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Meridian Solar Farm

Report on an Archaeological Evaluation

York Archaeology

Report Number YA/2026/052

Meridian Solar Farm

Report on an Archaeological Evaluation

York Archaeology

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ABBREVIATIONS

AOD Above Ordnance Datum

ABG Associated Bone Group

BGL Below Ground Level

JBA Archaeological Consultants

LPA Local Planning Archaeologist

NGR National Grid Reference

UXO Unexploded Ordnance

WSI Written Scheme of Investigation

YA York Archaeology

SUMMARY

York Archaeology (Nottingham) was commissioned by Meridian Solar Farm Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in support of the design process and the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for a proposed solar farm. The proposed development comprises a photovoltaic (PV) area covering approximately 1,100 ha across four parcels of land located to the south-east of Spalding and to the north and north-east of Crowland, Lincolnshire. This report presents the detailed results the trial trench evaluation in order to inform the Client's DCO application.

The archaeological evaluation involved the excavation of 406 trenches and 209 test pits across various land parcels. Prior to the excavation, a non-intrusive survey comprising air photo and LiDAR mapping and interpretation determined the presence of roddons across the site. Roddons are raised silty features representing the remains of former creeks, frequently associated with historic settlement activities across this region. Geophysical surveys also took place across various land parcels of the Site.

The trenches were designed to investigate features identified by the non-intrusive surveys within the roddon areas as well as in apparently blank areas of roddons. The test pits were excavated outside the roddons to investigate the stratigraphic sequence in these areas. All test pits were excavated under geoarchaeological supervision.

The archaeological evaluation confirmed the results of the previous non-intrusive surveys, specifically the presence of roddons, their utilisation for settlement activity and archaeological features identified by the geophysical surveys. The archaeological remains identified across the Site dated to the Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age, Roman and to the medieval to modern period. Features associated with drainage and agricultural activities were also present and, although dating evidence was often limited, post-medieval and modern dates have been established for some of the field systems.

The Roman activity can be broadly characterised as comprising areas of settlement, often associated with salt production, located on the larger areas of roddon. Sparser activity, potentially of seasonal nature, was recorded alongside the smaller roddons and sometimes within the marine alluvium areas. This activity often comprised ring gullies, which can be provisionally be interpreted as temporary roundhouses. Ditches, often in parallel sets, following the roddon contours were present across the Site and on the majority of roddons. Their function can be interpreted as water management, maintenance of dryland areas and sometimes creation of droveways. The combined evidence of possible droveways and possible seasonal exploitation of the wetland pasture, may suggest that pastoralism played an important part in the local economy.

While the later features generally comprised probable drainage and agricultural elements, they have the potential to inform on the evolving landscape from the medieval to the modern periods, including drainage efforts and the changing relationship of agriculture and the fenland over time.

Area A contained sparse archaeological remains. Evidence for probable seasonal and peripheral Late Iron Age or Roman activity was evidenced by the occasional presence of ring gullies and small ditches following the roddon contours. Later agricultural features were also present, especially to the north, including an example of ridge and furrow.

Areas B and C were located partially within and adjacent to multiple areas of known Roman settlement activity. A large roddon spanned the two areas and formed the focus for a long continuous area of settlement activity. The densest parts of this settlement were not included in the evaluation scope. The earliest activity dated to the Late Iron Age and the Late Iron Age to Early Roman activity was characterised by salt-making and settlement activity of an uncertain scale. A total of two salterns were found close to the roddon edge within this settlement area (Fields C-1-01 and C-1-03). This salt production appears to have ceased by the 2nd to 3rd century AD, when the activity was characterised by long trackways/droveways and enclosures. These long trackways/droveways continued onto smaller meandering roddons to the west and south, where the evaluation revealed evidence for more peripheral and potentially seasonal activity evidenced by ring gullies, ditches and occasional small enclosures. These features appeared to indicate a shift towards pastoralism and seasonal exploitation of the wetland for grazing. A series of highly comparable fill and recut sequences were present across the 2nd/3rd century features, representing an initial inundation following the 2nd/3rd century AD, followed by a series of contemporary recuts, which was then closely followed by a later inundation and a period of standing water in the 3rd/4th century AD. This sequence can be paralleled by a contemporary fill and recut sequence at Clay Bank, Spalding and appears to represent part of a wider flooding event (Pre-Construct Archaeology 2021). In much of the evaluated area the final peaty infill represented the end of the Roman activity and an abandonment phase, however, towards the settlement core and the areas of higher ground there was evidence for more continuation. Later agricultural and drainage features were also present, often represented by long meandering ditches not following the roddons, and parallel pairs of long straight ditches.

Area D contained evidence for Late Iron Age and Roman activity. The northern and central parts of the area contained evidence of more peripheral activity, comprising ditches and possible field systems, and occasional isolated salterns closely relating to the small roddons. In the southern part of the area, a large roddon was found to contain two spatially limited contemporary settlement areas, linked by a long trackway/droveway and associated peripheral activity. Saltern complexes of Late Iron Age to 2nd/3rd century AD date were found at the edges of both settlement areas, while the frequent presence of briquetage within the settlement areas indicates that salt production may have been a major part of the settlements' economy. Post-medieval field systems, as well as undated features, were also present.

The evidence from the Site and the archaeological potential of the Site are highly relevant to multiple research questions established in the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Agenda.

CONTENTS

KEY DOCUMENT INFORMATION

SUMMARY

1 INTRODUCTION 1

1.1 Background 1
1.2 Outline of Archaeological Work 1
1.3 Scope of the report 2

2 SITE BACKGROUND 3

2.1 Site Location and Topography 3
2.2 Geological background 3
2.3 Geoarchaeological Background 3
2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background 8
2.5 Previous Archaeological Works 12

3 RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE 14

3.1 Planning context 14
3.2 Legislation 14
3.3 National Planning Policy 14
3.4 Local Planning Policy 16

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES 18

4.1 Aims 18
4.2 Objectives 18
4.3 Research Agenda 18

5 METHODOLOGY 24

5.1 Scope 24
5.2 Evaluation Trenches 24
5.3 Evaluation Trenches Targeting Potential Salterns 25
5.4 Geoarchaeological Test Pits 27
5.5 Site survey 27
5.6 Machine excavation of trenches 27
5.7 Machine excavation of test pits 28
5.8 Backfilling 29
5.9 Roddon recording 29
5.10 Hand excavation and recording 29
5.11 Recording 30
5.12 Finds 31
5.13 Environmental Sampling 31
5.14 Human Remains 33
5.15 Post-excavation 33
5.16 Artefact Processing 33
5.17 Deposit modelling 33
5.18 Reporting 34
5.19 Subsequent reporting 34

5.20 Archive and Finds Deposition 34
5.21 OASIS 35

6 RESULTS OVERVIEW 36

6.1 Overview 36
6.2 Area A 37
6.3 Stratigraphic Results 37
6.4 Areas B and C 49
6.5 Results breakdown 51
6.6 Area D 124

7 THE GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST PITTING 181

7.1 Introduction 181
7.2 Methodology 181
7.3 Results 182
7.4 Discussion 183

8 THE FINDS 186

8.1 The Roman Pottery 186
8.2 The Post-Roman Pottery 198
8.3 Briquetage 204
8.4 CBM, Mortar and Fired Clay 215
8.5 The Small Finds 220
8.6 The Slags 223
8.7 The Worked Stone 225
8.8 The Glass 229
8.9 The Clay Pipe 231
8.10 The Flint 234
8.11 The Leather 236

9 THE HUMAN REMAINS 244

9.1 Introduction 244
9.2 Methodology 244
9.3 Results 244
9.4 Conclusions 245

10 MAMMAL, AMPHIBIAN, FISH AND BIRD BONES 246

10.1 Introduction 246

11 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES 255

11.1 Introduction 255
11.2 Methodology 255
11.3 Results 256
11.4 Discussion and Interpretation 260

12 DISCUSSION 262

12.2 Area A 262
12.3 Areas B and C 263
12.4 Area D 271
12.5 Wider Context and Regional Research Agenda 277

13 CONCLUSIONS 285

14 REFERENCES..... 288

FIGURES

Figure 01 - Location map

Figure 02 - Site plan

Area A

Figure 03 - Plan of area A

Figure 04 - Plan of area A over OS six inch map 1888-1913

Figure 05 - Plan of trenches 1025 and 1026 in A-1-01

Figure 06 - Plan of trench 1019 in A-1-02

Figure 07 - Plan of trenches 1027 and 1028 in A-1-03

Figure 08 - Plan of trenches 1029 and 1030 in A-1-03

Figure 09 - Plan of trench 1031 in A-1-04

Figure 10 - Plan of trenches 1038 and 1039 in A-1-05

Figure 11 - Plan of trenches 1040 and 1041 in A-1-05

Figure 12 - Plan of trenches 1042 and 1043 in A-1-05

Figure 13 - Plan of trenches 1033 and 1053 in A-1-07

Figure 14 - Plan of trenches 1036, 1037 and 1052 in A-1-08

Figure 15 - Plan of trenches 1014, 1015 and 1016 in A-1-09

Figure 16 - Plan of trench 1034 in A-1-10

Figure 17 - Plan of trench 1003 in A-1-11

Figure 18 - Plan of trenches 1005 and 1006 in A-1-11

Figure 19 - Plan of trenches 1008 and 1010 in A-1-11

Figure 20 - Plan of trenches 1012 and 1013 in A-1-11

Figure 21 - Plan of trench 1044 in A-1-11

Figure 22 - Plan of trenches 1001 and 1046 in A-1-12

Figure 23 - Section drawings 65, 153, 154, 155, 156, 177, 218, 231, 249 and 291

Area B

Figure 24 - Plan of area B

Figure 25 - Plan of area B over OS six inch map 1888-1913

Figure 26 - Plan of trenches 2013 and 2014 in B-1-01

Figure 27 - Plan of trenches 2012, 2069 and 2115 in B-1-01

Figure 28 - Plan of trench 2055 in B-1-02

Figure 29 - Plan of trench 2072 in B-1-02

Figure 30 - Plan of trenches 2040 and 2042 in B-1-03

Figure 31 - Plan of trenches 2041 and 2111 in B-1-03

Figure 32 - Plan of trenches 2051 and 2053 in B-1-07

Figure 33 - Plan of trenches 2052 and 2070 in B-1-07
Figure 34 - Plan of trenches 2016, 2018, 2127 and 2128 in B-1-08
Figure 35 - Plan of trenches 2015, 2016, 2124, 2125, 2126 and 2127 in B-1-08
Figure 36 - Plan of trenches 2121, 2122 and 2123 in B-1-08
Figure 37 - Plan of trenches 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2061 in B-1-09
Figure 38 - Plan of trenches 2007, 2008, 2058, 2106 and 2107 in B-1-09
Figure 39 - Plan of trenches 2009 and 2057 in B-1-09
Figure 40 - Plan of trenches 2010 and 2011 in B-1-09
Figure 41 - Plan of trench 2032, 2033 and 2063 in B-1-10
Figure 42 - Plan of trenches 2033, 2034 and 2063 in B-1-10
Figure 43 - Plan of trenches 2035, 2047 and 2048 in B-1-10
Figure 44 - Plan of trenches 2030, 2031 and 2062 in B-1-10
Figure 45 - Plan of trenches 2044, 2045 and 2046 in B-1-11
Figure 46 - Plan of trenches 2001, 2003, 2078, 2100 and 2118 in B-1-13
Figure 47 - Plan of trenches 2001, 2002, 2076, 2077 and 2078 in B-1-13
Figure 48 - Plan of trenches 2078, 2095, 2098, 2100, 2113, 2118 and 2119 in B-1-13
Figure 49 - Plan of trenches 2096, 2099, 2117 and 2120 in B-1-13
Figure 50 - Plan of trenches 2024, 2027, 2101, 2102 and 2114 in B-1-14
Figure 51 - Plan of trenches 2024, 2025, 2065, 2104 and 2105 in B-1-14
Figure 52 - Plan of trenches 2024, 2025, 2064, 2065, 2104 and 2105 in B-1-14
Figure 53 - Plan of trenches 2050, 2067 and 2068 in B-1-14
Figure 54 - Plan of trenches 2022, 2023 and 2075 in B-2
Figure 55 - Plan of trenches 2023, 2075, 2097 and 2112 in B-2
Figure 56 - Plan of trench 2131 in B-3-01
Figure 57 - Plan of trench 2141 in B-3-01
Figure 58 - Plan of trench 2142 in B-3-02
Figure 59 - Plan of trench 2145 in B-3-02
Figure 60 - Plan of trenches 2085 and 2129 in B-5
Figure 61 - Plan of trenches 2087, 2130 and 2134 in B-5
Figure 62 - Plan of trench 2088 in B-5
Figure 63 - Plan of trench 2089 in B-5
Figure 64 - Plan of trenches 2090 and 2091 in B-5
Figure 65 - Section drawings 08, 09, 12, 21, 22, 30, 20047 and 20061
Figure 66 - Section drawings 49, 129, 280, 287, 2019, 2023, 2034 and 2053
Figure 67 - Section drawings 33, 40, 43, 106, 157, 131, 200, 2004

Area C

Figure 68 - Plan of area C

Figure 69 - Plan of area C over OS six inch map 1888-1913

Figure 70 - Plan of trenches 3001, 3002, 3003 and 3068 in C-1-01

Figure 71 - Plan of trenches 3003, 3006, 3007 and 3014 in C-1-01

Figure 72 - Plan of trench 3005 in C-1-01

Figure 73 - Plan of trenches 3002, 3004, 3007 and 3015 in C-1-01

Figure 74 - Plan of trenches 3008 and 3010 in C-1-01

Figure 75 - Plan of trenches 3009, 3011 and 3067 in C-1-01

Figure 76 - Plan of trenches 3028 and 3030 in C-1-02

Figure 77 - Plan of trenches 3030 and 3031 in C-1-02

Figure 78 - Plan of trench 3032 in C-1-02

Figure 79 - Plan of trench 3058 in C-1-03

Figure 80 - Plan of trenches 3057, 3062 and 3063 in C-1-03

Figure 81 - Plan of trenches 3059 and 3060 in C-1-03

Figure 82 - Plan of trench 3072 in C-1-03

Figure 83 - Plan of trenches 3037 and 3038 in C-1-04

Figure 84 - Plan of trenches 3033 and 3034 in C-1-05

Figure 85 - Plan of trench 3035 in C-1-05

Figure 86 - Plan of trenches 3039, 3042 and 3070 in C-1-06

Figure 87 - Plan of trenches 3040, 3070 and 3071 in C-1-06

Figure 88 - Plan of trenches 3043, 3044, 3047 and 3049 in C-1-07

Figure 89 - Plan of trenches 3047, 3049 and 3051 in C-1-07

Figure 90 - Plan of trenches 3045, 3046, 3048 and 3050 in C-1-07

Figure 91 - Plan of trenches 3052, 3053 and 3054 in C-1-07

Figure 92 - Plan of trench 3055 in C-1-07

Figure 93 - Plan of trenches 3016, 3017, 3018, 3019, 3021 and 3075 in C-2-02

Figure 94 - Plan of trenches 3019, 3020 and 3064 in C-2-02

Figure 95 - Plan of trenches 3016, 3017, 3021, 3023 and 3066 in C-2-02

Figure 96 - Plan of trenches 3022, 2065 and 3074 in C-2-02

Figure 97 - Section drawings 266, 281, 288, 3021 and 3039

Figure 98 - Section drawings 81, 195, 273 and 3009

Figure 99 - Section drawings 32, 50 and 150

Area D

Figure 100 - Plan of area D
Figure 101 - Plan of area D over OS six inch map 1888-1913
Figure 102 - Plan of trenches 4114, 4115, 4116 and 4122 in D-2-01
Figure 103 - Plan of trenches 4117, 4118 and 4177 in D-2-01
Figure 104 - Plan of trenches 4117, 4120, 4123 and 4177 in D-2-01
Figure 105 - Plan of trenches 4119 and 4124 in D-2-01
Figure 106 - Plan of trenches 4172 and 4173 in D-2-02
Figure 107 - Plan of trenches 4172 and 4173 in D-2-02
Figure 108 - Plan of trench 4175 in D-2-03
Figure 109 - Plan of trench 4175 in D-2-03
Figure 110 - Plan of trenches 4160 and 4164 in D-2-04
Figure 111 - Plan of trenches 4162, 4163, 4165 and 4171 in D-2-04
Figure 112 - Plan of trenches 4166, 4167 and 4168 in D-2-04
Figure 113 - Plan of trenches 4161, 4166 and 4169 in D-2-04
Figure 114 - Plan of trenches 4166 and 4170 in D-2-04
Figure 115 - Plan of trenches 4101, 4102 and 4104 D-3-01
Figure 116 - Plan of trenches 4103 and 4183 in D-3-01
Figure 117 - Plan of trenches 4105 and 4112 in D-3-01
Figure 118 - Plan of trenches 4106, 4107 and 4112 in D-3-01
Figure 119 - Plan of trench 4108 in D-3-01
Figure 120 - Plan of trenches 4109 and 4110 in D-3-01
Figure 121 - Plan of trenches 4109 and 4111 in D-3-01
Figure 122 - Plan of trenches 4095, 4097 and 4100 in D-3-02
Figure 123 - Plan of trenches 4098 and 4099 in D-3-02
Figure 124 - Plan of trenches 4084 and 4086 in D-3-03
Figure 125 - Plan of trench 4085 in D-3-03
Figure 126 - Plan of trenches 4087 and 4091 in D-3-03
Figure 127 - Plan of trenches 4088 and 4090 in D-3-03
Figure 128 - Plan of trenches 4089 and 4090 in D-3-03
Figure 129 - Plan of trench 4072 in D-3-04
Figure 130 - Plan of trenches 4073 and 4078 in D-3-04
Figure 131 - Plan of trenches 4074 and 4081 in D-3-04
Figure 132 - Plan of trenches 4077, 4080 and 4081 in D-3-04
Figure 133 - Plan of trenches 4079 and 4082 in D-3-04
Figure 134 - Plan of trenches 4065, 4067 and 4070 in D-3-05

Figure 135 - Plan of trenches 4066 and 4068 in D-3-05
Figure 136 - Plan of trenches 4053, 4055 and 4063 in D-3-06
Figure 137 - Plan of trenches 4054, 4055, 4058 and 4068 in D-3-06
Figure 138 - Plan of trenches 4056 and 4064 in D-3-06
Figure 139 - Plan of trenches 4057 and 4062 in D-3-06
Figure 140 - Plan of trench 4059 in D-3-06
Figure 141 - Plan of trenches 4060 and 4061 in D-3-06
Figure 142 - Plan of trenches 4010, 4012 and 4030 in D-5-01
Figure 143 - Plan of trenches 4013, 4015 and 4179 in D-5-01
Figure 144 - Plan of trenches 4014, 4016 and 4017 in D-5-01
Figure 145 - Plan of trenches 4018, 4019, 4021, 4178 and 4186 in D-5-01
Figure 146 - Plan of trench 4022 in D-5-01
Figure 147 - Plan of trench 4026 in D-5-01
Figure 148 - Plan of trenches 4020, 4022, 4023, 4026 and 4028 in D-5-01
Figure 149 - Plan of trenches 4024, 4027 and 4029 in D-5-01
Figure 150 - Plan of trenches 4020, 4022, 4025, 4027 and 4029 in D-5-01
Figure 151 - Plan of trenches 4001, 4007 and 4009 in D-5-02
Figure 152 - Plan of trenches 4003 and 4008 in D-5-02
Figure 153 - Plan of trench 4031, 4036 and 4037 in D-6
Figure 154 - Plan of trench 4032 in D-6
Figure 155 - Plan of trench 4033 in D-6
Figure 156 - Plan of trench 4034 in D-6
Figure 157 - Plan of trench 4035 in D-6
Figure 158 - Plan of trenches 4038 and 4041 in D-6
Figure 159 - Plan of trenches 4039 and 4040 in D-6
Figure 160 - Plan of trenches 4032, 4033, 4180, 4181 and 4182 in D-6
Figure 161 - Section drawings 40195, 40225, 40250, 40262 and 40264
Figure 162 - Section drawings 40012, 40169, 40177, 40183, 40188, 40212 and 40234
Figure 163 - Section drawings 176, 220, 40009, 40010, 40061 and 40126

Geoarchaeological Test Pitting

Figure 164 – Test Pit Locations and Elevation (m aOD)
Figure 165 – Land Parcel A Modelled Test Pit Section Locations
Figure 166 – Land Parcel A Modelled Section 2 and 3
Figure 167 – Land Parcel b & C Modelled Test Pit Section Locations
Figure 168 – Land Parcel D Modelled Test Pit Locations

PLATES

Area A

Plate 1: Field A-1-01 Trench 1021 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 2: Field A-1-01 Trench 1021 facing north, representative section (Scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 3: Field A-1-01 Trench 1022 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 4: Field A-1-01 Trench 1024 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 5: Field A-1-01 Trench 1025 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 6: Field A-1-01 Trench 1026 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 7: Field A-1-01 Trench 1026 north-east facing section of ditch [102606] (scale: 1 x 0.4m)

Plate 8: Field A-1-02 Trench 1019 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 9: Field A-1-02 Trench 1019, south-east facing section of ditch [101904] (scale: 1 x 0.4m)

Plate 10: Field A-1-02 Trench 1020 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 11: Field A-1-02 Trench 1023 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 12: Field A-1-03 Trench 1027 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 13: Field A-1-03 Trench 1028 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 14: Field A-1-03 Trench 1029 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 15: Field A-1-03 Trench 1030 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 16: Field A-1-03 Trench 1030, south facing section of furrow [103004] (scale: 1 x 0.4m)

Plate 17: Field A-1-04 Trench 1031 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 18: Field A-1-05 Trench 1038 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 19: Field A-1-05 Trench 1039 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 20: Field A-1-05 Trench 1039, east facing section of [103902] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 21: Field A-1-05 Trench 1040 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 22: Field A-1-05 Trench 1041 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 23: Field A-1-05 Trench 1042 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 24: Field A-1-05 Trench 1043 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 25: Field A-1-05 Trench 1049 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 26: Field A-1-06 Trench 1017 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 27: Field A-1-06 Trench 1018 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 28: Field A-1-06 Trench 1047 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 29: Field A-1-07 Trench 1032 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 30: Field A-1-07 Trench 1053 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 31: Field A-1-07 Trench 1053 West facing section of [105304]. Posthole [105312] within feature. (Scale divisions: 1 x 0.3m)

Plate 32: Field A-1-08 Trench 1036 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 33: Field A-1-08 Trench 1037 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 34: Field A-1-08 Trench 1052 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 35: Field A-1-08 Trench 1052, east facing section of possible ring gully [105202] (scale: 0.3m)

Plate 36: Field A-1-09 Trench 1014 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 37: Field A-1-09 Trench 1015 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 38: Field A-1-09 Trench 1016 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 39: Field A-1-09 Trench 1016, west facing section of ditch [101603] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 40: Field A-1-09 Trench 1033 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 41: Field A-1-09 Trench 1048 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 42: Field A-1-10 Trench 1034 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 43: Field A-1-10 Trench 1034 facing east, west facing section of ditch [103403] (scale: 1 x 0.4m)

Plate 44: Field A-1-10 Trench 1034 north facing section of ditch [103407] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 45: Field A-1-10 Trench 1035 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 46: Field A-1-11 Trench 1003 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 47: Field A-1-11 Trench 1003 west facing section of ditch [100303] (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 48: Field A-1-11 Trench 1005 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 49: Field A-1-11 Trench 1005 south facing section of ditch [100503] (Scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 50: Field A-1-11 Trench 1006 west facing section of ditch [100605] and recut [100613] (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 51: Field A-1-11 Trench 1007 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 52: Field A-1-11 Trench 1008 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 53: Field A-1-11 Trench 1008 south-west facing section of ditch [100802] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 54: Field A-1-11 Trench 1010 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 55: Field A-1-11 Trench 1011 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 56: Field A-1-11 Trench 1012 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 57: Field A-1-11 Trench 1012 south facing section of ditch [101204] (Scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 58: Field A-1-11 Trench 1013 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 59: Field A-1-11 Trench 1013, west facing section of pit [101303] (scale: 1 x 0.3m)

Plate 60: Field A-1-11 Trench 1044 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 61: Field A-1-11 Trench 1044 north facing section of ditch [104405] (oblique; scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 62: Field A-1-11 Trench 1050 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 63: Field A-1-11 Trench 1051 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 64: Field A-1-12 Trench 1001 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 65: Field A-1-12 Trench 1001 south facing section of ditch [100105] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 66: Field A-1-12 Trench 1002 facing west (key contexts: 1002) (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 67: Field A-1-12 Trench 1045 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 68: Field A-1-12 Trench 1046 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 69: Field A-1-12 Trench 1046 south facing section of ditch [104607] (oblique; scale 2 x 1m)

Area B

Plate 70: Field B-1-01 Trench 2012 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 71: Field B-1-01 Trench 2013 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 72: Field B-1-01 Trench 2013 east facing section of ditch [201203] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 73: Field B-1-01 Trench 2013, south-west facing section of ditch [201304] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 74: Field B-1-01 Trench 2014 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 75: Field B-1-01 Trench 2069 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 76: Field B-1-01 Trench 2069 south-west facing section of ditch [206903] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 77: Field B-1-01 Trench 2110 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 78: Field B-1-01 Trench 2115 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 79: Field B-1-01 Trench 2115 south-east facing section of curvilinear ditch [211503] (scale; 1 x 1m)

Plate 80: Field B-1-02 Trench 2036 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 81: Field B-1-02 Trench 2037 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 82: Field B-1-02 Trench 2054 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 83: Field B-1-02 Trench 2055 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 84: Field B-1-02 Trench 2055 north-east facing section of ditch [205502] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 85: Field B-1-02 Trench 2072 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 86: Field B-1-02 Trench 2072 west facing section of ditch [207202] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 87: Field B-1-03 Trench 2038 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 88: Field B-1-03 Trench 2039 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 89: Field B-1-03 Trench 2040 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 90: Field B-1-03 Trench 2041 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 91: Field B-1-03 Trench 2042 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 92: Field B-1-03 Trench 2042 north-west facing section of curvilinear feature [204204] (scale; 1 x 0.4m)

Plate 93: Field B-1-03 Trench 2111 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 94: Field B-1-03 Trench 2111 north-east facing section of curvilinear gully [211105] (scale; 1 x 0.2m)

Plate 95: Field B-1-06 Trench 2017 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 96: Field B-1-06 Trench 2019 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 97: Field B-1-06 Trench 2020 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 98: Field B-1-06 Trench 2073 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 99: Field B-1-06 Trench 2074 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 100: Field B-1-07 Trench 2051 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 101: Field B-1-07 Trench 2052 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 102: Field B-1-07 Trench 2053 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 103: Field B-1-07 Trench 2053 south-east facing section of [205302] (oblique; scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 104: Field B-1-07 Trench 2070 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 105: Field B-1-07 Trench 2071 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 106: Field B-1-08 Trench 2015 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 107: Field B-1-08 Trench 2015 south-west facing section of ditch [201504] (oblique; scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 108: Field B-1-08 Trench 2016 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 109: Field B-1-08 Trench 2018 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 110: Field B-1-08 Trench 2018 north-east facing section of curvilinear gully [201803] (scale; 1 x 1.3m)

Plate 111: Field B-1-08 Trench 2049 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 112: Field B-1-08 Trench 2079 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 113: Field B-1-08 Trench 2121 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 114: Field B-1-08 Trench 2121 west facing section of pit [212102] (scale; 1 x 0.5m)

Plate 115: Field B-1-08 Trench 2121 north-west facing section of ring gully [212104] (scale; 1 x 0.5m)

Plate 116: Field B-1-08 Trench 2122 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 117: Field B-1-08 Trench 2122, south facing section of ditch [212203] (left and ring gully [212205] (right) (scale: 1m, 0.5m & 0.3m)

Plate 118: Field B-1-08 Trench 2123 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 119: Field B-1-08 Trench 2123 west facing section of ditch [212303] (oblique; scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 120: Field B-1-08 Trench 2124 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 121: Field B-1-08 Trench 2124 section of gully [212402] (left) gully [212404] (right) (scale; 1 x 1m)

Plate 122: Field B-1-08 Trench 2125 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 123: Field B-1-08 Trench 2125 south facing section of ring gully [212502] (scale; 1 x 0.4m)

Plate 124: Field B-1-08 Trench 2126 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 125: Field B-1-08 Trench 2126 east facing section of pit [212604] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 126: Field B-1-08 Trench 2127 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 127: Field B-1-08 Trench 2127 south facing section of ditch [212702] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 128: Field B-1-08 Trench 2127 east facing section of ring gully [212704] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 129: Field B-1-08 Trench 2128 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 130: Field B-1-09 Trench 2004 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 131: Field B-1-09 Trench 2004 west facing section of ditch [200403] and recut [200405] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 132: Field B-1-09 Trench 2005 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 133: Field B-1-09 Trench 2005 west facing section of ditch [200516] and recut [200518] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 134: Field B-1-09 Trench 2006 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 135: Field B-1-09 Trench 2006 south facing section of ditch [200606] and recut [200608] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 136: Field B-1-09 Trench 2007 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 137: Field B-1-09 Trench 2007 south facing section of ditch [200703] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 138: Field B-1-09 Trench 2008 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 139: Field B-1-09 Trench 2008 south-west facing section of probable gully [200802] (scale; 1 x 0.3m)

Plate 140: Field B-1-09 Trench 2009 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 141: Field B-1-09 Trench 2009 south facing section of area of rooting [200903] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 142: Field B-1-09 Trench 2010 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 143: Field B-1-09 Trench 2010 north-east facing section of ditch [201008] and recut [201010] (scale divisions: 0.1m)

Plate 144: Field B-1-09 Trench 2011 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 145: Field B-1-09 Trench 2011 east facing section of ditch [201103] (scale; 1 x 1m)

Plate 146: Field B-1-09 Trench 2021 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 147: Field B-1-09 Trench 2056 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 148: Field B-1-09 Trench 2057 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 149: Field B-1-09 Trench 2057 south facing section of ditch [205702] and recut [205704] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 150: Field B-1-09 Trench 2058 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 151: Field B-1-09 Trench 2059 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 152: Field B-1-09 Trench 2059 south-west facing section of ditch [205902] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 153: Field B-1-09 Trench 2060 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 154: Field B-1-09 Trench 2061 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 155: Field B-1-09 Trench 2061 north facing section of ditch [206103] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 156: Field B-1-09 Trench 2106 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 157: Field B-1-09 Trench 2106 north facing section of ditch [210602] and recut [210604] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 158: Field B-1-09 Trench 2107 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 159: Field B-1-09 Trench 2108 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 160: Field B-1-10 Trench 2025 facing south-east (scale; 2 x 1m)

Plate 161: Field B-1-10 Trench 2025 south-west facing section of ditch [202502] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 162: Field B-1-10 Trench 2025 north-east facing section of ditch [202506] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 163: Field B-1-10 Trench 2031 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 164: Field B-1-10 Trench 2031 east facing section of ditch [203102] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 165: Field B-1-10 Trench 2032 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 166: Field B-1-10 Trench 2032 south facing section of ditch [203203] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 167: Field B-1-10 Trench 2032 south facing section of [203203] (oblique; scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 168: Field B-1-10 Trench 2033 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 169: Field B-1-10 Trench 2033 north facing section of ditch terminus [203303] (scale; 1 x 0.3m)

Plate 170: Field B-1-10 Trench 2034 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 171: Field B-1-10 Trench 2034 north facing section of pit/ditch terminus [203403] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 172: Field B-1-10 Trench 2035 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 173: Field B-1-10 Trench 2035 south-west facing section of feature [203504] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 174: Field B-1-10 Trench 2047 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 175: Field B-1-10 Trench 2047 north-east facing section of ditch [204702] (scale; 1 x 1m)

Plate 176: Field B-1-10 Trench 2048 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 177: Field B-1-10 Trench 2048 east facing section of ditch [204803] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 178: Field B-1-10 Trench 2062 north-west facing section of ditch [206208] and recut [206211] (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 179: Field B-1-10 Trench 2063 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 180: Field B-1-10 Trench 2064 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 181: Field B-1-10 Trench 2064 south-west facing section of ditch [206402] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 182: Field B-1-10 Trench 2065 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 183: Field B-1-10 Trench 2065 south-east facing section of ditch [206503] (scale; 1 x 1m)

Plate 184: Field B-1-11 Trench 2043 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 185: Field B-1-11 Trench 2044 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 186: Field B-1-11 Trench 2045 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 187: Field B-1-11 Trench 2046 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 188: Field B-1-11 Trench 2046 north-west facing section of ditch [204603] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 189: Field B-1-11 Trench 2080 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 190: Field B-1-12 Trench 2145 north facing section of ditch [214503] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 191: Field B-1-12 Trench 2146 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 192: Field B-1-13 Trench 2001 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 193: Field B-1-13 Trench 2001 south-west facing section of ditch [200103] and recut [200104] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 194: Field B-1-13 Trench 2002 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 195: Field B-1-13 Trench 2002 east facing section of ditch [200209] and recut [200211] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 196: Field B-1-13 Trench 2002 south facing section of terminus/pit [200217] (oblique; scale 1 x 0.3m)

Plate 197: Field B-1-13 Trench 2003 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 198: Field B-1-13 Trench 2003 south-east facing section of ditch [200303] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 199: Field B-1-13 Trench 2076 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 200: Field B-1-13 Trench 2076 north facing section of ditch [207606] and recut [207604] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 201: Field B-1-13 Trench 2076 facing north, view of modern structural remains and ditch [207629] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 202: Field B-1-13 Trench 2077 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 203: Field B-1-13 Trench 2077 facing east, view of pit [207710] and articulated animal remains (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 204: Field B-1-13 Trench 2078 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 205: Field B-1-13 Trench 2078 facing north view of pits [207802] (left) and [207804] (right) (scale; 1 x 0.5m)

Plate 206: Field B-1-13 Trench 2078 south-east facing section of ditch [207806] (scale; 1 x 1m)

Plate 207: Field B-1-13 Trench 2095 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 208: Field B-1-13 Trench 2095 south-west facing section of ring gully [209502] (scale; 1 x 0.3m)

Plate 209: Field B-1-13 Trench 2096 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 210: Field B-1-13 Trench 2096 north-east facing section of ring gully [209603] (scale; 1 x 0.3m)

Plate 211: Field B-1-13 Trench 2099 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 212: Field B-1-13 Trench 2099 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 213: Field B-1-13 Trench 2099 north-west facing section of ring gully [209908] (scale 1 x 0.2m)

Plate 214: Field B-1-13 Trench 2100 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 215: Field B-1-13 Trench 2100 south facing section of ring gully [210003] (scale; 1 x 0.4m)

Plate 216: Field B-1-13 Trench 2113 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 217: Field B-1-13 Trench 2113 north-west facing section of ditch [211302] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 218: Field B-1-13 Trench 2117 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 219: Field B-1-13 Trench 2117 east facing section of ditch [211703] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 220: Field B-1-13 Trench 2118 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 221: Field B-1-13 Trench 2118 east facing section of ditch [211806] and recut [211804] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 222: Field B-1-13 Trench 2118 south-west facing section of curvilinear gully [211808] (scale: 1 x 0.4m)

Plate 223: Field B-1-13 Trench 2119 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 224: Field B-1-13 Trench 2119 south-west facing section of ditch [211902] (scale; 1 x 1m)

Plate 225: Field B-1-13 Trench 2120 north-east facing section of curvilinear ditch [212007] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 226: Field B-1-14 Trench 2024 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 227: Field B-1-14 Trench 2024 north-west facing section of ditch [202402] (scale; 1 x 1m)

Plate 228: Field B-1-14 Trench 2026 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 229: Field B-1-14 Trench 2026 south facing section of ditch [202603] (scale; 1 x 1m)

Plate 230: Field B-1-14 Trench 2027 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 231: Field B-1-14 Trench 2027 north facing section of ditch [202704] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 232: Field B-1-14 Trench 2028 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 233: Field B-1-14 Trench 2028 west facing section of possible ring ditch [202805] (scale; 1 x 1m)

Plate 234: Field B-1-14 Trench 2029 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 235: Field B-1-14 Trench 2030 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 236: Field B-1-14 Trench 2030 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 237: Field B-1-14 Trench 2030 south facing section of ditch [203014] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 238: Field B-1-14 Trench 2050 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 239: Field B-1-14 Trench 2066 north-west facing section of curvilinear gully [206606] (scale: 1 x 0.3m)

Plate 240: Field B-1-14 Trench 2067 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 241: Field B-1-14 Trench 2067 north facing section of ditch [206704] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 242: Field B-1-14 Trench 2067, mid excavation view of ditch [206704], showing timber {206705} (scales: 0.5m & 0.2m)

Plate 243: Field B-1-14 Trench 2068 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 244: Field B-1-14 Trench 2068 south-west facing section of ditch [206803] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 245: Field B-1-14 Trench 2101 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 246: Field B-1-14 Trench 2101 north facing section of ditch [210105] (scale divisions: 0.1m)

Plate 247: Field B-1-14 Trench 2102 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 248: Field B-1-14 Trench 2102 facing north-east, view of curvilinear feature [210202] and articulated animal skeletons (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 249: Field B-1-14 Trench 2102 south facing section of ring gully [210204] (scale: 1 x 0.3m)

Plate 250: Field B-1-14 Trench 2103 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 251: Field B-1-14 Trench 2104 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 252: Field B-1-14 Trench 2104 west facing section of ditch/natural feature [210402] (scale: 1 x 0.3m)

Plate 253: Field B-1-14 Trench 2105 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 254: Field B-1-14 Trench 2105 north-east facing section of curvilinear feature [210502] (scale: 1 x 0.3m)

Plate 255: Field B-1-14 Trench 2105 south-west facing section of posthole [210506] (scale: 1 x 0.2m)

Plate 256: Field B-1-14 Trench 2114 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 257: Field B-1-14 Trench 2114 east facing section of ditch [211412] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 258: Field B-1-14 Trench 2116 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 259: Field B-2 Trench 2022 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 260: Field B-2 Trench 2022 east facing section of ditch [202209] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 261: Field B-2 Trench 2023 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 262: Field B-2 Trench 2023 east facing section of feature [202303] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 263: Field B-2 Trench 2075 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 264: Field B-2 Trench 2075 north-west facing section of curvilinear gully [207503] (scale: 1 x 0.3m)

Plate 265: Field B-2 Trench 2097 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 266: Field B-2 Trench 2097 north-east facing section of gully [209703] (scale: 1 x 0.4m)

Plate 267: Field B-2 Trench 2112 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 268: Field B-2 Trench 2112 south-west facing section of ditch [211205] and recut [211203] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 269: Field B-3-01 Trench 2131 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 270: Field B-3-01 Trench 2131 north-east facing section of ditch [213102] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 271: Field B-3-01 Trench 2132 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 272: Field B-3-01 Trench 2140 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 273: Field B-3-01 Trench 2141 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 274: Field B-3-01 Trench 2141 north facing section of natural feature [214102] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 275: Field B-3-02 Trench 2142 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 276: Field B-3-02 Trench 2142 west facing section of ditch [214204] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 277: Field B-3-02 Trench 2143 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 278: Field B-3-02 Trench 2144 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 279: Field B-5 Trench 2081 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 280: Field B-5 Trench 2081 south-west facing section of linear feature [208102] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 281: Field B-5 Trench 2082 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 282: Field B-5 Trench 2083 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 283: Field B-5 Trench 2085 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 284: Field B-5 Trench 2085 south-east facing section of ditch terminus [208503] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 285: Field B-5 Trench 2086 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 286: Field B-5 Trench 2087 facing north-east (208700 208701 208702; scale divisions: 0.5m)

Plate 287: Field B-5 Trench 2087 north-west facing section of ditch [208703] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 288: Field B-5 Trench 2088 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 2m)

Plate 289: Field B-5 Trench 2088 west facing section of ditch [208804] (oblique; scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 290: Field B-5 Trench 2089 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 2m)

Plate 291: Field B-5 Trench 2089 south-west facing section of pit [208903] (scale: 1 x 0.3m)

Plate 292: Field B-5 Trench 2090 facing west (scale 2 x 1m)

Plate 293: Field B-5 Trench 2090 south facing section of ditch [209005] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 294: Field B-5 Trench 2091 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 295: Field B-5 Trench 2091 south-east facing section of curvilinear feature [209103] (oblique; scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 296: Field B-5 Trench 2129 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 297: Field B-5 Trench 2130 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 298: Field B-5 Trench 2133 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 299: Field B-5 Trench 2134 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 300: Field B-5 Trench 2134 east facing section of ditch terminus [213403 (oblique; scale: 1 x 0.3m)

Plate 301: Field B-5 Trench 2135 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 302: Field B-5 Trench 2136 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 303: Field B-5 Trench 2137 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 304: Field B-5 Trench 2138 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Area C

Plate 305: Field C-1-01 Trench 3001 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 306: Field C-1-01 Trench 3001 south-west facing section of ditch [300102] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 307: Field C-1-01 Trench 3002 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 308: Field C-1-01 Trench 3002 north facing section of ditch [300204] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 309: Field C-1-01 Trench 3003 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 310: Field C-1-01 Trench 3003 north facing section of ditch [300302] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 311: Field C-1-01 Trench 3004 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 312: Field C-1-01 Trench 3004 north facing section of ditch [300405] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 313: Field C-1-01 Trench 3005 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 314: Field C-1-01 Trench 3005 east facing section of ring gully [300502] (scale: 1 x 0.5m)

Plate 315: Field C-1-01 Trench 3005 south-east facing section of enclosure ditch [300506] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 316: Field C-1-01 Trench 3005 west facing section of ditches [300513] and [300521] (oblique; scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 317: Field C-1-01 Trench 3005 north facing section of curvilinear ditch [300545] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 318: Field C-1-01 Trench 3006 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 319: Field C-1-01 Trench 3007 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 320: Field C-1-01 Trench 3007 south facing section of ditch [300702] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 321: Field C-1-01 Trench 3008 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 322: Field C-1-01 Trench 3008 east facing section of ditch [300802] and recut [300804] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 323: Field C-1-01 Trench 3009 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 324: Field C-1-01 Trench 3010 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 325: Field C-1-01 Trench 3010 north-west facing section of ditch [301005] and recut [301007] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 326: Field C-1-01 Trench 3011 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 327: Field C-1-01 Trench 3011 south-east facing section of ditch [301102] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 328: Field C-1-01 Trench 3011 south-west facing section of ditches [301109] (left), [301110] (right) and recut [301121] (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 329: Field C-1-01 Trench 3013 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 330: Field C-1-01 Trench 3014 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 331: Field C-1-01 Trench 3015 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 332: Field C-1-01 Trench 3015 west facing section of ditch [301504] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 333: Field C-1-01 Trench 3067 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 334: Field C-1-01 Trench 3067 north facing section of ditch [306703] and recut [306708] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 335: Field C-1-01 Trench 3068 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 336: Field C-1-01 Trench 3069 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 337: Field C-1-02 Trench 3027 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 338: Field C-1-02 Trench 3028 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 339: Field C-1-02 Trench 3028 south-west facing section of ditch [302807] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 340: Field C-1-02 Trench 3029 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 341: Field C-1-02 Trench 3030 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 342: Field C-1-02 Trench 3030 south facing section of ditch [303003] and recut [303006] (left) and ditch [303009] and recut [303012] (right) (obliques; scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 343: Field C-1-02 Trench 3031 facing south-west, representative section (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 344: Field C-1-02 Trench 3032 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 345: Field C-1-02 Trench 3032 east facing section of ditch [303203] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 346: Field C-1-03 Trench 3056 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 347: Field C-1-03 Trench 3057 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 348: Field C-1-03 Trench 3057 south-west facing section of ditch [305704] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 349: Field C-1-03 Trench 3059 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 350: Field C-1-03 Trench 3059 east facing section of ditch [305903] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 351: Field C-1-03 Trench 3060 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 352: Field C-1-03 Trench 3060 south-east facing section of ditch [306009] (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 353: Field C-1-03 Trench 3061 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 354: Field C-1-03 Trench 3062 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 355: Field C-1-03 Trench 3062 south-east facing section ditch [306206] and recut [306203] (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 356: Field C-1-03 Trench 3063 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 357: Field C-1-03 Trench 3063 east facing section of ditch [306302] and recut [306305] (scale: 1x 1m)

Plate 358: Field C-1-03 Trench 3063, west facing section of ditches [306315] (left), [306307] (central) and recut [306317] (central) (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 359: Field C-1-03 Trench 3064 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 360: Field C-1-03 Trench 3064 south-west facing section of ditch [306402] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 361: Field C-1-03 Trench 3072 facing east, after excavation (scale 2 x 1m)

Plate 362: Field C-1-03 Trench 3072 facing north east, view of curvilinear ditch [307209] (left) and ditch [307206] (right) (Scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 363: Field C-1-03 Trench 3072 south facing section of ditch [307216] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 364: Field C-1-03 Trench 3072, north facing section of pit [307220] and ditch [307218] (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 365: Field C-1-03 Trench 3073 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 366: Field C-1-04 Trench 3037 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 367: Field C-1-04 Trench 3037, north facing section of ditch [303702] and land drain (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 368: Field C-1-04 Trench 3038 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 369: Field C-1-04 Trench 3038 north-east facing section of ditch [303802] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 370: Field C-1-05 Trench 3033 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 371: Field C-1-05 Trench 3033 north-east facing section of ditch [303303] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 372: Field C-1-05 Trench 3034 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 373: Field C-1-05 Trench 3034, north-west facing section of geological feature [303403] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 374: Field C-1-05 Trench 3035 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 375: Field C-1-05 Trench 3035 north facing section of ditch [303505] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 376: Field C-1-06 Trench 3039 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 377: Field C-1-06 Trench 3039 east facing section of ditch [303918] (oblique; scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 378: Field C-1-06 Trench 3040 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 379: Field C-1-06 Trench 3040 south-west facing section of ditch [304003] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 380: Field C-1-06 Trench 3041 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 381: Field C-1-06 Trench 3042 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 382: Field C-1-06 Trench 3042 north-east facing section of ditch [304203] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 383: Field C-1-06 Trench 3070 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 384: Field C-1-06 Trench 3071 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 385: Field C-1-06 Trench 3071, west facing section of ditch [307110] and recut [307112] (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 386: Field C-1-07 Trench 3043 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 387: Field C-1-07 Trench 3044 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 388: Field C-1-07 Trench 3044 south-west facing section of ditch [304404] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 389: Field C-1-07 Trench 3045 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 390: Field C-1-07 Trench 3045 north facing section of ditch [304502] and recut [304507] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 391: Field C-1-07 Trench 3046 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 392: Field C-1-07 Trench 3046 south-west facing section of ditch [304605] (scale : 1 x 1m)

Plate 393: Field C-1-07 Trench 3047 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 394: Field C-1-07 Trench 3047 south-west facing section of ditch [304706] and recut [304712] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 395: Field C-1-07 Trench 3048 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 396: Field C-1-07 Trench 3048 north facing section of ditch [304802] (right) cut by ditch [304804] (left) (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 397: Field C-1-07 Trench 3049 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 398: Field C-1-07 Trench 3049 south-west facing section of ditch [304902], recut [304904] and second recut [304906] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 399: Field C-1-07 Trench 3050 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 400: Field C-1-07 Trench 3050 north facing section of ditch [305010] and recut [305016] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 401: Field C-1-07 Trench 3051 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 402: Field C-1-07 Trench 3051 south-east facing section of ditch [305102] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 403: Field C-1-07 Trench 3052 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 404: Field C-1-07 Trench 3052 north-east facing section of possible rectilinear enclosure, including ditch [305210] and recuts [305212] [305214], [305216] and [305218] (scale 2 x 1m)

Plate 405: Field C-1-07 Trench 3053 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 406: Field C-1-07 Trench 3054 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 407: Field C-1-07 Trench 3055 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 408: Field C-1-07 Trench 3055 north-east facing section of ditch [305507] (scale: 1x 1m)

Plate 409: Field C-2-02 Trench 3074 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 410: Field C-2-02 Trench 3074, north-west facing section of ditch [307402] (oblique; scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 411: Field C-2-02 Trench 3075 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 412: Field C-2-02 Trench 3016 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 413: Field C-2-02 Trench 3016 east facing section of ditch [301603] and recut [301605] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 414: Field C-2-02 Trench 3016, east facing section of ditch [301611] and recut [301613] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 415: Field C-2-02 Trench 3017 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 416: Field C-2-02 Trench 3017 north facing section of ditch [301713] and recut [301715] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 417: Field C-2-02 Trench 3018 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 418: Field C-2-02 Trench 3018, south-west facing section of ditch [301805] and recut [301802] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 419: Field C-2-02 Trench 3018, west facing ditch [301812] and recut [301816] (oblique: scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 420: Field C-2-02 Trench 3019 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 421: Field C-2-02 Trench 3019 south-west facing section of ditch [301903] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 422: Field C-2-02 Trench 3020 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 423: Field C-2-02 Trench 3020 south-east facing section of ditch [302007] (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 424: Field C-2-02 Trench 3021 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 425: Field C-2-02 Trench 3021, south facing section of ditch [302106], [302109] and recut [302111] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 426: Field C-2-02 Trench 3022 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 427: Field C-2-02 Trench 3022, south facing section of ditch [302210] and recut [302212] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 428: Field C-2-02 Trench 3023 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 429: Field C-2-02 Trench 3023 north facing section of ditch [302303] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 430: Field C-2-02 Trench 3065 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 431: Field C-2-02 Trench 3065 east facing section of ditch [306505) (oblique; scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 432: Field C2-02 Trench 3066 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 433: Field C2-02 Trench 3066 south-east facing section of ditch [306603] and recut [306605] (scale: 1 x 1m)

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Plate 434: Field D-2-01 Trench 4113 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 435: Field D-2-01 Trench 4113 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 436: Field D-2-01 Trench 4114 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 437: Field D-2-01 Trench 4114 north-west facing section of ditch [411411) (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 438: Field D-2-01 Trench 4115 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 439: Field D-2-01 Trench 4115 south-east facing section of possible pond/natural feature (411503), (411504), (411505) (oblique; scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 440: Field D-2-01 Trench 4116 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 441: Field D-2-01 Trench 4116 south facing section of ditch [411604] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 442: Field D-2-01 Trench 4117 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 443: Field D-2-01 Trench 4117 south-east facing section of geological feature [411703] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 444: Field D-2-01 Trench 4118 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 445: Field D-2-01 Trench 4118 south-east facing section of ditch [411803] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 446: Field D-2-01 Trench 4119 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 447: Field D-2-01 Trench 4119 north-east facing section of ditch [411905] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 448: Field D-2-01 Trench 4120 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 449: Field D-2-01 Trench 4120 south facing section of ditch [412010] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 450: Field D-2-01 Trench 4121 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 451: Field D-2-01 Trench 4122 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 452: Field D-2-01 Trench 4122 north-east facing section of ditch [412203] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 453: Field D-2-01 Trench 4123 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 454: Field D-2-01 Trench 4123 south-east facing section of ditch [412308] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 455: Field D-2-01 Trench 4124 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 456: Field D-2-01 Trench 4124 north facing section of geological feature [412409] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 457: Field D-2-01 Trench 4177 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 458: Field D-2-01 Trench 4177 north-west facing section of ditch [417706] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 459: Field D-2-02 Trench 4172 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 460: Field D-2-02 Trench 4173 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 461: Field D-2-02 Trench 4173 west facing section of ditch [417303] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 462: Field D-2-02 Trench 4174 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 463: Field D-2-02 Trench 4184 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 464: Field D-2-02 Trench 4184 east facing section of ditch [418403] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 465: Field D-2-02 Trench 4185 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 466: Field D-2-03 Trench 4175 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 467: Field D-2-03 Trench 4175 north-west facing section of ditch/hedgerow [417503] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 468: Field D-2-03 Trench 4176 north-west facing section of ditch [417607] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 469: Field D-2-04 Trench 4159 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 470: Field D-2-04 Trench 4160 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 471: Field D-2-04 Trench 4160 north facing section of ditch [416003] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 472: Field D-2-04 Trench 4161 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 473: Field D-2-04 Trench 4161 west facing section of ditch [416103] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 474: Field D-2-04 Trench 4162 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 475: Field D-2-04 Trench 4162 north facing section of ditch [416203] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 476: Field D-2-04 Trench 4163 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 477: Field D-2-04 Trench 4163 south-east facing section of ditch[416303] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 478: Field D-2-04 Trench 4164 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 479: Field D-2-04 Trench 4164 east facing section of ditch [416403] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 480: Field D-2-04 Trench 4165 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 481: Field D-2-04 Trench 4165 north-east facing section of ditch [416502] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 482: Field D-2-04 Trench 4166 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 483: Field D-2-04 Trench 4166 west facing section of ditch [416605] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 484: Field D-2-04 Trench 4167 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 485: Field D-2-04 Trench 4167 south-west facing section of ditch [416706] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 486: Field D-2-04 Trench 4168 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 487: Field D-2-04 Trench 4169 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 488: Field D-2-04 Trench 4169 south-east facing section of ditch [416903] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 489: Field D-2-04 Trench 4170 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 490: Field D-2-04 Trench 4170 west facing section of ditch [417003] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 491: Field D-2-04 Trench 4171 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 492: Field D-3-01 Trench 4101 facing north, representative section (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 493: Field D-3-01 Trench 4101 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 494: Field D-3-01 Trench 4101 south facing section of ditches [410103] (left) and [410108] (right) (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 495: Field D-3-01 Trench 4102 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 496: Field D-3-01 Trench 4102 south facing section of ditch [410203] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 497: Field D-3-01 Trench 4103 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 498: Field D-3-01 Trench 4103 west facing section of ditch [410306] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 499: Field D-3-01 Trench 4104 facing north-east, general view showing curvilinear ditches [410410] and [410414] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 500: Field D-3-01 Trench 4104 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 501: Field D-3-01 Trench 4104, north-east facing section of curvilinear ditch [410407] (scale: 1 x 0.5m)

Plate 502: Field D-3-01 Trench 4105 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 503: Field D-3-01 Trench 4105 north facing section of ditch [410505] and recut [410508] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 504: Field D-3-01 Trench 4106 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 505: Field D-3-01 Trench 4106 south facing section of ditch [410603] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 506: Field D-3-01 Trench 4107 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 507: Field D-3-01 Trench 4107 north facing section of ditch [410703] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 508: Field D-3-01 Trench 4108 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 509: Field D-3-01 Trench 4108 west facing section of ditch [410803] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 510: Field D-3-01 Trench 4109 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 511: Field D-3-01 Trench 4109 north facing section of ditch [410903] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 512: Field D-3-01 Trench 4110 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 513: Field D-3-01 Trench 4110 east facing section of ditch [411003] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 514: Field D-3-01 Trench 4111 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 515: Field D-3-01 Trench 4111 north-west facing section of ditch [411103] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 516: Field D-3-01 Trench 4112 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 517: Field D-3-01 Trench 4112 north-west facing section of ditch [411203] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 518: Field D-3-01 Trench 4183 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 519: Field D-3-02 Trench 4094 facing south-west (scale 2 x 1m)

Plate 520: Field D-3-02 Trench 4095 facing west (scale 2 x 1m)

Plate 521: Field D-3-02 Trench 4095 north facing section of ditch [409503] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 522: Field D-3-02 Trench 4096 facing west (scale 2 x 1m)

Plate 523: Field D-3-02 Trench 4097 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 524: Field D-3-02 Trench 4097 south facing section of ditch [409705] and recut [409707] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 525: Field D-3-02 Trench 4098 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 526: Field D-3-02 Trench 4098, west facing section of pit [409805] (right) and ditch [409812] (left) (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 527: Field D-3-02 Trench 4099 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 528: Field D-3-02 Trench 4099 north-east facing section of ditch [409909] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 529: Field D-3-02 Trench 4100 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 530: Field D-3-03 Trench 4083 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 531: Field D-3-03 Trench 4084 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 532: Field D-3-03 Trench 4084 north-wet facing section of ditch [408403] (scale: 1 x 0.5m)

Plate 533: Field D-3-03 Trench 4085 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 534: Field D-3-03 Trench 4085 west facing section of ditch [408505] (oblique; scale: 1 x 0.5m)

Plate 535: Field D-3-03 Trench 4086 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 536: Field D-3-03 Trench 4086 south-east facing section of ditch [408603] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 537: Field D-3-03 Trench 4087 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 538: Field D-3-03 Trench 4088 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 539: Field D-3-03 Trench 4088 north-west facing section of ditch [408804] and recut [408806] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 540: Field D-3-03 Trench 4089 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 541: Field D-3-03 Trench 4089 east facing section of ditch [408905] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 542: Field D-3-03 Trench 4090 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 543: Field D-3-03 Trench 4091 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 544: Field D-3-03 Trench 4092 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 545: Field D-3-03 Trench 4093 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 546: Field D-3-04 Trench 4071 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 547: Field D-3-04 Trench 4072 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 548: Field D-3-04 Trench 4072 north facing section of curvilinear feature/burrow [407207] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 549: Field D-3-04 Trench 4073 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 550: Field D-3-04 Trench 4073 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 551: Field D-3-04 Trench 4073 east facing section of [407302] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 552: Field D-3-04 Trench 4074 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 553: Field D-3-04 Trench 4074 south facing section of ditch [407403] and recut [407405] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 554: Field D-3-04 Trench 4075 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 555: Field D-3-04 Trench 4076 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 556: Field D-3-04 Trench 4077 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 557: Field D-3-04 Trench 4077 south facing section of ditch [407708] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 558: Field D-3-04 Trench 4078 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 559: Field D-3-04 Trench 4078 east facing section of feature [407802] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 560: Field D-3-04 Trench 4079 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 561: Field D-3-04 Trench 4079 south facing section of ditch [407903] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 562: Field D-3-04 Trench 4079 north facing section of ditch [407909] and recut [407914] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 563: Field D-3-04 Trench 4080 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 564: Field D-3-04 Trench 4080 north-west facing section of ditch [408003] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 565: Field D-3-04 Trench 4081 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 566: Field D-3-04 Trench 4081 east facing section of ditch [408103] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 567: Field D-3-04 Trench 4082 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 568: Field D-3-04 Trench 4082 north facing section of ditch [408206] and recut [408202] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 569: Field D-3-05 Trench 4065 facing south-east, representative section (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 570: Field D-3-05 Trench 4065 south-east facing section of ditch [406504] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 571: Field D-3-05 Trench 4066 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 572: Field D-3-05 Trench 4067 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 573: Field D-3-05 Trench 4067 west facing section of ditch [406702] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 574: Field D-3-05 Trench 4068 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 575: Field D-3-05 Trench 4068 west facing section of ditch/natural feature [406802] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 576: Field D-3-05 Trench 4069 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 577: Field D-3-05 Trench 4070 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 578: Field D-3-05 Trench 4070 west facing section of ditch [407002] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 579: Field D-3-06 Trench 4053 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 580: Field D-3-06 Trench 4053 north-west facing section of ditch [405303] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 581: Field D-3-06 Trench 4054 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 582: Field D-3-06 Trench 4055 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 583: Field D-3-06 Trench 4055 south-west facing section of ditch [405503] (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 584: Field D-3-06 Trench 4056 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 585: Field D-3-06 Trench 4057 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 586: Field D-3-06 Trench 4057 north-east facing section of ditch [405705] (oblique; scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 587: Field D-3-06 Trench 4058 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 588: Field D-3-06 Trench 4058 south-east facing section of ditch [405803) (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 589: Field D-3-06 Trench 4059 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 590: Field D-3-06 Trench 4060 north-east facing section of ditch [406003] (oblique; scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 591: Field D-3-06 Trench 4062 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 592: Field D-3-06 Trench 4062 south-west facing section of ditch [406203] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 593: Field D-3-06 Trench 4063 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 594: Field D-3-06 Trench 4064 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 595: Field D-3-06 Trench 4064 east facing section of ditch [406402] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 596: Field D-5-01 Trench 4010 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 597: Field D-5-01 Trench 4010 east facing section of ditch [401004] and recut [401003] (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 598: Field D-5-01 Trench 4011 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 599: Field D-5-01 Trench 4011 north facing section of ditch [401106] and recut [401108] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 600: Field D-5-01 Trench 4012 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 601: Field D-5-01 Trench 4012 south-east facing section of ditch [401202] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 602: Field D-5-01 Trench 4013 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 603: Field D-5-01 Trench 4014 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 604: Field D-5-01 Trench 4014 south-east facing section of ditch [401410] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 605: Field D-5-01 Trench 4015 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 606: Field D-5-01 Trench 4015 north facing section of ditch [401505] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 607: Field D-5-01 Trench 4016 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 608: Field D-5-01 Trench 4016 east facing section of ditch [401603] and recut [401605] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 609: Field D-5-01 Trench 4017 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 610: Field D-5-01 Trench 4017 south-west facing section of ditch [401709] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 611: Field D-5-01 Trench 4018 south facing section of ditch [401812] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 612: Field D-5-01 Trench 4019 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 613: Field D-5-01 Trench 4019 north-east facing section of ditch [401903] and recut [401905] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 614: Field D-5-01 Trench 4020 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 615: Field D-5-01 Trench 4020 south-west facing section of ditch [402016] (scale: 1 x 0.5m)

