

**TRIANGLE SITE
SOUTH MARSTON
SWINDON**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

RPS PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

on behalf of

GAZELEY PROPERTIES LIMITED

CA REPORT: 04209

JANUARY 2005

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SWINDON

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CA PROJECT: 1879
CA REPORT: 04209

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SUMMARY

Site Name:	Triangle Site
Location:	Swindon, Wiltshire
NGR:	SU 1750 8840
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	7-16 December 2004
Location of Archive:	to be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
Accession no.	B2004/12
Site Code:	TSW 04

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2004 at the request of RPS Planning and Environment (on the behalf of Gazeley Properties Limited) on land known as the 'Triangle Site', Swindon. In compliance with an approved WSI 30 trenches were excavated across the proposed development area.

Archaeological features consisting of ditches, pits and postholes were found in trenches 3, 5-9 and 30 on a raised plateau on the eastern part of the site, and in trench 20 on level ground in the southern part. No archaeological features were present on the western part of the site. Other recorded features included tree throw pits, plough furrows and modern infilled field boundaries.

The majority of the dated features belong within the Early to Middle Iron Age period. Evidence for domestic activity and nearby settlement was identifiable from concentrations of animal bone and pottery recovered from a pit and gully features in trench 3, a pit in trench 5, and from a posthole in trench 20. Postholes recorded indicate the presence of domestic structures. The majority of features, consisting of truncated pits and ditches were undated, although their association with the dated features suggests an earlier Iron Age date for these also; the ditches were probably field boundaries.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2004 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at the request of RPS Planning and Environment (on the behalf of Gazeley Properties Limited) on land known as the 'Triangle Site', Swindon (centred on NGR: SU 1750 8840; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to form part of a Cultural Heritage Assessment within an Environmental Statement prepared in connection with an application for planning consent for development of the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a specification prepared by RPS Planning and Environment and agreed by Roy Canham (Wiltshire County Council Archaeologist), the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), and also with a subsequent detailed WSI produced by CA (2004) and approved by Roy Canham. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999), *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation* (WCC Archaeology Service 1995), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects II* (EH 1991). It was monitored by Roy Canham, including site visits on 9 and 16 December 2004.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 43ha, and comprises agricultural land. The site is bounded by the A361 Highworth Road, the A419, and Kingsdown Road.
- 1.4 The central-eastern part of the site lies on a plateau at approximately 112m AOD, with the ground sloping away to the north and west to approximately 110m AOD. The underlying geology of the area is mapped as 'Coral Rag' on the plateau, and silts and sands to the north and west, both belonging to the Upper Jurassic era (BGS 1974). The mapping of the natural substrate was confirmed by the excavated trenches.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 Archaeological interest in the site arises from findspots recorded in the Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record of prehistoric struck flints, a fragment of Iron Age

pottery and sherds of Roman pottery. A large sub-rectangular enclosure, recorded on aerial photographs as a cropmark, is of characteristic Roman period form. A smaller cropmark enclosure, sub-rectangular in shape, may be associated with the larger enclosure. Geophysical survey carried out by Stratascan Limited on the eastern part of the site identified sub-circular, sub-rectangular and linear anomalies of potential archaeological significance (Stratascan 2004; Fig. 3).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.6 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date, significance and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist the Local Planning Authority in making an informed judgement on the likely impact upon the archaeological resource by the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 29 trenches in the locations shown on Figure 2, totalling 1150m in length. These trenches were positioned to evaluate features identified in a geophysical survey (Stratascan 2004), as well as areas apparently blank in the geophysical survey, areas of cropmarks, and parts of the site likely to be impacted upon by the proposed development. In consultation with Roy Canham a further 30m trench (trench 30) was excavated in order to define the southern extent of archaeological features identified in trench 3.
- 1.8 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with the CA Technical Manual 1: *Excavation Recording Manual* (1996).
- 1.9 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with the CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003). All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with the CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).

- 1.10 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowners the site archive (including artefacts) will be deposited with Swindon Art Gallery and Museum under accession number B2004/12.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-5)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in appendices 1 and 2 respectively.
- 2.2 Archaeological features were confined to the central part of the site on the plateau (Fig. 3, trenches 1-11), and to the southern field in trench 20 (Fig. 2). Trenches 1, 2, 4, 10-19, and 21-29 contained no archaeological features except plough furrows previously identified by the geophysical survey, and undated tree throw pits. Trenches 24 and 27 also contained modern infilled field boundaries, some of which were also identified during the geophysical survey.
- 2.3 In trenches 1-12, 28 and 29, the natural substrate consisted of a limestone brash ('Coral Rag'), and was identified close to the modern ground level, covered usually only by the ploughsoil to a depth of approximately 0.2-0.4m. Modern plough scarring was evident in the majority of these trenches, and is likely to have caused truncation of the archaeological features and deposits, as many features were shallow. Trenches 10 and 12 were situated in areas of colluvium on the slopes off the plateau, which was recorded up to a depth of 1m in places. The westernmost trenches were also deep containing sandy/silty clay subsoils up to 1.5m thick overlying the natural sandy/silty clay substrate.

Trench 3 (Figs 4 and 5)

Iron Age

- 2.4 Trench 3 contained the majority of the dated archaeological features found in the evaluation. A large circular pit 304, measuring at least 2m in diameter and approximately 1m in depth, contained four fills, all of which produced animal bone and Early to Middle Iron Age pottery.
- 2.5 The original function of the pit is uncertain; its form, with a concave base and sloping sides, differs to the flat-bottomed pits seen on nearby Iron Age sites (eg Walker *et al*

2001). Several large stones were present in the basal fill 312, as well as many smaller ones present throughout the secondary fill 311. The third fill 306 was a clean clay, not derived from the immediately surrounding geological deposits. The upper fill 305 was characterised by a very dark charcoal-rich appearance, and was very similar to the deposits found in the two linear features to the north-east, perhaps signifying they were contemporary.

2.6 To the north-east of this pit were linear features 307 and 309, on the same alignment. Each had a single fill, similar to the nearby upper pit fill 305, and contained pottery dated to the same period. Feature 307 appeared to have been more truncated than 309, however, they were both approximately 0.65m wide. The better surviving feature 309 could be seen to have steep sides and a flat base.

2.7 These linear features were approximately 11m apart and may form two sides of a small rectangular enclosure. The quantities of artefactual material recovered from the fills 308 and 310 would suggest settlement activity nearby.

Undated

2.8 A single undated possible posthole 314 was also identified south-west of pit 304. It measured 0.3m in diameter, was 0.14m deep, and contained charcoal and burnt clay flecks; no postpipe was evident and no artefacts were recovered, although it was in close proximity to the dated features in trench 3.

