 Trench 18

5.19.1 Trench 18 contained a single ditch, which was aligned north-east to south-west. The feature did not contain datable material.

5.19.2 Ditch [191] was located centrally within the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west, carrying on out of the limits of excavation in both directions. It was moderately wide but shallow, measuring c. 1.00m wide by 0.20m deep. It contained a single fill (192), a light grey silty-clay which contained no finds.

TRENCH 18	**Figure 10**		**Plate -**	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 65.72		
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Maximum Depth (m)**	
			N End	**S End**
Topsoil	(100)		0.36	0.28
Subsoil	(101)		0.61	0.50
Colluvium	(237)		0.87	-
Natural	(102)		0.88+	0.52+
Summary Trench 18 was located centrally within the site. Trench 18 contained a single ditch, which was aligned north-east to south-west. The feature did not contain datable material.				

5.20 Trench 19

5.20.1 The trench contained two pits. Material recovered from the larger feature dated it to the medieval period.

5.20.2 Pit [136] was located to the west of the trench and was probably circular in plan, although the feature was not fully visible within the trench, with a gently to moderately-sloping flat-based profile (c.0.70m wide x 0.13m deep). It had a single fill (135), a mid-brown silty-clay which contained no finds.

5.20.3 Pit [140] (Section 116; Figure 11; Plate 6) was located to the east within the trench, its full extent and shape in plan could not be ascertained, although it had a moderately to steeply-sloping concave-based profile (c.3.50m wide x 0.78m deep). It had six fills; an uppermost fill (154), a 0.35m thick mid-brown-grey silty-clay which contained frequent chalk inclusions, an upper fill (152), a 0.41m thick mid-yellow-brown clay with frequent chalk inclusions, which contained a moderate assemblage of pottery dating to AD 1200-1350,

including parts of a large greyware jug, a single fragment of brick dating to AD 1450-1800 and a small assemblage of animal bone. A further Upper fill (153): a 0.21m thick mid-brown grey silty-clay with occasional chalk inclusions which contained a moderate assemblage of pottery dating to AD 1200-1350 including greyware sherds decorated with incised lines and a small assemblage of animal bone. A Middle fill (151), a 0.08m thick dark-brown silty-clay which contained a moderate assemblage of pottery dating to AD 1200-1350, including parts of a large, rounded greyware jug, tile which is presumed to be medieval in date, a single strip of iron, which was possibly riveted, as well as a moderate assemblage of animal bone, including several complete or near complete equid adult ponies. A Lower fill (141); a 0.18m thick mid-yellow-brown clay which contained frequent chalk inclusions. Finally, a basal fill (238); a 0.10m thick dark brown-grey silty-clay which contained frequent charcoal flecks. Although the feature had a linear appearance in plan, the profile of the excavated slot indicated the feature was more likely to be an elongated pit. The pottery assemblages recovered from the pit were unusual in that it contained large, fresh sherds that are suggestive of direct dumping from nearby settlement.

TRENCH 19	**Figure 10**		**Plate 6**	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30m		Level of Natural (m OD): 65.06	
Deposit		**Context No.**	**Maximum Depth (m)**	
			E End	**W End**
Topsoil		(100)	0.29	0.28
Subsoil		(101)	0.61	0.47
Colluvium		(237)	0.93	0.75
Natural		(102)	0.95+	0.76+
Summary Trench 19 was located in the north-east corner of the site area. Trench 19 contained two pits. Material recovered from the larger feature dated it to the medieval period.				

5.21 Trench 20

5.21.1 Trench 20 contained two ditches, one of which was aligned north-east to

south-west, with the remaining example being aligned approximately north-west to south-east. The trench also contained two pits. Material recovered from one of the pits dated it to the medieval period.

5.21.2 Ditch [183] was located centrally within the trench and was aligned north--west to south-east, carrying on out of the limit of excavation in both directions. It was wide and moderately deep, measuring c. 2.20m wide by 0.60m deep. It had a single fill (184), a dark brown silty-clay which contained occasional sub angular stones.

5.21.3 Ditch [200] was located to the north within the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west, carrying on out of the limits of excavation in both directions. It was narrow and shallow, measuring c. 0.28m wide by 0.06m deep. It had a single fill (201), a light grey silty-clay which contained no finds.

5.21.4 Pit [190] (Section 130; Figure 11) was located to the north within the trench and was sub circular in plan with vertical sides; the base of the feature could not be reached due to safety concerns (3.20m wide x 0.62m deep). It had two fills; upper fill (188): a 0.12m thick light grey silty-clay which contained no finds and a lower fill (189), a 0.62m+ thick mid-brown clay with occasional sub-angular stones, which contained a moderate assemblage of pottery dating to AD 1150-1400, including St Neots ware, Early medieval sand tempered ware and Hertfordshire greyware, and a small assemblage of animal bone.

5.21.5 Pit [194] was located to the south within the trench and was sub-circular in plan with a gently-sloping concave-based profile (1.30m wide x 0.16m deep). It had two fills; an upper fill (193), a mid-brown clayey-silt which contained no finds and a basal fill (195), a 0.04m thick dark grey clay which contained very frequent sub rounded stones, which may have formed a layer of metalling at the base of the feature.

TRENCH 20	**Figure 10**		**Plate -**	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 67.10		
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Maximum Depth (m)**		
		N End	**S End**	

Topsoil	(100)	0.30	0.26
Subsoil	(101)	0.51	0.45
Colluvium	(237)	0.70	-
Natural	(102)	0.72+	0.50+

Summary

Trench 20 was located in the eastern end of the site area.
Trench 20 contained two ditches, one of which was aligned north-east to south-west, with the remaining example being aligned approximately north-west to south-east. The trench also contained two pits. Material recovered from one of the pits dated it to the medieval period.

5.22 Trench 21

5.22.1 Trench 21 contained a single ditch, which was aligned north-west to south-east. The feature did not contain datable material.

5.22.2 Ditch terminus [126] was located to the west within the trench and was aligned north-west to south-east, carrying on out of the limit of excavation to the south-east. It was moderately narrow and shallow, measuring c. 0.53m wide by 0.23m deep. It had two fills; an upper fill (130), a 0.15m thick mid-grey-brown silty-clay which contained no finds and a basal fill (127), a 0.17m thick mid-grey silty-clay which contained no finds.

TRENCH 21	**Figure -**		**Plate -**	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 69.62		
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Maximum Depth (m)**	
			E End	**W End**
Topsoil	(100)		0.28	0.28
Subsoil	(101)		0.46	0.47
Natural	(102)		0.49+	0.51+

Summary

Trench 21 was located in the eastern end of the site area.
Trench 21 contained a single ditch, which was aligned north-west to south-east. The feature did not contain datable material.

5.23 Trench 22

5.23.1 Trench 22 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 22	**Figure -**		**Plate -**	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 69.98		
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Maximum Depth (m)**		
		N End	**S End**	
Topsoil	(100)	0.21	0.20	
Subsoil	(101)	0.43	0.40	
Natural	(102)	0.51+	0.42+	
Summary Trench 22 was located in the eastern end of the site area. Trench 22 contained no archaeological features or deposits.				

5.24 Trench 23

5.24.1 Trench 23 contained a single pit. The pit contained pottery of a Roman date, although this is considered to be residual.

5.24.2 Pit [134] was located to the north within the trench, its full extent and shape in plan could not be ascertained, although it had a vertical-sided flat-based profile (c.1.40m wide x 0.10m deep). It had a single fill (129), a dark brown-grey silty-clay which contained a single sherd of pottery dating from AD 50-400 and a small assemblage of animal bone. Based on the similarity of this feature in terms of profile and fill appearance to others within the site of a definitive medieval date, and the poor condition of the pottery the Roman material is considered to be residual.

TRENCH 23	**Figure -**		**Plate -**	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 70.85		
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Maximum Depth (m)**		
		N End	**S End**	
Topsoil	(100)	0.26	0.29	
Subsoil	(101)	0.42	0.36	
Natural	(102)	0.45+	0.38+	
Summary Trench 23 was located in the south-eastern corner of the site area. Trench 23 contained a single pit. The pit contained pottery of a Roman date, although this is considered to be residual.				

5.25 Trench 24

5.25.1 Trench 24 contained a single ditch, which was aligned north-east to south-west. The feature did not contain datable material.

5.25.2 Ditch [131] was located centrally within the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west, carrying on out of the limit of excavation in both directions. It was moderately wide and but shallow, measuring c. 0.91m wide by 0.10m deep. It had a single fill (132), a light grey-brown silty-clay which contained occasional chalk inclusions.

TRENCH 24	**Figure 10**		**Plate -**	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 67.55		
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Maximum Depth (m)**	
			E End	**W End**
Topsoil	(100)		0.24	0.28
Subsoil	(101)		0.36	0.50
Natural	(102)		0.38+	0.59+

Summary

Trench 24 was located in the eastern end of the site area.
Trench 24 contained a single ditch, which was aligned north-east to south-west. The feature did not contain datable material.

5.26 Trench 25

5.26.1 Trench 25 contained two intercutting pits. Material recovered from one of the features dated it to the medieval period.

5.26.2 Pit [137] (Section 139; Figure 11; Plate 7) was located to the north within the trench, its full extent and shape in plan could not be ascertained, although it had a vertical-sided flat-based profile (3.45m wide x 0.88m deep). It had six fills; uppermost fill (139), comprised a 0.20m thick dark grey silty-clay with rare charcoal flecks, which contained a moderate assemblage of pottery dating to AD 1150-1300. This included sherds of St Neots ware, medieval Calcareous ware and Hertfordshire-type greyware, as well as a fragment of possibly intrusive brick dating to AD 1450-1800. In addition to the pottery was an assemblage of metalwork comprising SF 101; an iron rotary key

dating to AD 1100- 1300, SF102; two fragments of a copper alloy cast hilt plate dating to AD 1000-1400, a wrought iron possible flax heckle spike, dating to 1000-1300 and five iron nails dating to 1100-1200. The middle fill (234) comprised a 0.06m thick light to mid-brown-grey clay which contained no finds. A further middle fill (150) consisted of a 0.30m thick light grey silty-clay which contained frequent chalk inclusions. Another middle fill (138) was a 0.30m thick dark grey clay containing pottery dating to AD 1150-1300, including a small Stamford ware sherd with a thin green glaze tile dating to AD 1500-1600 and a moderate assemblage of animal bone, including examples from chicken, cattle, sheep and pig. This was underlain by lower fill (155), which was a 0.25m thick light grey silty-clay which contained no finds. Finally, this was underlain by basal fill (235), a 0.05m thick dark brown silty-clay which contained very rare charcoal flecks. Although the feature had a linear appearance in plan, the profile of the excavated slot indicated the feature was more likely to be an elongated pit. The pit truncated the underlying Pit [210] to the west.

5.26.3 Pit [210] (Section 139; Figure 11; Plate 7) was located to the north within the trench and was sub circular in plan, its sides were truncated and it had concave-based profile (c.1.37m wide x 0.14m deep). It had a single fill (236), a mid-grey-brown clay which contained no finds. The pit was truncated by the overlying Pit [137], to the east.

TRENCH 25	**Figure 10**		**Plate 7**	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 66.24		
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Maximum Depth (m)**	
			N End	**S End**
Topsoil	(100)		0.29	0.25
Subsoil	(101)		0.51	0.45
Colluvium	(237)		0.72	-
Natural	(102)		0.75+	0.46+
Summary Trench 25 was located in the north-eastern corner of the site area. Trench 25 contained two intercutting pits. Material recovered from one of the features dated it to the medieval period.				

6 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Flint

By Barry Bishop

6.1.1 The small flint assemblage from the site has been given initial spot dates; the full analysis of the material will be included in the final amended report.

6.2 Roman and post-Roman Pottery

By Burni Sudds

Introduction and methodology

6.2.1 A total of 127 sherds were recovered from the current excavations, representing 81 separate vessels, weighing 1931g. The assemblage is in mixed condition with an average sherd weight of 15g. In general the pottery is fragmentary and dispersed, occurring as small feature assemblages, although there are a few exceptions including the material from Pit [140], including large fresh conjoining sherds. The pottery recovered includes material of Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date but the majority dates from the 12th to 14th century.

6.2.2 In the absence of a published set of codes for the pottery in Hertfordshire the Museum of London pottery type codes have been used to classify the ceramics. Fabrics local to the region, not found within the Museum of London corpus, are also designated a mnemonic code. The material was quantified for each context by fabric, vessel form and decoration using sherd count and estimated vessel numbers. Examples of the fabrics can be found in the Ceramic Type Series held at St Albans Museum, in the archives of PCA and/or the Museum of London. A ceramic database cataloguing these attributes has been generated using Microsoft Access that is available for consultation in the archive. A table listing all of the contexts containing pottery with date ranges and considered dates for deposition appears at the end of the report (Table 2).

Pottery types

6.2.3 The pottery types encountered on site are listed and totalled below in order of date (Table 1).

Fabric code	Common name	Date range		SC	ENV	Weight
Roman						
MISC WW	Unsourced Roman whiteware (Verulamium?)	50	200	1	1	3
MISC OX	Unsourced Roman oxidised ware	50	400	1	1	3
MISC RED	Unsourced Roman reduced ware	50	400	1	1	2
Saxon						
ESAN	Early-Middle Saxon quartz sand-tempered ware	400	600	1	1	2
STAM	Stamford-type ware	850	1250	1	1	2
NEOT	St-Neots-type ware	900	1100	3	3	10
Medieval						
EMS	Early medieval sand-tempered ware	1000	1200	13	13	75
EMSC	Early medieval sand and calcareous-tempered ware	1000	1200	11	8	149
UNS OX	Unsourced oxidised ware	1000	1300	5	2	45
DNEOT	Developed St Neots-type ware	1050	1250	1	1	9
EMS/ESHER	Transitional vessels	1100	1200	4	4	49
MCALC	Medieval calcareous-tempered ware	1100	1300	7	5	91
MSHL	Medieval shelly limestone-tempered ware	1100	1300	1	1	4
UNS GL	Unsourced glazed ware	1100	1400	1	1	1
SHER	Hertfordshire-type greyware	1150	1400	71	33	1449
Late medieval and post-medieval						
LMT	Late medieval/ transitional redware	1400	1600	1	1	6
GRE	Glazed red earthenware	1550	1900	2	2	28
STSL	Staffordshire-type combed slipware	1660	1870	1	1	2
CREA	Creamware	1740	1830	1	1	1

Table 1: Ware types present by period.

SC = Sherd count; ENV = Estimated number of vessels. Weight in grams.

Roman and Saxon

6.2.4 The small number of Roman sherds and single sherd of Early to Middle Saxon pottery are in poor condition and considered to be re-deposited or are residual. Roman activity is evident in the vicinity and Anglo-Saxon settlement immediately adjacent to site (Archaeological Solutions 2015). Although small, the quartz sand tempered Early – Middle Saxon sherd is in keeping with the contemporary assemblage from Priors Hill.