Plate 616: Field D-5-01 Trench 4020 south facing section of ditch [402022] (scale: 1 x 0.5m)

Plate 617: Field D-5-01 Trench 4021 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 618: Field D-5-01 Trench 4021 north-west facing section of ditch [402103] and recut [402121] (oblique; scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 619: Field D-5-01 Trench 4021 north facing section of ditch [402104] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 620: Field D-5-01 Trench 4021 north facing section of ditch [402123] (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 621: Field D-5-01 Trench 4022 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 622: Field D-5-01 Trench 4022 north-west facing section of ditch [402203] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 623: Field D-5-01 Trench 4022 south facing section of ditch [402236] and relationship with ditch [402238] (scale: 1 x 0.5m)

Plate 624: Field D-5-01 Trench 4023 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 625: Field D-5-01 Trench 4023 north-west facing section of ditch [402313] (scale 1 x 0.5m)

Plate 626: Field D-5-01 Trench 4023 south facing section of gully [402315] (scale: 1 x 0.3m)

Plate 627: Field D-5-01 Trench 4024 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 628: Field D-5-01 Trench 4024 south facing section of ditch [402411] (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 629: Field D-5-01 Trench 4025 facing west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 630: Field D-5-01 Trench 4026 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 631: Field D-5-01 Trench 4026 facing west, showing settling tank [402605] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 632: Field D-5-01 Trench 4026 facing east, showing settling tank [402605] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 633: Field D-5-01 Trench 4026 north-west facing section of ditch terminus/pit [402607] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 634: Field D-5-01 Trench 4026 east facing section of possible ditch terminus [402609] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 635: Field D-5-01 Trench 4027 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 636: Field D-5-01 Trench 4027 north-east facing section of ditch [402708] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 637: Field D-5-01 Trench 4028 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 638: Field D-5-01 Trench 4029 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 639: Field D-5-01 Trench 4030 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 640: Field D-5-01 Trench 4030 west facing section of ditch [403005] and recut [403003] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 641: Field D-5-01 Trench 4030 south-east facing section of large rubbish pit [403007] (oblique, scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 642: Field D-5-01 Trench 4178 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 643: Field D-5-01 Trench 4178 south-east facing section of ditch [417815] (scale: 1 x 0.4m)

Plate 644: Field D-5-01 Trench 4178 facing west, section of pit [417820] (oblique; scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 645: Field D-5-01 Trench 4178, east facing section of pit [417824] and ditch [417826] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 646: Field D-5-01 Trench 4179 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 647: Field D-5-01 Trench 4179 north facing section of ditch [417907] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 648: Field D-5-01 Trench 4186 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 649: Field D-5-01 Trench 4186 south-west facing section of posthole [418606] (scale 1 x 0.4m)

Plate 650: Field D-5-02 Trench 4001 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 651: Field D-5-02 Trench 4001 south-west facing section of ditch [400103] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 652: Field D-5-02 Trench 4002 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 653: Field D-5-02 Trench 4003 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 654: Field D-5-02 Trench 4003 south-east facing section of possible pit [400305] (scale: 1 x 0.4m)

Plate 655: Field D-5-02 Trench 4004 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 656: Field D-5-02 Trench 4005 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 657: Field D-5-02 Trench 4006 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 658: Field D-5-02 Trench 4007 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 659: Field D-5-02 Trench 4008 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 660: Field D-5-02 Trench 4009 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 661: Field D-5-02 Trench 4009 north-east facing section of ditch [400907] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 662: Field D-6 Trench 4031 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 663: Field D-6 Trench 4031 south-east facing section of ditch [403103] (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 664: Field D-6 Trench 4031 south-east facing section of ditch [403122] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 665: Field D-6 Trench 4031, mid-excavation view of pit [403147] showing articulated animal skeleton (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 666: Field D-6 Trench 4032 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 667: Field D-6 Trench 4032 north-west facing section of ditch [403218] and recut [403225] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 668: Field D-6 Trench 4032 facing south-east, showing relationship between pit [403221] (left) and rectangular tank-like pit [403250] (right) (scale: 1 x 0.5m)

Plate 669: Field D-6 Trench 4032, south-east facing section of rectangular feature [403228] with ditches [403235] and [403240] and pit [403227] in foreground (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 670: Field D-6 Trench 4032 west facing section of ditch [403255] and recuts [403261] and [403266] (scale: 2 x 1m and 1 x 0.5m)

Plate 671: Field D-6 Trench 4033 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 672: Field D-6 Trench 4033 north-east facing section of curvilinear ditch [403303] (left) and ditch [403305] (right) (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 673: Field D-6 Trench 4033 east facing section of ditch [403320] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 674: Field D-6 Trench 4034 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 675: Field D-6 Trench 4034 west facing section of ditch [403410] (scale 1 x 1m)

Plate 676: Field D-6 Trench 4035 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 677: Field D-6 Trench 4035 north-east facing section of ditch [403506] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 678: Field D-6 Trench 4036 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 679: Field D-6 Trench 4036 south-west facing section of ditch [403611] (oblique; scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 680: Field D-6 Trench 4037 facing south (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 681: Field D-6 Trench 4037 south-west facing section of ditch [403703] and recut [403706] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 682: Field D-6 Trench 4038 facing north (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 683: Field D-6 Trench 4038 north-east facing section of ditch [403803] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 684: Field D-6 Trench 4039 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 685: Field D-6 Trench 4039 north facing section of possible ring ditch [403912] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 686: Field D-6 Trench 4040 facing south-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 687: Field D-6 Trench 4040 north-east facing section of ditch [404005] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 688: Field D-6 Trench 4041 facing north-east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 689: Field D-6 Trench 4041 south-east facing section of ditch [404107] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 690: Field D-6 Trench 4180 west facing section of ditch 418009) (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 691: Field D-6 Trench 4180 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 692: Field D-6 Trench 4180 west facing section of ditch [418014] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 693: Field D-6 Trench 4181 facing east (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 694: Field D-6 Trench 4181 north-east facing section of ditch [418102] (scale: 1 x 1m)

Plate 695: Field D-6 Trench 4182 facing south-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Plate 696: Field A-1-11 Trench 1007 south-east facing section of 100700) (scale divisions: 0.1m)

Plate 697: Field B-1-12 Trench 2147 facing north-west (scale: 2 x 1m)

Geoarchaeological Test Pits

Plate 698: Test pit 101, Field A-1-01, showing Barroway Drove Beds silty clay below topsoil (max depth 3.00m)

Plate 699: Test pit 102, Field A-1-01, showing Barroway Drove Beds sandy/silty clays below topsoil (max depth 3.00m)

Plate 700: Test Pit 108, Field A-1-02, showing Barroway Drove Beds silty clay above degraded Lower Peat (max depth 3.20m)

Plate 701: Test pit 135, Field A-1-08, showing Barroway Drove Beds sandy/silty clays above degraded Lower Peat (max depth 2.57m)

Plate 702: Test Pit 144, Field A-1-09, showing Barroway Drove Beds silty clays with intercalated peat (max depth 2.57m)

Plate 703: Test Pit 230, Field B-1-10, showing Barroway Drove Beds silty clay below topsoil (max depth 4.00m)

Plate 704: Test Pit 234, Field B-1-10, showing roddon deposits below topsoil and intercalated with Barroway Drove beds (max depth 3.00m)

Plate 705: Test Pit 276, Field B-1-11, showing Barroway Drove Beds silty clay above degraded Lower Peat to 3.97m BGL

Plate 706: Test Pit 302, Field C-1-05, showing roddon deposit below topsoil above Barroway Drove Beds silty clay (max depth 3.80m)

Plate 707: Test Pit 307, Field C-1-05, showing Barroway Drove Beds silty clay below topsoil (max depth 3.63m)

Plate 708: Test Pit 309, Field C-1-01, showing roddon deposit below topsoil above Barroway Drove beds silty clay (max depth 4.14m)
Plate 709: Test Pit 314, Field C-1-02, showing Barroway Drove beds silty clay below topsoil (max depth 3.60m)
Plate 710: Test Pit 449, D-2-01, showing roddon deposits below topsoil above Barroway Drove beds silty clays (max depth 3.50m)
Plate 711: Test Pit 454, Field D-3-04, showing roddon deposits below topsoil above Barroway Drove beds clays (max depth 4.10m)
Plate 712: Test Pit 455, Field D-3-03, showing roddon deposits below topsoil above Barroway Drove beds silty clays, with Lower Peat at 3.27m BGL

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Trench Tables
Appendix 2: Geoarchaeological Test Pit Logs
Appendix 3: Geoarchaeological Tables
Appendix 4: Prehistoric and Roman Pottery Spot Dates by Field
Appendix 5: Prehistoric and Roman Pottery Tabulated Archive
Appendix 6: Post Roman Pottery Summary Catalogue
Appendix 7: Post Roman Spot Dates
Appendix 8: Briquetage Catalogue
Appendix 9: CBM Catalogue
Appendix 10: Mortar
Appendix 11: Fired Clay
Appendix 12: Building Materials and Fired Clay Recorded in the Prehistoric and Roman Pottery Assemblage
Appendix 13: Slag Tables
Appendix 14: The Glass Catalogue
Appendix 15 Animal Bone Catalogue (Hand Collected)
Appendix 16: Animal Bone Catalogue (ABGs)
Appendix 17: Animal Bone Catalogue (Geese from Context (417819))
Appendix 18: Animal Bone Catalogue (Residues)
Appendix 19: Animal Bone Catalogue (Dental)
Appendix 20: Animal Bone Catalogue (Metrics)
Appendix 21: Animal Bone Analysis Tables
Appendix 22: Environmental Samples

Appendix 23: Radiocarbon Dating Results

Appendix 24: Heritage Assets Gazetteer

Appendix 25: Descriptive Acronyms After Troels Smith (1955)

Appendix 26: OASIS Data Summary Form

Appendix 27: Data Management Plan

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 York Archaeology (Nottingham) was commissioned by Meridian Solar Farm Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation in support of the submission of a Development Consent Order application for the proposed Meridian Solar Farm (hereafter referred to as 'the Scheme'). The project code used by YA is 10020.

1.1.2 The Scheme constitutes the total land area under consideration and includes three primary elements; the Photovoltaic (PV) area, the Grid Connection Corridor, and Inter-Array Areas. The PV area comprises approximately 1100ha, the Grid Connection Corridor is approximately 718ha, while the combined Inter-Array Areas are approximately 303ha. The photovoltaic (PV) area of the Scheme only (hereafter referred to as 'the Site'), was subject to archaeological evaluation.

1.1.3 The evaluation involved the excavation of 406 archaeological trial trenches and 209 test pits. The archaeological works were designed to further understanding of the complex Fenland depositional sequence and its relationship with archaeological remains across the Site and to assess the nature of the archaeological resource. The results will contribute to a suite of archaeological assessments aimed to inform the design of a suitable archaeological mitigation strategy. The evaluation follows, and is informed by, a Desk-Based Assessment (Evans 2025), geophysical survey (AOC Archaeology Group 2025a and 2025b) and an aerial survey (Deegan 2024).

1.1.4 The Site is located 10km south-east of Spalding and 2km north and north-east of Crowland (Figure 01), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TF 29061 13240. It covers an area approximately 1100ha in size and consists of four separate parcels of land (Areas A, B, C and D as shown on Figures 01, 02, 03, 04, 24, 25, 68, 69, 100, 101), comprising arable fields, bounded by deep drainage ditches forming a distinctive linear drainage pattern.

1.2 Outline of Archaeological Work

1.2.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance to the project design and detailed methodology laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; York Archaeology 2025), which was devised in accordance with the archaeological specification produced by JBA Consulting (2025). It was also produced in accordance with the guidelines laid out in the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide (Historic England 2015a) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct (2022), Standards for archaeological field evaluation (2023a) and Universal Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2023b). The implementation of the WSI was conducted under the approval and monitoring of the local planning archaeologist (LPA). The evaluation is required to provide further baseline information regarding the nature of heritage assets at the Site, which will be impacted by the development.

1.2.2 The evaluation comprised the excavation of 402 evaluation trenches of 50m length by 2m width, 28 trenches of varying size designed to evaluate areas of salt-making activity, and 10 trenches of varying size designed to maintain an even spread of evaluation trenches around areas of salt-making, as well as 239 test pits of approximately 2m by 2m size.

1.2.3 Results of the previous archaeological surveys and the desk-based assessment suggested the majority of archaeological activity is to be found on the tops or sides of roddons: the silt/sand

raised beds of extinct creeks which form a dendritic pattern throughout the Fens. Trenches were located to target features identified from the results of the geophysical survey, aerial survey and desk-based assessment in order to evaluate their nature, extent and significance. Trenches were also located on areas of the site located on the roddon deposits that appeared to be devoid of features in order to ground truth the lack of archaeological deposits and/or determine the presence and potential of any archaeological deposits that have not been previously identified.

1.2.4 Test pits were sited between the roddons in order to record the stratigraphic sequence of deposits and test that the alluvial sequence outside of the roddons are of sufficient depth to preserve in situ any significant archaeological remains.

1.3 Scope of the report

1.3.1 This report is the full and final report. It includes the full results of the evaluation and the geoarchaeological assessment alongside specialist assessments and a discussion.

1.3.2 The report follows an Interim Statement (York Archaeology 2025b), produced while field work was still ongoing, an Interim Report (York Archaeology 2025c), produced shortly following the completion of the fieldwork and a report concerning a single trench *Meridian Solar Farm Interim Report on an Archaeological Evaluation Trench 3072* (York Archaeology 2026).

2 SITE BACKGROUND

2.1 Site Location and Topography

2.1.1 The Site is centred on NGR TF 29061 13240 located approximately 2km to the north and north-east of Crowland and approximately 10km south-east of Spalding, within the fenland basin of South Lincolnshire (Figure 01). The site is situated to the east of the Fen edge at approximately 1m above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The Site covers an area of approximately 1100ha and comprises four land parcels (A, B, C and D) composed of arable fields, bounded by deep drainage ditches which form a distinctive linear drainage pattern. Of this area, 705ha is covered by trial trenching and test pits; the remaining c. 400ha of the Site has been excluded from the survey as PV panels will not be installed in these areas.

2.1.2 There are a number of farms and associated buildings across the landscape, and the eastern land parcel (Area D) is separated from the western land parcels (Areas A, B and C) by the settlement of Whaplode Drove. Area A is situated west of the A16, while Area B is adjacent to the A16. Areas C and D are situated to the east of Area B (Figure 02).

2.2 Geological background

2.2.1 The Site is located within the historical fenland and contains a complex stratigraphic sequence. The superficial geology for the surrounding region is mapped as Tidal Flat Deposits Clay and Silt. These deposits form the Fenland sequence which covers 400,000ha and form a sequence of peat, silts and clays infilling a basin carved out by ice in the Quaternary period. Area A is located along the eastern bank of the canalised River Welland where Holocene Alluvium is mapped along the course of the channel (York Archaeology 2025). The fens were drained and managed in this area, starting in the Saxon period through the medieval and post-medieval periods, resulting in large landscape changes (ibid).

2.2.2 The bedrock geology, for the majority of the western half of site (Areas A, B, C) is mapped by the BGS (BGS 2025) as Oxford Clay Formation – Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed between 166.1 and 157.3 million years ago during the Jurassic period. In the northern half of Areas A and B a small discrete patch of West Walton Formation mudstone is mapped.

2.2.3 Just 200m to the east, in Area D, is a bedrock fault within the southern half of the area mapped as the West Walton Formation - Mudstone and siltstone; the northern half is composed of West Walton and Ampthill Clay Formation.

2.3 Geoarchaeological Background

2.3.1 As stated above, the Fen basin was formed in the Quaternary with the erosion of the underlying bedrock surface. During the Pleistocene Epoch (2.58 million years ago to 11,700 years ago), the region was subject to a variety of geological processes during alternating cold (glacial) and warm (interglacial) stages, including periods during the early and middle Pleistocene when it has been completely overrun by major icesheets (Table 1). Abundant evidence demonstrates that the Anglian ice sheet extended across the entirety of the Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire region down to the Thames Valley during the Middle Pleistocene (Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) 11; Clark et al. 2004). A subsequent glaciation occurred during the later Middle Pleistocene which deposited extensive deposits of glacial sediment within the region to the west of the site mapped as Glaciofluvial Deposits. During the Ipswichian interglacial the Abbey Sand and Gravel was deposited at Crowland just to the south of Area A and in areas along the western fen margin, which preserve brackish to marine

fauna (Langford and Briant 2004). This glaciation was assigned to the Late Wolstonian period (MIS 6) as a result of the OSL dating of terminal glaciogenic sediment (Gibbard et al. 2021) which gave dates of around 169-212 thousand years ago (ka). The most recent glaciation, the Devensian (MIS 2/3), did not reach the area within which the site is located, however it did greatly influence site formation processes which deposited the underlying superficial geology of the site.

Geological Period	Archaeological Period BP (Before Present) / BC (Before Christ)		Glacial Period	Sea Level
Middle Pleistocene	Palaeolithic–	Lower Palaeolithic (700,000 – 150,000 BP)	Anglian glaciation (480,000 to 425,000 BP)	Low
			Hoxnian interglacial (425,000 to 380,000 BP)	High
			Wolstonian glaciation (380,000 to 130,000 BP)	Low
Late Pleistocene		Middle Palaeolithic (150,000 to 30,000 BP)	Ipswichian interglacial (130,000 to 70,000 BP)	High
			Devensian glaciation (70,000 to 12,000 BP)	Low
		Early Upper Palaeolithic (30,000 to 12,000 BP)		
		Late Upper Palaeolithic (12,000 to 10,500 BP = 8,500 BC)	Flandrian interglacial (12,000 BP to present)	High
Holocene	Mesolithic	(8,500 to 4,000 BC)		
	Neolithic	(4,000 to 2,400 BC)		
	Bronze Age	(2,400 to 700 BC)		
	Iron Age	(700 BC to 43 AD)		
	Romano-British	(43 AD to 410 AD)		
	Early Medieval	(410 to 1066 AD)		
	Medieval	(1066 to 1500 AD)		
	Post-Medieval	(1500 to 1800 AD)		
	Modern	(1800 to Present Day)		

Table 1: Timeline of glacial and archaeological periods

(https://ets.wessexarch.co.uk/recs/outerthamesestuary/archaeology/)

2.3.2 Areas A-D are located within around 15km of the Fen edge which is located on a roughly north-south alignment at Bourne, Lincolnshire. The Fen edge is marked by the extent of River Terrace Deposits as mapped by the BGS. These deposits pertain to the River Welland, with First Terrace deposits lying mainly to the north of the river and cover a large part of the area north-west of Peterborough (Horton 1989). These deposits extend westward along the river valley almost to Stamford and were laid down as a broad fan. Boreholes along the edge of the current canalised course of the River Welland demonstrated First Terrace Deposits (BGS borehole 473522) at 4.98m BGL and comprise a medium dense sandy gravel. The River Welland preserves a relatively complete geological record over the last 140ka years and extensive OSL dating work has been carried out at Deeping St James to better understand the chronological development of the First Terrace (Briant et al. 2004). Here early Devensian deposits were recorded which indicates deposition in periglacial conditions and subsequent reworking under the same cold climate.

Marine Isotope Stage	Pleistocene Stage	Deposit
2-4	Devensian	Upper 1st terrace gravels
5c?	Devensian	Maxey interstadial deposits
5d?	Devensian	1st terrace gravels
5e?	Ipswichian	Maxey interglacial deposits Abbey Gravel
6	Wolstonian	1st terrace gravels
7?	Wolstonian	Maxey basal channels
8?	Wolstonian	Lag gravel in Maxey basal channels 2nd terrace gravels
9?	Wolstonian	March Gravel
10?	Wolstonian	Basal 2nd terrace gravels Upper 3rd terrace gravels
11?	Hoxnian	Woodston Beds
12	Anglian	Basal 3rd terrace gravels Lowestoft Till

Table 2: Revised stratigraphy of the Pleistocene sequence of the Peterborough area (after Bridgland et al. 1991)

2.3.3 As the British ice sheet reached its maximum extent by 27ka BP and during its subsequent regression, a number of proglacial lakes were formed as river drainage was disrupted by ice masses (Clark et al. 2004). Of these, the most prominent was proglacial Lake Humber which may have covered an area of around 4,500 km^2. The extent of glacial Lake Humber has been extrapolated from the Digital Elevation Model of the area by the BRITICE project (Clarke et al 2018). However, the extent of the lake is also suggested to follow the 33m OD contour (Gaunt and Tooley 1974). The evidence for both models has been suggested to be too incomplete to robustly define accurately the limits of the lake and this is something that requires further work (Clarke et al. 2018, 27). Although the site itself is situated within the 100m contour which defines the uppermost limit of the lake, it is difficult to say whether it actually extended as far south as Spalding along the eastern edge of England.

Holocene

2.3.4 The Pleistocene deposits are overlain by Holocene Peat, Alluvium and Tidal Flat Deposits which relate to the marine and estuarine inundation of the fenland margins in response to deglaciation and sea level rise following the Last Glacial Maximum. Here, Tidal Flat Deposits specifically are shallow-marine in origin formed during periods of coastal inundation in this area; 'alluvium', more generally, refers to silt and clays deposited by fluvial action – which may be via river, estuary, floodplains or levees (BGS 2025).

2.3.5 Within the wider Fenland region, the broad Holocene stratigraphic sequence follows that identified within the Fenland Survey (Hayes and Lane 1992) which defined four separate layers as typifying the region.

2.3.6 The lowermost of these Holocene deposits is the Lower Peat which overlies earlier Pleistocene deposits (BGS borehole 473522). This lower peat is rarely recorded in shallow excavations and predominantly located within boreholes (Horton 1989). For the most part this deposit is

largely late Mesolithic in date with a time lag in the landward deposits of the Fen. The contact between the peat and the overlying silts is often erosive leading to differences in ages across the area depending on the levels of erosion by the later marine transgressive episode.

2.3.7 This lower peat unit was then followed by marine/brackish flooding that deposited soft dark grey, slightly humic and silty clays known as the Barroway Drove Beds (Horton 1989). This marine inundation began around the Late Neolithic/Bronze Age (Shennan 1986). These clays were downcut by a complex, dendritic network of channels infilled by silt and fine sand, with individual channels ranging in size from less than 1m deep and 2m across to 10m deep and up to 1km wide.

2.3.8 A successive peat unit, known as the Nordelph Peat, formed over the marine clays at around 1300-1130 calBC/Middle-Late Bronze Age (Shennan 1986) when a relatively rapid transition from a marine-influenced to a fresh water-influenced environment began. This peat formation continued in some areas of Fen through the Iron Age and well into the Romano-British period (Hayes and Lane 1992). When it was succeeded by the Terrington Beds silt unit, a process that began in the Later Iron Age. In many parts of the drained Fen the Nordelph peat unit does not survive and the main deposit relates to the Barroway Drove Beds. The complexity of the deposits was further explored by Hall and Coles (1994) who suggested that these terms created correlations across too broad an area and that the deposits should be referred to as Basal Peat, Intercalated Peat and Upper Peat.

2.3.9 There is a range of borehole data available for the western part of the site mainly in the vicinity of Area A. This data becomes sparse to the west in Areas B, C and D. Many of the boreholes were carried out over 30 years ago and therefore should be accepted as representative with caution given the levels of drainage and soil erosion within this period, particularly in the upper fen sequence.

2.3.10 A borehole located immediately to the south of Area A, BGS borehole 473543, recorded First Terrace Deposits at 6.00m BGL, overlain by an alternating series of peat and silt deposits characteristic of the Fen sequence (Table 3). This log was recorded in 1979 and work throughout the Fens has shown significant degradation of the upper organic deposits which in some instances have completely disappeared.

Stratigraphy	**Lithology**	**Thickness Depth m**	**Depth mbgl**
Alluvium	Soil, indurated greyish-brown loam becoming peaty to base	0.5	0.5
Nordelph peat	Peat extremely silty	0.6	1.1
Barroway Drove Beds	Clay soft mottled grey-brown with peaty pockets	3.6	4.7
Lower Peat	Peat fibrous visible seeds	0.1	4.8
Barroway Drove Beds	Clay as above with much organic matter	0.7	5.5

Stratigraphy	Lithology	Thickness Depth m	Depth mbgl
Lower Peat	Peat as above	0.4	5.9
First Terrace	Sandy clay becoming sandy gravel	2.1	6.0
Oxford clay			8.5

Table 3: BGS borehole 473543 data

2.3.11 To the south-west of Martin's Farm (Area C), there are fewer BGS boreholes but a log from a 1979 BGS borehole 473490 records a similar sequence with peat encountered at 6.40m BGL overlain by Barroway Drove Bed clays. Here there was an absence of upper peats. Here the peat likely overlies the Oxford Clay given the distance from the Welland.

2.3.12 The Fenland survey records a series of maps which provide interpretations for the likely characteristics of the landscape in key periods. Radiocarbon dating carried out by Shennan in the vicinity of Cowbit Wash, to the north of the site, indicates a late Mesolithic date for the lower peat c. 4710-4380 cal BC (Hv-10807 5675 ± 115 BP, Shennan 1986 in Hall and Coles 1994). In addition, as part of the Land Ocean Interaction Study (LOIS) a further series of basal peat dates were recorded at Cowbit Wash (Brew et al. 2000), c. 7157 to 5723 cal BP/ 6070 to 4461 cal BC (late Mesolithic).

2.3.13 This is followed by a short-lived marine/brackish sequence and followed by further peat development in the Late Neolithic before a more extensive marine transgression is recorded representing saltmarsh expansion and coastal reed swamp development in the Iron Age. The later prehistoric period of the site would therefore have been defined by an extensive saltmarsh crossed by intertidal creek systems and the course of the River Welland, which itself would have been characterised by broad levees upon which salt-making activity would have taken place. This salt-making activity continues into the Roman period where this landscape persisted. The recent review of the Late Bronze Age-Iron Age research framework resource assessment highlights the work of Laing (2022) interpreting salt-making as a seasonal process. The mapping of different types of briquetage in Cheshire has helped to establish trade networks, although it is suggested this may not be possible for Lincolnshire as the salt may have been transported in perishable cloth bags (Willis 2023, section 8.8, https://researchframeworks.org/emherf/updated-period-resource-assessment-the-later-bronze-age-and-iron-age/#section-82).

2.3.14 The depositional sequences within roddons has been recorded in the Cambridgeshire fen and such sequences are characterised by laminated sand and silt deposits representing the waxing and waning of energy within the creek system. The majority of the roddon system would have been infilled by the Iron Age and the majority of the creek system relates to Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age positive sea level tendencies.

2.3.15 Crowland, to the south was effectively a peninsula in the early prehistoric period and it likely to have been the focus of settlement, although given the spread of urban development it is not possible to be certain the character of this. Barrows are known but are no longer extant. The river would also have provided a useful communication route and, as has been demonstrated at Must Farm in Cambridgeshire, the creek system, which later formed the roddon system was also easily navigable by boat in the early prehistoric period (Smith 2012).

2.3.16 While the roddon system in the Cowbit parish provided areas of dryland in the Iron Age, which were utilised for settlement and salterns (Hayes and Lane 1992), use of the creeks, rivers and wetland can also be evidenced in the Iron Age and Roman periods. Roman finds from the 19th century such as 20 querns from a possible former course of the River Welland in Crowland Common have been suggested to represent lost cargo (MLI22024). In addition, there are later records relating to fishing and it is to be expected that fixed fishing gear, such as eel traps and wattle and post built fish weirs may be preserved within the channels. In addition, access to the wetland is likely to have been facilitated by ground-level trackways constructed of both timber and stone.

2.3.17 The Welland itself is likely to have been tidal which is now hard to appreciate given the extensive changes to the landscape due to the installation of medieval flood defences and the creation of Cowbit Wash. The realignment of the river is suggested to have Saxon origins and may relate to management and drainage of the Fens by Crowland Abbey. This continued into the 17th century with locks and canals installed to control the navigation of the river. Further changes to the surrounding landscape in the medieval period are noted in the historical record with entries relating to the invasion of 'Men of Holland' on the land enclosed by the abbey due to the shortage of pasture in the surrounding area caused by the fen drying out in the 12th century (Roffe 1993). The river itself was recorded as sluggish and prone to silting, like many lowland rivers in the medieval period and overbank flooding was common, leading to the deposition of silts across wide areas sealing former land surfaces and traces of earlier human activity.

2.3.18 The enclosing of the fen with banks in the medieval period was part of land reclamation which saw an intensification of agricultural exploitation for sheep and cows. The drying fen was more suitable for pastoral activities than arable farming. Regionally the role of secondary products such as milk and cheese are poorly understood due to the lack of organic residue analysis on suitable ceramics.

Conclusions

2.3.19 The site has the potential to preserve important interdigitated river Welland alluvial sequences and tidal creek/roddon system deposits, as well as multiple horizons of archaeological material relating to salt-making and pastoral exploitation of the associated saltmarsh. A broad understanding of the depositional sequence for the Fenland is established although there are variations in the timings of sedimentation on a site scale and the deposits themselves have yet to be modelled. Understanding the timing of the onsets of the changing marine/freshwater depositional environments in relation to relative sea level rise remains an outstanding research question. In addition, understanding the timings of the infilling of the roddon system in relation to human activity and exploitation in the later prehistoric period is also important for the prospection for archaeological sites.

2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.4.1 The following section has been compiled using evidence contained in the Aerial Survey Report (Deegan 2024), Geophysical Survey (AOC Archaeology 2025a and 2025b) and the draft of Meridian Heritage Desk Based Assessment (Evans 2025).

Palaeolithic to Bronze Age (c.800,00 BC – 800 BC)

2.4.2 There are no records of remains of this date at or around the Site, however the major Bronze Age site of Flag Fen (PHER 8188; NRHEUID 871837) and the Late Neolithic–Early Bronze Age

settlement of Must Farm (PHER 51413) are located approximately 15km and 17km respectively, to the southwest of the Site.

Iron Age and Roman (c. 800 BC – AD 420)

2.4.3 Within the Fens, settlement of this period is typified by enclosures featuring roundhouses and frequently linked by trackways and field systems (Mattingly 2006, 392-393). Drainage of the fenland is known to have begun taking place in the Roman period and the Fens have been subject to permanent or intermittent settlement from this time (Hayes and Lane 1992, 1).

2.4.4 The majority of evidence for Iron Age activity around the Site comes from salt-making sites (salterns). A concentration of these sites run down the southern fen edge and well into the southern fens. The largest concentration occurs in the parish of Cowbit (located just north of Land Parcel B), where 13 salterns of Iron Age date were identified during the Fenland Survey, two of which (COW 25 and COW 26) were subject to excavation (Lane and Morris 2001, 13).

2.4.5 A total of 20 Roman querns were recovered from Crowland Common in the 19th century, and have been suggested to represent lost cargo.

2.4.6 Three coin hoards are recorded in the Portable Antiquities Scheme database recovered from the vicinity of the site: IARCH-A658C and IARCH-D83BAD were acquired by Stukeley in the 18th century and appear to have contained coins of Roman date. These two hoards are said to have been discovered near Crowland (to the south of Area A) and Gedney Hill (to the south of Area D). IARCH-8E0A2C was found by metal detectorists in 2000 and recovered by a combination of hand and machine excavation by the detectorists and the farmer. It consisted of 20 Corieltavian gold staters. The location of this find is given as Whaplode Drove, which lies between Area C and Area D.

2.4.7 There are two Scheduled Monuments of possible Iron-Age/Romano-British date within the study area, which are characterised by dense concentrations of archaeological features, including ditches, ditched enclosures, possible salterns or roundhouses and potential droveways which have been protected as Scheduled Monuments (1004978 and 1004979).

2.4.8 The DBA recorded 80 heritage assets and events within its study area. These relate, for the most part, to extensive settlement sites comprising areas enclosed by ditches. These are often found in association with salt production sites containing remains of salterns as well as scatters of pottery. Settlements are primarily identified from cropmarks seen on aerial photographs. Evidence of Romano-British settlements and enclosures within the Site are visible on oblique aerial photographs taken by Historic England (Historic England 2024b), and have been identified through geophysical survey in fields such as C-2-05, C-2-04, C-2-02, C-2-03, C-2-01, C-1-08, D-6, D-3, D-1-01, and D-1-02. The locations are also indicated from pottery scatters identified during fieldwalking. Roman field systems are seen alongside the settlements and industrial sites, sometimes featuring drove roads. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at North Road (ELI4597), which uncovered two late 1st to early 2nd century ditches which evidence agricultural activity at Gedney Hill at this time.

2.4.9 The aerial survey (Deegan 2024) identified numerous features dated to the Iron Age or Roman period including settlements, salt production sites, boundaries, trackways, drove roads and field systems, many of which are recorded as monuments in the HER or have been protected through scheduling. This work has been further supported by geophysical survey at the site, which has identified anomalies correlating to those features identified during the aerial survey, as well as additional anomalies not previously identified.

2.4.10 In Area C, a swathe of Iron Age or Roman settlement or salt production features flank a trackway that runs through the centre of a broad roddon that runs south-west-to-north-east through the Site. This trackway runs through fields C-2-02, B-1-13 and B-1-09, with associated features extending into B-1-10 and B-1-14. The geophysical survey confirmed the findings of the aerial survey and identified sub-rectangular enclosures, circular features and linear features. These may represent known components of salt production sites including feeder channels, settling tanks and hearths/ovens, as identified through previous work in Lincolnshire (Lane and Morris 2001, 90). These features may be associated with Scheduled Monument 1004978 and 1004979.

2.4.11 The western limit of these features in Area B coincides with a substantial linear feature that runs north-to-south through B-1-09, B-1-10 and B-1-11. This feature may have been a boundary between settlement and saltmarsh or possibly a route or trackway connecting areas of higher ground. The geophysical survey has identified potential salt production features to the west of this possible boundary, primarily circular features lying atop the lesser roddons that meander through fields B-1-09, B-1-07, B-1-08, B-1-06, B-1-05, B-1-01, B-1-02 and B-1-03. The evidence for activity seems to lessen westward across the site, but features were still present in B-1-01.

2.4.12 There are multi-foci settlement, trackways and other features on the western flank of the wide silt ridge in C-1-06, C-1-07 and C-1-08. A possible medieval drove road cuts through these features on a north-east-to-south-west orientation. In C-1-01, C-1-03 and C-1-08 features correlating with Scheduled Monument 1004979 were identified by the aerial survey and geophysical survey. These features appear to extend beyond the boundaries of the Scheduled Monument, extending into C-1-01, C-1-03 and C-1-08. In C-2-01 and C-2-03 are features correlating with Scheduled Monument 1004979. These features appear to extend outside of the boundaries of the Scheduled Monument into C-2-03 and C-2-01. A double ditched linear feature, likely a trackway, appears to lead out from the Scheduled Monument to a T-junction, before turning south-west towards the features described above within C-2-02, B-1-13, B-1-09, B-1-10 and B-1-14.

2.4.13 Area D to the west of Whaplode Drove also contains a concentration of features likely to represent Iron Age or Romano-British settlement or salt production remains. In D-1-01, D-1-02, there is an arrangement of sub-rectangular enclosures and linear boundary features which may represent an Iron Age or Romano-British settlement. In D-2-01 similar features are seen coinciding with the course of a lesser roddon that crosses east-to-west through this field. Features of potential Iron Age or Roman date, including field boundaries, salt production remains and boundary banks are also seen in fields D-3-01, D-2-01, D-2-02, D-2-04, D-3-02, D-3-03, D-3-04, D-3-05, D-3-06 and D-4.

2.4.14 In D-6 the aerial survey identified field boundaries and a potential trackway of Iron Age or Roman date. The geophysical survey identified additional features including sub-rectangular enclosures as well as circular features, indicating a potential settlement or salt production site. Enclosures, trackways and boundaries were also identified within D-5-01 with features here likely representing an Iron Age or Romano-British enclosed settlement site.

2.4.15 Metal detecting in field D-5-01 on 11/09/22, reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme, recovered two Roman copper alloy brooches (SWYOR-052B61 and SWYOR-050746), and a very worn copper alloy coin of an empress (SWYOR-04978B).

2.4.16 Within Area A evidence of Iron Age or Romano-British activity is less well represented. A number of small circular features, potentially salterns, ring ditches or round houses, have been identified in parcels A-1-07, A-1-08, A-1-10 and A-1-11 from the geophysical survey

Medieval (c. AD 410–1485)

2.4.17 The site lies within the bounds claimed by Crowland Abbey, and possibly forms part of that area disputed by the men of Holland, as recorded in the *Chronicle of the Abbey of Crowland* (Roffe 1993). Crowland Abbey was founded in the 8th century, and has been shown to lie within a complex multi-period landscape, reoccupying and transforming prehistoric monumental features, and potentially importing material from Roman sites in the vicinity (Wright and Willmott 2024).

2.4.18 Within the study area of the DBA the medieval period is represented primarily by features relating to rural settlement or rural activities.

2.4.19 The Aerial Survey (Deegan 2024) identified a triple ditched linear feature that traversed C-1-06 and C-1-08 and may represent the remains of a medieval drove road. Other long straight ditches run parallel to this road and may be of a similar date. In field B-5 a long linear feature crosses the site parallel to Queen's Bank, which is identified as a Drove Road in the HER (MLI20346). However, the feature is aligned to a Scheduled feature to the east which is described as the northern boundary of the monastic lands of Crowland Abbey. Elsewhere in the site the aerial survey also identified features representing medieval strip fields and ridge and furrow.

2.4.20 Metal detecting in field A-1-11, reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme, recovered fragments of a medieval or post-medieval copper alloy vessel leg (LIN-84B6E8).

Post-medieval (AD 1485–1750)

2.4.21 Saxton's map of Lincolnshire of 1576 depicts the area of the Site as dry land located to the south of 'The Wasshe'. Spalding, Crowland, Weston, Moulton, Whaplode Drove (Whaplode Drove), and Cowbit are all shown as settlements on the map. The area in which the Site sits is additionally labelled as 'Flete fen'.

2.4.22 Within the study area the post-medieval period is primarily represented by rural farmsteads of 19th century date, many of which survive as partially redeveloped structures that are still in use on operational farms, though many have also been demolished.

2.4.23 The First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6 inch map of 1887 depicts Area A-1 located just to the south of the 'Wash Bank', an embankment running along the north edge of the Site; at this date this area was divided into smaller fields than at present (OS 1887a and OS 1887b). A group of buildings annotated as 'Cloot House Farm' is depicted within the Site at approximately TF 25430 14640 (MLI23854, A-1-12). Modern aerial imagery shows that these buildings are no longer extant; foundations associated with these structures may survive. Other structures identified within the Site include a small structure annotated as 'Old Barn' located at approximately TF 24272 13727 (MLI123863, A-1-02, A-1-05) and another small structure annotated 'Bottom Yard' located at approximately TF 25089 13408 (MLI123862, A-1-11). Another farmstead 'Lodge Farm' is shown within W-1-08 at TF 2439 1300 (MLI123864).

2.4.24 Part of the east border of B-1 is defined by what was once the Great Northern and Great Eastern Joint Railway, the route of which is still visible on aerial photographs. A complex of buildings annotated as 'Whipchicken Farm' is shown on the First Edition OS 6 inch mapping

within the Site at TF 27408 13103 (MLI123861, B-1-10; OS 1887c). A small building set within a small coppice of trees sits at this location, and may be related to this historic farmstead, although any other buildings relating to the farm have been demolished. A second farmstead is also shown within B-1-13 on the first edition OS map, annotated as 'Whitebread Farm', located at approximately TF 28369 13537 (MLI123860). This farmstead appears to have been completely demolished as no remains are visible on aerial photos, although below ground remains may survive.

2.4.25 At C-1 and C-2 a cluster of buildings (likely a farmstead) annotated as 'Shepherd's House' is located at TF 30448 12919 (MLI123880, C-1-08; OS 1887c), no features associated with this farmstead are visible on modern aerial photos and the complex appears to have been demolished.

2.4.26 In Area D the historic land boundaries and field layouts are largely preserved, with only minor alterations from those seen on the late-nineteenth-century mapping (OS 1887d; Figure 101). At the north edge of D-2-01 a small building is depicted on the first edition OS that partly crosses with the Site (MLI123531). This building is no longer extant but remains may exist below ground level. A body of water is shown within D-3-01 which no longer exists, as is a small structure labelled as 'Sheepfold'. Two small buildings are also shown within D-5-01 located at TF 33750 13084 and TF 33787 13148 which no longer survive.

2.4.27 Between D-5 and D-6 two farmsteads are shown, Fleet Coy Farm (MLI123534) and Waltons Farm (MLI123535), both of which are still extant.

2.4.28 The aerial survey (Deegan 2024) also identified various post-medieval features within the Site including strip fields, ridge and furrow and post-medieval field boundaries removed in the 20th century.

Modern (AD 1750 to Present)

2.4.29 A German Dornier bomber 217 F8+CN 4279 crashed with bombs on board within field D4 of the Site during World War II, in July or August 1942 (RAF Air Historical Branch, *pers. comm.* to Fiona Lee 11/04/2025). Information from the Ministry of Defence indicates that the crew bailed out prior to the crash and all survived; no further information is known about the fate of the aircraft structure and contents, although it was likely a high-speed impact and therefore the remains may be deeply buried. The geophysical survey identified a spread of highly elevated magnetic responses in D-4 that may potentially be linked to this event.

2.5 Previous Archaeological Works

2.5.1 Being a sparsely populated rural area, there have been few archaeological interventions prompted by development projects. Two exceptions are the scheme of archaeological works instigated ahead of the construction of the A16, known as the A1073 Spalding to Eye Improvement Scheme (Failes and Peachey 2013) and archaeological evaluation trenching at Holbeach Drove Gate and Holbeach Drove (Pre-construct Archaeology Ltd 2006; 2023).

2.5.2 Archaeological evaluation along the route of the A1073 (now A16) running along the west edge of Area B uncovered numerous archaeological features, most of which lay outside of the 1km study area of the desk-based assessment. Subsequent excavations (Failes and Peachey 2013) to the south of Cowbit investigated sites of Iron Age and Roman date. Of particular interest is Site 4, located c. 300m north of Field B5 where a two-phase Roman saltern was revealed. It appeared that flooding had ended the first phase of salt production and created a

new land surface over the western part of the saltern. The saltern then appeared to have been quickly dismantled, with large fragments of briquetage being discarded in the eastern area of the enclosure ditch, the only part of the ditch which hadn't been entirely silted up when the flooding occurred. A second enclosure was then dug alongside settling tanks and salt-making continued. Interestingly, outside of the saltern, in the south-eastern corner of that site, a deposit containing an unusual assemblage of Roman material, including fragments of a triple vase, a preponderance of drinking vessels and a fragment of *patera* pan handle, a rare item often associated with the army, was excavated. Triple vases are elaborate items with an assumed ritual function and *paterae* may also have been used ritually, possibly during funerary rites (Woodfield 2005, 209-11). This is a very unusual assemblage for a rural Roman site and suggests the occurrence of ritual activity nearby.

2.5.3 Investigations by Pre-construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) at Holbeach Drove Gate (2006) and Holbeach Drove (2023) took place in fields adjacent to Land Parcel D with trenches targeting the extensive potential cropmarks of Iron Age / Roman Date in the area. A number of ditches were identified which relate to the cropmarks. However, no dateable material was recovered during the investigations. It was noted that the ditches differed from each other in morphology suggesting that the cropmarks may not all be contemporaneous.

3 RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

3.1 Planning context

3.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken ahead and in support of the submission of a Development Consent Order application for the proposed Meridian Solar Farm.

3.2 Legislation

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979

3.2.1 Scheduled Monuments are designated by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as selective examples of nationally important archaeological remains. Part 1, Section 1 and 2 of the Act set out guidelines for the process of selection of sites to be included in the protected schedule. Part 1, Section 2 provides legal protection for Scheduled Monuments; it states that it is an offence to damage, disturb, or alter a Scheduled Monument without permission of the Secretary of State. Although the Act does protect the ground below Scheduled Monuments, it does not protect the wider setting of the monument.

Planning Act, 2008

3.2.2 The 2008 Act provides a consenting regime for granting planning and other consents for nationally significant infrastructure projects. The Act states that Historic England will act as a statutory consultee on all NSIP projects, and that the local authority must also be consulted about the proposed application. Section 32 of the Act defines “development” has having the same meaning as in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. For the purposes of the Planning Act, the following works are taken to be development; demolition, alteration or extension of a listed building which would affect its character, demolition of a building in a conservation area, demolition, destruction or damage to a Scheduled Monument, works to remove or repair a Scheduled Monument, works to make any alterations or additions to a Scheduled Monument, flooding or tipping operations on land in, or under which there is a Scheduled Monument.

3.3 National Planning Policy

National Policy Statements (NPS) for Energy EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5

3.3.1 The NPS EN-1 (DESNZ, January 2026) defines the government's policy statement for energy. The statement provides the definition of the historic environment and information on appropriate levels of assessment of energy proposals that have the potential to impact upon the historic environment. Paragraph 5.9.12 states that the applicant should ensure that the extent of the potential impact on the significance of any heritage asset as a result of the proposed development must be adequately understood from the application. The applicant is also encouraged, where opportunities exist to make a positive contribution to the historic environment through options such as sensitive design, public benefits and enhanced access or interpretation (paragraph 5.9.13).

3.3.2 NPS EN1 states (paragraph 5.9.19) "*Where the loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset’s significance is justified, the Secretary of State will require the applicant to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is lost (wholly or in part). The extent of the requirement should be proportionate to the asset’s importance and significance and the impact.*" Where deemed appropriate the Secretary of State will impose requirements

on the Development Consent Order to ensure that the required works are undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigations and the NPS policies. The scope of this work is to be agreed with the local authority (paragraph 5.9.20).

3.3.3 Within the NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3, DESNZ, December 2025) when considering the impact on the historic environment and whether it is satisfied that the substantial public benefits would outweigh any loss or harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, the IPC should take into account the positive role that large-scale renewable projects play in the mitigation of climate change, the delivery of energy security and the urgency of meeting the Clean Power 2030 Mission and net zero target.

3.3.4 The NPS EN5 (DESNZ, December 2025) sets out the government's policy statement in regard to electricity networks infrastructure. The document requires that the potential effects of heritage assets as a result of overhead lines and buried cables contribute of the consideration of the options. Paragraph 2.9.25 also determines that an overhead line will take preference over a buried cable unless it can be demonstrated that the benefit of a buried option clearly outweighs the extra economic, social or environmental impacts it presents.

National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2026)

3.3.5 The National Planning Policy Framework sets out guidelines for achieving sustainable development, based on the core objectives: economic, social, and environmental. Protecting and enhancing the historic environment is just one element contributing to the realisation of these objectives. Section 20 details the policies for protecting and enhancing the historic environment during planning procedure and decision making.

3.3.6 For proposals affecting heritage assets, NPPF states that in determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance (Policy HE5). This policy also states that where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developments to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

3.3.7 The NPPF Policy HE6 states that when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, substantial weight should be given to the asset's conservation, and that this weight should be proportionate to the asset's importance, irrespective of the level of harm (i.e. substantial, total loss or less than substantial). Any potential harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset should be refused unless it can be demonstrated that the harm is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh the harm or loss or if the heritage asset meets a series of criteria regarding its conservation and viability (Policy HE6, paragraph 5). Should a proposal lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposed development, including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use (Policy HE6, paragraph 4). The policy also states that non designated heritage assets that the decision maker deems to be of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments should be considered subject to the policies affecting designated heritage assets.

3.3.8 In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required regarding the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset (Policy HE7).

3.3.9 Policy HE10 applies to designated and non-designated heritage assets subject to loss or removal. The policy states that development should not be approved without ensuring that all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that development proceeds after the loss has occurred. The developer/applicant should be required to record and advance the understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost wholly or in part, in a manner appropriate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. Where feasible, heritage assets should be preserved in situ, but where there is not possible appropriate provision should be made for the investigation, understanding, recording, dissemination and archiving of that asset, which should be undertaken by suitably-qualified individuals or organisations. Where appropriate the monument should be supported by an explanation of its historic and social context.

Planning Practice Guidance (MHCLG 2019)

3.3.10 The Planning Practice Guidance (MHCLG 2019) provides further advice and guidance that expands the policy outlined in the NPPF. It expands on terms such as 'significance' and its importance in decision making and also provides advice on how proposals can avoid or minimise harm to the significance of a heritage asset. The Guidance also covers the setting of heritage assets, how the setting can contribute towards the significance of a heritage asset and how the proposed Scheme can interact with the setting of an asset. The guidance also provides advice on various other matters including;

- Whether the deteriorated state of a heritage asset should be taken into account in reaching a decision on an application.
- What is the optimum viable use for a heritage asset and how is it taken into account in planning decisions.
- How can the possibility of harm to a heritage asset be assessed?

3.4 Local Planning Policy

South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (SELLP) 2011-2036 (Adopted March 2019)

3.4.1 The Local Plan for South Holland District Council is jointly produced with Boston Borough Council and Lincolnshire County Council. The Local Plan will guide development and the use of land in South East Lincolnshire from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2036. Of relevance is Policy 29: The Historic Environment:

Distinctive elements of the South East Lincolnshire historic environment will be conserved and, where appropriate, enhanced. Opportunities to identify a heritage asset's contribution to the economy, tourism, education and the local community will be utilised including:

- *The historic archaeological and drainage landscape of the Fens;*
- *The distinctive character of South East Lincolnshire market towns and villages;*
- *The dominance within the landscape of church towers, spires and historic windmills;*

To respect the historical legacy, varied character and appearance of South East Lincolnshire's historic environment, development proposals will conserve and enhance the character and

appearance of designated and non-designated heritage assets, such as important known archaeology or that found during development, historic buildings, conservation areas, Scheduled Monuments, street patterns, streetscapes, landscapes, parks (including Registered Parks and Gardens), river frontages, structures and their settings through high-quality sensitive design.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 Aims

4.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation were:

- To identify the presence of any archaeological deposits or features that may be impacted by the proposed PV modules, electricity generating infrastructure, and a battery energy storage (BESS) facility;
- To ground truth, in seemingly 'blank' areas of the site, the lack of archaeological deposits and/or determine the presence and potential of archaeological deposits not previously identified;
- To test the stratigraphic sequence and record the depths of deposits across the site;
- To test the assumption that the alluvial deposits outside of the roddons are of sufficient depth to preserve any deposits of archaeological significance in situ with consideration given to levels of oxidation and hydrological regime;
- To produce a report presenting the results of the fieldwork which can be used to inform the Environmental Statement which will form part of the Development Consent Order application;
- To inform any further archaeological evaluation or mitigation which may be carried out as part of the proposed development.

4.2 Objectives

4.2.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to:

- Identify, characterise and record any archaeological features or deposits that are present within the evaluation trenches;
- evaluate a representative sample of any remains that have been identified;
- ascertain the extent, depth, character, date, significance and condition of archaeological remains;
- recover finds and environmental samples for post-excavation assessment;
- understand the archaeological potential across the site with reference to the historic landscape and other evidence;
- ensure the reporting meets with national standards and guidance;
- provide evidence to determine what further archaeological work may be required; and
- provide evidence to inform design of the development if appropriate.

4.3 Research Agenda

4.3.4 The site provided an unusual opportunity to investigate the spatial arrangement of an Iron Age/Roman salt-producing landscape. Various questions were outlined in the WSI

- are areas of salt production distinctly defined?;
- are such areas separate from areas of domestic settlement?;
- does such spatial definition, if present, persist through time?; and

- can the location of such areas be related to geological and environmental factors beyond the presence of roddons?

4.3.5 The evaluation also contributed to selected Research Themes and Objectives outlined in the *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (www.researchframeworks.org/emherf), and for the *East of England Research Framework* (https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/research-agenda/). The research themes and objectives set below were organised prior to the fieldwork.

4. Late Bronze Age and Iron Age (c.9500-c.4000 cal BC)
4.1 Dating
4.1.1: How can we maximise the potential of scientific dating methods as tools for refining the regional chronological framework for the first millennium BC?
4.1.2: How can we refine further the ceramic chronology for the first millennium BC?
4.2 Site visibility, prospection and landscape exploration
4.2.1: What mechanisms may underlie intra-regional variations in site densities?
4.2.2: May the density and/or spatial extent of settlements of particular types and periods and within particular landscape zones be underestimated?
4.2.3: How can we expand our knowledge of first millennium BC activity in areas with a poor record of settlement
4.4 Middle Iron Age settlements (c.450-100 BC)
4.4.1: Why were settlements increasingly enclosed during this period and to what extent may the progress of enclosure have varied regionally?
4.5 Late Iron Age settlements (c. 100 BC – AD 50)
4.5.3: How may nucleated and other settlements have developed in the Roman period?
4.6 Field systems and major linear boundaries
4.6.1: Can we shed further light upon the development of field and boundary systems?
4.6.2: What were the economic, social or political roles of the pit alignments and linear ditch systems that characterised many areas of the East Midlands?
4.6.3: What may we deduce from studies of linear boundaries with respect to changes in the agrarian landscape?
4.7 Ritual and structured deposition and religion
4.7.1: What is the nature of structured deposits in this region and may sub-regional patterns or trends be discerned?
4.7.2: What roles may wet and other natural locations have performed and how might these have changed over time?

4.7.3: How may studies of boundaries within, around and between settlements contribute to analysis of structured deposits?
4.8 The agricultural economy and landscape
4.8.2: How may diet and land-use have varied over time and between different ecological zones? Can we identify specialist pastoral zones and elucidate coastal resource exploitation strategies?
4.8.3: How may agricultural changes have impacted upon settlement patterns? Can the relationship between sedentary and mobile economies be clarified, and how did this vary spatially and over time?
4.8.4: What was the impact of climate change upon farming practices, especially in upland areas such as the Derbyshire Peak?
4.9 Finds, craft, industry and exchange
4.9.1: How can we add to our existing knowledge of industries and crafts in this region, particularly the extraction and smelting of iron and lead, salt production and quern manufacture?
4.9.3: What can we determine from artefact studies about trade and exchange and the role of coinage?
4.10 Social relations and society
4.10.1: What social and economic roles may open and enclosed sites have performed, and may the progression in some areas from open to enclosed settlements imply the development of less mobile societies?
4.10.2: What may further analyses of burials and of settlement architecture and morphology contribute to studies of social and political organisation?
4.10.3: How can we better understand the nature of the transition from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age and the socio-political changes of the later Iron Age?
5. Romano-British (AD 43 – c.410)
5.1 Chronology
5.1.1: How can we enhance our knowledge of developing pottery industries, particularly during the Conquest period and 3rd to 4th centuries?
5.1.2: How may information on temporal and regional variations in Romano-British pottery typology and vessel fabrics best be disseminated?
5.1.4: How can we advance our knowledge of the chronology of Romano-British metal finds, particularly brooches?
5.1.5: What are the priorities for scientific dating, particularly radiocarbon, and how may targeted dating programmes be developed for the Romano-British period?
5.2 The military impact
5.2.1: How far was the military conquest a motor of social and economic change during the Romano-British period?

5.2.4: How did the supply needs of Roman military garrisons and armies along the northern frontier affect the economy and transport infrastructure?
5.2.5: How did the withdrawal of Roman political and financial support impact upon the established society and economy?
5.4 Rural settlement patterns and landscapes
5.4.1: How did the Conquest impact upon rural settlements and landscapes?
5.4.2: How and why did settlement forms and building traditions vary within the region and over time?
5.4.3: How did rural settlements relate to each other and to towns and military sites, and how may this have varied regionally and over time?
5.4.4: How did field and boundary systems relate to earlier systems of land allotment, and how did these boundary networks develop over time?
5.4.5: What patterns can be discerned in the location of settlements in the landscape?
5.4.6: Can we elucidate further the daily life of settlements and their role in the processing and marketing of agricultural products?
5.5 The agricultural economy
5.5.1: How is the upland-lowland divide manifested in the regional agricultural economy and other aspects of the archaeological record?
5.5.2: How did integration into the Roman Empire impact upon the agrarian economy, including the introduction of new crops, herbs and fruits?
5.5.3: What is the evidence for the diet of people of high and low status in urban and rural settlements, especially those close to military sites?
5.5.4: Can we chart more closely the processes of agricultural intensification and expansion and the development of field systems?
5.5.5: Can we define more precisely the networks developed for the trade and exchange of agricultural produce and fish?
5.6 Artefacts: production, distribution and social identity
5.6.1: What resources moved in and out of the region during this period?
5.6.3: How may studies of the production, movement and consumption of pottery contribute to understanding of the regional economy?
5.6.4: What production techniques and exchange networks were involved in the manufacture and marketing of salt and building materials?
5.6.6: What can artefact research contribute to studies of eating, drinking and other manifestations of social identity?
5.7 Roads and waterways

5.7.3: To what extent may communication routes have been influenced by Late Iron Age settlement patterns and routes of movement?
5.8 Ritual and religion
5.8.1: How far is the location of religious sites related to Late Iron Age activity and to what extent may structured deposition of human/animal bones in settlement/boundary features have continued?
5.8.3: Can we elucidate the beliefs and practices associated with religious or ritual foci and may certain classes of site have been associated with particular activities?
5.8.4: Why have so few early Roman burials been found, and may practices have varied regionally and between different communities?
7. High Medieval (1066 – 1485)
7.2 Rural settlement
7.2.2: How can we shed further light upon the origin and development of dispersed hamlets and farms in champion and pastoral areas?
7.6 Industry and trade
7.6.2: By what means were the extractive mineral industries controlled or organised by royal, monastic or lay lords?
7.6.3: Can we identify, investigate and date sites associated with the region's key extractive industries (especially iron, coal, lead and alabaster), the production and distribution of cloth and leather-work, and freshwater or marine fishing?
7.7 The agrarian landscape and food producing economy
7.6.3: Can we identify, investigate and date sites associated with the region's key extractive industries (especially iron, coal, lead and alabaster), the production and distribution of cloth and leather-work, and freshwater or marine fishing?
7.7.4: What can environmental remains teach us about diet and living conditions in urban, rural and coastal communities?
7.7.5: What may fish bones and other environmental data contribute to studies of the exploitation and distribution of freshwater and marine fish?
7.7.6: How best may we enhance study of the origins and development of early land reclamation and drainage, particularly in Lincolnshire?
8 Post-medieval (1485 – 1750)
8.3 Agricultural landscapes and the food-producing economy
8.3.1: How can we improve our understanding of the early landscapes of enclosure and improvement and the interrelationship between arable, pasture, woodland, commons and waste?
8.3.2: How did water management and land drainage change the landscape during this period?

8.3.4: What garden plants and crops were grown in the countryside and urban market gardens, and what new types were introduced?

Table 4: Relevant Regional Research Agenda Question (East Midlands)

Palaeolithic to Mesolithic
Pal-Meso 11: Are deposit modelling and predictive modelling useful tools?
Neolithic
Neo 02: How can we learn more about climate and environmental conditions during the Neolithic?
Late Iron Age and Roman
LIA-Rom 05: How can we better understand the Late Iron Age to Roman transition?
LIA-Rom 06: How can we increase our understanding of the Iron Age and Roman environment?
LIA-Rom 16: Can we better distinguish between Late Iron Age and Early Roman features and sites?
Early Anglo-Saxon
E-Sax 12: What did the Early Anglo-Saxon landscape look like?
Middle to Late Anglo-Saxon
M-Sax-L-Sax 21: How can we better understand the region's Late Anglo-Saxon monastic houses?
Medieval (Rural)
Med (Rural) 03: How can we improve our understanding of medieval agricultural practices?
Med (Rural) 08: How can we improve our understanding of medieval rural monastic establishments, especially those of the minor orders?
Post-medieval
P-Med 14: How can we characterise the post-medieval historic landscape and the factors which affected it?
Multi-period
Multi 06: How do we interpret and ground-truth cropmark evidence?
Multi 08: How can we better realise the archaeological potential of the Fenland?