Trench 5 (Figs 4 and 5)

Prehistoric-Iron Age

2.9 A single sub-circular pit 506 was quite shallow with a concave base and two fills. The primary fill 505 contained two very small, abraded sherds of pottery. The secondary fill appeared to be derived from the surrounding soil, probably accumulating in the depression after the pit went out of use. The function of this pit is unknown and the lack of further features within this trench precludes further interpretation.

Undated

2.10 Three undated tree throw pits were recorded within this trench, none of which showed signs of burning or deliberate removal.

Trench 6 (Figs 4 and 5)*Post-medieval*

- 2.11 A large tree throw pit 610 was identified in the eastern end of trench 6 which contained a fragment of glass in the upper fill 609.

Undated

- 2.12 Posthole 604 contained a single homogeneous fill, which was similar in appearance to posthole 314 in trench 3, and also included flecks of burnt clay or very degraded fragments of pottery. A further posthole 606 lay nearby. The dimensions of these postholes were also comparable, and the similar appearance and inclusions within the fills may indicate them to be of similar date, possibly contemporary with the Iron Age activity close by. A second undated tree throw pit 608 was identified at the eastern end and showed evidence for burning, with traces of charcoal and darker lenses within its fill 607.

Trench 7 (Fig. 4)*Undated*

- 2.13 Trench 7 contained a single possible feature positioned close to the top of the sloping ground to the west, which appeared to be a possible gully terminal, 703, with a rounded concave profile. It had a very clean silty fill 704, characteristic of gradual silting rather than deliberate backfilling.

Trench 8 (Fig. 3)*Undated*

- 2.14 Trench 8 contained a wide ditch 803 with a slightly concave base, measuring in excess of 2m across. Ploughing appears to have truncated it heavily as it survives to a depth of only 0.17m. The ditch was undated but appears to correlate well to the linear feature identified during the geophysical survey aligned on an approximate north-south axis within the trench, and on a differing alignment to the furrows also recorded within this trench. The fill 804 appeared characteristic of natural silting and contained no artefactual evidence.

Trench 9 (Fig. 3)*Undated*

- 2.15 Trench 9 contained a ditch 909 similar to 803 in size, alignment and appearance, and they may form part of a contemporary field system, although they are c. 100m

apart. A possible shallow concave pit 907 and tree throw pit 905 were also undated and contained clean silty fills. Pit 907 was located between the ditches present in trenches 8 and 9.

Trench 20 (Figs 4 and 5)

Iron Age

- 2.16 Trench 20 was situated on level ground at the south end of the site in an area of extant ridge and furrow which is not currently ploughed. A single shallow posthole 2004 was identified which contained several sherds of Iron Age pottery as well as burnt limestone packing stones. Although the stones were burnt they appeared to have been re-used as there was no evidence for burning *in situ*. The posthole was covered by approximately 0.4m of subsoil 2002 and 0.2m of topsoil 2001.

Trench 30 (Fig. 3)

Undated

- 2.17 A single probable ditch 3004 in the northern end of trench 30 was also undated and contained a brown silty clay fill. Although it was on the same approximate alignment as the furrows recorded elsewhere, the fill was darker and no other plough furrows were identified in this area of the site.

The Finds

- 2.18 The artefactual material consists largely of pottery broadly dated to the Early to Middle Iron Age period, comparable to fabrics found nearby at the Groundwell West site (Walker *et al.* 2001). The lack of diagnostic forms makes precise dating difficult, but the absence of fingernail/finger tip decoration may indicate a Middle (or earlier Middle) Iron Age date for the assemblage. Small quantities of other materials including a worked flint notched flake of early prehistoric date (recovered from a post-medieval plough furrow), a fragment of post-medieval bottle glass, an iron nail and burnt stone fragments, were also recovered.
- 2.19 The animal bone, all of which was recovered from trench 3, represents domestic waste, with evidence of butchery and cooking (burnt bone). The only identifiable species was cattle, although some material may be derived from sheep/goat. Many of the bone fragments showed signs of gnawing and/or weathering, indicating they were not immediately buried after use.

2.20 The deposits encountered were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental and biological potential; none were deemed suitable for sampling.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Trenches 3, 5-9, and 30 contained a total of twelve archaeological features, situated relatively close together on the raised part of the site which forms a plateau overlooking the surrounding area. Elsewhere only trench 20, at the southern end of the site, contained archaeological remains comprising a single posthole.

3.2 All (five) features that are dated belong within the earlier Iron Age period, and are located within trenches 3, 5 and 20. The concentrations of animal bone and pottery recovered from the pits and gullies in trench 3, and the pottery from the posthole in trench 20, seem indicative of domestic settlement activity in these areas. The presence of the postholes in trench 3, 6 and 20 also indicate there are structures present in these areas.

3.3 The majority of features however, except those in trench 3, 5 and 20, remain undated. In trenches 8 and 9 the nature of the ditches and the absence of artefactual material from them, suggest that they are field boundaries or enclosure ditches, perhaps associated with the focus of settlement to the south in trenches 3, 5 and 6.

3.4 The archaeological features encountered throughout the central-eastern part of the site were generally shallow (with the exception of the large pit in trench 3) and were clearly truncated, covered by only a shallow depth of ploughsoil.

3.5 The correlation between anomalies identified by the geophysical survey and features recorded in the evaluation trenches was limited. Trenches 3 and 8 contained linear features which correspond broadly to anomalies; trench 3 also contained other features (pits and postholes) which were unlikely to have been picked up by the geophysical survey. Within trenches 1, 2, 10, 12, 17, 18 and 19, targeted on anomalies, there were no archaeological features recorded. In trenches 6, 7 and 9 archaeological features were identified within 'blank' areas in the

geophysical survey; again the size and shallowness of these features would be less susceptible to identification by the geophysical survey.

- 3.6 The absence of features in the trenches positioned on the slopes and on areas to the north and west may indicate that these areas have always been unsuitable for settlement, probably due to the degree of slope and the poorer land drainage once beyond the geological boundaries of the 'Coral' Rag. This distribution of the archaeological features fits well into with the previously known Iron Age exploitation of the Corallian ridge, with sites such as Groundwell Farm and Groundwell West (Walker *et al*, 2001) located a short distance to the north-west.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Kate Cullen, assisted by Derek Evans, Ben Powell, Kelly Saunders, Edmund Stratford and Franco Vartuca. The report was written by Kate Cullen, assisted by Edmund Stratford. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Kate Cullen, and prepared for deposition by Sam Inder. The project was managed for CA by Mark Collard.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1974 *Swindon Sheet 252 Solid and Drift Edition*
Scale 1 inch to 1 mile

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2004 *Triangle Site, Swindon: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

Stratascan 2004 *Geophysical Survey-Triangle Site, South Marston, Swindon*

Walker, G, Langton, B and Oakey, N 2001 *An Iron Age Site at Groundwell West, Blunsdon St. Andrew, Wiltshire: Excavations in 1996*. Cotswold Archaeological Trust.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1 (Average height at top of trench 112.2m AOD; base of trench 111.85m AOD)

101	Topsoil. Dark grey-brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.2m thick.
102	Subsoil. Mid brown-yellow silty clay. 0.2m thick.
103	Natural. Pale brown-yellow sandy clay to 'coral' rag.