6.2.5 Four sherds of late Saxon pottery were recovered, although again the size and condition of the material, and deposition with later material suggest these are residual. These are comprised of three sherds of St Neots-type ware and a single sherd of Stamford type ware, the former ubiquitous and the latter well-paralleled in contemporary assemblages in Hertfordshire and south Bedfordshire.

Medieval

6.2.6 The medieval assemblage can also be well-paralleled in the vicinity and broader region comprised predominantly of handmade locally produced early medieval coarsewares (EMS; EMSC) dating from the 11th to 12th century, replaced by wheel-thrown kiln-fired Hertfordshire greywares (SHER), dating from perhaps as early as the mid-12th century and continuing to be made until the 14th, and possibly even early 15th century (Blackmore and Pearce 2010, 204; Jenner and Pearce 1993, 163-4; Turner-Rugg 1995, 58). Although these represent distinct traditions, as evidenced elsewhere in the region, the assemblage also includes sherds that encompass elements of both (EMS/ESHER), perhaps representing transitional products dating to the 12th century (Sudds a, b, c; Pieksma forthcoming; Pearce forthcoming).

6.2.7 There are few diagnostic sherds of early medieval coarseware, indeed jars with simple, slightly thickened or beaded rims, represent the only form recorded. One transitional EMS/ESHER jar has a more developed thickened rim with a flattened top and outer edge. The larger Hertfordshire greyware assemblage is in better condition and includes both jars and jugs. The former have thickened and clubbed rims and the latter include a large rounded jug recovered from the fills of pit [140] and a smaller jug with a stab-decorated handle from pit [190]. The large rounded jug is decorated with incised horizontal lines and dates to the 13th or 14th century. The greywares include varying quantities of chalk in the fabric that distinguishes products of the north Hertfordshire greyware kilns from those further south. Some of the greywares no doubt originate from the kilns operating in nearby Hitchin (Turner-Rugg 1993; Blinkhorn forthcoming; Sudds forthcoming d), although the variety in fabric suggests more than one source, or that the variation is

chronologically significant.

6.2.8 A smaller, but notable component of the assemblage is comprised of medieval calcareous or shell-tempered wares (MCALC; MSHL; DNEOT). These seem to be rare in nearby Hitchin (Sudds forthcoming a & b), although occur in small quantities on sites in south Bedfordshire, becoming more dominant further north (possibly equating to types B05 and B07 in the Bedfordshire type series; Brine 1988; Slowikowski 1995). The most numerous on site are the provisionally named Medieval calcareous-tempered wares (MCALC), containing large limestone inclusions. They are hard, often with grey core but oxidised buff to orange surfaces, some of which are vesiculated. These probably originate from further west or north in Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, or even Northamptonshire, and are likely dated from the 11th or 12th to 13th century. Just a single glazed medieval jug sherd was recovered, probably from the kilns at Brill/Boarstall in Buckinghamshire, although the fabric is slightly atypical (ditch fill (231)).

Late medieval – post-medieval

6.2.9 The small late medieval and post-medieval assemblage is fragmentary and abraded but is comprised of types commonly observed in the region.

Distribution and dating

6.2.10 Table 2 below presents the earliest and latest date of the pottery from each context in addition to a provisional date of deposition based upon the presence or absence of wares, form, decoration and also condition. The majority of the pottery was recovered from the backfill of pit and ditch features. Although material of Roman and Saxon date was retrieved from a small number of features the poor condition of the sherds, or occurrence with wares of later date, suggest much of this is re-deposited or residual. Their presence does, however, provide additional evidence for activity of this date in the vicinity.

6.2.11 The earliest dated groups identified during the current investigation date to the 11th or 12th century, although the majority of the pottery appears to date from the mid 12th to 14th century. Some of this material is dispersed and

fragmentary, but there are bigger groups containing large fresh sherds that are suggestive of direct dumping from nearby settlement (for example Pit [140]). Very little pottery of late medieval or post-medieval date was recovered, re-deposited in the backfill of pit [106], or else from the topsoil or subsoil, indicating the site either fell from use, or was exploited for a less intrusive purpose from the 15th century onwards.

Context	Sherd count	Date range of the pottery		Context considered date
100	3	1000	1900	1660 - 1900
101	1	1400	1600	1400 - 1600
105	2	1550	1900	1740 - 1830
107	1	1000	1300	1000 - 1300
129	1	50	400	50 - 400
138	7	850	1400	1150 - 1300
139	8	900	1400	1150 - 1300
151	48	1000	1400	1200 - 1350
152	10	1150	1400	1200 - 1350
153	6	1150	1400	1200 - 1350
170	1	450	850	450 - 850
177	1	50	400	50 - 400
189	7	900	1400	1150 - 1400
203	4	1000	1300	1000 - 1200
204	3	900	1400	1150 - 1400
208	1	1000	1300	1000 - 1300
217	1	1000	1300	1000 - 1300
220	3	1100	1400	1150 - 1300
222	1	1150	1400	1150 - 1400
226	2	1000	1400	1150 – 1400 (L.12TH C?)
231	1	1175	1400	1200 - 1400
233	15	1000	1400	1200 - 1350

Table 2: Pottery dating table.

Potential

6.2.12 In addition to providing dating evidence for the features from which it was recovered, the primary significance of the assemblage is local, specifically arising from the information it can provide about the ceramic profile of medieval Pirton. The pottery is largely comprised of types well-paralleled in the vicinity and broader region, although there are some differences to

contemporary assemblages from Hitchin, specifically with the current assemblage demonstrating a more diverse range of Hertfordshire greyware fabrics and more calcareous and shell-tempered wares. Of course, with such a small group the composition and relative proportion of fabrics may not be representative, but would initially appear to suggest the village had more than one source of supply which included Hitchin, but also other kilns or markets to the west and north.

6.3 Ceramic Building Material

By Kevin Hayward

Introduction and Aims

6.3.1 8 small bags of loose fragmentary ceramic building material were retained from the evaluation at Shillington Road, Perton.

6.3.2 This small assemblage (13 examples 772.5g) was assessed in order to:

Identify the fabric of the tile, brick and mortar and made recommendations for further study.

Methodology

6.3.3 The application of a 1kg masons hammer and sharp chisel to each example ensured that a small fresh fabric surface was exposed. The fabric was examined at x20 magnification using a long arm stereomicroscope or hand lens (Gowland x10).

6.3.4 As there was no Hertfordshire ceramic building material fabric reference collection housed at PCA each new cbm fabric from this site was prefixed by PER followed by 1, 2, 3 etc thus PER1; PER2.

Results- Tile

6.3.5 ROMAN-1 example 40.5g

PER4 Roman ceramic building material with black iron and red iron oxide flecks and occasional clay pellets. It resembles the common iron oxide London fabric 3023 manufactured in Radlett. Recovered from pit fill (151) in Trench 11, was an abraded chunk of un-diagnostic

6.3.6 MEDIEVAL- 8 examples 238g. Small fragments of poorly made very coarse medieval peg tile fragments in at least 5 fabrics (PIR 1; PIR1A; PIR1B; PIR2; PIR5) turn up in the pit fills of 4 trenches (T2; T4; T11; T25) and in a ditch fill of a fourth (T10). A fifth is in the topsoil of Trench 6.

6.3.7 PIR1 A pitted vuggy red condensed sandy fabric with numerous very large inclusions of quartz. This very thick peg tile with coarse moulding sand was recovered from the topsoil of Trench 6.

6.3.8 PIR1 A Red busy fine sandy fabric. 2 examples. One of the most common peg tile fabrics this turns up in pit fill (105) of Trench 4 and pit fill (138) of Trench 25 .

6.3.9 PIR1B A Red busy fine sandy fabric with large 5-7mm black flint inclusions. Comparable to PIR1a, this peg tile is present in pit fill (146) of Trench 2.

6.3.10 PIR2 A Light orange-brown fabric with small silty yellow inclusions, red iron oxide and some quartz. 2 examples. This was present in pit fill (105) of Trench 4 and pit fill (233) of Trench 11.

6.3.11 PIR5 A Very coarse sandy biscuit fabric with large flint and red iron oxide inclusions. 2 examples. This was present in pit fill (233) in Trench 11 and ditch fill (169) in Trench 10.

Results- Daub

6.3.12 It is likely that the burnt cream coloured earthy daub like fragment from pit fill (138), from Trench 25 represents fired clay rather than a fragment from a timber framed wattle and daub structure.

Results- Post Medieval

6.3.13 Given that the manufacture of red bricks continues outside of London into the 18th and 19th century it has been difficult to pinpoint a date for these examples. However, both are shallow 40-51mm which may indicate an earlier post medieval rather than later post medieval date.

2 examples 535g

6.3.14 PIR3 Fine orange sandy fabric with examples chaff temper included within and at the base. This thin example turns up in pit fill (139) of Trench 25, has a relict very sandy lime mortar attached.

6.3.15 PIR3 A Fine red sandy fabric with examples chaff temper included within and at the base. A much thicker 2 inch (51mm) example is present in the same pit in Trench 25 but from fill (152).

Context	Fabric	Material	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date Mortar
146	PIR1B	Medieval peg tile	1	1300	1600	1300	1600	1300-1600+	No mortar
105	PIR1A; PIR2	Medieval peg tile	1	1300	1600	1300	1600	1300-1600+	No mortar
100	PIR1	Medieval peg tile	1	1300	1600	1300	1600	1300-1600+	No mortar
169	PIR5	Medieval peg tile	1	1300	1600	1300	1600	1300-1600+	No mortar
151	PIR4	Roman ceramic building material fragment	1	50	400	50	400	50-400	No mortar
233	PIR 2; PIR5	Medieval peg tiles	2	1300	1600	1300	1600	1300-1600	No mortar
138	3102; PIR1A	Daub Medieval peg tile	2	1500BC	1600	1500BC	1600	1300-1600	No mortar
139	PIR3	Early post medieval brick	1	1450	1800	1450	1800	1450-1700	Lime mortar 1450-1800
152	PIR3A	Early post medieval brick	1	1450	1800	1450	1800	1450-1700	No mortar

Table 3: Ceramic Building Material by Context

6.4 Metalwork

By Ruth Beveridge

Introduction

6.4.1 A total of fourteen objects were recovered from the evaluation, twelve of iron, one of copper alloy and one of lead. These finds have been fully recorded

and a complete listing is provided in the table below (Table 4). They have been examined with the assistance of low level magnification, but without the aid of radiographs. They are discussed below by period and material type. They were recovered from six contexts across five trenches. Of note is the recovery of seven objects from fill (139) of Pit [137] in Trench 25, in the N.E. corner of the site. The remaining objects were from the fills of pits, a ditch and the topsoil and subsoil layers.

6.4.2 Overall, the condition of the metalwork is poor. The iron and copper alloy objects are corroded, with detail being masked by corrosion products.

Medieval

6.4.3 Copper alloy

SF102 fill (139) of Pit [137], Tr. 25.

Two co-joining fragments of an incomplete, cast bolster or hilt plate for a whittle tang knife. It is sub-rectangular in plan with an oval slot to accommodate the blade tang. It is heavily encrusted in corrosion products. Bolsters or hilt plates were used throughout the medieval period and as with this example, are commonly found separated from their knife components. Similar examples of hilt plates have been recovered from sites in York dating between the 11th and 14th centuries, (Ottaway and Rogers, 2002, 2759, fig. 1364).

6.4.4 Iron

SF102 fill (139) of Pit [137], Tr. 25. Incomplete rotary key with hollow shank and simple, damaged bit. The bit was rolled in one with the shank. Most of the bow is missing; from the remnants it is possible to suggest that it may have been pear-shaped similar to an example from Norwich that was recovered from 12th/13th century deposits, Margeson, 1993, 160, fig. 118, no. 1268.

Fill (139) of Pit [137], Tr 25. Four fiddle-key nails with large heads that are semi-circular in plan and of the same thickness as the shank. Two of the

nails are nearly complete, merely missing the tips. The shanks of the nails tapers and are square in section. Fiddle-key nails are associated with Type 2 horseshoes of predominantly 12th century AD date, Clark, 1995, 86, fig. 64, though they are known to appear in the 11th century.

Fill (139) of Pit [137], Tr 25. A wrought, elongate object. It has a flattened apex and a shank that tapers to a point. It is square in section. It is possibly a flax heckle spike from a tool associated with fibre processing. It is similar to examples found at the site of Bedern in York from 11th/12th and 13th century contexts (Ottaway and Rogers, 2002, 2733, fig. 1432 nos 13715–16 and 13719–20).

Post-medieval

6.4.5 Lead

From the topsoil layer (100) a cast, spherical shot was recovered. It has no visible, circumferential casting seam, but there is minor damage to the surface in the form of shallow depressions and one flattened section. The weight of 11g suggests that it is likely to be pistol shot (Harding, 2012).

Uncertain Date

6.4.6 Iron

6.4.7 The evaluation produced four iron nails. The shank diameter of the nails is between 3 - 4mm and their head diameter is between 12 and 24mm. Although these measurements are affected by the levels of corrosion and concretion, it can be suggested that such iron nails were medium to large in size and were primarily used for joined objects of furniture or boxes; only one had a head diameter above 20mm, more indicative of nails utilised for structural timbers. Two of the nails were from subsoil layer (101) in Trench 3; one nail was from fill (137) of Pit [139] in Trench 25, and a further nail from fill (204) of Ditch [205] in Trench 12. Whilst the nails are difficult to date in themselves, the one nail from Pit [139] is likely to be medieval in date.

6.4.8 From fill (151) of Pit [140], Tr 19, a small elongate strip of iron, rectilinear in plan and rectangular in section was retrieved. It has a small protrusion at

one end that may be a rivet.

6.4.9 From fill (203) of Pit [202], Tr 12, an elongate strip of iron was recovered. It terminates in the middle of its shank. The flat, rectilinear shank expands into a head that is also flat and sub semi-circular in plan.

Discussion

6.4.10 The small assemblage of finds is primarily medieval in date with the collection from Pit [137] being most notable. They represent domestic objects that, once broken, have been discarded within a large refuse pit. The overall date range for the seven objects from this pit is 11th to 14th centuries AD, though with the presence of the fiddle-key nails it could be suggested that a 12th century date is more representative. The objects from the pit demonstrate settlement-edge activity in the medieval period and could relate to peripheral exploitation of the land by the medieval moated site and associated enclosure at Rectory Farm that is located directly to the north of the study site.