Table 5: Relevant Regional Research agenda Questions (East of England)

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Scope

5.1.1 An adequate archaeological evaluation of the Site was required to provide information concerning the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains present within the Site area.

5.1.2 All aspects of the investigation were conducted in accordance with:

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2022);
- *Standards for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2023a);
- *Universal Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2023b);
- *The Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook* (LCC, 2024);
- Historic England Guidance (HE 2015a);
- The approved WSI *Meridian Solar Farm Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation* (York Archaeology 2025a).

5.1.3 The original scope for the evaluation comprised 402 evaluation trenches measuring 50m by 2m, 28 trenches of varying size targeting salterns (see Section 5.3.1 below), 10 investigation areas of varying size adjacent to salterns, and 239 test pits of approximately 2m by 2m and up to 3m deep (see Section 5.4.1 below).

5.1.4 Multiple changes to the original scope were undertaken during the works, including the addition of new trenches targeting proposed cable routes in Area B and C (Fields B-1-12, B-3-02, B-3-01 and B5). Several areas of the Site were found to contain remains or potential remains of historic World War Two plane crashes. Following a UXO assessment, exclusion zones were implemented in high UXO risk areas and multiple fields and areas within fields were subsequently descoped (Fields A-1-12, D-1-01, D-1-02, D-1-03 and D-4). An addendum to the original WSI was also made based on the potential for modern disarticulated human remains, originating from the World War Two plane crashes. No modern disarticulated human remains were found to be present. Trenches were also occasionally extended to further investigate potential saltern complexes. A further agreed change included the machine excavation of select ditches and recording in plan without excavation of select ditches in Area D.

5.1.5 After all changes 406 evaluation trenches and 209 test pits were excavated in total.

5.2 Evaluation Trenches

5.2.1 Trial trench locations were designed to target, evaluate and characterise possible or probable archaeological features, avoid constraints and ensure appropriate coverage while taking into account the following factors:

1. Trenches were not included in areas where no development was proposed to be undertaken to preserve archaeological deposits in situ, to avoid high quality agricultural land, or to provide mitigation in relation to potential visual impacts from the proposed scheme.
2. Ecological constraints. Buffers were used around known ecological constraints. These include a barn owl nesting site and badger setts. Trenches have also been set back to protect the roots of trees and hedgerows.

3. Services. The trenches were set out to maintain appropriate safety buffers around buried and overhead services.
4. Ditches. The trenches were set out to maintain appropriate safety distance from the drainage ditches.
5. Public rights of way. The trenches were set out to maintain appropriate safety distance from public rights of way.

5.2.2 Additionally, the following considerations informed the density of the trenching and location of the test pits:

6. A higher density of trenches were included in areas identified for potential compounds and indicative areas for on-site substations.
7. Test pits were largely been located in areas off the roddons where it was anticipated that fewer archaeological deposits, of lower importance would be located.

5.2.3 Trench locations were selected with reference to information gathered from non-intrusive surveys including a report on aerial photography and lidar imagery (Deegan 2024) and geophysical survey (AOC Archaeology 2025a and 2025b). Areas identified for potential compounds and on-site substation(s) were covered by a higher density of trenches.

5.2.4 Where trial trenches crossed deposits of significant palaeoenvironmental interest sondages were excavated in the ends to allow for characterisation and sampling. These sondages were excavated according to the methodology used for the test pits.

5.3 Evaluation Trenches Targeting Potential Salterns

5.3.1 There were a significant number of potential salterns at the Site. Review of cropmark and geophysical survey initially suggested the possibility of 55 salterns, with the majority of them (c. 45) occurring in Area B. Due to the potential difficulties involved in fully characterising features of this type in a typical archaeological trial trench, a specific methodology was devised.

5.3.2 Fenland salterns of prehistoric or Roman date comprise a number of elements, which generally include a central hearth or oven-like heating structure, a series of one or more clay-lined pits (termed ‘settling tanks’) and an enclosure ditch with an undug ‘entrance’. However, there are differing configurations; hearths for example, are not always central, such as at COW 25 at Cowbit (Lane and Morris 2001) where the hearth was recorded close to the northern entrance of the enclosure. Adding to the complexity of these sites is the potential for multiple phases due to the dynamic nature of the environment. For example, two phases of use were identified at the Site 4 saltern on the A1073 Improvement Scheme (Failes, Lane and Peachey 2011; Failes and Peachey 2013) as severe flooding had curtailed Phase 1 by creating a new land surface in the western area of the site.

5.3.3 Due to the complexity and differing configurations of these sites, a relatively narrow (2m wide) evaluation trench would not have been the best suited to identifying the character, extent, depth and preservation of saltern remains. Shorter and wider trenches, targeted where possible on potential hearth locations, a portion of the interior of the enclosure (to identify ‘settling tanks’), the enclosure ditch and entrance area, were designed. This was chosen to allow better identification of components of the saltern and where to place interventions to best characterise these features in terms of their extent, depth and condition. The wider stripped area allowed for increased understanding of the salterns’ morphology and the chance

of identifying and disentangling any multi-phase use of the sites. Trench locations and their justification are listed in Table 6 below.

Area	Trench Number	Size	Justification
A	1052	6m x 6m	Targets S of probable saltern.
A	1053	7m x 7m	Targets NE quarter of probable saltern.
B	2095	6m x 6m	Targets NW quarter of probable saltern.
B	2096	6m x 6m	Targets NW quarter of probable saltern.
B	2097	7m x 7m	Targets NW quarter and entrance area of probable saltern.
B	2098	7m x 7m	Targets SE quarter and entrance area of probable saltern.
B	2099	7m x 7m	Targets W side and internal features of probable saltern complex.
B	2100	7m x 7m	Targets SE quarter of probable saltern.
B	2101	6m x 6m	Targets NE quarter and entrance area of probable saltern.
B	2102	10m x 10m	Targets W side of probable saltern complex.
B	2103	7m x 7m	Targets SE quarter of probable saltern complex.
B	2104	6m x 6m	Targets SW quarter of probable saltern.
B	2105	8m x 8m	Targets NW quarter, entrance, and internal features of probable saltern.
B	2107	8m x 7m	Targets N and S sides of two adjacent salterns.
B	2108	8m x 5m	Targets E side and internal area of probable saltern.
B	2109	5m x 5m	Targets SW quarter of probable saltern.
B	2110	7m x 7m	Targets E side and internal area of probable saltern.
B	2111	6m x 6m	Targets NW quarter and entrance of probable saltern.
B	2115	50m x 2m	Targets internal area of two possible ovoid/rectangular salterns.
B	2116	50m x 2m	Targets northern half possible small saltern and adjacent linear feature
B	2121	7m x 7m	Targets SE quarter and internal feature of probable saltern.
B	2122	10m x 8m	Targets possible enclosure ditch and W half of possible saltern within this.
B	2123	16 x 4m	Targets two possible salterns.
B	2124	5m x 5m	Targets E sides of two probable salterns immediately adjacent to each other.
B	2125	7m x 7m	Targets E side and internal area of probable saltern.
B	2127	7m x 7m	Targets SE quarter of probable saltern.
B	2128	10m x 5m	Targets NW area of possible salterns.
C	3072	7m x 7m	Targets SE quarter of probable saltern complex.

Table 6: Trenches with potential saltern features

5.3.4 Where clusters of salterns were anticipated, such as in Fields B-1-08, B-1-13 and B-1-14, trenching was undertaken on a sub-sample of potential salterns. Potential salterns at the edge of the clusters were trenched as well as any potential saltern in the cluster located on higher ground in order to identify any difference in depth/preservation of remains. The results of the sample evaluation can be extrapolated to give a good understanding of the archaeological potential and inform any future mitigation strategies. This method also had the advantage of preserving the remains in situ if further work is to be carried out, or if the area is descoped.

5.3.5 Trench size varied according to the saltern. However, the majority of potential saltern enclosures on the Site range from 8–12m in diameter. A typical trench size for a saltern in this range was 36-64 m^2. These trenches were enlarged as necessary in order to identify interior features or map the extent of a hearth/oven-like feature.

5.4 Geoarchaeological Test Pits

5.4.1 Test pits were located in areas between roddons where it was anticipated that fewer significant archaeological deposits would be located. It was assumed that the alluvial deposits outside of the roddons would be of sufficient depth to preserve any in-situ deposits of archaeological significance given the limited impact of the PV modules at certain depths. The test pits also provided information relating to the depositional sequence of the fen to determine if inter-roddon organic or gravel deposits are present which might suggest locales for human activity.

5.5 Site survey

5.5.1 All spatial setting out and recording was done in accordance with the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Ordnance Survey Newlyn Datum (ODN) as defined by the OS Active GNSS network (OS Net). The trenches were set out by a trained and competent YA operative.

5.5.1 Trenches were located using a Leica CS15/GS15 RTK Differential GNSS GPS, and points laid out to a horizontal accuracy of +/-50mm.

5.5.2 Following trenching, the resulting exposed surface was recorded in spot heights of sufficient density to define the landform. A preliminary record of the outlines of all potential archaeological features and significant deposit changes were also included. The resulting trench plans were updated where necessary and used for recording and communicating the excavation sampling strategy.

5.5.3 Plans of the excavated parts of general archaeological deposits and feature outlines were mechanically recorded in line with the Site Survey Strategy and in adherence to the Data Management Plan (Appendix 27), with internal detail added by digital mechanical or hand recording. Sections were recorded by hand. All hand drawings were recorded in relation to baselines recorded mechanically by GPS. The record of features contain at least: context numbers, all colour and textural changes of fills, principal slopes and spot-heights on the excavated shape.

5.5.4 Where photogrammetric recording was employed on the Site, the methodology followed standards set out in the York Archaeology Excavation Manual (2024). Each photogrammetric model was georeferenced according to standard site surveying methodology (as detailed above).

5.6 Machine excavation of trenches

5.6.1 Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, YA had a PAS 128 desk search for services undertaken to inform the archaeological evaluation. This was used in conjunction with the safety buffer zones around buried and overhead services provided by the Consultant.

5.6.2 Prior to excavation, each trench and test pit area were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT4) and signal generator ('Genny') by a trained YA operative in order to locate any buried services not shown on the services plans supplied by the PAS 128 desk search and the Consultant.

5.6.3 Machine excavation was undertaken using tracked 360-degree excavators fitted with toothless ditching buckets of 2m length, under constant archaeological supervision by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist so that a clean surface can be exposed. Hand-

cleaning of surfaces was undertaken in various occasions to enhance visibility. During excavation areas were scanned with a CAT and Genny to locate any services that may have not have been shown on the service plans provided by the client.

5.6.4 Each trench was excavated to a level at which archaeological deposits or to the natural substrate were present. Topsoil and subsoil deposits, where encountered, were excavated in spits no greater than 250mm. Each spit was examined carefully to assist the recovery of archaeologically significant artefacts and to help determine when to cease machining.

5.6.5 All care was taken to avoid land drain strikes during mechanical excavation. However, when land drains were damaged by the machine, they were photographed and the Consultant, Client and Landowner notified as a matter of priority. After inspection by the Landowner decisions were made on whether or not the drain is active and in need of repair. Repairs were undertaken by staff and used suitable plastic pipe. Photographs were taken and the repairs were open to inspection before being signed off on by the Landowner for backfill. Any damage to land drains were recorded in the site diary, and repairs were made subsequent to discussion and approval.

5.6.6 In the early stages of the evaluation a small quantity of trenches were excavated beyond a safe manual working depth in order to assess the general stratigraphy and its relationship to the archaeological horizon. These trenches were not entered and were fenced to prevent accidental entry.

5.7 Machine excavation of test pits

5.7.1 Geoarchaeological test pits were excavated to the bedrock, or to the maximum safe extent of the machine bucket/soils stability, whichever was shallower. The pits were recorded by a geoarchaeologist using the Troels-Smith (1955) system of sediment classification (Appendix 25). The scheme breaks down a sediment sample into four main components and allows the inclusion of extra components that are also present, but that are not dominant. Key physical properties of the sediment layers are darkness (Da), stratification (St), elasticity (El), dryness of the sediment (Sicc) and the sharpness of the upper sediment boundary (UB). Water strike was also recorded.

5.7.2 A summary of the sedimentary and physical properties classified by Troels-Smith (1955) and a stratigraphic breakdown of the deposits were recorded on proforma log sheets.

5.7.3 The logs were supplemented by digital photography carried out using a DSLR with a minimum sensor size of 10 megapixels. All photography adhered to Historic England guidance for Digital Image Capture and File Storage (HE 2015c). Graduated metric scales of appropriate lengths were used, ensuring the use of vertical scales used against deep sections in combination with horizontal scales. Digital photographs intended for archive purposes comply with AAF and ADS guidance (i.e. high quality non-proprietary raw files (DNG) or TIFF images).

5.7.4 Grab-sampling was carried out on deposits with the potential to provide palaeoenvironmental data or material for radiocarbon or dendrochronological dating. Sampling was based on the judgement of the attending geoarchaeologist and sought to characterise the broad sequence of deposits.

5.8 Backfilling

5.8.1 Topsoil and subsoil were kept separate during removal and stored separately at either side of the trench to enable sequential backfilling of the excavations. Topsoil and subsoil bunds were placed at a safe distance (minimum 1m) from the trench edge. Spoil was checked for artefacts both visually and with a metal detector when safe to do so. The location of any artefacts recovered in the topsoil/subsoil was recorded three-dimensionally or by context/spit if appropriate.

5.8.2 All trenches were empty of water when backfilled however water ingress was generally not found to be a problem during the evaluation.

5.9 Roddon recording

5.9.1 The trench design took advantage of opportunities to record deposits within the roddons sequences, particularly within the more minor creek systems. Machine excavated sections were undertaken in areas of low densities of archaeological features and were recorded as detailed in Section 5.10. All roddons were located with GNSS and any sample recovery was carried out in relation to the archaeological remains and on the advice of the geoarchaeologist.

5.10 Hand excavation and recording

5.10.1 Hand excavation of all features sought to minimise the disturbance to the archaeological resource at the evaluation stage in a manner which sufficiently characterised the date, nature and form of the features identified. Sample excavation of features adhered to standard methods as detailed in the WSI (York Archaeology 2025a) and as aligned with the specification provided by the Consultant (JBA 2025).

5.10.2 YA provided weekly reports to the Client and Consultant on the trench excavation process.

5.10.3 Suitably experienced and trained staff employed metal detectors to scan for metallic finds during the excavation of all archaeological features and deposits. In addition, spoil heaps were subject to metal detector survey and any finds retrieved had approximate locations recorded and plotted on suitable plans within the report. Metal detectors were not set to discriminate against iron.

5.10.4 A sufficient sample of archaeological features and deposits were fully excavated/sampled to allow the resolution of the aims and objectives of the work. This included all archaeological features and deposits (unless otherwise agreed with the LPA), with the exception of repeating features in trenches, such as furrows and land drains, or established continuation of recent features such as post-medieval field boundaries. In Area D this also included clearly modern features and previously investigated features with clear continuations across the area, such as trackways. All unexcavated features were surveyed in plan.

5.10.5 Investigative slots across linear features were no less than 1m wide and excavated at approximately 90 degrees to the longitudinal axis to provide a cross section in profile. Discrete features were half-sectioned (subject to 50% sample by volume) or excavated in quadrants where they are large or found to be deep. Intersecting features were investigated to determine the relationship between them. Machine excavation of features was undertaken on selected features in Area D, in cases where repeating features within trenches, continuations of features across trenches and consistently modern/sterile features.

5.10.6 Cross-sections were cut vertically and cleaned by hand to enhance definition of stratigraphic sequences. Feature fills were removed by contextual change (the smallest usefully definable unit of stratification) and/or in spits no greater than 100mm.

5.10.7 No features were hand excavated beyond a safe working depth and features excavated via machine beyond a safe working depth were not entered.

5.11 Recording

5.11.1 All features were planned, either digitally or hand drawn, and located on appropriate scale plans. Plans show the limits of the trench edges and are related to the OS grid. Digital plans were undertaken with the use of a RTK GNSS and show at least: context numbers, all colour and contextual changes, principal slopes and levels expressed as O.D. values. Stratigraphically complex features may be supplemented with a hand drawn plan on drafting film at a scale of 1:10/1:20 (as appropriate). The location of all drawing points were surveyed.

5.11.2 Sections were drawn on drafting film in pencil at a scale of 1:10/1:20/1:50 (as appropriate). Levelling information and surface heights were recorded using RTK GNSS, accurate to 0.03m. Ordnance Survey Benchmarks (OSBM) were not used.

5.11.3 All archaeological features, layers or deposits were allocated unique context numbers prior to any hand excavation. These were recorded on pro-forma digital or paper context sheets describing each deposit in line with the YA excavation manual (York Archaeology 2024), detailing character, contextual relationships, a detailed description, associated finds, interpretation, and cross referencing to the drawn, photographic and finds records. On-site matrices were compiled during the excavation such that the results of the written stratigraphic records may be fully analysed and phased.

5.11.4 The stratigraphy of a representative sample of all trenches (including trenches of no archaeological significance) was recorded and comprised a full vertical sequence (section) cleaned by hand from the top of the ploughsoil/topsoil to the base of the trench to establish the presence or absence of vestigial old land surface soils and other stratified deposits. These were photographed, drawn and recorded. Topsoil and subsoil were recorded in the same manner as any other archaeological deposits, with full soil descriptions.

5.11.1 The photographic record comprises digital photography carried out using a DSLR with a minimum sensor size of 12.7 megapixels, capable of shooting at a high resolution. All photography adhered to Historic England guidance Digital Image Capture and File Storage (HE 2015c). Graduated metric scales of appropriate lengths were used, ensuring the use of vertical scales used against deep sections in combination with horizontal scales. Digital photographs intended for archive purposes will comply with AAF and ADS guidance i.e. high quality non-proprietary raw files (DNG) or TIFF images as laid out in Appendix 27 (Data Management Plan). Digital images of each context were taken together with general views illustrating the principal features of the excavations. Appropriate record photographs were taken to illustrate work in progress. All photographs will be listed and indexed in the archive. The photographic record will be included in the archive.

5.11.2 A change to context numbering was made during the early stages of the evaluation. The earlier context numbering system was not tied to the trench numbers, while the later system was built with that relation. Context numbers were amended in retrospect to reflect this change and the original context records were amended. A register of amended context numbers was

created to track these changes and prevent loss of data. The original numbers are sometimes present within photographs. This change affected 59 context numbers.

5.12 Finds

5.12.1 All archaeological finds encountered during the trial trench evaluation were collected, including those recovered in topsoils and subsoils. The finds were exposed, lifted and treated as recommended in First Aid for Finds (Watkinson and Neal 1998). After safe removal, finds were bagged or packed, labelled to the deposit they were found in by a context number or spit. Finds of particular interest were retrieved as Registered Finds and 3-D located on Site. No finds, other than clearly modern objects, were discarded without prior approval by the YA post-excavation team.

5.12.2 All retained artefacts were removed from site for specialist examination and assessment, and if deemed necessary, conservation. Cleaning and catalogue of objects took place at YA facilities, to ensure a controlled environment and provide an appropriate response to each material type and individual object.

5.12.3 Recording, preliminary cleaning and storage of finds was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (2020), First Aid for Finds (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

5.12.4 All retained artefacts have been listed and quantified (weighed and divided into coherent material classes) in a spreadsheet. All artefacts were analysed by the relevant specialists as defined in the WSI (York Archaeology 2025a).

5.12.5 Waterlogged wood was found in Trench 2067, Field B-1-14. This was recorded on pro-forma wood sheets supplemented with digital photography and a sample was retained following consultation with the relevant specialists. Possible waterlogged leather was recovered from Trench 1053, Field A-1-07. All waterlogged items removed from the site were stored in acid-free bags with a small amount of water as a temporary storage before further study and conservation. Recovery, storage and analysis of waterlogged materials was undertaken and will be undertaken in line with the guidelines in *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation* (Historic England 2018) and *Waterlogged Wood: Historic England Draft Guidelines on the Excavation, Recording, Sampling and Conservation of Waterlogged Wood* (Historic England 2024a).

5.12.6 All waterlogged items were stored according to the HE guidance listed above, including keeping the items stored in wet, dark and cold environments and were subject to further study by the appropriate specialists.

5.13 Environmental Sampling

5.13.1 The purpose of archaeological sampling at the evaluation stage was to identify the range of environmental materials present within the Site, their preservation, significance and distribution, as well as to inform on the general environmental conditions and dietary evidence of the sites' inhabitants. This was achieved through the retrieval of charred macro and microfossils, faunal remains, as well as the retrieval of waterlogged plant macro and microfossils, insect, faunal remains, molluscs, pollen and other biological remains from waterlogged deposits. The sampling followed procedures set out within the Historic England Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology and Geoarchaeology (HE 2011 and HE 2015b).

5.13.2 The site had the potential for features associated with Iron Age, Roman and medieval activity, including settlement, agricultural practices and salt-making. Sampling therefore targeted a percentage of the following where present:

- Archaeological features identified as cropmarks or geophysical anomalies which were likely associated with potentially Iron Age, Roman or medieval activity (i.e., ditches, gullies, earthworks) as well as other relevant remains (i.e., pits or postholes). Basal samples from ditches that represent primary deposition were targeted;

- Particular attention was given to remains associated with settlement, any remains associated with salt-making (i.e. enclosures, settling tanks, ovens/hearths), other industrial activity and deposits associated with funerary activity;

- Salterns, given their likely number and complexity, were selectively sampled, for charred plant macrofossils, molluscs, diatoms, and radiocarbon dating. Up to three examples were targeted for sampling which was designed to understand the age and levels of preservation within the deposits rather than a comprehensive study of the deposition al history of each feature;

- In addition to these main 'master' sequences, when other deposits were encountered of palaeoenvironmental or archaeological significance these were also sampled on the advice of the geoarchaeologist;

- Deposits representing the main phases of human activity on-site, or deposits that were multi-phase in nature (to assess whether there are changes in rates of deposition or material survival over time); and

- As appropriate, samples of a percentage of archaeological deposits that are undated, but have the potential to be of archaeological significance (i.e. deposit types notable for the scarcity of artefactual evidence)

5.13.3 Sampling did not only target charcoal rich or wet deposits, but was also undertaken on those features outlined above and in the preliminary Site Sampling Strategy found in the WSI (York Archaeology 2025a). This ensured that samples were recovered from a representative range of contexts, which adequately characterise past activities at the Site and allow an assessment to be made of the extent to which they help address palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic questions. The sampling of features followed procedures set out in Historic England's *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the theory and practice of Methods from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (2011).

5.13.4 Samples for charred plant macrofossils and charcoal were generally 40 litres and were processed within the York Archaeology Environmental Lab, under the supervision of York Archaeology Environmental Officer Stacey Adams.

5.13.5 Samples were protected at all times from temperatures below 5°c and above 25°c and from wetting and drying out due to weather exposure. YA ensured all samples were taken off site as soon as practicable to ensure that they are stored appropriately. Cores and subsamples will be retained for a maximum of two years when discard permission will be sought.

5.13.6 A selection of charcoal and bone rich deposits were subsampled for radiocarbon AMS dating, with single entity macrofossils and identifiable small diameter roundwood selected where possible. The targeted deposits comprised early deposits within settlement enclosure ditches,

enclosure ditches, trackway ditches and probable salterns as well as selected features/feature types with no artefactual dating. All dating followed Historic England guidance for *Radiocarbon dating and Chronological Modelling* (Historic England 2022).

5.14 Human Remains

5.14.1 No in-situ human remains were identified on the Site. A single human tibia was identified within the animal bone assemblage following excavation. This bone and any other human bones will be recorded in accordance with the *Updated Guidelines for the Standards for Recording Human Remains* (Mitchell and Brickley 2017).

5.15 Post-excavation

5.15.1 The post-excavation works encompassed the processing and analysis of the site records and survey; the processing and assessment of finds; the production of plans and figures for this archaeological report; and preparation and deposition of the archaeological archive.

5.16 Artefact Processing

5.16.1 All finds were cleaned, conserved, marked, packed and stored as recommended in the "First Aid for Finds" (Watkinson and Neal 1998) and following the "Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials" (CIfA, 2014). The selected artefacts, following agreement with the museum services, will be marked with the site, find number and accession code and deposited with the Lincolnshire Museum, on completion of the final report.

5.16.2 The retention of finds will be considered by specialists who will act according to the selection strategy using the CIfA Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives (http://archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit; CIfA and HE 2019). The project archive will be deposited with the appropriate repository on completion and approval of the final report.

5.16.3 All retained artefacts were quantified (weighed and divided into coherent material classes) and catalogued. All artefacts will be analysed by suitable specialists.

5.17 Deposit modelling

5.17.1 A deposit model will be constructed using the results of the test pits, existing British Geological Survey records and any other GI works undertaken at the site. The modelling will follow procedures set out within the Historic England Guidance for Deposit Modelling and Archaeology (Historic England 2020).

5.17.2 The lithological and stratigraphic data from the BGS logs and purposive trial pits will be entered into a Rockworks database in order to generate 3-D solid models, fence diagrams and cross sections to provide an initial visualisation of the deposits at the site. In addition, surfaces may be created to aid visualisation using ArcGis incorporating available Lidar data as digital terrain models with multi-directional hillshading and/or local relief modelling used to aid interpretation.

5.17.3 This will provide a conceptual model of the site in three dimensions and will show levels of oxidation (affecting preservation), water strike and levels of archaeological remains/deposits (periodised if possible) where present. This will represent an initial model of the site which can be updated and tested with any subsequent phases of work.

5.17.4 The data will be archived in an excel spreadsheet.

5.18 Reporting

5.18.1 This full report follows an Interim Report (York Archaeology 2025b), a trench assessment (York Archaeology 2026) and an Interim Statement (York Archaeology 2025b), which was produced during fieldwork. It follows the structure and requirements laid out in the WSI (York Archaeology 2025a).

5.19 Subsequent reporting

5.19.1 If results are deemed to be significant then an individual report of an appropriate level of detail, will also be submitted for dissemination through publication on a suitable academic journal or platform. Other outreach opportunities will be discussed between YA, the Client and LPA which may include a presentation made to local archaeology/history societies or similar bodies and through the dissemination of information in publications such as local magazines. Client permission will also be sought for the dissemination of results via social media.

5.19.2 York Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents, or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved excepting that it hereby provides exclusive licence to the client and their appointed agent/consultant for the use of such documents in all matters directly relating to the project, with no limitation on the number of times that the client/consultant may reproduce any report.

5.20 Archive and Finds Deposition

5.20.1 The physical and documentary archive will be deposited with Lincoln Museum, under the accession number LCNCC:2025.60 and site code MNSF25. The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service.

5.20.2 The archive will be fully catalogued and prepared to recognised standards (Brown 2011; ADS 2024), following the archiving guidelines in Chapter 17, *The Archive* from the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council 2024) and contain where relevant: copies of correspondence relating to fieldwork, site notebooks/diaries, original photographic records, site drawings (plans, sections, elevations), original context records showing stratigraphic sequence of all contexts, artefacts, original finds records, original sample records, computer discs and printouts.

5.20.3 The digital archive will be prepared following guidelines set out in *Guides to Good Practice* (Archaeology Data Service 2025).

5.20.4 Contact was made with Lincoln Museum prior to commencement of fieldwork. Final deposition will be made using the appropriate notification form and adhering to all relevant conditions. The LPA and the museum curator will be notified in writing on completion of fieldwork, with a proposed timetable for deposition of the archive. This should be confirmed in the assessment report. The LPA must be informed in writing on final deposition of archive.

5.20.5 The paper and artefactual archive generated by York Archaeology will remain safely stored by the unit until deposited with Lincoln Museum. Deposition of finds with Lincoln Museum will

take place after signing of the Transfer of Title by the landowner(s). The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service.

5.20.6 The archive will be deposited within 12 months of approval of the full report.

5.21 OASIS

5.21.1 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commenced) an OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/ was initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form have been completed for submission to the County HER. A digital copy of the report will be uploaded with the online OASIS record, which will be released onto the Archaeological Data Services (ADS) at an appropriate time.

5.21.2 A summary OASIS form is included in Appendix 26.

6 RESULTS OVERVIEW

6.1 Overview

6.1.1 The trial trench evaluation revealed significant archaeological evidence spread across the Scheme. The trench design, based on the aerial and geophysical surveys undertaken prior to excavation, targeted areas initially theorised to comprise Iron Age to Roman salt-making activity (York Archaeology 2025a).

6.1.2 As the works progressed, the majority of circular features identified by the geophysics as representing potential salterns in Areas A, B and C, were not suggestive of salt production. These features generally comprised ring gullies without the diagnostic features of salterns such as the dense spreads of briquetage, clay lined settling tanks and hearths (Lane 2008) and can be alternatively interpreted as possible roundhouses/temporary dwellings. The exceptions to this were the saltern complexes in Trenches 3005 and 3072 in Fields C-1-01 and C-1-03, Area C. In Area D more salterns were present including smaller, slightly isolated salterns in Trench 4104, Field D-3-01 and Trench 4098, Field D-3-02. Saltern complexes, were also located at the edges of associated settlements (Trench 4026, Field D-5-01 and Trench 4033, Field D-6).

6.1.3 The remainder of the geophysical anomalies corresponded to various types of enclosures, ditches, water channels and settlement areas. A provisional Roman date could be attributed to many of the features identified and the Roman activity across the Site appeared to encompass at least three types of landscape use: settlement, peripheral and probable seasonal activity with associated temporary dwelling, and salt production. Most features were located on roddons which represented dry ground amid fenland (Hayes and Lane 1992). The evidence confirmed that Roman land use was strongly associated with the roddon topography.

6.1.4 Later agricultural features spanning at least the post-medieval and modern periods, with many undated elements, were also identified across the Scheme. The relationship of these features with the roddons was found to vary, reflecting the development of the agricultural systems alongside the changing environment and fenland drainage. All ditches and linear features were assessed alongside cartographic evidence from First Edition OS mapping as part of this report (OS 1887a–OS1887e; Figures 04, 25 and 69).

6.1.5 A total of 406 trenches were excavated across the Scheme. A total of 110 trenches were found to be archaeologically blank (1002, 1007, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1014, 1017, 1018, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1028, 1030, 1032, 1035, 1037, 1045, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2029, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2054, 2056, 2058, 2070, 2071, 2073, 2074, 2079, 2080, 2083, 2086, 2098, 2103, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2116, 2128, 2130, 2132, 2133, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2143, 2144, 2146, 2147, 3012, 3013, 3014, 3027, 3029, 3036, 3041, 3054, 3061, 3068, 3069, 30734002, 4004, 4005, 4006, 4007, 4008, 4069, 4071, 4075, 4076, 4083, 4087, 4092, 4093, 4094, 4096, 4113, 4121, 4159, 4168, 4171, 4174 and 4183). These trenches are not described further in this report.

6.1.6 The results of the archaeological evidence are presented below by area, field and then trench. Full context descriptions for all trenches can be found in Appendix 1. Area and field summaries have been provided to aid assessment of the spatial extent and significance of the archaeological remains.

6.2 Area A

Overview

6.2.1 Area A was indicated by the geophysical and aerial survey to contain a lower density of archaeological remains in comparison with other areas of the Scheme (Figures 03-23; Plates 1–69). This area is located at a distance from any known heritage assets, with the exception of elements associated with post-medieval sea defences (MLI20307 & MLI20306) and 19th century farmsteads (MLI123862, MLI123852, MLI123863 & MLI123864). This contrasts Areas B, C and D. The roddon system within the area was broadly formed of an approximately 230m wide, north-to-south aligned roddon, located within Field A-1-11. Smaller branches of roddon were present in the other fields (A-1-01, A-1-02, A-1-03, A-1-04, A-1-05, A-1-06, A-1-07, A-1-08, A-1-09, A-1-10 and A-1-12), but these broadly varied from 24m–80m in width.

6.2.2 Activity of potential Iron Age or Roman date consisted of ring gullies representing possible roundhouses (Trenches 1052, 1053) and nearby ditch (Trench 1033) in Field A-1-7. The artefactual evidence for this phase within the area was limited to Late Iron Age to Early Roman briquetage, found in a ring gully in Trench 1053 and in a layer in Trench 1045, a single sherd of Roman pottery recovered from a gully in Trench 1038 and unstratified pottery recovered from Trench 1171.

6.2.3 Linear cropmarks were present predominantly in the eastern side of the area, straddling the roddon and the area outside. Not all of these features were found in the trenches, but the majority of confirmed linear features were found to correspond to mapped historical field boundaries or could be dated to the medieval and/or post-medieval periods (OS 1887e; Figure 04).

Blank Trenches

6.2.4 Area A had a total of 23 archaeologically blank trenches: 1002, 1007, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1014, 1017, 1018, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1028, 1030, 1032, 1035, 1037, 1045, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050 and 1051.

Stratigraphy

6.2.5 The stratigraphy varied slightly across the area with various sediments found forming the roddons, marine alluviums, subsoils and topsoils. These are summarised below, by field. Silty blueish subsoils were often found overlying the roddons and the features present, indicating that water inundation continued in this area following the formation of the roddons and earlier human activity.

6.2.6 All anthropogenic cut features were found to cut either the upper horizon of the roddons or the upper horizon of the marine alluvium surrounding the roddons.

Changes to scope

6.2.7 Trench 1004 in Field A-1-12 was descoped due to an UXO exclusion zone.

6.3 Stratigraphic Results

Field A-1-01 (Trenches 1021, 1022 & 1024–1026; Figures 03–05; Plates 1–7)

6.3.1 Field A-1-01 is located in the western extent of Area A and contains three small area of roddon. Two trenches, targeting apparently blank areas outside the roddons (1021 and 1022), were found to be archaeologically blank. A linear anomaly on a roddon was targeted by Trench 1024, which was found to be geological in nature.

6.3.2 Archaeological features were found in Trenches 1025 and 1026 and identified as modern or natural in origin.

6.3.3 An east-to-west aligned ditch was identified in Trench 1025 alongside a parallel modern linear feature. Trench 1026 targeted another linear feature and roddon and revealed a ditch/natural feature and a post-medieval/modern ditch, both of which appeared to follow the roddon contour.

6.3.4 The roddon was composed of yellowy-brown silty sand and the marine alluviums varied in composition between yellowy-brown clay, dark and mid-grey-brown clay and pale-blue-grey clay. A micro-tidal clay channel and a natural formed channel were also found in Trenches 1024 and 1025. In two trenches (1021 and 1025) a blueish silty clay subsoil was present, this measured 0.12m in depth. The overlying topsoil measured 0.23m–0.63m in depth.

Trench 1025 (Figure 05; Plate 5)

6.3.5 Trench 1025 was located in the southern part of A-1-01 in the marine alluvium area. It was targeted on a linear feature corresponding to a mapped field boundary (OS 1887b). This feature was represented by a ditch/possible natural water channel [102503] (width 2.7m, depth ≥0.14m). The base of the cut was unclear and the full depth of the feature was uncertain. It was infilled with two fills formed via natural silting. An environmental sample <23> from this feature found insect remains.

6.3.6 A tidal clay channel [102506] (width 0.26) on a similar alignment was identified c.12m to the north.

Trench 1026 (Figure 05 & 135; Plates 6 & 7)

6.3.7 Trench 1026 was located in the southern part of Field A-1-01 targeting the edge of a narrow roddon and a linear anomaly following the roddon contour. A single ditch [102603] and a ditch/natural water channel [102606] were present, both following the roddon contour and cut into roddon deposits.

6.3.8 Ditch [102603] (width 2.48m, depth 0.56m) had a wide, broadly concave profile. The ditch appears to have been partially backfilled with redeposited material before being left open to silt. Heavy rooting in the upper fill suggested that vegetation grew in the ditch during this phase. A glass bottle of 17th to 19th century date was retrieved from the upper fill.

6.3.9 Ditch/natural water channel [102606] (width 0.75m, depth 0.31m) followed a similar alignment. It had a shallow concave profile and a black sand fill.

Field A-1-02 (Trenches 1019, 1020 and 1023; Figures 03, 04, 06 & 23; Plates 8–11)

6.3.10 Field A-1-02 is located in the north-western part of Area A. A single narrow roddon is present in the field with two smaller branches. A total of three trenches were excavated: Trench 1023, which targeted an amorphous geophysical anomaly between the roddons; Trench 1020, which targeted an apparently blank area between roddons; and Trench 1019, which was excavated

across the roddon. All but Trench 1019, which contained six furrows, were archaeologically blank.

6.3.11 The roddon was found to be composed of a mid-yellowy-brown, silty sand. Marine alluvium was recorded in all tree trenches and was found to comprise a yellowy-brown, compact clay. Subsoil was present in two trenches (1019 and 1023) and comprised a light blueish-grey, silty clay, measuring 0.3m in depth. The overlying topsoil measured 0.3m–0.5m in depth and comprised a greyish-brown, silty clay or clayey silt. CBM fragments derived from field drain and quarry floor tile were recovered from the topsoil.

Trench 1019 (Figure 06 & 23; Plates 8 & 9)

6.3.12 Trench 1019 was located on the edge of a narrow roddon in Field A-1-02. It targeted the potential palaeochannel along the roddon contour. A total of six similar linear features, interpreted as furrows following parallel north-to-south alignments were found cut into the roddon. Squarish and concave profiles were both present, all fills were comparable to the subsoil.

6.3.13 From west to east the features were as follows.

6.3.14 The westernmost linear feature was a gully/furrow [101914] (0.2m, depth 0.15m) with a flat base and steeply sloping sides.

6.3.15 Ditch [101912] (width 0.55m, depth 0.3m) had a squarish profile.

6.3.16 Gully [101910] (width 0.38m, depth 0.13m) had a clearly defined squarish profile and a fill with similarities to the subsoil with some redeposited roddon material.

6.3.17 Gully [101908] (0.25m, depth 0.05m) and ditch [101906] (width 0.55m, depth 0.25m) had squarish profiles and were both cut by a field drain. It was unclear whether they represented separate features or a single truncated ditch. The fill was similar to the subsoil.

6.3.18 A faint gully was identified towards the east of the trench. This was left un-excavated due to its apparent shallow nature.

6.3.19 The easternmost gully [101904] (width 0.4m, depth 0.15m) had a concave profile and a fill similar to the subsoil.

6.3.20 The spacing of these features was not even and a particular cluster was present in the central part of the trench with gullies [101910], [101908] and ditches [101912] and [101906]. An agricultural and drainage function can be assumed.

Field A-1-03 (Trenches 1027–1030; Figures 03, 04, 07, 08 & 23; Plates 12–16)

6.3.21 In Field A-1-03, two areas of roddon are present. Two trenches targeted the northern roddon (1027 and 1028), and two trenches targeted the southern roddon (1029 and 1030). Furrows were present in Trenches 1027 and 1030 and a modern linear feature was found in Trench 1029. The trenches were otherwise blank.

6.3.22 The roddons were found to be composed of orangey-brown silty clays and marine alluvium was only encountered in one trench (1030), where it was found to be a greyish-brown compact clay. These layers were directly overlain by 0.21m–0.324m of topsoil.

Trench 1027 (Figure 07; Plate 12)

6.3.23 Trench 1027 was targeted on the edge of a roddon and onto a straight north-east-to-south-west aligned linear feature in Field A-1-03. It was found to contain a single north-to-south aligned furrow [102702] (width 0.8m, depth 0.41m) with a blackish-brown clay fill.

Trench 1029 (Figure 08; Plate 14)

6.3.24 Trench 1029 was targeted on the edge of a narrow roddon in Field A-1-03. It contained a single square profiled linear feature [102902] (width 0.56m, depth 0.36m), which was found to cut a field drain.

Trench 1030 (Figures 08 & 23; Plates 15 & 16)

6.3.25 Trench 1030 was targeted on the edge of a narrow roddon and was found to contain four north-to-south aligned furrows. The distribution of which did not respect the roddon.

6.3.26 The western furrow [103006] (width 0.6m, depth 0.14m) was narrow and shallow with a black clayey silt fill (103005). Furrow [103004] (width 0.52m, depth 0.03m) had a similar fill and was found to be even shallower. Furrow [103008] (width 0.46m, depth 0.22m) was again similar in fill and profile. A single furrow was left unexcavated.

Field A-1-04 (Trench 1031; Figures 03, 04 & 09; Plate 17)

6.3.27 Trench 1031 was excavated in Field A-1-04, targeting a linear anomaly identified to the north of a roddon. The excavation revealed that the feature represented a natural water channel.

Trench 1031 (Figure 09; Plate 17)

6.3.28 Trench 1031 was the only trench in Field A-1-04. It was targeted on a linear feature which did not respect the roddon and partially onto a narrow roddon.

6.3.29 The linear feature was found to correspond to a ditch/natural water channel [103103] (width 1m, depth 0.59m) and to a mapped field boundary (OS 1887b).

Field A-1-05 (Trenches 1038–1043 and 1049; Figures 03, 04, 10–12 & 23; Plates 18–25)

6.3.30 Field A-1-05 is located in the northern part of Area A. It contained three thin braids of roddon and was identified as containing a sparse distribution of linear anomalies. Linear features were found in Trenches 1038–1043 at a slightly higher density than foreseen and were generally found to date to the post-medieval and modern periods. A shallow palaeochannel [104008] was present in Trench 1040 and Trench 1049 was archaeologically blank.

6.3.31 The roddons in this field were light greyish-orange in colour and the marine alluvium was generally blueish, sometimes with orange mottles or lens of orangey-brown clay. These layers were directly overlain by topsoil, measuring 0.33m–0.55m in depth. Occasional fragments of post-medieval field drain and post-medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil with a Lower Palaeolithic handaxe recovered from the topsoil of Trench 1042.

Trench 1038 (Figure 10; Plate 17)

6.3.32 Trench 1038 was located in Field A-1-05, straddling a narrow roddon and targeting a linear feature following the roddon contour. It contained a north-to-south aligned ditch [103803]

(width 1.24m, depth 0.28m), which correlated to a mapped field boundary (1887b) and contained a date of pottery dated to the 19th to early 20th century AD, a parallel gully [103807] (0.4m, depth 0.09m) and a parallel gully terminus [103805] (0.3m, 0.1m). A single sherd of Roman pottery of mid-2nd to 4th century date was recovered, this may be a residual inclusion.

6.3.33 An environmental sample <9> from ditch [103803] found a charred barley cereal caryopsis, charcoal, insect remains and molluscs. An environmental sample <14> from the parallel gully [103807] found charcoal and worm capsules.

Trench 1039 (Figures 10 & 23; Plates 19 & 20)

6.3.34 Trench 1039 was located within Field A-1-05, targeting a large round feature and a long linear feature, imperfectly following the roddon. It contained a single ditch/natural feature formed via the movement of water [103902] (width >3.7m, depth 0.38m).

Trench 1040 (Figure 11; Plate 21)

6.3.35 Trench 1040 was located on the marine alluvium in Field A-1-05 and was targeted on a pair of linear anomalies.

6.3.36 It contained a palaeochannel [104008] and two gullies [104003] (width 0.5m, depth 0.15m) and [104006] (width 0.47m, depth 0.07m). Both gullies were shallow and flat based with black fills. They did not correlate with the any geophysical anomalies. A single fragment of medieval/late medieval brick was recovered from gully [104003]. Environmental sampling <15> of gully [104003] found a knotgrass charred weed seed and charcoal.

Trench 1041 (Figure 11; Plate 22)

6.3.37 Trench 1041 was located in Field A-1-05 and targeted the edge of a roddon and a potential palaeochannel. It contained a single north-east-to-south-west orientated gully [104103], cut into the roddon. The gully [104103] (width 0.2m, depth >0.2m) was thin and slightly curvilinear with a concave profile. It was filled with a blackish-brown clayey silt.

Trench 1042 (Figure 12; Plate 23)

6.3.38 Trench 1042 was located in Field A-1-05 and stretched across two areas of roddon separated by a marine alluvium area. It targeted two linear anomalies that followed the contour of the roddons. One of these was represented by a north-east-to-south-west aligned gully [104202] and recut [104204], cut into the roddon and a smaller parallel gully [104206] cut into the marine alluvium between the roddons.

6.3.39 Ditch [104202] (width 0.28m, depth 0.08m) was flat based with steeply sloping sides and a mid-greyish-brown silty clay fill. It was recut by ditch [104204] (width 2.92m, depth 0.36m), which was wide and flat based. It appears to have been filled via dumping and contained greyish-brown sandy clay, four sherds of post-medieval pottery of 17th/18th century date, iron, bricks and eight fragments of animal bone from sheep/goat, cow, medium mammal and unidentified animal. A total of four brick fragments were recovered dated to the possible late medieval/early post-medieval to the possible 19th century AD. Environmental sampling <10> found charred weed seeds of bedstraw, charcoal and molluscs.

6.3.40 Gully [104206] (width 0.34m, depth 0.16m) was narrow and V-shaped in profile with a mid-greyish-brown silty clay fill.

Trench 1043 (Figure 12; Plate 24)

6.3.41 Trench 1043 was mostly located in an area between roddons in Field A-1-05 and targeted a linear anomaly running between the roddons. It contained two north-west-to-south-east aligned gully termini, [104305] and [104309], and two pits [104303] and [104307] and with the linear anomaly, potentially representing a series of similarly aligned field drains.

6.3.42 Gully terminus [104305] (width 0.13m, depth 0.21m) was narrow with a squarish profile and a black silt fill. It was cut by pit [104303] (length 0.38m, width 0.2m, depth 0.12m), which was squarish in plan and shallow with a similar fill.

6.3.43 Gully terminus [104309] (width 0.2m, depth 0.21m) was similarly narrow with a concave base. Grey mottling was observed within the fill.

6.3.44 Pit [104308] (length 0.32m, width 0.2m, depth 0.1m) was small and shallow with a black silt fill.

Field A-1-06 (Trenches 1017, 1018 and 1047; Figures 03 & 04; Plates 26–28)

6.3.45 Field A-1-06 is located in the area between the larger roddons in Area A, with a single thin branch of roddon present. A total of three trenches were excavated in this area. Trenches 1017 and 1018 targeted linear anomalies in the northern part of the field. Trench 1047 targeted an apparently blank area between roddons. All the trenches were found to be archaeologically blank.

6.3.46 The roddon deposits in Trench 1017 were found to be composed of hard clay. A simple overlying stratigraphy of blueish silt subsoil and topsoil was recorded across the field; however, the subsoil was found to range in depth from 0.15m–0.66m. The topsoil was more consistent in depth ranging between 0.35m–0.4m.

Field A-1-07 (Trenches 1032, 1033 and 1053; Figures 03, 04, 13 & 23; Plates 29 and 31)

6.3.47 Field A-1-07 is located towards the centre of Area A and contains a large roddon and a smaller roddon extension. A linear feature following the contour of the roddon, and a circular feature were both identified anomalies on the larger roddon. These were found to correspond to archaeological features.

6.3.48 The circular feature was targeted by a square trench (Trench 1053) as a potential saltern. It was identified as a ring gully. No internal features were present, indicating that an interpretation as a roundhouse feature is more likely. The finds included waterlogged organic material, briquetage and animal bone. The briquetage from this feature was suggestive of an Iron Age/Early Roman date and was comparable to the Iron Age/Roman ring gullies seen in Area B.

6.3.49 The linear feature, [103304] in Trench 1033, was found to be a shallow undated ditch with a blueish-grey clay fill suggestive of infilling in waterlogged conditions. Based on its position following the roddon contour, a water management function is likely.

6.3.50 Trench (1032), targeting the smaller roddon braid, was found to be archaeologically blank.

6.3.51 The roddon in this field was formed of orangey-greyish-yellow sand. The marine alluvium, between the roddons was formed of mottled orange and blue, mid to dark grey silty clay. No

subsoil was present and the overlying topsoil was a dark greyish-brown silt, measuring 0.41m–0.55m.

Trench 1033 (Figure 13)

6.3.52 Trench 1033 was targeted on the edge of a roddon and a linear anomaly following the roddon contour, in Field A-1-07. A single linear feature [103304] (width 0.9m, depth 0.14m) was identified in the trench, corresponding to the linear anomaly. Feature [103304] was very shallow and flat based, limiting characterisation. It had a brownish-black silty clay fill.

Trench 1053 (Figures 13 & 23; Plates 30 & 31)

6.3.53 Trench 1053 was targeted on a circular feature on a relatively thin area of roddon in Field A-1-07. This circular feature was positively identified as a ring gully [105302/105304/105306/105306/105308]. A diameter of 11.4–11.6m can be estimated based on the geophysical survey and the gully itself was found to have a width of 0.2m–0.45m and a depth of 0.1m–0.17m. Its profile was consistent across all excavated slots with steeply sloping sides and a flat base, suggesting that it was purposefully excavated for drainage. It had a blackish-brown to dark yellowy-brown silty clay fill, suggestive of natural silting. This feature can also be interpreted as one associated with a domestic habitation of permanent or temporary nature. The finds included a fragment of waterlogged organic material, identified as bark, 14 fragments of briquetage (333g) and four fragments of cow bone. The briquetage fragments were identified as container, structural and support elements, and can be broadly dated to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period. A sample of the cow bone was submitted for radiocarbon dating and returned a date of 2070 +/- 30 BP (167–22 cal BC (84.8%); 17 cal BC–7 cal AD (10%); 21–18 cal BC (0.7%)), which alongside the artefactual evidence suggested a date in the Late Iron Age. Environmental sampling <28> of this feature found charcoal and burrowing mollusc shell.

6.3.54 A total of nine cut features were identified in the base of the ring gully cut [105310], [105312], [105314], [105316], [105318], [105320], [105322], [105324] and [105326]. These were initially interpreted as potential postholes; however, further examination suggests that they are more likely to represent variations in the naturally formed roddon deposits.

Field A-1-08 (Trenches 1036, 1037 and 1052; Figures 03, 04 & 14; Plates 32–35)

6.3.55 Field A-1-08 is located in the southern part of Area A and contains a small roddon meander. The three trenches targeted a linear anomaly that appeared to follow the roddon contour (Trenches 1036 and 1037) and a circular feature (Trench 1052).

6.3.56 Trenches 1036 and 1037 found naturally formed features, including channels possibly formed via the movement of water.

6.3.57 The circular feature, targeted by Trench 1052, was found to represent an undated curvilinear gully.

6.3.58 Multiple layers of marine alluvium were seen in the trenches in this field, often with orange mottling and the curvilinear gully in Trench 152 was directly overlain by the topsoil. This was a greyish-brown clay/silty clay, which had a consistent depth of 0.37m–0.4m.

Trench 1036 (Figure 14; Plate 32)

6.3.59 Trench 1036 was located on a marine alluvium area within A-1-08, parallel to a mapped field boundary (1887b). It contained two geological features [103606] and [103607] and a possible water channel (width >2m, depth 0.16m).

Trench 1052 (Figures 03 & 14; Plates 34 & 35)

6.3.60 Trench 1052 was located onto a marine alluvium area in Field A-1-08 and was targeted on a curvilinear feature identified in the geophysical survey. A curvilinear gully [105202] (width 0.34m, depth 0.2m) was identified, possibly representing a ring gully. The curvilinear measured >6mx2.4m in plan and can be estimated to have had a diameter of 6m. It had a narrow V-shaped profile and a fill, which was also identical to the surrounding marine alluvium. It was distinguishable in section by the lack of lenses of sediment, which were present in the marine alluvium.

6.3.61 The feature may represent a drip gully or drainage gully for a temporary habitation. Based on its location on the marine alluvium and the fill, it may have formed part of a seasonal activity on a seasonally flooded area.

Field A-1-09 (Trenches 1014–1016 & 1048; Figures 03, 04, 15 & 23; Plates 36–41)

6.3.62 Field A-1-09 is located in the central part of Area A and contains an approximately 100m wide branch of roddon. A series of linear anomalies, confined to the roddon and continued into Field A-1-11 to the east, were identified in the geophysical survey. Half of the trenches were, however, archaeologically blank. Archaeological features were recorded in Trench 1016, which contained a ditch [101603] and Trench 1015, which contained a post-medieval ditch.

6.3.63 The ditch [101603] (width 1.1m, depth 0.46m) in Trench 1016, followed the roddon contour and a series of similarly aligned furrows on the roddon (Plate 38). It also aligned with a field boundary seen in 1887 OS mapping, while the furrows can be broadly dated via function to the medieval/post-medieval period (OS 1887e; Figure 04). These features demonstrate utilisation of the roddons for agriculture in this period, while the cartographical evidence indicates that this boundary, once established, was utilised into the 19th century. This may tie into regional research questions about agriculture in the fen and the process of land reclaiming in the medieval to post-medieval periods.

6.3.64 The roddons in this field were found to be composed of yellowy-brown silty clay. The marine alluviums included grey-brown clays and mottled orange and blue silty clay. Subsoil was seen in the trenches on the roddon (1014–1016), and ranged between light blueish-grey silty clay and dark greyish-brown silt, both indicating wet conditions in the period following the agricultural activity in Trench 1016. This subsoil ranged in depth from 0.28m–0.35m, overlain by a greyish-brown sand to dark brown silty topsoil which ranged in depth from 0.08m in Trench 1016 on the roddon, to 0.55m in Trench 1048, which was located off the roddon.

Trench 1015 (Figure 15; Plate 37)

6.3.65 Trench 1015 was located in Field A-1-09 and targeted a linear anomaly, that did not respect the roddon. A north-to-south aligned feature, identified as a furrow [101503] (0.5m, depth 0.24m) was present. This feature had sloping sides, a flat base and was infilled naturally with lenses of greenish-blue clay, suggesting multiple periods of flooding. A single sherd of post-medieval pottery of 16th–mid-18th century AD date was retrieved. The furrow ran parallel to the projected linear feature and was co-axial with the 1887 field systems (OS 1887b), further suggesting that it formed part of a field system

Trench 1016 (Figures 15 & 23; Plates 38 & 39)

6.3.66 Trench 1016 was located straddling a roddon in Field A-1-09 and targeting a meandering linear feature following the roddon contour. This linear feature was identified as a ditch [101603] (width 1.1m, depth 0.46m), which was cut into the marine alluvium along the roddon edge. It had steeply sloping sides and a flat base with a blackish-brown sandy clay fill. The ditch and projected linear feature were also found to correlate with a mapped field boundary (OS 1887b).

6.3.67 To the east of the ditch, on the roddon, a series of north-east-to-south-west aligned furrows following the ditch and roddon edge alignment were present.

6.3.68 These features can be linked to the development of post-medieval farming in the Fenland, and are suggestive of field system confined to the drier land on the roddon, with continuation of the boundary following fen drainage.

Field A-1-10 (Trenches 1034 and 1035; Figures 03, 04, 16; Plates 42–45)

6.3.69 Field A-1-10 is located to the south of Field A-1-09 and was identified as apparently comprising a roddon-free area. A single curvilinear anomaly was identified in the south-eastern corner of the field. One of the trenches excavated in this field found three undated ditches (Trench 1034) and the second was found to be blank (Trench 1035). The curvilinear anomaly identified during the geophysics was not targeted during the evaluation.

6.3.70 The three undated ditches in Trench 1034, had not been identified by the geophysical survey. They ranged from shallow and concave [103405] to sharply defined and narrow [103407] (Plate 44) and were found on differing alignments. Ditch [103403] appeared to represent a ditch corner (Plate 43). Their function remains unknown at this stage.

6.3.71 Areas of roddon were found in Trench 1035, despite forecasts. The marine alluvium in this field was found to be a blueish-orangey-grey sandy clay. The overlying subsoil was a greyish-orangey-brown sandy silt, ranging between 0.25m–0.34m and the topsoil was a dark-greyish-brown silt measuring 0.27m–0.4m in depth.

Trench 1034 (Figure 16; Plates 42–44)

6.3.72 Trench 1034 was targeted on an apparently blank area of marine alluvium in Field A-1-10. It contained a small, snaky palaeochannel in the north-west, three natural features, including [103405] and [103407] and a curvilinear gully [103403].

6.3.73 The curvilinear gully (width 0.65m, depth 0.27m) measured c.3mx1.3m in plan extending beyond the limits of the trench. In form it appears to have been the corner of a larger feature, rather than a ring gully. It had steep sides and a flat base and a yellowy-brown silty clay fill.

Field A-1-11 (1003, 1005–1013, 1022, 1050 and 1051; Figures 03, 04, 17–20 & 23; Plates 46–63)

6.3.74 Field A-1-11 was the largest field in Area A, measuring approximately 48.8ha. It is located in the eastern half on the Area and contains a large roddon from which other roddons in the area branch off. A series of linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, both on and off the roddon, and a small circular feature were recorded on the northern part of the roddon.

6.3.75 Many of the of the linear anomalies were not found or to be non-archaeological in nature (Trenches 1007, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1013, 1022, 1051). The confirmed linear features were found in Trenches 1003, 1005, 1006, 1008 and 1012. All of these with the exception of ditch [100503] in Trench 1005, were found to correspond to mapped field boundaries (OS 1887e; Figure 04). Although, many of the geophysical linear anomalies were not present archaeologically, comparison with OS mapping indicates that they correspond to historical field boundaries, and may therefore represent features within the topsoil and subsoil. Finds from these features included a shotgun casing, glass, iron, animal bone, clay pipe and CBM.

6.3.76 In addition to the linear features two pits were present in Trench 1013 (Plate 53). No dating evidence was obtained and their function remains unclear.

6.3.77 The roddon was found to be composed of yellowy-brown and reddish-brown silty clay. The marine alluvium was composed of greyish-brown clay. Subsoil was often present (Trenches 1010–1012, 1050 and 1051) and was composed of blueish-grey silty clay, indicating another period of water inundation following the formation of the roddon. It measured 0.17m–0.4m in depth. The overlying topsoil, was composed of greyish-brown and blackish-grey silty clay and measured 0.1m–0.39m in depth.

Trench 1005 (Figure 18; Plate 47)

6.3.78 Trench 1005 was located within Field A-1-11, partially on the roddon. It targeted two linear features, both following the roddon contour, one of which was identified as a shallow flat based ditch [100503] (width 1.42m, depth 0.2m). The fill of the ditch was a dark brown clay containing nine fragments of animal bone from unidentified species. .

Trench 1006 (Figure 18)

6.3.79 Trench 1006 was located within Field A-1-11, on the large roddon. It targeted two east-west aligned linear anomalies and a curvilinear feature.

6.3.80 To the south ditch [100605] (width >2m, depth >0.8m) and recut [100613] (width >2m, depth 0.42m) corresponded to a linear anomaly and a mapped field boundary (OS 1887b). Both had broadly concave profiles with steeply sloping sides and multiple silty and peaty fills. A total of eight fragments of animal bone were recovered and identified as rabbit and unidentified mammal. Environmental sampling (<39> & <41>) of ditch [100605] found charred indeterminate straw fragments, a knotgrass seed, charcoal and mollusc shell.

6.3.81 The east-to-west aligned feature to the north was found to correlate imperfectly to an east-to-west aligned ditch/gully [100603] (width 0.18m, depth 0.34m) of post-medieval date. It contained a blackish-brown silty clay fill with CBM fragments, identified as post-medieval field drain and a fragment of unidentified animal bone.

6.3.82 Based on the wider layout of the projected linear features and OS mapping, both can be considered to represent elements of post-medieval to modern field systems.

Trench 1008 (Figure 19; Plate 49)

6.3.83 Trench 1008 was located within Field A-1-11, mostly on an area of marine alluvium. It targeted a north-to-south aligned linear feature, which correlated with a mapped field boundary (1887b). This was represented within the trench by a flat based ditch [100802] (width 1.6m, depth 0.3m). A blackish-brown silty clay formed the ditch fill.

Trench 1012 (Figure 20; Plate 52)

6.3.84 Trench 1012 was located within Field A-1-11, partially on the large roddon. It targeted a pair of north-to-south aligned linear features. The western linear feature was found to correspond to a post-medieval flat based ditch [101204] (width 1.44m, depth 0.4m). A clay pipe stem of late 18th century AD date onwards, a green glass bottle of 17th/18th century AD date and shell were found in the ditch backfill and comparison of the linear feature against OS mapping suggests that it is likely to have formed an earlier part of the mapped field systems, possibly backfilled prior to 1887 (OS 1887b).