Trench 2 (Average height at top of trench 112.52m AOD; base of trench 112.26m AOD)

201	Topsoil. Mid-dark grey-brown silty clay ploughsoil. 0.3m thick.
202	Natural. Pale yellow 'coral' rag.
203	Cut of possible furrow. Orientated north-east/south-west. Shallow sides with deeper channel along eastern edge. 0.1m in depth, 1.2m wide and 2m+ in length.
204	Fill of 203. Mid brown-grey silty clay. 0.1m in depth.
205	Cut of furrow. Orientated north-east/south-west. 0.06m in depth, 0.35m wide, and 2m+ in length.
206	Fill of 205. Mid brown-grey silty clay.
207	Cut of furrow. Orientated north-east/south-west. 0.06m in depth, 0.35m wide, and 2m+ in length.
208	Fill of 207. Mid brown-grey silty clay.
209	Cut of furrow. Orientated north-east/south-west. 0.11m in depth, 0.7m wide, and 2m+ in length.
210	Fill of 209. Mid brown-grey silty clay.
211	Cut of modern land drain. 0.25m+ in depth, 0.2m wide, and 2m+ in length.
212	Fill of 211. Redeposited natural. Pale yellow 'coral' rag to silty clay.
213	Cut of furrow. Orientated north-east/south-west. 0.08m in depth, 0.5m in width, and 2m+ in length.
214	Same as 204. Mid brown-grey silty clay.

Trench 3 (Average height at top of trench 112.31m AOD; base of trench 112.08m AOD)

301	Topsoil. Dark grey-brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.18m thick.
302	Subsoil. Mid yellow brown silty clay. 0.2m thick.
303	Natural. Mid brown-yellow sandy clay to 'coral' rag.
304	Cut of pit. Oval in plan with moderately steep sloping sides to a rounded base. 0.96m in depth and 2m+ in diameter.
305	Fill of 304. Dark grey-brown silty clay. 0.2m thick.
306	Fill of 304. Mid brown-yellow sandy clay. 0.18m thick.
307	Cut of linear. Orientated north-west/south-east. Shallow sides to flat base. 0.08m in depth, 0.6m wide, and 2m+ in length.
308	Fill of 307. Mid grey-brown silty clay. 0.08m thick.
309	Cut of linear. Orientated north-west-/south-east. Steep sides to flat base. 0.18m in depth, 0.64m wide, and 2m+ in length.
310	Fill of 309. Dark grey-brown silty clay. 0.18m thick.
311	Fill of 304. Mid brown-grey silty clay. 0.32m thick.
312	Fill of 304. Pale brown-grey sandy clay. 0.36m thick.
313	Fill of 314. Mid grey-brown silty clay. 0.14m thick.
314	Cut of posthole. Circular in plan with moderately steep sides to an uneven base. 0.12m in depth and 0.3m in diameter.

Trench 4 (Average height at top of trench 112.9m AOD; base of trench 112.63m AOD)

401	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.21m thick.
402	Subsoil. Mid brown silty clay. 0.12m thick.
403	Natural. Mid orange-brown silty clay to 'coral' rag.
404	Fill of 405. Mid brown silty clay. 0.04m thick.
405	Furrow cut. Irregular in plan, shallow sides to uneven base. 0.04m in depth, 0.53m wide, 3.1m+ in length.

Trench 5 (Average height at top of trench 113.01m AOD; base of trench 112.69m AOD)

501	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.16m thick.
502	Subsoil. Mid-dark brown silty clay. 0.15m thick.
503	Natural. Mid orange-brown silty clay to 'coral' rag.
504	Fill of 506. Mid-dark brown silty clay to 'coral' rag. 0.13m thick.
505	Fill of 506. Mid-dark brown silty clay. 0.15m thick.
506	Cut of sub-circular pit. Moderately steep sides to concave base. 0.18m in depth, 0.81m in width and, 1.2m in length.
507	Fill of 508. Mid brown silty clay. 0.07m thick.
508	Cut of tree throw. Irregular shape in plan, irregular sides and base. 0.07m in depth.
509	Fill of 510. Mid orange-brown clay to 'coral' rag. 0.11m thick.
510	Cut of tree throw. As 508. 0.11m in depth.
511	Fill of 512. Mid orange-brown clay to 'coral' rag. 0.16m thick.
512	Cut of tree throw. As 508. 0.16m in depth.
513	Fill of 514. Mid-dark brown silty clay. 0.10m thick.
514	Plough scar. Shallow linear feature. 0.10m in depth.

Trench 6 (Average height at top of trench 112.67m AOD; base of trench 112.37m AOD)

601	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.3m thick.
602	Natural substrate. Coral rag.
603	Fill of Posthole 604. Dark greyish brown silty clay. 0.3m diameter, 0.09m depth.
604	Posthole cut. 0.3m diameter, 0.09m depth.
605	Fill of posthole 606. Dark greyish brown silty clay. 0.29m diameter, 0.13m depth.
606	Posthole cut. 0.29m diameter, 0.13m depth.
607	Fill of tree throw 608. Mid orange brown with dark greyish brown silty clay lenses. Evidence of burning. 1m wide, 0.12m depth.
608	Tree throw cut. Sub-oval. 1m wide, 0.12m depth.
609	Upper fill of tree throw 610. Light yellowish grey silty sand, 0.11m thick.
610	Tree throw cut. >2m diameter, >0.3m deep.
611	Basal fill of tree throw 610. Mid brown silty clay, >0.1m thick.

Trench 7 (Height at top of north end of trench 110.53m AOD; base 109.93m AOD. Height at top of south end of trench 112.08m AOD; base 111.78m AOD)

700	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.18m thick.
701	Subsoil. Mid-light orange brown silty clay. 0.12m thick.
702	Natural substrate. Coral rag with sandy silts in western end.
703	Possible gully terminus cut. 0.59m wide, 0.12m deep. Concave base.
704	Fill of gully 703. Orange brown silty clay, 0.12m deep.

