Land at Ty Mawr Holyhead Anglesey



Archaeological field evaluation 2004

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LAND AT TY MAWR, HOLYHEAD (G1701)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL EXCAVATIONS 2004

Summary

A programme of trial excavation has been undertaken as part of a wider programme of archaeological assessment and evaluation. The excavations have confirmed three major areas of activity at sites 38, 39 and 42. Excavation at sites 40, 41 and 43 revealed the archaeological evidence to be slight and of low potential. No new areas of major archaeological activity were identified in the area. Recommendations for preservation in situ or full excavation have been made for the three sites of high potential, and for a programme of 'strip and record' to be undertaken during initial topsoil removal.

1. INTRODUCTION

It is proposed to develop an area of land at Ty Mawr Farm, Holyhead, within a plot comprising some 50 ha., centred on NGR SH254808. An initial archaeological assessment of a larger area was undertaken in 2000 (GAT Report no. 389, November 2000) which was followed by a programme of field evaluation (GAT Report no. 459, June 2002). This work revealed a high density of archaeological sites, for which further archaeological evaluation was required before their full extent and importance could be assessed. The subsequent results are detailed here.

A brief was prepared by the Development Control Archaeologist outlining a potential programme of works. This has been undertaken as a staged process, of which the first stage was a geophysical survey (Stratascan, 2004). The subsequent project design provided a method statement for undertaking trial excavation, taking into account the results from the first phase of evaluation, from the second phase of geophysical survey, and from the proposed impact from the *Preliminary Master Plan* (Drawing Number 56080/PP/01). The design had been requested by Symonds Group Limited on behalf of Welsh Development Agency, and was prepared by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT June 2004).

The content of this report is confined to the results of the trial excavations based on the project design, and the recommendations relate only to the sites investigated. This report needs to be read in conjunction with GAT Report 459 (June 2002), and Stratascan Report 1845 (May 2004). A synthesis of the results of all phases and general recommendations are given in GAT Report 554 (November 2004).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

The aim of the programme of trial excavation was to build upon previous assessment and field evaluation findings by using trial trenching to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains and to assess their extent and significance. The known archaeological remains were used both to help determine the likely location of, and the character of, new archaeological findings.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The trial excavations took place between the 22nd June and 23rd July 2004.

A total of thirty-three new trenches were excavated in an area previously evaluated in 2001 (GAT Report 459). They were located both in response to the results of the geophysical survey undertaken within the proposed development area, with the trenches placed in the areas of most likely archaeological activity (Stratascan 2004), and near areas of archaeological activity identified in the 2001 evaluation (GAT Report 459).

A 180° wheeled excavator was used throughout with a 1.80m, ditching bucket.

Excavations were undertaken by area. Topsoil and unwanted material overlying the archaeological remains were removed by machine. All subsequent features were excavated by hand.

Identified features were recorded photographically and by notes and sketches, and the more important features were planned at appropriate scales. Trenches were located by measuring from the field boundaries. The archive is held by GAT under the project number G1701.

3.2 Recording

Identified features were recorded photographically and by notes and sketches. The more important features were planned at appropriate scales. Trenches were located by measuring the field boundaries. The archive is held by GAT under project number G1701.

4. TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

Holy Island, or Ynys Gybi, is located off the western coast of Anglesey, to which currently it is joined by the Stanley Embankment, and also by the bridge at Four Mile Bridge (Pont Rhyd y Bont). Holyhead (Caer Gybi) is the principle town on Holy Island, and the proposed development site lies to the southeast of the town. The site is to the south and west of the Anglesey Aluminium works, and is bounded to the north by the railway and the new A55. To the south it borders the outskirts of the village of Trearddur Bay.

Geologically Anglesey is composed largely of Pre-Cambrian rocks, most notably the Mona Complex. These bedded rocks have undergone intense pressures leaving them deformed and folded, and volcanic events have resulted in their interbedding with lavas, ashes and tuffs. These make up much of the bedrock of Holy Island (Davies 1972).

The bedrock under the study area is composed of pale green chlorite schists, part of the New Harbour Group of the Mona Complex (Keeley 1987). Boulder clay overlies this, with the bedrock outcropping in places, and occasional patches of glacial gravels. The soils formed over these substrates are brown earths of the Rocky Gaerwen and Trisant types (Geological and soil survey maps). These soils can carry crops or excellent pasture, and were frequently chosen for settlement in the prehistoric period. The Rocky Gaerwen soils are shallow with frequent rock outcrops, and farms and fields tend to be smaller on these soils than on deeper soils (Keeley 1987).

Like much of Holy Island, the topography of the study area is characterized by northeast to south-west aligned rocky ridges within intervening boggy hollows. This is particularly noticeable around the western, central part of the study area. The bedrock is never far below the surface, and occasionally outcrops as small crags and knolls. Most of the area is used currently for grazing sheep and cattle, with some small paddocks around Tyddyn-uchaf used for horses. The grasses is, therefore, generally kept short and largely weed free, although gorse and bramble grow on the rocky ridges. Some fields and paddocks have been planted with trees, making the recognition of sites almost impossible in these areas.

A pollen study was carried out to the northwest of Trefignath burial chamber (Greig 1987). This suggested that the Boreal period vegetation was of a scrubby sub-arctic type. The woodland developed in the usual sequence, from open woodland with birch to denser, mixed oak forest, but with an unusual amount of willow. The climax forest contained oak and elm with hazel as an under-storey. A band of peat, with little pollen survival due to the drying out of the bog, was dated to about the start of the Neolithic period. The band contained charcoal and other evidence for burning, suggesting forest clearance in the immediate area. When the pollen record continued it showed that grassland and arable fields had replaced the forest. In the medieval period, and later, expanding arable farming caused increased erosion into the bog.

(For a detailed Archaeological background of the study area see GAT Report Number 459, 2002)

4. TRIAL EXCAVATION RESULTS

The excavations are described by area (archaeological site number or, if no site number is relevant then by geophysical area) and trench number. Each trench is described individually. Archaeological deposits are numbered within rounded brackets and archaeological cuts within square brackets. An underlined number signifies archaeological structures. Trench size is expressed in square metres. The dimensions of deposits and features are expressed in metres. The dimensions of structural stonework are expressed in millimetres. Trench numbers from the 2001 excavations are prefixed with the letter 'A'.

4.1 Evaluation of Area 10 (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 30, 31)

Trench 1

Area: 40 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 1 was dug over a positive magnetic anomaly in geophysics area 10 (Stratascan 2004, figure 54) (for location see figure 2). Topsoil was removed to a mean depth of 0.23m exposing silt-sand subsoil across the length of the trench. No features were identified matching the geophysical anomaly nor were any finds recovered.

Interpretation:

This trench was archaeologically sterile.

Trench 2

Area: 40 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 2 was located c.2.0m southwest of Trench 1 on a similar northeast-southwest alignment (Figure 2). Topsoil was removed to a depth of between 0.43 and 0.62m and exposed a sequence of subsoil's ranging from a shallow orange gravel deposit, context (202), sealing a silt-sand orange subsoil, context (203), which in turn sealed a blue-grey silt-clay, context (204). These contexts were all identified as natural deposits, with context (204) recorded as possible glacial clay.

Interpretation:

No features or finds were identified in any of the contexts. This trench was recorded as archaeologically sterile.

Trench 3

Area: 20 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 3 was located in an area of magnetic disturbance within geophysics area 10 (figure 2), c.40.0m south of Trenches 1 and 2. Topsoil was removed to a mean depth of 0.30m, revealing, for the majority of the trench, orange coloured silt-sand subsoil, context (302). Sealing this context at the eastern most corner of the trench was a 2.50m wide feature, context 303, which was recorded as a concentrated spread of medium-sized sub-angular stones (<300mm). This context was in turn sealed by a deposit of dark brown silt with occasional small stone inclusions (<150mm), context (304). Context (304) was sealed by topsoil, context (301).

Interpretation:

Neither contexts $\underline{303}$ nor (304) contained any datable material but analysis of the location of the original field boundaries suggests that context $\underline{303}$ represented a portion of a redundant post-medieval field wall, aligned southwest-northeast. Context (304) was probably a post-demolition levelling deposit.

Trench 30

Area: 40 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 30 was located within the same area as Trenches 1 and 2, to further investigate the positive anomaly identified by the magnetometer (Stratascan 2004, figure 54) (see figure 2). As Trenches 1 and 2 were sterile, it was decided to expand the evaluation area in an attempt to locate the geophysics

signals. Trench 30 was placed to the southeast of Trench 2, bisecting the positive anomaly and following the natural slope. Topsoil was removed to a depth between 0.20 and 0.30m exposing orange-brown subsoil, context (3002). No features were identified matching the geophysical anomaly or any finds recovered below the topsoil.

Interpretation:

This trench was recorded as archaeologically sterile. However, an inspection of the field boundaries, detailed on the 1817 Estate Map (reproduced as an overlay in Figure 2: GAT 2002), showed that a curvilinear wall enclosed an area c.25m across, in the centre of the modern field, in what appears to be the same location as the magnetometer signal. It is probable that this caused the geophysics signal, though it is more difficult to explain why there was no apparent archaeological evidence visible within the trench.

Trench 31

Area: 80 sq. m.

Description:

As with Trench 30, Trench 31 was located within the same area as Trenches 1 and 2 (see Figure 2-5); in this instance to further investigate the area of magnetic disturbance adjacent to the modern field boundary, as well as a linear anomaly several metres to the northeast (Stratascan 2004, figure 54). An inspection of the 1817 Estate Map (GAT 2002, figure 2) shows that a boundary wall, aligned southwest-northeast crossed what is now an open field, and through the modern boundary wall at roughly the location of the area of magnetic disturbance.

Topsoil was removed to a maximum depth of 0.50m exposing orange-brown subsoil, context (3102), throughout the trench. About 12.0m along the trench, a series of sub-circular features were identified, coupled with a deposit of clay-silt and a narrow linear feature. The centre of the trench was expanded in both directions to accommodate these features and identify their full extent.

A deposit of medium brown clay-silt was identified filling what appeared to be a natural hollow in the subsoil, measuring c.2.0m by 3.0m (l x w) within the trench, context (3111). A small sub-circular feature, context [3110], cut this context. It measured 0.50m by 0.40m by 0.04m (l x w x d) and was filled by a black sand-silt that contained charcoal, context (3109). Context (3111) partially sealed a larger sub-circular feature, context [3108], which measured 1.60m by 1.40m by 0.20m (l x w x d). This context was filled by a dark-brown clay-silt, context (3107), which contained moderate inclusions of small sub-rounded stones. Context [3108] also, in turn, cut a linear feature, context [3106] (Figure 24). This context was aligned southwest-northeast and measured 2.0m by 1.80m by 0.40m (l x w x d). A deposit of light-brown clay-silt that contained small to large sub-rounded stones 300mm filled it, context (3105). The feature was identified as a post-medieval land drain. A final sub-circular feature was identified 0.30m northeast of context [3110], context [3104]. It measured 0.40m by 0.40m by 0.07m (l x w x d) and cut the natural subsoil (see figures 3 and 5).

Interpretation:

The stratigraphic relationships between the majority of the features suggested that the earliest feature was the land drain, as this was cut by context [3108], which in turn was partially sealed by context (3111) which was cut by context [3110]. Therefore, all these features are post medieval. The only context not associated with this relationship was context [3104]. But the proximity of this feature to the others suggests it is contemporary (figure 3, Plate 16).

The most likely suggestion for these post-medieval features is that they are tree bowls or root bowls as they are located near to an earlier boundary wall and an assessment of the local area showed that the modern boundary walls are lined with vegetation. There was not enough evidence to suggest they were postholes or structural features. The reason for the magnetometer reading was not explained.

4.2 Site 38 and Geophysics Area 9 (Trenches 4, 5, 6, 26, 27, 28)

Trench 4
Area: 40 sq. m.
Description:

Trench 4 (see figure 6) was aligned on a northeast-southwest axis, abutting a modern fence boundary and encompassing several survey readings; viz., an area of "magnetic disturbance", a "negative linear anomaly – remains of earthwork/embankment" and "positive linear anomaly" (Stratascan, 2004). The latter two signals are typical of the response from a bank and ditch.

The topsoil was found to be much deeper in this area: a mean depth of 0.80m. Two features were identified within the trench, sealed by the topsoil (context 401). A linear feature was identified cutting the natural (context 405), at the northern end of the trench, whilst a sub-circular deposit was identified at the south-western edge of the trench.

The linear feature, context [403], measured 0.44m by 0.08m (w x d) and was orientated on a northwest-southeast axis. A shallow deposit, context (404), a dark-brown silt-clay filled the cut. No datable finds were recovered from the deposit. Feature [403] was confirmed as the "positive linear anomaly – cut feature" identified by the magnetometer, but neither the area of "magnetic disturbance", nor the "negative linear anomaly – remains of earthwork/embankment" were identified.

The other feature within the trench was a sub-circular deposit, 0.79m by 0.62m in size (w x l). The deposit comprised a patch of dark-brown clay-silt with frequent inclusions of black organic matter and flecks of charcoal.

Interpretation:

The linear feature is interpreted as the remains of post-medieval farming activity, given its shallow nature with no associated features. It was located near an earlier boundary wall (which no longer exists) and could have been the remains of a deep plough scar.

The sub-circular deposit was identified as probable bioturbation: the remnants of a redundant hedge or tree, but was sampled as a precaution (Sample no. 2). No other finds or features were identified within the trench.

Trench 5

Area: 40 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 5 was located in response to a "discrete low magnitude positive anomaly – possible pit" in geophysics area 9 (Stratascan, 2004) and was placed on a southwet-northeast alignment following a natural slope (see figure 6). Topsoil was removed to a mean depth of 0.30m exposing orange sand-gravel subsoil, c.0.10m thick, context (504). This context, in turn, sealed a thin deposit of orange sand with a moderate amount of gravel, context (503), c.0.01m thick. Sealed by this context was another deposit of orange sand with frequent deposits of gravel, context (502), c.0.08m thick.

Interpretation:

The similarity of the contexts suggests they are successive layers of alluvium that were archaeologically sterile. The positive magnetic anomaly was not identified.

Trench 6

Area: 45 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 6 was positioned across the original location of Trench A16 from the 2001 evaluation (GAT 2002, 40-41) (see figure 6). This was done in order to assess the extent and significance of a circular patch of burnt clay identified above the natural subsoil which was seen to be "indicative of human activity" (site 38 in Hopewell 2002).

Trench A16 had revealed a natural hollow which had been levelled off by extensive landscaping resulting from the construction of the nearby aluminium smelting plant in the late 1960's. This activity accounted for the depth of the topsoil and modern landscaping being up to "1.80m" deep.

Topsoil was removed to a mean depth of 0.40m, exposing a stone-rich subsoil, context (605), sealed by modern landscaping, context (602). The northwestern end of the trench was then reduced to remove some of this landscaping (602), which continued to a depth of between 0.80m and 1.10m. Below this context, a deposit of buff-coloured sand-silt was identified, context (603) (see figure 7). An inspection of this deposit revealed several shards of a friable pottery. These are decorated, and identifiable as

Beaker pottery (c. 1800 BC). In addition a piece of worked flint was recovered from the same area, which was identified as a small flint knife of possible early Bronze Age date (SF No. 014, Appendix III). This area of the trench was extended to the northeast by several metres to assess the extent of the context (603), which was found to continue at this depth throughout the extension.

Examination of the section failed to identify the original topsoil that proceeded the re-landscaping of the hollow, suggesting it was removed prior to the laying of context (602). This made it difficult to ascertain the original depth of context (603) below the topsoil.

The excavation area was further extended c 1.0m northeast of the original trench to incorporate an area c.20 sq. m. in size (Figure 3). This extension located the hearth recorded in the 2001 evaluation as well as a smaller area of burnt clay, c.0.50m to the southwest, context (607). Several pottery shards were recovered from this area within deposit (603) and were of a similar fabric to those described above. Moreover, another thumbnail scraper was recovered (SF No. 01, Appendix IV).

A final extension was inserted on the opposite side of the trench, extending c. 5.0m to the south-west and covering an area of c.10 sq. m. In this instance, the modern landscaping sealed a yellow-brown subsoil, context (604), which was found to seal context (605). No evidence for context (603) was found; this side of the trench appeared to show modern landscaping sealing natural subsoil.

Interpretation:

The evidence from this trench revealed a discrete area of activity of prehistoric date within a natural hollow between outcropping rocks.

Trench 26

Area: 40 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 26 was located to further assess the extent and nature of the archaeology within this area (see figure 6). Whilst trenches 4 and 5 appeared to be largely sterile, Trench 6 contained evidence of prehistoric activity, and thus Trenches 26, 27 and 28 were, inserted to the south-west of Trench 6 to locate any further evidence for such activity. The topsoil was removed to expose a series of modern landscaping layers associated with the twentieth century that sealed the natural boulder clay.

Interpretation:

There was no evidence in Trench 26 for prehistoric activity.

Trench 27

Area: 40 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 27 was located c. 20m to the north of Trench 26 and c.1.0m to the west of Trench 6 in an attempt to categorise the natural topography and identify the prehistoric occupation layer (see figure 6). At least two modern landscaping layers were identified below the topsoil: contexts (2702) and (2703) (figure 8, plates 1 and 2). The latter sealed a buff coloured deposit that matched context (604) in Trench 6 (in this instance recorded as context 2704). No burnt clay or artefacts were recovered but a small slot was cut through context (2704) to expose a series of natural sand and gravel deposits (contexts 2705, 2706 and 2707).