6.4.11 The remaining metalwork objects are scattered thinly across the site and likely to be casual losses or discards.

6.4.12

SF	Context	Material	Object	Description	Date	Extent
101	139	Iron	Key	Rotary key with hollow shank and simple, damaged bit. The bit was rolled in one with the shank. Most of the bow is missing, it may have been pear-shaped.	Medieval	Incomplete
102	139	Copper alloy	Hilt plate	Two co-joining fragments of a cast bolster for a whittle tang. It is sub-rectangular in plan with an oval slot to accommodate the blade tang.	Medieval	Incomplete
	100	Lead	Shot	Spherical shot with no visible, circumferential	Pmed	Complete

SF	Context	Material	Object	Description	Date	Extent
				casting seam. There is minor damage to the surface in the form of shallow depressions and one flattened section. The weight of 11g suggests it is likely to be pistol shot.		
	101	Iron	Nails	Two elongate objects with sub-rectangular, flat heads and tapering shanks, square in section.		Incomplete Incomplete
	139	Iron	Fiddle-key nails	Four elongate objects with large heads that are semi-circular in plan and of the same thickness as the shank. The shank tapers and is square in section.	11th - 12th centuries	Near complete Incomplete Incomplete Near complete
	139	Iron	Nail	Elongate object with sub-rectangular, flat head and tapering shank, square in section.	Medieval	Incomplete
	139	Iron	Spike	Wrought, elongate object with flattened apex and shank that tapers to a point. It is square in section. Possibly a flax heckle spike.	Medieval	?Incomplete
	151	Iron	Object	Elongate strip of iron, rectilinear in plan and rectangular in section. Small protrusion at one end that may be a rivet.		Incomplete
	203	Iron	Object	Elongate strip of iron that terminates in the middle of the shank. The flat, rectilinear shank expands into a head that is flat and sub semi-circular in plan.		Incomplete
	204	Iron	Nail	Elongate object with flat head that is sub-triangular in plan. The tapering shank is		Incomplete

SF	Context	Material	Object	Description	Date	Extent
				flattened, rectangular in section.		

Table 4: Metalwork catalogue

6.5 Worked Bone Objects

6.5.1 The single piece of worked bone recovered from the site has been processed; full analysis of the material will be included in the final amended report.

6.6 Faunal Remains

By Kevin Rielly

Introduction

6.6.1 Animal bones were found within several of the cut features, all located in the northern part of the site and principally in the north-eastern segment, here accounting for the main 'Roman' and medieval collections. The site assemblage was recovered both by hand and by sorting through the residues of a number of bulk samples. Fragmentation was moderate to good across the site while the preservation was generally good apart from a few collections with moderate to severe root etching.

Methodology

6.6.2 The bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of longbone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic including natural and anthropogenic modifications to the bone were registered. The sample collections were washed through a modified Siraf tank using a 1mm mesh and the subsequent residues were air dried and sorted. A concerted effort was undertaken to refit as many bones as possible, noting the actual number of fragments prior to refitting.

Description of faunal assemblage

6.6.3 The hand recovered collection amounted to 174 fragments with a further 239 from 7 bulk samples, the former reducing to 113 fragments following refitting. Phasing is in accordance with the dating evidence, this suggestive of a minor proportion of Roman (R) features amongst a greater number dated to the medieval era (M), the former covering the entire occupation period, and the latter generally between the 11th and 14th centuries. In addition there is a single late post-medieval (LPM) collection, probably 19th century in date, plus a small number which, devoid of dateable materials, are referred to as undated (UD). The 'Roman' material recovered from the features is considered likely to be residual (see Section 6.2); therefore although split into a 'Roman' phase in this report the animal bone from these features is considered to belong to the UD 'phase'. The distribution of bones by 'Phase', trench, principal feature and species are shown in Tables 5 and 6.

Phase:	R			M					LPM	UD				Total
Trench:	10	23	All	11	19	20	25	All	All	9	10	11	All	
Recovery/ Feature														
Hand														
Ditch				5				5		1	3	1	5	10
Pit	7	6	13	9	36	5	38	88				1	1	102
Topsoil									1					1
All	7	6	13	14	36	5	38	93	1	1	3	2	6	113
Sieved														
Ditch				35				35						35
Pit					60	12	89	161				43	43	204
All				35	60	12	89	196				43	43	239

Table 5: The distribution of animal bones by Phase, trench and feature type

R is Roman, M medieval, PLM is late post-medieval and UD is undated; figures calculated using refitted totals.

Phase:	R	M							LPM	UD
Trench:	All	11			19	20	25	All	All	All
Cut:		221	227	232	140	190	137			
Feature type:	Pit	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Pit	Pit	Pit		Soil	Pit
Recovery/ Species										

Hand										
Cattle	4	2			3	2	6	13		1
Equid		1			26	1		29		
Cattle-size	4				1		7	9		3
Sheep/Goat		3			4	2	6	17	1	
Pig	5	1					5	8		1
Sheep-size							12	12		1
Dog					2			2		
Small mammal							1	1		
Chicken		2						2		
Total	13	9			36	5	37	93	1	6
Sieved										
Cattle-size			1	1	4		1	7		1
Pig										1
Sheep-size			20	10	39	10	84	165		41
Small mammal					1			1		
Chicken			1					1		
Chicken-size			1					1		
Amphibian					4		3	7		
Small rodent				1	12			13		
Uniden fish							1	1		
Total			23	12	60	10	89	196		43

Table 6: The species representation sorted by phase, trench, feature number and feature type, using refitted totals.

'Roman'

6.6.4 A small number of bones were hand collected from pits [179] and [128] in trenches 10 and 23 respectively, these generally in rather poor condition (heavy root etching). They consisted of a few cattle pieces (a mix of skeletal parts), some pig cranial fragments including loose teeth and some unidentifiable cattle-size fragments.

Medieval

6.6.5 It was mentioned that these were principally from features with fills dated between the 11th to 14th centuries. A large proportion of this collection was derived from the most northerly trenches in the study area, that is trenches 11, 19 and 25 (see Table 1), and then in particular from the fills of ditch [227] (Trench 11), Pit [140] (Trench 19) and Pit [137] (Trench 25) as shown in

Table 1. Both pits [137] and [140] provided some poorly preserved bones but the greater part of the medieval collection was in good condition. There is a generally good proportion of cattle and sheep/goat bones, with a lesser quantity of pig, all three species featuring a mix of skeletal parts. A notable quantity of the respective bones could be aged, mostly adult but with some sub-adult pigs. Just two of these bones showed butchery marks, a cattle mandible and sheep/goat femur, both with knife cuts. Additional food species were provided by the sieved collections with chicken and fish (a single bone from Pit [137] which is yet to be identified). The samples also produced a selection of bones from incidental species – small rodents and amphibians, the former not identifiable beyond mouse/vole. It should be stated that the sample collections were largely composed of small sheep-sized fragments, perhaps suggesting a greater abundance of sheep and or pig than indicated by the hand collected assemblage.

6.6.6 Of interest within the fill of Pit [140] was the recovery of several complete or near complete equid limb bones. These clearly represent the disarticulated remains of at least two medium-sized adult ponies, comprising the major part of a right forelimb, two lower right hindlimbs and a left femur. A metatarsus from one of the latter hindlimbs provided a shoulder height of 144.3cm (using calculations taken from von den Driesch and Boessneck 1974).

Post-medieval and Undated

6.6.7 There was just one sheep/goat humerus from topsoil (100), while the yet to be dated deposits were taken from a number of pits deriving from trenches again situated in the northern half of the site. These provided a small collection of domesticate bones both by hand collection and from a single bulk sample.

Conclusion

6.6.8 This site provided a moderately sized collection which is generally well dated and in good condition. It was suggested by the large proportion of sheep-size bones from the samples that sheep and pig may be less well represented compared to cattle amongst the hand collected bones. It is inevitable that there will be some bias towards the larger species but it is not

clear due to the apparent absence of notable fragmentation (in the hand collected assemblage) that this bias is as severe as suggested by the sieved data. This of course can be tested by further excavation and of course further sampling. The samples were rather disappointing concerning the recovery of identifiable bones; however, they did produce some bird and fish bones, indicative of some potential.

6.6.9 The bones so far recovered clearly represent mixed deposits of general food waste as well as perhaps some knackers waste. The disarticulated nature of the equid bones is perhaps suggestive of some post-mortem usage – at least the skin if not the meat. These collections undoubtedly indicate the potential value concerning further excavation, perhaps of some import with regard to the medieval animal usage at the nearby settlement(s). Obviously, due to the stated distribution of the bone bearing features, such work should be focused in the northern (or north-eastern) part of this study area. It is also important that such work be accompanied by an extensive sampling programme, with selection aimed towards those deposits showing a concentration of animal bones.

6.7 Plant Macrofossils

By Kate Turner

6.7.1 The environmental assemblage from the site has been processed; the full analysis of the material will be included in the final amended report.

7 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Prehistoric and Roman Activity

7.1.1 The evaluation identified a single prehistoric feature, of probable Early Neolithic date, in Trench 7. This consisted of a small pit, which contained a small assemblage of worked flint. Very limited quantities of residual worked flints were also present a few later features throughout the site, as well as being present within the subsoil. The material recovered is largely representative of a 'background' level of activity, similar to that discovered in the evaluation at Priors Hill, directly to the south of the site (Archaeological Solutions 2015a). Earlier prehistoric activity may have been focused toward the top of this hill, the northern slope of which the study site lies upon. This is suggested by the presence of two ring ditches of presumed earlier prehistoric date, which were identified by geophysical survey and later evaluation (Archaeological Solutions 2015b), although no dating evidence was recovered. A more securely dated ring-ditch was also previously uncovered further to the south of the Priors Hill area (HHER 6369).

7.1.2 A very small quantity of Roman pottery was recovered during the course of the evaluation; based on its condition this material is considered to be residual. It may derive from activity previously identified upslope at Pollards Way and at Pirton Primary School, where small numbers of Roman features were identified.

7.2 Late Saxon to medieval Field Subdivision and Refuse Pitting

7.2.1 The principal result of the evaluation was the recording of a number of Late Saxon to medieval settlement-edge related features consisting of boundary and drainage ditches, which formed part of a broadly north-east to south-west aligned field system, as well as large refuse and quarry pits. Certain of the pits were associated with moderate quantities of finds including animal bone, ceramic building material and pottery of predominantly medieval (AD 12th-14th-century) date, as well as small quantities of metalwork including a key, knife hilt plate and a possible flax heckle spike. The pitting activity was spatially limited, being present mainly along the north-east and north-west boundaries of the site, in proximity to the current village and Shillington

Road. This area was also the main focus for the smaller ditches, which may have formed smaller infield type subdivisions, compared to the typically slightly larger, sparser, ditches present across the rest of the site area. The highest concentration of archaeological features could be observed in Trench 11, near the north-western site limit, where a deep refuse pit intercut with various smaller, shallower pits and ditches.

7.2.2 Three of the evaluation trenches were targeted on perceived geophysical anomalies, the most prominent of which was a sub rectangular enclosure, located in the south-west part of the site area, in Trenches 5 and 6. Upon machine excavation ditches were found within three of the four suggested locations, however the differing profiles and depths of these features suggest that they are unlikely to be directly related and therefore may not form an enclosure. The geophysical report admitted that the anomalies observed in this area were poorly defined due to the background magnetic response being low and possibly further diminished by later ground activity such as ploughing.

7.2.3 The finds indicate nearby domestic and agricultural activity, while the quantity and size of the features indicate this activity was reasonably substantial, being focused in the Late Saxon to medieval period, with a focus in the 12th-14th century. Although comparatively few large refuse pits were discovered during the course of the evaluation, the presence of four to five large to very large examples within the limited area covered by the trial trenching suggests that the north-east and northern portions of the site area are likely to contain reasonably dense spreads of refuse pits and related activity. Although some of the material from the shallower features is dispersed and fragmentary, some of the assemblages were large groups which contained large, fresh sherds. This suggests the material is derived directly from nearby settlement and was deposited deliberately as a deliberate dump of domestic refuse. The associated animal bone assemblages also supports this interpretation; most notably the disarticulated remains of two ponies were recovered, which may be representative of knackers waste. The remaining animal bone assemblages

are likely to represent mixed deposits of general food waste.

7.2.4 The majority of the ditches excavated did not contain datable material, and therefore may not relate directly to the medieval pitting activity. However it is considered likely that the ditches relate to a broadly similar period of use to the refuse pits, based on the appearance of the fills and the common alignments. This can be observed most notably with the postulated Middle Saxon northern Boundary of the Priors Hill settlement, which forms the southern boundary of the current site and Shillington Road to the north, likely to have been in use by at least the medieval period, and the general lack of finds of a post-medieval and modern date.

7.2.5 The potential exists for C14 dating for certain aspects of the site which would indicate a broad date range for the activity observed. However, it was considered that the artefactual evidence recovered from the features already provided a suitable indication of dateable activity, coupled with the associated correspondence with the range of features already identified from the parallel sites in the vicinity.

7.2.6 The findings are in keeping with the results of previous excavations in this part of Pirton. Beyond a single feature of possible Middle Saxon date, the current site does not appear to relate directly to the West of Pirton Village Scheduled Monument (Priors Hill), located to the south of the study site, where extensive evidence of Anglo-Saxon (5th- to 9th- century) enclosed occupation was evaluated in 2015 (Archaeological Solutions 2015). The findings have more direct relevance to the Late Saxon to medieval occupation to the east of the current site, in the area of 'The Fox' Public House, where the settlement was focused around a cemetery and possible early church. This area is envisaged to have grown in importance as the Priors Hill settlement declined, as activity was consolidated into the area of the currently occupied village.

7.2.7 The site may also bear relevance to the precursor to the early use of the medieval Moated Site and Associated Enclosure at Rectory Farm (as indicated by the discovery of Anglo-Saxon potsherds in test pits excavated in

the area as part of the CORS project), located directly to the north of the study site, which is postulated as beginning in the 13th century. This project recovered evidence indicating that medieval settlement at Pirton was quite extensive, initially being based around the Toot Hill motte and bailey castle and associated planted village in the early 12th century, to the south-east of the study site. It is probable that the settlement area which was served by the ditched field systems, which in turn provided the source of the refuse deposited in the large pits is located nearby to the north or east of the current site, based on the positioning of the refuse pitting within the current site area. The northern boundary of the site, Shillington Road is likely to have been active contemporaneously with the Rectory Farm enclosure, and may have formed a convenient boundary between the settlement activity located here and the infield activity located on the current site.

7.2.8 It is however possible that the features discovered in the current site relate to an as yet not fully identified nucleus of settlement, especially considering the polyfocal settlement pattern indicated for the local landscape by the results of the CORS project in the Anglo-Saxon to medieval periods.

7.3 Conclusions

7.3.1 The trial trench evaluation has identified features reflecting two main periods of activity on the site: one Early Neolithic, and of the most significance a Late Saxon to medieval (predominantly 12th-14th century) phase. This activity was focused in proximity to the north-east and north-west limits of the study site, and is comprised of ditches probably forming infield and outfield subdivisions, as well as refuse pits.