Trench 8 (Average height at top of trench 113.03m AOD; base of trench 112.74m AOD)

800	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.18m thick.
801	Subsoil. Mid-light orange brown silty clay. 0.12m thick.
802	Natural substrate. Coral rag.
803	Ditch cut. North-north-east/south-south-west aligned. 2.3m wide, 0.17m deep.
804	Fill of ditch 803. Mid yellow brown silty clay. 0.17m deep.
805	Furrow cut. 0.6m wide, 0.07m deep.
806	Fill of furrow 805. Mid greyish brown silty clay. 0.07m deep.

Trench 9 (Average height at top of trench 113.08m AOD; base of trench 112.81m AOD)

901	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.16m thick.
902	Subsoil. Mid-light orange brown silty clay. 0.28m thick.
903	Natural substrate. Coral rag.
904	Tree throw fill of 905.
905	Tree throw cut.

906	Fill of pit 907. Dark greyish brown silty clay. 0.05m deep.
907	Pit cut. Sub-circular, 2.1m wide, 0.05m deep.
908	Fill of ditch 909. Mid greyish brown silty clay. 0.07m deep.
909	Ditch cut. 2.2m wide, 0.07m deep. North/south aligned.

Trench 10 (*Height at top of north end of trench 111.36m AOD; base 110.86m AOD. Height at top of south end of trench 112.16m AOD; base 111.93m AOD*)

1001	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.3m thick.
1002	Subsoil. Mid-light orange brown silty clay. 0.5m thick.
1003	Natural substrate. Coral rag.
1004	Colluvium. Orange brown clay silt.

Trench 11 (*Average height at top of trench 112.90m AOD; base of trench 112.65m AOD*)

1100	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.21m thick.
1101	Subsoil. Mid-light orange brown silty clay. 0.5m thick.
1102	Natural substrate. Coral rag.
1103	Furrow cut. North-west/south-east aligned.
1104	Fill of 1103.
1105	Furrow cut.
1106	Fill of 1105.
1107	Furrow cut.
1108	Fill of 1107.

Trench 12 (*Average height at top of trench 111.70m AOD; base of trench 111.30m AOD*)

1201	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.25m thick.
1202	Subsoil. Mid-light orange brown silty clay. 0.25m thick.
1203	Natural substrate. Coral rag.
1204	Colluvium. Orange brown clay silt.

Trench 13 (*Height at top of west end of trench 109.74m AOD; base 108.74m AOD. Height at top of east end of trench 110.82m AOD; base 109.82m AOD*)

1300	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.2m thick.
1301	Subsoil. Mid reddish brown sandy clay. 0.8m thick.
1302	Natural substrate. Mid yellowish brown sandy clay.

Trench 14 (*Average height at top of trench 110.59m AOD; base of trench 109.59m AOD*)

1400	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.22m thick.
1401	Subsoil. Mid reddish brown sandy clay. 0.3m thick.
1402	Subsoil. Mid yellowish brown sandy clay. 0.23m thick.
1403	Natural substrate. Mid yellowish brown sandy clay.

Trench 15 (*Height at top of north end of trench 110.72m AOD; base 110.25m AOD. Height at top of south end of trench 109.93m AOD; base 109.54m AOD*)

1501	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.25m thick.
1502	Natural substrate. Mid orange sandy clay.
1503	Tree throw cut. 1.8m wide, 0.35m deep.
1504	Fill of 1503. Redeposited natural material. 0.35m thick.
1505	Subsoil. Mid brown silty clay. 0.35m thick.
1506	Land drains.

Trench 16 (Height at top of north end of trench 111.21m AOD; base 110.67m AOD. Height at top of south end of trench 110.65m AOD; base 110.38m AOD)

1601	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.3m thick.
1602	Subsoil. Mid brown silty clay. 0.18m thick.
1603	Natural substrate. Mid orange sandy clay.
1604	Pipeline backfill deposit.

Trench 17 (Average height at top of trench 110.93m AOD; base of trench 109.78m AOD)

1701	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.2m thick.
1702	Subsoil. Mid brown silty clay. 0.3m thick.
1703	Natural substrate. Mid orange sandy clay with limestone brash.
1704	Fill of furrow 1705.
1705	Furrow cut.
1706	Land drain.
1707	Fill of land drain 1708.
1708	Land drain cut.

Trench 18 (Height at top of west end of trench 110.68m AOD; base 110.33m AOD. Height at top of east end of trench 109.86m AOD; base 109.71m AOD)

1801	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.23m thick.
1802	Subsoil. Mid brown silty clay. 0.33m thick.
1803	Natural substrate. Mid orange sandy clay with limestone brash.
1804	Fill of furrow 1805.
1805	Furrow cut.

Trench 19 (Height at top of west end of trench 109.44m AOD; base 109.01m AOD. Height at top of east end of trench 109.86m AOD; base 109.71m AOD)

1901	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.18m thick.
1902	Subsoil. Mid brown silty clay. 0.43m thick.
1903	Natural substrate. Mid orange sandy clay with limestone brash.

Trench 20 (Average height at top of trench 109.60m AOD; base of trench 108.90m AOD)

2001	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.25m thick.
2002	Subsoil. Mid yellow brown silty clay. 0.45m thick.
2003	Natural substrate. Mid grey brown silty clay with Coral Rag.
2004	Posthole cut, circular. 0.35m diameter, 0.11m deep.
2005	Fill of posthole 2004. Mid orange brown silty clay. Limestone packing stones.

Trench 21 (Height at top of north end of trench 115.06m AOD; base 114.41m AOD. Height at top of south end of trench 116.01m AOD; base 115.23m AOD)

2101	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.16m thick.
2102	Subsoil. Mid brown silty clay. 0.17m thick.
2103	Natural substrate. Mid orange sandy clay.
2104	Land drain.
2105	Land drain.
2106	Land drain.
2107	Land drain.
2108	Land drain.
2109	Land drain.
2110	Land drain.
2111	Land drain.
2112	Land drain.

2113	Land drain.
------	-------------

Trench 22 (Height at top of west end of trench 115.05m AOD; base 113.87m AOD. Height at top of east end of trench 114.18m AOD; base 113.04m AOD)

2201	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.31m thick.
2202	Subsoil. Mid brown silty clay. 0.47m thick.
2203	Natural substrate. Mid orange sandy clay.

Trench 23 (Height at top of west end of trench 115.03m AOD; base 114.23m AOD. Height at top of east end of trench 113.87m AOD; base 112.67m AOD)

2301	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.25m thick.
2302	Subsoil. Mid orange brown silty clay. 0.3m thick.
2303	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown silty clay. >0.8m thick.
2304	Natural substrate. Mid-light yellow orange limestone brash and silty clay.