Interpretation:

This trench served to demonstrate that the occupation layer was concentrated at the base of a natural bowl.

Trench 28

Area: 40 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 28 was located c1.0m to the north of Trench 27, aligned north – south instead of east – west but with the same objective to categorise the topography and locate the occupation layer (see figure 6). Once again two modern landscaping layers were identified below the topsoil: contexts (2802) and (2803) with the latter sealing a buff coloured deposit that matched context (604) (in this instance recorded as context 2804) (figure 9). Again no burnt clay or artefacts were recovered but a small slot was cut through context (2804) to expose a series of natural sand and gravel deposits (contexts 2805 and 2806).

Interpretation:

This trench also served to demonstrate that the occupation layer was concentrated at the base of a natural bowl. The composition of the natural sand and gravel were suggestive of waterborne activity.

4.3 Site 39 (Trenches 7, 8, 9, 10, 18, 19, 32, 33)

Trench 7

Area: 40 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 7 was located to the immediate east of Trench A26 from the 2001 evaluation that identified possible Romano-British features accompanied by Black-Burnished and Samian pottery (site 39 in GAT 2002 42-3; fig 12). Trench 7 also incorporated an area of magnetic disturbance identified by the magnetometer survey (Stratascan 2004, figure 19). The trench was subsequently extended to the east, and a second trench was excavated at the east end of the first, at right-angles to it first to the north and then to the south thus forming a cruciform shape (see fig's 10 and 11). Subsequently it was linked to Trench 8 to the west.

At the western end of the trench were a series of sub-angular stones (728) set into the subsoil. They were arranged in a line, c.0.90m long and 0.40m wide but were too heavily disturbed to be identified in any greater detail, though they could have belonged to a stone-lined drain. These stones were sealed by a thin deposit of light-brown clay-silt that in turn was sealed by a thicker deposit of orange-brown clay-silt, context (702), that was identifiable throughout much of the trench.

The east part of the trench contained two groups of features, the first formed part of a linear feature interpreted as a bank and ditch, and the second a possible wall (see figure 12). Following excavation of a deeper slot within the trench (figures 9 and 10) the linear feature was found to consist of a clay bank (712), with a possible ditch alongside [709]. However the slot revealed a complex sequence of layers suggesting an earlier sequence of bank and ditch (see figure 13; plate 3). The clay bank (712) was butted by a 0.30m thick deposit (708), which turned out to be the secondary fill of a linear cut [709], this cut was aligned north-south, measured 1.20m across and appeared to contained a primary fill of iron-rich silt, context (710). Contexts (712) and [709] are best interpreted as a shallow ditch and bank, whilst the primary fill of the ditch is most likely to be the result of iron panning. The clay bank butted a deposit of dark-brown silt, context (703), which was sealed by context (702) described above. Below this context was a thin deposit of brown silt-clay, context (704), which was sealed by context (711), light-grey stone-rich clay that had been cut into by ditch cut [709]. Below context (704) was a clay-silt deposit, context (705) that sealed a similar deposit, context (706). This deposit sealed context (707), a brown sand-silt also sealed by context (711). Context (707) sealed the natural, context (713) (see fig 13, plate 3). No datable artefacts were recovered from any of these deposits. The sequence is interpreted as a series of banks and adjacent ditch, with a possible earlier plough soil (707) underlying. It is thought that all the contexts, with the possible exception of (707) are post-medieval in date.

A post medieval stone spread (723) was located immediately east of the ditch cut [709] (see figure 12). This spread was interpreted as either the remains of a boundary wall, spread across this area when the wall became defunct, or structural remains associated with a former building. To investigate this the trench was extended to the north, south and east (see figure 11).

The northern extension (figures 14 and 15) was reduced through 0.40m of topsoil, exposing an extensive deposit of dark-brown silt-clay (context 715). Sealing this deposit at various points along the trench were isolated patches of yellow-burnt clay, group context (714). Context (715) sealed a light-brown sand-silt, context (719) at the northern end of the trench. A 3.0m long and 0.60m wide slot was cut through context (715) and (719) to determine their depth (fig 12). Context (715) was c.0.30m in depth whilst context (719) was found to be up to 0.25m in depth with moderate inclusions of medium sized stones (<400mm). This slot also revealed the depth of context (714) as 0.12m. Context (715) sealed a 0.10m thick deposit of yellow burnt clay, context (716). This context in turn sealed a dark brown silt-clay, context (717). This context was also sealed by context (719), which also sealed a grey silt-sand, context (721), a final deposit of yellow burnt clay; context (718) was sandwiched between context (721) and (717). Context (718) and (721) sealed a deposit of stone-rich clay-silt. It was noted that the entire deposit was stained black. This was first thought to be evidence of burning, but closer

inspection revealed that it was manganese staining, which is indicative of waterborne activity. The combination of manganese staining and the frequent inclusion of stones within the deposit was suggestive of attempts to stabilise a waterborne area, whilst the successive layers of silt-clay and burnt clay suggested intensive activity within this area. The lack of any artefacts was frustrating but examination of the earlier enclosure boundaries and the proximity of this trench to the location of Peny-Lone farm suggested this area was part of the post-medieval farm (see interpretation below).

The eastern spur off Trench 7 (figures 16 and 17) revealed a much simpler stratigraphy. The remains of a wall identified at the eastern extremity of Trench 7 did not continue much further into this extension. The topsoil, context (701), was extant to a depth of 0.40m and sealed a sand-clay-silt layer that contained frequent amounts of sub-angular stones, context (723). A slot cut through this deposit confirmed that it was below the wall in Trench 7 and was probably a levelling layer. More importantly, a tobacco claypipe stem was recovered from this deposit, confirming that the wall was a post-medieval construction. This context was extant to a maximum depth of 0.30m and sealed a very thin deposit of orange gravel, context (724). This context in turn sealed a thin buff-coloured deposit, context (725) which sealed a 0.30m deposit of dark-brown sand-silt-clay, context (726), which sealed the natural boulder clay, context (727) (see figure 14). A final test slot was then inserted in the northern spur off Trench 7 to attempt to relate these two areas. The slot confirmed that context (723) – the post-medieval levelling layer – was sealed by context (715).

The southern extension to trench 7 (shown on figure 11) was largely sterile. The stone spread in Trench 7 sealed a buff coloured clay-rich silt sand, context (728), which spread throughout the trench and was identified as natural subsoil. A slot, cut through this context, confirmed that it sealed the natural boulder clay with no other deposits present.

Interpretation

The activity revealed in these trenches is best explained by the presence of the post-medieval cottage and surrounding small fields at Pen y Lon (Site 10). The stone debris (723) is best interpreted as a field wall, and the bank and ditch to the west (719) also a field boundary (see fig 10 where the 1817 estate map boundaries are shown. There was no evidence for Romano-British activity either east or south of the area identified by the 2001 evaluation.

Trench 8

Area: 40 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 8 was located two metres west of Trench A26 from the 2001 evaluation that identified possible Romano-British features as well as Black-Burnished and Samian wares (GAT 2002 42-3; figure 12) (see fig 11 this report). Trench 8 also incorporated an area of magnetic disturbance identified by the magnetometer survey (Stratascan 2004, figure 19).

The topsoil sealed an extensive spread of sub-angular stones mixed with clay-silt, context (803). At the western end of trench, c.2.0m from the edge, two parallel sub-angular stones were noted, 0.60m apart, both set on edge and protruding from context (803) (Plate 7). It was suspected that these stones were part of a redundant stone-capped drain. A slot was inserted across the trench (Plate 8). This proved that the majority of context (803) sealed a series of thin silt and gravel deposits that appeared to be natural subsoils (contexts 804, 805 and 806 respectively).

The possible drain was investigated: context (803) filled a gully, above a primary fill of fine-grained dark-brown soil, context (807) (Plate 9). This latter context contained two shards of pottery: a body shard from a brown glazed post-medieval pot and an amorphous piece from a highly abraded oxidised shard of Roman date.

Interpretation

The juxtaposition of the two shards was interesting, as one shard was definitively modern whilst the other was tentatively Romano-British. Whilst the deposit was obviously post-medieval, it is probable that the drain was originally Romano-British, that is, a stone-capped drain similar to that found c.4.0m to the southwest in Trench 26 from the 2001 evaluation (GAT 2002 42-3; Figure 12). It is possible that it is the same feature, and that the two form part of a sequence of drains that lay within a Romano-British roundhouse. The stone filled context (803) is post-medieval in date, and represents landscaping

similar to that found elsewhere in this area (Trenches 7, 19, 32 and 33), which sealed natural subsoils; any Romano-British activity would have been disturbed during this process.

Trench 9

Area: 40 sq. m. *Description:*

Trench 9 was located c.15m to the southwest of Trench A26 from the 2001evaluation (see figure 10), again in an attempt to expand on the information recorded in that trench and investigate the magnetometer data. The topsoil was removed to an average depth of 0.25m. A deposit of stone-rich clay-silt, context (904) (Plate 10) dominated the southwestern end of the trench. A slot, cut through this deposit, proved that it was a fill of a large pit and comprised frequent inclusions of large sub-angular stones loosely piled into the pit and mixed with the clay-silt. Fragments of roof slate and pieces of ceramic tobacco pipe were recovered, confirming that it was a post-medieval feature. This cut also sealed a smaller pit that cut the natural and contained large sub-angular stones. No datable artefacts were recovered from this smaller pit, but it appeared to be contemporaneous with the larger pit. Both pits represented post-medieval re-landscaping.

The larger pit cut two earlier deposits within the trench: context (905) and (906). Context (905) was a compact, yellow-brown silt-clay, c.0.20m thick; context (906) was light-grey silt, probably natural subsoil. Context (905) was spread across the majority of the trench and was interpreted as a possible floor surface. A small sub-circular feature cut this surface, roughly halfway along its length. This feature, context [903], measured 0.80m by 0.60m (1 x w) and was filled by a dark-brown clay-silt, context (902). This fill contained moderate amounts of charcoal, and a piece of worked stone. This stone measured 130mm by 110mm by 40mm (1 x w x d); rectangular in shape with a central depression (carved), 90mm across and 20mm deep. It was thought originally to be a mortar from a pestle and mortar set but closer inspection suggested it was a socket for a door hinge.

Interpretation:

The pits are representative of post-medieval activity, but the clay layer (905) is interpreted as a floor layer of possible Romano-British date, and similar to that recorded during the 2001 evaluations in Trench A26.

Trench 10

Area: 40 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 10 was located c.60.0m to the west of Trenches 8 and 9 (see figure 10) within an area identified by the magnetometer as containing a "negative linear anomaly – remains of earthwork/embankment?" and "positive linear anomaly – cut feature?" (Stratascan 2004, figure 19).

Topsoil was removed to a mean depth of 0.25m exposing a light-brown subsoil, c.0.20m thick, context (1002), which was identified as hillwash. This in turn was removed, exposing orange-brown subsoil, context (1003), which was identified as natural subsoil.

Interpretation:

No features or artefacts of any kind were identified or recorded within contexts (1002) or (1003), nor were the positive anomalies located or identified. The trench was archaeologically sterile.

Trench 18

Area: 22.8 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 18 was located c.30.0m southeast of Trench 10 on a southwest-northeast orientation (see figure 10). Topsoil was removed to a mean depth of 0.39m exposing orange-brown subsoil, context (1802), which was identified as natural subsoil. No features or artefacts of any kind were identified or recorded.

Interpretation:

The trench was archaeologically sterile.

Trench 19

Area: 40 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 19 was located c.25m south of Trench 12 to investigate further the magnetometer readings and also the extent of suspected archaeology from the area of Trenches 7, 8 and 9 (see figure 10).

The topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.30m exposing a thin deposit of charcoal-rich sand, context (1902), which covered c.5m of the trench. Below this context and stretching across the remainder of the trench was an orange-brown alluvial deposit containing sub-rounded stones, context (1905), which was up to 0.50m thick. This deposit sealed a light-brown sand-silt with inclusions of large sub-angular stones (<450mm). This deposit was also 0.50m thick but filled a cut, context [1903], the full extent of which was not visible within the confines of the trench. A pit was also identified cutting context (1905) at the southwestern end of the trench, context [1906], which was filled by a primary fill of dark-brown alluvium with frequent inclusions of sub-rounded stone (context 1908) and a secondary fill of dark-brown sand-silt, with fewer inclusions of sub-rounded stones (context 1907).

Interpretation:

This trench appeared to show attempts to stabilise an area prone to waterlogging, through digging pits and backfilling them with stone. Trench 19 was located near the base of a natural slope, which continued towards a marshland. There were no datable artefacts but it was assumed that this trench represented post-medieval activity.

Trench 32

Area: 42 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 32 was located c.10m south of Trench 7 in an attempt to incorporate not only the magnetic disturbance noted on the geophysics scan (Stratascan 2004, figure 19), but also to assess the extent of the features and deposits identified in Trench 7 (see figure 10).

The topsoil, context (3201), was removed to a mean depth of 0.25m, showing that the topsoil continued at this depth across the trench. It was decided to place two slots within the trench, each 0.50m wide; with Slot 1 located at the northwestern corner of the trench and Slot 2 located at the south-eastern corner of the trench. Both were placed in an attempt to determine the depth of the topsoil and the nature of any underlying archaeology.

Slot 1 was excavated to a depth of 0.80m and measured 2.0m in length. The topsoil was extant to a maximum depth of 0.76m, where it appeared to fill a depression at the westernmost end of the trench. Directly below the topsoil was a thin deposit of light grey, fine-grained silt with patches of orange clay, context (3204). This context was the primary fill of the depression. Context (3204), along with topsoil, sealed a thick deposit of silt-clay, c.0.50m thick, context (3202). This deposit in turn sealed dark-brown fine-grained silt, context (3203), that was c.0.10m thick and sealed the natural boulder clay. Context (3203) appeared to be a cultivation deposit. It was however quite thin for such a deposit and could also have been earlier topsoil sealed by successive layers of landscaping. This was suggested by the similarity of this deposit to those found at a similar depth in Trench 7 (q.v.), whilst other apparent landscaping layers were found throughout this area (cf. also Trench 33 as well as context (726) in Trench 7).

The second slot within Trench 32 helped confirm this hypothesis. Slot 2 measured 3.0m in length and was reduced to a final depth of 0.86m, revealing at this depth a dark-brown deposit similar to context (3202) that also sealed the natural boulder clay. Between this context and the topsoil were a succession of thin deposits again suggestive of extensive re-landscaping. Directly below the topsoil were two deposits: context (3209), a 0.10m thick deposit of light-brown clay-silt that partly sealed a yellow-brown clay-silt, context (3206). Context (3206) in turn sealed both a deposit of fine-grained yellow-grey silt, context (3207), and a much thicker deposit of light-brown clay-silt, context (3208). This latter context contained a moderate amount of medium sized stones (<200mm) spread throughout and was very similar to deposits found in Trenches 7and 9 (q.v.). Context (3208) sealed a series of much thinner deposits: context (3210), a light-brown clay-silt; context (3212), an orange-brown silt-clay, and (3211) light grey clay-silt. The latter sealed a dark-brown clay-silt, context (3213) which sealed the natural boulder clay. As stated, context (3213) appeared to be the same as context (3203). The reason for the magnetometer reading was not explained. No datable artefacts were recovered from this deposit.

Interpretation:

Successive layers of clay-silt over the boulder clay relate to the addition of soil in this area, probably during the construction of Anglesey Aluminium in the 1970's.

Trench 33

Area: 42 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 33 was located c.20m north of Trench 7 and between the location of Trenches 24 and 26 from the 2001 evaluation (GAT Report no. 459) in an area of magnetic disturbance (Stratascan 2004, fig 19) (see fig 10). It was hoped this trench would answer several key questions in this area specifically, linking the "gap" between Trench 24, which contained the remains of Pen-y-Lone, a post medieval farm (GAT *ibid*) and Trench 26, which contained the remains of a possible Romano-British structure (*ibid*). It was also hoped that this trench would elaborate on the magnetometer signals.

The excavation provided a relatively straightforward sequence of deposits. Beneath the topsoil (context 3301), a 0.40m thick deposit of mid-brown sand-silt was identified that contained moderate inclusions of medium sized sub-angular stones (<400mm), context (3302). This context was identified as a levelling layer and was similar in appearance to context (715); (719) and (723) recorded in Trench 7 (q.v.). This context sealed a thin grey-green silt-clay that sealed a thin deposit of grey sandy gravel (contexts 3303 and 3304 respectively) and were both identified as subsoils. The latter context sealed natural orange clay (3305). There were no datable artefacts recovered or any structural evidence recorded.

Interpretation:

The similarity of context (3302) to context (715), would suggest a post-medieval date. As with Trench 7, it appears that the potential Romano-British activity identified in 2001 was limited to a specific area, whilst the remaining archaeological evidence relates to post-medieval farming and/or modern landscaping.

4.4 Site 42 (Trenches 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 24)

This sequence of trenches was excavated to evaluate the nature and extent of the Romano-British settlement found in 2001.