7.3.2 The archaeological features from both the Early Neolithic and Late Saxon to Medieval periods are relatively well-preserved, with the most significant features being preserved under a considerable depth of subsoil and colluvium. In the case of some of the larger features, they are associated with moderately large and varied finds assemblages.

7.3.3 The character of some of the Late Saxon to medieval features and the associated finds is in keeping with proximity to settlement. It cannot be

ascertained as to precisely where this settlement is concentrated, but considering the location of the refuse pits within the current site and the surrounding known archaeology it is likely to be to the north and east, on the fringes of the current village of Pirton and in the area of the Rectory Farm Moated Site.

7.3.4 The finds indicate nearby domestic and agricultural activity and may indicate contemporaneous, but not immediately direct, association with the early use of the medieval Moated Site and Associated Enclosure at Rectory Farm, located to the north of the study site. Similarly, other than a possible Middle Saxon feature there is no evidence that the site directly relates to the West of Pirton Village Scheduled Monument (Priors Hill) located to the south and must therefore be viewed as discrete evidence of later Saxon settlement.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank CgMs Consulting Ltd for commissioning the work and LK Construction for operating the excavator. PCA are also grateful to Allison Tinniswood and Simon Wood of Hertfordshire County Council for their advice and for monitoring the work. The author would also like to thank the project team, and PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

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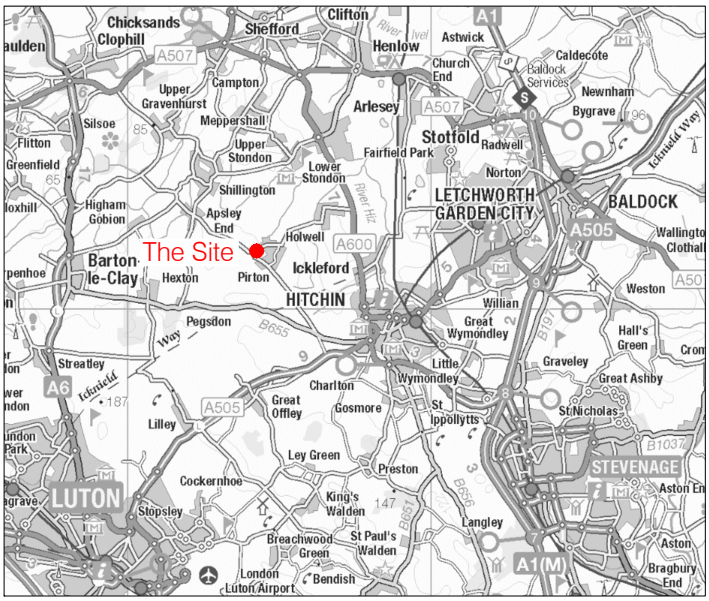
9.2 Websites

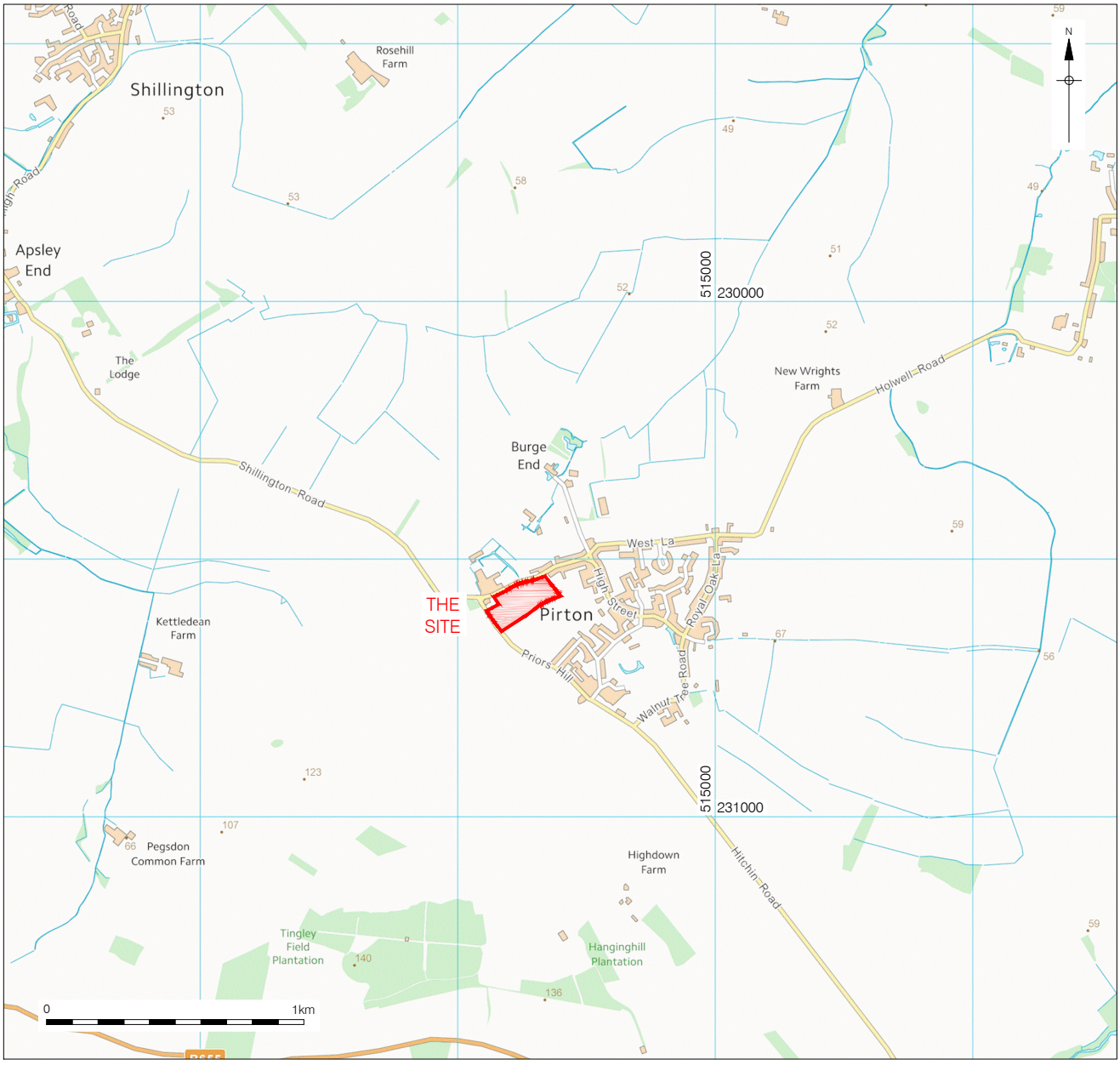
1) http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html. Date accessed 23/10/17

2) http://www.nharchsoc.org. Date accessed 23/10/17

3) https://www.access.arch.cam.ac.uk/reports/hertfordshire/pirton. Date accessed 23/10.17

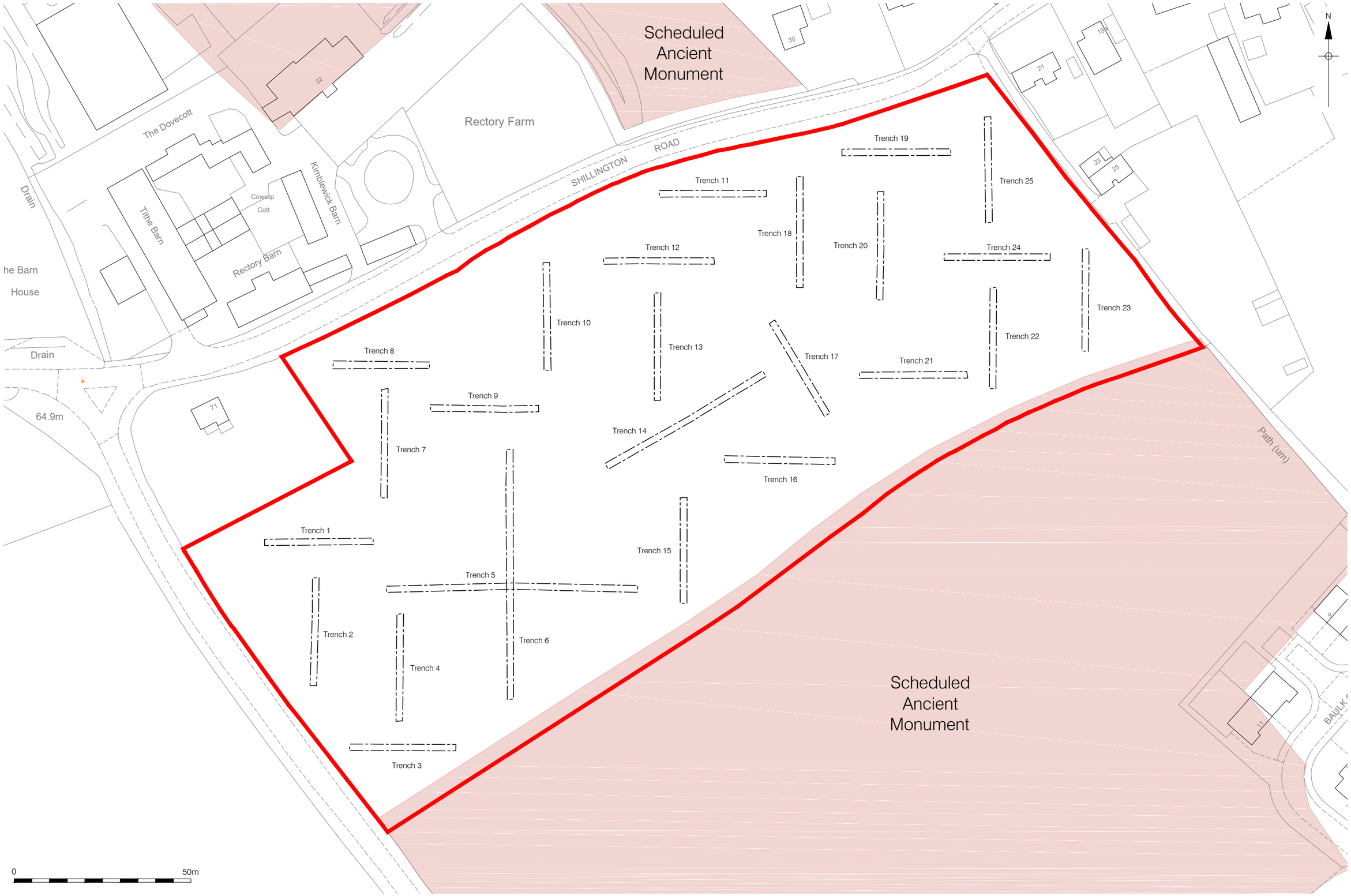
Figure 1 Site Location





27/10/17 RM

Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000; 250,000 & 25,000 at A4

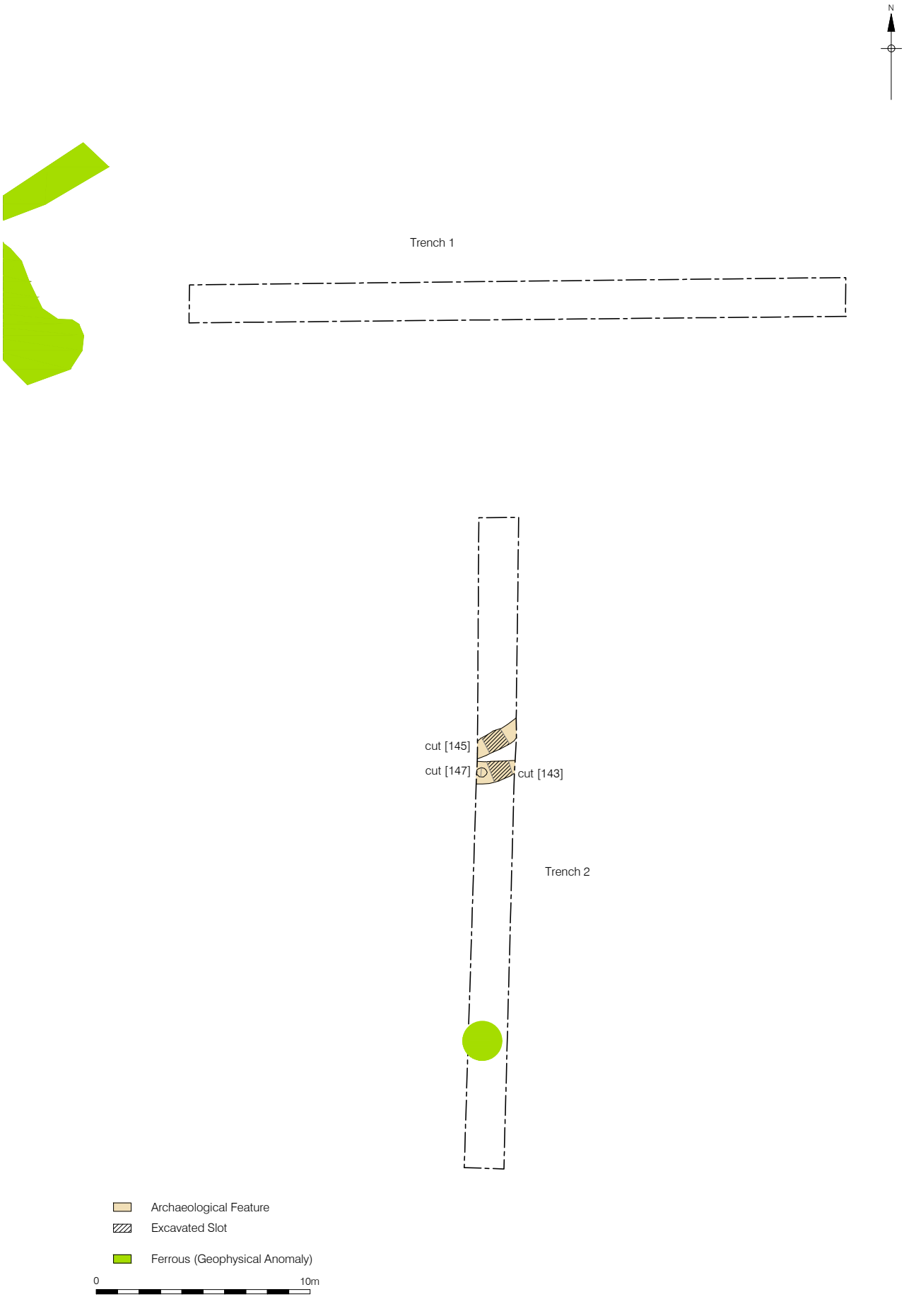


26/10/17 RM

Figure 2
Detailed Site Location
1:1,000 at A3

26/10/17 RM

Figure 3
Trench Location Plan and Features overlain on Geophysical Survey
1:800 at A3