Trench 1013 (Figures 20 & 23; Plates 53 & 54)

6.3.85 Trench 1013 was located on the large roddon within Field A-1-11 and was targeted on a straight linear feature, corresponding to a mapped field boundary (OS 1887b) and a curvilinear feature. Although neither linear feature was found, two small pits were present, towards the centre of the trench.

6.3.86 Pit [101305] (length 0.44m, width 0.48, depth 0.22m) had steeply sloping sides and a V shaped profile. It contained a brownish-grey sandy clay, that appeared to have formed via natural silting.

6.3.87 Pit/terminus [101303] (length >0.32m, width 0.56m, 0.25m) extended beyond the trench edge. It had a shallow concave profile and also appears to have infilled via natural silting.

Field A-1-12 (1001, 1002, 1004 and 1045 and 1046; Figures 03, 04, 22; Plates 58–63)

6.3.88 The roddons in Field A-1-12 are small-scale and considered as less likely to have been heavily used prior to the draining of the fen. A long linear feature and a pair of curvilinear anomalies following a roddon were identified in the north of the field.

6.3.89 The linear feature following the roddon was confirmed in Trench 1001, where it was identified as a relatively substantial, but undated, ditch [100105] (width 1m, depth >0.51m) (Plate 65). A series of ditches were found in Trench 1046, corresponding to both linear anomalies and a historic field boundary (OS 1887e; Figure 04). A modern linear feature, possibly representing a mapped field boundary was also present. The finds included post-medieval and modern pottery, glass, animal bone and iron objects.

6.3.90 Trenches 1002 and 1045, in the southern part of the field, were found to be archaeologically negative. Trench 1004 was descoped due to a UXO exclusion zone.

6.3.91 The roddon was found to be composed of light yellowy-brown material, with traces of briquetage, probably included via disturbance or intrusive. The marine alluvium was found to be composed of mid bluey-grey sediment. A dark brown/greyish-brown subsoil (depth 0.15m–>0.23m) was found to be present above these, followed by a blackish-grey/brown silty clay topsoil (depth 0.25m–>0.34m). Occasional modern CBM, post medieval and modern pottery, 19th century/20th century glass and animal bone were recovered from the topsoil. A single fragment of briquetage from Trench 1045 was retrieved from a roddon deposit, although this can be considered to be intrusive.

Trench 1001 (Figures 22 & 23; Plates 64–65)

6.3.92 Trench 1001 was located within Field A-1-12, partially on a narrow roddon. It contained two features, including a north-west-to-south-east aligned ditch [100105] (width 1m, depth

>0.51m), corresponding to a projected linear feature following the roddon contour. This ditch was wide and shallow with a concave base and contained two naturally formed fills. A slightly curving north-east-to-south-west aligned ditch [100103] (width 1.06m, depth 0.12m) was found to the west of the roddon. This ditch was flat based and filled with a blackish-brown peat fill.

Trench 1003 (Figure 17)

6.3.93 Trench 1003 was located within Field A-1-11 on the marine alluvium area. It targeted an east-to-west aligned linear feature, which did not respect the roddons. This feature was found to correspond to a ditch [100303] (width 3.2m, depth 0.7m) and former field boundary (OS 1887b). The ditch had steeply sloping sides, a flat base and a blackish-brown silty clay fill. The presence of shotgun cartridges indicated a 20th century date.

Trench 1044 (Figure 21)

6.3.94 Trench 1044 was located on the large roddon, within Field A-1-11. It targeted a long, snaky linear feature on the roddon. This feature was found to correspond to a modern ditch [104403] with a smaller parallel ditch [104405] and plough scars [104407] also present.

6.3.95 Ditch [104403] (width 1.3m, depth 0.3m) was north-to-south orientated with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. A blackish-grey silty fill was present with a shard of window glass and plastic.

6.3.96 Ditch [104405] (width 1.2m, depth 0.3m) had a concave profile and a fill disturbed by ploughing.

Trench 1046 (Figure 22; Plates 68 & 69)

6.3.97 Trench 1046 was located in Field A-1-12 and ran across an area of marine alluvium and a narrow roddon, targeting a straight linear feature on the marine alluvium. The linear feature was found to correspond to three of ditches [104607], [104605], [104609] and a mapped field boundary (1887b). A large pit [104603] was also present to the east of the field boundary.

6.3.98 Ditch [104607] (width 1.5m depth 0.38m) was relatively flat based and filled with a brownish-grey clay that appeared to have been deposited by the movement of water.

6.3.99 Ditch [104609] (width 0.6m, depth >0.46m) was not fully excavated due to the presence of modern plastic, identified at a depth of 0.46m. It was cut by ditch [104605]. Ditch [104605] (width 1.3m, depth >0.5m) was not fully excavated due to the presence of modern plastic, identified at a depth of 0.5m. Sherds of pottery of 19th/20th century date and part of an iron socketed hoe were recovered.

6.3.100 Pit [104603] (length 3m, width >1.6m, depth >0.24m) was not fully excavated due to a high quantity of clearly modern material present. The recovered artefacts included three horseshoes, with wire and a ceramic jam jar observed in the fill.

6.4 Areas B and C

Overview

6.4.1 Within Areas B (Figures 24–67; Plates 70–304) and C (Figures 68–99; Plates 305–433), archaeological activity was concentrated on a large roddon, broadest in the east and branching into smaller sinuous roddons to the south and west. The wide portion of this geological formation occupies much of the footprint of Area C, with the narrower branches generally found in Area B. Complexes of dense archaeological activity were identified in much of the Area C roddon area and continuing into Area B. A focus of activity was seen in the northern part of Area C, correlating with the known settlement west of Cate's Cove Corner (NHLE: 1004979; ML20005; MLI22043) and the known settlement north-east of Whitebread Farm (NHLE 1004978; MLI20004).

6.4.2 The scheduled part of these settlements was excluded from the evaluation, with a single trench (Trench 3072) inadvertently placed just within the boundaries of the Scheduled Monument. The non-designated parts of the assets were evaluated in Fields B-2, C-1-01, C-1-03 and C-2-02. A further non-designated heritage asset recording possible settlement (MLI22032) is located at the boundary of Area B and C, straddling fields B-1-09, B-1-10, B-1-13 and B-1-14. Cropmarks believed to represent Roman settlement and salt-making activity are also located in Field C-1-08, which was not included in the evaluation scope, partially extending into Fields C-1-06 and C-1-07 and within Fields C-1-01, C-2-05 (MLI22037; MLI2302; MLI20246). Further Roman settlement areas, salt-making activity, and field systems, are recorded as heritage assets to the direct north and south of Areas B and C.

6.4.3 The geophysical anomalies identified in the evaluated parts of Areas B and C, included systems of parallel ditches, possibly functioning as water channels, circular features and rectilinear enclosures.

6.4.4 Within Area B, activity was predominantly identified in fields B-1-07, B-1-08, B-1-09, B-1-10, B-1-13 and B-1-14. Apparently roddon-free areas were present in fields B-1-02, B-1-03, B-1-04, B-1-05, B-1-06, B-3-01 and B5, with areas of possible archaeological anomalies identified in B-1-01 and B-1-07. Fields B-1-11 and B-3-02 were largely located between roddons.

6.4.5 Fields C-1-02, C-1-04, C-1-05, C-2-01, C-2-04, C-2-05 were identified as containing areas of apparently blank roddon while geophysical results for Fields C-1-01, C-1-03, C-1-06, C-1-07, C-1-08, C-2-02, C-2-03 showed the presence of dense archaeological remains.

Changes to scope

6.4.6 Additional trenches were evaluated in Fields B-1-12, B-3-02, B-3-01 and B5 in order to assess a proposed cable route and associated infrastructure. A further two trenches in Field C-2-02 were added to the scope during the works and two trenches (Trenches 3005 and 3072, Fields C-1-01, C-1-03) were extended to investigate potential saltern activity.

6.4.7 Field C-2-05 was descoped from the evaluation.

Results Overview

6.4.8 The area of dense archaeological anomalies identified along the large roddon in Areas B and C has been confirmed by the evaluation. This has generally found to be of Late Iron Age or Roman in date.

6.4.9 In Fields C-1-01, C-1-03, C-1-06, C-1-07 and C-2-02, the activity appears to represent potential settlement activity or the fringes of larger settlements. As the activity continues westwards through Fields B-1-13, B-1-14 and B-1-09 the density decreases, levels of enclosure decline and the activity may be more seasonal or less permanent in nature. On the smaller branches of roddon, archaeological features are sparse consisting of ring gullies and occasional ditches (Fields B-1-03, B-1-07, B-1-08, B-1-19, B-2 and C-1-05). The vast majority of features have been found to be concentrated on the roddons but, utilisation of the marine alluvium area was also evidenced, often with ring gullies and (Fields B-1-13 and B-2) occasionally possible droveways/ water management ditches (Field C-2-02).

6.4.10 The most common features comprised parallel ditches often seen following the edges of the roddon. These may represent trackways/droveways as well as water management, possibly allowing the exploitation of the roddons to access seasonally available wetland pasture on the marine alluvium areas. In addition to the smaller trackways/droveways and possible drainage features, following the roddon contours into sparser areas of activity; a long meandering trackway stretching along the large roddon and linking areas of archaeological density was present. This was investigated and/or surveyed in Fields B-1-09, B-1-13, C-2-02 and C-2-03. The circular anomalies were re-characterised as possible roundhouses; these are present in Fields B-1-03, B-1-07, B-1-08, B-1-09, B-1-10, B-1-13, B-1-14 and B-2. Their generally sparse distribution and frequent location on smaller roddons and occasional marine alluvium areas was suggestive of seasonal use associated with pastoral activity and the exploitation of grazing marshes. Fills similar to the surrounding marine alluvium were often present, suggesting that they were infilled via flooding soon after being cut. Enclosure features were present in Fields B-1-09, B-1-10, B-1-13, B-1-14, C-1-01, C-1-03, C-1-06, C-1-07 and C-2-02. Features associated with salt-making activity were identified in two trenches (Trenches 3005 and 3072, Fields C-1-01 and C-1-03).

6.4.11 A frequently identified trend in this area comprised early clayey and silty sequences with silty bluey-grey fills representing periods of prolonged flooding, browner clay and silt fills representing slower silting and laminated fills representing periodic flooding. Frequent recuts closely following the routes of previous earlier trenches were also observed, indicating frequent maintenance of the ditches and frequent silting. The final infilling event in Roman ditches generally comprised dark grey peaty-silty clay fills and/or peat deposits, indicating a final prolonged period of flooding and water inundation, which allowed the formation of peat deposits. This is exemplified in ditch [301907], Trench 3019. This final infill may represent an abandonment phase and was rarely found to contain artefacts or found to be followed by further activity. Fills formed via backfilling and waste deposition were rare and confined to areas of clearer settlement activity and salt production.

6.4.12 This combined evidence is suggestive of seasonal activity associated the nearby settlement areas. The seasonal activity may have been pastoral in nature, based around accessing grazing marshes in drier periods.

6.4.13 Evidence for later activity was also present. This often took the form of long straight ditches, which did not respect the roddons, representing probable land and water management of uncertain date. Occasional late medieval, post-medieval and modern finds were retrieved from these ditches. Ditches which could be identified with 19th century field boundaries were occasionally present.

6.4.14 Wherever tested the geophysical survey has been found to correlate well with the presence of archaeological fatures.

6.4.15 A total of 62 trenches in Areas B and C were found to be archaeologically blank (Trenches 2014, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2029, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2054, 2056, 2058, 2070, 2071, 2073, 2074, 2079, 2080, 2083, 2086, 2098, 2103, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2116, 2128, 2130, 2132, 2133, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2143, 2144, 2146, 2147, 3012, 3013, 3014, 3027, 3029, 3036, 3041, 3054, 3061, 3068, 3069 and 3073).

Stratigraphy

6.4.16 The composition and depths of the marine alluvium, tidal clay, roddons and overlying layers varied across the two areas and have been presented in more detail per field. A broad stratigraphy of marine alluvium was present between the roddons, sometimes overlain by subsoil followed by topsoil was recorded, however test pitting sometimes revealed a more dynamic picture of the site formation.

6.4.17 The roddon sequence was sometimes found to comprise clays, overlain by silts, silty clays or silty sands, while further clays or marine alluvium was sometimes found to be deposited following the formation of the roddon. Trench 2038, Field B-1-03, had a layer of marine alluvium overlying the roddon, indicating a possible rise in water levels and loss of dryland. The variation of redder oxidised alluvial layers, bluer non-oxidised alluvial layers, browner alluvial layers and the variations in marine alluvium composition, indicate a complex and changing environment.

6.4.18 Occasional additional layers were also present, including a possible occupational layer in Trench 2025, and layers of uncertain/natural formation in Trench 3075.

6.5 Results breakdown

Field B-1-01 (Trenches 2012–2014, 2069, 2110 and 2115; Figures 24-27 & 65; Plates 70–79)

6.5.1 Field B-1-01 is located at the western side of Area B and contains two small branches of roddon. A series of anomalies were identified by the geophysical survey, including possible enclosure features, linear features and circular features. These were not limited by the extent of the roddon.

6.5.2 A shallow undated ditch [201203] (width 1.32m, depth 0.28m) was present in Trench 2012, corresponding to a geophysical anomaly of uncertain character (Plate 72).

6.5.3 Ditches corresponding to geophysical anomalies were present in Trenches 2013, 2069 and 2115. These could be identified as historical field boundaries based on 1887 OS mapping (OS 1887c; Figure 25). A small quantity of Roman pottery and briquetage was recovered, possibly representing residual finds. Trench 2010, which targeted a circular anomaly was found to be archaeologically blank.

6.5.4 The roddons in this field were found to be composed of orangey-brown silty clays occasionally mottled with whiteish sand or containing clay laminations. The marine alluvium was found to consistently compose a mid-blueish-grey silty clay and the overlying topsoil composed a dark-greyish-brown silty clay, measuring a consistent 0.33m–0.35m in depth.

Trench 2012 (Figure 27; Plate 70)

6.5.5 Trench 2012 was targeted on geophysical anomalies in the marine alluvium in Field B-1-01. A single ditch [201203] was present, which did not correspond to any projected feature. Ditch

[201203] (1.32m, depth 0.28m) was east-to-west aligned and concave in profile and contained a single black grey fill (201204).

Trench 2013 (Figures 26 & 65; Plates 71-73)

6.5.6 Trench 2013 was located to the north of Trench 2012 and Trench 2014, across a narrow roddon and targeted linear anomalies that appeared to follow the roddon contour.

6.5.7 The southern linear feature was found to correspond to the ditch [201302] (width c.1.4m, depth 0.32m) This ditch was investigated via machine intervention and the true profile could not be identified. It was filled by a grey black clay silt (201303).

6.5.8 A ditch [201304] (width 3.1m, depth 0.82m) corresponding to a mapped field boundary (OS 1887c;Figure 25) was present towards the centre of the trench. It had a defined profile with sloping sides and a fat base. A total of two fills were present: a thin basal fill of mid bluey-grey silty clay (201305) followed by a brown silt with lenses of orange-brown and mottles (201306). This was suggestive of multiple periods of flooding and settling.

Trench 2069 (Figure 27; Plates 75 & 76)

6.5.9 Trench 2069 was located on a narrow roddon and was targeted on the intersection of a long linear feature and a possible palaeochannel, identified by the aerial survey. A single modern ditch [206903] was present.

6.5.10 Ditch [206903] (width 1.64m, depth 0.3m) was aligned north-east-to-south-west and corresponded to the long linear feature and to a mapped field boundary (OS 1887c; Figure 25). It had a wide, slightly V-shaped profile and a possible backfill (206904), containing occasional CBM identified as brick and drainpipe of 19th –20th century AD date as well as a residual fragment of briquetage (3g) of miscellaneous form.

Trench 2115 (Figure 27; Plates 78 - 79)

6.5.11 Trench 2115 was located on the marine alluvium and targeted on a series of geophysical anomalies, representing a potential enclosure and parallel linear features identified by the aerial survey. No archaeological features corresponding to the geophysical anomalies were found, however, the feature identified in the aerial survey was found to correspond to a ditch [211509] with a curvilinear ditch [2011503/211506] also present.

6.5.12 Curvilinear ditch [211503/211506] (width 1.5m, depth 0.5m) had a length of 8m within the trench and can be projected to have an estimated diameter of 8.9m. It was flat based with slightly stepped sides and contained a slumping fill of dark brownish-grey silty clay (211504) on one side, followed by a blueish-grey silty clay, indicative of waterlogged conditions.

6.5.13 The curvilinear ditch [211503/211506] was cut by a modern ditch [211509] (width >1.73m, depth 0.53m). This ditch ran north-east-to-south-west and corresponded to a mapped field boundary (OS 1887c; Figure 25). It contained a dark brownish-grey clay (2111510) with laminations, indicating periodic flooding and settling, followed by a greyish-brown silty clay possibly formed by backfilling. Finds were recovered from this upper fill, including bricks (not retrieved), iron objects and field drain fragments.

Field B-1-02 (Trenches 2036, 2037, 2054, 2055 and 2072; Figures 24, 25, 29, 28 & 65; Plates 80–86)

6.5.14 Field B-1-02 is located to the south of Field B-1-01 and contains an area of meandering roddon with small branches to the south. A few linear anomalies were identified in this field, all of which correlate with mapped historical field boundaries (OS 1887c; Figure 25). Palaeochannels and a small curvilinear feature were also identified on the roddons.

6.5.15 The curvilinear anomaly was confirmed in Trench 2055 [205502] (width 0.52m, depth 0.16m), where it was recorded as being relatively shallow with steep sides (Plate 84). It could be identified as a potential roundhouse, based on the geophysical evidence. A peaty fill was present indicating that it may have inundated towards the end of its use and formed part of the fen.

6.5.16 One of the mapped historical field boundaries was identified in Trench 2072 as a shallow ditch [207202] (width 2.06m, depth 0.32m), while the other anomalies respecting to field boundaries (Trenches 2054 and 2073) were not identified. Field boundaries within this field can be theorised to have been relatively shallow/ less intrusive.

6.5.17 Trench 2036 was targeted across a narrow roddon and targeted on the intersection between a potential palaeochannel and a linear feature, which was identified in the aerial survey and corresponded to a mapped field boundary (OS 1887c; Figure 25). It was however found to be archaeologically blank.

6.5.18 Trench 2037 did not target any identified anomalies and was found to be blank.

6.5.19 The roddon was composed of yellow/orangey-brown clayey silt with silty clay lenses. The marine alluvium was found to be a greyish-brown clay with orange flecking. The overlying topsoil was found to be 0.32m in depth.

Trench 2055 (Figures 28 & 65; Plates 83 & 84)

6.5.20 Trench 2055 was targeted on a curvilinear anomaly on an area of roddon. This was confirmed to represent a ditch [205502].

6.5.21 Ditch [205502] (width 0.52m, depth 0.16m) had a concave profile with steeply sloping sides and contained a peaty blackish-brown silty clay. Based on a projection from the geophysical anomaly, potential external diameter of 11m can be estimated, although a circular plan cannot be confirmed. This may represent drainage for a small and potentially temporary structure/dwelling.

Trench 2072 (Figure 29; Plates 85 - 86)

6.5.22 Trench 2072 was located within the marine alluvium area and was targeted on a linear feature, identified in the aerial survey and conforming to historical mapping (OS 1887c; Figure 25). This feature was represented by a single ditch [207202].

6.5.23 Ditch [207202] (width 2.06m, depth 0.32m) was east-to-west aligned and flat based. It contained a single fill of dark bluey-grey silty clay.

Field B-1-03 (Trenches 2038–2042 and 2111; Figures 24, 25, 31 & 65; Plates 87–94)

6.5.24 The majority of trenches in field B-1-03 were targeted on two apparently blank areas of roddon, both branching off from the large roddon in Area C, with a single curvilinear anomaly targeted in Trench 2111.

6.5.25 Narrow curvilinear gullies were identified in Trenches 2111 and 2042, representing possible small dwellings. Trenches 2038–2041 were archaeologically blank, as expected from the previous surveys.

6.5.26 The stratigraphic sequence on the roddon generally consisted of a yellow/orangey-brown silt directly overlain by topsoil (depth 0.3m). In Trench 2038, however, a layer of marine alluvium (203801; depth 0.3m) was present in between the roddon and the topsoil. In Trench 2042 a thick deposit of dark greyish-brown silty clay (204203; depth 1m) was present within a silty depression in the roddon.

6.5.27 Between the roddons, deep deposits of marine alluvium consisting of dark-greyish-brown silty clay marine alluvium with orange flecks (depth 0.5m–>1m) directly overlain by topsoil were present. Trench 2041 had a layer of oxidised marine alluvium (204103; depth >0.21m) overlain by 0.46m of marine alluvium.

Trench 2042 (Figure 30; Plates 91 & 92)

6.5.28 Trench 2042 was excavated in two parts, covering a combined length of c.50m. It was targeted on the southern roddon and a meandering possible palaeochannel. A single curvilinear feature [204204] was present and the potential palaeochannel was found to correspond to a silty depression in the roddon (204203).

6.5.29 Curvilinear feature [204204] (width 0.2m, depth 0.45] had a deep and narrow profile and a mottled clayey silt fill (204205). Based on the other known curvilinear features in this area, it might be interpreted as a small ring ditch; however, there was not enough evidence within the trench to assert this.

Trench 2111 (Figures 31 & 65; Plates 93 & 94)

6.5.30 Trench 2111 was a squarish trench targeted on a circular anomaly on the northern roddon. This was represented by a curvilinear gully [211103/211105] with a terminus.

6.5.31 Curvilinear gully [211103/211105] (width 0.34m, depth 0.19m) was flat based with steeply sloping sides. It was filled with an orangey-grey silty clay (211106). Based on the geophysical survey, an external diameter of c.11m can be estimated and it is likely that this feature formed deliberately excavated drainage for a small, possibly temporary dwelling.

Field B-1-04 (Figures 24, 25)

6.5.32 Field B-1-04 is a small field located to the east of B-1-01, with no roddons. This area was not targeted by any archaeological trial trenches. A single linear anomaly was identified by the geophysical survey. This feature continues into Field B-1-07 where it was investigated in Trenches 2052 and 2070.

Field B-1-05 (Figures 24, 25)

6.5.33 Similarly, to Field B-1-04, Field B-1-05 has not been targeted by any archaeological trial trenches. It contains a small roddon and projected palaeochannel, which continued from Field B-1-01 to the west to Field B-1-07 to the east. No archaeological features have been recorded by previous surveys.

Field B-1-06 (Trenches 2017, 2019, 2020, 2073 and 2074; Figures 24, 25; Plates 95–99)

6.5.34 Field B-1-06 is located towards the south-west of Area B. It contains two areas of roddon, the northern roddon meanders from Field B-1-02 to the west to Field B-1-08 to the east. The southern roddon continues from Field B-1-03 to the west into Field B-1-08 to the east. The previous surveys identified palaeochannels and occasional linear features associated with the roddons.

6.5.35 All of the trenches in this field have been found to be archaeologically blank. A copper alloy coin was found in the topsoil.

6.5.36 The roddons in this field were composed of yellowy-brownish–orangey-brown silty clay. The marine alluvium was found to be a bluey-grey silty clay. The overlying topsoil is a dark greyish-brown silty clay measuring 0.27m–0.35m in depth.

Field B-1-07 (Trenches 2051–2053, 2070 and 2071; Figures 4a, 4b, 4c, 33 & 35; Plates 100–105)

6.5.37 Field B-1-07 is located in the western part of Area B. It contains a roddon in the south, which continues from Field B-1-05 in the west into Field B-1-09 in the east.

6.5.38 The trenches in the northern part of Field B-1-07 (2052, 2070) targeted a series of linear cropmarks, which continued from Field B-1-04 to the west, where they appeared to continue from a mapped historical field boundary (OS 1887c; Figure 25). The cropmarks were found to correspond to natural deposits, generally of tidal clay. This may indicate that part of the field system formation was influenced by natural features.

6.5.39 In the southern part of the field, Trench 2051 targeted an apparently blank area of roddon and palaeochannel, and was found to be blank. A single tidal clay feature was present. Trench 2071 targeted a curvilinear anomaly outside the roddons and was found to be blank.

6.5.40 Lastly, Trench 2053 targeted one of a series of circular features, initially interpreted as salterns, on the roddon. In this trench a probable ring gully and a substantial ditch were recorded confirming the results of the geophysical survey, indicating the presence of multiple possible roundhouses and associated ditches on the roddon in this field.

6.5.41 The roddon was occasionally found cutting into marine alluvium layers and the general stratigraphy indicated multiple environmental changes over time. The stratigraphic sequence on the roddons consisted of clays (depth>0.59m), overlain by mottled, white, red and orange silts (depth 0.12m–0.26m) forming the roddons. These were directly overlain by topsoil (0.3m–0.56m). Between the roddons, deep deposits of marine alluvium, consisting of blueish-grey silty clays (>0.69–>0.78m) were directly overlain by topsoil. In Trenches 2053 and 2071 deposits of oxidised alluvium were overlain by 0.26m–1.1m of clay marine alluvium. In Trench 2070 marine alluvium was also sometimes found above the roddon.

Trench 2053 (Figure 32; Plates 102 & 103)

6.5.42 Trench 2053 was located in the corner of the field, on the roddon and was targeted on one of a series of circular features. This feature was identified as a probable ring gully [205304]. A ditch [205305] was also present in close proximity.

6.5.43 Ring gully [205304] (width 0.27m, depth 0.1m) can be estimated to have an external diameter of c.9m–10m, based on the geophysical survey. It had a concave profile and a blackish-brown silty clay fill (205303) indicating water inundation and partial peat formation after abandonment.

6.5.44 Ditch [205305] (width >1.48m, depth 0.59m) was only partially visible in the trench, due to the angle in which it was caught. It was substantial and appears to have had a flat based profile with steeply sloping sides. It was infilled with a mixed silty clay (205306), suggestive of a marine environment.

Field B-1-08 (Trenches 2015–2018, 2049, 2079 & 2121–2128; Figures 24, 25, 35 & 65; Plates 106–129)

6.5.45 Field B-1-08 was narrow and rectangular with three areas of roddon, two of which branched off from a larger area of roddon in field B-1-10 and continued into Field B-1-06 to the west. The third roddon in the northern part of the field was a small offshoot from a roddon in Field B-1-07 to the north. Palaeochannels were identified by the previous surveys, as well as areas of archaeological activity on the two southern roddons. A single linear feature, which did not respect the roddons, was also identified.

6.5.46 The northern roddon area was targeted by Trench 2049 and was archaeologically blank.

6.5.47 The roddon towards the centre was identified as containing an area of archaeological activity consisting of ring ditches/ring gullies and a possible enclosure. It was targeted by Trenches 2015, 2016, 2018, 2124–2126 and 2128, which confirmed the presence of the majority of the anomalies, with the exception of the sub-square enclosure targeted by Trench 2128 (Plate 129). A ring gully was confirmed in Trench 2127 (Plates 126-128) and an unforeseen curvilinear feature was found in Trench 2018. A single animal bone was recovered.

6.5.48 The roddon in the southern part of the field contained a sub-rectangular enclosure, an internal curvilinear feature and associated discrete feature, as well as further circular and sub-circular external features, representing ring ditches/ring gullies. These features were targeted by Trenches 2122–2123, which confirmed the presence of the enclosure, internal curvilinear feature (Trench 2122) and one of the external ring ditches/ring gullies (Trench 2121) (Plates 113-115). Although the potential sub-circular feature targeted by Trench 2123 was not found to be real, an east-to-west aligned ditch was present, possibly representing further enclosure or drainage. A small quantity of briquetage and CBM was recovered.

6.5.49 Trench 2079 was designed on an area between roddons and Trench 2016 targeted a thin branch of roddon, both were found to be archaeologically blank.

6.5.50 While the ring ditches/ring gullies within the field were initially interpreted as salterns, the excavation evidence did not find briquetage or features associated with salt-making. It is possible that they instead, represent a series of roundhouses. A vertically sided rectangular pit [212102] (length 1.08m, width 0.9m, depth 0.64m) was found within the ring ditch [212104] in Trench 2121. This did not have the clay lining expected for a salt-making tank, but may have functioned as a storage pit or as a large structural element. Multi-phased activity was also indicated by the spatial relationships between the ring ditches/ring gullies in Trench

2124, although there were no intersections. The ditches found in Trenches 2015, 2122 and 2126 may represent enclosure and drainage associated with these possible roundhouses.

6.5.51 The stratigraphic sequence on the roddons consisted of dark blue clays, followed by orangey-brown sandy silt and silty clay roddon deposits (depth 0.2m–>0.6m), directly overlain by topsoil (depth 0.28m–0.41m). Between the roddons layers of dark greyish-brown silty clay and blueish-grey silty clay marine alluvium/tidal clays were present (depth 0.7m–1.4m). A test pit in Trench 2015 showed the roddon overlying clays, and a dark blueish-grey clay was found beneath the roddon in Trenches 2122 and 2123. Further clays were also found under marine alluvium in Trench 2049.Possible pantile of 19th century AD date and onwards was recovered from the topsoil.

Trench 2015 (Figure 35; Plates 106 & 107)

6.5.52 Trench 2015 was targeted on a linear feature on the roddon. This feature was positively identified as a ditch [201504] (width 0.66m, depth 0.33m). The ditch was north-east-to-south-east aligned with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a basal fill of greyish-brown silty clay (201505) followed by a deposit similar to the marine alluvium (201502).

6.5.53 An environmental sample <1> was taken from the marine alluvium (201503) in this trench, which found charcoal and worm capsules.

Trench 2018 (Figure 34; Plates 109 & 110)

6.5.54 Trench 2018 was targeted on an area of thin meandering roddon in and a long straight linear feature. Although the linear feature was not positively identified, a curvilinear gully [201803] on the roddon was. The gully [201803] (width 0.26m, depth 0.07m) measured 6m in length within the trench and based on an interpretation as a ring gully can be estimated to have a diameter of c.9m. It had a concave profile and a dark greyish-brown silty clay fill (201804). This may represent an area of temporary/permanent habitation.

Trench 2121 (Figure 36; Plates 113-115)

6.5.55 Trench 2121 was located on the southern roddon in the field and was targeted on a circular anomaly with interior features. These were positively identified as a ring gully [212104] and pit [212102].

6.5.56 Ring gully [212104] (width 0.88m, depth 0.24m) can be estimated to have a diameter of c.10m, based on the geophysical survey. It was concave in profile with a mixed clayey silt fill, which was difficult to distinguish from the surrounding roddon deposits. A total of seven fragments of briquetage (18g) were recovered as identified as support and miscellaneous elements.

6.5.57 The pit [212102] (length 1.08m, width 0.9m, depth 0.64m) had a squarish shape in plan, vertical sides and a concave base. This shape is suggestive of a posthole for a large structural element or a storage pit, both interpretations are consistent with its location within a probable roundhouse. It contained a single fill of dark brownish-grey silty clay (212103), that appeared to represent backfill.

Trench 2122 (Figures 36 & 65; Plates 116–117)

6.5.58 Trench 2122 was located on the same roddon as Trench 2121 and was targeted on a possible enclosure and circular feature, identified by the geophysical and aerial survey. Both features were confirmed within the trench.

6.5.59 The enclosure ditch [212203] (width 1.08m, depth 0.27m) was flat based and aligned north-to-south. It contained a possible backfill deposit of dark brownish-grey silty clay (212204). Environmental sampling <2> found charred indeterminate straw fragments, charred weed seeds of arable/ruderal ground, charred weed seeds of damp/wet environs, charcoal and insect remains.

6.5.60 The curvilinear feature [212205] (width 0.52m, depth 0.19m) probably represents a ring gully. While the geophysical anomaly is fragmentary a diameter of c. 10m–11m can be estimated. It had a concave profile and a fill of light brownish-grey silty clay (212206).

Trench 2123 (Figure 36; Plates 118 & 119)

6.5.61 Trench 2123 was located directly to the south of Trench 2122 was targeted on a circular feature and a possible squarish feature identified by the geophysical survey. A single ditch [212303] was identified.

6.5.62 Ditch [212303] (width 1.34m, depth 0.56m) was east-to-west aligned and concave in profile. Its wider character and function is uncertain and it was filled with a mid-greyish-brown silty clay (212304). Environmental sampling <3> of this feature found rounded wheat, wheat/barley and charcoal.

Trench 2124 (Figure 35; Plate 120 & 121)

6.5.63 Trench 2124 was located on the central roddon within Field B-1-08 and was targeted on a pair of intersecting circular anomalies identified in the geophysical survey. A pair of curvilinear gullies were recorded, these appear to represent two ring gullies, or small enclosures. No intersections were present.

6.5.64 Gully [212402] (width 0.7m, depth 0.2m) terminated within the trench. Based on the geophysical survey, it has an external diameter of c.7m. It had a concave profile and a fill of dark brownish-grey silty clay (212403).

6.5.65 Gully [212404] (width 0.56m, depth 0.2m) also terminated within the trench. Based on the geophysical survey it is more oval in plan, measuring an estimated c.9.6mx5.8m. It had a flat base, broadly concave profile and two fills: a red flecked greyish-brown sandy clay (212405), followed by a deposit similar to the surrounding roddon.

Trench 2125 (Figures 35 & 65; Plates 122 & 123)

6.5.66 Trench 2125 was located to the south-west of Trench 2124 and was targeted on a circular anomaly identified in the geophysical survey. A corresponding ring gully [212502] (width 0.66m, depth 0.22m) was identified. A diameter of c.12.4m can be estimated, based on the geophysical survey. It had steeply sloping sides, a concave profile and a fill of dark brownish-grey clayey silt with lenses of material, similar to the surrounding roddon.

Trench 2126 (Figure 35 & 65; Plates 124 & 125)

6.5.67 Trench 2126 was located to the north of Trench 2125 and was targeted on an anomaly suggestive of an enclosure, enclosing the ring gully in Trench 2125. A ditch corner [212602], corresponding to the anomaly and a pit [212604] were present.

6.5.68 Probable enclosure ditch corner [212602] (width 1.36m, depth 0.36m) was concave in profile. It contained as mid-brownish-grey silty clay with lenses of material similar to the surrounding roddon. It was cut by the pit [12604].

6.5.69 Pit [212604] (diameter 1.4m, depth 0.55m) was round in plan and concave in profile. It contained a dark brownish-grey clayey silt (212605) with no signs of domestic waste.

Trench 2127 (Figures 35 & 65; Plates 126–128)

6.5.70 Trench 2127 was targeted on a circular anomaly on the central roddon in Field B-1-08. This was positively identified as a ring gully [212704] with a ditch [212702] also recorded.

6.5.71 Ring gully [212704] (width 0.42m, depth 0.24m) was narrow in profile with steeply sloping sides. A diameter of c.13.3m can be estimated, based on the geophysical survey. It was filled by a dark greyish-clay silt with lenses of orange and yellow silty sand.

6.5.72 Ditch [212702] (width 1.76m, depth 0.63m) was located c.0.5m to the south-east of the ring gully [212704] and was aligned north-east-to-south-west. It was concave in profile with moderately sloping sides.

Field B-1-09 (Trenches 2004–2011, 2021, 2056–2061 and 2106–2109; Figures 24, 25, 37-40 & 66; Plates 130–159)

6.5.73 Field B-1-09 is a large field, covering approximately 46.6ha, located in the centre of Area B. It contains part of the large roddon, which dominates Area C and branches into smaller roddons to the west. A high density of archaeological anomalies was identified on the roddon, including parallel ditches, following the roddon contour, possible enclosures and curvilinear features, initially thought to represent potential salterns. Part of this activity is recorded in the Lincolnshire HER as a possible Romano-British settlement (MLI22032). Occasional linear features correlating with mapped historical field boundaries were also identified (OS 1887c; Figure 25).

6.5.74 The slightly clearer small enclosures and circular anomalies identified by the geophysical survey on the area of roddon to the south were generally not subject to trial trench evaluation, but can be assumed to be real based on the results from surrounding fields.

6.5.75 A series of parallel ditches following the roddon contour were identified in Trenches 2004, 2005 and 2006. These appear to represent drainage and a potential droveway. The ditches varied in depth from 0.26m–1.19m and contained recuts. The ditch fills included blueish silting deposits and black peaty deposits, indicating periods of flooding and water inundation. A single fragment of CBM was recovered. A small complex within this possible droveway was investigated in Trench 2006 and may represent a droveway entrance and livestock management area. It is possible that this area allowed access to an area of further parallel linear features on the marine alluvium to the north (Trench 2061).

6.5.76 Trenches 2007, 2010, 2011, 2057, 2058, 2106 and 2107, targeted anomalies identified on a meandering roddon area branching off to the north. A small cluster of linear anomalies of uncertain function were confirmed in Trenches 2007, 2011 and 2106. Similarly to the ditches in Trenches 2004 and 2005, blueish silty fills, black peaty fills and recuts were frequently noted. While these features were found to extend beyond the roddon, they were clustered around it, suggesting an area of drier ground around the roddon.

6.5.77 A series of undated ditches corresponding to parallel linear features which did not respect the roddons, were found in Trench 2009 and 2057. Further meandering linear features/set of parallel linear anomalies corresponded to ditches in Trenches 2010 and 2011. These ditches were undated, but continue into Fields B-1-12 and B-2 to the north-east. Trenches 2107 and 2058 were found to be archaeologically blank.

6.5.78 Off the roddon, Trenches 2008, 2021, 2059, 2108 and 2109 were designed to identify geophysical anomalies. An undated gully and a possible gully were found in Trench 2008,

which correlated imperfectly with a curvilinear anomaly (Plates 138 & 139). The feature targeted in Trench 2059 was not found to be real. The circular features targeted by Trenches 2108 and 2109 were also not found. A linear feature corresponding to a mapped field boundary was targeted by Trench 2021, but was not present as an archaeological feature.

6.5.79 Trench 2056 targeted a small branch of roddon and was did not contain archaeological elements.

6.5.80 A 19th century field boundary was noted in Trenches 2008, 2058, 2059 and 2060, but it was not investigated.

6.5.81 Based on the features recorded on the roddons, the sparsely distributed circular features and enclosures in the western part of the roddon can be presumed to exist.

6.5.82 The roddon deposits were found to be yellowy-brown and orangey-brown silty clays. In Trench 2048, a bluey-grey clay with orange flecks (2048) was recorded within the roddon sequence. The marine alluvium generally consisted of mid-blueish-grey silty clays. The deposits and the archaeological features were directly overlain by a dark greyish-brown silty clay topsoil, which measured 0.29m–0.44m in depth.

Trench 2004 (Figures 37 & 66; Plates 130 & 131)

6.5.83 Trench 2004 was located within the dense settlement area on the large roddon. It targeted a set of three east-to-west aligned linear features, identified on the aerial and geophysical surveys. These features followed the roddon contour and continued from Trenches 2005, 2002 and 2078. They were positively identified as ditches with a fourth ditch and recuts also present. Based on artefactual dating of the trackway/droveways in Field B-1-13 and C-2-02, a Roman date can be inferred.

6.5.84 Ditch terminus [200410] (width 0.54m, depth 0.11m) was located to the north of the projected ditches on a parallel alignment. It had a mid-blueish-grey silty clay fill (200411).

6.5.85 Ditch [200407] (width 1.76m, depth 0.6m), had a wide and generally sloping profile. It had a peaty basal fill (200408), followed by a greyish-brown silty clay (200409).

6.5.86 Approximately 18m to the south, ditch [200412] (width 3.36m, depth 1.19m) was flat based with steeply sloping sides. It contained a single mid-blueish-grey silty clay fill and was recut by ditch [200414] (width 2.32m, depth 0.84m). The ditch recut [200414] was also flat based and contained two fills, a blackish-brown sandy silt (200415), followed by a peaty blackish-grey silty sand (200416). A field drain was found within the ditch recut and while it is unlikely to have been contemporary with the cut, it appears to have disturbed the fills to an uncertain degree.

6.5.87 The final ditch [200403] (width 1.26m, depth 0.26mm) had sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill, a grey silty clay with orange flecks (200404) and was recut by [200405]. Ditch [200405] (width 1.16m, depth 0.28m) was more concave in profile and contained a single blackish-brown clayey silt fill (200406).

Trench 2005 (Figures 37 & 66; Plates 132–133)

6.5.88 Trench 2005 was located within the known Roman settlement area (MLI22032), on the roddon and targeted the same potential trackway/ drainage ditches as Trenches 2004 and 2002. All of the parallel linear features were positively identified, with a single curvilinear anomaly,

which was not found to be archaeological. Based on artefactual dating of the trackway/droveways in Field B-1-13 and C-2-02, a Roman date can be inferred.

6.5.89 The northern ditch [200516] (width 2.19m, depth 0.86m) was substantial with a concave profile and was filled with a mid-blueish-grey clay (200517). It was recut by a flat based ditch [200518] (width 1.88m, depth 0.74m) which was then filled with a blackish-brown sandy silt (200519).

6.5.90 Ditch [200507] (width 1.98m, depth 0.82m) had steeply sloping to slightly convex sides and a sharply flat base. It contained three fills, a dark greyish-silty clay with orange flecks (200508), a possible slumping layer with material from the roddons (200509) and a mid-grey clay (200510). It was recut by ditch [200511] (width 1.56m, depth 0.38m), which was also steeply sided, albeit, much shallower. The final fill (200512) was a blackish-brown clayey silt. A fragment of possible post-medieval brick was recovered.

6.5.91 Ditch [200503] (width >2.8m, depth 0.68m) had a wide gentle profile and a mid-blueish-grey sandy clay fill (200504). It was recut by ditch [200505] (width 1.44m, depth 0.39m), which was concave in profile with a peaty fill (200505). Disturbance from a field drain obscured elements of these ditches.

6.5.92 The southernmost ditch [200513] (width 1.48m, depth 0.2m) had a wide and slightly curving profile. It contained two fills, a blackish-brown clay (200514), followed by a greyish-brown silty clay with red inclusions (200515).

Trench 2006 (Figure 37; Plates 134)

6.5.93 Trench 2006 was targeted on the same potential droveway/trackway/drainage feature as Trenches 2002, 2004 and 2005, within the known Roman settlement area (MLI22032). While in the other ditches this potential droveway consisted of simple parallel ditches, in the area targeted by Trench 2006, there was more complexity. This may represent an area in which livestock could be further managed or potentially directed away from the main droveway/trackway to a ditched area to the north (Trench 2061). All geophysical anomalies were found to correspond to ditches. Based on artefactual dating of the trackway/droveways in Field B-1-13 and C-2-02, a Roman date can be inferred.

6.5.94 The westernmost ditch [200606] (width 2.9m, depth >0.44m) was north-to-south aligned and slightly curving. Based on the geophysical survey, it would have branched northwards from the central ditch of the potential droveway. It was filled with a red speckled greyish-blue silty clay (200607) and recut by [200608] (width 3.7m, depth 0.64m). The recut [200608] had sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a blackish-brown silty clay (200609).

6.5.95 Terminus/pit [200614] (length >0.74m, width 0.87m, depth 0.23m) appears to have formed part of a small sub-division within the possible management system. It was broadly rounded and flat based in profile and filled with a peaty blackish-brown sandy silt (200615).

6.5.96 Ditch [200602] (width 2.16m, depth 0.64m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned and appeared to form part of a curving ditch branched off the northern ditch of the potential droveway. It had steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. It contained a single fill of grey silty clay (200603) and was recut by [200604]. Recut [200604] (width 1.,16m, depth 0.5m) had a similar profile and a blackish-brown clayey silt fill (200605).

6.5.97 Ditch [200610] (width 1.8m, depth 0.73m) was broadly north-to-south aligned and, based on the geophysical survey, appeared to form part of a ditched area to the north, also investigated

by Trench 2061. It was concave and flat based with a single fill of blueish-grey silty clay (200611). The ditch was recut by [200612] (width 1.4m, depth 0.39m) which was concave in profile and then filled by a blackish-brown sandy silt (200613).

Trench 2007 (Figures 38; Plates 136 & 137)

6.5.98 Trench 2007 was located at the edge of the area of archaeological density. It was targeted to run across a narrow roddon, branched off the large roddon, two areas of marine alluvium and a series of linear features, focussed on and around the narrow roddon. The two anomalies were positively conformed with a third ditch identified between them. All ditches were found to be cut into roddon deposits (200701). No artefactual dating evidence was present.

6.5.99 The westernmost ditch [200710] (width 3.08m, depth 0.78m) was wide, flat based. It was filled with a dark brownish-grey clay (200711), followed by a dump/patch of burnt material (200712) with frequent traces of iron.

6.5.100 The central ditch [200703] (width 1.86m, depth 0.36m) was broadly north-to-south aligned. It had an uneven, but broadly concave profile and two fills: a blackish-brown silty clay (200703), followed by a greyish-black silty clay (200705).

6.5.101 The easternmost ditch [200706] (width 1.39, depth 0.74m) was also broadly north-to-south aligned. It had steeply sloping sides, a flat base and was filled by a bluey-grey sandy clay (200707). The ditch was recut by [200708] (width 0.78m, depth 0.18m), which was shallower and filled with a blackish-brown sandy clay (200709).

Trench 2008 (Figures 38 & 66; Plates 138–139)

6.5.102 Trench 2008 was targeted on an area of marine alluvium close to the large roddon in Field B-1-09 band onto a potential curvilinear feature, identified by the geophysical survey. A total of two features were identified, corresponding the projected anomalies. It was uncertain whether they were both anthropogenic in origin.

6.5.103 Probable gully [200802] (width 0.26m, depth 0.12m) was the more convincing of the two features. It was concave in profile with a greyish-brown silty clay fill, formed via the movement of water (200803). It was cut into the marine alluvium (200801).

6.5.104 Feature [200804] was barely discernible from the surrounding marine alluvium (200801) and a boxed intervention was unable to determine a cut.

Trench 2009 (Figure 39; Plates 140 & 141)

6.5.105 Trench 2009 targeted a narrow roddon and two areas of marine deposits, as well as a long and meandering linear anomaly. The twisting linear feature was not confirmed within the trench, but a single gully following a similar alignment to the projected feature and roddon were identified. An area of rooting was also present (200903).

6.5.106 Gully [200904] (width 0.32m, depth 0.13m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned and cut into the marine alluvium (200902). It was shallow and filled with a blueish-brown clay.

Trench 2010 (Figure 40; Plates 142 & 143)

6.5.107 Trench 2010 was mostly located on an area of marine alluvium and was targeted on three projected linear features, identified via aerial survey. The anomalies consisted of a pair of parallel features continuing into Area C and a straight east-to-west aligned feature.

6.5.108 The east-to-west aligned feature was identified as a ditch [201003] (width 3.8m, depth >0.72m). This ditch was wide and flat based. It was filled with a mid-greyish-brown silty clay with red flecks (201004) and recut by [201005]. The ditch recut [201005] (width 3.8m, depth 0.38m) was similarly wide and contained two fills: a peaty blackish-grey silty clay (201006) and a brownish-black silty clay (201007).

6.5.109 Ditch [201008] (width 1.6m, depth 0.34m) corresponded to one of the parallel anomalies. It was broadly concave and flat based in profile with a single fill of mid gey clay (201009). It was recut by [201010] (width 1.04m, depth 0.32m) which then infilled with a dark grey silty clay (201011).

6.5.110 The second of the parallel features was found to correspond to a geological anomaly (201012).

Trench 2011 (Figure 40; Plates 144 & 145)

6.5.111 Trench 2011 was targeted on the slightly amorphous end of a small roddon in Field B-1-09, where a small rectilinear enclosure was identified by the geophysical survey and a pair of parallel linear features were identified from the aerial survey. A total of three east-to-west aligned ditches were identified.

6.5.112 The northernmost ditch [201105] (width 0.82m, depth 0.41m) appears to have been one of the parallel linear features, continuing from Trench 2010. It was cut into the marine alluvium (201102), had a slightly asymmetric profile with a flat base and was filled by a blackish-brown silty clay.

6.5.113 Ditch [201107] (width 1.14m, depth 0.42m) may have corresponded to the parallel linear features or the rectilinear enclosure. It was cut into the marine alluvium (201102) and had a slightly symmetric flat based profile. A total of two fills were present: a blackish-brown silty clay (201108), followed by a greyish-black silty clay (201109).

6.5.114 The southernmost ditch [201103] (width 1.14m, depth 0.4m) corresponded to the southern part of the projected rectilinear enclosure. It was cut into the roddon (201101) and was flat based with steeply sloping sides. It contained a single fill of mid blueish-grey silty clay (201104).

Trench 2057 (Figure 39; Plates 148 & 149)

6.5.115 Trench 2057 was located within the marine alluvium area and was targeted on the same long meandering feature as Trench 2009. It contained a series of north-west-to-south-east aligned linear features, which corresponded to the targeted anomaly.

6.5.116 Ditch [205702] (width 3.12m, depth 0.41m) was shallow and irregular in profile. It was filled by a mid-blueish-grey clay (205703) and recut by [205704], which had a flat base and a blackish-brown sandy silt fill (205705).

6.5.117 Ditch [205706] (width 1.64m, depth 0.28m) had a wide slightly uneven profile and a whiteish-grey silty clay fill (205707).

Trench 2059 (Plates 151 & 152)

6.5.118 Trench 2059 was located on the marine alluvium area and was targeted on an area with mapped field boundaries and a north-east-to-southwest aligned geophysical anomaly.

6.5.119 A single modern ditch [205902] (width 3.98m, depth 0.74m) was recorded. This ditch was aligned north-to-south, in alignment with the mapped field boundary (OS 1887c; Figure 25) and had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. A series of backfill deposits (205906), (205905), (205904) and (205903) were from present, from which plastic rope, CBM and wood chips were recorded. No finds were retrieved due to the unsafe working depth and clearly modern date.

Trench 2061 (Figure 37; Plates 154 & 155)

6.5.120 Trench 2061 was located on the marine alluvium area to the north of the roddon and within the area of possible Romano-British settlement (MLI22032). It targeted a series of linear anomalies, which appeared to be associated with the possible droveway investigated in trench 2060 to the south. All anomalies were positively identified as north-to-south aligned ditches. A similar fill sequence was seen throughout.

6.5.121 The westernmost ditch [206106] (width 2.34m, depth 0.48m) had a wide flat based profile and a single fill of blackish-brown clayey silt.

6.5.122 The central ditch [206103] (width 1.32m, depth 0.48m) had a concave profile and two fills: a black silt (206104) followed by a blackish-brown clayey silt (206105).

6.5.123 The easternmost ditch [206108] (width 1.36m, depth 0.5m) had sloping sides and a concave base. A total of two fills were present: a basal fill of peaty blackish-brown silty clay (206110), followed by a blackish-brown silty clay (206109).

Trench 2106 (Figure 38; Plates 156 & 157)

6.5.124 Trench 2106 was located to the east of Trench 2107 on the marine alluvium area and was targeted on the same linear anomaly as Trench 2007. A corresponding ditch [210602] and recut [210604] were recorded.

6.5.125 Ditch [210602] (width c.1m, depth 0.46m) was flat based with sloping sides. It was filled with a mid-bluey-grey clay (210603) and recut by a shallower ditch [210604] (c.0.73m, depth 0.22m), which was subsequently infilled by a blackish-brown sandy silt with possible iron inclusions (210605).

Field B-1-10 (Trenches 2030–2035, 2047, 2048 & 2062–2064; Figures 24, 25, 41–44 & 66; Plates 160–183)

6.5.126 Field B-1-10 is located to the south of Field B-1-09 and contains a curving roddon, the western part of which represented the southern continuation of the roddon in Field B-1-09. The eastern part of the roddon forms part of an area of a large roddon in Field B-1-13, which branches to B-1-09 to the north and B-1-14 to the south. A high density of archaeological anomalies was identified in the eastern part of the roddon, where a possible Romano-British settlement (MLI22032) is recorded on the HER. All trenches in this field were found to be archaeologically positive and the archaeology generally matched the geophysical identifications. Occasional unexpected features were also present such as a curvilinear gully in Trench 2062.

6.5.127 The area of archaeological density (Trenches 2030, 2031, 2062 and 2064), included areas of parallel linear features representing potential drainage features or possibly droveways, areas

of potential rectilinear enclosures, circular features/ring gullies and other linear features. A rectilinear enclosure and small gullies were recorded in Trench 2062 and a series of parallel ditches were recorded in Trench 2032, both located on the roddon. A series of enclosures, sharing the same long northern and southern boundary, extending from the roddon into the marine alluvium area were identified in the geophysical and aerial surveys. One of these was found to represent an undated ditch in Trench 2064. Spatially these appear to form a part of the probable Roman-British settlement. A modern ditch was identified cut into the marine alluvium in Trench 2031.

6.5.128 A lower density of anomalies was identified on the western arc of the roddon, potentially representing a more peripheral area associated with a potential settlement. This included circular anomalies and fragmentary geophysical anomalies, which broadly followed the roddon contour. These fragmentary anomalies were investigated in Trenches 2034, 2035, 2048 and were generally found to correspond to undated archaeological features of uncertain wider character. The circular anomalies were not investigated, but can be assumed to be real, based the evidence from surrounding fields.

6.5.129 Straight linear features in the western part of the field were investigated in Trenches 2035, 2047 and 2063. These were also confirmed as ditches and could sometimes be identified as parts of post-medieval to modern field systems.

6.5.130 A long meandering linear feature, identified via aerial survey was investigated in Trenches 2032 and 2033. This was found to correspond to both naturally formed linear features and undated ditches, possibly suggesting exploitation of a natural feature for drainage or boundaries. No dating evidence was recovered and the linear feature continues into Field B-1-09 to the north and Field B-1-11 to the south.

6.5.131 The finds from this field included animal bone, fired clay, CBM, metal and provisionally Late Iron Age/Roman and Roman pottery, suggesting Roman and possibly Late Iron Age settlement activity. While the artefactual dating evidence remains limited, an Iron Age/Roman date is likely for the majority of the features based on the evidence from the wider context. Based on wider comparability, features likely to belong to these periods include a rectilinear enclosure of 29m x 18m, confirmed in Trench 2062 (Plate 178) and the parallel ditches following the edge of the roddon, confirmed in Trench 2030.

6.5.132 The roddon in this field was composed of an orangey-brown and yellowish-brown silty clay. The marine alluvium was found to be a mid-bluey-grey silty clay with higher clay content and orange flecking recorded in a single trench (Trench 2048). No subsoil was recorded and the topsoil was found to be a dark-greyish-brown, silty clay measuring a consistent 0.3m–0.39m in depth.

Trench 2030 (Figure 44)

6.5.133 Trench 2030 targeted the edge of the roddon and a series of linear features in Field B-1-10 and within an area of possible Romano-British settlement (MLI22032). A total of three north-west-to-south-east aligned ditches were present, all corresponding to geophysical anomalies. All features were cut into the roddon or other archaeological features.

6.5.134 Ditch [203002] (width 2.06m, depth 0.38m) was broadly concave in profile with a flat base and was filled by an orangey-grey clayey silt (203003), containing nine fragments of animal bone from cattle and unidentified species. The ditch was overlain by a thin layer (203006) (depth 0.1m) of yellowish-grey sand, similar to the surrounding roddon deposits, which was

subsequently cut by a ditch recut [203004]. Ditch recut [203004] (width 1.4m, depth 0.36m) had a similar, but shallower profile and was infilled with a peaty blackish-brown silt (203005).

6.5.135 Ditch [203007] (width 1.92m, depth 0.64m) had sloping sides and a flat base. It contained two fills: a light blueish-grey sandy silt (203008), followed by a whiteish-grey sandy silt (203009) and (203010). A small clay bead of probable Iron Age date was recovered as well as a five fragments of animal bone, one of which was identified as cattle. The ditch was recut by [203011] (width 1.38m, depth 0.54m), which was subsequently infilled with two peaty blackish-brown silts (203012) and (203013). A single animal bone fragment was retrieved from these fills, but could not be identified. Environmental sampling <37> of the original cut [303007] found a charred cereal caryopsis of wheat, a charred weed seed of arable/ruderal ground, charcoal and mollusc shell.

6.5.136 Ditch [203014] (width 1.45m, depth 0.6m) was concave in profile and steeply sided. It was filled with a whiteish-grey silty clay (203015) and subsequently recut by ditch [203016] (width 1.72, depth 0.5m), which was similar in profile. The recut was infilled with mid-greyish-brown clayey silts (203017) and (203018).

Trench 2031 (Figure 44; Plates 163 & 164)

6.5.137 Trench 2031 was located in the eastern side of Field B-1-10, off the roddon, but within a known area of possible Romano-British settlement (MLI22032). It targeted a pair of linear features, initially identified on the aerial survey, which extended from the roddon into the marine alluvium area, with uncertain relationship with the settlement area. A single modern ditch [203102] was present.

6.5.138 Ditch [203102] (width 0.5m, depth >0.48m) had sloping sides and was not fully excavated due to a high number of field drains present in the backfill. The ditch appears to have ben initially excavated as a field boundary with field drains installed during backfill. Plastic present in the backfill, indicated a 20th century for this change of use and the larger linear feature's association with nearby mapped field boundaries (OS 1887c; Figure 25), indicated an association with the 19th century field systems. A total of six fragments of CBM were recovered and identified as post-medieval field drains as well as a single sherd of 18th/19th century AD pottery, a large iron horseshoe of post-medieval date and a fragment of animal bone from an unidentified animal.

Trench 2032 (Figure 41 & 66; Plates 165–167)

6.5.139 Trench 2032 was located in the marine alluvium area in the south of Field B-1-10 and was targeted on a long meandering feature, identified in the aerial survey. This linear feature was represented within the trench by two linear features.

6.5.140 The westernmost of these (203202) (width >1m, depth >0.43m) was natural in origin, forming part of the fenland deposit sequence. It was composed of mid-grey clay with no clear cut.

6.5.141 The more easterly linear feature [203203] (width 1m, depth 0.22m) was identified as a ditch, with a concave profile. It contained a blackish-grey sandy clay fill (203204).

Trench 2033 (Figure 42; Plates 168 & 169)

6.5.142 Trench 2033 was located to the north-west of Trench 2032 and was targeted on the same long meandering linear feature. A ditch/natural feature [203305] and ditch terminus [203303] were present, both corresponding to the targeted feature.

6.5.143 Ditch terminus [203303] (length >0.7m, width 0.9m, depth 0.11m) was shallow and concave in profile. It contained a fill of dark blueish-grey silty clay (203304).

6.5.144 Ditch/natural feature [203305] (width 1.71m, depth 0.15m) was similarly shallow and contained a greyish-black silty clay fill. It was unclear whether this feature was formed naturally via the movement of water or was cut as a ditch.

Trench 2034 (Figure 42; Plates 170 & 171)

6.5.145 Trench 2034 was located on the western side of Field B-1-10 on the smaller and less archaeologically dense roddon. It was targeted on a potential palaeochannel and geophysical anomalies. These geophysical anomalies were slightly fragmentary, but appeared to represent linear features following the roddon contour and associated discrete features. A single pit/ditch terminus [203403] was present.

6.5.146 Pit/ditch terminus [203403] (length >0.26m, width >1.6m, depth 0.35m) had a deep concave profile with an uneven base. It was filled with a dark-blueish-grey silty clay (203404). This pit correlated very well with a potential discrete geophysical anomaly.

Trench 2035 (Figure 43; Plates 172 & 173)

6.5.147 Trench 2035 was located on the same small roddon as Trench 2034. It targeted features identified in the aerial and geophysical survey, including a straight linear feature, a geophysical anomaly following the roddon contour and a potential palaeochannel. A total of two linear features were recorded.

6.5.148 The westernmost feature [203504] (width 2.24, depth 0.25m) was wide and flat based, with a brownish-grey silty clay fill. It correlated well with the geophysical anomaly.

6.5.149 The easternmost feature was a ditch [203502] (width 0.92m, depth 0.36m), with a concave profile and a brownish-grey silty clay fill (203503). It correlated well with the straight linear feature and based on the features association with mapped field boundaries, can be inferred to represent part of a post-medieval to modern field system.

Trench 2047 (Figure 43; Plates 174 & 175)

6.5.150 Trench 2047 was located on the same roddon as Trenches 2034 and 2035. It targeted a potential palaeochannel and a long linear feature identified by the aerial survey. This linear feature was represented within the trench by a modern ditch [204702] and also correlated well with a mapped field boundary (OS 1887c; Figure 25).