Trench 11

Area: 20 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 11 was aligned north-south and was located within an area previously investigated during the 2001 evaluation, where two trenches, A51 and A54 identified a series of negative features (GAT 2002, 47; Figure 13) (see Figure 18). Trench 11 was located c.10.0m to the west of Trench A51, which contained a spread of burnt stone as well as two intersecting stone-capped drains, and it was hoped Trench 11 would elaborate on these features as well provide dating evidence, which was lacking in 54. Trench 11 was reduced to a mean depth of 0.30m, exposing a complex series of deposits, none of which appeared to match the features in Trench A54 (Figure 20, Plate 11). A residual flint flake was recovered from the topsoil: a toffee-coloured tertiary flake with a noticeable hinge fracture. Below the topsoil was a stone spread, context (1102), which had only partly survived the machining that opened the trench, suggesting that it was only a thin deposit. A patch of iron-rich slag was recovered from this deposit. Below this deposit were isolated patches of clay dotted across the trench, sealing the natural; contexts (1103), (1104), (1105) and (1106) (see figure 20). They were all patches of yellow clay and interpreted as remnants of a floor surface. Concentrated in the centre of the trench were several patches of burnt stone mixed with manganese: contexts (1107) to (1109), whilst to the east of these deposits a slightly raised area of stones was identified (context 1111) that was recorded as a possible cob wall. East of this feature was a deposit of clay-silt, context (1110), which sealed the natural. No datable artefacts were recovered.

Interpretation:

Though no datable artefacts were found, the features excavated in this trench are thought, from their stratigraphic position, to be of late prehistoric/Romano-British date.

Trench 12

Area: 17.2 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 12 was located across Trench A51 from the 2001 evaluation. This identified the presence of a stone spread (1202) at a higher level than that formerly recorded. This sealed a clay-silt deposit (1203) on the north side of the trench that may be the ditch fill recorded in Trench A51. No datable finds were recovered from either context.

Interpretation:

A much larger area would need to be exposed to understand fully the nature of the archaeology within this trench, but it would appear that the stone spread is post-medieval, and that this seals a possible ditch fill of earlier, possibly Romano-British, date.

Trench 13

Area: 44 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 13 was located across Trench A54 excavated during the 2001 evaluation (GAT 2001, 48; Figure 13) in an attempt to expand on the information gathered from that trench (see fig 18). Trench A54 identified a series of linear cuts, including a stone filled-drain. The latter was post-medieval, whilst the other features produced no dating evidence. At the southern end of Trench 54, a burnt area and a patch of yellow clay were recorded, with the former producing a rim sherd thought to be Romano-British. It was the southern end of the trench that was expanded by Trench 13 in the hope of revealing similar evidence as well as datable material.

As with the 2001 evaluation, it was noted that the area had been used as a topsoil storage dump during the construction of the A55 expressway between 1999 and 2001.

The trench was inserted through the imported topsoil, context (1301), which was up to 0.50m thick. The original topsoil was also removed exposing a deposit of sub-angular stones across the length of the trench, context (1303). A slot was cut through context (1303) to identify more of context (1309): a yellow-grey clay deposit in the northern corner of the trench sealed by context (1303) but partially visible. This context was not identified, but context (1303) was found at this point to be sealing a deposit of stone-rich clay, context (1304). This was the same deposit as that exposed by Trench 54. Moreover, a patch of yellow clay and a burnt area exposed in Trench 54 were found to continue under context (1303) in Trench 13, where they were recorded as contexts (1305) and (1308) respectively (see figure 17). Context (1305) turned out to be a sub-circular deposit c. 3.0m by 2.0m (1 x w) in size and was interpreted as a floor surface. The removal of context (1303) directly to the west of this deposit revealed a curvilinear stone structure, context 310, which on first examination appeared to be a stonebuilt culvert (Plate 12). A section was put through the apparent fill, confirming it was a culvert, which contained three backfills. The primary fill, context (1314), was a thin silty deposit that was sealed by a backfill, context (1313), which contained two circular pieces of worked stone. Sealing this context was the final backfill, context (1312) (fig's 17 and 18). The culvert cut through a sand/gravel deposit, context (1315) (Figure 19), measured 1.0m in width and c.6.0m in length, and continued past the limit of excavation.

Interpretation:

The evidence from Trench 13 was indicative of prehistoric and/or Romano-British activity. This was suggested by the existence of a floor surface and a burnt area, as well as the stone-built culvert. Moreover, the two pieces of worked stone from the backfill of the culvert (a sealed context), could be interpreted as large gaming pieces or blanks for spindle whorls. Three oxidised mortarium bodysherds and one rim shard dated to the second century, possibly Antonine and a Mancetter mortarium rimsherd dated to c. AD 170-200 (B13) were also recovered from context (1303). As this context was a landscaping layer these shards could be residual but there is enough supplementary evidence from the trench to indicate an area of habitation.

Trench B54: Extension at northern end of Trench A54

Trench A54 (excavated in 2001) was re-opened and extended during the current project to further assess the nature and extent of the archaeology (figures 18, 24 and 25). In particular it was hoped to find the northern edge of the prehistoric and/or Romano-British activity.

The upper layers of the excavation were of re-deposited topsoil, dumped here during the construction of the A55 dual carriageway. Contexts (5401), (5402), (5405), and (5409) see fig 25 represented this material. The original topsoil was context (5406) and it was even apparent where this context had been partially removed at some point and the new topsoil laid down. Context (5406) would originally have sealed a stone-filled drain (cut [5404], deposit (5403)), which was excavated and found to contain post-medieval pottery (figure 24; Plate 20). This drain cut a thick deposit of dark-brown sand-silt, context (5407), which also contained post-medieval pottery sherds. This context sealed a thin lens of clay, context (5408), that sealed the natural clay, context (5410). Cutting the natural at the limit of the trench was an apparent ditch, which, as stated lay outside the limit of excavation and was not investigated (figure 20).

This area of the trench contained distinctly post-medieval archaeology that did not match the activity further down the trench and in Trench 13 (figure 22).

Interpretation:

No evidence was found in this trench for Roman or pre-Roman archaeology.

Trench 14

Area: 24 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 14 was located a couple of metres south of Trench 13 on roughly the same alignment (figure 18). It was hoped that information from this trench would provide further information concerning the remains and culvert found in Trench 13.

The topsoil was removed to a maximum depth of 0.50m, exposing a clay deposit, (context 1402), a stone-rich silt-sand (context 1403), a line of stones (context 1404), a silt-sand deposit (context 1405) and the natural (context 1406) (see fig's 26 and 27 and Plate 13). Context (1402) was identified as a compacted clay floor with patches of burning *in situ*. This floor sealed context (1403), which appeared to be a foundation layer as it also supported the line of stones, context 1404, a possible wall (fig 26). This wall was butted by context (1405), which may have been a redundant cultivation layer. Examination of the section showed that 1404 may also have been sealed by a clay bank, the remnants of which still existed in plan as context (1407) (see figure 27). Context (1405) sealed the natural at the northeastern end of the trench.

Interpretation:

No datable finds were recovered from this trench, however the existence of an occupation layer and a wall/bank close to the features found in Trench 13 indicate they are of prehistoric and/or Romano-British activity.

Trench 15

Area: 20 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 15 was located several metres to the east of Trench 13 and a couple of metres to the northwest of Trench 12 (see figure 18). It was anticipated that the features visible in the two adjacent trenches would be visible in Trench 15, and that further information would become available concerning the nature and date of the archaeology. However, this trench revealed only the natural subsoil sealed by topsoil.

Interpretation:

No evidence was found in this trench for Roman or pre-Roman archaeology. The lack of archaeological features could be related to excessive machining during the removal of the topsoil store when landscaping was being undertaken in connection with the construction of the A55.

Trench 16

Area: 40 sq. m.

Description:

This trench was located with the same aim as Trench 15, albeit several metres to the northwest of Trench 13 (see figure 18). As with Trench 15 this trench revealed only topsoil sealing subsoil and natural.

Interpretation:

No finds or features were identified in this trench.

Trench 17

Area: 40 sq. m. *Description:*

This trench was located with the same aim as Trenches 15 and 16, several metres to the southwest of Trench 14 (see Figure 18). Once again, excavation revealed only topsoil sealing subsoil and natural. A concentration of sub angular stones in the centre of the trench was not structural.

Interpretation:

No finds or features were identified in this trench.

Trench 24

Area: 40 sq. m. Description:

Trench 24 was located a couple of metres south of Trench 12 (see figure 18) but proved to be archaeologically sterile.

Interpretation:

No finds or features were identified in this trench.

4.5 Site 40 (trenches 20 and 21)

Trench 20

Area: 40 sq. m. Description:

Trench 20 was located in response to the magnetometer survey which identified an area of positive and negative linear anomalies, suggesting a possible bank and ditch feature (Stratascan 2004, fig 24) (for location see figure 2). The trench was aligned northsouth and followed the natural slope towards marshland, and potential peat deposits. The topsoil was removed to a depth between 0.20 and 0.30m exposing, at the northern end of the trench, a c.10.0m wide deposit of peat, context (2001), and, at the southern end of the trench, a light-grey sand-silt, context (2002) (Plate 14). Context (2002) was identified as natural subsoil and was sealed by context (2001) where the natural slope levelled out towards the marshland. A slot was cut through context (2001) exposing a sterile orange-brown sand-clay, which in turn sealed a grey, gravel-rich deposit which had inclusions of large glacial boulders (<600mm). A single pottery shard was recovered from context (2001), which was identified as a modern decorated glazed shard from a domestic vessel, thus suggesting that the peat deposit was very recent, resulting from the expansion of the marshland to the north.

The features identified by magnetometer were not located.

Interpretation:

The peat deposit appeared to overlie the glacial clays, and be associated with a post-medieval shard of pottery. Some peat formation is therefore likely to be of relatively recent date, though towards the centre of the depression there is potential for the recovery of deeper and earlier peats.

Trench 21

Area: 50 sq. m. Description:

Trench 21 was located c.50m northeast of Trench 20 in response to both the magnetometer survey and previous evaluation trenching in the area (see figure 2). The former identified an area of magnetic disturbance (Stratascan 2004, fig 24), whilst during the 2001 evaluation, a cobbled area was recorded, located on a shelf between a low cliff and the slope leading into the marshland. (GAT 2002, 44). Two flint flakes were recovered from this deposit, but were thought to be residual (*ibid.*). Trench 22 was positioned to assess the extent of this cobbled area (identified as Site 40 in GAT 2002) and investigate the magnetometer reading.

The topsoil was removed to a mean depth of 0.35m, exposing, for the majority of the trench, natural subsoil. At the base of the slope, within the marshland, a deposit of peat was also identified, c.4.0m

wide, context (2102). A slot was cut through this deposit, exposing a succession of peat deposits a total of 0.80m deep (see figure 28 and Plate 15). Several pieces of wood were recovered from context (2001), whilst a thin deposit of decayed plant material (context 2103) was recorded between context (2102) and context (2104), a thicker deposit of dark orange peat. Below this deposit was a thin band of shale (context 2105), which sealed a deposit of natural clay subsoil, context (2106).

As with Trench 20, the peat deposits within Trench 21 were indicative of the gradual transformation of this area into a wetland. No datable material was recovered from any of the deposits, although samples were taken for environmental analysis.

In an attempt to locate the cobbled area of Trench 34 (2001 evaluation), the southern end of the trench was extended to the southwest.

Interpretation:

No evidence for Site 40 was recovered, suggesting that this feature was either too ephemeral to have survived across a wider area or limited to a much smaller area than originally thought.

4.6 Site 41 (trenches 22 and 23)

Trench 22

Area: 40 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 22 was located in response to both the magnetometer survey and previous evaluation trenching in the area (see figure 2).

Trench 36, from the 2001 evaluation, identified two pits containing carefully placed stones and associated burnt stone, which were thought to be part of a prehistoric settlement (GAT Report no. 459, June 2002 & GAT Report, June 2004), whilst the magnetometer survey showed a possible enclosure to the southwest of the feature (Stratascan 2004, fig 34). Trench 22 was positioned to the west of Site 41 to incorporate the survey results and ascertain the status and extent of any features.

Topsoil was removed to a mean depth of 0.50m exposing orange-red subsoil, context (2202), which was identified as natural subsoil. No features or artefacts of any kind were identified or recorded.

Interpretation:

There was no suggestion of any linear features within the trench, whilst the features comprising Site 41 did not continue into Trench 22.

Trench 23

Area: 40 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 23, as with Trench 22, was located in response to both the magnetometer survey and previous evaluation trenching in the area (see figure 2).

The main purpose of Trench 23 was to investigate the positive and negative linear anomalies identified by the magnetometer survey (Stratascan 2004, figure 34). It was located in tandem with Trench 22 to locate a possible area of extensive archaeological activity.

Topsoil was removed to a mean depth of 0.40m exposing orange-red subsoil, context (2302), which was identified as natural subsoil.

Interpretation:

The trench was archaeologically sterile. There was no suggestion of any linear features within the trench, whilst the features comprising Site 41 did not continue into Trench 23. This suggests that the archaeological activity previously identified was very limited, and did not extend beyond that already identified.

4.7 Site 43 (trenches 25 and 29)

Trench 25

Area: 142 sq. m. *Description:*

Trench 25 was located across Trench 57 from the 2001 evaluation in an attempt to assess and expand on the information recorded at that time (see fig 2). Trench 57 identified a large curvilinear feature with a very shallow but dark and humic fill (GAT 2002, 49; figure 13); to the north-west of this, a linear stony feature and a pit containing iron working slag were also identified (*ibid.*). It was identified as Site 43. The magnetometer survey recorded two findspots of possible ferrous objects south of this trench (Stratascan 2004, fig 29), coupled with positive and negative linear anomalies that suggested ditch and bank features (*ibid.*). Overall, this area had the potential for substantial archaeology, possibly prehistoric.

Trench 25 was excavated across the southern end of Trench 57 to attempt to find any evidence of ironworking and/or extraneous features as suggested by the magnetometer survey. The trench was opened as two parallel strips 2.0m wide and 20.0m apart in attempt to cover as large an area as possible. The southern end of the strips was sterile: the 0.30m of topsoil was removed to expose natural subsoil. Halfway along the western strip, a narrow field drain (context 2503) was identified cutting the natural subsoil. Just north of this feature a wide linear feature was identified, aligned SW-NE that continued through the other strip (context 2505), whilst running almost parallel to it, c.2.0m to the north was another linear feature (context 2506). In order to assess the extent of context (2506) an additional area 5.0m wide was opened for excavation across the northern end of the two extant trenches. The context was found to continue past the end of the trench (Plate 21). Context [2505] was investigated and was found to be a shallow cut, 1.60m wide, filled by a deposit of clay-silt (context 2504), 0.25m deep that contained several shards of distinctly modern pottery. Context (2506) contained several large sub-angular stones (<500mm) spread throughout the feature as well as several sherds of modern pottery. This context also cut a shallow sub-circular feature, context (2508). The topsoil sealed both.

Interpretation:

An analysis of the 1817 Estate Map (Reproduced as an overlay in figure 2: GAT 2002), showed that a boundary wall originally crossed the field at the exact location of Trenches 54 and 25 and was probably represented in Trench 25 by context (2506) as it contained several large sub-angular stones and was on the correct alignment. The sub-circular feature cut by this context did not appear to be a pit cut as it had little depth and an uneven base so was most likely a tree bowl. The linear feature that ran parallel to the wall, context [2505], was not fully understood as it continued outside the limits of the trench, although it was confidently dated to the post-medieval period. Unfortunately, no further evidence of ironworking was discovered in Trench 25 nor any evidence of prehistoric activity.

Trench 29

Area: 22 sq. m.

Description:

Trench 29 was located to the north-east of Trench 25 in an attempt to investigate the extent of the features identified in that trench (see figure 2).

The topsoil was removed to a mean depth of 0.25m, exposing orange-brown subsoil, context (2902), and an outcrop of natural bedrock.

Interpretation:

No features or finds were identified in any of the contexts. This trench was recorded as archaeologically sterile.

5. SUMMARY OF RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The aim of this stage of the evaluation programme was to undertake trial excavations in order to evaluate the information acquired from the 2001 programme of work and the 2004 magnetometer survey. A number of key areas within the development area had been identified, in particular sites 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 and 43, and these formed much of the basis for the excavation strategy, alongside the

information obtained from the extensive geophysical survey (Stratascan 2004). A total of thirty-three new trenches were opened, and two trenches from Site 42 and one trench from Site 43 were re-opened and extended.

Area 10

This area was investigated in response to a series of potential features identified by the magnetometer survey, including a possible rectangular structure. A total of five trenches were located across these survey readings: Trenches 1-3, 30 and 31. Trenches 1, 2 and 30 were archaeologically sterile, whilst Trenches 3 and 31 contained post-medieval archaeology. The possible rectangular building identified by the magnetometer is best interpreted as an enclosure boundary visible on the 1817 Estate Map that was removed during the nineteenth century. The stone spread recorded in Trench 3 is also likely to be a remnant of a boundary wall.

Recommendation: There are no recommendations for further work in this area.

Site 38 Prehistoric hearth

The excavations revealed that the hearth was located in a former natural hollow between rocks that was completely levelled out in the twentieth century. The hearth was set into a deposit identified as an occupation layer that contained other patches of burnt clay as well as several sherds of decorated Beaker pottery.