25/10/17 RM

Figure 4
Plan of Trenches 1 and 2
1:250 at A4

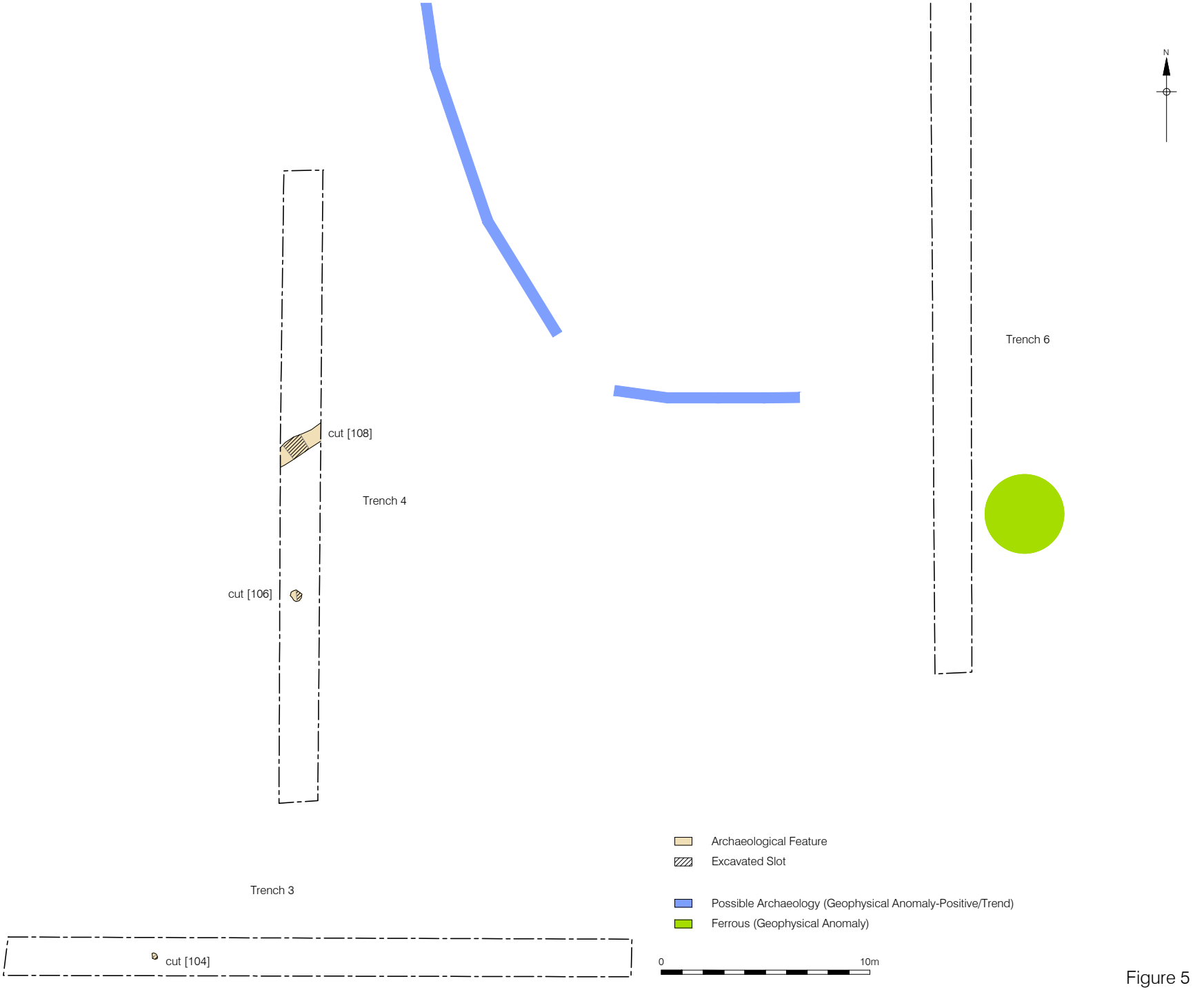
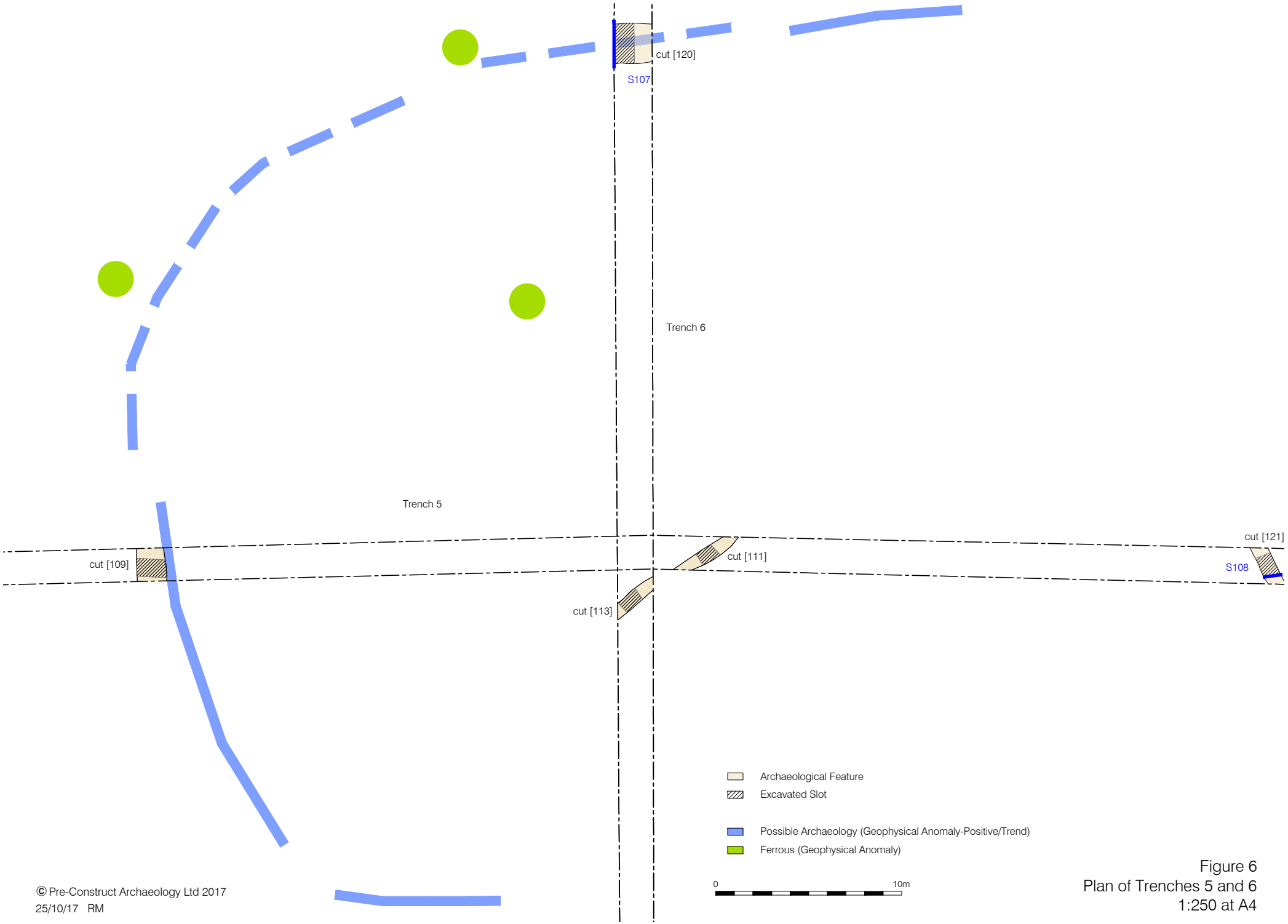


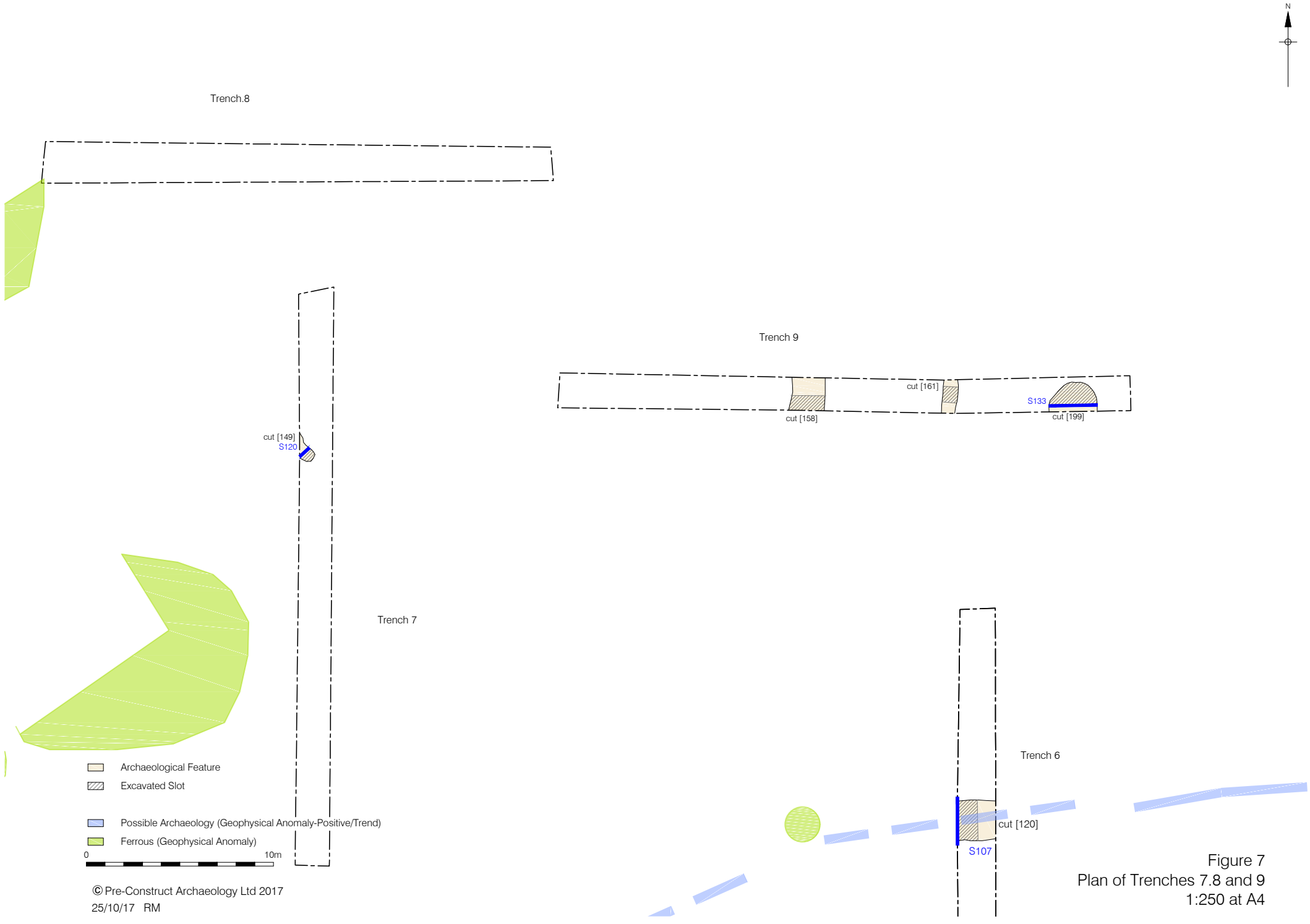
Figure 5
Plan of Trenches 3 and 4
1:250 at A4