6.5.151 Ditch [204702] (width 2.4m, depth >0.87m) had steeply sloping sides and was not fully excavated due to the presence of plastic in the fill. It contained two fills (204703) and (204704), both formed via backfill. Fragments of a pantile of 18th century AD or later date were recovered.

Trench 2048 (Figure 43; Plates 176 & 177)

6.5.152 Trench 2048 was located on the small roddon and to the south-west of Trench 2035. It was located close to a circular geophysical anomaly and targeted fragmentary geophysical anomalies of possible archaeological character. Both targeted anomalies were positively identified as ditches.

6.5.153 The northern ditch [204803] (width 1.58m, depth 0.48m) was east-to-west aligned with an asymmetric profile. It was filled by whiteish-grey clayey silt (204804) followed by a greyish-brown clayey silt with pockets of sand (204805), possible representing a backfill event.

6.5.154 The southern ditch [204806] (width 0.82m, depth 0.12) was shallow and was only present in the trench baulk. It was filled by a brownish-grey clayey silt (204807).

Trench 2062 (Figures 44 & 66; Plate 178)

6.5.155 Trench 2062 was located on the large roddon and archaeologically dense area in the eastern part of Field B-1-10. It was also located within the recorded Romano-British settlement (MLI22032). The trench targeted a number of features including a potential rectilinear enclosure, represented by geophysical anomalies, a spread of possible archaeology identified by the geophysical survey and a linear feature identified in the aerial survey.

6.5.156 In the western part of the trench, the area of possible archaeology was represented by a pair of narrow gullies. The western gully [206216] (width 0.28m, depth 0.2m) was curvilinear in plan and V-shaped in profile, with a greyish-brown silty clay fill (206217). The more easterly gully [206214] (width 0.31m, depth 0.09m) was straighter and north-to-south aligned with a concave profile. It contained a light grey silty clay fill (206215) and a single sherd of Roman pottery. These two cuts do not appear to have formed parts of the same feature.

6.5.157 The possible rectilinear enclosure was represented within the trench by a pair of ditches with recuts. The western ditch [206208] (width 4.24m, depth >0.84m) was substantial in dimensions. It was not fully excavated to its depth, but had steeply sloping sides and contained three sherds of pottery dated to the mid-2nd to 3rd century AD, two fragments of briquetage (15g), identified as container elements and 159 fragments of animal bone, identified as cow, large mammal and unidentified animal (retrieved via hand collection and sampling). The ditch was infilled with two fills: a greyish-brown silty clay, containing animal bone (206210), followed by a whiteish-grey silty clay with orange flecks (206209). It was subsequently recut by ditch [206211] (width 3.06m, depth 0.74m), which was concave in profile. This later ditch was infilled with a greyish-brown silty clay (206212), followed by a dark greyish-brown silty clay (206213) and contained two fragments of briquetage (26g) from structural elements. The eastern ditch [206203] (width 1.6m, depth 0.62m) had a concave profile and a fill of dark brownish-grey silty clay (206204). It was recut by ditch [206205] (width 1.2m depth 0.42m), which had a similar profile. This later ditch was contained two fills: a blackish-grey silty clay (206206), followed by dark brownish-grey silty clay (206207). Environmental sampling <20002> and <20003> of the original cut [206208] found charred cereal caryopses of wheat/barley, barley, hulled barley, germinated hulled barley, oat and indeterminate seed as well as charred indeterminate straw fragments, common vetch, charred weed seeds of arable/ruderal ground, charred weed seeds of wet/damp environs, charcoal, fly pupae and worm capsules. Based on the combined geophysical and archaeological evidence the rectilinear enclosure measures 29mx17m in area and can be associated with nearby domestic activity.

Trench 2063 (Figure 42; Plate 179)

6.5.158 Trench 2063 was located in the southern part of Field B-1-10 on the marine alluvium area. It targeted a straight linear feature, identified by the aerial survey. This was represented within the ditch by a single ditch [206302].

6.5.159 Ditch [206302] (width 2.1m, depth 0.39m) was broadly east-to-west aligned with a wide flat based profile. It was infilled with a brownish-black clay (206203).

Trench 2064 (Figure 52; Plates 180 & 181)

6.5.160 Trench 2064 was located in the eastern side of Field B-1-10 on the marine alluvium area and was targeted on a linear feature, identified by the aerial survey, which appeared to form part of a series of laddered ditches extending from the roddon and denser settlement area. A single shallow ditch [206402] was recorded, confirming the aerial survey.

6.5.161 Ditch [206402] (width >2m, depth 0.37) was concave in profile with slightly diffuse sides. It was filled by a light orangey-brown silty clay, which was difficult to distinguish from the surrounding marine alluvium. The overlying topsoil partially infilled a depression left by the ditch.

Field B-1-11 (Trenches 2043–2046 and 2080; Figures 24, 25, 45 & 66; Plates 184–189)

6.5.162 Field B-1-1-11 is located to the south of Field B-1-10. It contains a small area of roddon, continuing from the western part of Field B-1-10, but broadly consists of a marine alluvium area between roddons. Occasional linear anomalies were identified in the marine alluvium area, including a continuation of an undated long linear feature seen in Field B-1-10 to the north; this was targeted by two trenches (Trenches 2044 and 2046). The south-eastern part of the field included part of an area of undated cropmarks (MLI20253).

6.5.163 Trenches 2044 and 2046 targeted a long meandering feature, which continued into Fields B-1-10, and B-1-09 to the north. While Trench 2044 was found to be archaeologically blank, the ditch, a recut and parallel ditch terminus were confirmed in Trench 2046. A black organic fill was generally present indicating peaty fenland conditions. No dating evidence was retrieved.

6.5.164 Trenches 2043 and 2045 were targeted on linear features, but were found to be archaeologically blank. Trench 2080 investigated an area of marine alluvium and was also archaeologically blank.

6.5.165 The roddon in Trench 2046 was found to be composed of yellowy-white silty clay with blueish-grey clay inclusions. Marine alluvium comprising dark blueish-grey clay and blueish-grey silty clay was recorded across the field. These deposits and features were overlain by 0.33m–0.37m of a dark greyish-brown silty clay topsoil.

Trench 2046 (Figures 45 & 66; Plates 187 & 188)

6.5.166 Trench 2046 was located in the south-eastern corner of Field B-1-11 and was targeted on a long meandering linear feature, initially identified via aerial survey and investigated in Trenches 2009, 2057, 2032, 2033 and 2044. Roddon deposits were present in the trench, contrary to previous mapping. The linear feature was represented by a ditch [204603], recut [204605] and possible ditch terminus [204607].

6.5.167 Ditch [204603] (width 1.26m, depth 0.48m) was concave in profile with a dark orangey-grey silty clay fill (204604). It was recut by ditch [204605] (0.78m, depth 0.18m), which had a similar, but shallower profile. This later ditch was infilled with blackish-grey clayey silt (204606).

6.5.168 Possible ditch terminus [204607] (length >1m, width 1.08m, depth 0.28m) had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was infilled with a blackish-blue clay (204608).

Field B-1-12 (Trenches 2146 and 2147; Figures 24, 25; Plates 190 & 191)

6.5.169 Field B-1-12 is located in the northern part of Area B, entirely in an area of marine alluvium. Occasional linear features were identified in the area including two features which correspond to mapped historical field boundaries (OS 1887c; Figure 25) and a north-east-to-southwest aligned feature which continues to the west in Field B-3-02 and to the east in Field B-2. The two trenches in this field were designed to assess a cable route and were found to be archaeologically negative. The stratigraphy consisted of blueish-grey marine alluvium directly overlain by 0.14m–0.48m of topsoil.

Field B-1-13 (Trenches 2001–2003, 2076–2078, 2095, 2096, 2098–2100, 2113 & 2117–2120; Figures 24, 25, 46-49, 66 & 67; Plates 192–225)

6.5.170 Field B-1-13 is located on a wide roddon area which appears to form the focus for activity and a high density of archaeological features were identified by the previous non-intrusive surveys. The roddon in this field continues from Field C-1-02 and to the west and south it branches into Fields B-1-09, B-1-10 and B-1-14.

6.5.171 Trenches 2001, 2002, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2095, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2113, 2118, 2119 and 2120 were designed to target anomalies on the roddon, while Trenches 2003, 2096 and 2117 were targeted anomalies in the marine alluvium area. Of these, only Trench 2098 was found to be archaeologically blank. Linear features, correlating with 1887 OS mapping were also present, but these were not targeted by the trenches (OS 1887c; Figure 25).

6.5.172 On the roddon, a long curving possible trackway/droveway, composed of multiple parallel ditches was identified continuing from Field B-1-09 to the west and into Field C-2-02 to the east. Within Field B-1-13, it was investigated by Trenches 2002, 2078, 2118 and 2119 and confirmed in all trenches except Trench 2119. The ditches ranged from relatively shallow to substantial depths (depths 0.12m–0.66m), reflecting both varying excavation depth and later truncation. A fill sequence of pale clayey silts followed by recuts and later peaty deposits was seen across the feature. Another possible trackway/droveway, curving southwards from the archaeologically dense area, was investigated in Trenches 2001 and 20076 and confirmed to consist of parallel ditches with similar fill and recut sequences.

6.5.173 Circular anomalies representing probable ring gullies are present across the roddon, with a particular density to the north. A sample were targeted by Trenches 2095, 2098, 2099 and 2100 and were confirmed in all but Trench 2098, with two previously undetected ring gullies found in Trenches 2076 and 2118. The ring gullies on the roddon were generally found to be narrow and steeply sided (widths 0.27m–0.33m, depths 0.16m–0.33m). Based on the geophysical survey they range from approximately 9.6m–14m in diameter. No evidence for salt-making was present and they can be interpreted as drainage for round structures. A single ring gully contained an internal feature (Trench 2100) and Trench 2099 contained evidence for multiple phases of ring gullies on the same location. A single ring gully was identified in the marine alluvium area (Trench 2096).

6.5.174 A series of widely broadly coaxial ditches, which often do not respect the roddons, were investigated by Trenches 2003, 2117 and 2120. These were generally found to be of uncertain or modern date and are likely to represent a later field system from a later and drier period.

6.5.175 An amorphous anomaly targeted by Trenches 2076 and 2077 was found to correspond to a series of deep modern features, often containing articulated animal bone and a modern structure (Plate 201).

6.5.176 Finds included animal bone, worked bone, CBM, mortar, possible worked stone, fired clay, glass, iron objects, post-medieval pottery and plaster. Based on the location, features and artefacts, the evidence is indicative of a Roman settlement area and of a post-medieval to modern domestic and farmyard area.

6.5.177 The roddon was found to be formed of yellowy-brown and orangey-brown silty clay, clayey silt and sandy silt, with clay deposits identified within the roddon sequence in Trench 2120. The roddon deposits were not always consistently present where expected, possibly indicating that the area of dry land was less consistent than initially expected. Trench 2113, towards the north of the roddon, was found to be in an area of marine alluvium and an area of marine alluvium was found in Trench 2002 towards the roddon centre. Other trenches such as Trench 2099, located toward the edge of the roddon and Trench 2120, located across the projected edge of the roddon were found to be entirely on the roddon. The marine alluvium was formed of mid-blueish-grey silty clay with a yellowy-grey tidal clay identified in Trench 2120. No subsoil was recorded and the topsoil was found to be a dark-greyish-brown silty clay, measuring 0.15m–0.44m in depth. Occasional fragments of late 19th–20th century quarry floor tile were recovered from the topsoil.

Trench 2001 (Figure 46, 47; Plates 192 & 193)

6.5.178 Trench 2001 was located within a recorded area of probable Romano-British settlement activity (MLI22032) on the large roddon. It targeted a series of three curving parallel linear features on the roddon and following the roddon contour. These features were positively identified as ditches, with three further parallel ditches also present. Within the trench they ran on a north-east-to-south-west orientation and were spaced 5m–13m apart with the exception of [200124] and [200103], which were closely spaced. A similar sequence of infilling events is identifiable between these ditches: occasionally present dark initial silting, followed by a blueish silting and the formation of a humic, peaty deposit within the features following the recuts. From the internal area of the roddon towards the external edge of the roddon the ditches were as follows.

6.5.179 Ditch/furrow [200109] (width 0.61m, depth 0.11m) had a concave profile and a fill of bluey-grey mixed silty clay with sandy silt pockets (200110).

6.5.180 Ditch [200124] (width 1.49m, depth 0.2m) was shallow and wide with a concave profile. It contained three fills: a dark bluey-grey silty clay (200127) followed by a paler bluey-grey sandy silt (200128) and then an orangey-yellow sandy silt (200129) possibly formed via backfill. The ditch was recut by a pair of narrower ditches [200125] (width 0.51m, depth 0.1m) and [200126] (width 0.72m, depth 0.13m) which were both concave in profile. These ditches were infilled with light bluey-grey silty clays (200130) and (200131).

6.5.181 Ditch [200103] (width 1.13m, depth >0.34m) was similar in profile to ditch [200124] with a flatter base. It was filled with mid-brownish-grey silty clay (200105) followed by light bluey-grey sandy silt with grey clay inclusions (200106) and (200107). The ditch was recut by a narrower ditch [200104] (width 0.54m, depth >0.2m), which was infilled with a black peaty fill (200108).

6.5.182 Ditch [200111] (width 0.85m, depth 0.48m) had a flat base and sloping sides. It was filled with a light orangey-brown sandy silt (200112), followed by a mid-blueish-grey silty clay (200112). It was recut by a ditch with a concave profile [200114] (width 0.96m, depth 0.36m), which contained a peaty fill (200115).

6.5.183 Ditch [200122] (width 0.52m, depth 0.18m) was flat based and was filled with a light blueish-grey silty clay (200123).

6.5.184 Ditch [200116] (width 1.86m, depth 0.47m) was wide with a flat base. It had a basal fill of dark brownish-grey with orange flecks 200118), formed via natural silting, followed by a mid-blueish-grey silty clay (200120) and (200119). It was recut by ditch [200117] (width 0.91m, depth 0.33m), which was narrower and V-shaped in profile. This recut was filled with a black peaty fill (200121).

Trench 2002 (Figure 47; Plates 194-196)

6.5.185 Trench 2002 was located on the large roddon and within the recorded extent of a probable Romano-British settlement (MLI22032). It was targeted on a potential trackway/droveway identified in the aerial and geophysical survey, formed of two pairs of linear features spaced c.12m apart. All of the linear features were positively identified as east-to-west aligned ditches.

6.5.186 In the north, the external ditch [200207] (width 0.68m, depth 0.12m) was shallow and filled with a light grey clay fill (200208).

6.5.187 The northern internal ditch [200209] (width 1.44m, depth 0.66m) was located c.2.3m to the south and was far more substantial. It had steeply sloping sides a flat base and contained a single mid-grey clay fill (200210). Lenses of dark brown silt were present within this fill, signalling flooding and settling events. It was recut by a shallower ditch [200211] (width 1.1m, depth 0.18m), which contained a brownish-black silty clay fill (200212).

6.5.188 To the south, a potential entranceway was present, represented by two opposing termini /pits [200217] and [200205] and a third terminus to the south [200213].

6.5.189 Terminus/pit [200217] (length >0.45m, width >0.65m, depth 0.44m) and terminus/pit [200205] (length >1.1m, width 0.62m, depth 0.74m) were both rounded with concave profiles. They were filled with blueish-grey clay with orange flecks (200206) and (200218). Terminus/pit [200217] was cut/recut by another pit/terminus [200215] (length >0.45m, width >0.65m, depth 0.44m), which contained a dark blueish-brown silty clay (200216). Terminus/pit [200205] was recut by another terminus/pit [200203] (length 1.12m, width 0.62m, depth 0.74m), which was then infilled with a yellowy-grey silty clay (200204).

6.5.190 Terminus [200213] (width 0.38m, depth 0.32m) had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a similar fill (200214) to those found in [200217] and [200205].

Trench 2003 (Figure 46; Plates 194 & 195)

6.5.191 Trench 2003 was located on the marine alluvium, close to the large roddon and was targeted on a long linear feature, which appeared to run north-west-to-south-east from an enclosure within the settlement area. This linear feature was positively represented by a single ditch [200303]. Ditch [200303] (width 0.78m, depth 0.12) was flat based and appeared to be followed by a later field drain. Dating is therefore uncertain. It was filled with a dark greyish-brown silty clay (200304).

Trench 2076 (Figure 47; Plates 199-201)

6.5.192 Trench 2076 was located in the south-western corner of Field B-1-13 and on the roddon. It targeted the same series of curving linear anomalies investigated by Trench 2001, as well as a large area of possible archaeological activity identified by the aerial survey.

6.5.193 In the western end of the trench a curvilinear feature [207616] (width 0.48m, depth 0.22m), representing a probable ring gully was present. This feature was truncated by the construction cut for a modern building [207631]. It measured 4m in length within the trench and can be projected to have an external diameter of c. 5m. It had a concave profile and two fills: an orangey-brown clayey silt (207618), followed by a light blueish-grey clay (207617).

6.5.194 In the eastern part of the trench, three substantial north-east-to-south-west aligned ditches were present, matching the geophysical survey.

6.5.195 Ditch [207608] (width 1.92m, depth 0.7m) appears to have been a continuation of either [200124] or [200103] in Trench 2001. It had steeply sloping sides, a concave base and was recut three times. The sequence was as follows: the original cut [207808], an initial infill of orangey-yellowish-grey material (207609), followed by recut [207610] (width 1.4m, depth 0.44m), a mottled grey and orange silty clay with charcoal inclusions (207611), recut [207612] (width 0.94m, depth 0.26m), an infilling of blackish-grey and brown silt (207613), a final recut [207614] (width 0.54m, depth 0.12m) and a final infilling of light greyish-brown silt (207615). A single fragment of horse bone was recovered from ditch recut [207610]. Environmental sampling <11> of ditch recut [207610] found a single charred weed seed associated with wet/damp environs as well as charcoal, worm capsules and burrowing molluscs.

6.5.196 Ditch [207606] (width 2.06m, depth 0.58m) was probably a continuation of ditch [200111] in Trench 2001. It had steeply sloping sides and a light blueish-grey clay fill (207607). It was recut by ditch with a deep concave profile [207604] (width 1.8m, depth 0.54m). This later ditch was infilled with a blackish-grey and brown clayey silt (207605).

6.5.197 The ditch [207602] (width 0.64m, depth 0.26m) was probably a continuation of ditch [200122] in Trench 2001. It was concave in profile with a fill of light blueish-grey clayey silt (207603).

6.5.198 The post-medieval to modern features within the trench included a structure [207631] {207632}, a shallow pit [207629] and two sets of north-to-south aligned ditches [207623], [207625], [207619] and [207621].

6.5.199 Structure {207632} (length 1.46m, width 0.87m, height >0.3m) was a demolished brick-built building, probably associated with a farm. The structure was built within a construction cut (width 0.18m, depth >0.17m) and had a light blue finish on the interior walls. Following demolition, the structure was infilled with light blueish-grey silty clay (207634) and demolition rubble (207633) and (207635).

6.5.200 Pit [207629] (length 1.32m width >0.78m, depth 0.15) was shallow and contained a dump of waste material including nails, CBM, possible coal and modern pottery. Finds were not retrieved.

6.5.201 Ditch [207623] (width >1.38m, depth >0.96m) had steeply sloping sides and was not fully excavated in order to maintain safe working depths. It was infilled with a greyish-blue silty clay with orange flecks (207624) and a shard of possible window glass and recut by ditch [207625] (width >1.09m, depth >0.95m). This later recut contained three fills: an initial silting blackish-brown clayey silt (207626), followed by two fills formed via modern backfilling and waste dumping (207627) and (207628). Post-medieval brick, modern pottery, mortar and glass were

observed. Fragments of wooden patterns, a type of wooden overshoe for damp environments, a nail, 11 clay pipe stems and bowls of 17th/18th century AD date were recovered.

6.5.202 A fragmentary geophysical anomaly was represented by a pair of steep-sided ditches [207619] (width 0.78m, depth 0.24m) and [207621] (width >0.68m, depth 0.46m). These both had greyish-brown silty clay fills (207620) and (207622) with post-medieval to modern material. A total of 18 CBM fragments were retrieved, identified as brick of possible medieval, possible late medieval, late medieval, late medieval/early post-medieval and post-medieval date as well as floor tile and pantile of 17th century onwards and 18th–19th century AD date. Fragments of lime mortar and plaster, 11 sherds of pottery of 19th century and possible 19th century AD date, a clay pipe bowl, possible stone building material were also recovered and eight fragments of animal bone from sheep/goat and unidentified animal. The date ranges within the CBM assemblage may indicate demolition of multiple structures or a multi-phased structure.

Trench 2077 (Figure 47; Plates 202 & 203)

6.5.203 Trench 2077 was located to the north of Trench 2076, targeting the same area of possible archaeology. It contained a high quantity of modern remains with dumping of waste and articulated animal remains frequently present.

6.5.204 The northernmost features were a pair of intersecting east-to-west aligned ditch termini [207712] and [207714]. Ditch [207714] (width 1.76m, depth 0.48m) had a squarish profile and terminal end. It contained dark greyish-brown silty clay (207715), suggestive of backfill, a sherd of pottery of mid-18th/early 19th century AD date and a fragment of pig bone. The later ditch [207712] (width 1.84m, depth 0.36m) was more concave in profile and contained a similar fill (207713). These ditches are considered to be of probable modern date, based on the similarity of the fills to the nearby modern features. Pottery was also recovered from this feature.

6.5.205 East-to-west aligned ditch [207717] (0.55m, depth 0.26m) was located to the south of [207714]. It was concave in profile and contained modern pottery, a fragment of late medieval brick and a post-medieval pantile. It was cut by pit [207710], (length 1.2m, width 0.66m, depth 0.2m), a shallow pit containing two articulated animal skeletons, an animal bone mount from a possible composite bone syringe, of potential 19th century AD date and several lengths of wire. The animal bone assemblage comprised 558 bone fragments from horse, sheep/goat, teal, chicken, bird, large mammal, medium mammal and unidentified animal. The articulated skeletons were identified as a juvenile pig and a juvenile sheep/goat.

6.5.206 Towards the centre of the trench, a north-to-south aligned ditch [207719/207707/207729] (length c.12.3m, width 0.51m–>0.74m, depth 0.38m–0.48m) was present. It contained dumps of waste (207708) including articulated animal bone, a shard of glass from a 19th/20th century bottle/jar, a 19th/20th century AD glass medicine bottle and a green glass bottle of the same date, possible late medieval brick, possible post-medieval brick, field drain/drain pipe fragments and slate and brownish-black clayey silt. The animal bone assemblage comprised 328 bone fragments from cow, pig, large mammal and unidentified animal, including an ABG for a juvenile cattle. The ditch cut an east-to-west aligned ditch/natural feature [207702/207727] and was cut by an east-to-west aligned modern ditch [207709] (width 3.56m, depth >0.64m). This ditch was not fully excavated in order to maintain safe working depth. It contained three fills (207716), (207721) and (207722), with articulated animal bone found in fill (207722). A fragment of possible late medieval brick was also recovered. The

animal bone assemblage comprised 224 fragments of bone identified as cow, pig, sheep/goat, cat, chicken, bird, large mammal, medium mammal and unidentified animal.

6.5.207 Towards the southern part of the trench, two extremely shallow pits [207723] (length 0.4m, width 0.35m, depth 0.015m) and [207725] (length 1.6m, width 0.28m,depth 0.13m) were present. A total of 40 fragments of animal bone from pig, rabbit, large mammal and unidentified animal bone were recovered from pit [207723] and modern finds including pottery of mid-19th/early 20th century AD date, a ridge tile of 17th century onwards date and iron nails were recovered from pit [207725].

6.5.208 In the southern end of the trench, an east-to-west aligned ditch/natural feature [207702/207727] (width 1.42m, depth 0.12m) was present. This feature was shallow with diffuse edges and a fill of redeposited natural and modern material (207703/207706). A single sherd of pottery of 19th century AD date was recovered. It was cut by a ditch [207719/207707/207729] and refuse pit [207704] (length 0.55m, width 0.6m, depth 0.14m) containing a high quantity of disarticulated animal bone, a fragment of possible post-medieval brick and a sherd of pottery of 17th/18th century AD date. The animal bone assemblage from this pit comprised 233 fragments of bone from cow pig, chicken, frog, large mammal and unidentified animal(retrieved via hand collection and sampling), including an ABG for a single chicken with no butchery marks. Environmental sampling <22> of the pit found charcoal, fishbone/microfauna and mollusc shell.

Trench 2078 (Figure 46-48; Plates 204-206)

6.5.209 Trench 2078, was located on the roddon within the recorded Romano-British settlement (MLI22032) and targeted the same possible trackway/droveway as Trench 2002, as well as geophysical anomalies suggestive of possible archaeology. A total of three ditches, corresponding to the possible trackway/droveway were found with two pits found within the area of possible archaeology.

6.5.210 Ditch [207813/207811] (width 0.7m–0.92, depth 0.12m–0.16m) was probably the same as ditches [200209] and [200211] in Trench 2002. It had a shallow flat based to concave profile and a blueish-grey silty clay fill (207812) and (207814).

6.5.211 Ditch [207806] (width 1.2m, depth 0.38m) was probably the same as ditch [200205], in Trench 2002. It was concave in profile and contained two fills: a mid-grey sandy silt with orange flecks (207807), followed by a mid-blueish-grey silty clay (207808).

6.5.212 Ditch [207809] (width 1.26m, depth 0.09m) was probably the same as ditch [200213] in Trench 2002. It was shallow and flat based with a light blueish-grey silty clay fill (207810).

6.5.213 Pits [207802] (diameter 0.78m, depth 0.04m) and [207804] (length 0.65m, width 0.4m, depth 0.06m) were both located within the possible trackway/droveway. They were both extremely shallow and infilled with material similar to the surrounding roddon deposits.

Trench 2095 (Figure 48; Plates 207 & 208)

6.5.214 Trench 2095 was a squarish trench, located on the roddon, at the edge of the possible Romano-British settlement (MLI22032) and targeted on a circular geophysical anomaly.

6.5.215 The circular anomaly was positively identified as a ring gully [209502] (width 0.4m, depth 0.19) and based on the geophysical survey an external diameter of c. 9.9m can be estimated. It had

a concave profile and two fills: a greyish-brown clayey silt (209503), followed by a blackish-brown clay (209504). No interior features were present.

Trench 2096 (Figures 49 & 66; Plates 209 & 210)

6.5.216 Trench 2096 was located on the marine alluvium area to the north of the roddon and outside the area of archaeological density. It was targeted on a slightly isolated circular geophysical anomaly, which was positively identified as a ring gully within the trench.

6.5.217 Ring gully [209603] (width 0.56m, depth 0.24m) had a slightly V-shaped profile and can be estimated to have an external diameter of c.11.7m based on the geophysical survey. It was filled with a light grey silty clay (209604). This feature can be provisionally identified as drainage for a probable roundhouse/structure.

Trench 2099 (Figure 49, 66 & 67; Plates 211-213)

6.5.218 Trench 2099 was located within the area of archaeological density and possible Romano-British settlement (MLI22032). It was squarish and targeted on a series of circular and curvilinear anomalies, close to the edge of the roddon. These were all positively identified as ring gullies or curvilinear gullies and can be assumed to represent at least two phases, based on spatial relationships. Similarly, to the ring gullies seen across the site, profiles were distinct and defined, suggesting that these features were deliberately excavated as drainage for possible roundhouses/structures.

6.5.219 Ring gully [209908] (width 0.27m, depth 0.17m) had a squarish profile and can be estimated to have a diameter of c. 13.6m, based on the geophysical survey. It contained a dark greyish-brown clayey sand (209909).

6.5.220 Ring gully [209906] (width 0.44m, depth 0.26m) had a V-shaped profile and based on the geophysical survey a diameter of c. 17m can be estimated. It was infilled with a dark greyish-brown clayey sand (209907). It is possible that it represented an external feature, such as a drip gully.

6.5.221 Curvilinear gully [209903] (length 3.57m, width 0.19m, depth 0.17m) had a squarish profile and clearly defined terminus. It had less geophysical evidence for its continuation, but identification as a ring gully is probable. It contained an orangey-brownish-grey clayey sand with a lens of yellowy-grey sandy clay (209904) and (209905). Its location makes an interpretation as an internal structural feature possible.

Trench 2100 (Figures 46, 48; Plates 214–215)

6.5.222 Trench 2100 was located on the large roddon and within the area of archaeological density and possible Romano-British settlement (MLI22032). It was targeted on a circular anomaly which was found to represent a ring gully [210003] within the trench. An internal feature [210005] was also present.

6.5.223 Ring gully [210003] (width 0.33m, depth 0.16m) can be estimated to have an external diameter of c.14.3m, based on the geophysical survey. It had a broadly concave profile, with slight variation noted within the excavated intervention and a fill of dark blueish-grey clay (210004).

6.5.224 Ditch terminus (length > 5m, width 0.56m, depth 0.12m) was located within the ring gully. It was flat based, shallow and could potentially represent a structural element such as a beam

slot. A single fill of light blueish-grey clay was present, suggesting that it was left open to silt at the end of its use.

Trench 2113 (Figure 48; Plates 214 & 215)

6.5.225 Trench 2113 was located within the area of archaeological density and possible Romano-British settlement (MLI22032). While this location was identified by the aerial survey to form part of the large roddon the stratigraphical sequence within the trench was found to consist of marine alluvium (211301), overlain by topsoil (211300). The trench was targeted on two linear anomalies: a kinked anomaly of uncertain association and a long straight anomaly, which continued beyond the roddon as part of a large co-axial system. This latter anomaly was recorded in the HER as a cropmark and was represented by a ditch [211302] within the trench.

6.5.226 Ditch [211302] (width 1.4, depth 0.23m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned, shallow and flat based. It with filled by a dark bluey-grey clay (211303). Based on the spatial relationships it be can assumed to be later than the Roman settlement and from a period of drier fenland.

Trench 2117 (Figure 49; Plates 218 & 219)

6.5.227 Trench 2117 was located on the marine alluvium area to the north of the roddon and was targeted on to a long linear feature, identified by the aerial survey, which appeared to form part of the same coaxial system as ditch [211302] in Trench 2113.

6.5.228 A single ditch [211703] (width 1.55m, depth 0.34m) was present within the trench corresponding very well with the identified anomaly. It was wide with an asymmetric profile and a flat base. A total of two fills were present: a light blueish-grey clay (211705), present only on the sides of the ditch, possibly representing a deliberately deposited lining, followed by a blackish-greyish-brown clayey silt (211704). A single fragment of fired clay, identified as silty micaceous with voids was recovered. As with ditch [211302], based on the non-utilisation of the roddon and other spatial relationships, it can be assumed to date to a later period with drier fenlands.

Trench 2118 (Figures 46, 48 & 67; Plates 220-222)

6.5.229 Trench 2118 was located on the large roddon within the area of archaeological density and possible Romano-British settlement (MLI22032). It was targeted on a continuation of the possible trackway/droveway, previously investigated in Trenches 2002 and 2078, which was positively identified within the trench. A ring gully was also found.

6.5.230 The northernmost ditch [211813] (width 2.6m, depth 0.92m) was probably a continuation of ditch [207811] in Trench 2078. It had an asymmetric profile with a flat base and a fill of light blueish-grey clay (211814). The ditch recut [211811] (2.09m, depth 0.5m) had a similar profile and a bluey-black clayey silt fill (211812). Environmental sampling <25> from the original cut [211813] found charcoal and mollusc shell and sampling <24> from the recut [211811] found charcoal and worm capsules.

6.5.231 The southern ditch [211806] (width 1.6m, depth 0.56m) was probably a continuation of ditch [207806] in Trench 2078. It was flat based with steeply sloping sides and a light blueish-grey clay fill (211807). It contained 14 fragments of animal bone from large mammal and unidentified animal. The ditch recut [211804] (width 1.22m, depth 0.33m) was concave in profile and contained a fill of bluey-black clayey silt (211805). It contained six fragments of animal bone from horse, large mammal and unidentified animal.

6.5.232 The ring gully was located to the south of the possible trackway/droveway and consisted of two curvilinear gullies [211808] (width 0.69m, depth 0.13m) and [211802] (width 0.71m, depth 0.06m). Both features were flat based to concave in profile with a single fill of yellowy-grey silty sand (211803) present in [211802] and a fill of yellowy-grey silty sand (211809), followed by yellowy-grey sandy silt (211810) in [211808]. Based on a projection of the feature's continuation, an external diameter of c.6.9m can be estimated.

Trench 2119 (Figure 48; Plates 223 & 224)

6.5.233 Trench 2119 was located to the north-east of Trench 2118, just outside the possible Romano-British settlement(MLI22032) and was targeted on the same trackway/droveway as Trenches 2002, 2078 and 2118 as well as a linear anomaly detected by the aerial and geophysical survey. This latter feature was confirmed to represent as ditch [211902]. While the targeted trackway/droveway ditch was not present within this trench, its continuation was recorded in Trench 3019, Field C-2-02.

6.5.234 Ditch [211902] (0.94m, depth 0.54m) was broadly concave in profile with an associated field drain. It contained a mid-grey clay layer (211903), followed by a brownish-black peaty deposit. The preservation of the animal bone present in the fill and the associated field drain, indicated a modern date. The wider feature is parallel to a similar linear anomaly 46m to the north-west, with both anomalies continuing into Field C-2-02.

Trench 2120 (Figure 49; Plate 225)

6.5.235 Trench 2120 targeted the potential northern edge of the roddon and onto a north-east-to-south-west aligned linear anomaly. Roddon deposits were found across the trench and the linear feature was positively identified as a ditch [212006].

6.5.236 Ditch [212006] (width 1.8m, depth 0.5m) was concave in profile and contained a possible clay lining (212004) followed by a blackish-brown silty clay (212003). The overall feature is potentially coaxial with the possible field system investigated in Trenches 2113 and 2117, but also closely follows the edge of the roddon. Dating and character are therefore uncertain.

Field B-1-14 (Trenches 2024–2029, 2050, 2065–2068, 2101–2105, 2114 and 2116; Figures 24, 25, 50-53 & 67; Plates 226–258)

6.5.237 Field B-1-14 was located to the south of B-1-13 and contained a branched continuation of the roddon and the archaeological activity see in Field B-1-13. There are three heritage assets within the field: part of an area of possible Romano-British settlement (MLI22032) to the north, a small area of possible Iron Age settlement (MLI23180) towards the centre and part of a large area of undated cropmarks (MLI20253) to the south. Trenches 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2114, 2116, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028 and 2066 targeted geophysical anomalies on the roddon, while Trenches 2029, 2050, 2067 and 2068 targeted linear anomalies outside of the roddon. Overall, the results closely matched the findings of the previous surveys, with the exception of the area to the central west of the roddon, where Trenches 2103 and 2116 did not find the anomalies, and Trenches 2029 and 2050, which targeted linear features off the roddon, and were found to be archaeologically negative.

6.5.238 A series of circular and curvilinear anomalies were identified on the roddon in the field, these were confirmed to represent ring gullies in Trenches 2066, 2101, 2102 and 2105 with one negative result (Trench 2103). In Trench 2102 two sets of curvilinear ditches were present, one of which contained articulated animal bones (Plates 248 & 249). Similarly, to Field B-1-13

the ring gullies were broadly consistent in size and form with no internal features and occasional evidence for multiple phases (Trench 2102). No evidence for salt-making was present and it is likely that these represent small enclosures for roundhouses. A ring gully [210504] in Trench 2105 was radiocarbon dated and returned a Middle Iron Age date, representing the earliest known feature on the Site. These were found within all three areas of heritage assets and outside the mapped extent of the heritage assets.

6.5.239 Areas of parallel ditches were recorded in the north and south of the area, although these were less common than in Field B-1-13 to the north. In Trench 2066, within the area of undated cropmarks (MLI20253) a pair of parallel ditches were confirmed. These were shallow and ranged in width from 1m–2.1m and depth from 0.29m–0.3m. Spatially, these seemed to be associated with the majority of the features in the field.

6.5.240 A series of anomalies, forming a possible area of laddered enclosures was identified in the northern part of the field, continuing from Trench 2064, Field B-1-10. These extended from the area of possible Romano-British settlement (MLI22032) and were confirmed in Trenches 2025 and 2065. The southernmost of these ditches [202506] (width 1.9m, depth 0.66m) was a recut of an earlier ditch and was substantial with steeply sloping sides. Dark clay silt fills were often seen in the ditches, hinting at a period of flooding after these features were established. A possible occupational layer (202510) was also found around the enclosures seen in Trench 2025.

6.5.241 A long (276m) meandering linear feature, which travelled along the roddon and appeared to be integrated with the enclosures, was confirmed as a ditch in Trenches 2024 and 2026. The function of this ditch is uncertain, although it appears to mirror the alignment of a potential palaeochannel to the east, and also appeared to form an eastern boundary to much of the activity described above. Iron Age/Roman pottery was recovered from the ditch.

6.5.242 In Trench 2028 on the eastern part of the roddon, three anomalies were identified, one of which was curvilinear. No dating evidence was obtained during excavation and their characterisation is limited.

6.5.243 A series of linear anomalies was identified in the eastern part of the field, which did not, or only partially, respected the roddon. These were confirmed in Trenches 2027, 2067, 2068 and 2114, where they were often found to represent deep and substantial ditches. Ditches [211403], Trench 2114 (width 1.8m, depth 0.7m) and [211412] (width 1.5m, depth 0.84m) had steeply sloping sides and a flat base (Plate 257). Although, none of these ditches corresponded to mapped historical boundaries, one ditch [206704], Trench 2067 (width 2.89m, depth >0.84m; Plates 241 & 242) could be dated to the post-medieval period. This ditch was found to contain a waterlogged timber {206705}. Multiple intercutting features were also present in Trench 2114, including a modern animal grave [211436].

6.5.244 The finds assemblage from this field often included animal bone. Other finds included CBM, metal, wood, a possible ceramic bead, and a possible post-medieval leather shoe.

6.5.245 The roddon was found to be composed of yellowy-brown and orangey-brown silty clay and sandy silt. An occupational layer was present in Trench 2025, overlying the roddon. The marine alluvium varied between blueish-grey silty clays, orangey-brown silty clays and greyish-brown clay, with mottling sometimes present. Subsoil was occasionally present (Trenches 2050, 2101 and 2116) and the topsoil consisted of a greyish-brown silty clay, measuring 0.27m–0.38m in depth.

Trench 2024 (Figures 50, 51; Plates 226 & 227)

6.5.246 Trench 2024 was located on a branch of roddon and within the area of dense archaeological remains between two known settlement areas (MLI22032 & MLI20253). It targeted a single linear feature identified by aerial and geophysical survey, which was found to correspond to a post-medieval/modern ditch [202402]. An area of possible archaeology spread identified by the geophysical survey was also targeted, this was found to correspond to a ditch/geological feature [202404].

6.5.247 Ditch [202402] (width 2.7m, depth 0.3m) had a slightly irregular profile and was found to contain a greyish-brown silty clay (202403) with clay pipe.

6.5.248 Ditch/geological feature [202404] (width 2.46m, depth 0.06m) was shallow with a flat profile. It may have represented a layer of brownish-grey silty clay overlying the roddon.

Trench 2025 (Figure 51)

6.5.249 Trench 2025 was located on a densely settled area of roddon, partially within the recorded possible Romano-British settlement (MLI22032). It targeted linear features forming part of a ladder like series of possible enclosures. All anomalies were confirmed to represent north-east-to-south-west aligned ditches with additional ditches also present.

6.5.250 The northernmost ditch [202502] (width 1.1m, depth 0.4m) corresponded to an element of the enclosure features. It was relatively shallow and concave in profile and contained a brownish-black clayey silt fill (202503). A single sherd of Roman pottery was retrieved.

6.5.251 Possible habitation layers (202510) and (202512) were present towards the centre of the trench. These consisted of greyish-brown silty clay with animal bone and charcoal. A total of four fragments of animal bone were collected and identified as medium mammal, large mammal and unidentified. The deposits covered an area of c. 10m, measured 0.21m in depth and were cut by ditch [202511].

6.5.252 Ditch [202511] (width 3.6m, depth 0.72m) was not identified either by the aerial or geophysical survey. It had steeply sloping sides and three fills: a yellowy-grey silty clay (202513), followed by a bluey-grey silty clay with orange mottling (202514) and finally a light brownish-grey sandy clay (202515). Frequent animal bone was seen in the lower two fills, especially (202514), which appears to have been used to dump butchered waste. The upper fill may represent silting after abandonment. The animal bone assemblage totalled 77 fragments of animal bone from cattle, horse, pig, large mammal, medium mammal and unidentified animal.

6.5.253 The southern element of the enclosure features was represented by ditches [202504], [202506] and [202507]. Ditch [202504] (width 0.67m, depth 0.15m) was flat based with a brown black fill (202505). Ditch [202507] (width 1.55m, depth 0.85m) had steeply sloping sides and a brown black silty clay fill (202509), with a small quantity of Roman pottery, a fragment (3g) of late medieval/post-medieval brick and a sherd of 18th century pottery. It was recut by ditch [202506]. Ditch [202506] (width 1.9m, depth 0.66m) was more substantial with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It contained an orange grey clay fill (202508). The dating of this ditch is slightly unclear, but the size of the post-medieval artefactual elements, spatial evidence and Roman pottery suggests that it may be a Roman feature with intrusive later inclusions. A total of eight fragments of animal bone from unidentified species were recovered.

Trench 2026 (Figure 52; Plates 228 & 229)

6.5.254 Trench 2026 was located on the roddon in Field B-1-14, between the known settlement areas (MLI22032) and (MLI20253), and targeted a gently meandering linear feature recorded by the aerial and geophysical surveys. This was positively confirmed as a ditch [202603] (width >1.2m, depth >0.27m). It had sloping sides, a wide V-shaped profile and an orange-brown sandy fill (202604) and four fragments of animal boner from unidentified animal. A prehistoric/Roman date can be considered likely, but unconfirmed.

Trench 2027 (Figure 50; Plates 230 & 231)

6.5.255 Trench 2027 was located at the edge of the roddon and targeted a potential enclosure feature extending from an area of possible Romano-British settlement (MLI22032). It contained a natural/hedgerow feature (202703) and a possible modern ditch [202704], corresponding to the projected enclosure.

6.5.256 Ditch [202704] (width 2.15m, depth 0.46m) was concave in profile with a broadly flat base. It had a black brown silt fill (202705) containing a fragment of fired clay and two fragments of animal bone, identified as sheep/goat and unidentified animal.

Trench 2028 (Figure 50; Plates 232 & 233)

6.5.257 Trench 2028 was located on the roddon and to the south of Trench 2027. It targeted a possible palaeochannel. A total of three features were identified: two ditches [202802], and [202808] and a possible ring ditch [202805]. All features were cut into the roddon. No artefactual dating evidence was present and the features are considered to be undated based on their location outside the area of Roman archaeological density.

6.5.258 Ditch [202802] (width >2.4m, depth >0.75m) ran broadly north-west-to-south-east, corresponding to the projected palaeochannel. The ditch had steeply sloping sides and a narrow flat base. It contained mid-grey clay fill (202803) similar to the marine alluvium, followed by a dark brown silt (202804).

6.5.259 Ditch [202808] (width 1.5m, depth 0.65m) was north-east-to-south-west aligned with a squarish profile and a fill of grey silty clay (202809) with charcoal flecks. Environmental sampling <36> found charcoal.

6.5.260 Possible ring ditch [202805] (width 1.3m, depth 0.39m), measured 8.6m across with in the trench and can be estimated to have an external diameter of 15m based on a projected continuation. It was more substantial than many of the ring gullies seen across the Site and had a concave profile and two fills: a grey clay (202806) similar to the surrounding marine alluvium, followed by brown sand (202807).

Trench 2065 (Figure 51)

6.5.261 Trench 2065 was located on the marine alluvium and targeted the same set of laddered linear features as Trench 2025 and Trench 2065 in Field B-1-10. A total of two north-north-west-to-south-south-east aligned ditches and two probable natural features were present, confirming the aerial survey.

6.5.262 The western ditch [206503] (width 1.85m, depth 0.46m) was concave in profile and contained a dark brown-grey sandy clay (206504).

6.5.263 The natural features [206505] (width 0.82m, depth 0.26m) and [206508] (width 2.24m, depth 0.63) were both linear in plan and appeared to form part of the fenland deposit sequence.

6.5.264 The eastern ditch [206506] (width 2.24m, depth 0.63m) was flat based with an orange-brown silty clay fill (206507). It cut the natural feature [206508] along a similar alignment, possibly indicating utilisation of a natural feature. A small animal bone assemblage was recovered, comprising five fragments of bone from cow, large mammal and unidentified animal.

Trench 2066 (Figure 52)

6.5.265 Trench 2066 was located towards the south of Field B-1-14 on the roddon and within an area of recorded undated cropmarks (MLI20253). It was targeted on a pair of parallel linear anomalies and a semi-circular feature. All targeted features were positively identified within the trench.

6.5.266 The northernmost feature was a curvilinear gully [206606] (width 0.4m, depth 0.17m) with a concave profile. Based on the geophysical survey the overall feature is semi-circular with an overall length of c.12.5m. It contained two fills: a grey-brown sandy silt (206608), followed by a yellow-brown sandy silt (206607).

6.5.267 Towards the centre of the trench a pair of parallel ditches/furrows [206603] and [206609] were present. These were on a north-east and spaced 5.6m apart. Ditch/furrow [206603] (2.1m, depth 0.29m) was shallow and undulating in profile. It contained two fills: both brown-grey sandy clays (206605) and (206604). Ditch/furrow [206609] (width 2m, depth 0.3m) was shallow and flat based with two fills: a black-brown clay silt (206610), followed by an orange-brown clay silt (206611).

Trench 2067 (Figure 53; Plates 240–242)

6.5.268 Trench 2067 was located within the marine alluvium area and was targeted on two long straight linear features identified through the aerial survey. The western feature was identified as a ditch [206704] and the eastern feature was found to be a natural feature [206703] (width 0.64m, depth 0.27m), possibly a water channel. Despite the location roddon deposits were also present.

6.5.269 Ditch [206704] (width 2.8m, depth >0.84m) was substantial with slightly convex sides. It was not fully excavated in order to maintain a safe working depth, but historic mapping indicates that it was a field boundary (OS 1887c; Figure 25). A total of six fills were present: (206711), (206709), (206710), (206708), (206707) and (206706) with a waterlogged timber {206705} recovered from the basal fill (206711) and leather items {SF4} retrieved from (206706). CBM fragments identified as possible post-medieval field drain were retrieved as well as a plank of wood identified as pine. The leather items {SF4} were identified as comprising three leather shoes of riveted construction and over ten fragments of metal with adhering leather.

Trench 2068 (Figure 53; Plates 243 & 244)

6.5.270 Trench 2068 was located in the marine alluvium are and was targeted on a straight linear feature identified in the aerial survey. This feature correlates well with a mapped field boundary (OS 1887c; Figure 25) and was represented within the ditch [206803]. While the location was initially mapped as marine alluvium, both marine alluvium and roddon deposits were present within the trench.

6.5.271 Ditch [206803] (width 3.54m, depth 0.76m) was substantial width convex sides and a flat base. It contained two fills: a light orange-grey sandy silt (206804), followed by a brown-grey sandy silt (206805). Three fragments of animal bone from cow and medium mammal were recovered.

Trench 2101 (Figure 50; Plates 245 & 246)

6.5.272 Trench 2101 was located within the archaeologically dense area on the roddon and recorded extent of a possible Romano-British settlement (MLI22032). It targeted a single circular geophysical anomaly, which was found within the trench to be a ring gully [210103/210105].

6.5.273 Ring gully [210103/210105] (width 0.54m–0.8m, depth 0.18m–0.29m) terminated with in the trench, possibly forming a northern entranceway. An external diameter of c.10m can be estimated, based on the geophysical survey. It was concave in profile and contained a fill of mottled sandy silt (210104/210106).

Trench 2102 (Figure 50; Plates 247-249)

6.5.274 Trench 2102 was located within the archaeologically dense area on the roddon and within a possible Romano-British settlement (MLI22032). It targeted a pair of overlapping circular geophysical anomalies, which found to correspond to a pair of ring gullies.

6.5.275 The larger ring gully [210202/210204] (width 0.69m, depth 0.22m) was flat based in profile with a black-grey sandy silt fill (210205). Based on the geophysical survey an external diameter of c.16m can be estimated. It contained a black-grey sandy silt fill with articulated animal bone (210203/210205).

6.5.276 The smaller ring gully [210207] (width 0.89m, depth 0.61m) had a deep and well-defined V-shaped profile. It contained an orange-grey-brown sandy silt film (210208). Based on the geophysical survey an external diameter of 12m can be estimated.

6.5.277 The ring gullies appeared to intersect with each other and another linear feature at the southern edge of the trench. However, it was not possible to determine the sequence as the points of intersection were located on and just beyond the trench edge.

Trench 2104 (Figure 51; Plates 251 & 252)

6.5.278 Trench 2104 was located close to the western edge of the roddon, within a small area of archaeological density recorded in the HER as a possible Iron Age settlement (MLI23180). It targeted a possible small squarish enclosure. This was represented within the trench by a single ditch/natural feature [210402/210404] (width 0.38m, depth 0.1m–0.15m). This feature was flat based and shallow. It ran east-to-west with a slight turn towards the north at its western end, based on an identification as a ditch, the possible enclosure can be estimated to have an area of c.8mx8m. A single naturally silted fill (210403/210405) was present. It is considered to be of prehistoric/Roman date based on its proximity to the features in Trench 2105 and its location in a possible Iron Age settlement (MLI23180).

Trench 2105 (Figures 51 & 67; Plates 253-255)

6.5.279 Trench 2105 was located to the north of Trench 2104 and targeted a circular geophysical anomaly. This was confirmed in the trench and two internal postholes and an additional curvilinear feature were identified. These were radiocarbon dated to the Middle Iron Age period.

6.5.280 Ring gully [210504] (width 0.73m, depth 0.58m) had a deep and narrow profile, which was narrower towards the base. It contained a fill of peaty silty clay (210505). Based on the geophysical survey, an external diameter of c.12.4m can be estimated. A single sherd of prehistoric/Roman pottery was recovered as well as eight fragments of animal bone from cow and unidentified species. A sample of cattle bone from the ring gully was submitted for radiocarbon dating and returned a date of 2160 +/- 30 BP (354–279 cal BC (36.2%); 255–246 cal BC (1%); 231–96 cal BC (56.1%); 70–56 cal BC (2.1%)) (Appendix 23), indicating a Middle Iron Age date. A total of two postholes were recorded within the ring gully interior. Posthole [210506] (diameter 0.37m, depth 0.14m) and posthole [210508] (diameter 0.24m, depth 0.3m) both had narrow profiles with steeply sloping sides and flat bases. Both contained peaty fills. A smell animal bone assemblage was recovered from the postholes, totalling five fragments from rat, medium mammal and unidentified animal.

6.5.281 The second curvilinear feature [210502] (width 0.45m, depth 0.07m) was found in the corner of the trench. It was shallow and flat based with a black brown silty clay fill. The full extent of the feature is uncertain due to the small portion revealed within the trench, but it is likely that it represents another ring gully. Two fragments of animal bone from cow and unidentified animal were recovered.

Trench 2114 (Figures 50 & 67; Plates 256 & 257)

6.5.282 Trench 2114 was located on the roddon, within the area of denser archaeology to the north of Field B-1-14 and within the possible Romano-British settlement (MLI22032). It contained multiple ditches and intercutting features. These are artefactually undated and didn't have a clear association with any dated features.

6.5.283 One of the earliest features in the western part of the trench was a possible pit [211426] (length >0.83m, width >0.55m, depth 0.18m) the shape and extent of this feature was not visible within the trench and it was cut by a ditch [211411]. A single fragment of horse bone was recovered from the pit.

6.5.284 Ditch [211411] (width >0.9m, depth 0.42m) was north-to-south aligned and corresponded with a long linear feature. It contained a fill of dark grey sandy silt (211414), followed by a white-grey sandy silt (211415). The ditch was cut by an east-to-west aligned ditch [211412/211429].

6.5.285 Pit/posthole [211413] (diameter 0.27m, depth >0.21m) was also cut by ditch [211412/211429]. It was round with a light grey sandy silt fil (211428). Environmental sampling <35> found charcoal and little else.

6.5.286 Ditch [211412/211429] (width 1.5m, depth 0.84m) had steeply sloping sides, a flat base and a terminus to the west. A series of eight fills were present, these had alternating colours and consistencies indicating frequently changing water levels.

6.5.287 To the north ditch [211403] (width 1.8m, depth 0.7m) was also east-to-west aligned with a similar profile and sequence of fills. It contained six fragments of animal bone from horse and unidentified animal.

Field B-2 (Trenches 2022, 2023, 2075, 2097 and 2112; Figures 24, 25, 54, 55 & 67; Plates 259–268)

6.5.288 Field B-2 is a triangular field located at the north-eastern extent of Area B. Most of the field is located on an area of marine alluvium with one small branch of roddon, with further areas of

roddon recorded in the trenches. It is included within the recorded extent of the settlement at Whitebread Farm (MLI20004). The identified features include two north-east-to-south-west aligned linear features seen as cropmarks, one of which runs from Field B-3-02, B-1-12, B-2 and C-2-01. Circular and curvilinear features, initially thought to be salterns, were identified in the south of the area.

6.5.289 Curvilinear features, including a partial curvilinear anomaly and a circular feature, were investigated in Trenches 2075 and 2097 (Plate 264). The feature in Trench 2097 was identified as a shallow ring gully (diameter 12m, width 0.66m, depth 0.12m). The partial curvilinear identified in Trench 2075 was highly truncated, and may represent another truncated ring gully. As seen across Area B, no internal features or evidence for salt-making were present and a roundhouse interpretation is more likely. The ring gullies in this field were located off the roddon and approximately 155m from the large roddon. They may represent seasonal or temporary dwellings. While they cannot be fully dated at this time an Iron Age/Roman date is considered likely.

6.5.290 The northernmost trench (Trench 2022) targeted the long north-east-to-south-west aligned linear cropmark. These corresponded to two parallel undated ditches, one of which was cut by a pit, and a parallel ditch/furrow. The deepest of these features was ditch [202209] (width 0.92m, depth 0.28m) (Plate 260). Similarly, the north-east-to-south-west aligned linear feature in the south was found to represent a wide and shallow ditch [211205] (width 1.42m, depth 0.2m) and a terminus/pit. Other long and similarly aligned linear features can be seen in nearby fields (Field B1-13 and Field C-2-02) and can potentially be interpreted as part of a larger system of drainage or field boundaries. While no artefactual dating evidence is currently available, a post-Roman date is likely based on the spatial relationship with the roddons. Possible furrows, east-to-west aligned, were also found in Trench 2023 which targeted an apparently blank area of roddon and a horseshoe shaped area of possible palaeochannel. Finds from these furrows included bone, CBM and clay pipe.

6.5.291 Roddon deposits were recorded in Trenches 2023, 2075, 2097 and 2112 and were described as mid-brown-orange sandy silt, mottled white, red and orange silts and yellow and orange-brown clay silts. These deposits were sometimes present in trenches where they were not expected, suggesting the presence of multiple small areas of roddon in this field. Marine alluvium in this field was found to be a blue-grey silty clay with orange flecks, overlain by 0.23m–0.34m of topsoil. The relationship between the clays and the roddon deposits were uncertain.

Trench 2022 (Figures 54 & 67, Plates 259 & 260)

6.5.292 Trench 2022 was located within a marine alluvium area in Field B-2 and targeted a long linear feature, stretching between Areas B and C. It was also located within the recorded settlement north-east of Whitebread Farm (MLI20004). A total of three north-east-to-south-west aligned ditches were found, corresponding to the geophysical anomalies, as well as a single pit.

6.5.293 The northernmost ditch [202205] (width 0.97m, depth 0.17m) had a concave profile and a light brown grey silty clay fill. It was cut by pit [202207] (length 0.96m, width 1.28m, depth 0.2m), which was flat based and round with a dark grey-brown silty clay fill (202208).

6.5.294 Ditch [202203] (width 0.92m, depth 0.28m) had an uneven profile and contained a single fill of brown-grey silty clay (202204).

6.5.295 The southernmost ditch [202209] (width 2.44m, depth 0.22m) was flat based and wide with a single fill of dark grey-brown silty clay.

Trench 2023 (Figure 54, Plates 261 & 262)

6.5.296 Trench 2023 was located across a narrow roddon in Field B-2, targeting a curving feature identified as a potential palaeochannel. As with the other trenches in this field, it was located with the Whitebread Farm settlement (MLI20004). A total of two shallow linear east-to-west aligned features, provisionally identified as furrows were identified, these may correspond to the projected palaeochannel.

6.5.297 The northernmost feature [202303] (width 1.36, depth 0.2m) had a wide shallow profile and a blue-grey silty clay fill (202304), which contained two clay pipe stem of 17th/early 18th century and late 18th century AD date onwards, CBM fragments, identified as late medieval/post-medieval brick, and a fragment of large mammal bone. The southern feature [202305] (width 1.52m, depth 0.22m) had a similar profile and fill.

Trench 2075 (Figures 54 & 67; Plates 263 & 264)

6.5.298 Trench 2075 was located in the marine alluvium area and within the Whitebread Farm settlement (MLI20004). It targeted a small curvilinear geophysical anomaly and the same possible palaeochannel as Trench 2023. An area of roddon (207502) was also observed within the trench.

6.5.299 A single curvilinear gully [207503] (length >2.2m, width 0.27m, depth 0.09m) was recorded cutting into the roddon deposits (207502), confirming the geophysical survey. It was shallow and terminated within the trench. A single fill of grey-brown silty clay was present (207504). Based on the limited geophysical results, it is uncertain whether this feature represented a ring gully.

Trench 2097 (Figure 55; Plates 265 & 266)

6.5.300 Trench 2097 was a squarish trench, located in the southern [art of the field and targeted on a circular geophysical anomaly. Although it was previously mapped as part of the marine alluvium area, deposits of roddon were recovered within the trench.

6.5.301 The circular anomaly was positively identified as a probable ring gully, represented by a shallow gully [209703] (length >1.32m, width 0.66m, depth 0.12m). A single fill of grey-brown silty clay (209704) was recorded. Based on the geophysical survey a diameter of 13.9m can be estimated.

Trench 2112 (Figure 55; Plates 267 & 268)

6.5.302 Trench 2112 was located in the southern part of Field B-2, and was targeted on a linear geophysical anomaly, which continued into Field C-2-02 as an aerial anomaly. This wider feature was long and did not respect the roddons, It was positively identified as a north-east-to-south-west aligned ditch [211205] and recut [211203].

6.5.303 Ditch [211205] (width >2m, depth 0.2m) was flat based and not fully visible in the trench baulk. It contained a grey-brown silty clay. Ditch recut [211203] (width 0.58m, depth 0.24m) had a narrow profile with steeply sloping sides and a black/dark brown silty clay fill (211204). The wider continuation of the ditch is suggestive of a post-Roman and fenland drainage feature.

Field B-3-01 (Trenches 2131, 2132 and 2139–2141; Figures 56 and 57; Plates 269–274)

6.5.304 Field B-3-1 is located towards the north-western extent of Area B. The field contains marine alluvium with a single small and meandering roddon. No archaeological anomalies have been identified. The trenches targeted a potential cable route.

6.5.305 All trenches in this field were found to be archaeologically blank with the exception of Trench 2131 which contained a ditch. A probable natural feature was recorded in Trench 2141

6.5.306 The roddon deposits in this field comprised yellow-grey and orangey-brown silty clay. The marine alluvium comprised mid-blue-grey silty clay. The overlying topsoil was a grey-brown silty clay, measuring 0.36m–0.41m in depth.

Trench 2131 (Figure 56; Plate 269 & 270)

6.5.307 Trench 2131 was located in the north-western corner of the field and contained a single ditch north-east-to-south-west aligned ditch [213102] (width 4.22m, depth 1.26m). This ditch was wide and flat and potentially associated with a mapped field boundary (OS 1887c; Figure 25). It contained a fill of blue-grey clay (213103), followed by mottled grey and orange-brown clay (213104).

Trench 2141 (Figure 57; Plates 273 & 274)

6.5.308 Trench 2141 was located in the south-eastern part of Field B-3-01 and was found to contain a single probable natural feature (214102; length >0.72m, width 1.18m, depth 0.09m), comprising a deposit of black-grey silty clay within the marine alluvium.