Recommendation: The site as identified within trenches 6, 27 and 28 is located in a relatively discrete area between rock outcrops. Full excavation of the site should be undertaken if there is to be impact upon the area.

Site 39 Late prehistoric/Romano-British settlement

The evaluation excavations undertaken in 2001 identified the remains of a probable clay-walled roundhouse with associated finds of black-burnished ware and Samian ware, indicative of Romano-British activity.

It was anticipated that Trenches 7, 8 and 9 would encompass the remains of the Romano-British structure, whilst Trench 10 would locate any additional features. Trenches 18, 19, 32 and 33 were added later to investigate the magnetometer readings and encompass as wide an area as possible. Trench 7 and 8 were also joined by stripping the topsoil between them *through* part of Trench 26 (from the 2001 evaluation) in an attempt to characterise what appeared to be a badly disturbed stone capped drain in Trench 8 and structural remains in Trench 7. It was hoped by exposing part of Trench 26 that these features could be linked. The excavations showed that the stone-lined drain in Trench 8 is likely to be directly linked, or part of the same network of drains, as that discovered in Trench 26, whilst the structural remains in Trench 7 are likely to form part of those identified in Trench 26. The remainder of Trench 7 contained post-medieval activity. Analysis of the 1817 Estate Map (reproduced in GAT 2002, Figure10) showed that the majority of Trench 7 was in an area which would have been part of a small enclosed field associated with the Pen-y-Lone farmstead. The rubble layers found that in the extensions of Trench 7 were thought to be remains of the farmstead spread across the field.

Trench 9 contained a possible compacted clay floor surface, cut by a small circular feature that contained a pivot for a door, all of which were indicative of Romano-British settlement.

Trenches 10 and 18 were archaeologically sterile, whilst Trenches 19, 32 and 33 were indicative of post-medieval landscaping. The evidence for the Romano-British settlement was thus limited to a smaller area than expected, appearing in parts of Trenches 7, 8 and 9. A preliminary examination of the pottery suggests a Hadrianic/Antonine date in the 2nd century AD.

Recommendation: Preservation in situ, or full excavation in advance of development.

Site 40 Cobbled area

The remains found in the 2001 excavations were not identified in either of the trenches located to assess its extent. It is assumed that the archaeology was confined to a very limited area. The two trenches, 20 and 21, were also placed to investigate the magnetometer readings from the geophysical survey. The linear signals recorded in the survey were not identified in Trench 20 whilst the area of

magnetic disturbance investigated by Trench 21 is best interpreted as the change from clay to peat. Overall, there was very limited evidence of archaeological activity within this area.

Recommendation: There are no recommendations for further work in this area.

Site 41 Stone settings

The two stone settings identified during the 2001 evaluation were thought to be part of a prehistoric settlement. Trenches 22 and 23 were located to assess the full extent of this potential activity. However, no further evidence for any archaeological activity was discovered. The only evidence for prehistoric activity was a residual flint recovered from the topsoil.

Recommendation: There are no recommendations for further work in this area.

Site 42 Late prehistoric/Romano-British settlement

The trial excavations undertaken in 2001 identified this site as a late prehistoric or Romano-British settlement. Trenches 12 and 13 were placed across the earlier trenches 51 and 54 from the 2001 evaluation. Trench 12 confirmed the extent of the stone spread identified in Trench 51, but failed to find any datable artefacts, whereas Trench 13, placed across Trench 54, located an occupation layer and a stone-lined culvert. Moreover, this trench produced several sherds of Romano-British pottery, including a piece of suspected *mortaria*. Trenches 11, 14, 15, 16 17 and 24 were inserted around this area to evaluate the extent of this activity.

Trenches 11 and 14 both contained compacted floor surfaces whilst Trench 14 also contained a wall which could have been sealed by clay, suggesting a clay walled roundhouse.

Trenches 15, 16 17 and 24 were archaeologically sterile.

The presence of a settlement, confined to an area of some 700 sq metres, was thus confirmed by the excavations.

Recommendation: Preservation in situ, or full excavation in advance of development.

Site 43 Possible prehistoric site

Site 43 was identified from the 2001 evaluation as a potential prehistoric site as indicated by a large curvilinear feature and a slag-filled pit. Trenches 25 and 29 were located within this area to assess the extent of the prehistoric activity. Trench 25 was inserted at the southern end of the trench from the 2001 evaluation but failed to locate any prehistoric activity, identifying only post-medieval features. Trench 29 was located several metres to the northeast of the original trench but again failed to locate any prehistoric activity and was recorded as archaeological sterile.

Recommendation: There are no recommendations for further work in this area.

General recommendations

The results of the magnetometer survey and subsequent trial trenching would suggest that further evaluation by trial excavation would not be the most effective means of identifying any archaeological remains that may still exist within the area and not be identified. There is still some potential for this, though it is relatively low. This low potential is confirmed by the watching brief undertaken during Welsh Water pipeline construction through the study area in 2004, in which no new sites were discovered. However, the density of known sites does indicate some potential for the presence of archaeological remains, and it is therefore recommended that a programme of 'strip and record' is undertaken in the early stages of site development. This can be carried out piecemeal, and involves archaeological supervision and control of all initial topsoil removal. Time would need to be built into the construction programme for the investigation of any areas that appear to be of archaeological potential, and for the excavation of any sites that may be discovered.

The remaining recommendations as detailed in GAT Report 459 for detailed and basic recording of features still stand, as do the setting issues associated with the two scheduled ancient monuments at Trefignath and Ty Mawr.

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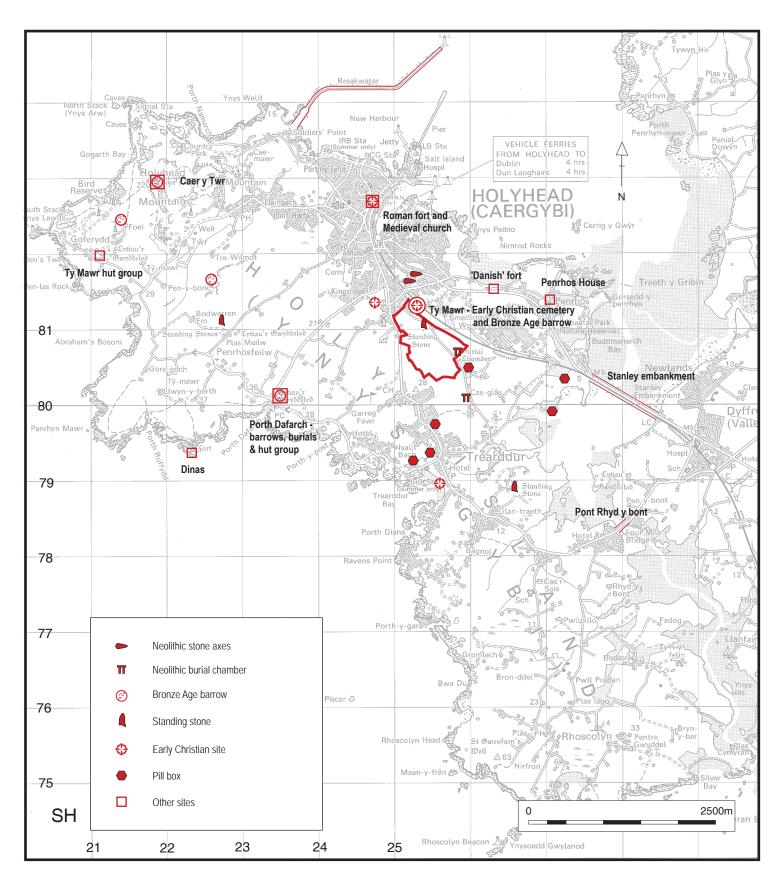
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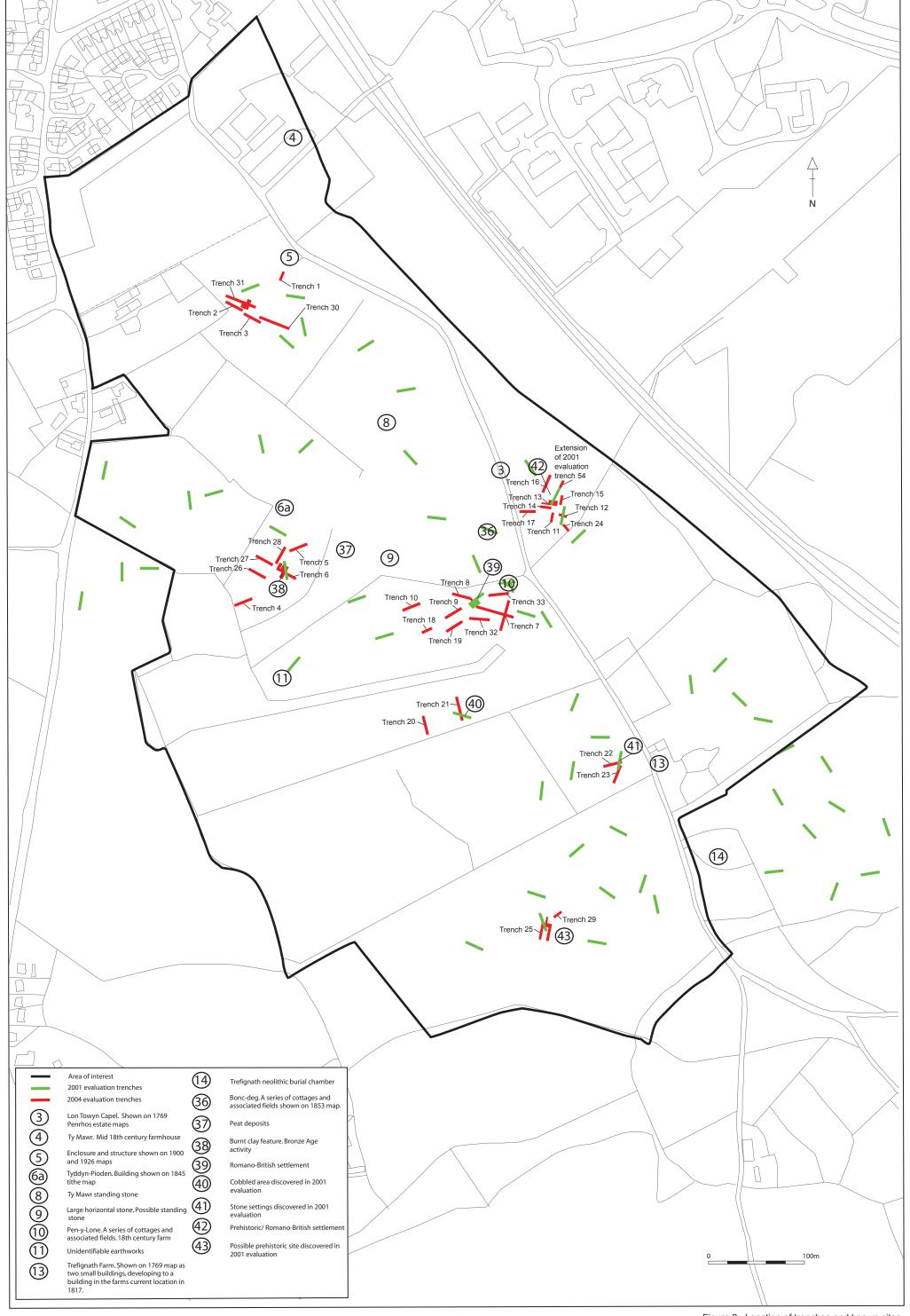


Figure 2. Location of trenches and known sites.

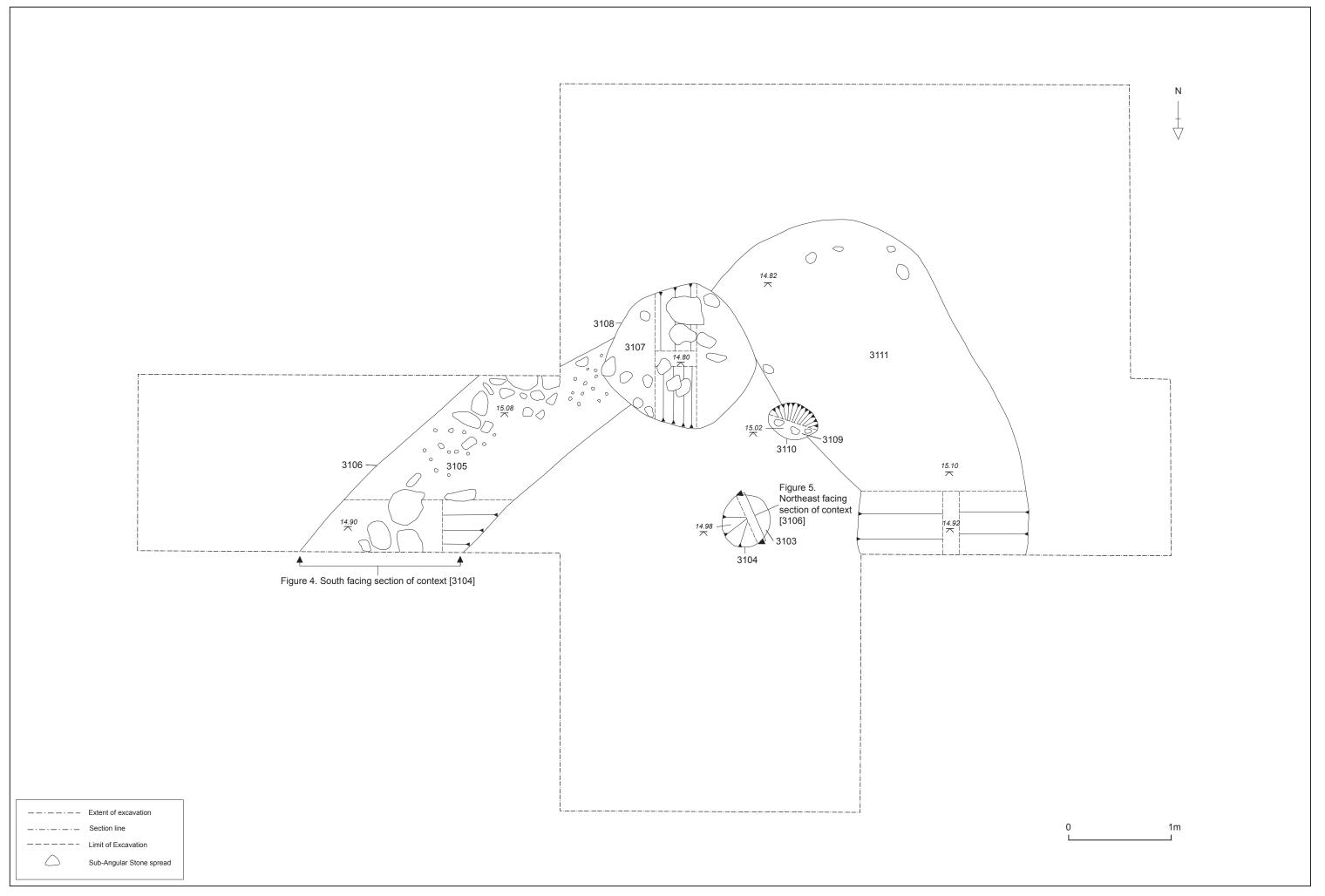


Figure 3. Post excavation plan of trench 31

Figure 4. South facing section of context [3106]

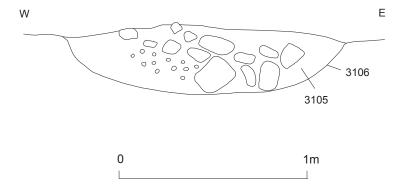
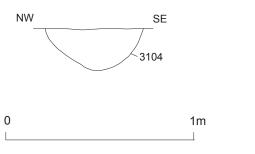
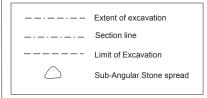


Figure 5. Northeast facing section of context [3104]