25/10/17 RM



25/10/17 RM

Figure 6
Plan of Trenches 5 and 6
1:250 at A4



25/10/17 RM

Figure 7
Plan of Trenches 7.8 and 9
1:250 at A4

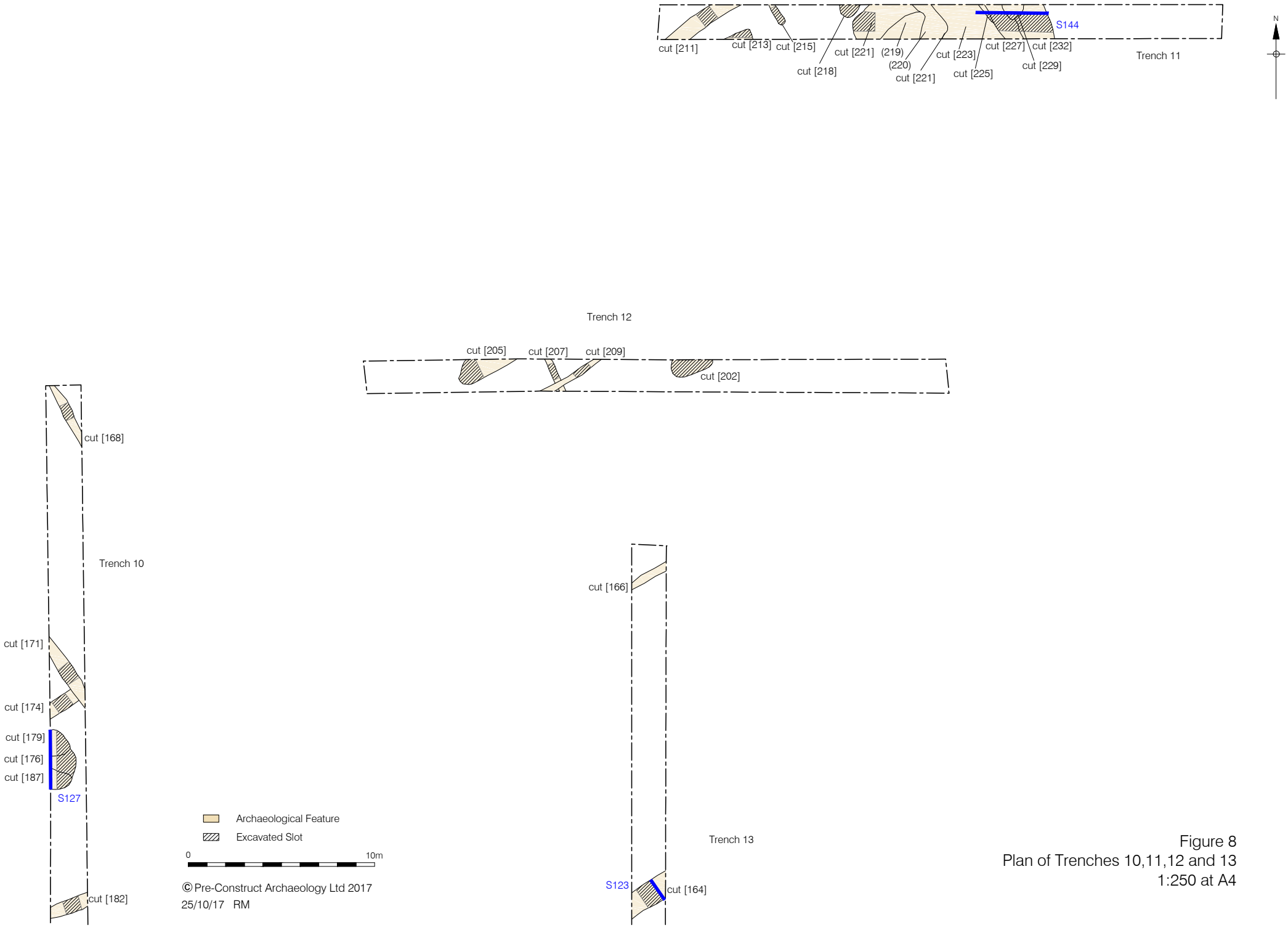


Figure 8
Plan of Trenches 10,11,12 and 13
1:250 at A4

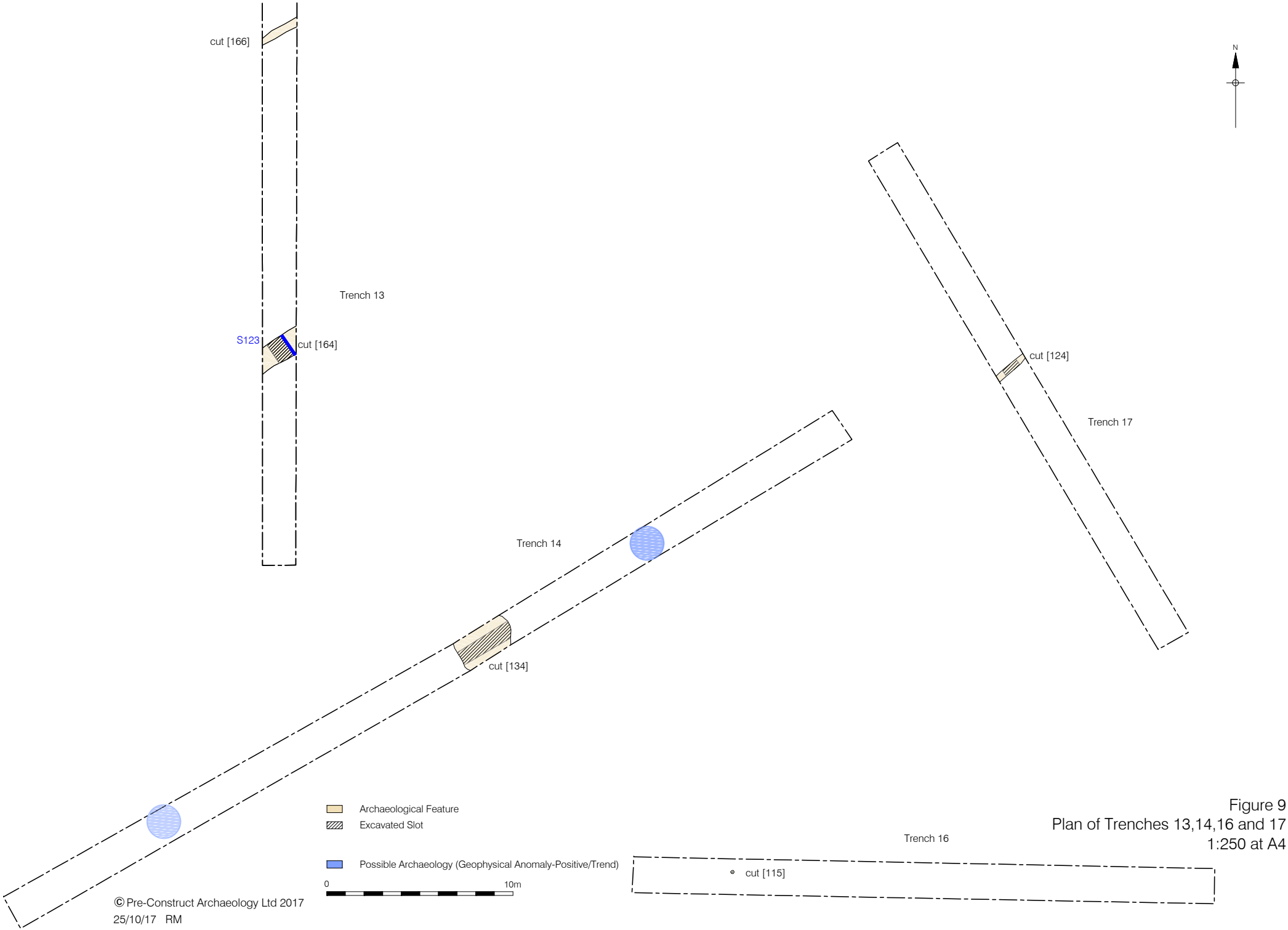
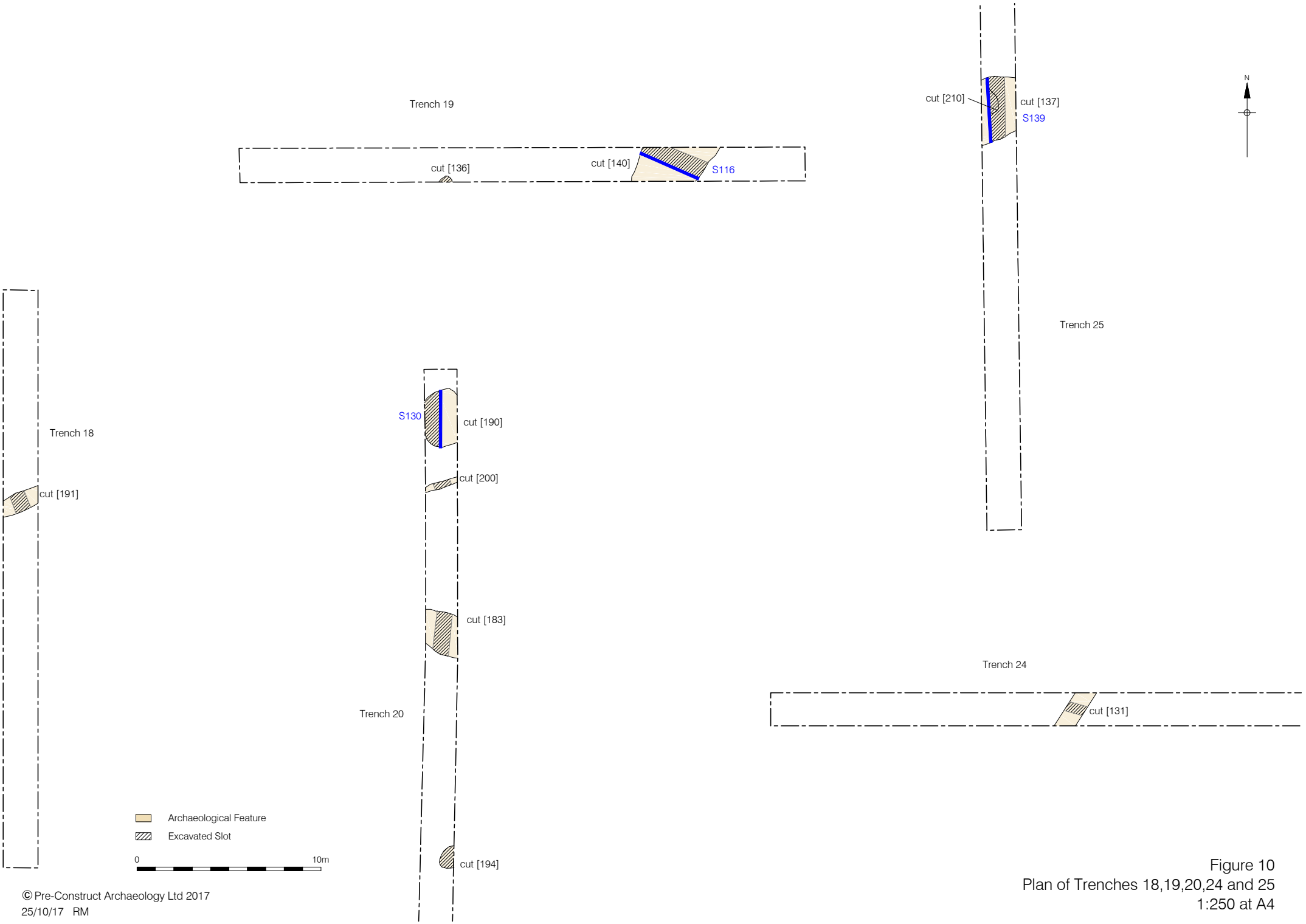


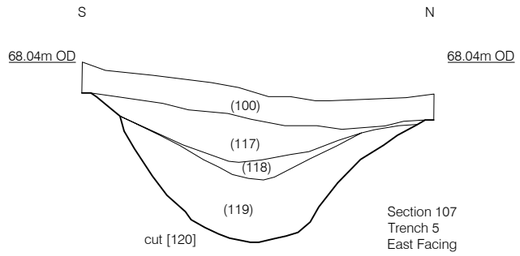
Figure 9
Plan of Trenches 13,14,16 and 17
1:250 at A4

25/10/17 RM

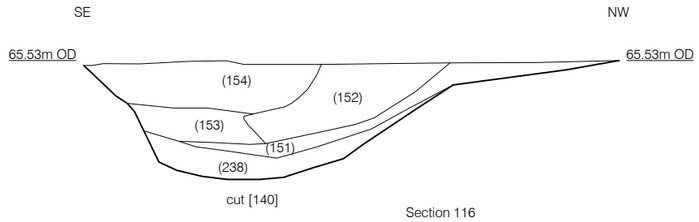


25/10/17 RM

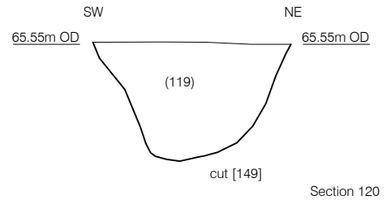
Figure 10
Plan of Trenches 18,19,20,24 and 25
1:250 at A4



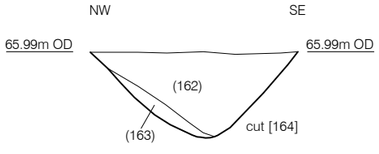
Section 107
Trench 5
East Facing



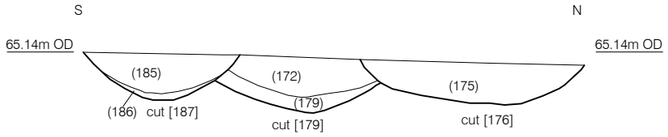
Section 116
Trench 14
Northeast Facing



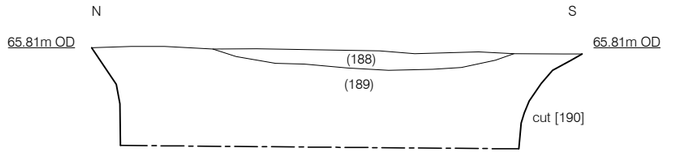
Section 120
Trench 7
Southeast Facing



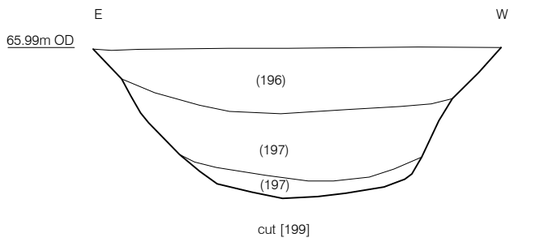
Section 123
Trench 14
Southwest Facing



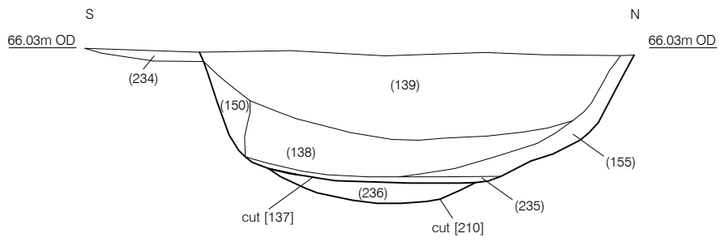
Section 127
Trench 10
East Facing



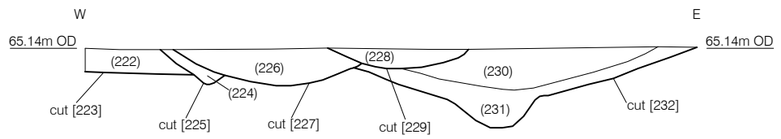
Section 130
Trench 20
West Facing



Section 133
Trench 9
North Facing



Section 139
Trench 22
East Facing



Section 144
Trench 16
South Facing

0 2m

26/10/17 RM

Figure 11
Sections
1:40 at A3

10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES

Plate 1: Trench 6, Ditch [120], view west

Plate 2: Trench 9, Pit [199], view south

Plate 3: Trench 10, Pits [176], [179] and [187], view west

Plate 4: Trench 11, Ditches [225], [227] and [232], Pits [223] and [229], view north

Plate 5: Trench 13, Ditch [164], view north-east

Plate 6: Trench 19, Pit [140], view south-west

Plate 7: Trench 9, Pits [137] and [210], view west

11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context Number	Trench	Cut	Type	Category
100	0	0	Layer	Topsoil
101	0	0	Layer	Subsoil
102	0	0	Layer	Natural
103	3	104	Fill	Pit
104	3	104	Cut	Pit
105	4	106	Fill	Pit
106	4	106	Cut	Pit
107	4	108	Fill	Ditch
108	4	108	Cut	Ditch
109	5	109	Cut	Ditch
110	5	109	Fill	Ditch
111	5	111	Cut	Ditch
112	5	111	Fill	Ditch
113	6	113	Cut	Ditch
114	6	113	Fill	Ditch
115	16	115	Cut	Posthole
116	16	115	Fill	Posthole
117	6	120	Fill	Ditch
118	6	120	Fill	Ditch
119	6	120	Fill	Ditch
120	6	120	Cut	Ditch
121	5	121	Cut	Ditch
122	5	121	Fill	Ditch

Context Number	Trench	Cut	Type	Category
123	5	121	Fill	Ditch
124	17	124	Cut	Ditch
125	17	124	Fill	Ditch
126	21	126	Cut	Ditch
127	21	126	Fill	Ditch
128	23	128	Cut	Pit
129	23	128	Fill	Pit
130	21	126	Fill	Ditch
131	24	131	Cut	Ditch
132	24	131	Fill	Ditch
133	14	134	Fill	Pit
134	14	134	Cut	Pit
135	19	136	Fill	Pit
136	19	136	Cut	Pit
137	25	137	Cut	Pit
138	25	137	Fill	Pit
139	25	137	Fill	Pit
140	19	140	Cut	Pit
141	19	140	Fill	Pit
142	2	143	Fill	Ditch
143	2	143	Cut	Ditch
144	2	145	Fill	Ditch
145	2	145	Cut	Ditch
146	2	147	Fill	Pit