Trench 24 (Height at top of north end of trench 114.37m AOD; base 114.09m AOD. Height at top of south end of trench 113.49m AOD; base 112.92m AOD)

2401	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.23m thick.
2402	Subsoil. Mid orange brown sandy clay. 0.5m thick.
2403	Natural substrate. Mid orange brown sandy clay with gravel lenses.
2404	Subsoil. Mid brown silty clay. 0.27m thick.
2405	Fill of furrow 2406.
2406	Furrow cut.
2407	Fill of land drain.
2408	Land drain cut.
2409	Fill of hedgerow cut 2410.
2410	Removed hedgerow cut. 0.85m deep, 2m wide. North-east/south-west aligned.

Trench 25 (Average height at top of trench 115.34m AOD; base of trench 115.04m AOD)

2501	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.23m thick.
2502	Subsoil. Mid brown silty clay. 0.33m thick.
2503	Natural substrate. Mid grey brown sandy clay with limestone brash.

Trench 26 (Average height at top of trench 111.85m AOD; base of trench 110.81m AOD)

2601	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.12m thick.
2602	Subsoil. Mid brown sandy clay. 0.27m thick.
2603	Subsoil. Mid brown clay. 0.44m thick.
2604	Natural substrate. Mid grey brown sandy clay with limestone brash.
2605	Land drain.

Trench 27 (Average height at top of trench 110.56m AOD; base of trench 109.68m AOD)

2701	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.24m thick.
2702	Subsoil. Mid brown silty clay. 0.44m thick.
2703	Subsoil. Mid orange brown clay. 0.44m thick.
2704	Natural substrate. Mid orange brown sandy clay with gravel lenses.
2705	Removed hedgerow fill. 2.1m wide.
2706	Removed hedgerow cut. 2.1m wide.

Trench 28 (Height at top of west end of trench 107.84m AOD; base 107.34m AOD. Height at top of east end of trench 109.04m AOD; base 108.54m AOD)

2800	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.2m thick.
2801	Subsoil. Mid orange brown silty clay. 0.25m thick.
2802	Natural substrate. Coral rag.

Trench 29 (Average height at top of trench 110.55m AOD; base of trench 110.05m AOD)

2900	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.2m thick.
2901	Subsoil. Mid orange brown silty clay. 0.25m thick.
2902	Natural substrate. Coral rag. Outcropping limestone.

Trench 30 (Average height at top of trench 111.96m AOD; base of trench 111.73m AOD)

3001	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt ploughsoil. 0.25m thick.
3002	Subsoil. Mid orange brown silty clay. 0.1m thick.
3003	Natural substrate. Coral rag. Outcropping limestone.
3004	Ditch cut. 0.6m wide, 0.12m deep. North-east/south-west aligned.
3005	Fill of ditch 3004. Mid greyish brown silty clay. 0.12m deep.

APPENDIX 2: THE FINDS

BY ED MCSLOY AND SYLVIA WARMAN

Artefacts

The artefactual material consists largely of pottery of probable Middle Iron Age date. Small quantities of other materials including a worked flint notched flake, a fragment of post-medieval bottle glass, an iron nail and burnt stone fragments were also recovered.

70 sherds of pottery (188g) were recovered from 8 separate contexts. Due to the virtual absence of diagnostic forms, the pottery is only broadly dateable to the Early to Middle Iron Age period. Represented fabrics compare in all instances to those identified from excavations at the (largely Early to Middle) Iron Age site at Groundwell West (Timby in Walker *et al.* 2001, 19-26). The bulk of the recovered material consists of fairly coarse fossil-shell or limestone tempered types, with a smaller number of quartz and flint-tempered fabrics. Few forms can be identified: a small bowl with short everted rim from pit fill 305 and a jar or bowl with high everted rim from lower pit fill 311. Additionally two sherds of a thin-walled fine limestone tempered fabric from fill 311 are burnished and probably derive from a fineware bowl. Aside from the burnishing no other surface treatments were recognised. Absence of fingernail/finger tip decoration may be significant, suggesting a Middle (or earlier Middle) Iron Age date for the group.

Features of Iron Age date produced little artefactual material other than pottery and small quantities of fired clay. Posthole fill 2005 contained large fragments of burnt limestone, which probably served as packing. The remainder of the artefactual material recovered consists of a notched flint flake of Neolithic to Bronze Age date and an iron nail of uncertain, but likely post-medieval date, both from furrow fill 1104 and a fragment of bottle glass of probable 18th century date from tree-throw fill 609.

Animal bone

The only species identified is cattle, although the more fragmented material classified as sheep-sized and cattle-sized is most likely to be from cattle and sheep/goat. The presence of dogs on site is indicated by the gnawed bone, in particular a cattle humerus from 305. Some fragments show possible evidence of butchery in that they have been chopped through. Some material has been burnt black in colour indicating a low to moderate heat, this is noted in 305 and 311. Much of the material shows moderate weathering. Additionally the cattle calcaneus from 311 has signs of root etching.

The assemblage represents domestic waste, with evidence of butchery, and cooking. The bones were not deposited immediately, as enough time elapsed for the gnawing and weathering to occur on many of the bones. Root etching indicated burial at a shallow depth.