Field B-3-02 (Trenches 2142–2145; Figures 24, 25, 58 & 59; Plates 275–278)

6.5.309 Field B-3-02 is located to the north of Area B. There was not projection that this field would contain areas of roddon, however such deposits were identified in Trench 2140. Occasional linear anomalies were identified in the eastern extent of the area, two of which correspond to mapped historical field boundaries (OS 1887c; Figure 25), and another which forms part of a long linear feature confirmed as a series of parallel ditches in Fields B-1-09 and B-2. The trenches in this field targeted a proposed cable route.

6.5.310 The majority of trenches was found to be archaeologically blank. Trench 2142 contained two ditches which appeared to correlate to a mapped field boundary and a small mapped sub-enclosure (OS 1887c; Figure 25). Trench 2145 contained two undated recut ditches which corresponded with the long linear feature, continuing into Field B-1-12 and B-2. This ditch ran through the marine alluvium area and contained fills indicative of flooding.

6.5.311 The roddon in Trench 2140 comprised deposits of yellow-grey silty clay. The marine alluvium was a blue-grey silty clay and the overlying topsoil was a grey-brown silty clay, measuring 0.34m–0.42m.

Trench 2142 (Figure 58; Plates 275 & 276)

6.5.312 Trench 2142 was located in the south-western part of the field. It contained two ditches corresponding to mapped 19th century boundaries [214204] and [214206] (OS; 1887c) and a third shallow ditch [214202].

6.5.313 Ditch [214204] (width 1.4m, depth 0.34m) was east-to-west aligned with a wide asymmetric profile. A single fill of peaty dark grey silty clay with charcoal flecks and iron panning was recorded (214205) and a sherd of post medieval pottery of 17th/18th century AD date, an iron chisel, a clay pipe stem of late 18th century AD and onwards date, 123 fragments of animal bone from cow, large mammal and unidentified animal and a large fragment of structural briquetage (467g) were recovered.

6.5.314 Ditch [214202] (width 0.28m, depth 0.04m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned and had an uncertain relationship with ditch [214204]. It contained a similar fill to ditch [214204].

6.5.315 Ditch [214206] (width 0.62m, depth 0.22m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned and concave in profile. It contained a single fill of grey-brown clay (214207).

Trench 2145 (Figure 59)

6.5.316 Trench 2145 was located in the south-eastern part of Field B-3-02 and was targeted on a curving long linear feature, which was identified in aerial survey and targeted elsewhere in Trench 2010, Field B-1-09 and Trench 2022, Field B-2. A single north-east-to-south-west aligned ditch [214503] and recut [214505] was recorded, corresponding to the targeted feature as well as a peaty natural feature (214502).

6.5.317 Ditch [214503] (width 1m, depth 0.23m) was wide and flat based in profile, with a single fill of blue-grey clay (214503). The ditch recut [214505] (width 0.71m, depth 0.23m) had convex sides and a narrow base. It contained a brown-black sandy silt (214506).

Field B-5 (Trenches 2081, 2085–2091, 2129, 2130 & 2133–2138; Figures 24,25, 60-64 & 67; Plates 279–304)

6.5.318 Field B-5 is located at the north-western extent of Area B. Much of the area is marine alluvium with a few small branches of roddon. A series of linear anomalies were identified, many of which correlate with mapped historical field boundaries (OS 1887c; Figure 25). To the immediate north-west of the field, there is a known deserted medieval settlement (MLI23090), which appears to continue into the area of the direct north of the field as cropmarks. Roman salt-making features have also been found during works adjacent to the field (MLI86349 MLI86347).

6.5.319 Almost all of the trenches in the northern part of the field contained archaeology (Trenches 2085, 2087–2091 and 2129) (Plates 283-291). A series of broadly north-to-south aligned linear features, running parallel to a mapped field boundary were projected over much of this area and were targeted in Trenches 2081, 2082, 2083, 2085, 2090, 2091 and 2129. These were confirmed in trenches except Trenches 2081, 2082 and 2083 to the south and were often found to be wide and shallow ditches/agricultural features. It is likely that they formed part of a post-medieval field system. Another ditch/ agricultural feature that appeared to be associated with the 19th century field system was present in Trench 2087. In Trench 2085 a small pit and substantial ditch were found, potentially correlating to a projected enclosure within this field system.

6.5.320 Features not identified during the geophysical survey included two modern ditches in Trench 2088, a small pit/natural feature in Trench 2089 and a curvilinear ditch in Trench 2091.

6.5.321 The finds included small quantities of animal bone, briquetage and Production Process Residues (PPR).

6.5.322 The roddons in this field were generally composed of yellowish-brown silty clay. Deposits of blue-grey silty clay marine alluvium were recorded between the roddons and all deposits and features were overlain by a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil, which measured 0.26m–0.45m in depth.

Trench 2081 (Plates 279 & 280)

6.5.323 Trench 2081 was targeted on a pair of linear features, identified via aerial survey, which also run closely parallel to a mapped field boundary. A single shallow linear feature (208102) (width 1.27m, depth 0.04m) was found, corresponding well to one of the projected features. It was unclear whether it represented a shallow agricultural feature such as a furrow or a natural feature.

Trench 2085 (Figures 60 & 67; Plates 283 & 284)

6.5.324 Trench 2085 was targeted on a continuation of the long linear feature targeted by Trench 2081 and a possible rectilinear enclosure. The linear feature was positively identified as ditch [208510]. A substantial ditch terminus [208503] and a small pit [208508] were found in the projected enclosure corner.

6.5.325 Ditch terminus [208503] (width >1m, depth 0.88m) was squarish in plan and profile with a series of naturally formed fills: an initial red-orange clay silt (208507), followed by a grey silty clay (208506), a red-orange silt (208505) and finally a grey-black clay silt (208504). It is uncertain whether it formed part of the enclosure. A total of 200 fragments (330g) of bog ore were recovered as well as a single fragment of unidentifiable animal bone. This ore was primarily exploited in the Iron Age. Environmental sampling <20001> found charcoal and little else.

6.5.326 Pit/natural feature [208508] (length 0.67m, width 0.58m, depth 0.12) was extremely shallow and flat based, it contained a single fill of red orange silt (208509).

6.5.327 Ditch [208510] (width 2.08m, depth 0.24m) was wide and shallow with a single fill of grey-brown silty clay (208511).

Trench 2087 (Figure 61; Plates 286 & 287)

6.5.328 Trench 2087 was located in the western part of Field B-5 and contained roddon and marine alluvium deposits. It targeted two straight linear features, one of which was found to be a ditch [208703].

6.5.329 Ditch [208703] (width 1.48m, depth 0.13m) had a wide shallow profile and a single fill of dark blue-grey silty clay (208704). Comparison with mapped field systems shows that it was parallel with mapped field boundaries and could therefore represent a furrow or other agricultural feature (OS 1887c; Figure 25).

Trench 2088 (Figure 62; Plates 288 & 289)

6.5.330 Trench 2088 was located in the north-eastern corner of Field B-5, close to South Holland Main Drain. It targeted an apparently blank area of roddon. It contained a ditch terminus [208802] and a ditch [208804], both contained modern material, with modern disturbance also present in the northern part of the trench. Both ditches can be tentatively dated to the post-medieval period, based on the presence of CBM and occasional coal inclusions and the proximity to a deserted medieval settlement (MLI23090).

6.5.331 Ditch terminus [208802] (width >2m, depth 0.38m) was squarish in plan with a concave profile. It contained a dark grey-brown silty sand (208803) with CBM and coal inclusions and six fragments of briquetage (682g) from structural elements. These were identified as a hearth lining.

6.5.332 Ditch [208804] (width >5.4m, depth 0.85m) was substantial with sloping sides and a flat base. It contained four fills: (208808), (208807), (208806) and (208805) and small quantities of CBM.

Trench 2089 (Plates 290 & 291)

6.5.333 Trench 2089 was located in the north-eastern part of the field and was targeted on a straight linear feature. Marine alluvium and roddon deposits were both recorded in the trench. It was found to contain a single shallow pit [208903] (length 0.54m, width 0.43m, depth 0.08m). A single fill of blue-grey silty clay (208904) was present.

Trench 2090 (Figure 64; Plates 292 & 293)

6.5.334 Trench 2090 was located partially on a roddon and targeted a series of parallel long straight linear features, including a continuation of the feature investigated in Trench 2081 and 2085. These features were also parallel to a mapped field boundary (OS 1887c; Figure 25). A total of three ditches/linear features were present, confirming the aerial survey. Based on the wider aerial survey, it is likely that these represent agricultural features associated with the post-medieval to modern field system.

6.5.335 The westernmost ditch [209007] (width 1.11mm, depth 0.12m) was flat based and shallow with a dark blue-grey silty clay fill (209008).

6.5.336 The central ditch [209009] (width 1.98m, depth 0.4m) had sloping sides and a concave base. A single fill of grey-brown silty clay (209006) was present).

6.5.337 The eastern ditch [209003] (width 0.53, depth 0.16m) was shallow and concave in profile with a brown-grey silty clay fill (209004).

Trench 2091 (Figure 64; Plates 294 & 295)

6.5.338 Trench 2091 was located partially on a roddon and targeted a series of linear features. A north-to-south aligned ditch [209105] was present, which appeared to form part of the same field system as those found in Trench 2081, 2090 and 2085 as well as a curvilinear feature [209103].

6.5.339 Curvilinear ditch [219103] (width 1.46m, depth 0.26m) was concave in profile and contained a single fill of grey-brown silty clay (209104) with a single fragment of cow bone. Its date is uncertain.

6.5.340 Ditch [209105] (width 0.75m, depth 0.2m) was shallow with an uneven base and a brown-grey silt fill. It may have represented a furrow.

Trench 2129 (Figure 60; Plates 296 & 297)

6.5.341 Trench 2129 was targeted on a pair of straight linear features, continuing on from trench 2081, 2085 and 2090. A single shallow ditch [212903] (width 1.64m, depth 0.32m) was present. This ditch had a wide profile and a fill of dark brown-grey silty clay (212904).

Trench 2134 (Figure 61; Plates 299 & 300)

6.5.342 Trench 2134 targeted a thin and apparently blank roddon in the western part of the field. A single ditch terminus [213403] was present.

6.5.343 Ditch terminus [213403] (width >0.87m, depth 0.51m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned with a steeply sided concave profile. It contained two fills: a black-brown silt (213404), followed by a yellow-grey silty clay (213405). No dating or further characterisation is possible.

Field C-1-01 (Trenches 3001–3015, 3067 & 3068; Figures 68, 69, 70-74 & 97; Plates 305–336)

6.5.344 Field C-1-01 contains part of the large roddon that runs through Areas B and C, as well as an area of high archaeological density. The majority of this activity falls within a known area of Romano-British settlement, west of Cates Cove Corner (MLI20005), which is partially scheduled (NHLE 1004979). The Scheduled Monument was excluded from the evaluation scope and the trenches were designed to investigate the lower density areas at the edge of the settlement as well as the narrower areas of roddon and areas between the roddons in the southern part of the field. Heritage assets recording circular features or salterns are also present within the field (MLI23202; MLI22037); these were not investigated with any trenches. The majority of trenches in this field were archaeologically positive with the exception of Trenches 3012, 3013, 3014, 3068 and 3073 and the geophysical survey was found to correlate well.

6.5.345 A potential saltern was found in Trench 3005 at the edge of the Scheduled Monument. Trench 3005 was extended to further investigate these features, which were found to be multi-phased, including areas of trample, ditches, part of a potential trackway/droveway, a ring gully and part of a small squarish enclosure. A high number of fills were seen in each feature, relating to water inundation, dumping of charcoal ash and briquetage, and possible backfilling. The earliest features were dated to the Late Iron Age while a mid-2nd century AD date could be assigned to the trackway/droveway ditches. Briquetage was also present in Trench 3011.

6.5.346 Evidence for parallel ditches representing potential trackways/droveways were investigated in Trenches 3001, 3002 and 3005 with a ditch, potential associated with these droveways investigated in trench 30007. Other features on the large roddon included features extending from the higher density area in Trench 3004 and isolated ditches in Trench 3015 and 3067.

6.5.347 The small branch of roddon in the western part of the field was investigated by Trenches 3009–3011, which identified ditches following the roddon contour and spatially associated with the potential droveway features. The small branch of roddon to the east was investigated by trench 3012, which was found to be archaeologically blank.

6.5.348 Long and straight linear features, which did not respect the roddons were investigated in Trenches 3003, 3008, 3010, 3013 and 3015. Although artefactual dating evidence was not present the lack of correlation with the roddons and coaxial spatial relationship with later field boundaries (OS 1887c; Figure 25), suggests that these are post-medieval in date.

6.5.349 The Roman and Iron Age/Roman features often followed a fill and recut sequence comprising silty fills followed by one or more recuts and finally by dark peaty fills, signalling infilling in wet conditions, followed by a final period of water inundation or standing water, in which organic matter could settle. Exceptions to this included the saltern features in Trench 3005, which

were infilled by salt-making waste and ditch [300702] in Trench 3007, which was recut and infilled by a pale silty fill following the water inundation and peaty fill formation event.

6.5.350 The finds from the features in this field included Iron Age/Roman and Roman pottery, animal bone and briquetage, further confirming the presence of Roman and possibly Iron age settlement activity and salt-making.

6.5.351 The roddon deposits varied slightly across the area between yellowish brown, greyish yellow, brownish orange clay sands and silty clays, with flecking and mottling often recorded. Blueish and brownish marine alluvium deposits were recorded as well as orange/blueish tidal clay. No subsoil was present and the overlying topsoil was a brown grey/grey-brown clay silt/silty clay, measuring 0.27m–0.4m.

Trench 3001 (Figure 70; Plates 305-306)

6.5.352 Trench 3001 was located within the area of archaeological density and known settlement (MLI20005) on the roddon. It targeted a pair of parallel linear features, identified in the aerial and geophysical survey as well as a north-west-to-south-east aligned geophysical anomaly. The surveys were found to correlate well.

6.5.353 The westernmost ditch [300102] (width 2.14m, depth 0.4m) was concave in profile and contained a black-brown peaty silt fill (300103). It was recut by ditch [300106] (width 1.24m, depth 0.46m), which had a similar profile and another peaty fill (300105). While the parallel ditch was not investigated in the trench, it was excavated in Trench 3002 to the south and surveyed during pre-excavation. It is likely that these features represent a trackway/droveway.

6.5.354 To the east a north-west-to-south-east aligned ditch [300104] (width 1.04m, depth 0.36m) had a similar profile and fill (300107). It was recut by ditch [300108] (width 0.82m, depth 0.36m), which had a brown-black peaty silt fill (300109).

Trench 3002 (Figure 70; Plates 307 & 308)

6.5.355 Trench 3002 was located to the direct south of Trench 3001, within the same area of archaeological density (MLI20005) and targeted on the same potential trackway/droveway.

6.5.356 Both of the potential trackway/droveway ditches were identified and excavated in this trench. The western ditch [300204] (width 2.09m, depth 0.36m) was wide and flat based with a mid-brown-grey silty clay fill (300205). The eastern ditch [300202] (width 1.5m, depth 0.23m) was similar in profile, but had a black-brown peaty clay fill (300203).

Trench 3003 (Figure 70; Plates 309 & 310)

6.5.357 Trench 3003 was located on the roddon and within a Romano-British settlement area (MLI20005), but was in an apparently lower density area of activity. It was targeted on a long straight linear feature, identified in the aerial survey, which did not respect the roddon.

6.5.358 The linear feature was identified as a ditch [300302] (width 1.16m, depth 0.49m) with a concave profile and a mid-brown-grey silty clay fill (300303). A later date associated with a post-drainage landscape can be inferred.

Trench 3004 (Figures 73 & 97; Plates 311 & 312)

6.5.359 Trench 3004 was targeted on a series of curving features extending from the scheduled part (NHLE 1004979) of the known settlement (MLI20005). A pair of north-west-to-south-east aligned ditches were present, corresponding to the geophysical survey and a deposit of marine alluvium (300402) was recorded to the north of the trench.

6.5.360 The northern ditch [300403] (width 1.28m, depth 0.26m) was concave in profile. It contained a fill of blueish-grey brown clay (300404) and was recut by ditch [300408] (width 0.5m, depth 0.14m). This later ditch had a concave profile and a fill of mottled orange-black clay silt (300409). This fill was dissimilar to the typical fill sequence for this area and may represent a backfill/waste deposition event.

6.5.361 The southern ditch [300405] (width 2.68m, depth 0.7m) was substantial with a wide concave profile. It was recut multiple times, with the following stratigraphic sequence: an initial silting of light grey silty clay (300406); a second silting of dark grey silty clay (300407); a recut [300411] (width 1.56m, depth 0.38m), followed by a black-brown peaty silt (300412) and then a mid-brown-orange clay silt (300413). Similarly, to the fill of ditch [300408], this fill was dissimilar to the typical fill formation seen across the site and based on the proximity to the settlement area and the saltern in Trench 3005 could represent settlement or salt production waste. The final recut [300414] (width 1.1m, depth 0.36m) was concave in profile and followed by a mottled black-brown peaty silt (300415).

Trench 3005 (Figures 72 & 97; Plates 313-317)

6.5.362 Trench 3005 was located close to the roddon edge, within the recorded settlement (MLI20005), and just outside the scheduled area (NHLE 1004979). It was targeted on a small spatially limited and dense cluster of features, which were found to represent multiple phases of activity and salt-making activity. Dating spanned the Late Iron Age to the mid-2nd century AD. A series of extensions were made to the trench to further investigate these features.

6.5.363 The earliest feature in the northern part of the trench consisted of (300535/300536) (length >3.5m, width 0.6m–3.2m, depth 0.12m), a possible trample deposit of light grey sandy silt with briquetage inclusions. It contained seven fragments of briquetage (263g), identified as a structural, miscellaneous and container elements and three fragments of animal bone from cow and unidentified animal.

6.5.364 This appears to have been cut by [300545] (width 1.54m, depth 0.3m) a curvilinear feature of uncertain continuation. This ditch was flat based and contain the following sequence of fills: basal fills of blue-grey sandy silty clay with patches, 692 fragments of briquetage (3,182g), derived from containers, supports, structural elements and miscellaneous and 22 sherds of Late Iron Age pottery (300552) and (300546); fills of grey clays and redeposited roddon with small quantities of briquetage (300547), (300548) and (300549); an ashy deposit with animal bone, briquetage and three sherds of Late Iron Age pottery (300550); redeposited roddon material (300551); another ashy fill with frequent briquetage (300553); a dark blue silting fill (300554); redeposition of roddon material (300555) and a final ashy fill with frequent briquetage (300556). This infilling sequence indicates periodic use of this ditch for deposition of waste associated with salt-making separated by periods of silting, water inundation and intentional backfill. A total of 25 sherds (216g) of Late Iron Age pottery was retrieved as well as a single fragment (1g) of cinder and 17 fragments of animal bone from cow and unidentified animal. The ditch was overlain by a deposit (300537/300538), obscuring its continuation. It lack of continuation into nearby sections suggests that it was either truncated by ditches [300528] and [300531] or terminated within the trench. Environmental sampling <30006>

from the ashy fill (300550) found charcoal, insect remains, mollusc shell and burrowing molluscs.

6.5.365 Deposit (300537/300538) (length >3.2m, width >2.1m, depth 0.08m–0.14m) was a dark grey sandy silt, possibly formed via trample. It contained frequent to moderate briquetage and occasional charcoal. A total of 108 fragments of briquetage (1,356g) were recovered, derived from container, support, structure and miscellaneous elements. It was cut by ditches [300525] and [300528].

6.5.366 Ditch [300525] (width 0.84m, depth 0.22m) was north-to-south aligned and corresponded to a geophysical anomaly. It had a flat base and three fills: a yellow-grey sandy silt with occasional briquetage (300526), followed by a dark to mid-grey sandy silty formed via waste deposition (300527) and finally an ash rich mid to light grey silt also formed via waste deposition (300534). This final fill contained 186 fragments of briquetage (2,317g), derived from container, support, structural and miscellaneous elements. A total of 29 fragments of animal bone were recovered from the ditch and identified as medium mammal and unidentified animal. It was cut by ditch [300528]. Environmental sampling <30005> of this ditch found charcoal, mollusc shell and burrowing molluscs.

6.5.367 Ditch [300528] (width 1.32m, depth 0.7m) was east-to-west aligned and the northernmost feature in the trench. It may relate to a pair of parallel linear features, identified in the aerial survey, and representing a possible trackway/droveway or an additional part of the saltern complex. Ditch [300528] had steeply sloping sides and a flat base and two fills: a basal fill of mid-grey sandy silt (300529) with occasional briquetage fragments followed by a darker fill of clay silt with occasional briquetage and a large assemblage of lead sheet (80g), identified as a probable Roman salt-pan. It was recut by flat based ditch [300531] (width 1.2m, depth 0.58m), which was in turn filled by a grey-black peaty fill (300532), followed by a dark grey peaty sandy silt with occasional briquetage (300533). The parallel and potentially associated ditch [300513] cut a spread/layer of trample (300523/300524) and an earlier linear feature [300521] (width 0.45m, depth 0.16m) which was highly truncated and contained 166 fragments of briquetage (275g). Environmental sampling <30002> of linear feature [300521] found a charred weed seed of arable/ruderal ground, charcoal, worm capsules and burrowing molluscs.

6.5.368 Ditch [300513] (2.77m, depth 0.68m) correlated with the northern side of a potential rectilinear enclosure, visible in the geophysical survey and measuring c. 13m x 25m across. Although it was similar in profile to ditch [300528] it had a more complex series of fills. The fills comprised a series of dumping deposits (300516), (3000514), (300517), (300518) and (300519), formed of clay silts with moderate to frequent briquetage with a particular concentration recorded in fill (300519). The final fill (300520) was a brown-grey peaty fill (300520), indicating a final period of water inundation. A small group of pottery sherds, including part of a grey ware miniature bag shaped beaker were retrieved and dated to the mid-2nd century AD. The beaker was found within the final peaty infill (300520) was of a type often associated with funerary or religious traditions (Graham and Graham 2017) and could therefore represent a votive offering. The final peaty infill also contained two fragments (2g) of cinder, a high silica slag and 112 fragments of briquetage (565g). The majority of the briquetage was recovered from the dumping fill (300516, (300517) and (300519), totalling 327 fragments (743g) and represented container, support and miscellaneous elements. An animal assemblage totalling eight fragments was recovered from the ditch, identified as cow, sheep/goat, medium mammal, large mammal and unidentified mammal. Environmental sampling (<30000> & <30001>) of dumping fill (300517) and peaty fill (300520) found charcoal, but no seeds.

6.5.369 In the southern part of the trench and within the potentially enclosed area the features comprised a ring gully [300502], a pit/layer [300539] and a small squarish enclosure ditch [3000504/300541/300506].

6.5.370 Ring gully [300502] (width 0.84m, depth 0.06m) was shallow and flat based with a light grey silty fill with occasional fragments of briquetage (300503). A diameter of 7.4m can be estimated based on a projected continuation and fragmentary geophysical data. It may represent a potential roundhouse/structure and was similar to similar features on the Site.

6.5.371 The pit/layer [300539] (length >1.7m, width >0.76m, depth 0.14m) was shallow with a grey-brown clay silt fill. It was cut by the small squarish enclosure [3000504/300541/300506].

6.5.372 The ditches of the small squarish enclosure [300504/300506/300541] (width 0.94m–0.96, depth 0.17m–0.42m) had a concave profile. All of the fills were formed via waste deposition, derived from burning, salt-making and domestic activity. These included fills of a yellow-brown clay silt fill (300505) and (300507) containing large quantities of briquetage; fills of black-brown silty clay with ash, CBM, animal bone (300510), (300542), (300543) and (300544); fills of briquetage (300511); charcoal rich fills (300512) and (300508) and ashy fills (300509). The squarish enclosure appears to have an internal area of 3.4mx ≥3.6m, based on the excavation and geophysical evidence. It is likely to form part of a saltern. A total of 2,039 fragments of briquetage were recovered (22,912g) were recovered: 5,525g from fill (300505), 2,775g from fill (300507), 3,449g from fill (300508), 3,220g from fill (300509), 1,881g from fill (300510), 5,972g from fill (300511) and 00g from fill (300544). Support elements (11,377g) were the most represented by weight, followed by structural elements (3,989g), miscellaneous elements (5,705g) and finally container elements (1,841g). An animal assemblage was also present, mostly recovered from the ashy fill (300509), totalling 66 fragments of animal bone from sheep/goat, pig, large mammal and unidentified animal. Environmental sampling (<43>–<46>) found charcoal, worm capsules and no charred seeds.

Trench 3006 (Figure 71; Plate 316)

6.5.373 Trench 3006 contained a single north-east-to-south-west aligned ditch [300603] (width 2m), which correlated to a geophysical anomaly. This was wide and flat based with a brown-grey silty clay fill (300604). This ditch is undated.

Trench 3007 (Figure 71; Plates 319 & 320)

6.5.374 Trench 3007 was located on the roddon and within the Romano-British settlement (MLI20005) and was targeted on a long linear feature, identified by the aerial survey, running between a potential trackway/droveway in Field C-2-03 and two areas of potential trackway/drove to the east and north-east. This was identified as a ditch [300702] and recuts [300705] and [300707].

6.5.375 Ditch [300702] (width 3.6m, depth 0.64m) was flat based with steeply sloping sides. It was infilled by a mottled white-grey silty clay (300703), followed by a brown-white silty clay (300704). It was recut by [300705] (width 1.92m, depth 0.56m), followed by a black-brown clay silt (300706) and then by a second recut [300707] (width 1.42m, depth 0.4m). The final infilling was formed of orange-brown clay silt (300708). There was no artefactual dating evidence, but the ditch can be tentatively associated with the Roman trackway/droveway system.

Trench 3008 (Figure 74; Plates 321 & 322)

6.5.376 Trench 3008 was located in the marine alluvium area in the south-western part of the field. A single ditch was present within the trench correlating well with a long straight linear feature, identified in the aerial survey, which does not respect the roddons and imperfectly with a mapped field boundary (OS 1887c; Figure 69).

6.5.377 The ditch [300802] (width 1m, depth 0.2m) was shallow and concave in profile with a grey-brown silty clay fill (300803) and was recut by ditch [300804] (width 1m, depth 0.36m). This later ditch contained a grey-brown clay silt (300805). Based on the spatial relationships, it is likely that this ditch was post-medieval in date.

Trench 3009 (Figure 75, Plate 323)

6.5.378 Trench 3009 was located on one of the small roddons, branching off the large roddon, outside of recorded Roman settlement (MLI20005) and close to a possible Romano-British saltern (MLI2302). It targeted a slightly curved linear feature, identified in the aerial survey, continuing from features in the higher density area and following the roddon contour. The ditch was located, but not excavated.

Trench 3010 (Figure 74; Plated 324 & 325)

6.5.379 Trench 3010 was located on the same small roddon as Trench 3009. It targeted a long linear feature, which did not respect the roddon and a linear feature following the roddon contour. Both were confirmed in the trench.

6.5.380 The ditch following the roddon contour [301005] (width 1m, depth 0.22m) is likely to have been associated with the settlement area. It was concave in profile and contained a white grey silt (301006), and recut by ditch [301007] (width 1m, depth 0.3m). This later ditch contained grey-brown clay silts (301008) and (301009).

6.5.381 The central ditch [301010] (width 1m, depth 0.2m) ran broadly parallel to [301005] and had a similar profile. It contained a fill of mixed brown-grey clay silt and possible redeposited roddon material (301011).

6.5.382 The ditch [301002] (width 1m, depth 0.34m) corresponding to the long straight linear feature was concave in profile. It contained a fill of grey-brown silty clay (301004), followed by a darker similar fill (301003). Both were formed via possible backfilling. A single fragment of bone from a medium mammal was recovered. This ditch is likely to be post-medieval based on the spatial relationships. Environmental sampling <48> found charcoal, fly pupae, worm capsules and mollusc shell.

Trench 3011 (Figures 75 & 97; Plates 246 & 245)

6.5.383 Trench 3011 was located on the small roddon and at the edge of a Roman settlement (MLI20005). It targeted the same linear feature as Trench 3009.

6.5.384 The targeted feature was represented within the trench by three ditches. Ditch [301109] (width 1.5m, depth 0.6m) was flat based with steeply sloping sides. The fill sequence was as follows: slumping events (30113) and (301114); blue-grey silt (301115); grey sandy silt with briquetage inclusions (301116); grey clay (301117); brown-grey sandy silt (30118), slumping (301119) and finally by a sandy clay (301120). Two fragments of briquetage (13g) were recovered. It had an uncertain relationship with ditch [301110] (width 1m, depth 0.4m), which was concave in profile and contained a light grey sandy silt (301111), followed by a grey sandy silty clay (301112). Both ditches were cut by ditch [301121] (width 2m, depth 0.37m). This

final ditch was wide with a thin basal fill of peat (301122), followed by dark grey sandy silt (301123). A single fragment of unidentifiable animal bone was recovered.

6.5.385 A north-west-to-south-east aligned ditch [301102] (width >1.14m, depth 0.72m) was present in the western part of the trench. The full profile was not revealed due to the constraints of the trench, but it was steeply sided with a concave base. A total of three fills were present: a yellow-brown sandy silt (301103), followed by a grey-brown silty clay (301104) and finally a blue-grey clay (301105). Fragments of briquetage were present in the two lower fills, totalling 42 fragments (268g). These were derived from containers, supports, structural elements and miscellaneous. The ditch was recut by ditch [301124] (width 0.92m, depth 0.16m), which had a flatter profile. This later ditch contained two fills: a peaty silt (301106), followed by a grey-brown clay silt (301107). A spread (301108) (depth 0.08m) of grey-brown silt with moderate quantities of briquetage was also present overlying the earlier ditch [301102]. A total of 35 fragments of briquetage (290g) were recovered, derived from supports, structural elements, containers and miscellaneous. To the east the ditches were cut by a north-east-to-south-west aligned ditch [301125].

6.5.386 Ditch [301125] (width 1.68m, depth 0.38m) was flat based and north-to-south aligned. It was initially infilled by a grey silty clay (301126) and then recut by ditch [301127] followed by a silting of mottled silty clay (301128) with animal bone.

Trench 3015 (Figure 73; Plates 331 & 332)

6.5.387 Trench 3015 was located at the edge of the large roddon and at the edge of a recorded Roman settlement (MLI20005). It targeted a linear geophysical anomaly as well the same long straight linear feature as Trench 3010.

6.5.388 The geophysical anomaly was identified as an east-to-west aligned ditch [301504] (width 1.5m, depth 0.42m) with a concave profile and a fill of grey brown silty clay (301505), followed by a peaty fill (301506). Three fragments of animal bone from large mammal and unidentified animal were recovered. There was no artefactual dating evidence.

6.5.389 The long straight linear feature was identified as a shallow ditch [301502] (width 1.56m, depth 0.18m). It contained a single peaty fill (301503). Based on the spatial relationships a post-Roman date can be inferred.

Trench 3067 (Figure 75, Plates 333 & 334)

6.5.390 Trench 3067 was targeted on an apparently blank area on the large roddon and within a recorded Roman settlement (MLI20005). A single north-west-to-south-east aligned ditch [306703] and recut [306708] were present.

6.5.391 Ditch [306703] (width 1.94m, depth 0.66m) had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a brown-grey clay (306704), followed by a brown-grey clay silt (306705). The ditch recut [306708] (width 1.75m, depth 0.5m) contained a silty peaty fill (306706), followed by a mid-brown clay silt (306707). Due to this ditch's location outside the area of archaeological density, lack of artefactual dating evidence and lack of evidence for its continuation, it is undated.

Field C-1-02 (Trenches 3027–3032; Figure 68, 69, 76-78; Plates 337–345)

6.5.392 Field C-1-02 is located to the south of Field C-1-01 and generally comprises areas of alluvium and smaller roddon branches. Occasional straight linear anomalies, which did not respect the

roddons were identified; one of these could be identified as a modern field boundary based on historical mapping (OS 1887c; Figure 69).

6.5.393 A meandering ditch with multiple recuts following the roddon contour was identified in Trenches 3028, 3030 and 3031, a ditch with uncertain continuation was found in Trench 3035 and a ditch corresponding to a mapped field boundary was found in Trench 3028 (OS 1887c; Figure 69).

6.5.394 The long straight north-east-to-south-west aligned feature was targeted in Trenches 3027, 3028 and 3032 and was not found. The linear anomaly targeted by Trench 3029 was not found.

6.5.395 Animal bone, shell, CBM and Roman pottery were often present, indicating Roman domestic activity. Briquetage was present, indicating nearby salt-making.

6.5.396 The roddon deposits were found to comprise clay sand, sandy silt, and silt of varying colours. The marine alluvium was generally blueish in colour and comprised clay and sandy silts. The topsoil was a grey brown/brown-grey clay silt, measuring 0.3m–0.38m.

Trench 3028 (Figure 76; Plates 338 & 339)

6.5.397 Trench 3028 was located on a narrow roddon and was targeted on a series of linear features, which did not respect the roddon.

6.5.398 To the north ditch [302802] (width 1m, depth 0.4m), appears to have represented part of the same ditch series seen in trenches 3030 and 3031 to the north. It was V-shaped in profile with a fill of blue-grey silty clay (302803), followed by a fill of white-grey silty clay (302804). It was recut by ditch [302805] (width 1m, depth 0.34m), which contained a fill of dark grey-brown clay silt (302806). No finds were present.

6.5.399 To the south, ditch [302807] (width 1m, depth 0.74m), corresponded to a mapped field boundary (OS 1887c; Figure 69) and a long straight linear feature, identified in the aerial survey. A modern date can therefore be confidently assigned. It was wide in profile with two fills: a grey-brown clay silt (302808) and a grey-brown sandy silty clay (302809). Both appeared to have been formed via backfill.

Trench 3030 (Figure 76; Plates 341 & 342)

6.5.400 Trench 3030 was targeted on a narrow roddon and meandering feature, initially identified in the aerial survey as a palaeochannel. Investigation in the trench was able to re-characterise it as a series of ditches, cut into the roddon. Silty deposits (30314) were also present.

6.5.401 The earliest ditch, [30309] (width 1m, depth 0.34m) was wide and concave in profile with a possible slumping deposit (303011), followed by a grey-brown silty clay (303010). The ditch was recut by two ditches [303012] and [303003]. Ditch [303012] (width 1m, depth 0.2m) was wide and relatively shallow with a dark grey-brown clay silt fill (303013).

6.5.402 Ditch [303003] (width 1m, depth 0.32m) had a wide flat based profile with a possible slumping fill of brown-grey silty clay (303004), followed by an orange flecked white-grey silty clay (303005). It was recut by ditch [303006] (width 1m, depth 0.24m), which contained a single fill of dark brown-grey clay silt (303007).

6.5.403 No artefactual dating evidence was present and it was not possible to date these features by association with other remains.

Trench 3031 (Figure 77; Plate 343)

6.5.404 Trench 3031 was targeted on the same narrow roddon and meandering feature as Trench 3030. The ditch sequence in this trench consisted of a single ditch [303103] and recut [303106].

6.5.405 Ditch [303103] (width 1m, depth 0.62m) was concave in profile. It contained an orange flecked blue-grey silty clay (303104), followed by a brown-grey silty clay (303105). It was recut by ditch [303106] (width 1m, depth 0.42m), which contained a dark-grey brown clay silt (303107), followed by a mid-grey-brown silty clay (303108).

Trench 3032 (Figure 78; Plates 344 & 245)

6.5.406 Trench 3032 was located on the small roddon in the eastern part of the field. It contained a single ditch of uncertain continuation.

6.5.407 Ditch [303203] (width >2m, depth 0.5m) was concave in profile with a single fill of grey-brown silty clay (303204).

Field C-1-03 (Trenches 3056–3063, 3069, 3072 & 3073; Figure 68, 69, 79-8, 97 & 98; Plates 346–365)

6.5.408 Field C-1-03 is located to the east of Field C-1-01 and contains a continuation of the same roddon, area of archaeological density and known Roman settlement (MLI220043; MLI20005; NHLE 1004979). A findspot of Romano-British artefacts (MLI23199) is also recorded in this field. As in Field C-1-01, the Scheduled Monument was excluded from the evaluation scope, with the exception of Trench 3072, which was inadvertently positioned just inside the Scheduled Monument boundary. The majority of trenches investigated features along the edge of the roddon with a single trench (Trench 3058) targeting geophysical anomalies outside the roddon area. All trenches except Trenches 3061, 3069 and 3073 were found to contain archaeology. The linear features investigated in the other trenches in this field confirmed the geophysical survey results. Ditches dating to the Iron Age/Roman, Roman and undated periods were recorded. Ditch recuts were often noted and the ditches frequently had laminated sands or peaty fills indicating water inundation. The finds assemblage includes Roman and Late Iron Age/Roman pottery, frequent animal bone, shell and briquetage, all confirming the presence of domestic and salt-making activity in the vicinity.

6.5.409 Significant salt-making features were uncovered in Trench 3072, located at the edge of the Scheduled Monument (Plates 361–364). The trench was extended from 7m x 7m to 13.4m x 7.3m, following consultation with the LPA in order to fully investigate the activity present. The features in this trench consisted of a small squarish enclosure, cut by a deep pit and a curvilinear ditch, indicating multiple activity phases.

6.5.410 Further complexes of linear features were found in Trenches 3057, 3060, 3062, 3063 (Plates 347-358). These appeared to represent a continuation of the settlement activity to the north, and an area of subdivided enclosure. Roman pottery of 3rd century AD and broadly Roman date was recovered as well as possible glass slag.

6.5.411 The two long straight parallel linear anomalies identified in the southern part of the field (Trenches 3058–3060) continued from Field C-1-01 to the west. They had variable dimensions with the northern linear ranging from 0.05m–0.24m in depth (Trenches 3058 and 3059), and the southern linear representing a substantial ditch [305903] (width 2.5m; depth of 0.8m). Based on the spatial relationships with the roddons and length and straightness of the ditches,

these can be provisionally interpreted as later water management/field boundaries. There was CBM present in the ditch fills.

6.5.412 The three archaeologically blank trenches (Trenches 3061, 3069 and 3073) were located close to the roddon edge, within an area without geophysical and aerial features. Close to this area, a single ditch was found in Trench 3056.

6.5.413 Test pitting within the trenches in this field found layers of grey-brown clay silt marine alluvium below the roddon. The roddons were composed of varying materials, including silty clays and sandy silts, with laminations and mottling sometimes present. As well as the fill evidence for water inundations, clay silt filled depressions were also seen (Trench 3060). The marine alluvium outside the roddons was found to comprise mid-blue-grey clay with inclusions. The overlying topsoil was usually a humic silty clay and ranged in depth from 0.2m to 0.58m in the marine alluvium area.

Trench 3056 (Plate 346)

6.5.414 Trench 3056 was located within the Romano-British complex (MLI220043) and was targeted on a linear geophysical anomaly. A single ditch [305602] (width >2.5m, depth 0.44m) was present. This ditch had an asymmetric profile and a mottled fill with lumps of redeposited material (305603), followed by a grey-brown clay silt (305604).

Trench 3057 (Figure 80; Plates 347 & 348)

6.5.415 Trench 3057 was located within the Romano British complex (MLI220043) and within the area for the findspot of Roman British artefacts (MLI23199). It was targeted on a series of linear features, identified in the aerial survey. A pair of substantial north-east-to-south-west aligned ditches were present, confirming the survey.

6.5.416 The northernmost ditch [305703] (width 2.2m, depth 0.67m) was concave in profile with a single fill of black-brown clay silt (305706). Iron Age/Romano-British pottery was present.

6.5.417 The southern ditch [305704] (width 1.7m, depth 0.82m) was also concave in profile and appeared to have been filled via the deposition of waste (305705). Roman pottery of 3rd century AD date, 17 fragments of briquetage (73g), derived from containers, support elements and miscellaneous, 126 fragments of animal bone from cow, sheep/goat, medium mammal and unidentified animal, oyster shell, fragments of Roman tile and fragments of silty micaceous fired clay were retrieved. Environmental sampling <47> found charcoal and burrowing molluscs.

Trench 3058 (Figure 79)

6.5.418 Trench 3058 was located on the marine alluvium area in the southern part of the field and outside the area of the recorded extent of settlement. It was targeted on a pair of long straight linear features, which did not respect the roddons. A single shallow ditch/furrow [395803] was identified.

6.5.419 Ditch/furrow [305803] (width 1.86m, depth 0.05m) was wide and extremely shallow with a dark brown silty clay fill (305802). The overall feature, as identified in the aerial survey, was suggestive of part of a post-medieval field system/drainage system and was co-axial with elements dated to the 19th century AD (Trench 3035, Field C-1-05).

Trench 3059 (Figures 81 & 97; Plates 349 & 350)

6.5.420 Trench 3059 was targeted on the same features as Trench 3058 and found ditches corresponding to both targeted features. The overall continuation of these features was suggestive of a post-medieval field system.

6.5.421 The northern ditch [305905] (width >2m, depth 0.24m) was wide and flat based. It contained a black-brown silty peaty fill (305906), followed by grey-brown silty clay (305907). Fragments of post-medieval field drain were retrieved.

6.5.422 The southern ditch [305903] had a similar profile and a grey-brown clay silt fill (305904).

Trench 3060 (Figure 81; Plates 351 & 352)

6.5.423 Trench 3060 was located between Trenches 3058 and 3060 on a thin area of roddon. It was targeted on the intersections between a number of linear features and contained three ditches.

6.5.424 The northernmost ditch [306014] (width 2.8m, depth 0.56m) corresponded to a curving feature, also investigated in Trench 3062. It was wide in profile with fills of orange-brown clay silt (306018), followed by grey-brown sandy silt (306017) and (306019). It was recut by ditch [306013] (width 1.95m, depth 0.95m), which was narrower and deeper with fills of grey-brown clay silt (306016), followed by black-brown sandy silt (306015). Roman pottery and two fragments of bone from cow and unidentified animal were retrieved. This ditch can be identified as part of enclosure system also seen in Trenches 3057, 3062 and 3063.

6.5.425 Ditch [306009] (width 2.01m, depth 0.59m) could be identified as the same ditch as [305905] in Trench 3059 and [305802] in Trench 3058. It was flat based and contained a basal fill containing lumps of redeposited material (306011), followed by a light brown-grey sand (306010). A total of eight fragments of animal bone from sheep/goat and unidentified animal bone were recovered. Environmental sampling <31> found insect remains and mollusc shell.

6.5.426 Ditch [306008] (width 0.64mm, depth 0.33m) in the southern part of the trench, corresponded to a long straight north-to-south aligned feature, which continued across the Site. It had steeply sloping sides and a concave base. The basal fill was formed of mottled material (306007), followed by a brown-grey sandy silt (306006). It was recut by ditch [306005] (width 0.92m, depth 0.27m), which was similar in profile with a mixed mottled fill (306004), followed by a laminated silty sand (306003) and finally by a brown-grey and grey-yellow silty sand (306002). The continuations of this ditch in Trench 3035, in Field C-1-05 were artefactually dated to the 19th century.

Trench 3062 (Figures 80 & 97; Plates 354 & 355)

6.5.427 Trench 3062 was located, where a smaller roddon branched off the large roddon and across three recorded areas of Romano-British activity (MLI22043; MLI20005; MLI23199). It targeted two linear features, previously targeted in Trenches 3057 and 3060 and found three sets of ditches.

6.5.428 The northernmost ditch [306211] (width 2.24m, depth 0.58m) can be identified as a continuation of ditch [305703] in Trench 3057. It was slightly asymmetric in profile with a single fill of brown-grey sandy clay (306212) and 10 fragments of animal bone from cow and unidentified animal. It was recut by ditch [306208] (width 2.16m, depth 0.48m), which had a wide concave profile and as fill of dark brown-grey sandy clay (306210, followed by a fill of orange-brown sandy clay (306209).

6.5.429 Ditch [306206] (width 3.7m, depth 0.88m) can be identified as a continuation of ditches [306013] and [306014] in Trench 3060. It was concave in profile and cut through both roddon and marine alluvium deposits. It contained a single fill of a blue-grey sand (306207) and was recut by ditch [306203] (width 2.8m, depth 0.62m), which contained a peaty basal fill (306205), followed by a grey sandy silt (306204).

6.5.430 Both sets of ditches appear to have formed part of a Roman enclosure system, also investigated in Trenches 3057, 3060 and 3063.

6.5.431 The southernmost ditch [306213] (width c.1.9m, depth 0.62m) was north-to-south aligned, possibly following the roddon contour. There was no artefactual dating evidence and the feature is undated with a prehistoric/Roman date considered the most likely.

Trench 3063 (Figures 80 & 98; Plates 356-358)

6.5.432 Trench 3063 was located on the large roddon within the Romano-British complex (MLI22043) and settlement area (MLI20005). It was targeted on two linear features, identified in the aerial survey. A series of ditches were present.

6.5.433 The northernmost ditch [306302] (width 1.36m, depth 0.6m), corresponded to the same linear feature as Trenches 3057 and 3062, forming a potential enclosure of probable Romano-British date. It had a steep concave profile and had the following sequence of infilling and re-cutting events. The basal fill was a pale pink-grey silt (306303), followed by a grey-brown clay (306304) containing two fragments of animal bone from cow and unidentified animal. It was recut by flat based ditch [306305] (width 1.5m, depth 0.25m), which was then infilled by a peaty fill (306306). It can be identified as a continuation of ditch [305703], Trench 3057, and as a part of a Roman enclosure system.

6.5.434 The southern ditch [306307] (width 3.6m, depth 0.9m) corresponded to a north-east-to-south-west aligned feature, which appeared to form a continuation of a modern field boundary (OS 1887c; Figure 69). It was wide and concave in profile with six identified fills (306308)–(306314), formed via natural processes. It had an uncertain relationship with a north-to-south aligned ditch [306315] (width 0.34m, depth 0.3m), which appeared to be either contemporary or of later date, possibly forming part of a field system. Both ditches were cut by a steeply sided and flat based ditch recut [306317] (width 3.06m, depth 0.95m), which in turn contained a fill sequence indicative of silting in waterlogged conditions (306318), silting (306319), (306320), (306321) and finally backfill (306322). Fragments of possible Roman tile/late medieval brick, three droplets of glass slag and post-medieval pottery of 19th century AD date were recovered.

Trench 3072 (Figures 82 & 98; Plates 361–364)

6.5.435 Trench 3072 was located within the Scheduled Monument for the Roman settlement west of Cates Cove Corner (NHLE 1004979) and was sited to target a series of geophysical anomalies thought to potentially represent a saltern. Following the discovery of probable Romano-British features relating to salt-making, the LPA was consulted and the trench was extended to 13.4m x 7.3m in order to clarify whether the remains were part of a saltern, or alternatively, were indicative of salt-making in the vicinity. The features in this trench consisted of an L-shaped ditch likely representing an enclosure visible on the previous geophysical survey, a curvilinear ditch, a pit, a clay-filled depression and an area of heat-affected ground.

6.5.436 The possible enclosure measured approximately 8m x 9m, represented by flat based ditch [307206/307216/307218/307223] (width 0.75m, depth 0.33m). The infilling sequence varied throughout the ditch, with evidence for waterlogged silting (307215); waste deposition (307224) and (307217) and brown grey silty clays (307207) and (307208). The waste included 209 fragments of briquetage (422g), derived from containers, miscellaneous, structural elements and supports, 17 fragments of animal bone from sheep/goat, large mammal and unidentified animal and fired clay, suggesting deposition of waste associated with both domestic and salt-making activity. Environmental sampling <33> found a charred wheat cereal caryopsis, charred weed seeds of arable/ruderal ground, charcoal, insect remains and worm capsules. This enclosure was cut by a deep pit [307220] and a curvilinear ditch [307203/307209/307212], indicating multiple phases of activity. A clay-filled slight depression (307219) was found adjacent to a ditch and continued into the edge of the trench where it was visible as a slightly positive feature in profile, suggesting this may have represented rake-out and maintenance activity for the ditches and a possible associated bank. This depression contained three fragments of cow, sheep/goat and unidentified animal bone.

6.5.437 Pit [307220] (length >2m, width 2.4m, depth 1.16m) was oval in plan with a steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a basal fill of dark blue-brown silty clay (307222) followed by a red-brown sandy silt (307221). Large fragments of briquetage and burnt animal bone were found throughout, suggesting that the pit was left open and used for waste deposition. The briquetage assemblage totalled 43 fragments (1,323g), derived from containers, structural elements, supports and miscellaneous. The largest fragments were structural (14 fragments; 1,222g). The animal bone assemblage totalled 55 bone fragments from cow, horse, sheep/goat and unidentified animal. Environmental sampling <34> found a charred barley cereal caryopsis, charcoal and burrowing molluscs. A sample of charcoal from the base fill (307222) was submitted for radiocarbon dating and returned a date of 2010 +/- 30 BP (89–78 cal BC (1.6%); 52–81 cal AD (91.7%); 98–110 cal AD (2.1%), suggesting a probable date in the mid-1st century at the beginning of the Roman period.

6.5.438 Curvilinear ditch [307203/307209/307212] (width 1.03m, depth 0.26m) measured c. 4.8m in length with a terminus to the west. It was flat based and contained fills of brown-grey silty clay (307204), (307210) and (307213), followed by reddish-grey silty clay (307205), (307211) and (307214). A total of 46 fragments of briquetage (186g) were recovered along with fragments of fired clay, identified as possible briquetage recovered during environmental sampling and 18 fragments of animal bone from horse, large mammal and unidentified animal. The briquetage derived from container, support and miscellaneous elements. Environmental sampling <32> found charcoal.

6.5.439 While frequent briquetage was present in all features, ranging from small flecks to larger fragments, no hearths, settling tanks or channels directly associated with salt production were identified. An area of possible heat-affected ground was also observed, indicating potential burning in-situ. The lack of features associated with salt production suggests the briquetage in this trench is indicative of salt-making in the immediate vicinity, rather than at the site of the trench itself. It should be noted that there is a large circular anomaly directly north and east of the trench which could represent a significant saltern.

Field C-1-04 (Trenches 3036–3038; Figure 68, 69 & 83; Plates 366–369)

6.5.440 Field C-1-04 is a smaller field located to the south of C-1-03. A small branch of roddon is present and several long straight linear features.

6.5.441 A pair of broadly north-to-south aligned linear anomalies were confirmed in Trenches 3037 and 3038. These were found to be wide and shallow with recuts and appeared to be associated with field drains. Both ditches continued into Field C-1-05 to the south, where they were recorded in Trench 3035 and Field C-1-03 to the north, where they were found in Trench 3060. They are also similarly spaced and perpendicular to the east-to-west aligned linear features seen in Trenches 3013, 3058–3060 (Fields C-1-01 and C-1-03), further indicating a later large-scale water management or field boundary system. Based on the evidence from Field C-1-05, they can also be dated to the medieval/post-medieval periods.

6.5.442 Ditches corresponding to north-west-to-south-east aligned linear anomalies were also found in Trench 3038. These were similar in nature to the north-to-south aligned ditches.

6.5.443 Animal bone was present in the ditches, possibly indicating some nearby domestic activity.

6.5.444 Trench 3036 was archaeologically blank.

6.5.445 The roddon in this field was composed of yellow-brown sandy silt. Tidal clay and marine alluvium varied between grey brown and grey-blue silty clay reflecting varying oxidation and therefore water levels during deposition. No subsoil was recorded and topsoil was consistent in depth (0.3m–0.35m).

Trench 3037 (Figure 83; Plates 366 & 367)

6.5.446 Trench 3037 was targeted on a pair of long straight linear features, one of which had been previously investigated Trench 3060. Both were confirmed within the trench.

6.5.447 The western ditch [303710] (width 0.78m, depth 0.23m) was concave in profile with fills of brown grey silty clay (303711) and (303712). A single fragment of sheep/goat bone was recovered. It was recut by ditch [303707] (width 1.88m, depth 0.3m), which was infilled with grey-brown silty clays (303708) and (303709).

6.5.448 The eastern ditch [303702] (width 1.86m, depth 0.2m) was wide and flat based with a grey silty clay (303704) followed by a peaty fill (303703). An assemblage of 10 animal bone fragments from large mammal and unidentified animal was recovered. Both ditches were cut by field drains on similar alignments.

6.5.449 Although no artefactual dating was present in the trench, these ditches could be dated to the post-medieval period based on artefactual dating evidence from Trench 3035 in Field C-1-05. The overall feature is suggestive of a large scale post-medieval field system/drainage system.

Trench 3038 (Figure 83)

6.5.450 Trench 3038 was located to the south of Trench 3037 and was targeted on two sets of parallel linear features.

6.5.451 In the western part of the trench, a series of ditches, representing probable continuations of ditch [303702] in Trench 3037, were present. The earlier ditch [303807] (width >0.85m, depth 0.38m) had a slightly asymmetric profile and a brown clay silt fill (303808). It appeared to terminate within the trench along with its probable continuation [303805] (width >0.96m, depth 0.38m), which contained 14 fragments of bone from cow, large mammal and unidentified animal. Probable ditch recut [303809] (width 1.9m, depth 0.5m) had a wide concave profile and a similar fill (303810). It was cut by a field drain on the same alignment.

6.5.452 In the eastern side of the trench, ditch [303802] (width 1.73, depth 0.36m) poorly correlated to one of a pair of parallel features on a north-west-to-south-east alignment. It contained a fill of grey-brown silty clay (303803), followed by a pale brown-grey sandy silt (303804).

6.5.453 These ditches could be dated to the post-medieval period, based on artefactual evidence from Trench 3035, in Field C-1-05.

Field C-1-05 (Trenches 3033–3035; Figures 68, 69, 84 & 85; Plates 370–375)

6.5.454 Field C-1-05 is located to the south of C-1-04 with a similar geology and archaeological anomalies.

6.5.455 Trench 3035, contained the continuation of the shallow parallel ditches seen in Trenches 3037 and 3038 in Field C-1-04, and Trench 3060 in Field C-1-03. Small quantities of medieval and post-medieval pottery were retrieved.

6.5.456 Probable geological features, interpreted as possible small braids of roddon were found in Trenches 3033 and 3034.

6.5.457 The roddons in this field were composed of mid-grey-yellow clay/clay silt. An additional area of possible roddon was identified in Trench 3033. The marine alluvium was found to be composed of brown-grey silty clay. No subsoil was identified and the topsoil was found to be a grey-brown, clay silt, measuring 0.3m in depth.

Trench 3033 (Figure 84; Plates 370 & 371)

6.5.458 Trench 3033 was targeted on a thin and apparently blank roddon and found a ditch [303303] and geological feature [303307].

6.5.459 Ditch [303303] (width 1.42, depth 0.4m) was flat based and north-west-to-south-east aligned, possibly following the roddon contour. It contained a fill sequence of mottled brown-grey and orange silty clay (303304), followed by blueish-brown grey silty clay (303305) and finally very dark brown-grey clay silt (300306). These were all indicative of infilling in wet conditions. No phasing was possible.

6.5.460 The geological feature [303307] (width 2m, depth 0.62m) also ran parallel to the roddon and was interpreted as a possible thin braid of roddon.

Trench 3034 (Figure 84; Plates 372 & 373)

6.5.461 Trench 3034 was targeted on a straight linear feature, and found a geological feature/ditch [303403] (width >2.74m, depth 0.57m), interpreted as a possible roddon/ditch. It was wide and uneven in profile with a fill of grey-brown silty clay (303404), followed by a brown-grey silty clay (303405).

Trench 3035 (Figure 85; Plates 374 & 375)

6.5.462 Trench 3035 was targeted on the same parallel linear features as Trenches 3037 and 3038 in Field C-1-04 to the north. Both features were confirmed as ditches.

6.5.463 The western ditch [303505] (width 1.6m, depth 0.49m) had a defined profile with sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill of brown-grey silty clay (303506) with sherds of pottery of medieval and 19th century AD date and ceramic pipe.

6.5.464 The eastern ditch/hedgerow [303503] (width 2.68m, depth 0.34m) was wide and flat based with a fill of dark brown-grey silty clay (303504).

Field C-1-06 (Trenches 3039–3042, 3070 and 3071; Figures 68, 69, 86, 87 & 98; Plates 283–290)

6.5.465 Field C-1-06 is located to the east of Fields C-1-4 and C-1-5. The eastern part of this field lies in an area of Romano-British cropmarks (MLI20246) which extend towards Fields C-1-07 and C-1-08. Findspots of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval pottery are also present (MLI23185; MLI23186; MLI21187). Part of the large roddon, which dominates Area C is present in the eastern half of the field, where a high density of archaeological anomalies was identified, these appear to continue westward into the marine alluvium area.

6.5.466 A set of three parallel anomalies following a north-east-to-south-west alignment from Field C-1-70 into C-1-06 and C-1-08, were investigated in Trenches 3040 and 3071. The corresponding ditches were provisionally dated to the Roman period and were found to follow the pattern of fills formed via moving water followed by long periods of water inundation in which dark humic and peaty fills were formed. Ditches were generally substantial with widths of 0.63m–3.28m and depths of 0.5m–0.88m seen in Trench 3071 (Plates 384 & 385).

6.5.467 Anomalies, potentially suggestive of a subdivided enclosure, were targeted by Trenches 3039 and 3070. These were dated to the 2nd to 3rd century AD and had evidence for repeated water inundation and recuts. Further ditches were found in Trench 3070, indicating more complexity to the area then initially expected, however, one of the anomalies identified as continuing further into the marine alluvium area was not found in Trench 3041. Roman pottery and animal bone were retrieved from the features in Trench 3039.

6.5.468 In the northern part of the field, Trench 3042 targeted a curving linear anomaly which did not respect the roddon. This was identified as a relatively shallow ditch with a concave profile [304203] (width 1m, depth 0.44m) (Plate 382). An undated ditch, close to the roddon edge and a plough scar were also present.

6.5.469 The roddon in this field comprised a brownish clayey sandy silt, with mottling sometimes recorded. The marine alluvium varied between blue-grey and greyish-brown silty clay and clay silt. Possible layers of alluvium were recorded overlying the roddon in Trench 3042. The overlying topsoil was a grey-brown silty clay, which measured 0.3m–0.45m in depth.

Trench 3039 (Figure 86; Plates 376 & 377)

6.5.470 Trench 3039 was located close to the roddon edge and outside the area of previously known cropmarks. It was targeted on a series of east-to-west aligned features, identified in the aerial survey, which appeared to form parts of a subdivided enclosure of Roman date.

6.5.471 The northern ditch [303902] (width 1m, depth 0.4m) represented the possible enclosure ditch. It was flat based in profile with a fill of blue-grey clay silt (303903) and was recut by ditch [303904] (width 1m, depth 0.2m). This later ditch contained a peaty fill (303905), followed by pale grey-brown clay silt (303907) and contained a single sherd of Roman pottery. This fill sequence reflected the same pattern as those seen elsewhere within the Roman features at the Site. A layer of orange-brown silt, containing animal bone (303906) (depth 0.34m) was also present in this area. A single fragment of bone was recovered from this layer and identified as medium mammal.

6.5.472 Ditch [303908] (width 1m, depth 0.83m) was concave in profile and more substantial than the possible enclosure ditch to the north. The following sequence was present: a basal fill of brown-grey silty clay (303909); followed by mottled and patchy silty clay (303910), possibly representing backfill; a recut [303911] (width 1m, depth 0.54m); a peaty fill (303912); possible backfill (303913), (303914), (303915); a final recut [303916] (width 1m, depth 0.21m) and a final fill of grey-brown silt (303917). A small group of Roman pottery sherds (14 sherds; 252g) was retrieved from the original ditch and dated to the late 3rd century AD, with two sherds of mid-2nd to 3rd century AD date pottery recovered from the ditch recut. The original ditch cut [303908] also contained 13 fragments of animal bone from cow, sheep/goat, large mammal and unidentified animal. A single cow bone was retrieved from the ditch recut [303911]. A radiocarbon date of charred seeds from the peaty fill (303912) of recut [303911] returned a date of 500 +/- 30 BP (1399 - 1450 cal AD (95.4%). The conflicting scientific and pottery dating from this feature suggests that the ditch is medieval in date, but may have disturbed an earlier Roman feature. The atypical fill sequence further suggests that this ditch was not contemporary with the ditches to the north and south. Environmental sampling <30004> of the original ditch [303908] found charcoal and fly pupae, while sampling <30003> of the ditch recut [303911] found charcoal, mollusc shell and burrowing molluscs.