Context Number	Trench	Cut	Type	Category
147	2	147	Cut	Pit
148	7	149	Fill	Pit
149	7	149	Cut	Pit
150	25	137	Fill	Pit
151	19	140	Fill	Pit
152	19	140	Fill	Pit
153	19	140	Fill	Pit
154	19	140	Fill	Pit
155	25	137	Fill	Pit
156	9	158	Fill	Ditch
157	9	158	Fill	Ditch
158	9	158	Cut	Ditch
159	9	161	Fill	Ditch
160	9	161	Fill	Ditch
161	9	161	Cut	Ditch
162	13	164	Fill	Ditch
163	13	164	Fill	Ditch
164	13	164	Cut	Ditch
165	13	166	Fill	Ditch
166	13	166	Cut	Ditch
167	10	168	Fill	Ditch
168	10	168	Cut	Ditch
169	10	171	Fill	Ditch
170	10	171	Fill	Ditch

Context Number	Trench	Cut	Type	Category
171	10	171	Cut	Ditch
172	10	174	Fill	Ditch
173	10	174	Fill	Ditch
174	10	174	Cut	Ditch
175	10	176	Fill	Pit
176	10	176	Cut	Pit
177	10	179	Fill	Pit
178	10	179	Fill	Pit
179	10	179	Cut	Pit
180	10	182	Fill	Ditch
181	10	182	Fill	Ditch
182	10	182	Cut	Ditch
183	20	183	Cut	Ditch
184	20	183	Fill	Ditch
185	10	187	Fill	Pit
186	10	187	Fill	Pit
187	10	187	Cut	Pit
188	20	190	Fill	Pit
189	20	190	Fill	Pit
190	20	190	Cut	Pit
191	18	191	Cut	Ditch
192	18	191	Fill	Ditch
193	20	194	Fill	Pit
194	20	194	Cut	Pit

Context Number	Trench	Cut	Type	Category
195	20	194	Fill	Pit
196	9	199	Fill	Pit
197	9	199	Fill	Pit
198	9	199	Fill	Pit
199	9	199	Cut	Pit
200	20	200	Cut	Ditch
201	20	200	Fill	Ditch
202	12	202	Cut	Pit
203	12	202	Fill	Pit
204	12	205	Fill	Ditch
205	12	205	Cut	Ditch
206	12	207	Fill	Ditch
207	12	207	Cut	Ditch
208	12	209	Fill	Ditch
209	12	209	Cut	Ditch
210	25	210	Cut	Pit
211	11	211	Cut	Ditch
212	11	211	Fill	Ditch
213	11	213	Cut	Pit
214	11	213	Fill	Pit
215	11	215	Cut	Ditch
216	11	215	Fill	Ditch
217	11	218	Fill	Pit
218	11	218	Cut	Pit

Context Number	Trench	Cut	Type	Category
219	11	223	Fill	Pit
220	11	223	Fill	Pit
221	11	221	Fill	Pit
222	11	223	Fill	Pit
223	11	223	Cut	Pit
224	11	225	Fill	Ditch
225	11	225	Cut	Ditch
226	11	227	Fill	Ditch
227	11	227	Cut	Ditch
228	11	229	Fill	Pit
229	11	229	Cut	Pit
230	11	232	Fill	Ditch
231	11	232	Fill	Ditch
232	11	232	Cut	Ditch
233	11	221	Fill	Pit
234	25	137	Fill	Pit
235	25	137	Fill	Pit
236	25	210	Fill	Pit
237	0	0	Layer	Colluvium
238	140	19	Fill	Pit

12 APPENDIX 3: ROMAN AND POST-ROMAN POTTERY CATALOGUE

Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Comments	Sherd count	Weight	Context considered date
100	EMS/ESHER	JAR		THICKENED RIM, FLATTENED TO TOP AND OUTER EDGE. SHER BODY/ TRANSITIONAL/ ESHER?	1	4	1660 - 1900
100	GRE		GLI	WORN.	1	18	1660 - 1900
100	STSL		COMB		1	2	1660 - 1900
101	LMT		UNGL		1	6	1400 - 1600
105	CREA		GLIE	PLATE?	1	1	1740 - 1830
105	GRE		GLI	FLAT.	1	10	1740 - 1830
107	MCALC		UNGL	GREY CORE, OXIDISED SURFACES. HARD.	1	16	1100 - 1300
129	MISC OX		SLIP	TRACES OF AN EXTERNAL WHITE SLIP. FINE FABRIC, POWDERY.	1	3	50 - 400
138	EMS/ESHER				1	4	1150 - 1300
138	MCALC			POSSIBLY MORE THAN ONE VESSEL. SOAPY FEEL. ABUNDANT LARGE (REDUCED GREY) LIMESTONE INCLUSIONS. TOO ROUNDED FOR GROG AND ESICULATED SURFACES ON SOME EXAMPLES (SEE CXT 138).	3	38	1150 - 1300
138	MISC OX			SLIGHTLY EVERTED, EXTERNALLY BEVELLED RIM. FINE FABRIC WITH SPARSE QUARTZ GRAINS AND CALC.	1	9	1150 - 1300

Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Comments	Sherd count	Weight	Context considered date
138	MSHL			SHELLY-LIMESTONE TEMPERED. PARTIALLY VESICULATED SURFACES. HARD. GREY CORE, BUFF SURFACES. SHOULDER SHERD.	1	4	1150 - 1300
138	STAM		GLE	SMALL BS, EXT THIN PALE GREEN GLAZE.	1	2	1150 - 1300
139	EMS				3	12	1150 - 1300
139	EMSC	JAR		THICKENED RIM WITH INTERNAL BEAD. TRANSITIONAL?	1	7	1150 - 1300
139	MCALC			THIN-WALLED. HARD. VESICULATED INTERNAL SURFACE. EXTERNAL SOOTING. GREY CORE, BUFF TO BROWN SURFACES.	1	17	1150 - 1300
139	NEOT	JAR		SIMPLE, SLIGHTLY THICKENED AND HOLLOWED RIM.	1	4	1150 - 1300
139	SHER			SAGGING.	1	7	1150 - 1300
139	SHER			FINE SAND. SPARSE CALC.	1	13	1150 - 1300
151	EMS			FINE SANDY.	1	2	1200 - 1350
151	EMS/ESHER			SHER FABRIC. CRUDE FORMING. TRANSITIONAL.	1	19	1200 - 1350
151	EMSC			SIMPLE RIM, FLAT-TOPPED.	1	6	1200 - 1350
151	EMSC		LATT	GREY TO DARK GREY BODY AND INNER SURFACE. EXTERNAL SURFACE PATCHY BLACK, GREY, BROWN AND DARK ORANGE. BURNISHED LATTICE DECORATION ATYPICAL OF PERIOD AND TRADITION.	4	71	1200 - 1350

Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Comments	Sherd count	Weight	Context considered date
151	EMSC				1	9	1200 - 1350
151	MCALC			GREY CORE AND INNER SURFACE (PARTIALLY VESICULATED). BUFF OUTER SURFACE.	1	10	1200 - 1350
151	MISC OX			OXIDISED SHER BODY BUT APPEARS HANDMADE. TRANSITIONAL EMS/ESHER.	4	36	1200 - 1350
151	MISC RED			THICKENED RIM FROM A SMALL ROMAN UNGENTARIAM/ JAR.	1	2	1200 - 1350
151	SHER	JUG LGRND	INCD	LARGE ROUNDED JUG. THICKENED, FLAT-TOPPED RIM WITH SLIGHT INTERNAL BEAD. PULLED POURING LIP, SLIGHTLY PINCHED. INCISED HORIZONTAL SHALLOW GROOVES TO BODY. CORRUGATED NECK. SOME FRESH BREAKS. LIGHT GREY (NR WHITE) TO MID GREY.	21	432	1200 - 1350
151	SHER	JUG LGRND	INCH	BODY SHERDS FROM SAME JUG IN CXT.152, 153.	3	40	1200 - 1350
151	SHER	JAR		CLUBBED RIM.	1	25	1200 - 1350
151	SHER				1	22	1200 - 1350
151	SHER		INCH	OXIDISED CORED AND MARGINS, REDUCED BUFF TO LIGHT GREY SURFACES. SAGGING BASE, ROUNDED BODY. JUG? INTERNAL SURFACES LAMINATED.	7	90	1200 - 1350
151	SHER			SAGGING.	1	28	1200 - 1350

Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Comments	Sherd count	Weight	Context considered date
152	SHER			LOW-FIRED SHER? SAME RANGE OF INCLUSIONS BUT SOFTER AND DARK-GREY BROWN TO BLACK.	1	5	1200 - 1350
152	SHER	JUG LGRND	INCD	LARGE ROUNDED JUG. THICKENED, FLAT-TOPPED RIM WITH SLIGHT INTERNAL BEAD. INCISED HORIZONTAL SHALLOW GROOVES TO BODY. CORRUGATED NECK. SOME FRESH BREAKS. LIGHT GREY (NR WHITE) TO MID GREY.	7	414	1200 - 1350
152	SHER			OXIDISED CORE.	1	3	1200 - 1350
152	SHER	JAR		CLUBBED RIM, INTERNALLY BEVELLED TOP AND SLIGHT INTERNAL BEAD.	1	78	1200 - 1350
153	SHER			X1 OXIDISED CORE AND INNER MARGIN/ SURFACE.	3	26	1200 - 1350
153	SHER		INCH	HORIZONTAL INCISED LINES.	1	8	1200 - 1350
153	EMSC			TRANSITIONAL? POSSIBLY FROM THE SAME VESSEL.	2	33	1200 - 1350
170	ESAN			SMALL SHERD. DARK-GREY/BLACK CORE AND SURFACES. QUARTZ SAND-TEMPERED.	1	2	450 - 850
177	MISC WW			THIN-WALLED. ABRADED. VERW? EARLY ROMAN?	1	3	50 - 400
189	EMS			SPARSE CALC. FINE SANDY FABRIC.	1	3	1150 - 1400
189	EMS	JAR		SIMPLE RIM. FLATTENED TOP, SLIGHT EXTERNAL BEAD. TRANSITIONAL?	1	10	1150 - 1400
189	SHER			JUG? OXIDISED MARGINS AND SURFACES. ?SHER	1	10	1150 - 1400

Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Comments	Sherd count	Weight	Context considered date
				PRODUCT.			
189	SHER				1	10	1150 - 1400
189	SHER				1	9	1150 - 1400
189	SHER	JUG	STAB	ROD HANDLE. TWO VERTICAL ROWS OF KNIFE-TIP STABBING TO OUTER EDGES.	1	78	1150 - 1400
189	NEOT	JAR		SIMPLE RIM.	1	5	1150 - 1400
203	EMS			EMS/ ESHER?	1	1	1000 - 1200
203	EMS			HANDMADE.	1	13	1000 - 1200
203	EMSC			HARD, POSSIBLY TRANSITIONAL.	1	9	1000 - 1200
203	EMS			REDUCED DARK GREY. FINE SANDY FABRIC.	1	5	1000 - 1200
204	SHER			SAGGING.	1	12	1150 - 1400
204	NEOT			CRUMB.	1	1	1150 - 1300
204	SHER			CRUMB.	1	1	1150 - 1300
208	EMS			TRANSITIONAL? ESHER?	1	4	1000 - 1300
217	DNEOT			LESS SHELLY DNEOT?	1	9	1000 - 1300
220	EMS/ESHER			HANDMADE BS. HARD.	1	22	1150 - 1300
220	MCALC			GREY CORE, BUFF INTERNAL SURFACE (SOME VESICULATION), ORANGE EXTERNAL SURFACE.	1	10	1150 - 1300
220	SHER		INCH		1	17	1150 - 1300
222	SHER	JAR		THICKENED RIM.	1	12	1150 - 1400
226	EMS	JAR		SHOULDER. OXIDISED SURFACES.	1	6	L.12TH C
226	SHER			SHOULDER/NECK.	1	6	1150 - 1400

Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Comments	Sherd count	Weight	Context considered date
231	UNS GL	JUG	GRGL	BRILL? SANDY FABRIC GROUP? PALE GRGL. X1 FRG OF FIRED CLAY FROM SAME SAMPLE. NOT RECORDED.	1	1	1200 - 1400
233	EMS			FAIRLY FINE SAND. LATER?	1	4	1200 - 1350
233	EMS			THIN-WALLED.	1	15	1200 - 1350
233	SHER			OXIDISED.	1	3	1200 - 1350
233	SHER	JUG	INCH	BODY SHERDS FROM LARGE ROUNDED JUG IN CXT.152 AND 153?.	2	30	1200 - 1350
233	SHER		INCW	INCISED WAVY / ZIG-ZAG LINE.	1	13	1200 - 1350
233	SHER		INCH	HARD- HIGH-FIRED. SAMPLE OF FABRIC TAKEN.	1	10	1200 - 1350
233	SHER			FRESH BREAK. FABRIC SAMPLE.	1	4	1200 - 1350
233	SHER			SHOULDER.	1	4	1200 - 1350
233	SHER				2	11	1200 - 1350
233	SHER/MCW			SIMILAR INCLUSIONS TO CHALKY SHER BUT OXIDISED CORES/ ATYPICAL FIRING.	2	27	1200 - 1350
233	EMSC			HANDMADE. DARK-GREY - BLACK.	1	14	1200 - 1350
233	SHER			SMALL SHERD.	1	1	1200 - 1350

Appendix 4

ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

REPORT Site: Shillington Road, Pirton (HSRP17)

By: Kate Turner

INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the findings of the rapid assessment of thirteen bulk samples taken during the archaeological evaluation of land at Shillington Road, Pirton. These samples were taken from eight ditches and five pits, the context information for which is given in table 1.

The aim of this assessment is to:

1. Give an overview of the contents of the assessed samples;
2. Determine the environmental potential of these samples;
3. Establish whether any further analysis is necessary.

Table 1: Context information for environmental samples, HSRP17

Context No.	Cut	Context type	Context category	Trench number
117	120	Fill	Ditch	6
118	120	Fill	Ditch	6
138	137	Fill	Pit	25
153	140	Fill	Pit	19
157	158	Fill	Ditch	9
163	164	Fill	Ditch	13
170	171	Fill	Ditch	10
189	190	Fill	Pit	20
203	202	Fill	Pit	12
204	205	Fill	Ditch	12
226	227	Fill	Ditch	11
231	232	Fill	Ditch	11
233	221	Fill	Pit	11

METHODOLOGY

Thirteen environmental bulk samples, ranging from six to thirty six litres in volume, were processed using the flotation method; material was collected using a 300 µm mesh for the light fraction and a 1 mm mesh for the heavy residue. The heavy residue was then dried, sieved at 1, 2 and 4 mm and sorted to extract artefacts and ecofacts. The abundance of each category of material was recorded using a non-linear scale where '1' indicates occasional occurrence (1-10 items), '2' indicates occurrence is fairly frequent (11-30 items), '3' indicates presence is frequent (31-100 items) and '4' indicates an abundance of material (>100 items).