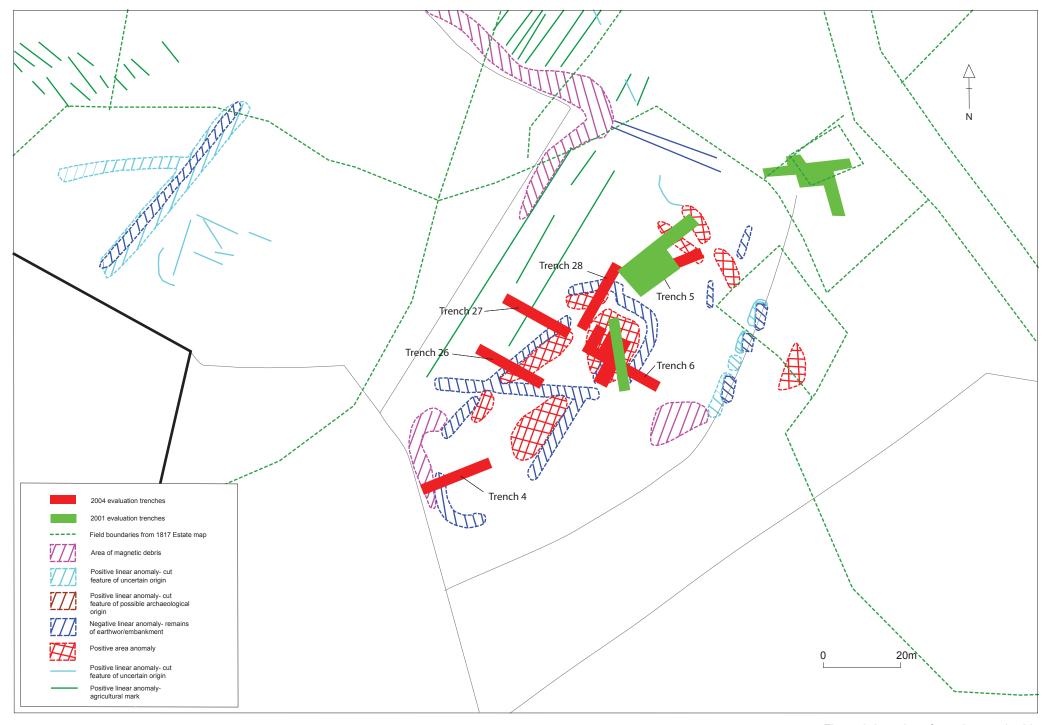


Figure 6. Location of trenches at site 36

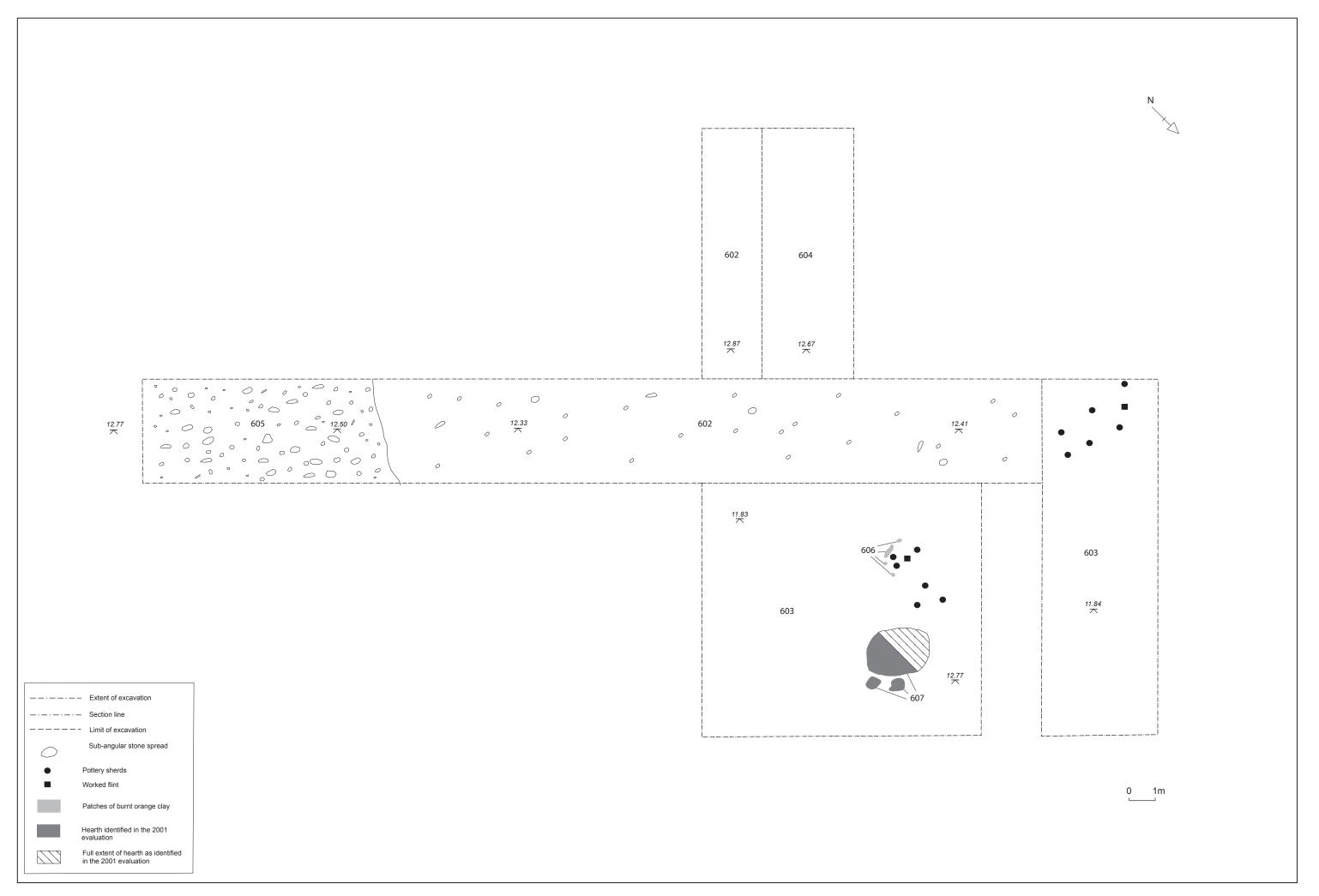


Figure 7. Post excavation plan of trench 6

Figure 8. Southwest facing section of trench 27

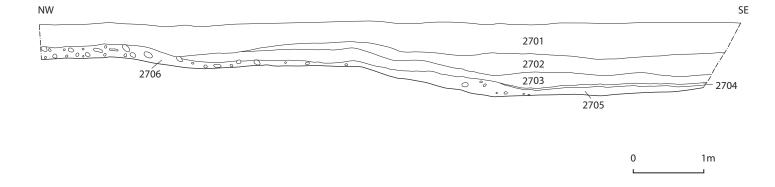
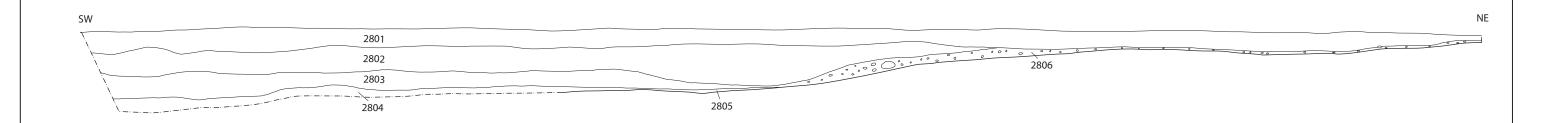


Figure 9. Southeast facing section of trench 28



 \triangle

Stone structur

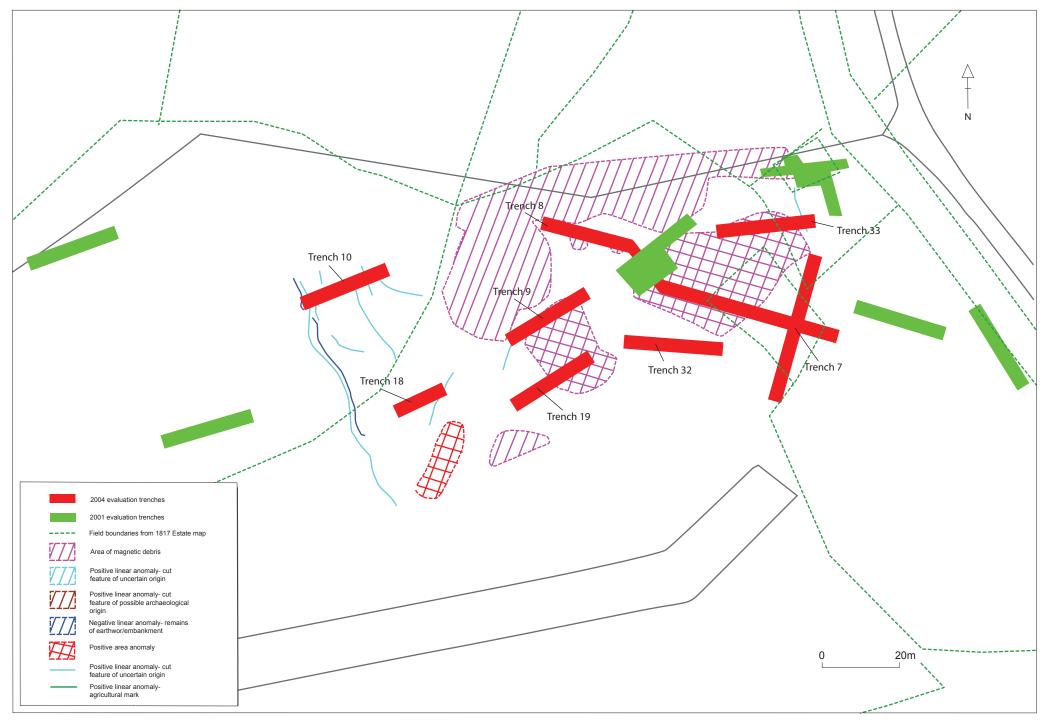


Figure 10. Location of trenches at site 39

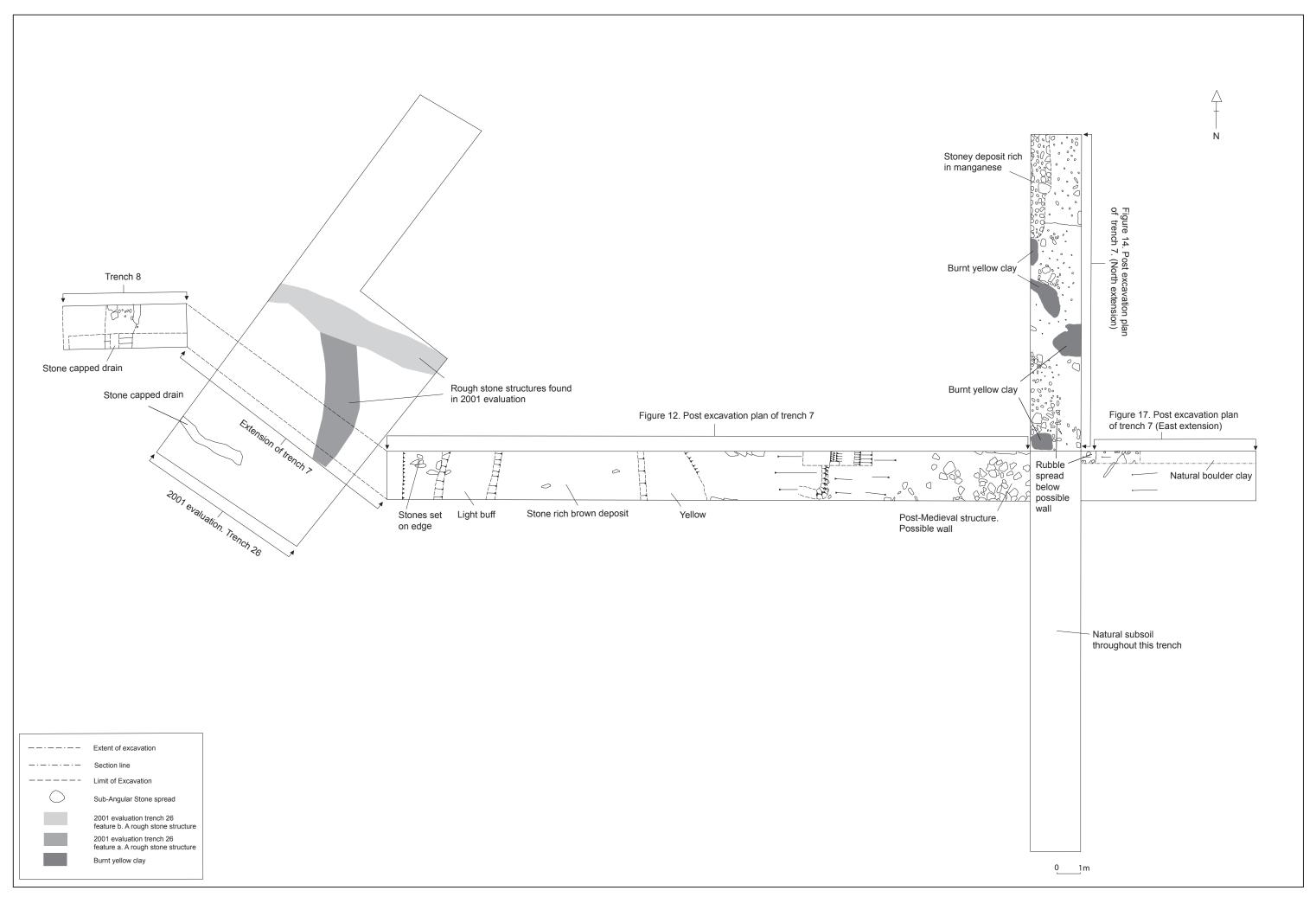
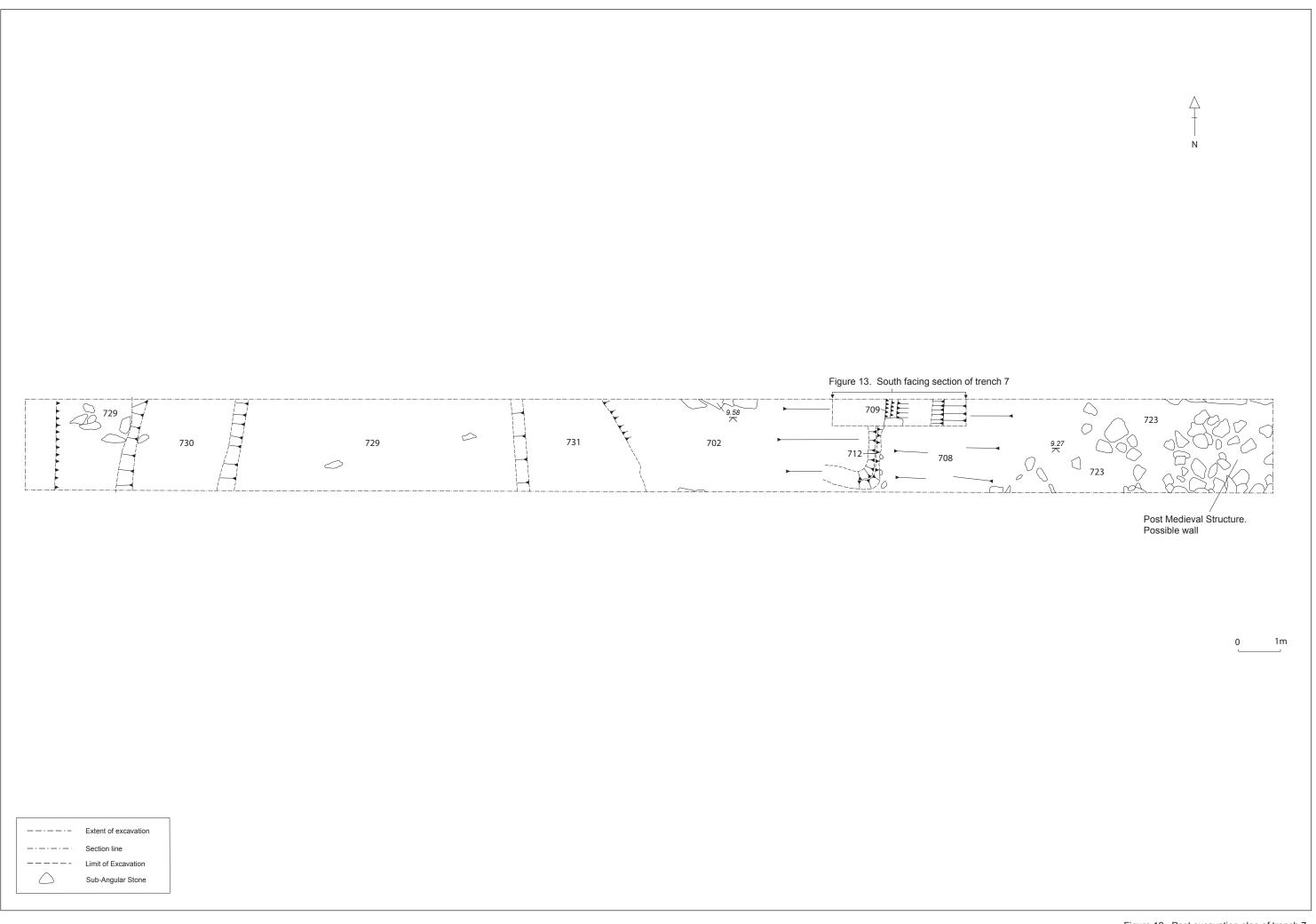