6.5.473 The southern ditch [303918] (width 1.94m, depth 0.76m) had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a brown-grey clay silt (303919) with animal bone and Roman pottery and was recut by ditch [303920] (width 1.4m, depth 0.36m). This later shallower ditch contained a peaty fill (303921), with no finds.

Trench 3040 (Figure 87; Plates 378 & 379)

6.5.474 Trench 3040 was located in the marine alluvium area close to the roddon edge and at the edge of the area of cropmarks. It was targeted on a series of linear features, identified by the aerial survey.

6.5.475 The northmost ditch [304005] (width 2.1m, depth 0.28m) not correspond to any projected anomaly, but did run parallel to two field drains. It was wide and flat based with a fill of paler brown-grey sandy clayey silt (304011), followed by a grey sandy clay (304012) and finally by a blue-grey clay (304013). The ditch was recut by ditch [304014] (width 0.5m, depth 0.2m), which was infilled with a peaty fill (304015).

6.5.476 To the south, ditch [304004] (width 1.6m, depth 0.3m) corresponded to an east-to-west aligned linear feature, stretching into the settlement area within a parallel pair. It was flat based and contained two fills: a blue-grey sandy clay (304009), followed by a peaty fill (304008). A single fragment of bone from a medium mammal was recovered. A prehistoric/Roman date is considered likely.

6.5.477 The southernmost ditch, [304003] (width 1.3m, depth 0.2m) corresponded to one of a series of three north-east-to-south-west aligned linear features, stretching into Field C-1-08. It was flat based in profile with a fill of grey sandy silty clay (304006). It was recut by ditch [304007] (width 1.42, depth 0.3m), which contained a peaty fill (3004008).

6.5.478 These features in continuation were long, straight and cut across the area of known Roman settlement. It is likely that they represent a later field/drainage system.

Trench 3042 (Figures 86 & 98; Plates 381 & 382)

6.5.479 Trench 3042 was located in the marine alluvium area at the edge of the roddon and was targeted on a single curving linear feature.

6.5.480 The northernmost ditch [304203] (width 1.32m, depth 0.44m) correlated to the targeted feature. It was concave in profile with a basal fill of grey-brown silty clay (304204), followed by white-grey clay silt (304205).

6.5.481 Ditch [304209] (width 1m, depth 0.2m) was present towards the roddon edge and followed a north-east-to-south-west alignment with potential to follow the roddon. It was wide and shallow with a flecked brown clay fill (304210), followed by a white-grey clay (304211). It was cut by a plough scar [304206] (width 1m, depth 0.4m).

6.5.482 Neither feature could be artefactually dated or dated via associated.

Trench 3070 (Figure 86; Plate 383)

6.5.483 Trench 3070 was located in the marine alluvium area close to the roddon and was targeted on north-to-south aligned features within the same potential enclosure complex as those investigated in Trench 3039.

6.5.484 An east-to-west aligned ditch [307002] (0.84m,depth 0.34m) was present in the western part of the trench. It was concave in profile with a fill of brown grey clay silt (307003), followed by brown silt (307004). It was cut by a north-to-south aligned ditch [307005].

6.5.485 Ditch [307005] (width 2.06m, depth 0.12m) was extremely shallow and contained a single fill of brown silt.

6.5.486 North-to-south aligned ditch [307016] (width 1.64m, depth 0.4m) correlated with a potential enclosure feature. It had a wide concave profile and was filled by a brown-grey clay silt (307015). It was recut by ditch [307013] (width 1.12m, depth 0.3m) finally filled by a peaty fill (307014).

6.5.487 Approximately, 3m to the east, a parallel ditch [307007] (width >1m, depth 0.34m) also appeared to form part of the possible enclosure complex. It had a similar profile and was filled by a brown-grey clay silt (307008), followed by a mottled clay silt (307009) and then recut by ditch [307010] (width >1.02m, depth 0.18m). This final ditch contained a silty peaty fill (307011), followed by a white-yellow silt (307012).

Trench 3071 (Figures 87; Plates 384 & 385)

6.5.488 Trench 3071 was located on the roddon and was targeted on a series of intersecting linear features, including part of a set of three parallel ditches on a north-east-to-south-west alignment. The series of north-east-to-south-west aligned linear features was represented within the trench by three sets of ditches [307115], [307010] and [307102] and associated recuts. Based on spatial relationships these are likely to represent a later field/drainage system.

6.5.489 Ditch [307115] (width 3.28m, depth 0.76m) was flat based and contained a pale blue-grey silty clay (307116). It was recut by ditch [307117] (width 2.97m, depth 0.78m), which was followed by a mottled blue-grey silty clay (307118) and finally recut by ditch [307119] (width 2.64, depth 0.76m). This final ditch contained a fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (307120), followed by a yellow-brown silty clay (307121).

6.5.490 Ditch [307110] (width 2.63m, depth 0.74m) had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a pale brown-grey silty clay (307111), and was recut by [307112] (width 2.14m, depth 0.5m), which contained a thick peaty fill (307113), followed by a light brown silt (307114).

6.5.491 Ditch [307102] (width 2.96m, depth 0.88m) had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It contained three fills: a basal fill of pale brown-grey silty clay (307103), followed by a brown silt (307104) and finally a pale grey-brown clay silt (307105). It was recut by ditch [307106] (width 2.9m, depth 0.7m), which contained a peaty fill (307107), followed by a paler peaty silt (307108) and finally a silty peaty fill (307109).

Field C-1-07 (Trenches 3043–3055; Figures 68, 69, 88-92; Plates 386–408)

6.5.492 Field C-1-07 is located in the south-eastern part of Area C. It contains part of the large roddon and dense archaeological anomalies. Extensive archaeological remains are known to the direct east in Field C-1-08 (MLI20246). An area recorded as Romano-British settlement, Crowland (MLI22045), is partially located within the southern part of the field and an area of Romano-British settlement/saltern activity, medieval and post-medieval pottery scatters (MLI23177; MLI23178; MLI23179). All anomalies were found to correspond to archaeological features, confirming the continuation of the probable Roman settlement activity to the north and east. The pottery recovered from these features was found to date to the Roman period, spanning the mid/late 1st century to the mid-2nd to 3rd century AD. A single trench (Trench 3054) was archaeologically blank.

6.5.493 Many of the ditches investigated within the northern part of the field had uncertain function, despite their probable association with the nearby settlement activity (Trenches 3043, 3044, 3049, 3047, 3048 & 3051). In the southern part of the field, three possible small rectilinear enclosures were investigated (Trenches 3050, 3052 & 3054). These were of Roman date, and contained pottery of mid-2nd to 3rd century date. The northern two enclosures contained little evidence of use, but the finds assemblage within the southern enclosure (Trench 3052) was suggestive of domestic activity. No internal features were present. Ditches potentially associated with this enclosure were investigated in Trenches 3053 and 3055. These features overall were suggestive of fringe areas for settlement areas centred to the south and east. The fill sequence within these features occasionally included waste deposition, but more broadly included blueish fill suggestive of periods of continuously flooded features, laminated fills, suggestive of period flooding and usually ended with humic peaty deposits, formed over long periods of time within flooded features. The pottery from Trench 3053 was of mid/late 1st century date.

6.5.494 In Trench 3046 a pair of long straight linear features were investigated. The continuation of these ditches did not appear to respect the Roman settlement features and can be considered to be of probable post Roman date. They can be considered to represent later water management features along with the three north-east-to-south linear features, investigated in Trench 3044.

6.5.495 This activity can be provisionally dated to the Late Iron Age/Roman and Roman periods, based the finds which included pottery, animal bone and a single fragment of fired clay or briquetage.

6.5.496 The trenches in this field recorded a stratigraphy of roddon deposits directly overlain by topsoil. The roddon deposits generally comprised yellow-brown to orange-brown sandy silts and the overlying topsoil was a grey-brown silty clay, measuring 0.3m–0.4m in depth.

Trench 3043 (Figure 88; Plate 386)

6.5.497 Trench 3043 was located on the roddon and targeted two linear features, which were both confirmed in the trench.

6.5.498 The western ditch [304302] (width 2.06m, depth 0.26m) was north-to-south aligned with a flat base. It contained a single peaty fill (304303).

6.5.499 The eastern ditch [304304] (width 1.6m, depth 0.86m) had extremely steep sides and a flat base. It contained seven fills: a dark blue-grey silty clay (304305), a laminated grey-brown sandy silt (304306), a pale grey sandy silt (304307), light blue-grey sandy silt (304308), a brown-grey silty clay (304309), a blue-grey silty clay (304310) and finally a light grey sandy silt (304311). A single sherd of Roman greyware was recovered. These indicate multiple alluvial periods within the ditch. It was recut by ditch [304312] (width 1.2m, depth 0.2m), which contained a peaty fill (304313).

Trench 3044 (Figure 88; Plates 387 & 388)

6.5.500 Trench 3044 was located at the roddon edge and was targeted on two linear features, both of which were confirmed within the trench.

6.5.501 The northern ditch [304404] (width 1.74m, depth 0.4m) correlated with part of a series of straight north-east-to-south-west aligned ditches and can be identified as a much shallower continuation of ditch [307102] in Trench 3071. It was flat based with a peaty fill (304405). Based on the spatial relationships it is likely to have formed part of a later drainage/field system.

6.5.502 The southern ditch [304402] (width 1.8m, depth 0.22m) correlated with a curving linear feature. It was flat based with a peaty fill (304403). A prehistoric/Roman date can be inferred, based on association with the nearby settlement area.

Trench 3045 (Figure 90; Plates 389 & 390)

6.5.503 Trench 3045 was located on the roddon within a recorded Romano-British settlement (MLI22045). It targeted two closely spaced linear features forming a potential double ditched enclosure, both of which were confirmed within the trench.

6.5.504 The western ditch [304502] (width 2m, depth 0.68m) can be interpreted as the exterior ditch of the enclosure. It had sloping sides, a flat base and four fills: a dark grey silt (304503), a light grey sandy silt (304504), a mixed deposit (304505) and a fill of laminated silty clay (304506). It was recut by ditch [304507] (width 1.42m, depth 0.5m), which was infilled by a humic peaty deposit (304508).

6.5.505 The eastern ditch [304510] (width 0.6m, depth 0.3m) was parallel and can be interpreted as an interior ditch. It was flat based and contained three fills: a light blue-grey sandy silt (304521), a laminated yellow-brown sandy silt (304522) and a grey sandy silt (304523). It was recut by a steeply sided ditch [304509] (width 1.9m, depth 0.9m) with a sharp profile. This later ditch contained nine fills, including blueish silty fills formed in prolonged waterlogged conditions and laminated fills formed though periods of flooding and settling. Environmental sampling <30007> found charcoal and fly pupae. It was recut by a shallow V-shaped ditch [304511] (width 1.28m, depth 0.4m), which contained a dark grey sandy clayey silt (304524), a possible peat (304525) and a bright orange silt (304526). Fragments of fired clay identified as possible briquetage and silty micaceous fired clay with organics were recovered, while

environmental sampling found bog ore fragments (30.8g). Radiocarbon dating of a charred wheat grain from the final orange silt fill (304526) of the ditch recut [304511] returned a date of 134.15 +/- 0.50 pMC (1976–1978 cal AD), conflicting with the dating for similar nearby features. Examination of 19th and 20th century historic mapping, does not show any linear features that could corresponds to this feature, but it does show occasional depressions in Field C-1-07, C-1-08 and the field to the east of C-1-08 (OS 188f; OS 1904; OS 1959). In 1887 mapping these features/depressions are shown as water filled, and in 1959 mapping one feature/depression is labelled as 'Romano British remains found' there is also some correspondence between these features and linear cropmarks (OS 1887f; OS 1959). Some of these features/depressions disappear from mapping by the mid-20th century AD. It can be theorised therefore that features such as [304511] may have partially remained in the landscape as depressions and that the final orange silt fill (304526) may have represented 20th century backfilling. Intrusive inclusion can also be considered. Environmental sampling <30008> of this final fill found charred cereal caryopses of wheat, rye/wheat and indeterminate cereal as well as charred weed seeds of arable/ruderal ground, charcoal, fly pupae and mollusc shell.

6.5.506 The enclosure is of a probable rectilinear shape and can be estimated to measure c.74.4mx40m. The ditches appear to have been repeatedly flooded and maintained. The low quantity of finds suggests that this enclosure may have been non-domestic in character. A Roman or possibly prehistoric date can be inferred.

Trench 3046 (Figure 90; Plates 391 & 392)

6.5.507 Trench 3046 was located to the south-east of Trench 3045 within the Romano-British settlement (MLI22045). It was targeted on a pair of long and straight linear features, both of which were confirmed in the trench.

6.5.508 The western ditch [304602] (width 2.5m, depth 0.5m) was flat based with a dark grey peaty fill (304603), followed by a peatier fill (304604).

6.5.509 The eastern ditch [304605] (width 2.18m, depth 0.3m) had a similar profile with clay silts (304606) and (304607), followed by a peat (304608).

6.5.510 The ditch continuation is very straight in comparison to the Roman features; however, Roman pottery was recovered from the continuation in Trench 3034.

Trench 3047 (Figure 89; Plates 393 & 394)

6.5.511 Trench 3047 was located on the roddon to the south of Trench 3044 and targeted two linear features. A total of two ditches were present, representing these features.

6.5.512 Ditch [304702] (width 1.38m, depth 0.4m) was north-east-to-south-west aligned with a concave alignment and contained a fill of light brown-grey clay silt (304703). It was recut by ditch [304704] (width 1.16m, depth 0.38m), which contained a humic peaty fill (304705).

6.5.513 Ditch [304706] (width 1.9m, depth 0.6m) correlated with a slightly meandering feature. It contained a fill of brown-grey silty clays (304707), (304708) and (304709) followed by a blue-grey silty clay (304710) and finally a grey sandy silt (304711). It was recut by ditch [304712] (width 1.2m, depth 0.3m) which contained a peaty fill (304713).

6.5.514 Roman or possibly prehistoric dates can be inferred based on the association with area of archaeological density of Roman date.

Trench 3048 (Figure 90; Plates 395 & 396)

6.5.515 Trench 3048 was located on the roddon at the edge of a recorded Romano-British settlement (MLI22045). It was targeted on a series of linear features, identified by the aerial survey. Two intersecting ditches were present.

6.5.516 Ditch [304802] (width >1.9m, depth 0.18m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned and flat based. It contained a single fill of grey-brown peaty fill (304803). It was cut by an east-to-west aligned ditch [304804] (width 1.36m, depth >0.21m), which correlated with a curvilinear feature and contained a peaty deposit (304805). Roman dates can be inferred based on the association with the area of known Roman settlement.

Trench 3049 (Figure 89; Plate 397 & 398)

6.5.517 Trench 3049 was targeted on the roddon and was targeted on two linear features and was found to contain a ditch [304902] and recut with a second linear feature surveyed in plan without excavation.

6.5.518 Ditch [304902] (width 1.63m, depth 0.58m) correlated with a north-east-to-south-west aligned feature, which continued into the settlement area in Field C-1-08, integrating with the probable settlement features. It was wide and concave in profile with a blue-grey silty clay (304903). It was recut by ditch [304904] (width 1.38m, depth 0.22m) which contained a mixed mottled fill (304905), possibly representing backfill. It was recut again by ditch [304906] (width 1m, depth 0.28m), which contained a peaty clay fill (304907).

Trench 3050 (Figure 90; Plates 399 & 400)

6.5.519 Trench 3050 was located on the roddon and within a recorded Romano-British settlement (MLI22045). It was targeted on linear features suggestive of rectilinear enclosure and correspondingly contained two ditches.

6.5.520 The western ditch [305002] (width 1.8m, depth 0.6m) was flat based with steeply sloping sides. It contained four fills: a light grey clay silt (305003), followed by blue-grey silty clay (305004), and finally mixed fills (305005) and (305006), possibly caused by slumping and erosion. It was then recut by ditch [305007] (width 1.42m, depth 0.52m), which contained a sequence of peaty fills (305008) and (305009.

6.5.521 The eastern ditch [305010] (width 1.7m, depth 0.6m) had a highly similar profile to ditch [305002]. Its fill sequence comprised: slumping/silting fills with occasional laminations (305011) and (305012), followed by grey-brown sandy clay silt (305012), grey sandy silt (305013), grey-blue silty clay (305014) and finally a mixed yellow-brown and grey sandy silt (305015). It was recut by ditch [305016] (width 1.2m, depth 0.46m), which contained peaty deposits (305017) and (305018).

6.5.522 The potential rectilinear enclosure can be estimated to enclosure an area of c.31mx≥45m, and may have had a similar function to the nearby enclosure investigated in Trench 3045. A similar fill sequence seen between the ditches showed that the ditches had periods of being continuously flooding and periods of being periodically flooded, followed by a long period of water inundation and the formation of dark humic and peaty fills. A Roman date can be inferred based on the proximity to the known Roman settlement.

Trench 3051 (Figure 89; Plates 401 & 402)

6.5.523 Trench 50512 was located on the roddon and was targeted on a series of linear features. A single ditch was present.

6.5.524 Ditch [305102] (width 1.66m depth 0.52m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a fill sequence of grey-brown silty clay (305103) followed by brown-grey silty clay (305104). A Roman date can be inferred based on the proximity to the known Roman settlement.

Trench 3052 (Figure 91; Plates 403 & 404)

6.5.525 Trench 3052 was located within the recorded extent of a Romano-British settlement (MLI22045) and Romano-British to post-medieval findspots and possible saltern activity (MLI23177; MLI23178; MLI23179). It was targeted on a series of linear features, including a small possible rectilinear enclosure. All features were confirmed within the trench and artefactually dated to the Roman period.

6.5.526 The northern sequence of ditches, correlated with the corner of a projected linear feature. The possible earliest ditch [305202] (width 2.46m depth 0.7m) had steeply sloping sides and a wide flat base. It contained a fill of mixed orange-grey silty clay (305203), followed by blue-grey silty clay (305204) and was recut by ditch [305205] (width 1.76m, 0.58m), which contained a peaty deposit (305206). Ditch [305207] (width 1.68m, depth 0.76m) had an unclear relationship with ditches [305202] and [305205], but had a similar profile, possibly representing a double ditched feature. It contained a dump of redeposited natural with high quantities of Roman pottery (40 sherds; 1.715kg), including rim and body sherds from a shell-gritted oven and animal bone, followed by a blue-grey silty clay (305209). This was suggestive of domestic waste, despite the ditch's location on the outer corner of the wider feature. The Roman pottery was dated to the mid-2nd century AD. The animal bone assemblage totalled five fragments of bone from cow, large mammal and unidentified animal.

6.5.527 The southern sequence of ditches correlated with the corner of the possible rectilinear enclosure. The earliest ditch [305210] (width ≥1.76m, depth >0.16m) was flat based and highly truncated with a fill of grey silty grey (305211), a single sherd of Roman pottery dated to the mid-2nd to 3rd century AD, 49 fragments of briquetage (66g) from container elements and a single fragment of cow bone. It was recut by ditch [305216] (width 1.92m, depth 0.6m), which was followed by a brown-grey silty clay (305217) with three fragments of animal bone from sheep/goat, large mammal and unidentified animal and cut by ditches [305218] and [305212]. Ditch [305218] (width 1.58m, depth 0.56m) contained a peaty deposit (305219), signifying the long period of water inundation. Ditch [305212] (width 2.86m, depth 0.3m) contained a light grey silty clay (305213) and contained 16 sherds of Roman pottery dated to the mid-2nd to 3rd century AD, a single fragment of briquetage (4g) from a miscellaneous element and 14 fragments of animal bone from cow, large mammal, medium mammal and unidentified animal. It was recut by ditch [305214] (width 1.94m, depth 0.36m), which contained a peaty fill (305215). This enclosure can be estimated to enclose an area of c.74mx26m and can be inferred have had a domestic character.

Trench 3053 (Figure 91; Plate 405)

6.5.528 Trench 3053 was located to the south-east of Trench 3033, targeting a pair of linear features, possibly associated with the enclosure. Both were confirmed within the trench.

6.5.529 The northern ditch [305302] (width 2.1m, depth 0.64m) had a slightly irregular profile and a fill of light grey silty clay (305303). It was recut by ditch [305304] (width 1.38m, depth 0.56m), which contained a peaty fill (305305). A Roman date can be inferred by association.

6.5.530 In the southern part of the trench ditch [305306] (width 1.58m, depth 0.48m) had an unclear profile within the trench due to the angle in which it was excavated. It was found to contain a pale yellow-grey silty clay (305307) and 33 sherds (262g) of mid/late 1st century pottery. It was cut by ditch [305309] (1.82m, depth 0.28m), which corresponded to one of targeted features. This ditch contained a grey-brown silty clay (305308) and was recut by the ditch [305310] (width 1.72m, depth 0.82m). The final fill was peaty (305311), representing a long period of flooding and the settling of waterlogged organic material. Assemblage of four fragments of animal bone was recovering, derived from sheep/goat, medium mammal and unidentified animal.

Trench 3055 (Figure 92; Plates 407 & 408)

6.5.531 Trench 3055 was located in the southern end of the field, within the settlement area (MLI22045). It was targeting onto a pair of curving features, identified in the aerial survey and was found to contain two corresponding sets of ditches. Roman dates can be inferred based on dated features in Trenches 3052 and 3053 as well as the known settlement area.

6.5.532 The western ditch [305502] (width 1.96m, depth 0.26m) was relatively shallow and flat based. It was infilled by a pale-yellow-brown silty clay (305503), followed by a pale grey silty clay (305504) and recut by a narrower ditch [305505] (width 0.66m, depth 0.26m). This later ditch contained a peaty fill (305506).

6.5.533 The eastern ditch [305507] (width 1.72, depth 0.42m) was probably a continuation of the ditch [305306], in Trench 3053 or one of its associated recuts. It was concave in profile with a fill of grey silty clay (305508), followed by a V-shaped ditch recut [305509] (width 0.82, depth 0.4m) and then by a peaty deposit (305510).

Field C-1-08

6.5.534 Field C-1-08 was not included within the archaeological evaluation scope.

Field C-2-01

6.5.535 Field C-2-01 was not included within the archaeological evaluation scope.

Field C-2-02 (Trenches 3016–3023, 3064–3066, 3074 & 3075; Figures 68,69, 93-96, 98 & 99; Plates 409–431)

6.5.536 Field C-2-02 is located to the east of Field B-1-13 and contains a continuation of the large roddon and the dense geophysical anomalies on the roddon, including enclosures and long groups of parallel linear features. A smaller branch of roddon is present in the south of the field with anomalies possibly linking the two roddons. Much of the field falls within the recorded extent of Romano-British settlement north-east of Whitebread Farm (MLI20004). Alongside Fields B-1-13, C-1-06 and C-1-07, it contained some of the densest archaeology subject to evaluation in Areas B and C. Much of this can be dated to the Roman period.

6.5.537 The large roddon to the north, measures c. 212m across and appears to have been a focus of activity, with a complex of enclosures, investigated in Trenches 3016, 3017, a continuation of the long trackway/droveway previously investigated in Field B-1-13, investigated in Trenches

3018, 3019, and straighter ditches of more uncertain date and function investigated in Trenches 3020 and 3064. The enclosures when excavated in Trench 3017 were found to date to the mid-2nd to 3rd century to the 3rd to 4th century AD. The droveway/trackway was associated with pottery of a mid-2nd to 3rd century AD date.

6.5.538 Towards the southern part of the field, a bay of marine alluvium, partially enclosed by a smaller roddon to the south was present. Features associated with the Roman activity focus were often found to extended into this area, including a rectilinear enclosure and sub-enclosure, investigated in Trenches 3019, 3065 and 3074 and a long straight ditch, investigated in Trench 3023. The enclosures investigated in Trench 3019 appeared to date to the mid-1st to mid-2nd century AD. A possible trackway/droveway, investigated in Trench 3021 was also present stretching between and linking the two roddons and possibly utilising a peninsular of roddon. The southern roddon contained a possible trackway/droveway, investigated in Trenches 3022 and 3066, which curved along the roddon contour and integrated with the trackway/droveway to the north.

6.5.539 No features were seen within the enclosures, limiting interpretation of their function, but pottery and animal bone were more frequent within this area, possibly indicating settlement activity, continuing from C-2-03 and C-1-01. The enclosure ditches were often substantial as seen in Trench 3016, with ditch [301611] (width 2.1m, depth 0.54).

6.5.540 As well as pottery, animal bone was frequently found with shell, fired clay, CBM and metal finds. The pottery assemblage from Trench 3019 included two sherds with possible metal studs, indicating pottery repair.

6.5.541 Within this field the final infilling of the Roman ditches, was not always a long peat/humic formation event, with thin peaty deposits followed by dark fills or just dark fills frequently present. This suggests that while the same water inundation and long-term flooding event also affected the features in this area, this area was not waterlogged consistently/ for long enough for a peat to fully form. Peat deposits were also sometimes followed by brown silts, suggesting that the conditions allowing for the formation of peat had ended before the ditches had fully filled. This is consistent with the feature placement in relationship to the roddons, which is suggestive of an exploitable area, which continued beyond the confines of the roddon and a slightly drier historic environment.

6.5.542 The roddons in this field were composed of orange-brown and yellow-brown silty clays, silty sands and sandy silts. Layers of uncertain formation were occasional present, including a layer (307513), which masked a feature and contained pottery sherds of 16th/17th century AD date. Between the roddons, tidal clay and marine alluvium were found to be composed to grey-brown silty clays and clay silts and a mid-reddish-brown clay. No subsoil was present and the topsoil comprised grey-brown silt clay, measuring 0.3m–0.5m.

Trench 3016 (Figures 93 & 98; Plates 412-414)

6.5.543 Trench 3016 was located within the recorded extent of Romano-British settlement north-east of Whitebread Farm (MLI20004) and was targeted on a series of linear features, representing part of a complex of possible enclosures. All were confirmed within the trench.

6.5.544 The northern ditch [301611] (width 2.1m, depth 0.54m) and ditch [301603] (width 2.1m, depth 0.82m) represented two sides of a small enclosure, measuring c.14.6mx12m internally. Both ditches were highly similar in form with very steep sides and slightly concave bases. In ditch [301611] the fill and recut sequence consisted of: pale brownish-grey silty clay (301612),

followed by a recut [301613] (width 1.36m, depth 0.29m) and finally by a dark brown-grey clay silt (301614). An identical fill and sequence was seen in ditch [301603] and its recut [301605] (width 1.72m, depth 0.57m) Animal bone and greyware pottery were both present, indicating a Roman date and nearby domestic activity. The animal bone assemblage from [301603] totalled nine fragments from unidentified animal. The animal bone assemblage from [301611] totalled 26 fragments from cow and unidentified animal. The animal bone assemblage from ditch recut [301613] totalled 18 fragments from horse, large mammal and unidentified animal. Environmental sampling <19> of ditch [301611] found charcoal and worm capsules while sampling <20> of ditch recut [301614] found a charred weed seed of arable/ruderal ground, charcoal and insect remains.

6.5.545 In the southern end of the trench, ditch [301607] (2.62m, depth >0.32m) correlated with a larger enclosure, possibly enclosing the smaller enclosure to the north. It had concave sides and a broadly flat base with a fill of orange-grey silty clay (301608). It was recut by ditch [301609] (width 1.25m, depth 0.45m), which contained an orange-grey clay silt (301610). Environmental sampling <21> from the ditch recut [301609] found charred indeterminate straw fragments, charcoal and fly pupae.

Trench 3017 (Figure 93; Plates 415 & 416)

6.5.546 Trench 3017 was located to the west of Trench 3026 and targeted two more small enclosures within the possible enclosure complex. All features were confirmed within the trench.

6.5.547 In the western part of the trench, a small possible enclosure, measuring c.15.5mx23.4m was represented by two sets of ditches. The western ditch [301713] (width 1.72m, depth 0.6m) had an uneven concave profile with a fill of pale orange-grey silty clay (301714). It was recut by ditch [301715] (width 1.56m, depth 0.64m) which contained a fill of dark brown-grey clay silt (301716) with 35 fragments of animal bone from sheep/goat, pig, bird, small mammal, unidentified animal and foetal animal remains. The eastern ditch [301702] (width 3.4m, depth 0.7m) had a similar wide concave profile and a similar sequence infilling sequencing, consisting of: yellow-grey clay silt (301703), followed by a ditch recut [301704] (width 2.66m, depth 0.62m) and then by a fill of dark brown clay silt (301705) and finally a brown clay silt (301706). Pottery, animal bone, oyster shell and burnt clay were present, strongly suggesting nearby domestic activity. The pottery from the original cuts [301713] and [301702] was dated to the late Iron Age/Roman period and to the mid-2nd to 3rd century AD respectively, while the pottery from the recuts [301715] and [301704] was dated to the broad Roman period and to the 3rd to 4th century AD respectively. A small animal bone assemblage was retrieved from ditch [301704] totalling 15 fragments of bone from sheep/goat, medium mammal, mammal and unidentified animal. The animal bone assemblage from ditch [301702] totalled 24 fragments from large mammal and unidentified animal. Environmental sampling <6> of the eastern ditch [301702] found a charred cereal caryopsis of emmer/spelt wheat, charcoal and worm capsules and sampling (<7> & <8>) of the ditch recut [301705] found charred cereal caryopses of wheat, rounded wheat, rye/wheat, oat and indeterminate cereal as well as charred indeterminate straw fragments, common vetch, charred weed seeds of arable/ruderal ground, charred weed seeds of wet/damp environs charcoal, insect remains, worm capsules and mollusc shell.

6.5.548 To the east of the trench, ditch [301707] (width 2.58m, depth 1.1m) represented the western side of a possible enclosure, measuring c.18mx18.8m. It was concave in profile with steeply sloping sides. It contained a fill of brown-grey silty clay (301708), followed by a white-grey sandy silt (301709) and was recut by [301710] (width 1.81m, depth 0.66m). This later ditch contained a fill of dark grey-brown clay silt (301711) and finally a brownish-grey silty clay

(301712). A single sherd of pottery from the original ditch [301707] was dated to the mid-2nd to the 3rd century AD.

Trench 3018 (Figures 93 & 99; Plates 417-419)

6.5.549 Trench 3018 was located to the west of Trench 3017 within the same Romano-British settlement area (MLI20004). It targeted part of a possible trackway/droveway, consisting of parallel ditches as well as a slightly curvilinear feature.

6.5.550 The possible trackway/droveway was represented within the trench by two sets of ditches. The northern ditch [301805] (width 2.48m, depth 0.93m) had steeply sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It contained slumping fills (301806) and (301807), followed by a laminated yellow-grey sandy silt (301808), slumping fills (301809) and (301810) and a finally laminated dark brown sandy clay (301811). A single pottery sherd of Late Iron Age/Roman date was recovered. It was recut by ditch [301802] (width 1.81m, depth 0.72m), which contained a peaty deposit (301804), a dark brown sandy silt with peaty pockets (301803) and 21 fragments of animal bone from unidentified species. The southern ditches included ditch [301812] (width 2.88m, depth 0.8m), which had steeply sloping sides, a narrow base and a fill sequence of brown-grey silty clay (301815), followed by white-grey silty sand (301813) and (301814). A small assemblage of animal bone, totalling 11 fragments from sheep/goat, large mammal and unidentified animal was recovered. A radiocarbon date from a sheep/goat bone from fill (301813) returned a date of 1850 +/- 30 BP (89–91 cal; AD (0.2%); 121–248 cal AD (94.1%); 298–306 cal AD (1.1%), indicating a 2nd to mid-3rd century AD date. Environmental sampling <13> found charcoal, mollusc shell and burrowing molluscs. Ditch [301812] was recut by ditch [301816] (width 2.56m, depth 0.76m), which contained a fills of dark brown-grey clay silt (301817) and (301818) with 91 fragments of animal bone from large mammal, vole and unidentified animal. Environmental sampling <12> found insect remains, worm capsules and burrowing molluscs. A much shallower, but closely spaced and parallel feature [301819] (width 1.34m depth 0.08m) was present to the immediate south. This possible ditch contained a fill of white-grey silty sand (301820) and pottery of mid-2nd to 3rd century date. The high levels of slumping may be a product of the steeply sloping sides and inability of the natural deposits in a waterlogged environment, but could also be suggestive of banks.

6.5.551 In the south-eastern part of the trench, ditch [301821] (width 4.19m, depth 1m) corresponded to the slight curving feature. It was wide and concave in profile and contained an orange flecked blue-grey silty clay (301828), followed by brown-grey silty clay (301822) and finally a white-grey sandy silt (301823). It was recut by ditch [301824] (width 3m, depth 0.56m), which contained a dark brown clay silt (301825), followed by grey-brown clay silt (301826) and (301827). A single fragment of horse bone was recovered. The ditch continuation in Trench 3019, appeared to be of late medieval/post-medieval date.

Trench 3019 (Figures 93, 94; Plates 420 & 421)

6.5.552 Trench 3019 was located to the west of Trench 3018 and targeted the same possible trackway/droveway. A series of five parallel ditches were present.

6.5.553 The northern ditch [301903] (width 1.8m, depth 0.64m) was concave in profile. It contained a basal fill of pale grey brown sandy silt (301914), followed by blueish slumping fills (301915) and (301916), a fill of peaty silty clay (301917), followed by slumping (301918) and then by peaty fill (301919) and finally peaty sandy silt (301920).

6.5.554 Ditch [301907] (width >0.64m, depth >0.25m) was highly truncated and contained a fill of pale brown grey silt (31908). It was recut by a ditch [301904] (width 1.6m, depth 0.62m) with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The recut contained fills of brownish-grey clay silt (301909) and (301910), followed by a thin peaty fill (301911), a pale brown clay silt (301912) and finally by a thick peaty fill (301913).

6.5.555 Ditch [301921] (width 1.68m, depth 0.6m) was concave in profile with a fill of brown-grey clay silt (301922), followed by pale yellow grey clay silt (301923).

6.5.556 The southernmost sets of ditches [301928], [301933] and [301924] were parallel to the possible trackway ditches, but appeared to form part of an enclosure to the south.

6.5.557 These ditches can be dated to the Iron Age/Roman and to the Roman period, based on artefactual dating evidence from Trenches 3018 and 3066.

6.5.558 Ditch [301928] (width 2.9m, depth >1.06m) had convex sides and a narrow base. It had a fill of yellow-brown sandy clay (301931), following by pale slumping fills (301930) and (301932) and finally brown-grey sandy silt (301929). A small group of Roman pottery sherds of mid-1st to mid-2nd century date were retrieved as well as a unusual double looped rectangular lead buckle {SF1} of 15th/16th century AD date and a single fragment of bone from an unidentified animal. It was recut by ditch [301924] (width 2.1m, depth 0.65m), which contained a fill of brown-grey sandy silt (301926), followed by white-grey sandy silt (301927) and finally pale orange-yellow sandy silt (301925). This was recut by ditch [301933] (width 2.86m, depth 0.58m), which contained a dark brown-grey silty clay (301934) and finally brown-grey silty clay (301925). It can be tentatively dated to the late medieval/post-medieval period. Environmental sampling <16> of the original cut [301928] found no charred material.

Trench 3020 (Figure 94; Plates 422 & 423)

6.5.559 Trench 3020 was located at the edge of the Romano-British settlement area (MLI20004) and was targeted on two straight linear features and two curvilinear features. The linear features were confirmed within the trench.

6.5.560 The western ditch [302007] (width 3.68m, depth 1.04m) had a wide shelf and deep narrow base. It contained fills of orange-brown sandy clays and grey-brown silty clays. The geophysical ditch continuation did not respect the trackway/droveway features to the south.

6.5.561 The eastern ditch [302002] (width 1.46m, depth 0.58m) was more concave in profile with similar fills. Spatially it appeared to relate to a field system of probable post-Roman date.

Trench 3021 (Figure 95; Plates 424 & 425)

6.5.562 Trench 3021 was located in the marine alluvium area, within the Romano-British settlement area (MLI20004). It was targeted on a series of linear features identified in the aerial survey and represented by fragmentary geophysical anomalies. Two sets of north-to-south aligned ditches were present.

6.5.563 The western ditch [302102] (width 1.08m, depth 0.26m) was flat based with a fill of grey clay silt (302103). It was recut by ditch [302104] (width 0.9m, depth 0.09m), which contained a dark brown clay silt (302105). The depth of the recut, indicated truncation of the archaeological horizon in this area.

6.5.564 The eastern ditch [302106] (width 0.7m–1m, depth 0.48m) had a similar flat based profile with steep sides and better preservation. It contained a fill of pale yellow-grey silty clay (302107) and two recuts. The first recut [302109] (width 2.4m, depth 0.32m) was wider and concave in profile with a fill of pale grey clay silt (302108). The second recut [302111] (width 1.18m, depth 0.32m) was also concave in profile and contained a fill of brown-black clay silt (302112), followed by brown clay silt (302113). Fragments of silty micaceous fired clay with voids, sherds of pottery and a fragment of possible post-medieval brick were retrieved. A fourth cut [302114] (width 0.5m, depth 0.16m) within this series was seen only in section and had an uncertain relationship with the other ditches. Environmental sampling <18> of the first recut [302109] found charcoal and insect remains.

6.5.565 The wider aerial and geophysical survey indicates that these ditches stretched c.142.5m between two areas of roddon, forming part of a possible trackway/droveway, integrating into the enclosure complex to the north and possible trackway/droveway features to the south. Topographically, this feature appears to utilise a peninsular of roddon. The dating evidence was limited, but it appeared to be integrated with the Roman features including the artefactually dated trackway/droveway to the south (Trench 3066).

Trench 3022 (Figures 96 & 99; Plates 426 & 427)

6.5.566 Trench 3022 was located on the smaller branch of roddon to the south of the field and was targeted on a series of curving features, following the roddon contour. These were confirmed within the trench and appear to represent a trackway/droveway. A Roman date can be inferred based on artefactual dating in Trench 3066 and the association with the Roman settlement area to the north.

6.5.567 The western ditch [302206] (width >0.9m, depth 0.34m) was flat based and located closest to the roddon edge. It contained a fill of pale brown-grey silty clay (302207) and was recut by ditch [302208] (width >0.74m, depth 0.26m). The recut contained a fill of dark brown-grey silty clay (302209).

6.5.568 The central ditch [302210] (width 2.96m, depth 0.8m) was also flat based. It contained a fill of pale and mottled brown grey clay silt (302211), suggestive of moving water and was recut by ditch [302212] (2.42m, depth 0.52m). The recut contained a dark brown-grey silty clay (302213). Environmental sampling <4> of the original ditch [302210] found charcoal, fly pupae and mollusc shell, while sampling <5> of the ditch recut [302212] found charcoal, worm capsules and charred food products.

6.5.569 The eastern ditch [302202] (width 2.04m, depth 0.3m) had a wide, slightly uneven profile with a fill of pale orange-grey silty clay (302203). It was recut by ditch [302204] (width 1.47m, depth 0.32m), which contained a dark brown-grey clay silt fill (302205). Heavy rooting was present, suggesting the presence of vegetation.

Trench 3023 (Figure 95; Plates 428 & 429)

6.5.570 Trench 3023 was located in the marine alluvium area to the east of Trench 3021 and within the Romano-British settlement area (MLI20004). It was targeted on a single straight linear feature, which shared a close alignment to the known Romano-British features. A single north-north-west-to-south-south-east aligned ditch was present.

6.5.571 Ditch [302303] (width 0.75m, depth 0.12m) was shallow with heavy disturbance from rooting, possibly representing a hedgerow. It contained a dark brown-grey clay silt (302304). This feature is undated.

Trench 3064 (Figure 94)

6.5.572 Trench 3064 was located on the roddon and within the Romano-British settlement area (MLI20004). It was targeted on a series of east-north-east-to-west-south-west aligned features that appeared to be associate with a possible enclosure to the east.

6.5.573 The northern ditch [306407] (width 2.43m, depth 0.2m) was wide and shallow with a fill of brown-grey silty clay (306408). It was recut by a narrower ditch [306409] (width 0.62m, depth 0.2m) and infilled by a similar fill with two fragments of animal bone from cow and large mammal. An environmental sample <17> from the original cut [306407] found mollusc shell and burrowing molluscs.

6.5.574 The southern ditch [306402] (width 1.56m, depth 0.4m) had an asymmetric profile and a fill of grey clay silt (306403). It was recut by ditch [306404], which was more concave in profile and contained a fill of brown-black clay silt (306405), followed by a brown silt (306406). A small animal assemblage totalling six fragments from horse and unidentified animal was recovered.

6.5.575 It is uncertain whether these features represent part of the Romano-British complex of activity.

Trench 3065 (Figure 96; Plates 430 & 431)

6.5.576 Trench 3065 was located on the marine alluvium close to the roddon edge and within the area of archaeological density. It was targeted on possible enclosure features, extending into the marine alluvium and spatially respecting the trackway/droveway to the north.

6.5.577 The northern ditch series corelated imperfectly with a small internal enclosure/sub enclosure, identified by the aerial survey, measuring c.13.6mx31.7m. The earlier ditch [306505] (width 3.03m, depth 0.24m) had an uneven profile and a fill of brown-grey silty clay (306506). It was recut by ditch [306507] (width 2.78m, depth 0.36m), which had a concave profile and a fill of brown-grey clay silt (306508), followed by a siltier fill (306509). An assemblage of 11 fragments of animal bone from large mammal and unidentified animal was recovered.

6.5.578 The southern ditch series correlated imperfectly with a larger enclosure, also investigated as ditch [307402] in Trench 3074 and ditches [301928], [301933] and [301924] in Trench 3019. The earliest ditch [306503] (width 1.82m, depth >0.1m) was heavily truncated by the recut [306510] and contained a fill of dark grey-brown sandy clay (306504). The ditch recut [306510] (width 1.6m, depth 0.34m) was concave in profile with a fill of dark grey-brown clay silt (306511), followed by brown-grey silty clay (306512). No artefactual dating evidence was present, but in Trench 3019, the northern boundary [301928] of this enclosure appeared to be of late medieval/post-medieval date.

Trench 3066 (Figure 95; Plates 432 & 433)

6.5.579 Trench 3066 spanned an area of roddon and marine alluvium within the Romano-British settlement area (MLI20004) and was targeted on the same trackway/droveway features as Trench 3022 as well as an east-to-west aligned linear feature. This linear feature may have represented a field drain found in the same location and alignment.

6.5.580 In the southern part of the trench a ditch series correlated with the external linear of the trackway/droveway. The earliest ditch [306607] (width >1.64m, depth 0.38m) was concave and uneven in profile with a fill of grey-brown silty clay (306608) and a single sherd of Roman greyware. It was recut by [306603] (width >2.6m, depth 0.7m), which was also concave in profile and a fill of brown-grey silty clay (306604). The final recut [306605] (2.14m, depth 0.68m) contained a fill of dark brown-grey clay silt (306606). A single sherd of Roman greyware was retrieved from the earliest cut [306607].

Trench 3074 (Figures 96 & 99)

6.5.581 Trench 3074 was located in the marine alluvium area, targeted on the same possible enclosure as Trench 3019 and 3065. It contained a single ditch [307402] and recut [307405], corelating with the western side of the enclosure. A late medieval/post-medieval date can be inferred.

6.5.582 Ditch [307402] (width 2.3m, depth 0.42m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned and concave in profile. It contained a fill of brown-grey silty clay (307403), followed by white-grey silty sand (307404). The ditch recut [307405] (width 1.8m, depth 0.56m) contained a fill of dark brown-grey silty clay (307406), followed by a brown-grey silty clay (307407). Environmental sampling <27> of the ditch recut [307405] found charcoal and burrowing molluscs.

Trench 3075 (Figure 93)

6.5.583 Trench 3075 was located at the edge of the roddon and marine alluvium, within the area of high density. It targeted two slightly curving features, both of which were confirmed in the trench.

6.5.584 The northern ditch series corelated with a ditch series forming the northern side of an enclosure in Trench 3019 and continuing north-eastwards in Trench 3018. The earlier ditch [307506] (width 3.75m, depth 0.78m) was wide and flat based with a possible slumping fill of yellow-grey clay silt (307508), followed by a mottled brown-grey silty clay (307507) and further possible slumping fills (307509) and (307510). It was recut by ditch [307511] (width 2.75m, depth 0.62m), which contained a dark brown-grey clay silt (307512). Fragments of possible late medieval brick and two fragments of animal bone from unidentified animal were recovered. Environmental sampling <29> of the recut [307511] found charcoal and insect remains. These features were overlain by a layer (307513) (depth c.0.2m) of silt with similarities to the topsoil. This layer contained pottery of 16th/17th century AD date and may represent a buried topsoil.

6.5.585 Towards the trench centre, a north-to-south aligned ditch [307503] (width 0.98m, depth 0.28m) was present, possibly corelating with a small enclosure, identified in the aerial survey. It was concave and slightly flat based in profile with a thin basal fill of flecked brown sandy clay (307505), followed by grey-white sandy silt (307504). It remains undated. Environmental sampling <26> found charcoal and burrowing molluscs.

6.5.586 The southern ditch series correlated with a curving feature, branching off a possible trackway/droveway. The earliest ditch [307519] (width 3m, depth >0.3m) was wide and concave in profile, with a fill of brown clay silt (307521), followed by a white-grey silty clay (307520). It was recut by a ditch [307516] with a squarish profile, and a fill of pale grey silty clay (307518), followed by a black-brown peaty deposit (307517). The final recut [307514] (width 2.66m, depth 0.75m) contained a single fill of peaty clay silt (307515). Environmental sampling <30> of the first recut [307516] found charcoal and fly pupae. The re-cutting of a

ditch and implied continued usage following a large peat formation event is relatively rare on the Site. This ditch remains undated.

Field C-2-03

6.5.587 Field C-2-03 was not included within the archaeological evaluation scope.

Field C-02-04

6.5.588 Field C-2-04 was not included within the archaeological evaluation scope.

Field C-2-05 (Trenches 3024–3026)

6.5.589 Field C-2-05 was descoped from the archaeological evaluation.

6.6 Area D

6.6.1 Area D comprises a long and narrow strip of land, roughly oriented from north-east-to-south-west (Figures 100–163; Plates 434–697). The alignment and shape of the area derives from the fields which, based on cartographic evidence, have been elongated land parcels for several centuries. During the post-medieval to the modern periods, these lands have been part of an area characterised by the presence of long drains connected to the South Holland Main Drain, to the north.

6.6.2 Area D contains multiple recorded heritage assets including Romano-British cropmarks (MLI2226; MLI204444; MLI20443), a Roman ditch network, enclosures and drove road (MLI22296; MLI22263), Romano-British settlement cropmarks (MLI22251) and undated cropmarks (MLI20453; MLI20442; MLI20441). The cropmarks cover almost the entirety of the area. The extent of recorded Roman activity present in Areas B, C and D implies some sort of contemporary or continuous settlement activity during that period.

6.6.3 Geologically, Area D contains two large roddons located to the north and south, with areas of narrower meanders between them. The geophysical and aerial survey identified features across the area including clustered areas of enclosures and on the southern roddon potential settlement areas (Fields D-5-01 and D-6).

Changes to Scope

6.6.4 Local reports indicated that a German bomber may have offloaded bombs in Fields D-1-01, D-1-02, D-1-03 during the Second World War. These fields were assessed by UXO specialists, who classified them as of High Risk for UXO, and were subsequently descoped from the evaluation. Field D-4 was also descoped from the works as part of an exclusion zone for the site of a World War Two crashed bomber.

6.6.5 Due to the frequency of features found to continue between trenches and of post-medieval and later ditches and field boundaries and following consultation with the Client and LPA, the excavation strategy was amended. When features, such as long trackways, were found to continue between multiple trenches, following investigation and characterisation further instances were machine excavated or surveyed in plan without excavation. Sterile and repeating features within trenches and clearly post-medieval/modern features were sample excavated to characterise and then further instances were machine excavated or surveyed in plan without excavation as appropriate.

Results Overview

6.6.6 Both the geophysical and aerial survey results proved to correlate well with identified archaeological features across the area.

6.6.7 In the northern part of the area, concentrations of activity were generally found on and around the smaller roddons. Particular areas of denser activity were recorded in Fields D-2-01 and D-3-04, where areas of enclosure and possible field systems appear to have been built on and around the smaller roddons. Salt-making activity was recorded in Fields D-3-01 and D-3-02. This activity appeared to be of small-scale and relatively peripheral.

6.6.8 The southern roddon accommodated two large concentrations of Roman settlement and salt-making activity. The activity in Field D-5-01 was found to date to the Late Iron Age to the 2nd to 3rd century AD and the activity in Field D-6 was found to date to the 1st to 4th centuries

AD. A possible trackway/droveway was found linking these two foci. While this evidence was spatially limited, sparser contemporary and undated activity was found on the roddons around them, indicating a wider use of this landscape.

6.6.9 The exploitation of the wetland can be inferred as well by the active human presence, often dated to the Roman period, in the narrow meandering roddons.

6.6.10 The area also contained evidence of field systems. These often cut across areas of marine alluvium, indicating a post-wetland date. Multiple periods of field system development could be inferred by contrasting the evidence with historical mapping. Medieval, post-medieval and modern artefacts were sometimes retrieved from these features.

6.6.11 A total of 23 trenches did not contain archaeological evidence: 4002, 4004, 4005, 4006, 4007, 4008, 4069, 4071, 4075, 4076, 4083, 4087, 4092, 4093, 4094, 4096, 4113, 4121, 4159, 4168, 4171, 4174 and 4183.

General Stratigraphy

6.6.12 In the northern part of the area, the large roddon was not always apparent in the trenches, possibly indicating that it did not represent the large area of dryland as indicated by the initial survey. The smaller roddons, however, were present; based on their relationships with the archaeological features, these must have represented higher points and drier areas in the landscape. The roddons were found to be composed of silty sands, sandy silts, silty clays and clay silts.

6.6.13 In the central part of the area, the narrower roddons were found to be generally composed of sandy silts with one composed of clay silt. A possible linear feature, detected via aerial survey in Fields D-3-04, D-3-05 and D-3-06, was found to correspond to an unmapped roddon.

6.6.14 The large roddon in the southern part of the area was found to be composed of multiple sediment types, with a clay deposit recorded within the roddon in Trench 4037, indicating a complex formation.

6.6.15 Marine alluvium was found in trenches across the area. The alluvium varied in composition, again indicating a complex formation process.

6.6.16 Subsoil was recorded in Fields D-2-01, D-3-01, D-5-01 and D6, where it was often intermittently present. It varied greatly in depth, sometimes reaching depths of 0.4m. Topsoil depth also varied greatly across the area (depths 0.12m–0.54m), with large depth variations often present within fields.

Field D-1-01

6.6.17 Field D-1-01 was descoped from the evaluation.

Field D-1-02

6.6.18 Field D-1-02 was descoped from the evaluation

Field D-1-03

6.6.19 Field D-1-03 was descoped from the evaluation.

Field D-2-01 (Trenches 4113–4124 and 4177; Figures 100 -105, 132 & 161; Plates 434–458)

6.6.20 Field D-2-01 is located at the northern edge of the roddon, in the north part of the area, and contains a narrower meandering roddon. It falls within an area identified as containing Roman settlement cropmarks (MLI22251). A complex of linear anomalies was identified in this field via aerial survey. These were present on the two roddons with continuations into the marine alluvium areas.

6.6.21 Almost every trench in this field contained archaeological evidence with linear anomalies generally confirmed but discrete anomalies not consistently found. The evidence comprised enclosures (Trenches 4114, 4177, 4122), parallel ditches that roughly followed the roddon (Trenches 4115, 4123), single ditches following the roddon contour (Trenches 4119, 4124), a pair of parallel meandering ditches cut across the roddon and marine alluvium (Trenches 4116, 4120), ditches extending into the marine alluvium (Trenches 4121, 4124, 4177, 4117, 4118) and 19th century field boundaries (Trench 4113, 4120). A large round feature investigated in Trench 4115 was found to represent a pond. Trenches 4113 and 4121 were archaeologically blank.

6.6.22 The enclosures present (Trenches 4114, 4177, 4122) were confined to the roddons. The curvilinear enclosure investigated in Trench 4177 closely followed a bulge in the roddon contour. The enclosure ditch [417706] (width 2.35m, depth 0.45m) was flat-based and contained a grey silty fill followed by a black peaty fill. The pattern of feature distribution and evidence for water inundation to the features on the roddon, indicates that the majority of this area may have been seasonally flooded with activity focussed on the higher drier areas and probable seasonal exploitation and management of the remainder of the field.

6.6.23 The meandering ditches investigated by Trenches 4116 and 4120, could not be artefactually dated, but they appeared to continue into a 19th century field boundary (OS 1887d; Figure 101) to the south, indicating that they formed an earlier part of the current field boundary system. This was corroborated by their fills, which were not indicative of waterlogged conditions, despite their path across the marine alluvium. They ran broadly parallel to the ditch investigated by Trenches 4117 and 4177, which in turn followed a similar contour to the enclosure ditch [417706] and roddon contour.

6.6.24 Very little artefactual dating evidence was present in this field. A Roman date is possible based on the location within an area of cropmarks considered to be Roman (MLI22251). However, the spatial relationships hint at field systems continuously developed from pre/early fenland drainage to the 19th century and extant field systems. A small quantity of briquetage was recovered from the features in Trench 4120, however, these features could be closely associated with the 19th century field system.

6.6.25 The roddon deposits were found to be composed of yellowish clay silts and sandy silts. The marine alluvium was generally composed of blue-brown clays. A layer of silty clay subsoil was recorded in four trenches (4113 and 4120–4123) (depth 0.1m–0.32m), followed by a grey-brown clay silt topsoil found across the field (depth 0.19m–0.44m).

Trench 4114 (Figure 102; Plates 436 & 437)

6.6.26 Trench 4114 was targeted on a series of linear features, possibly representing a sub-divided enclosure following the roddon. It was found to contain four parallel ditches/sets of ditches corresponding to and coaxial with the possible enclosure.

6.6.27 The northern ditch [411403] (width >1.1m, depth 1.19m) was the most substantial and was located towards the centre of the potentially enclosed area. It was concave in profile with a fill of light yellow-brown silty clay (411404) and was recut by ditch [411405] (width >1.1m, depth 0.5m). This later ditch contained a fill of brown-black silty clay (411406).

6.6.28 Ditch [411407] (width >0.8m, depth 0.3m) was also concave in profile, although it was much shallower. It contained a fill of brownish-yellow silty clay (411408). Ditches [411409] (width >0.8m, depth 0.3m) and [411411] (width >0.9m, depth 0.48m) had similar profiles and fills.

Trench 4115 (Figure 102; Plates 438 & 439)

6.6.29 Trench 4115 was located to the east of Trench 4114, on an area of roddon to the south and marine alluvium to the north. It was targeted on a round anomaly/area of disturbance and a linear feature coaxial with the features investigated in Trench 4114.

6.6.30 A large silty feature (411703), (411504) and (411505) (length >2m, width 1.3m, depth >0.4m) was found towards the centre of the trench, representing a possible pond/natural feature. No dating evidence was present.

6.6.31 At the southern end of the trench, an east-to-west aligned ditch [411508] (3.44m, depth 0.7m) corresponding to the targeted linear feature, was present. It was wide and concave in profile.

Trench 4116 (Figure 102; Plates 440 & 441)

6.6.32 Trench 4116 was located in the marine alluvium area towards the northern part of the field and targeted on a pair of parallel and meandering linear features. One of the features was represented by a geological feature [411602] and the other by a ditch [411604].

6.6.33 Ditch [411604] (width 1.45m, depth 0.35m) was concave in profile with a fill of grey-brown clay (411605), followed by a black-brown silty clay (411606). Via its continuation, beyond Trench 4120, it can be interpreted as an earlier element of the medieval to modern field systems.

Trench 4117 (Figure 103 &104; Plates 442 & 443)

6.6.34 Trench 4117 was located on an area of marine alluvium, adjacent to a roddon and targeted a series of linear features, forming a small complex centred on the roddon. A north-to-south aligned ditch and two recuts were present, confirming one of the four projected anomalies. Geological features [411705] and [411703], corresponding to targeted cropmark features were also present.

6.6.35 To the west, gully [411709] (depth 0.72m) was flat based with a fill of blue-grey silty clay (411710). It was recut by ditches [411707] (depth 0.58m) and [411711] (depth 0.94m), which contained similar fills.

6.6.36 These ditches can be inferred to have been contemporary with much of the field systems centred on the roddon in this field.

Trench 4118 (Figure 103; Plates 444 & 445)

6.6.37 Trench 4118 was targeted on a small complex of linear features in the marine alluvium area in the north-eastern part of the field. It contained two geological features [411807] and [411806], corresponded to linear features and a single ditch [411803] and recut [411808].

6.6.38 The ditch [411803] (width 1.8m, depth 0.28m) was wide and concave in profile. It contained a fill of blue-grey silty clay (411804). The ditch recut [411808] (width 1.17m, depth 0.18m) contained a grey-black clay silt (411805). No finds or dating evidence were present.

Trench 4119 (Figure 105; Plates 446 & 447)

6.6.39 Trench 4119 was located on an area of roddon in the western part of the field and targeted on two linear features. It contained two ditches in the western part of the trench and a geological feature [411903] in the eastern part.

6.6.40 The two ditches were closely spaced and followed a north-east-to-south-west alignment, which corelated with a targeted feature and with a mapped field boundary (OS 1887d; Figure 101). Ditch [411902] (width >1.75m, depth 0.35m) was wide and shallow, with a basal fill of blue-grey clay (411903), followed by a black-brown silt (411904). Ditch [411905] (width 2.6m, depth 0.75m) had a more concave profile with steeply sloping sides. It contained a basal fill of dark blue-grey clay (411906), followed by a grey-brown silty clay (411907).

Trench 4120 (Figure 104; Plates 448 & 449)

6.6.41 Trench 4120 was located on a roddon, targeted on a series of linear features and contained three ditches.

6.6.42 The western ditch [412010] (width 2.5m, depth 0.4m) corresponded to a meandering linear feature, previously targeted in Trench 4116. It also correlated with a mapped field boundary along with the southern part of the ditch continuation (OS 1887d; Figure 101). It was flat based with three fills: a basal fill of grey clay (412011), followed by a grey-brown silt (412012) and finally a white-grey silty sand (412013). It could be interpreted as an earlier field system element that was partially incorporated into the late 19th century field system.

6.6.43 The central ditch [412003] (depth 3m) was broadly parallel to [412010] and also correlated well with historic OS mapping. It was excavated via machine and was too deep to safely enter and record.

6.6.44 The eastern ditch [412007] (width >1.1m, depth >0.4m) corresponded to a small enclosure depicted in 19th century mapping (OS 1887d; Figure 101). It was concave in profile with fills of yellow-white silty sand (412008) and (412009). Residual briquetage was present, totalling 11 fragments (472g).

Trench 4122 (Figure 102; Plates 451 & 452)

6.6.45 Trench 4122 was located in the north-western part of the field and contained a north-east-to-south-west aligned ditch [412203], which did not correlate with the targeted features. To the west a continuation of the modern field boundary, investigated in Trench 4113, was surveyed in plan and left unexcavated.

6.6.46 Ditch [412203] (width>1.1m, depth 1.04m) was deep and concave in profile, with a fill of blue-grey silty clay (412204). It was recut by ditch [412205] (width >1.1m, depth 0.4m), which contained a brown-black silty clay fill (412206). No finds were present.

Trench 4123 (Figure 104; Plates 453 & 454)

6.6.47 Trench 4123 was located on the roddon, in the south-eastern corner of the field and was targeted on a pair of parallel linear features.

6.6.48 In the northern part of the trench, a broadly east-to-west aligned ditch [412312] (width 1.1m, depth 0.4m) appeared to form a continuation of an L-shaped feature to the east. It was concave in profile with a fill of blue-grey material (412313) and a recut [412314]. Ditch [412314] (width 1.1m, depth 0.36m) contained a fill of brown-black clay silt (412315). This appeared to form a continuation of the cropmark complex to the north-east.

6.6.49 The parallel linear features were represented by ditches [412304] and [412308] and appeared to continue from a mapped field boundary (OS 1887d; Figure 101). Ditch [412304] (width 1.2m, depth 0.58m) was flat based with sloping sides and a fill of blue-grey silty clay (412305). It was recut by a ditch with a concave profile [412306] (width 1.2m, depth 0.3m) and a fill of brown-black silty clay (412307). Ditch [412308] (width 1.09m, depth 0.78m) and its recut [412310] (width 1.04m, depth 0.3m) had a similar profile and fill sequence.