The light residue (>300 µm), once dried, was scanned under a low-power binocular microscope to quantify the level of environmental material, such as seeds, chaff, charred grains, molluscs and charcoal. Abundance was recorded as above. A note was also made of any other significant inclusions, for example roots and modern plant material.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Residues

A rapid scan of the environmental material recovered from the heavy fraction has shown that preservation of remains is mixed across the assemblage. Wood charcoal was reported in five samples, <1002>, <1003>, <1008>, <1011> and <1012>, with sample <1011> containing the greatest abundance, between thirty and one-hundred pieces. Material was heavily fragmented however, with none of these residues containing any specimens of a size for species to be established.

Five samples additionally contained charred cereals; samples <1003>, <1011> and <1012> yielded the highest abundance, with each containing over one-hundred grains. Initial observation of this material has suggested the presence of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and potentially other species, though a large proportion of grains are heavily degraded and identification may therefore prove difficult.

Molluscs were recorded in all of the assessed samples, with the exception of <1006>, <1007> and <1008>. The greatest abundance was found in samples <1001> and <1002>, which both contained a large concentration of heavily fragmented shell, along with over one-hundred complete terrestrial shells. All of the other viable samples contained between one and thirty complete shells, and a low concentration of fragments, of both marine and terrestrial/freshwater origin.

Archaeozoological material and cultural artefacts were present throughout the assemblage, which will be discussed further in the relevant specialist reports.

All the material collected from the heavy residue has been catalogued and passed to the relevant specialists for further assessment. A full account of the material reported is given in appendix 1.

Flots

All of the processed samples produced flots, ranging in volume from thirty-six to five hundred and fifty millilitres. Preservation of environmental remains was generally good in this fraction. Wood charcoal was recorded in low to abundant concentrations throughout, though only samples <1002>, <1003>, <1011> and <1012> contained any material of a size for species to be determined. All of the assessed samples also contained small to moderate numbers of weed seeds, with the largest proportion being recorded in sample <1003>, which contained examples of poppy (*Papaver* sp.), elder (*Sambucus* sp.) and dandelion (*Taraxacum* sp.), along with several other species. Dandelion was the most commonly observed species, being present in nine samples.

Charred seeds were also found in eight samples, with <1002>, <1003> and <1011> containing the greatest density. Species diversity was good in these samples, though some material was too charred and distorted to be identified in this preliminary assessment. All of the assessed flots, with the exception of sample <1000> also contained charred grains; wheat was the most common, and commonly abundant species, being reported in all eleven samples, though moderate amounts of rye (*Secale cereale*) were also identified in sample <1011>, and low concentrations of oat (*Avena*

sativa) in samples <1003> and <1006>. A significant amount of the material observed across this assemblage was observed to be heavily fragmented, and with substantial surface degradation, rendering identification difficult. This is likely to be because of prolonged, high-temperature, or even perhaps repeat burning of these grains.

Terrestrial mollusc shells were common in the Pirton assemblage. A wide range of species were recorded, with the most common being identified as *Cecilioides acicula*, *Lauria cylindracea* and *Vallonia* sp. Densities were generally moderate to high, with samples <1000>, <1001> and <1011> containing the greatest number. All of the assessed samples were also found to contain juvenile specimens, and nine samples additionally yielded varying concentrations of broken shell.

Modern contamination, in the form of moderate to high densities of roots, rootlets and/or modern grasses, along with subterranean snails (*Cecilioides acicula*) was reported throughout the sample set. Based on the density of this material it is likely that a significant amount of post depositional disturbance may have occurred in these deposits.

A full account of the material reported in the flots is given in appendix 2.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

To summarise, the preservation of environmental remains, particularly charred cereals and molluscs, in the Pirton samples was generally good. In all cases it is, however, associated with substantial evidence of bioturbation, indicating that the smaller environmental remains may no longer be *in situ*. As a result, no further work is suggested on the current samples unless a robust chronology can be developed, as determining the origin of this material may otherwise prove difficult. This assessment does however show that there is clearly potential for substantial amounts of archaeobotanical and malacological remains to be present in the archaeological strata. It is therefore recommended that if there is a possibility of any subsequent archaeological work undertaken on the site, additional sampling for these remains be

undertaken from well-sealed features, where dateable material is present. If suitable deposits are present, it is also suggested that, along with environmental bulk samples, column samples also be taken for recovery of pollen, and contiguous bulk samples (or 'snail columns') be taken for recovery of snails.

A summary of the results should be included in any subsequent site publications.

REFERENCES

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Kerney, M.P. (1999) Atlas of the Land and Freshwater Molluscs of Britain and Ireland. *Colchester. Harley*.

Stace, C, 1991. New flora of the British Isles. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Assessment of environmental residues, HSRP17

Sample No.	**1000**	**1001**	**1002**	**1003**	**1004**	**1005**	**1006**	**1007**	**1008**	**1009**	**1010**	**1011**	**1012**
Context No.	**117**	**118**	**138**	**153**	**203**	**157**	**170**	**163**	**189**	**204**	**231**	**226**	**223**
Feature No.	**120**	**120**	**137**	**140**	**202**	**158**	**171**	**164**	**190**	**205**	**232**	**227**	**221**
Volume of bulk (liters)	8	6	32	32	8	36	32	32	36	36	32	36	36
Volume of flot (milliliters)	65	62	60	100	36	200	200	54	40	250	54	550	230
Method of processing	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
HEAVY RESIDUE													
Charcoal													
Charcoal <2 mm												3	
Charcoal 2-4 mm												1	
Charcoal >4 mm			2	2					1			2	2
Plant Macrofossils													
Charred cereals			1	4			1					4	4
Molluscs													
Terrestrial	4	4	1	2	1	1					1	1	2
Freshwater			1										
Broken shell (T/FW)	4	4	1	1	1	1				1	1		1
Broken shell (Marine)	4	4	1		1	1					1		
Bone													
Large animal bone			1	1	1					1			
Small animal bone			1	1					1		1	1	1
Fish bone			1										
Bone fragments			2	2					1		1	1	2
Other material													
Pottery			1	1	1		1			1	1	1	1
Daub			2	3	1							2	3
Iron			1		1					1			1
Glass						1							

Sample No.	**1000**	**1001**	**1002**	**1003**	**1004**	**1005**	**1006**	**1007**	**1008**	**1009**	**1010**	**1011**	**1012**
Context No.	**117**	**118**	**138**	**153**	**203**	**157**	**170**	**163**	**189**	**204**	**231**	**226**	**223**
Feature No.	**120**	**120**	**137**	**140**	**202**	**158**	**171**	**164**	**190**	**205**	**232**	**227**	**221**
Burnt flint									1				
Struck flint									1		1		

Key: 1- Occasional, 2- fairly frequent, 3- frequent, 4- abundant

Assessment of environmental flots, HSRP17

Sample No.		**1000**	**1001**	**1002**	**1003**	**1004**	**1005**	**1006**	**1007**	**1008**	**1009**	**1010**	**1011**	**1012**
Context No.		**117**	**118**	**138**	**153**	**203**	**157**	**170**	**163**	**189**	**204**	**231**	**226**	**223**
Feature No.		**120**	**120**	**137**	**140**	**202**	**158**	**171**	**164**	**190**	**205**	**232**	**227**	**221**
Volume of bulk (liters)		8	6	32	32	8	36	32	32	36	36	32	36	36
Volume of flot (milliliters)		65	62	60	100	36	200	200	54	40	250	54	550	230
Method of processing		F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
FLOT RESIDUE														
Charcoal														
Charcoal >4 mm			1	2	2					1	2		3	2
Charcoal 2-4 mm		1	1	3	2	1	1	3	1	2	1	1	4	3
Charcoal <2 mm		3	3	4	4	3	2	4	3	4	4	4	4	4
Frags. of ID size		X	X	<10	<10	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓
Seeds														
Aethusa sp.	Fool's parsley	1	1							1				
Atriplex sp.	Oraches	1												
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoots			1						1	1	1		
Fumaria sp.	Fumitory	1				1	1	1	1		1			
Juncus sp.	Rushes			1										
Lithospermum sp.	Gromwell			1										
Papaver sp.	Poppy			3										
Plantago sp.	Plantains											1		1
Ranunculus bulbosus/repens	Buttercups								1		1	1		1
Sambucus sp.	Elder			2	1		1			1	1		1	
Taraxacum sp.	Dandelion		1	1			1		1	1	1	1	1	1
Urtica sp.	Nettles			1								1		
Vicia sp.	Vetches			1										
Seed coats (var.)							2				2		2	
Charred seeds														
Anthemis cotula	Stinking chamomile			1	1									
Asperula arvensis	Blue woodruff			1									2	
Carex sp.	Sedges			1	1								3	
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoots			1									1	1

Sample No.		**1000**	**1001**	**1002**	**1003**	**1004**	**1005**	**1006**	**1007**	**1008**	**1009**	**1010**	**1011**	**1012**
Context No.		**117**	**118**	**138**	**153**	**203**	**157**	**170**	**163**	**189**	**204**	**231**	**226**	**223**
Feature No.		**120**	**120**	**137**	**140**	**202**	**158**	**171**	**164**	**190**	**205**	**232**	**227**	**221**
Fabaceae spp.	Peas			1	1								3	1
Fallopia sp.	Knotweeds												1	
Fumaria sp.	Fumitory			1										1
Hyoscyamus niger	Henbane				1									
cf. *Lens culinaris*	Lentil			2	1			1					2	
Papaver sp.	Poppy			1										
Poaceae undiff. (Large)	Grasses												2	1
Poaceae undiff. (Small)	Grasses				1				1				2	
Rumex sp.	Docks/sorrels			1	2								2	1
Sambucus sp.	Elder			1	1									
cf. *Sedum* sp.	Stonecrops			2										
Unknown				1		1				1			2	
Charred seed fragments				4										
Cereals														
Avena sativa	Oat				1			1						
Hordeum sp.	Barley				1									
Secale cereale	Rye												3	
Triticum sp.	Wheat		1	3	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	4	3
No ID (broken/degraded)				4	3	3		2	1	1	2	1	4	4
Other plant macrofossils														
Roots/tubers (undiff.)		3	2	4	4	3	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	2
Modern grasses										2				3
Molluscs														
Azeca goodalli	Terrestrial		1											
Bithynia sp.	Freshwater			1										
Candidula sp.	Terrestrial			1								1	1	1
Carychium sp.	Terrestrial	1	2		1	1			1					
Cecilioides acicula	Terrestrial	2	1	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	4	3
Cepaea sp.	Terrestrial	1	1											
Clausilia bidentata	Terrestrial	1	1											
Cochlicopa lubrica	Terrestrial	1	1											1
Discus rotundatus	Terrestrial	3	3							1				

Sample No.		**1000**	**1001**	**1002**	**1003**	**1004**	**1005**	**1006**	**1007**	**1008**	**1009**	**1010**	**1011**	**1012**
Context No.		**117**	**118**	**138**	**153**	**203**	**157**	**170**	**163**	**189**	**204**	**231**	**226**	**223**
Feature No.		**120**	**120**	**137**	**140**	**202**	**158**	**171**	**164**	**190**	**205**	**232**	**227**	**221**
Euconulus sp.	Terrestrial	1												
*Helicella*sp.	Terrestrial	1												
Helicigona lapicida	Terrestrial		1											
Lauria cylindracea	Terrestrial	1	1	1	2		1	1	1	1		2	2	2
Oxychilus sp.	Terrestrial	1	2		1			1						2
Pomatias elegans	Terrestrial	2	3				1							
Vallonia sp.	Terrestrial	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1
Valvata piscinalis	Freshwater	1												
Vertigo sp.	Terrestrial	1		1		1	1	1				1		
Vitrea sp.	Terrestrial	2	2											
Snail eggs		2		1	2	1	1		1		2			
Operculum		1	1											
Juveniles (no ID)		3	3	2	1	1	2	2	3	1	3	1	2	2
Broken shell		4	4	2			2	4	4	3	4	3		
Other remains														
Insect remains		2	1				1	1	1	1	1	1		
Coal/vitreous material		2	2					1	3	1	2	2		
Fuel ash slag				1										
Small animal bone				1	1			1						
Bone fragments				3		1				1		2		
Burnt bone				1										

Key: 1- Occasional, 2- fairly frequent, 3- frequent, 4- abundant

13 APPENDIX 5: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-299192

Project details	
Project name	Land at Shillington Road, Hertfordshire, SG5 3QJ: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Short description of the project	This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Shillington Road, Pirton, Hertfordshire, SG5 3QJ. (NGR TL 1425 3185) between the 10th and the 18th of October 2017. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd in support of a proposal for allocation contained within the draft North Hertfordshire District Local Plan. The principal result of the evaluation was the recording of a number of Late Saxon to medieval settlement-edge related features consisting of boundary and drainage ditches, which formed part of a broadly north-east to south-west aligned field system, as well as large rubbish and quarry pits.
Project dates	Start: 10-10-2017 End: 18-10-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HSRP17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	PIT Early Neolithic
Monument type	PIT Early Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Early Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	POSTHOLE Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Uncertain

Significant Finds	FLINT Neolithic
Significant Finds	POT Early Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Early Medieval
Significant Finds	IRON Early Medieval
Significant Finds	COPPER Early Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Early Medieval
Methods & techniques	''Sample Trenches'',''Targeted Trenches''
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location	
Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE PIRTON Land at Shillington Road, Hertfordshire
Postcode	SG5 8QJ
Study area	1272 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 1425 3185 51.972922790061 -0.336560957712 51 58 22 N 000 20 11 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 64.31m Max: 74.06m

Project creators	
Name of Organisation	PCA
Project brief originator	Alison Tinniswood
Project design originator	CgMS Consulting and Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project director/manager	Mark Hinman
Project supervisor	Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne

Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	North Hertfordshire Museum
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Worked bone","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	North Hertfordshire Museum
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Worked bone","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Database","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	North Hertfordshire Museum
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Worked bone","Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey","Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Shillington Road, Hertfordshire, SG5 3QJ: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Morgan-Shelbourne, L
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	PCA Central
Place of issue or publication	Pampisford
Description	94 page, bound a4.

Entered by	Lawrence	Morgan-Shelbourne	(lmorgan-shelbourne@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	24 October 2017		

CgMs

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APPENDIX 3

LAND AT SHILLINGTON ROAD, PIRTON

Illustrative masterplan

PROJECT NO	DRAWING NO	REV
5166	101	
DRAWN	DATE	SCALE
HNA	JANUARY 2018	1:1000

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