Figure 11. Area plan of trenches 7 and 2001 evaluation trench 26



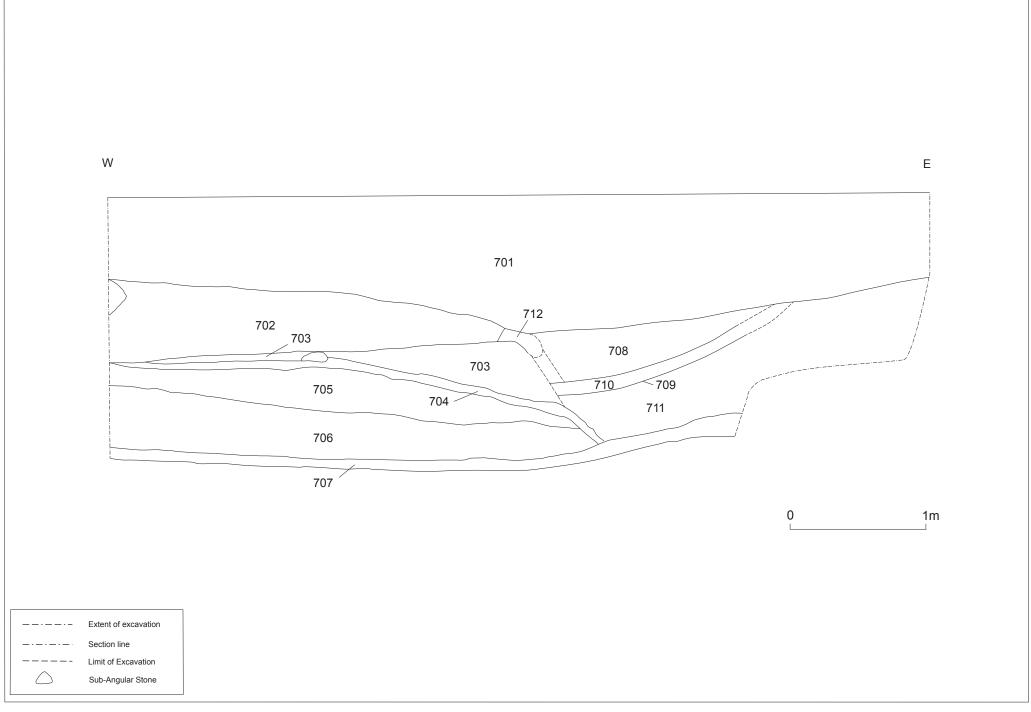


Figure 13. South facing section of trench 7



Figure 14. Post excavation plan of trench 7 (North extension)

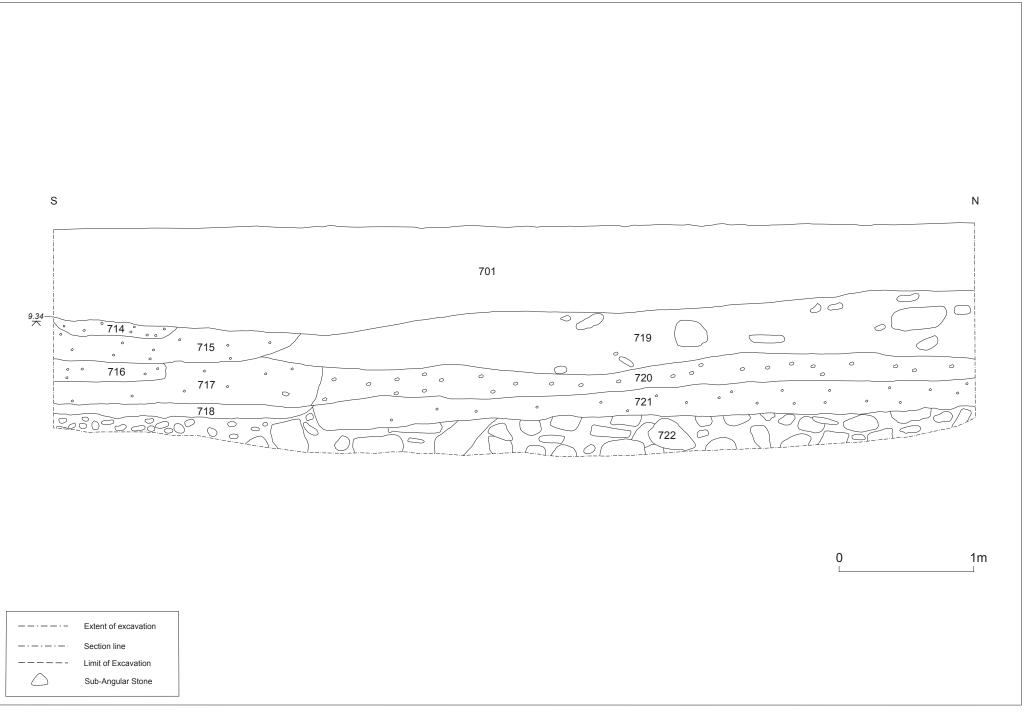


Figure 15. East facing section of the north extension of trench 7

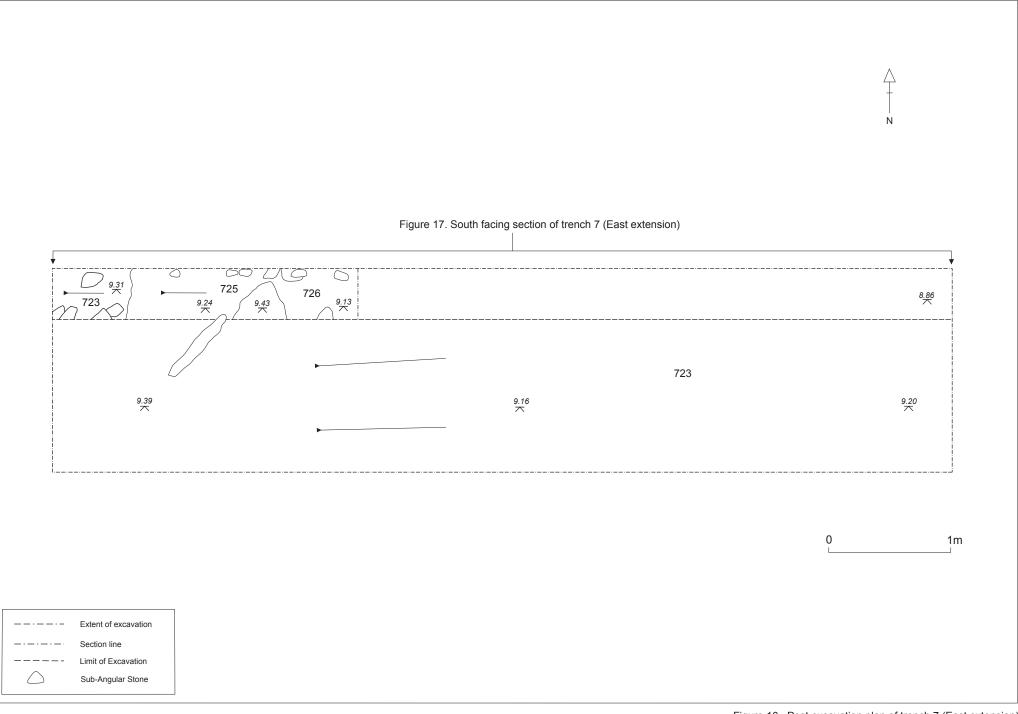


Figure 16. Post excavation plan of trench 7 (East extension)

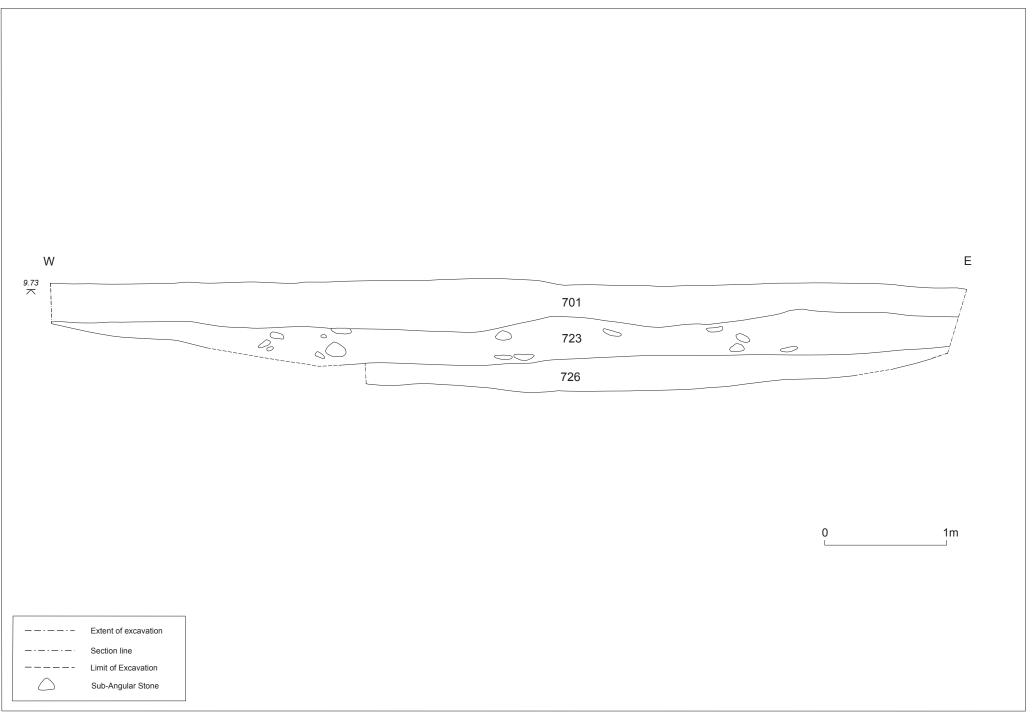


Figure 17. South facing section of trench 7 (East extension)

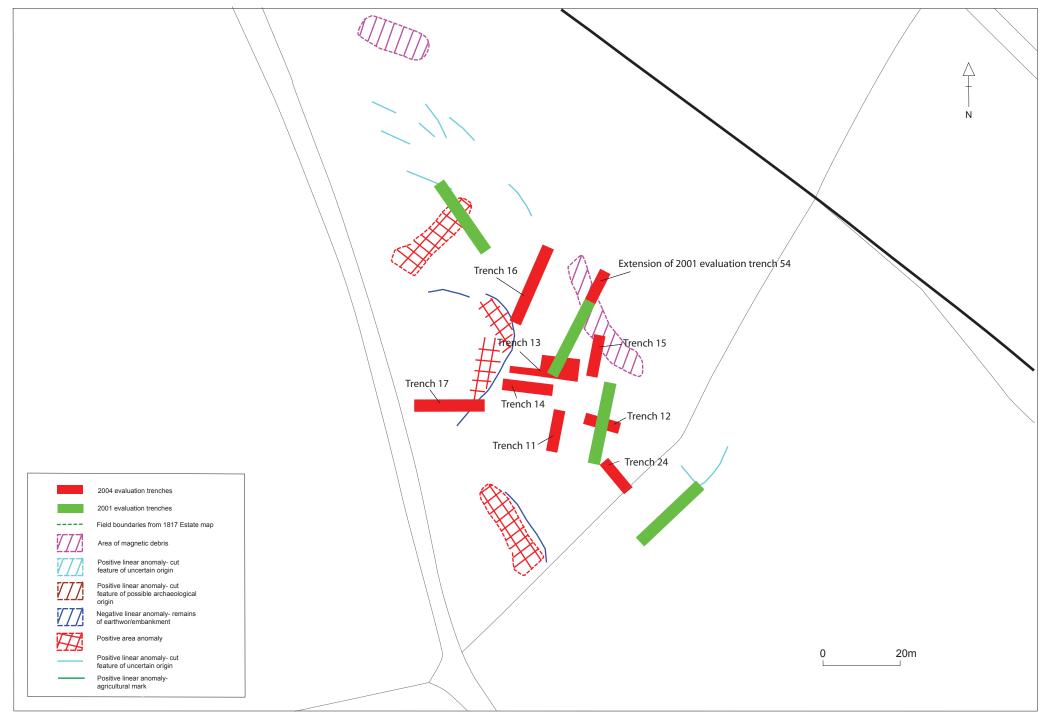


Figure 18. Trench location at site 42.

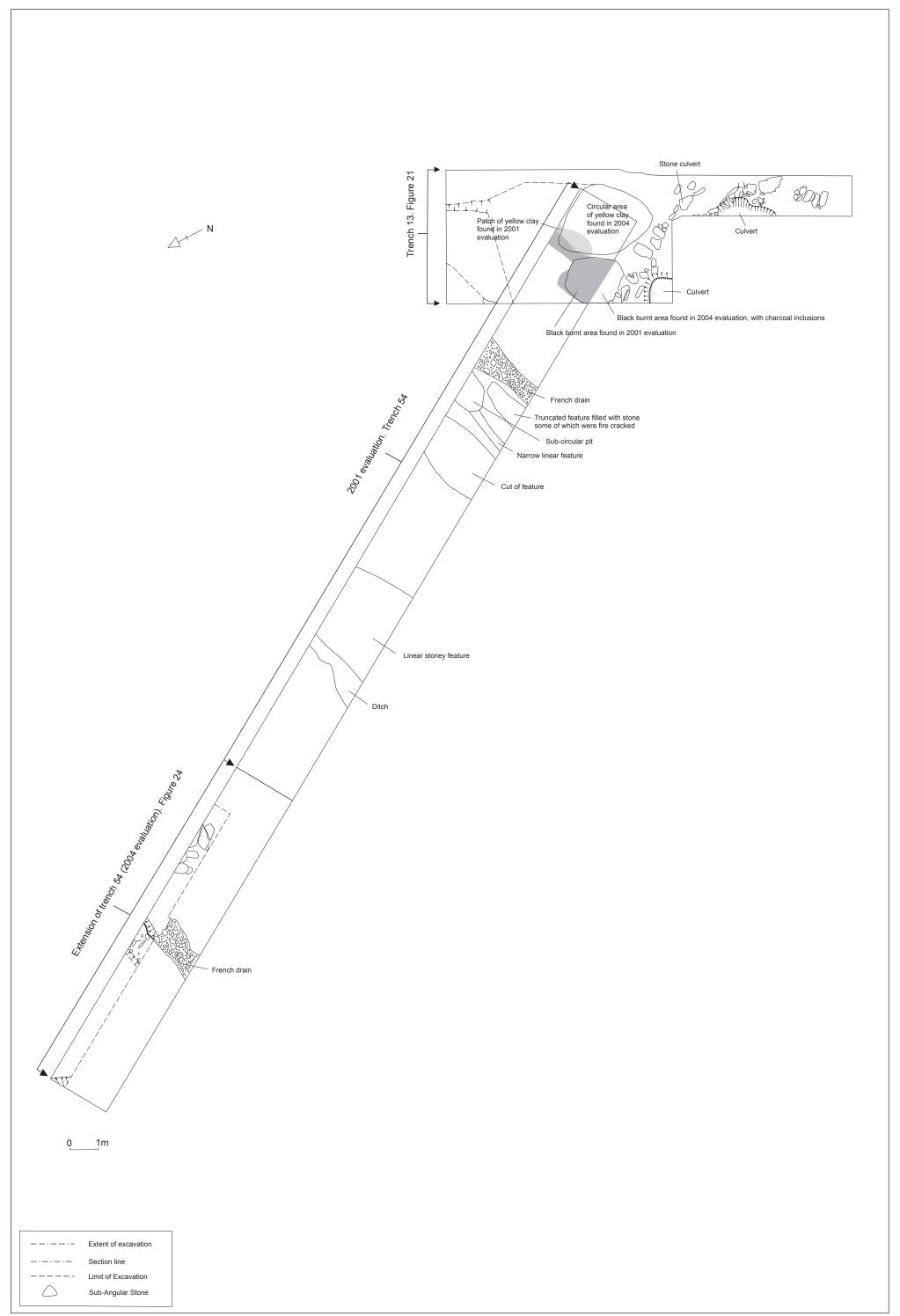
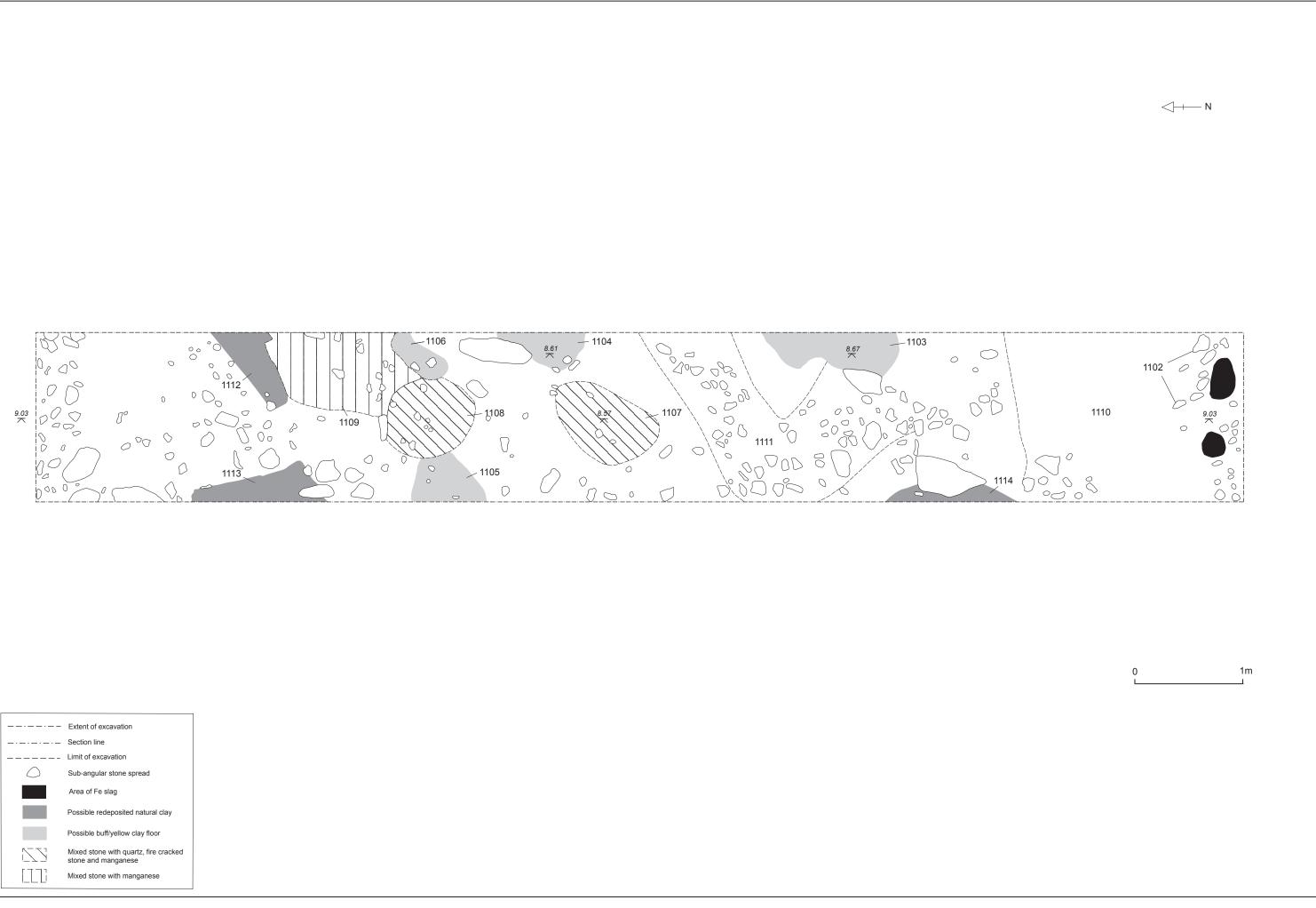


Figure 19. Area plan of trenches 13, 2001 evaluation trench 54 and the extension of trench 54.