Concordance

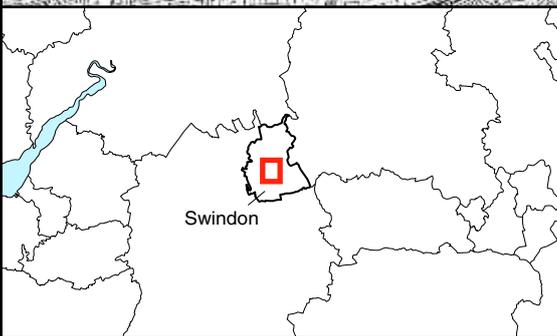
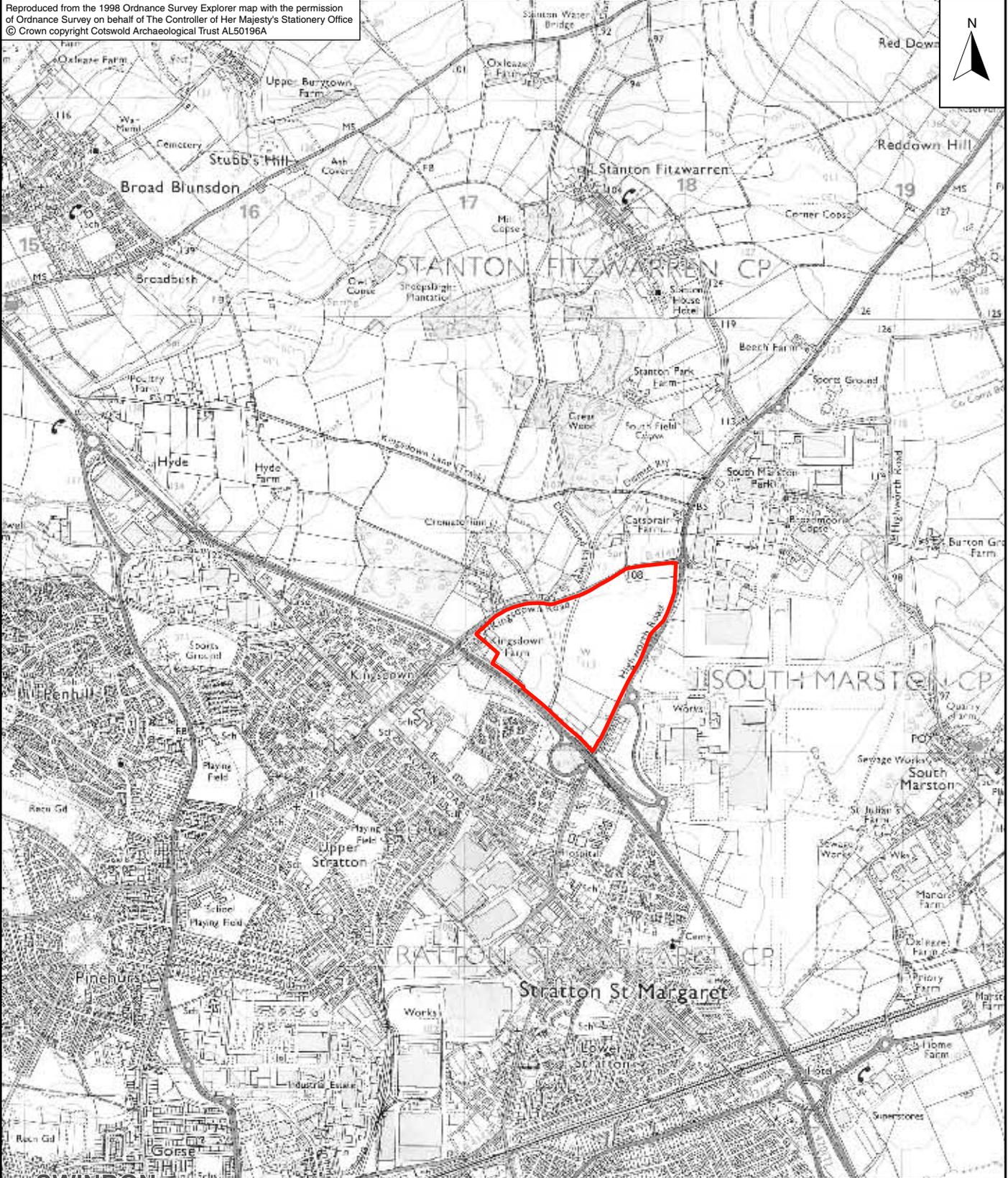
- | | |
|-----|---|
| 305 | 4 sherds Iron Age pottery (15g): limestone-tempered
Cattle humerus, 187g, with dog gnawing to both ends, slightly weathered. Cattle mandible fragment 22g, weathered. Cow-sized skull fragment 17g. Sheep-sized long bone 10g shaft chopped through, also gnawed by dog. Three fragments of cow-sized long bone 20g, all weathered. Single unidentified fragment, burnt black in colour.
<i>Spot-date: Early to Middle Iron Age</i> |
| 306 | 1 sherd Iron Age pottery (1g): limestone-tempered
Fragment of cow-sized long bone 6g, weathered.
<i>Spot-date: Early to Middle Iron Age</i> |
| 308 | 3 sherds Iron Age pottery (3g): coarse fossil shell- and quartz/limestone-tempered
Fragment of sheep-sized long bone 0.5g.
<i>Spot-date: Early to Middle Iron Age</i> |
| 310 | 14 sherds Iron Age pottery (15g): quartz-tempered
1 fragment fired clay (10g)
Three fragments of cow-sized scapula 8g, chopped and weathered. Four fragments of cow-sized long bone 7g.
<i>Spot-date: Early to Middle Iron Age</i> |
| 311 | 20 sherds Iron Age pottery (92g): limestone-tempered; coarse flint-tempered |

Cattle humerus 180g some weathering, possible dog gnawing to distal end. Cattle calcaneus 27g, quite weathered and also shows root etching. Cow-sized long bone shaft 13g. Cow-sized long bone fragment 5g. Three fragments of cow-sized long bone 4g. Fragment of cow-sized vertebra 2g. One fragment of cow-sized long bone 6g, burnt black in colour. Two fragments of sheep-sized long bone 1g. Two small unidentifiable fragments 0.5g.