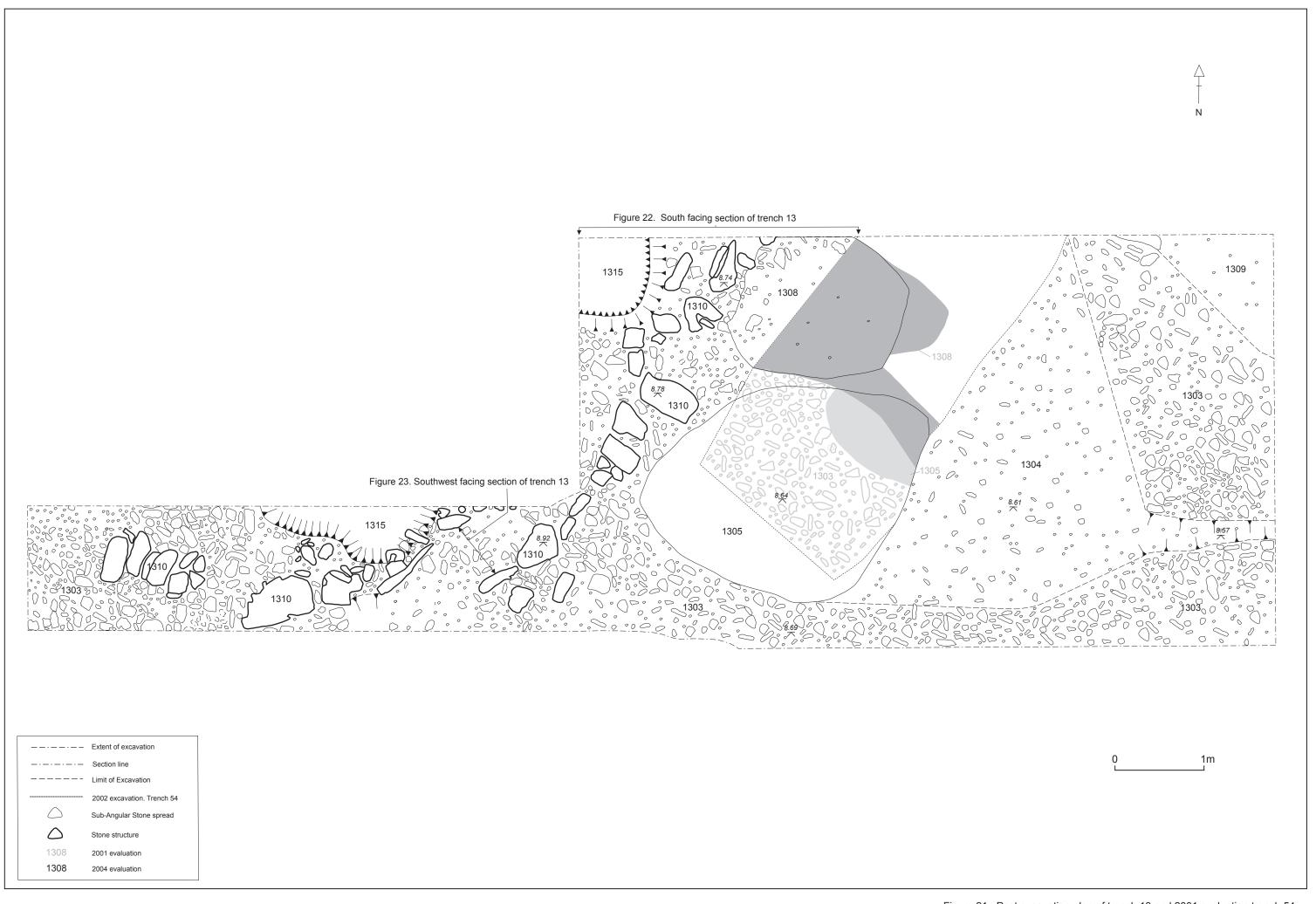


Figure 21. Post excavation plan of trench 13 and 2001 evaluation trench 54

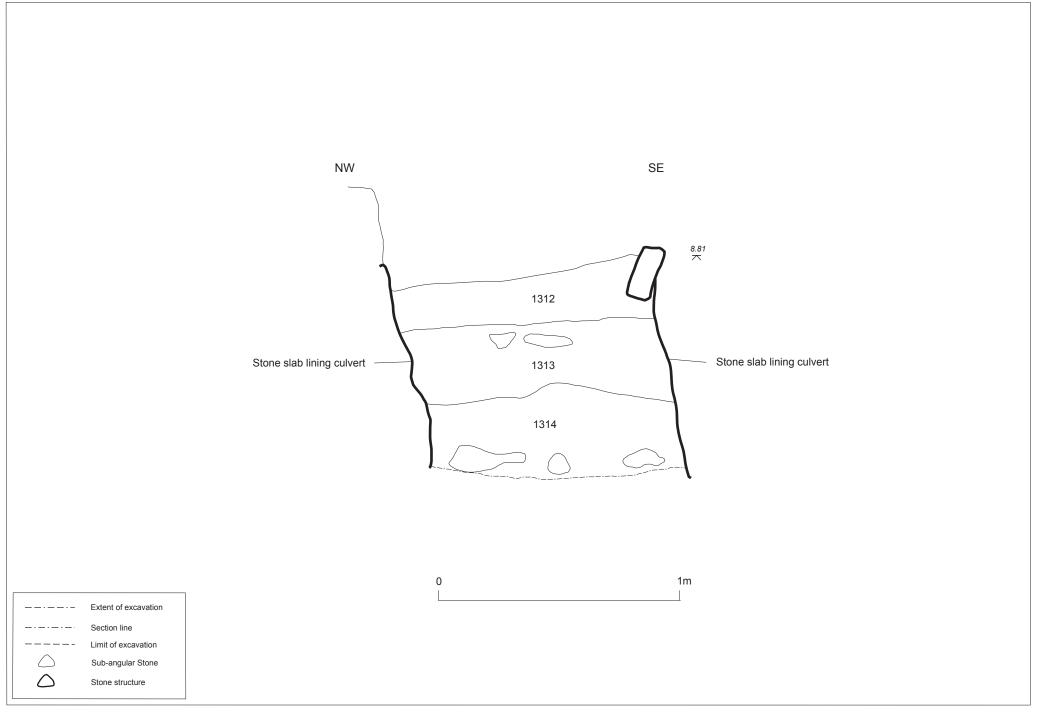


Figure 22. Southwest facing section of trench 13

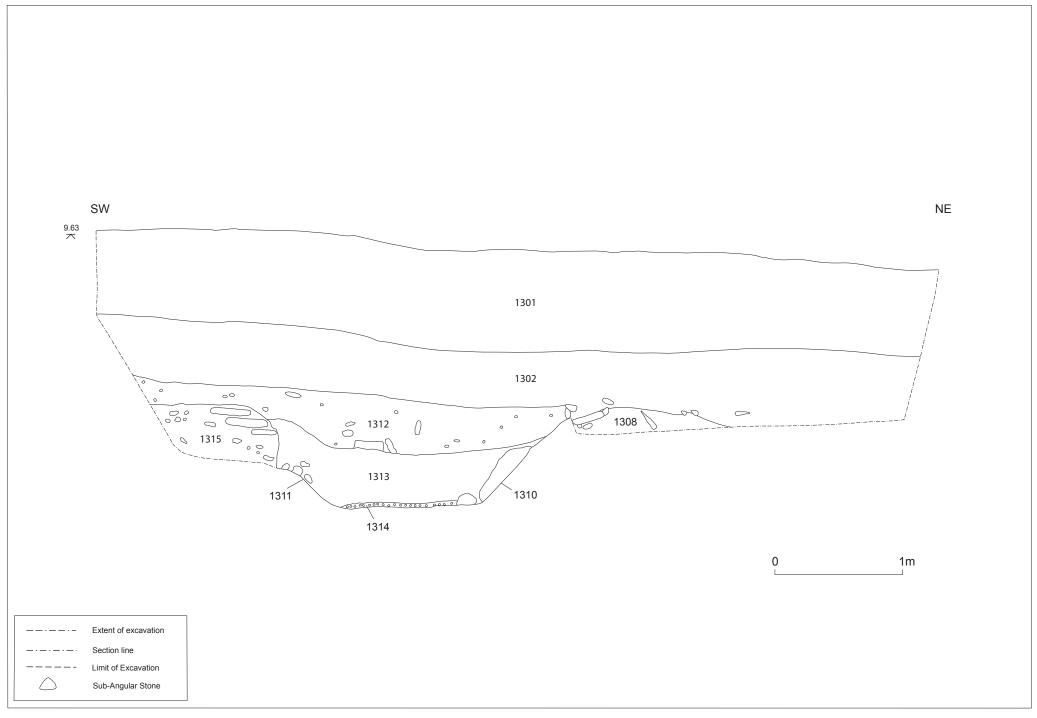


Figure 23. Southeast facing section of trench 13

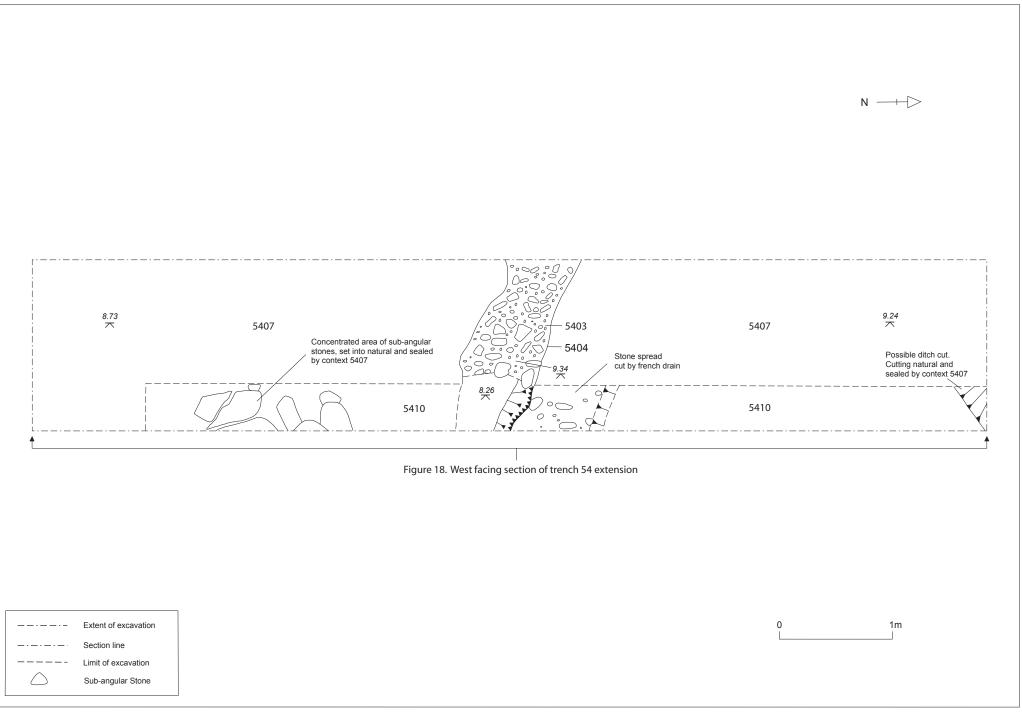
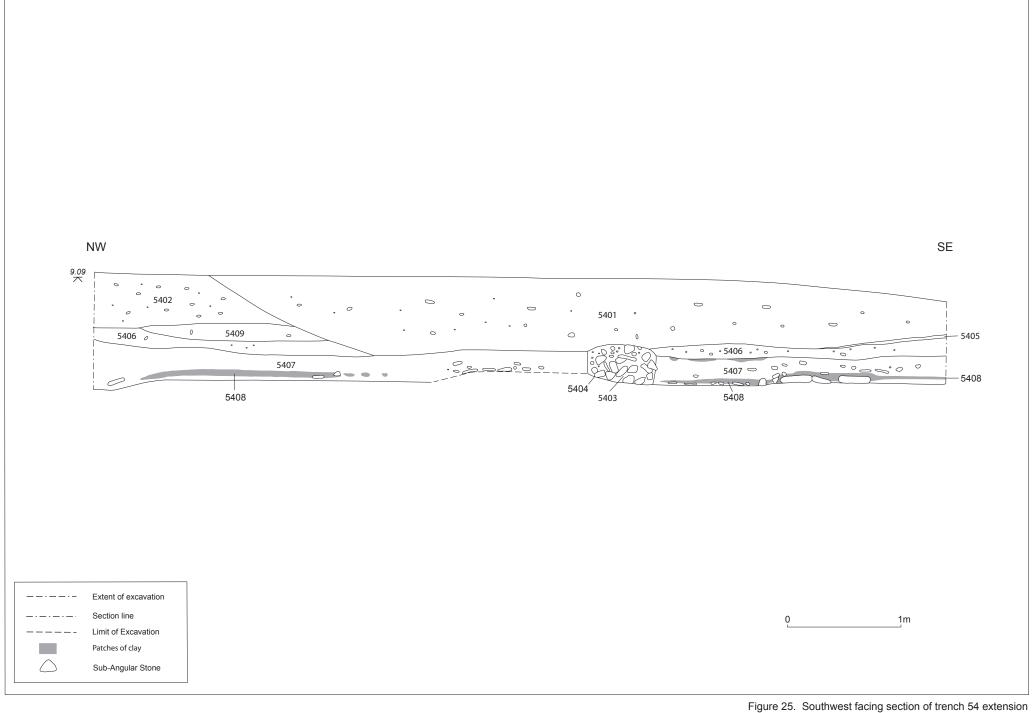
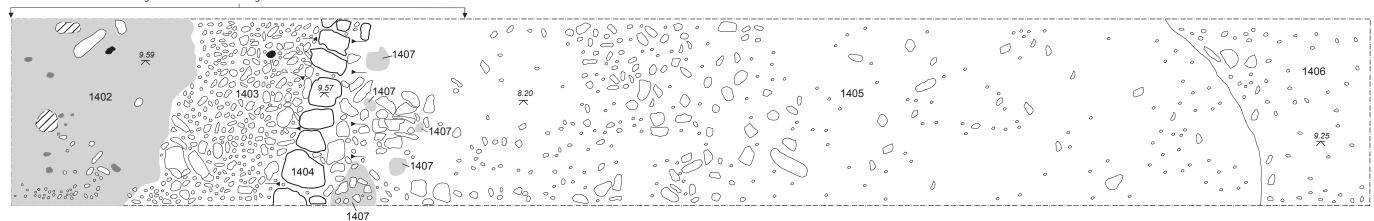


Figure 24. Post excavation plan of trench 54 extension









0

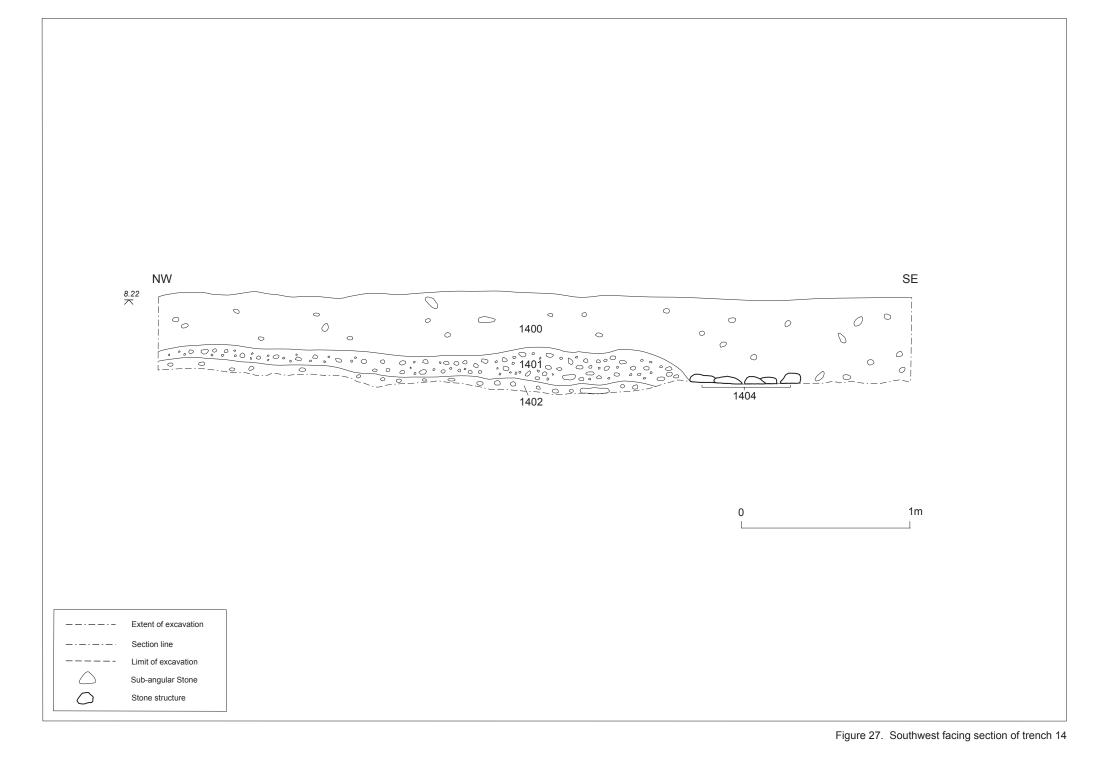
Extent of excavation

Section line

Limit of excavation

Sub-angular stone spread

Stone structure
Burnt stone
Burnt clay
Yellow clay. Possible floor.