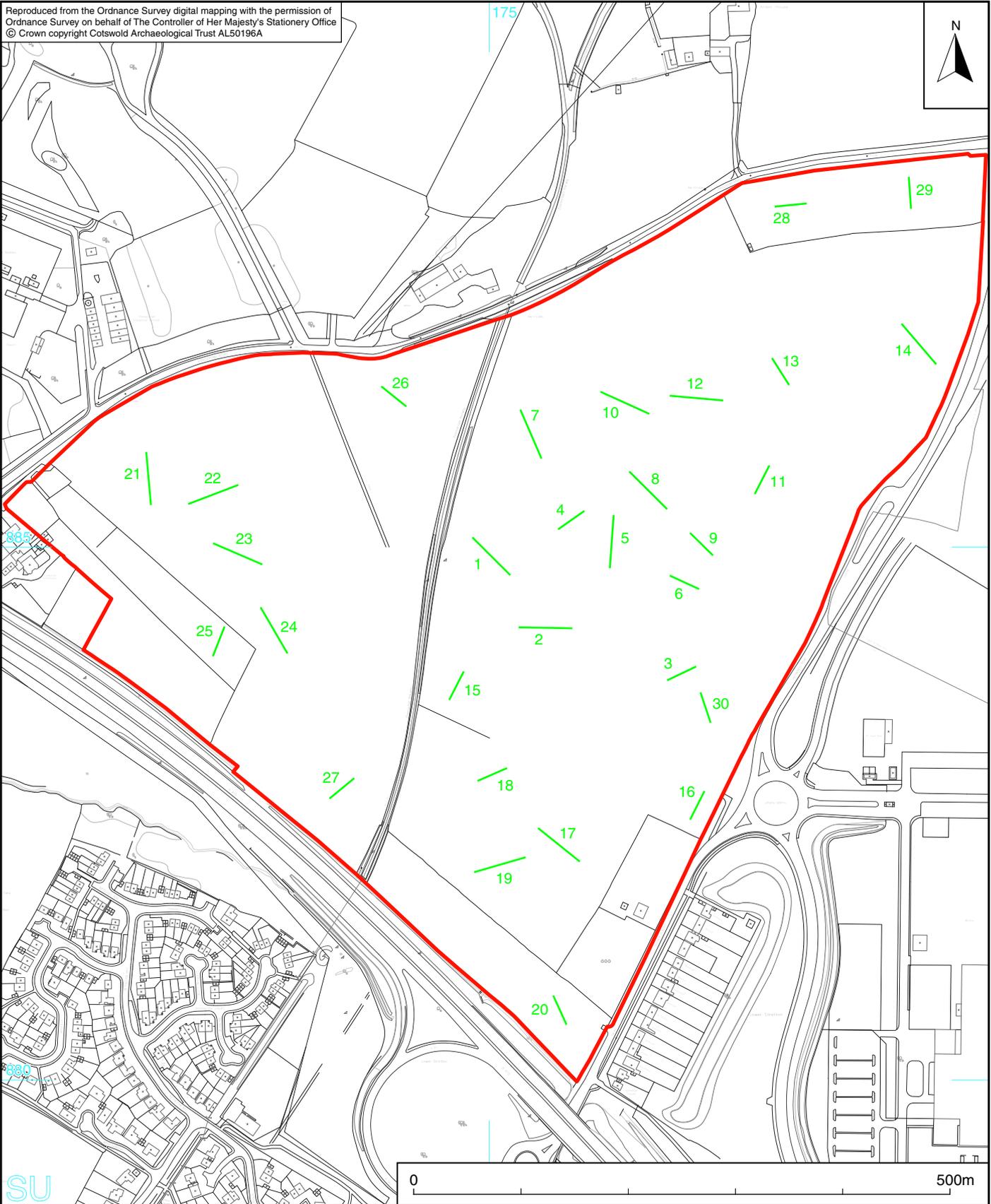
Spot-date: Early to Middle Iron Age

- 312 4 sherds Iron Age pottery (16g): coarse fossil shell-tempered
Spot-date: Early to Middle Iron Age
- 505 2 sherds pottery (1g): scraps leached shell/limestone
Spot-date: Prehistoric - ?Early to Middle Iron Age
- 609 1 fragment post-medieval vessel glass (45g)
2 fragments burnt stone (63g)
Spot-date: C18
- 1104 1 worked flint (5g): notched flake
1 Fe nail
Spot-date: medieval/post-medieval
- 2005 22 sherds Iron Age pottery (45g): coarse fossil shell-tempered
13 fragments burnt stone.
Spot-date: Early to Middle Iron Age

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 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY		
PROJECT TITLE Triangle Site, Swindon, Wiltshire		
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan		
SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
1:25,000@A4	1879	1



SU



- ▭ site
- evaluation trench



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Triangle Site, Swindon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench location

SCALE

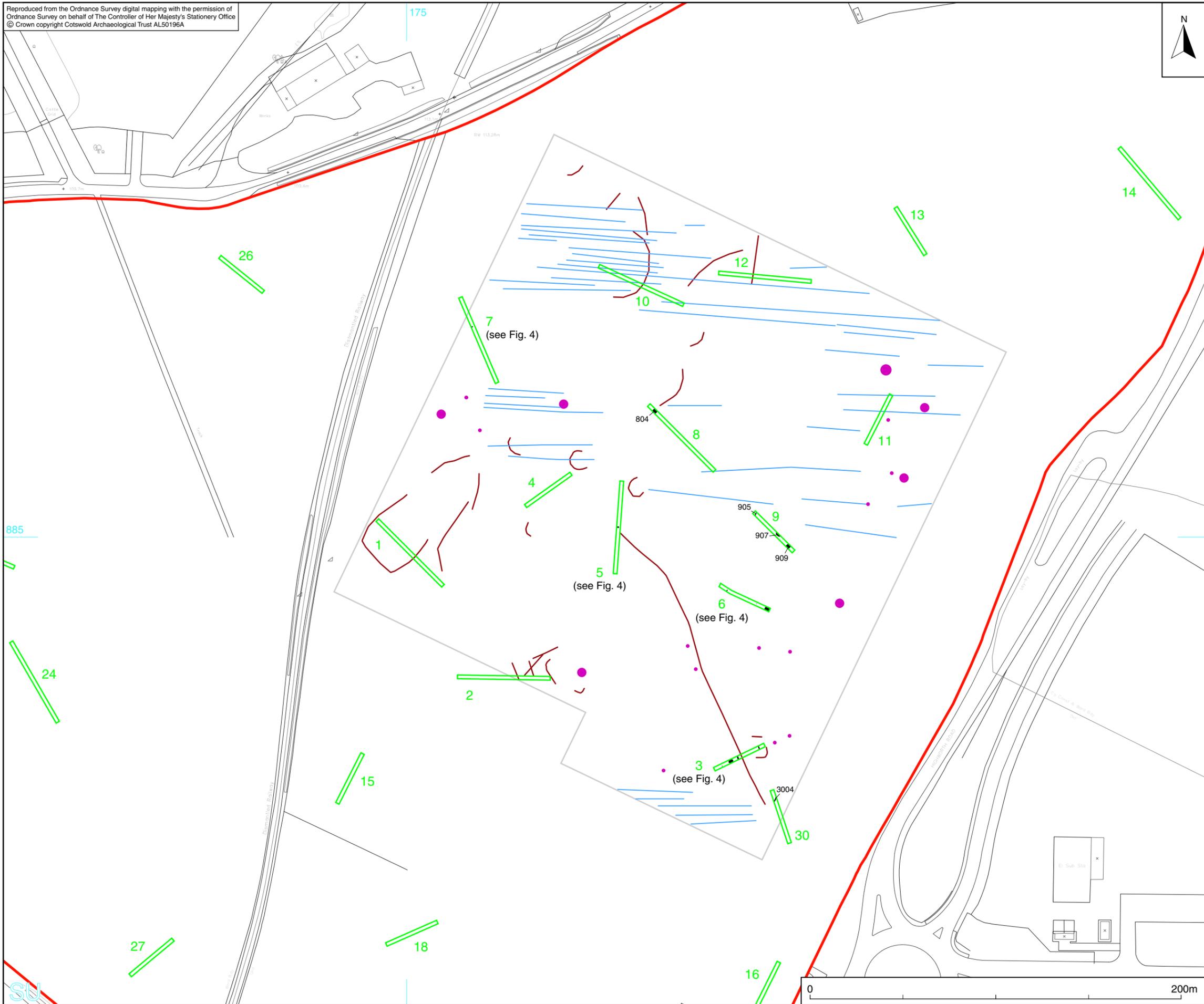
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PROJECT NO.

1879

FIGURE NO.

2



- ▬ site
- ▬▬ evaluation trench
- ▬ archaeological feature

- ▬▬▬ positive linear anomaly - agricultural mark
- ▬ positive linear anomaly - cut feature of possible archaeological origin
- strong discrete positive anomaly with negative return - ferrous object

Based on interpretation of magnetometer anomalies in geophysical survey carried out by StataScan Ltd. 2004

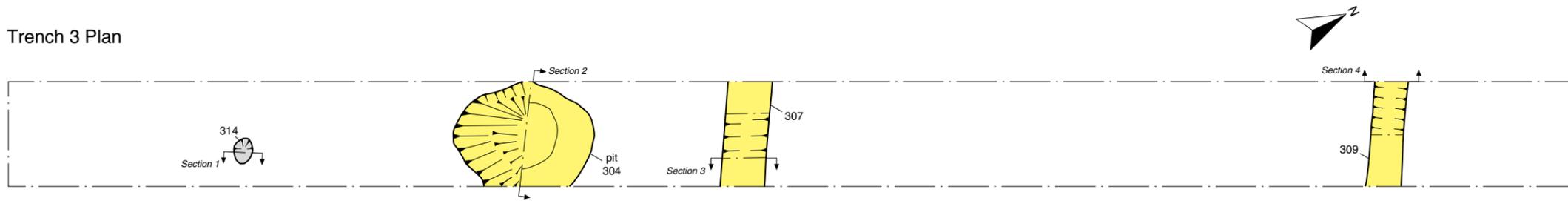
COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Triangle Site, Swindon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Plan showing archaeological features and geophysical survey

SCALE 1:2000@A3	PROJECT NO. 1879	FIGURE NO. 3
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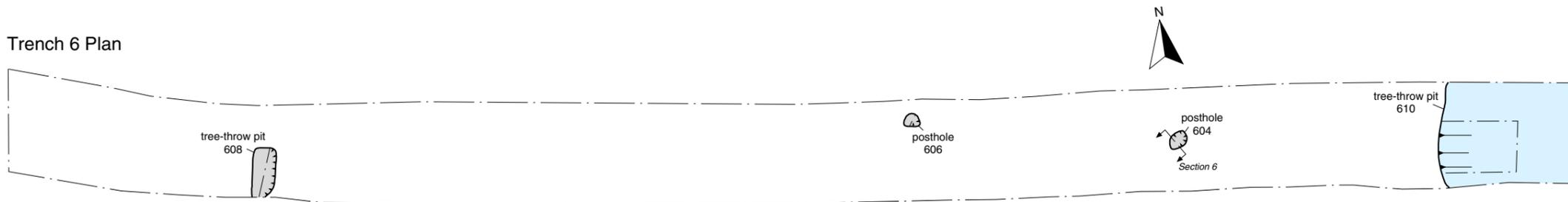
Trench 3 Plan



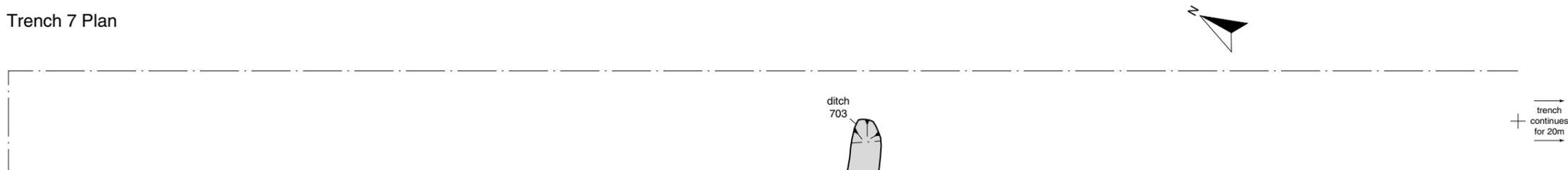
Trench 5 Plan



Trench 6 Plan



Trench 7 Plan



Trench 20 Plan



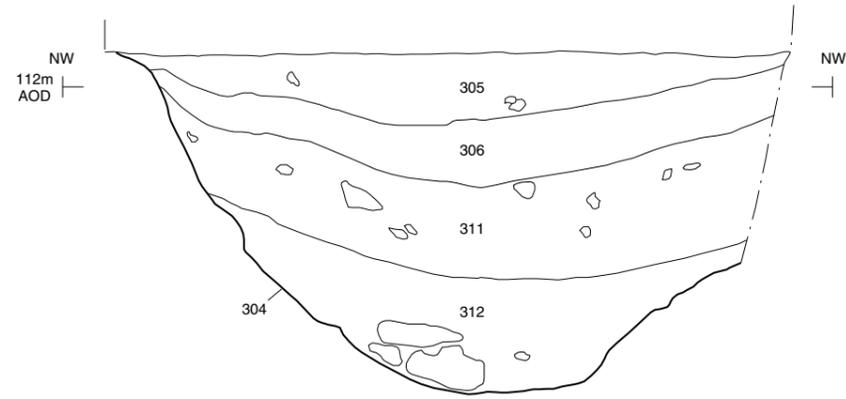
- Iron Age
- modern
- undated



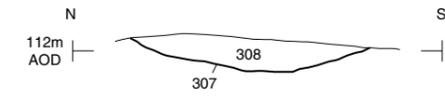
Trench 3 Section 1



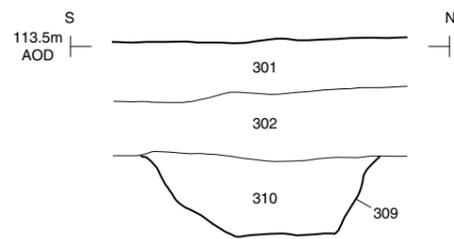
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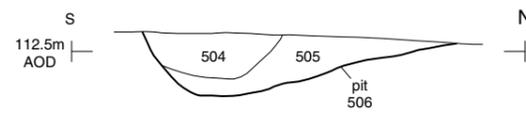
Trench 3 Section 3



Trench 3 Section 4



Trench 5 Section 5



Trench 6 Section 6



Trench 20 Section 7