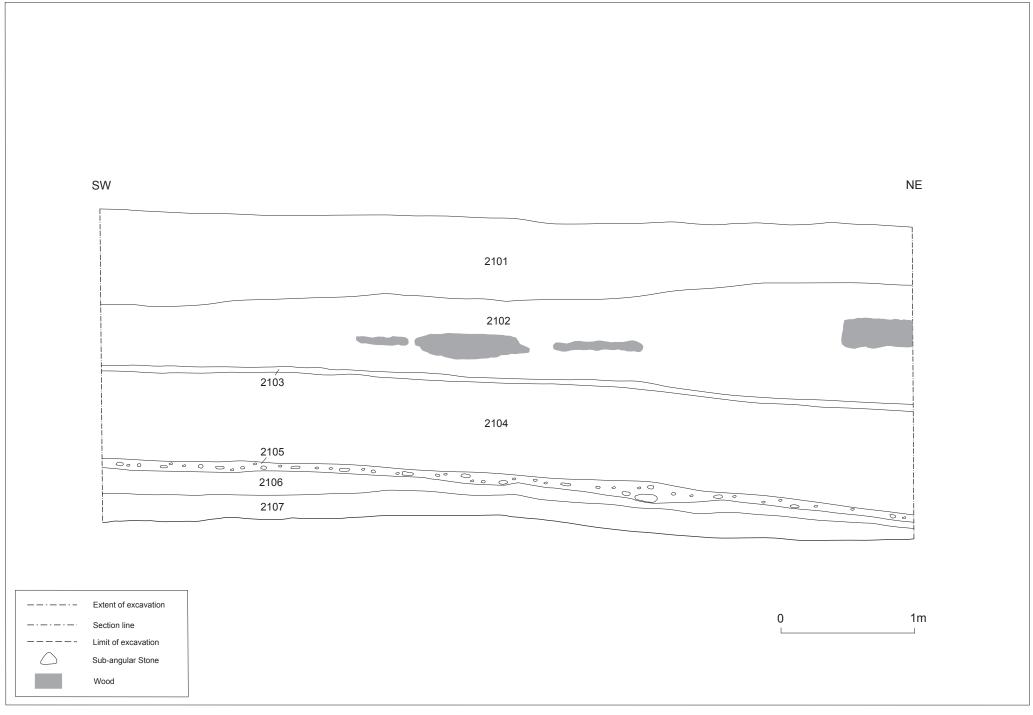


Figure 28. Southeast facing section of trench 21



Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3



Plate 4



Plate 5



Plate 6



Plate 7



Plate 8



Plate 9



Plate 10



Plate 11



Plate 12



Plate 13



Plate 14



Plate 15



Plate 16



Plate 17



Plate 18



Plate 19



Plate 20

Appendix I: Small Finds' Register

SF	Trench	Context	Material	Description
Find				
no.				
001	13	1303	Ceramic	Oxidised mortarium dated to the second century,
				possibly Antonine.
002	13	1303	Ceramic	Oxidised mortarium dated to the second century,
				possibly Antonine.
003	13	1303	Ceramic	Oxidised rimsherd dated to the second century,
				possibly Antonine.
004	13	1303	Ceramic	Oxidised mortarium dated to the second century,
				possibly Antonine.
005	13	1303	Ceramic	A Mancetter mortarium rimsherd. c AD 170-200.
006	13	1315	Ceramic	Oxidised/Burnt?
007	13	1315	Ceramic	Oxidised/Burnt?
800	06	603	Flint	Tertiary Flake
009	06	603	Flint	Unilateral straight-edged flake knife
010	06	603	Flint	Irregular convex –edged unilateral flake knife
011	13	1313	Facetted	Possible Gaming Piece
			Pebble	
012	13	1313	Split	Possible Blank for Spindle Whorl
			Pebble	
			Fragment	
013	6	603	Ceramic	Decorated Bronze Age/Beaker period pottery shard
014	6	603	Ceramic	Decorated rim. Bronze Age/Beaker period pottery shard.
015	6	603	Ceramic	Decorated Bronze Age/Beaker period pottery shard.
016	6	603	Ceramic	Decorated Bronze Age/Beaker period pottery shard.
017	6	603	Ceramic	Decorated Bronze Age/Beaker period pottery shard.
018	6	603	Ceramic	Decorated Bronze Age/Beaker period pottery shard.
019	6	603	Ceramic	7 small fragments of Bronze Age/Beaker period
				pottery.
020	6	603	Ceramic	Decorated Bronze Age/Beaker period pottery shard.
021	6	603	Ceramic	Decorated Bronze Age/Beaker period pottery shard.
022	6	603	Ceramic	Possible Rim. Bronze Age/Beaker period pottery
				shard.
023	6	603	Ceramic	3 fragmented decorated shards. Bronze Age/Beaker
				period.
024	6	603	Ceramic	Bronze Age/Beaker period pottery shard.
025	6	603	Ceramic	Bronze Age/Beaker period pottery shard.

Appendix II: Flint report

By George Smith

G1701. 603. Sf 008

Flake

12.5mm x 11mm x 2.5mm. Complete.

Small flake of semi-translucent, buff-brown flint. Thin flake with no platform, from the edge of an object with previous shallow flaking.

Possibly a shaping flake or an accidental chip from the edge of an existing implement.

G1701, 603, Sf 009

Unilateral straight-edged flake knife

42mm x 28mm x 10mm. Incomplete length.

Semi-translucent buff-grey flint with dark red-brown to dark brown staining on one edge. Such staining occurs in flint that has derived from redeposited geological beds not primary chalk deposits.

The bulbar end of a thick parallel-sided tertiary flake with retouch along most of one slightly convex side edge. All the shaping retouch is on the bulbar face. That on the non-bulbar face is light and intermittent and could derive from use. The flake has been struck from a well-rounded pebble and retains some of the pebble surface at the bulbar end. The pebble has been split by direct percussion.

This is not technologically or typologically a datable type of tool but similar examples occur in association with Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age pottery assemblages.

G1701. 603. Sf 010

Irregular convex-edged unilateral flake knife

37mm x 37mm x 8mm. Complete.

Buff/grey/cream faintly banded flint with dull fracture surface.

A broad, thin tertiary flake with pronounced bulb and plain platform from a previously flaked core. Shallow non-invasive retouch around the convex distal end. A rather *ad hoc* and not a diagnostic type but more likely to be of Early Bronze Age date than earlier.

G1701, 1313, Sf 011

Facetted pebble

36mm x 34mm x 8mm. Complete.

A small oval flat pebble of dark, fine-grained metamorphic rock with banding, probably schist. The pebble retains its natural oval shape but has worn facets on two sides of one end which seem to deliberately make it more circular. The facets have clear coarse abrasion marks and show that the pebble was held at a steep angle to what was being abraded. It is possible that the pebble was being abraded as part of a shaping process to reduce it to a more perfect circular shape, for example for use as a gaming counter. However, if this was so it might be expected that the facets would be perpendicular not angled. The pebble could have been a small tool in its own right such as an abrading tool for bone

objects. Similar sized pebbles, and shaped fragments of pottery used as gaming pieces are quite common finds on Romano-British settlement sites and this is the most likely interpretation here.

G1701. 1313. Sf 012

Split pebble fragment

52mm x 50mm x 11m. Complete.

A thin disc of dark, fine-grained metamorphic rock, probably schist. This derives from a naturally rounded pebble that has been split along its bedding planes to produce a disc of almost circular outline and even thickness.

There are no signs of human working. The lack of impact marks, or subsequent shaping by abrasion indicate that this is basically a natural object although the pebble could have been split deliberately. It is the correct size for a spindle whorl and may have been intended to be worked as such. Alternatively it may have been simply a found object collected for its regular outline which is distinctive. The material is similar to that of the smaller pebble with facets and this too could have been used as a gaming piece but would be larger than normal for such pieces.

APPENDIX III

Roman pottery report

By

Jeremy Evans (3 October 2004)

G1701 SF 001 (Cleaning) Site 39 Trench A26 (2001)

A greyware jar rim fragment, a BB copy, probably Hadrianic-mid Antonine. The fabric has a grey core, margins and surfaces with common-abundant sand temper c0.3-0.4mm. D. 14cms, RE 11% Wt 9g

G1701 SF 002 (Cleaning) Site 39 Trench A26 (2001)

Central Gaulish bowl form 37. Two adjoining sherds in poor condition, displaying a fragment of Rogers (1974) ovolo B263 above a horizontal beadrow (A2) as used by Cettus. This potter was working at Les Martres-de-Veyre in the period c AD 135-160. Wt 3g

G1701 (1315) Site 42 Trench B13 (2004)

A broken fragment from a large crucible with a reduced core and oxidised exterior with some angular white quartz inclusions up to 2mm and occasional angular stone inclusions up to 5mm in the soft oxidised clay on the exterior. The crucible is heavily burnt from the interior the reduced crucible being sintered with many bubbles. The soft oxidised exterior may well be a clay overplastering used on the last occasion the reduced crucible was used.

G1701 (1303) Site 42 Trench B13 (2004)

- 1. A Mancetter mortarium rimsherd with a slightly defined bead and straight flange, class M, *c*AD 170-200. Diam 30cms, RE 11%, Wt 90g
- 2. Three oxidised mortarium bodysherds and a broken and bettered rimsherd, the latter would seem to be from a straight flanged type, perhaps a Raetian form. The fabric is oxidis3d with common sand temper *c*0.3-0.5mm in a clean matrix; trituration grits translucent quartz, micaceous sandstone and brown stone *c*2-3mm. Probably .Wilderspool. Second century, possibly Antonine. Wt 58g

G1701 SF 016 (022) Site 42 Trench A54 (2001)

An eroded oxidised bowl rim fragment with a slightly hooked beaded rim. The fabric has an orange-brown core and orange margins and surfaces with some-common sand c0.3-0.4mm in a clean matrix. D. ? RE >2% Wt 11g

GENERAL COMMENTS

The assemblage is too small for any certain conclusions to be drawn. However the only datable pieces are Hadrianic-Antonine, and none of the sherds would be out of place in this date range. Absence of earlier material would not be significant given the regional background, but, in a larger collection, an absence of 3rd century material would be significant.

Appendix IV: Bronze Age/Beaker Pottery

SF no.	Trench	Context	Description
013	6	603	2 small fragments of undecorated pottery (10mm x
			5mm)
014	6	603	Pottery shard (20mm x 30mm). Faint decoration of an
			incised form possibly finger nail impression.
015	6	603	Pottery shard (25mm x 20mm). Faint decoration.
			Three horizontal lines, two diagonal lines and one
			horizontal line of either twisted cord or cardium shell
			impressions.
016	6	603	Small pottery fragment (10mm x 5mm) with one
			horizontal incised line of decoration.
017	6	603	Pottery shard (20mm x 15mm) with horizontal and
			crosshatched twisted cord impressions.
018	6	603	Pottery shard (30mm x 20mm) with one horizontal
			line of incised decoration.
019	6	603	7 small fragments (5mm x 5mm) of undecorated
			pottery fragments.
020	6	603	Pottery shard (10mm x 10mm) with two horizontal
			and one diagonal line of twisted cord impressions.
021	6	603	Pottery shard (20mm x 20mm) with three lines of
			stick type, dot impressions
022	6	603	Pottery shard (15mm x 10mm). Possible rim.
			Undecorated.
023	6	603	4 fragmented shards (30mm x 20mm, 20mm x
			10mm). One line of horizontal twisted cord decoration
			on one shard.
024	6	603	Pottery shard (30mm x 20mm). Undecorated.
025	6	603	Pottery shard (10mm x 10mm). Undecorated.

Appendix V : Summary of Results

Trench No.	Site No./Area No.	Artefacts Recovered (Context number in Brackets)	Interpretation (Context number in Brackets)
1	Area 10	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil	Archaeologically Sterile
2	Area 10	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil	Archaeologically Sterile
3	Area 10	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil	Contained remnants of Field Boundary extant on 1817 Estate Map
4	Site 38	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil	Archaeologically Sterile
5	Site 38	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil	Post-medieval farming activity
6	Site 38	Friable pottery and worked flint (604)	Prehistoric settlement. Burnt clay deposits (606) and a hearth (607) set into a deposit (604), which contained several heavily oxidised sherds of pottery and two flint knives. Possible Early Bronze Age.
7	Site 39	Ceramic tobacco pipe (723)	Romano-British settlement and post-medieval farming activity. Former suggested by a series of stones set into natural located next to Romano-British features recorded during 2001evaluation.
8	Site 39	Two pottery sherds (807)	Romano-British settlement and post-medieval farming activity. A partly demolished stone-capped drain was located in Trench 8 close to the Romano-British features recorded during 2001evaluation. Area had been re-landscaped during post-medieval farming activity as drain feature contained a post-medieval glazed ware and a residual oxidised ware.
9	Site 39	Worked stone (903)	Romano-British settlement and post-medieval farming activity. Former typified by a compacted floor surface (905), cut by subcircular feature that contained a pivot stone for a door (903).
10	Site 39	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil	Archaeologically Sterile
11	Site 42	Fe slag (1102)	Prehistoric and/or Romano-British settlement: remnants of a compacted floor surface throughout (1103-6); Fe slag recovered stone spread sealing these deposits (1102)
12	Site 42	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil	Romano-British settlement(?)/post-medieval farming. Extensive spread of sub-angular stones (1203). No datable artefacts recovered. Needs further investigation.
13	Site 42	Oxidised body sherds, cream-coloured rim sherd (1303); worked stone (1313).	Prehistoric and/or Romano-British settlement: compacted floor surface (1305) and stone-built culvert (1310). Latter, 6m long; secondary backfill (1313), contained two circular gaming pieces. Surface and culvert sealed by stone-rich deposit (1303) that contained several oxidised body sherds and a <i>mortaria</i> rim sherd.
14	Site 42	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil	Prehistoric and/or Romano-British settlement. Located 2m south of Trench 13. Compacted floor surface and the potential remains of a clay-walled roundhouse suggest Romano-British. No datable artefacts recovered. Needs further investigation.
15	Site 42	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil	Archaeologically Sterile
16	Site 42	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil	Archaeologically Sterile
17	Site 42	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil	Archaeologically Sterile
18	Site 39	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil	Archaeologically Sterile
19	Site 39	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil	Post-medieval farming activity
20	Site 40	Post-Medieval Pottery	Largely archaeologically sterile; peat deposit at northern end of

Appendix V : Summary of Results

		sherd (2001)	trench contained a post-medieval sherd.
21	Site 40	None	Largely archaeologically sterile. A succession of peat deposits were concentrated in the northern end of the trench. No datable artefacts were recovered.
22	Site 41	Flint chunk in the topsoil	Archaeologically Sterile
23	Site 41	None	Archaeologically Sterile
24	Site 42	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil	Archaeologically Sterile
25	Site 43	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil and in (2503) and (2505)	Post-medieval farming activity
26	Site 38	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil	Modern landscaping.
27	Site 38	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil	Modern landscaping/ Prehistoric settlement. Latter represented by occupational layer (2704); same as (604) in Trench 6
28	Site 38	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil	Modern landscaping/ Prehistoric settlement. Latter represented by occupational layer (2804); same as (604) in Trench 6 and (2704) in Trench 27.
29	Site 43	None	Archaeologically Sterile
30	Area 10	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil	Archaeologically Sterile
31	Area 10	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil	Post-medieval farming activity
32	Site 39	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil	Post-medieval farming activity/landscaping
33	Site 39	Post-Medieval Pottery in topsoil	Post-medieval farming activity/landscaping



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