Trench 4124 (Figure 105; Plates 455 & 456)

6.6.50 Trench 4124 was located in the marine alluvium area towards the centre of the field and was targeted on two linear features. The western feature was found to be geological in nature [412409] and the eastern feature corresponded to a north-west-to-south-east aligned ditch [412403]. A field drain [412408] was also present.

6.6.51 Ditch [412403] (width 1.94m, depth 0.39m) was flat based with a fill of blue-grey material (412404). It was recut by ditch [412405] (width 1.74m, depth 0.34m), which contained a fill of grey-black silty clay. No dating evidence was present.

Trench 4177 (Figure 103, 104 & 161; Plates 457 & 458)

6.6.52 Trench 4177 was located at the edge of a roddon and targeted three linear features, including a D-shaped feature, following the roddon contour and two parallel linear features. All of these were confirmed in the trench.

6.6.53 The western ditch [417706] (width 2.35m, depth 0.45m) was concave in profile and corresponded to the D-shaped feature. It contained a fill sequence of grey-brown clay (417707), followed by black-brown silty clay (417708).

6.6.54 To the east the parallel features were represented by ditch [417702] and a final ditch, surveyed in plan without excavation. These were spaced c.7.5m apart. Ditch [417702] (width 2.12m, depth 0.22m) was concave in profile. It continued south-eastwards as ditches [411707], [411709] and [411711] in Trench 4117. The fill sequence comprised blue-grey clay (417704), followed by black-brown silty clay (417704). No dating evidence was present; however, these ditches followed a similar meandering form and alignment to the potential field boundaries investigated in Trenches 4116 and 4120.

Field D-2-02 (Trenches 4172–4174, 4184 and 4185; Figures 100,101, 106, 107 & 161; Plates 459–465)

6.6.55 Field D-2-02 is located to the direct south of Field D-2-01 and is dominated by the large roddon. Much of the field is also located within the recorded extent of Romano-British settlement cropmarks (MLI22251). The geophysical survey identified very few archaeological features in this field.

6.6.56 In its northern part, a slightly meandering set of parallel linear anomalies were identified. These continue across a small area of marine alluvium into Field D-3-02, where they follow the contour of a small roddon. They were investigated in Trenches 4173 and 4172. The ditches

were found to have substantial dimensions (widths c. >2.5m, depths 0.72m–>1.1m), with varying profiles. Fills of blueish-grey silty clay followed by black silty clay, indicated a similar pattern of infilling to Roman ditches elsewhere on the Site, however, no artefactual dating evidence was present. A small quantity of animal bone was present.

6.6.57 In the southern part of the field, Trenches 4184 and 4185 contained single ditches, possibly forming a single north-east-to-south-west aligned ditch (Plate 464). These trenches had steeply sloping sides and flat bases (widths >0.8m–1.45m, depths 0.3m–0.8m) and light lower fills followed by darker fills. No dating evidence was present. Trench 4174 was archaeologically blank.

6.6.58 The roddons in this field were composed of yellow-brown sand and silty sand. The marine alluvium was composed of blue-grey clay. The overlying topsoil was silty and measured 0.34m–0.43m in depth.

Trench 4172 (Figure 106 & 107; Plate 459)

6.6.59 Trench 4172 was located in the northern part of the field and targeted on a pair of parallel and meandering linear features. A single ditch [417203] (width >1.2m, depth 0.86m) was present. This ditch was concave in profile with a fill of blue-grey silty clay (417204), followed by brown-black silty clay (417205).

Trench 4173 (Figure 106 & 107; Plates 460 & 461)

6.6.60 Trench 4173 was located to the west of Trench 4172 and targeted on the same feature. It contained a single ditch [417303] and recut [417305], representing a probable continuation of [417203].

6.6.61 Ditch [417203] (width >1.1m, depth 0.72m) was concave in profile with a fill of light blue-grey silty clay (417304). The ditch recut [417305] (width >1.1m, depth 0.72m) was shallower and contained a fill of black-brown silty clay (417306).

Trench 4184 (Figure 161; Plates 463 & 464)

6.6.62 Trench 4184 was targeted on an apparently blank area of roddon and was found to contain a single north-west-to-south-east aligned ditch [418403].

6.6.63 Ditch [418403] (width >0.8m, depth 0.8m) had steeply sloping sides and three fills: a basal fill of yellow white silty sand (418404), followed by a band of orange silty clay (418405) and finally a brown-black silty clay (418406).

Trench 4185 (Figure 107, Plate 465)

6.6.64 Trench 4185 was located to the west/north-west of Trench 4184 and found a potential continuation of ditch [418403].

6.6.65 Ditch [418503] (width 1.45m, depth 0.3m) had steeply sloping sides and a flat base, with a fill of dark blue-grey clay (418504). It was recut by ditch [418506] (width 1.2m, depth 0.38m), which was in turn infilled by a dark grey-brown clay (418505).

Field D-2-03 (Trenches 4175 and 4176; Figures 100, 101, 108, 109 & 161; Plates 466 & 468)

6.6.66 Field D-2-03 was located to the south of Field D-2-02 and contained a large area of roddon.

6.6.67 Despite the absence of geophysical anomalies, features were found in both trenches. A single linear feature was found in Trench 4175, which was interpreted a possible hedgerow. Trench 4176 contained three peaty ditches with evidence for re-cutting. No dating evidence was present.

6.6.68 Marine alluvium was frequently present indicating that, despite the presence of the roddon, the field would have been submerged for some time. The marine alluvium was a mid-blue-grey clay. The roddon was composed of mid-yellow brown silty sand. The overlying topsoil was a black-brown clay silt, measuring 0.15m in depth.

Trench 4175 (Figure 108 & 109; Plates 466 & 467)

6.6.69 Trench 4175 contained a single ditch/hedgerow.

6.6.70 Ditch/hedgerow [417503] (width 2.12m, depth 0.22m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned and flat based. It contained a fill of blue-grey clay (417504).

Trench 4176 (Figures 109 & 161; Plate 468)

6.6.71 Trench 4176 contained three sets of ditches.

6.6.72 Towards the centre of the trench, ditch [417607] (width 1.71m, depth 0.21m) was east-north-east-to-west-south-west aligned with a wide profile. It contained a blue-grey fill (417608) and was recut by ditch [417609] (width 1.35m, depth 0.35m), which contained a grey-black silty clay (417610) with heavy rooting.

6.6.73 In the south-eastern part of the trench, a north-west-to-south-east aligned ditch [417603] (width >0.5m, depth 0.32m) was present. It had sloping sides, an uneven base and a fill of blue-grey clay (417604). It was recut by ditch [417605] (width >0.26m, depth 0.11m), which contained a brown-black silt (417606). These ditches were cut by a north-east-to-south-west aligned ditch [417611].

6.6.74 Ditch [417611] (width >0.58m, depth 0.24m) was also wide and shallow in profile. It contained a blue-grey fill (417612) and was recut by ditch [417613] (width >0.58m, depth 0.32m). This recut contained a dark brown-grey clay silt (417614). The dating and purpose of these ditches is uncertain. Environmental sampling <40048> of ditch recut [417613] found charcoal and worm capsules.

Field D-2-04 (Trenches 4159–4171; Figures 100, 101,110-114 & 161; Plates 469–491)

6.6.75 Field D-2-04 is located to the south of Field D-2-03. It contains the southern part of the large roddon and an area of marine alluvium to the south, and a small meandering roddon. The field also included parts of two undated cropmarks (MLI20441; MLI20442). Multiple linear anomalies were identified within the field but not all of these were found to be archaeological in nature. Trenches 4159, 4168 and 4171 were archaeologically blank.

6.6.76 Within the cropmark area (MLI20442) the cropmarks targeted by Trench 4168 were not found and only one of the cropmarks targeted by Trench 4169 was found. The large L-shaped feature was found to represent a series of relatively shallow and parallel ditches in Trench 4166 and was not present in Trench 4167.

6.6.77 Outside the cropmark area, a single meandering ditch was identified in Trench 4163 and a curving ditch and an associated parallel ditch was found in Trenches 4167 and 4165. These ditches are currently considered to be undated.

6.6.78 Probable 19th century field boundaries were recorded in Trenches 4160, 4161, 4162, 4164 and 4170 (Plates 471, 473, 475, 479 & 490).

6.6.79 The roddons is this field were composed of yellow-brown silty sand. The marine alluvium was composed of clays of varying colours. The topsoil was identified as a black-brown clay silt, measuring 0.12m–0.31m.

Trench 4160 (Figure 110; Plates 470 & 471)

6.6.80 Trench 4160 was located in the northern part of the field, on a roddon and targeted on a single north-west-to-south-east aligned linear feature. This linear feature corresponded to a ditch within the trench and to a mapped field boundary (OS 1887d; Figure 101).

6.6.81 Ditch [416003] (width 2.2m, depth 0.62m) was wide and flat based with a fill of dark blue-grey clay with bands of lighter material, indicating period changes to water movement in the ditch. The ditch can be characterised as a 19th century field boundary based on mapping.

Trench 4161 (Figure 113; Plates 472 & 473)

6.6.82 Trench 4161 was located in the south-western corner of the field, within a marine alluvium area. It was targeted on a linear feature, corresponding to a mapped field boundary (OS 1887d; Figure 101) and was found to contain two ditches. Both appeared to be associated with the modern field system.

6.6.83 In the western side of the trench, ditch [416105] shared a similar alignment with the nearby mapped field boundary. It was flat based with a fill of black-brown silt (416106) and was followed by a recut [416107] (width 1.36m, depth 0.24m) This recut contained a grey-brown clay (416108).

6.6.84 Towards the eastern side of the trench, ditch [416103] (width 0.85m, depth 0.18m) was north-east-to-south-west aligned, sharing a similar alignment to a nearby extant field boundary. It contained a grey-blue clay (416104).

Trench 4162 (Figure 111; Plates 474 & 475)

6.6.85 Trench 4162 was located in the northern part of the field, on the roddon and targeted on the same feature and mapped field boundary as Trench 4161. This was represented within the trench by ditch [416203] (width 3m, depth 0.8m). This ditch was flat based and contained four fills of clay and silty clay, formed through water deposition (416204, (416205), (416206), followed by deliberate backfill (416207). It can be characterised as a 19th century field boundary. Environmental sampling <40047> found no charred material.

Trench 4163 (Figure 111; Plates 476 & 477)

6.6.86 Trench 4163 was located in the northern part of the field, on the roddon and was targeted on a meandering linear feature. A single north-west-to-south-east aligned ditch [416303] was recorded in the trench, confirming the survey.

6.6.87 Ditch [416303] (width 1.94m, depth 0.36m) was flat based and contained a fill of blue-green silty clay (416304). It was recut by ditch [416305] (width 1.61m, depth 0.32m), which was infilled in turn by a black-brown silt (416306). No dating evidence was present.

Trench 4164 (Figure 110 & 161; Plate 478 & 479)

6.6.88 Trench 4164 was located in the marine alluvium area, close to the roddon and targeted on two meandering linear features. These were not found, but an east-to-west aligned ditch, corresponding to a mapped field boundary, was present (OS 1887d; Figure 101).

6.6.89 Ditch [416403] (width 3.6m, depth 1.3m) was deep and wide with four fills: a grey clay with charcoal (416404), an orange-brown clay (416405), orange and grey silt (416406) and a final fill of orange clay (416407). These fills were suggestive of a much drier environment.

Trench 4165 (Figure 111; Plates 480 & 481)

6.6.90 Trench 4165 was located in the marine alluvium area and was targeted on two curving linear features, similar to those targeted in Trench 4164. A pair of corresponding parallel ditches were recorded, one of which [416502] was excavated.

6.6.91 Ditch [416502] (width 1.51m, depth 0.38m) was north-east-to-south-west aligned and concave in profile. Heavy rooting was present, suggesting it may have represented a hedgerow or a ditch with heavy vegetation. It contained a single black-brown silt with organic/peaty composition (416503). No dating evidence was present.

Trench 4166 (Figure 114; Plates 482 & 483)

6.6.92 Trench 4166 was located in the south-western part of the field, within an area of undated cropmarks (MLI20442) was targeted on north-west-to-south-east aligned features. A total of three similarly aligned undated ditches were present.

6.6.93 The northern ditch [416608] (width 1.3m, depth 0.34m) was flat based in profile with a fill of light grey-blue sandy silty clay (416609), followed by grey-brown peaty fill (416610). Ditch [416605] (width 1.6m, depth 0.3m), located c.5m to the south, was similar in profile and fill sequence.

6.6.94 Ditch [416603] (width 1.3m, depth 0.24m) was located at the southern end of the trench. It had a wide concave profile and a fill of grey silty clay (416604).

Trench 4167 (Figure 112; Plates 484 & 485)

6.6.95 Trench 4167 was located to the east of Trench 4166, within the same area of cropmarks (MLI20442). It targeted a number of features, including the features targeted by Trench 4166 and broadly north-to-south aligned meandering features. A total of two parallel ditches were present.

6.6.96 The western ditch [416706] (width >1.28m, depth 0.24m) corresponded to a meandering linear and can be identified as a continuation of ditch [416502], investigated in Trench 4165. It was concave in profile with a fill of blue-grey clay (416707), a recut [416708] (width 1.01m, depth 0.12m) and a final infilling event of black-brown silt (416709).

6.6.97 Ditch [416703] (width 0.81m, depth 0.23m) was concave in profile, with a fill of grey/green-brown silt (416704), followed by a peaty black-brown sandy silt (416705). Both ditches remain undated.

Trench 4169 (Figure 113; Plates 487 & 488)

6.6.98 Trench 4169 was located across a narrow roddon and area of marine alluvium, within the cropmark area (MLI20442). It was targeted on north-west-to-south-east aligned features.

6.6.99 A single north-west-to-south-east ditch [416903] (width 0.32m, depth 0.36m) was present, aligning with one of the features. This ditch had near vertical sides and was disturbed by services. It contained a blue-grey clay (416904).

Trench 4170 (Figure 114; Plates 489 & 490)

6.6.100 Trench 4170 was located in the marine alluvium area, targeted on the same linear feature/mapped field boundary as Trenches 4161 and 4162. The field boundary was surveyed in plan without excavation and a ditch [417003] on north-west-to-south-east alignment was investigated.

6.6.101 Ditch [417003] (width 1.9m, depth 0.4m) was flat based with concave sides and two fills. The earliest fill comprised blue-grey sandy clay (417004), followed by a peaty fill (417005). It followed a similar alignment to a nearby historic mapped field boundary (OS 1887d; Figure 101) and can be inferred to have been post-medieval in date.

Field D-3-01 (Trenches 4101–4112 & 4183; Figures 100, 101, 115–121 & 162; Plates 492–518)

6.6.102 Field D-3-01 is located in the northern part of Area D. The field contains extensive cropmarks (MLI20443; MLI20444). The western part of the field contains the large roddon while the eastern part of the field broadly comprises marine alluvium and a small meandering roddon. A small quantity of linear anomalies was found to correspond to ditches. A single archaeologically blank trench (4183) was present.

6.6.103 The most significant finding from this field was a possible saltern/salt-making activity in Trench 4104. The features consisted of a D-shaped enclosure ditch, two north-to-south aligned ditches and a pit/posthole. Fills contained red heat affected material ash and briquetage and radiocarbon dating indicated an Early Roman date.

6.6.104 A pair of meandering parallel ditches continuing from Fields D-2-02 and D-3-02 was confirmed in Trench 4103, where they were found to be concave in profile and shallow. These may represent a trackway/droveway and appeared to be associated with a ditch, investigated in Trench 4102.

6.6.105 The remaining features were of more uncertain date and character, generally comprising single ditches, with comparable fill sequences. Finds from these trenches comprised animal bone and shell.

6.6.106 Artefactual dating was limited to the possible saltern/salt-making activity in Trench 4104 and it was not possible to confirm a Roman date for the cropmarks.

6.6.107 The roddons in this field were composed of yellowish sandy silts which were occasionally mottled or banded. The marine alluvium varied in colour from grey-brown to orangey-brown

and tidal clay was recorded in Trench 4105. A grey-brown clay subsoil (depth 0.25m–0.46m) was recorded in Trenches 4103, 4104 and 4183. The overlying topsoil was a grey brown silty clay, which ranged in depth from 0.13m–0.54m).

Trench 4101 (Figure 115; Plates 492-494)

6.6.108 Trench 4101 was located in the south-western corner of the field, in the marine alluvium area and within the area of Roman cropmarks (MLI20444). It was targeted on a pair of linear features, intersecting at a perpendicular angle. Both were confirmed in the trench.

6.6.109 The earlier ditch [410103] (width 1.9m, depth 0.48m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned with a wide concave profile. It contained a sequence of brown-grey clay silts (410104) and (410105), possibly caused by slumping, followed by brown-grey silty clay (410106) and finally a peaty fill (410107). An assemblage of 42 fragments of animal bone was present with cow, large mammal and unidentified animal. The ditch was cut by a north-east-to-south-west aligned ditch [410108].

6.6.110 Ditch [410108] (width 1.4m, depth 0.21m) also had a wide profile and contained a single peaty fill (410109). The stratigraphic sequence suggests that despite the potential coaxial alignments between these ditches, a period of time passed between the abandonment of the earlier ditch and the cutting of the later ditch. This later ditch shared a similar alignment to the extant field boundaries, suggesting that it may have formed an earlier part of the existing field system.

Trench 4102 (Figure 115; Plates 495 & 496)

6.6.111 Trench 4102 was located on an area of roddon, outside the previously known cropmark areas. It was targeted on two linear features, identified by the aerial survey. Both were confirmed within the trench.

6.6.112 The western ditch [410203] (width 1.46m, depth 0.32m) was broadly north-to-south aligned and appeared to be integrated with a potential trackway/droveway feature to the south. It had a flat base, concave sides and three fills: a basal fill of blue-grey silty clay (410204), followed by a dark grey silty clay (410205) and finally a peaty silty clay (410206). Occasional charcoal and six fragments of bone from cow, large mammal and unidentified animal were present, indicating human activity. No dating evidence was present. Environmental sampling <40049> found insect remains and little else.

6.6.113 The eastern ditch was surveyed in plan, but not excavated.

Trench 4103 (Figure 116; Plates 497 & 498)

6.6.114 Trench 4103 was located on an area of roddon within the area of Roman cropmarks (MLI20444) and was targeted on a pair of parallel slightly meandering features, suggestive of a trackway/droveway. Both were confirmed in the trench. No dating evidence was present.

6.6.115 The northern ditch [410303] (width 1.4m, depth 0.24m) was concave in profile and contained two fills: a basal fill of yellow-grey-brown sandy clayey silt (410304), followed by a peaty fill (410305).

6.6.116 The southern ditch [410306] (width 1.4m, depth 0.42m) was flat based and slightly deeper. It contained a fill of blue-grey silty clay (410307), followed by a peaty deposit (410308). No finds were retrieved.

Trench 4104 (Figures 115 & 162; Plates 499–501)

6.6.117 Trench 4104 was located on a roddon within the area of Roman cropmarks (MLI20444) and was targeted on a series of curvilinear and fragmentary geophysical anomalies. This was found to represent multiple phases of salt-making features.

6.6.118 The westernmost feature was a north-to-south aligned ditch [410418] (width 0.8m, depth 0.19m) was a flat based and broadly concave profile with a single fill of grey-brown clay (410419). Although it does not appear to have been used for waste deposition two fragments of briquetage (28g) and charcoal were present.

6.6.119 A possible D-shaped enclosure was present to the immediate east, represented by ditch [410407/410410] (width 0.76m, depth 0.34m–0.38m). This ditch had steeply sloping sides and a narrow flat based profile. The fill sequence comprised a base fil of dark red ashy silt (410408/410411), followed in intervention [410410] by a blue-grey silty clay (410412), and a final fill of pinkish-red ashy silt (410409/410413). The finds assemblage included 432 fragments of briquetage (353g), derived from containers and miscellaneous elements, charcoal and 15 pieces (26g) of smithing slag were present and the fills can be interpreted as waste from salt-making and/or possibly metal working activities, including burning, with an intermediate period of partial water inundation. Environmental sampling <40043> also found bog ore fragments (29.2g) as well as charcoal and worm capsules. A sample of charred straw fragments from fill (410409) was submitted for radiocarbon dating and returned a date of 2000 +/- 30 BP (48–83 cal AD (91.1%); 96–114 cal AD (4.3%). The overall enclosure can be estimated to enclose an area of c.4.5mx4.5m, with an open area to the west, based on the geophysical survey. A deposit of greenish clay was observed within the enclosure interior, although it was unclear whether this was naturally formed or the result of human activity. No other internal features were present. The enclosure ditch [410407/410410] was cut/partially recut by a north-to-south aligned ditch [410414].

6.6.120 Ditch [410414] (width 1.2m, depth 0.3m) had a concave profile and three fills: a basal fill of mixed brown, grey and red ashy sandy clayey silt (410405), followed by blue-grey silty clay (410416) and finally another mixed ashy fill (410417). The basal fill (4105) contained 1444 fragments of briquetage (276g). Animal bone and charcoal were also present in the ditch present and environmental sampling <40044> found possible bog ore dust (15.7g) and charcoal. This can also be characterised as two phases of deposition of burnt material associated with salt-making, with an intermediate phase of water inundation.

6.6.121 A single pit/posthole [410404] (length 0.6m, width 0.43m, depth 0.26m) was present to the east of the enclosure. This pit/posthole was oval in plan with a steeply sided concave profile. It contained a fill of brown sandy silty (410405), followed by brownish red sandy silty clay (410406) similar to the fills observed in the enclosure. It contained small quantities of charcoal, 24 fragments of briquetage (35g) and shell. Environmental sampling <40042> found charcoal and mollusc shell.

Trench 4105 (Figure 117; Plates 502 & 503)

6.6.122 Trench 4105 was located on the marine alluvium area, within the area of Roman cropmarks (MLI20444). It was targeted on a single straight north-west-to-south-east aligned feature, which was identified as a ditch within the trench. A probable natural feature [410503] was also present.

6.6.123 Ditch [410505] (width 1.82m, depth 0.48m) was concave in profile with a fill of blue-grey silty clay (410506), followed by a brown-black loam (410507). It was recut by ditch terminus/pit [410508] (width 1m, depth 0.33m), which had a flat based profile and a fill of light brown-yellow clay sand (410509), which appeared to have been deliberately deposited into the ditch. No dating evidence was present.

Trench 4106 (Figure 118; Plates 504 & 505)

6.6.124 Trench 4106 was located in the northern part of the field within the Roman cropmark complex (MLI30443) and the marine alluvium area. It was targeted on two meandering features, the westernmost of which was characterised as a ditch [410603].

6.6.125 Ditch [410603] (width 2.15m, depth 0.51m) was concave in profile with a fill of blue-grey silty clay (410604), followed by a black-brown loam (410605), with organic content. No dating evidence was present.

Trench 4107 (Figure 118; Plates 506 & 507)

6.6.126 Trench 4107 was located on the roddon within the Roman cropmark complex (MLI30443). It was targeted on an east-to-west aligned feature and found a single north-to-south aligned ditch [410703].

6.6.127 Ditch [410703] (width 1.94m, depth 0.16m) was wide and shallow in profile with a single fill of blue-grey silty clay (410704). No dating evidence was present.

Trench 4108 (Figure 119; Plates 508 & 509)

6.6.128 Trench 4108 was located in the south-eastern corner of the field on an area of alluvium and narrow roddon and within the area of Roman cropmarks (MLI20444). It was targeted on a single north-west-to-south-east aligned linear feature, which was identified as a ditch, following investigation.

6.6.129 Ditch [410803] (width 1.69m, depth 0.54m) was concave in profile with three fills: a basal fill of mottled blue-grey and brownish-orange silty clay with laminations, indicative of periods of higher energy water movement punctuated by period of settling (410804), followed by a dark brown-grey silty clay (410805) and finally by a black brown loam (410806) with an organic component. No dating evidence was present.

Trench 4109 (Figure 120; Plates 510 & 511)

6.6.130 Trench 4109 was located at the edge of a roddon in the eastern part of the field and within the Roman cropmark complex (MLI20443). It was targeted on linear features, forming a small complex of uncertain character. A total of two ditches were present, confirming the aerial survey. No dating evidence was present.

6.6.131 The northern ditch [410903] (width 2.75, depth 0.56m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It contained fills of blue-grey clays (410907) and (410904) and was recut by ditch [410905] (width 2.02m, depth 0.38m). The final infilling event consisted of brown-black clay silt (410906).

6.6.132 The southern ditch [410908] (width 1.45m, depth 0.4m) was broadly east-to-west aligned with a wide flat based profile. It contained a fill of blue-grey clay (410909) and was recut ditch

[410910] (width 1.45m, depth 0.31m). This later ditch contained a grey-black clay silt (410911), followed by a deliberate backfill of redeposited roddon material

Trench 4110 (Figure 120; Plates 512 & 513)

6.6.133 Trench 4110 was located in the north-eastern corner of the field within the Roman cropmark complex (MLI30443) and was targeted on a long straight north-west-to-south-east aligned feature.

6.6.134 The northern ditch [411007] (width 1.58m, depth 0.31m) correlated with the targeted feature. It had a wide flat based profile with gentling sloping sites. It contained a basal fill of black-brown sandy silt (411008) and was recut by ditch [411009] (width 0.96m, depth 0.18m). The final infilling event appeared to be a backfill of redeposited roddon-like material (411010).

6.6.135 Towards the southern part of the trench a broadly east-to-west aligned ditch [411003] (width 1.06m, depth 0.32m) was present. It was concave in profile with a fill of grey-blue clay (41104). It was recut by ditch [411005] (width 0.85m, depth 0.13m), which contained a black-brown peat-like clay silt (411006).

6.6.136 Neither ditch contained datable evidence.

Trench 4111 (Figure 121; Plates 514 & 515)

6.6.137 Trench 4111 targeted a narrow roddon and a meandering linear feature within the Roman cropmark complex (MLI30443).

6.6.138 A single ditch [411103] (width 2.13m, depth 0.48m) was recorded, corresponding to the targeted feature. It was concave in profile with a fill of reddish-black clay loam (411104) with two fragments of unidentifiable animal bone. No dating evidence was present.

Trench 4112 (Figure 117; Plates 516 & 517)

6.6.139 Trench 4112 was located the edge of the roddon in the western part of the field and with the Roman cropmark complex (MLI30443). A single ditch and a geological feature [411202] were recorded.

6.6.140 Ditch [411203] (width 2.3m, depth 0.34m) had a wide concave profile, with a basal fill of blue-grey silty clay (411204), followed by a brown-black clay loam (411205). This ditch corresponded to a north-west-to-south-east aligned feature, investigated as ditch [410507] in Trench 4105. No dating evidence was present.

Field D-3-02 (Trenches 4094–4100; Figures 100, 101, 122, 123, 161 & 162; Plates 519–529)

6.6.141 Field D-3-02 is located to the south of Field D-3-01 and to the west of Field D-2-02. Most of the field sits on the large roddon in the northern part of the area. It is located within an area of known Roman cropmarks (MLI20444). A relatively sparse distribution of linear anomalies was identified in the field.

6.6.142 The northern part of the field contained a series of parallel anomalies following the contour of a small roddon before continuing across the larger roddon. These were not investigated in this field, but were found to correspond to a series of substantial ditches in Trenches 4172, 4173, Field D-2-02 and 4103, Field D-3-01.

6.6.143 Towards the centre of the area, Trench 4098 investigated a circular feature and found evidence for a potential saltern. The features included pits [409805] and [409807] containing charcoal and briquetage, silty deposits containing briquetage (409810) and (409811), and possible associated ditches (Plate 526). No roddon material was found in Trench 4098.

6.6.144 A series of straight and broadly coaxial linear anomalies, which appeared to form an early field system, were investigated in Trenches 4095, 4097, 4098, 4100. These were often found to be relatively shallow and concave in profile. Ditch [409707] in Trench 4097, measured 1.16m in width and 0.2m in depth; and ditch [409503] in Trench 4095, measured 1.72m in width and 0.52m in depth. The fills of these ditches included black fills and bluish silty fills, indicating waterlogged conditions. No dating evidence was retrieved, but the features did not respect the existent roddons.

6.6.145 Two sets of meandering linear anomalies were investigated in the field. One of these, investigated in Trenches 4094 and 4095 was found to be geological in nature. The other, investigated in Trench 4099 was confirmed to represent a series of relatively shallow ditches, and recuts (widths 0.47m–5.4m, depths 0.06m–0.46m). These remain undated, but appear to spatially relate to the parallel ditches seen in the north of the field.

6.6.146 A potential enclosure was investigated in Trench 4096, but was not archaeological in nature.

6.6.147 The roddon in this field was composed of yellow-brown sandy silt. It was not found in all trenches where it was expected, and may have been submerged below the marine alluvium. The marine alluvium was composed blueish-grey and blueish-brown clays and silty clays. The overlying topsoil was composed of a grey-brown silty clay (depth 0.25m–0.46m). In Trench 4098, two silty fills (409810) and (409811) were found overlying features suggesting silting into depressions within a watery landscape and/or water inundation and flooding following the feature use.

Trench 4095 (Figures 122 & 161; Plates 520 & 521)

6.6.148 Trench 4095 was located in the marine alluvium area in the north-western part of the field. It was targeted on a series of laddered linear features and a meandering feature, identified within the trench as a geological feature. The laddered features were identified as north-west-to-south-east aligned ditches. No dating evidence was present.

6.6.149 The western ditch [409509] was surveyed in plan without excavation.

6.6.150 The eastern ditch [409503] (width 1.72m, depth 0.52) was concave in profile with three fills: a dark blue-brown grey silty clay (409504), followed by a blue-grey silty clay (409505) and finally by a peaty fill (409506).

Trench 4097 (Figure 122; Plates 523 & 524)

6.6.151 Trench 4097 was located on an area of marine alluvium and roddon towards the north of the field. It was targeted on two linear features, one of which was confirmed in the trench.

6.6.152 Ditch [409705] was north-to-south aligned with a concave profile. It contained a fill of blue-grey silty clay (409706) and was recut by ditch [409707] (width 1.16m, depth 0.2m). This later ditch had a similar profile and a fill of black-brown loam (409708). No dating evidence was present.

Trench 4098 (Figures 123 & 162; Plates 525 & 526)

6.6.153 Trench 4098 was located on the roddon and was targeted on a series of fragmentary geophysical anomalies and a linear feature. A north-west-to-south-east aligned ditch and pits were found, but the fragmentary geophysical anomalies were not found to correspond to archaeological features. The waste material within the pits was suggestive of nearby salt-making activity, however, no salt-making features were observed.

6.6.154 Pit [409805] (length >0.6m, width >0.74m, depth 0.34m) was oval in plan and concave in profile with three fills formed of mixed deposits of brown, blue, grey and red materials mixed compositions (409807) and (409808). Charcoal, briquetage and five fragments of unidentified animal bone were present, indicating waste from nearby salt-making activity and possible domestic activity. The briquetage assemblage comprised 331 fragments (1,136g), derived from containers, supports, structural elements and miscellaneous. Environmental sampling <40041> found charcoal. The pit was cut by oval pit [409806 (length 0.67m, width >0.44m, depth 0.18m), which contained a mixed fill, indicative of backfill (409809) with occasional briquetage.

6.6.155 The pits were partially overlain by a layer (409810), a laminated yellow sandy silt, formed via flooding with periodic changes to water movement, with fragments of baked clay. This was overlain by a deposit of yellow-brown sandy silty clay (409811). The deposits were cut by ditch [409802/409812].

6.6.156 Ditch [409802/409812] (width >2.16m, depth 0.28m) was flat based with a fill of light brown grey clay (409803), followed by a peaty deposit (409804), with a blue-grey deposit with occasional briquetage (409813) present in intervention [409812]. No dating evidence was present.

Trench 4099 (Figure 123; Plates 527 & 528)

6.6.157 Trench 4099 was targeted on parallel meandering linear features on the roddon. Both were confirmed as ditches. No dating evidence was present.

6.6.158 The western ditch [409909] (width 1.7m, depth 0.46m) was flat based with clayey basal fills (409913), (409914), (409810), (409911), followed by a black-brown silting event (409912).

6.6.159 The eastern linear was represent by two sets of parallel ditches. Ditch [409903] (width 0.74m, depth 0.36m) was concave in profile and a fill of blue-grey clay (409904). It was recut by ditch terminus [409906] (width 0.47m, depth 0.06m), which contained a peaty fill (409905). Ditch [409915] (width 5.4m, depth 0.38m) was wide and concave in profile. It contained a fill of light grey-blue silty clay (409916) and was recut by ditch [409917] (width 1.2m, depth 0.2m). The final fill was a black clay silt (409918).

Trench 4100 (Figure 122; Plates 529 & 530)

6.6.160 Trench 4100 was targeted on two linear features in the marine alluvium area. It contained an east-to-west aligned ditch, corresponding to an L-shaped feature. A second east-to-west aligned feature, which corresponded to a long straight cropmark feature was recorded in plan and left unexcavated.

6.6.161 Ditch [410002] (width 1m, depth 0.33m) was concave in profile with a fill of brown grey clay (410003). It was recut by ditch [410004] (width 0.93m, depth 0.22m), which contained a black grey-brown silty clay (410005). No dating evidence was present.

Field D-3-03 (Trenches 4083–4093; Figures 100, 102, 124–128 & 162; Plates 530–545)

6.6.162 Field D-3-03 is located to the south of Field D-3-01 and the west of Fields D-2-03 and D-2-04. A roddon is present in the north-east corner of the field and the rest is on marine alluvium or smaller meandering roddons. It is located within an area with Roman cropmarks (MLI20444). The anomalies include continuations of the possible field system and meandering features seen in Field D-3-02 to the north. Only Trench 4088 contained a ditch [408803] that was not identified by the geophysical survey (Plate 539).

6.6.163 While the meandering feature to the west was identified as geological in Trenches 4094 and 4095 (Field D-3-02), Trench 4084 in Field D-3-03 contained a corresponding ditch. The ditch [408403] (width 0.85m, depth 0.32m) was concave in profile and contained a peaty fill (Plate 532). It could be theorised to represent a later feature with less intrusion into the archaeological horizon.

6.6.164 The meandering feature to the east was investigated by Trenches 4088 and 4090. In contrast to the investigation of this feature in Field D-3-02, only a single ditch was present. A linear feature branching off this ditch was investigated in Trench 4089 and was also found to represent a ditch.

6.6.165 A narrower meandering feature was investigated in Trenches 4091 and 4092 but it was not archaeological in nature.

6.6.166 Although the majority of linear anomalies forming the potential undated field system were confirmed in Field D-3-02, they were often not present when investigated in Field D-3-03 (Trenches 4083, 4093). Where confirmed in Trenches 4084, 4086 and 4091, (widths 0.85m–1.46m, depths 0.04m–0.52m), the dimensions of these ditches were found to be highly variable. The discrepancy in representation of these ditches may therefore be ascribed to variable depth, intrusiveness and truncation.

6.6.167 In the south-western corner of the field, in Trench 4085, a set of parallel ditches following the contour of a small roddon were found. These were shallow (depths 0.12m–0.18m) and appeared to form part of a feature complex, centred on Field D-3-04.

6.6.168 The large roddon in this field was found to be composed of orange-brown clay silt, while the smaller roddons were composed of brownish-yellow silty clay. The marine alluvium was composed of blue-grey and red flecked clay. The topsoil was found to be a grey-brown silty clay, measuring 0.12m–0.45m in depth.

Trench 4084 (Figures 124 & 162; Plates 531 & 532)

6.6.169 Trench 4084 was located in the marine alluvium area and was targeted on two linear features.

6.6.170 In the western part of the trench, the linear feature was confirmed as a ditch and surveyed without excavation. This ditch can be identified as a field boundary, based on historical mapping (OS 1887d; Figure 101).

6.6.171 In the eastern side of the trench, ditch [408403] (width 0.85m, depth 0.32m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned with a narrow steeply sloping base. It contained a fill of peaty black-brown silty clay (408404). The wider feature was also investigated in Trenches 4095 and 4094, field D-3-02 and Trench 4097, where no ditch was found. No dating evidence was present.

Trench 4085 (Figure 125; Plates 533 & 534)

6.6.172 Trench 4085 was located on a narrow roddon in the south-western part of the field and targeted on linear features that appeared to follow the roddon contour. These were confirmed within the trench. No dating evidence was present.

6.6.173 In the northern part of the trench a linear feature corresponding to a targeted cropmark was identified and surveyed in plan without excavation.

6.6.174 The towards the centre of the trench ditch [408503] (width 0.97m, depth 0.18m) was shallow and concave in profile. It contained a pale brown-grey clay silt (408504).

6.6.175 Approximately 1.9m to the south ditch [408505] (width 2.09m, depth 0.12) was similar in profile with a brown-black clay silt fill (408506).

6.6.176 The southern ditch [408507] was located and recorded via survey, without further excavation.

Trench 4086 (Figure 124; Plates 535 & 536)

6.6.177 Trench 4086 targeted a small roddon and a long straight linear feature. This feature was confirmed as a north-west-to-south-east aligned ditch.

6.6.178 Ditch [408603] (width 1.46m, depth 0.52m) was concave in profile with a fill of black brown peaty silt (408604), followed by a grey-brown silt (408605). The overall feature appears to form part of a large field system and can be inferred to be of medieval to modern date.

Trench 4088 (Figures 127 & 162; Plates 538 & 539)

6.6.179 Trench 4088 was located on the large roddon to the east and targeted on a wide meandering feature. This was found to represent a ditch [408804]. A geological feature [408803] was also recorded.

6.6.180 Ditch [408804] (width 1.34m, depth 0.45m) was flat based with a fill of blue-grey sandy silty clay (408805). It was recut by ditch [408806] (width 1.15m, depth 0.34m), which contained two peaty deposits (408807) and (408809). No dating evidence was present.

Trench 4089 (Figure 128; Plates 540 & 541)

6.6.181 Trench 4089 was located on the large roddon to the east and was targeted on a long curvilinear feature. This was confirmed as ditch [408905] with an east-to-west aligned ditch [408903] also present. No dating evidence was present.

6.6.182 Ditch [408905] (width 1.96m, depth 0.41m) was concave in profile, with a fill of blue-grey silty clay (408906), followed by black-brown loam (408907). It may represent a continuation of an unexcavated linear feature in Trench 4099, in field D-3-02 and a ditch [416303] in Trench 4163, in Field D-2-04.

6.6.183 Ditch [408903] (width 1.7m, depth 0.29m) had a wide concave profile, with a fill of black brown loam (408904).

Trench 4090 (Figure 127 & 128; Plate 542)

6.6.184 Trench 4090 was located on the large roddon and targeted on the same meandering feature as Trench 4088. A single north-west-to-south-east aligned ditch was recorded.

6.6.185 Ditch [409003] (width >0.65m, depth 0.48m) was flat based with a grey-brown-blue sandy clayey silt fill (409004). It was recut by ditch [409005] (width 1.7m, depth 0.4m), which contained a fill of grey-black peaty fill (409006). To the north two ditch continuations were recorded in Trench 4099, Field D-3-02. No dating evidence was present.

Trench 4091 (Figure 126; Plate 543)

6.6.186 Trench 4091 was located in the marine alluvium in the north-western part of the field and targeted on two linear features.

6.6.187 To the north of the trench, a feature corresponding to a long straight linear feature was surveyed in plan. Although, unexcavated in this trench, it was identified as a ditch [408603] in Trench 4086 and can be further identified as part of a probable field system of medieval to modern date.

6.6.188 To the south, a ditch [409103] (width 1.12m, depth 0.04m) corresponding to a meandering feature, was recorded. It was concave in profile with a fill of grey-blue silty clay (409104), followed by a recut [409105] (width 1.12, depth 0.26m) and finally by a infill of brown-black silty clay (409106). No dating evidence was present.

Field D-3-04 (Trenches 4071–4082; Figures 100, 101, 129–133 & 162; Plates 546–568)

6.6.189 Field D-3-04 is located to the south of Field D-3-03 and to the west of Field D-2-04. The topography of the field comprises small meandering roddons and marine alluvium and it is located within an area of Roman cropmarks (MLI20444). The cropmarks include a small complex centred on the meandering roddons in the western part of the field, an east-to-west aligned linear feature, coaxial linear features and continuations of the meandering features investigated in Field D-3-03 to the north.

6.6.190 The small linear complex to the west was centred on small roddons but also continued beyond them, indicating the presence of an area of drier land during that period. The trenches investigating this complex (4073, 4074, 4077, 4078, 4079, 4080, 4081, 4082) confirmed the results from the geophysical survey. The complex can be characterised as a series of irregular parcels of enclosed land centred on small roddons. These parcels were internally divided into non-regular strips. The fill formation was similar to that seen elsewhere on the Site. A single sherd of samian ware was retrieved from ditch [408003] in Trench 4080, suggesting that this complex may have been Roman in date. The overall feature is considered to be undated, due to the paucity of dating evidence and potential for residuality. It can be interpreted as a small-scale field system, cut once the marine alluvium in this area had begun to dry out.

6.6.191 The long east-to-west linear anomaly was investigated in Trenches 4073, 4081 and 4071. Shallow ditches potentially corresponding to this feature were found in Trenches 4073 and 4081, but these ditches are more likely to represent parts of the undated linear complex.

6.6.192 To the south of the linear complex, a pair of north-to-south aligned linear anomalies were found to correspond to a single shallow ditch [407209] (width 1.6m, depth 0.m) and possible recut [407211] (width 1.05m, depth 0.12m). A possible curvilinear ditch/animal burrow was also recorded [407207].

6.6.193 In the eastern part of the field, Trenches 4075 and 4076 investigated potential continuations of features confirmed in Field D-3-03, but were found to be blank.

6.6.194 The roddons in this field were composed of yellow-brown silty sand. The marine alluvium and tidal clay were blue and orangey-brown clays. The overlying topsoil was a grey-brown clay silt, measuring 0.18m–0.36m in depth.

Trench 4072 (Figure 129; Plates 547 & 548)

6.6.195 Trench 4072 was targeted on a wide meandering feature, identified by the aerial survey, in the marine alluvium area. The features comprised a north-to-south aligned ditch [407209], following the alignment of the targeted feature, and a curvilinear feature/burrow [407207]. Both roddon deposits and marine alluvium were present within the trench.

6.6.196 Ditch [407209] (width 1.6m, depth 0.3m) was concave in profile with a basal fill of dark grey mottled clay (407210). It was recut by ditch [407211], which contained a black-grey silty clay fill (407212). No dating evidence was present.

6.6.197 Curvilinear feature/burrow [407207] (width 0.3m, depth 0.22m) appeared to be of natural origin.

Trench 4073 (Figure 130; Plates 549-561)

6.6.198 Trench 4073 was located in the marine alluvium area and targeted on multiple linear features. A single L-shaped feature was confirmed as a ditch [407303] in the southern part of the trench.

6.6.199 Ditch [407303] (width 2.2m, depth 0.16m) was wide and flat based with a fill of dark grey-brown sandy silt (407304). The wider feature may form part of the linear complex seen to the south of the trench or to the wider field system seen across the northern part of Area D. No dating evidence was present.

Trench 4074 (Figure 131; Plates 552 & 553)

6.6.200 Trench 4074 was located in the marine alluvium area and targeted on linear features forming a potential irregularly shaped enclosure. Only the eastern linear feature was found within the trench.

6.6.201 Ditch [407403] (width 1.7m, depth 0.4m) was flat based and followed the typical stratigraphic sequence with a fill of blue-grey clay (407404), followed by a ditch recut [407405] (width 1.2m, depth 0.3m) and finally a peaty deposit (407406). No dating evidence was present. Environmental sampling <40035> found charcoal, insect remains and worm capsules.

Trench 4077 (Figure 132; Plates 556 & 557)

6.6.202 Trench 4077 was targeted on a complex of linear features in the marine alluvium area. A series of north-east-to-south-west aligned ditches were present, confirming the survey.

6.6.203 The western ditch [407708] (width 1.05m, depth 0.36m) was shallow and flat based. It contained a fill of brown-blue silty clay (407709). Ditch [407703] (width 2.54m, depth 0.58m) was concave in profile with a fill of blue-grey silty clay (407704), followed by black-brown clay loam (407705). Environmental sampling <40038> found charcoal and fly pupae. Ditch [407706] (width 1.24m, depth 0.15m) was wide and shallow with a fill of orange-brown silty clay (407707). A final ditch/linear feature was surveyed in plan to the east and left unexcavated. No dating evidence was present.

Trench 4078 (Figure 130; Plates 558 & 559)

6.6.204 Trench 4078 was located in the marine alluvium area, and was targeted on an amorphous feature within a linear complex. It contained two features.

6.6.205 The northern feature [407802] (width >2m, depth 0.52m) was east-to-west aligned with steeply sloping sides and a narrow base. It was unclear whether it represented a ditch or a geological variation. A single fill of orange-brown clay was present (407803).

6.6.206 Towards the centre of the trench a north-east-to-south-west aligned ditch [407804] (width 2.4m, depth 0.22m) was recorded. This ditch was concave in profile with a fill of black-brown sandy silt (407805). It corresponded to a long straight linear feature, following the same alignment as the extant field boundaries and can therefore be inferred to form an earlier part of the current field system.

Trench 4079 (Figure 133 & 162; Plates 560–562)

6.6.207 Trench 4079 was located across an area of roddon and marine alluvium and targeted the southern part of a linear complex. All targeted features were identified as ditches. No dating evidence was present.

6.6.208 The northern ditch [407903] (width 1.85m, depth 0.38m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned with a concave profile. It was infilled by a blue-grey silty clay (407905), then recut by ditch [407912] (width 1.2m, depth 0.24m), which was infilled by a black-brown silty clay (407904). It appears to have formed one of a series of parallel ditches within an enclosed area.

6.6.209 Ditches [407906] and [407909] were located in the central part of the trench and appeared to form a double ditched southern boundary of the enclosure. They were both north-west-to-south-east aligned. Ditch [407906] (width 1.7m, depth 0.33m) was concave in profile with a fill of blue-grey silty clay (407907), followed by a recut [407913] (width 0.36m, depth 0.1m) and finally a black-brown silty clay (407908). Ditch [407909] (width 1.46m, depth 0.28m) had a flat base and a similar fill and recut [407911] (width 0.96m, depth 0.19m) sequence.

Trench 4080 (Figure 132; Plates 563 & 564)

6.6.210 Trench 4080 was located across an area of roddon and marine alluvium and targeted features with a similar linear complex to Trench 4079. Both targeted features were confirmed as ditches. Both were north-west-to-south-east aligned.

6.6.211 The western ditch [408006] (width 1.38m, depth 0.13m) was concave in profile, with a fill of blue-grey clay (408007), followed by a ditch recut [408008] (width 1.25m, depth 0.33m) and finally by a grey-black, clay silt (408009).

6.6.212 The eastern ditch [408003] (width 1.7m, depth 0.35m) and recut was concave in profile and followed a similar infilling sequence without clear evidence for a recut. A single sherd of samian ware was retrieved from the initial cut. Environmental sampling (<40039> & <40040>) found a charred wheat/barley caryopsis, charred weed seeds of damp/wet environs charcoal, insect remains and worm capsules.

Trench 4081 (Figure 132; Plates 565 & 566)

6.6.213 Trench 4081 was targeted on a series of potentially intersecting features within the marine alluvium area. A single broadly east-to-west aligned ditch was present [408103] (width 2.23m, depth 0.22m). This ditch was wide and shallow with a single peaty fill (408104). It is not certain which targeted linear feature it represented, but it is considered most likely to have formed a

continuation of ditch [407804], in Trench 4078. Environmental sampling <40034> found charcoal, fly pupae and worm capsules.

Trench 4082 (Figure 133; Plates 567 & 568)

6.6.214 Trench 4082 was located on a roddon and was targeted on the same linear complex as Trench 4079. All targeted features were confirmed as ditches.

6.6.215 The western ditch [408209] (width 0.95m, depth 0.5m) was flat based with sloping sides. It contained a fill of grey-blue clay (408210). The ditch recut [408204] (width 0.76m, depth 0.3m) contained a fill of peaty brown-black silty clay (408205).

6.6.216 The eastern ditch [408206] (width 1.26m, depth 0.59m) and recut [408202] (width >2m, depth 0.34m) was similar in profile and stratigraphic sequence. Environmental sampling <40037> of ditch [408206] found charcoal and insect remains and sample <40036> of the ditch recut [408202] found no charred material.

Field D-3-05 (Trenches 4065–4070; Figures 100, 101, 134 & 135; Plates 569–578)

6.6.217 Field D-3-05, located to the south of D-3-04, also contains an area of Roman cropmarks (MLI20444). No roddons were expected in this field and a sparse distribution of linear anomalies had been identified.

6.6.218 Within the centre of the field, a north-west-to-south-east aligned linear feature, investigated in Trench 4072, Field D-3-04, was present. This was investigated in two trenches (Trench 4065 and 4066), confirming the presence of a single recut ditch (widths 0.55m–1.8m depths 0.2m–0.75m), which was deeper and flat based with vertical sides (Plates 570 & 571). The linear anomaly, however, appeared to correspond to a thin meandering roddon present in both trenches.

6.6.219 Broadly east-to-west aligned linear features, which appeared to form parts of larger division systems, were investigated in Trenches 4067, 4068 and 4070 where they were confirmed to represent ditches.

6.6.220 In the south-western part of the field, a pair of meandering parallel linear anomalies were targeted by Trench 4069 which did not reveal any archaeological features.

6.6.221 The roddon seen in Trenches 4065 and 4066 comprised deposits of yellow-brown silty sand. Elsewhere within the field the marine alluvium comprised deposits of blueish-grey and blueish-brown clay silt. The overlying topsoil was found to be a black-brown clay silt, measuring 0.2m–0.29m in depth.

Trench 4065 (Figure 134; Plates 569 & 570)

6.6.222 Trench 4065 was targeted on the same wide linear feature as Trench 4072, in Field D-3-04. A pair of ditches were recorded, broadly following the same alignment.

6.6.223 Ditch [406504] (width 2.1m, depth 0.2m) was wide and concave in profile with a peaty fill (406505). No dating evidence was present.

6.6.224 Ditch [406506] (width 2.1m, depth 0.48m) was wide and flat based with steeply sloping sides. A series of five fills were present, representing initial slumping (406507) and (406508), followed by slow and low energy silting (406509), a period of still standing water allowing the

formation of a humic brown-black loam (406511) and finally a light brown clay silt (406511), representing further low energy silting.

Trench 4066 (Figure 135; Plate 571)

6.6.225 Trench 4066 was located on the marine alluvium and was targeted on the same wide linear feature. It contained a single ditch with recuts, possibly representing a continuation of ditch [406504].

6.6.226 Ditch [406603] (width 0.55m, depth 0.35m) was squarish and narrow in profile. It contained a yellow-brown silting fill (406604) and was recut by ditch [406606] (width 1.8m, depth 0.75m) This later ditch had near vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill sequence included a basal fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (406605), slumping fills (406607), (406609), and (406612), thin layers of silt, clay and sandy silt (406610), (406611) and (406608) and a final infilling of black-brown silty clay (406613).

Trench 4067 (Figure 134; Plates 572 & 573)

6.6.227 Trench 4067 was located in the marine alluvium area and was targeted on a long straight linear feature on an east-to-west alignment. This was represented in the trench by ditch [406702].

6.6.228 Ditch [406702] (width >0.4m, depth 0.5m) had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. A total of three fills were present: a grey clay (406703), a brown-grey silty clay (406704) and finally a peaty deposit (406705). The continuation of the wider feature, appears to form part of a large field system and it can be inferred to be of post-medieval to modern date. Rooting was also evident in the profile.

Trench 4068 (Figure 135; Plates 574 & 575)

6.6.229 Trench 4068 was targeted on two linear features in the marine alluvium area. A single ditch/natural feature [406802] was recorded.

6.6.230 Ditch/natural feature [406802] (width 1m, depth 0.48m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned with a concave profile and a dark silty fill (406803). Heavy rooting was present and it was unclear whether this feature represented a ditch with heavy vegetation of a hedgerow. No dating evidence was present.

Trench 4070 (Figure 134; Plates 577 & 578)

6.6.231 Trench 4070 was targeted on a series of broadly north-west-to-south-east aligned linear features in the centre of the field. A total of three parallel ditches were observed, confirming the survey. Each had a dark fill and only the central ditch [407002] was fully excavated and recorded.

6.6.232 Ditch [407002] (width 2.04m, depth 0.42m) had sloping sides and two fills: a blue-grey silty clay (407003), followed by a black-brown loam (407004). No dating evidence was present.

Field D-3-06 (Trenches 4053–4064; Figures 100, 101, 136–141 & 162; Plates 579–595)

6.6.233 Field D-3-06 is located to the south of Field D-3-05 and partially within the area of Roman cropmarks (MLI20444). The cropmarks included the continuation of a north-west-to-south-east aligned ditch (Trenches 4053 and 4054), previously investigated in Fields D-3-04 and D-3-

05. All of the trenches were archaeologically positive and generally confirmed the aerial survey.

6.6.234 Linear features that appeared to form part of the possible field system in D-3-05 were investigated in Trenches 4056 and 4064.

6.6.235 The meandering feature investigated by Trench 4069 in Field D-3-05 was found to represent a ditch in Trench 4058 and another meandering feature as found to correspond to a ditch in Trench 4059.

6.6.236 The linear feature investigated in Trenches 4053 and 4054 was found to represent a single undated ditch.

6.6.237 In the southern part of the field, a series of parallel north-east-to-south-west aligned ditches were present (Trenches 4060, 4061, 4062 & 4063). These closely followed the alignment of both extant and historical field boundaries (OS 1887d; Figure 101), with a historic field boundary recorded in Trenches 4060 and 4063. The field boundary contained a plastic pipe, indicating a 20th century infill date, while the other ditches may have been pre-AD 1887 in date. A small fragment of clay pipe was retrieved from one of these ditches (Trench 4063).

6.6.238 No roddons were expected in this area, however, roddon deposits were found in Trenches 4060–4063, in the southern part of the field, composed of yellow-white clay silt. Marine alluvium deposits were recorded as greyish-brown silty clay and blue-grey clay. The overlying topsoil was found to be a grey-brown silty clay, measuring 0.24m–0.45m in depth.

Trench 4053 (Figures 136 & 162; Plates 579 & 580)

6.6.239 Trenches 4053 and 4054 were targeted on the long and wide feature, previously targeted by Trenches 4065 and 4066, in Field D-3-05 and Trench 4072, in Field D-3-04. A single corresponding ditch was present, in line with the results from these previous trenches.

6.6.240 Ditch [405303] (width 1.56m, depth 0.57m) was concave in profile with a basal fill of brown-grey silty clay (405304), followed by a paler sandy silt (405305), a clayey peaty fill (405306) and finally another brown-grey silt clay (405307).

Trench 4054 (Figure 137; Plate 581)

6.6.241 In Trench 4054, the ditch was found again and a recut was also recorded. The sequence was broadly as follows: an initial flat based ditch [405403] (width 4.2m depth 0.7m) with sloping sides; a basal fill of pale grey-yellow sandy silt (405404); possible slumping fills (405405) and (4054087); a laminated slumping fill (405406); dark blue-grey clay (405408); formed in slow movement waterlogged conditions; pale yellow-grey sandy silt (405409); grey sandy silts (405410) and (405411); a concave ditch recut [405412] (width 1.4m, depth 0.44m) and a final peaty infilling (405413). This sequence is indicative of infilling in waterlogged conditions with a changeable water table and water movement, followed by a final slow peat/humic formation.

Trench 4055 (Figure 136 & 137; Plates 582 & 583)

6.6.242 Trench 4055 was targeted on to a north-west-to-south-east aligned linear feature, which matched the commonly seen ditch alignment in this field. A corresponding peaty ditch was observed, but not excavated and a second similarly aligned ditch was recorded towards the southern part of the trench.

6.6.243 Ditch [405503] (width 2.5m, depth 0.6m) was flat based with two fills: a mixed silty clay (405504), followed by a black-brown silty clay (405505). It is likely, along with many of the other ditches in this field, to have formed an earlier element of the current field system.

Trench 4056 (Figure 138; Plate 584)

6.6.244 Trench 4056 was located in the north-eastern part of the field and was targeted on a north-east-to-south-west aligned linear feature. A single north-east-to-south-west ditch [405602] (width 1.41m, depth 0.18m) was present. It was flat based with a dark brown-grey silty clay fill (405603). No dating evidence was present.

Trench 4057 (Figure 139; Plates 585 & 586)

6.6.245 Trench 4057 contained a series of three parallel ditches, following a similar alignment to the extant field boundaries and other ditches within the field. These ditches appeared to be associated with similarly aligned field drains, further suggesting a post-medieval to modern date.

6.6.246 The northern ditch [405707] (width 1.72m, depth 0.38m) had a concave profile and a fill of black-grey silty clay (405708).

6.6.247 Ditch [405705] (width 1.8m, depth >0.44m) had gradually sloping sides and a fill of grey-brown clay (405706).

6.6.248 The southern ditch (width 2.2m, depth <.13m) had a wide concave profile and a fill of black-brown silty clay (405704).

Trench 4058 (Figure 137; Plates 587 & 588)

6.6.249 Trench 4058 was targeted on a series of meandering features. A total of two ditches were present.

6.6.250 Ditch [405503] (width 1.54m, depth 0.24m) had steeply sloping sides, a flat base and an east-to-west alignment. It was infilled by an orange-grey clay (405804), followed by a blue-grey silty clay (405805) and finally a yellow-brown silty sand (405806). Th ditch was recut by ditch [405807] (width 1.9m, depth 0.36m), which contained a brown-black loam (405808), followed by a yellow-brown clay sand (405809) and a single fragment of medium mammal bone. No dating evidence was present.

6.6.251 The ditch in the southern part of the trench was not fully excavated or recorded as it was found to contain a field drain.

Trench 4059 (Figure 140; Plate 589)

6.6.252 Trench 4059 was located in the north-western part of the field and was targeted on a long curvilinear feature. A corresponding north-to-south aligned ditch was recorded.

6.6.253 Ditch [405903] (width 2.3m, depth 0.2m) was flat based with vertical sides. It had a basal fill of mixed grey clay (405904), followed by a reddish-brown silty clay (405905). No dating evidence was present.

Trench 4060 (Figure 141; Plate 590)

6.6.254 Trench 4060 was located in the south-western part of the field and was targeted on a linear feature. This feature was identified as a modern ditch [406008], with two further ditches present to the south. The bases of the features were unclear and depths taken were estimations of the maximum depth possible.

6.6.255 Ditch [406006] (width 2.45m, depth 1.15m) was north-east-to-south-west aligned with a flat base and sloping sides. It contained a single fill of black-brown silty clay (4006007).

6.6.256 Ditch [406003] (width 4.45m, depth 1.08m) was also north-east-to-south-west aligned, but not fully parallel. It had a slightly asymmetric profile with a flat base. A field drain was present within the ditch and it was unclear whether the drain was installed prior to infilling or cut later. It contained a grey-brown silty clay (406004), followed by a brown silt (406005).

6.6.257 The modern ditch [406008] (width 3.46m, depth >0.34m) was wide and concave in profile. It corelated with a mapped field boundary (OS 1887d; Figure 101) and contained a plastic pipe, indicating a 20th century backfill date.

Trench 4061 (Figure 141)

6.6.258 Trench 4061 was located to the east of Trench 4060 and targeted a north-east-to-south-west linear feature. A total of two parallel ditches on a north-east-to-south-west alignment were present.

6.6.259 The northern ditch [406105] (width 2.3m, depth 0.28m) was a concave in profile with a fill of brown black clay silt (406106). The southern ditch [406103] (width 2.3m, depth 0.32m) had a similar profile and fill. Both ditches closely followed the alignment of mapped historical field boundaries (OS 1887d; Figure 101) as well as the extant field boundaries.

Trench 4062 (Figure 139; Plates 591 & 592)

6.6.260 Trench 4062 was located to the north-east of Trench 4061 and was targeted on the same set of parallel features. A single ditch [406203] was present, following this alignment.

6.6.261 Ditch [406203] (width 2.3m, depth 0.14m) had a wide and shallow profile, with a grey-black silty clay fill (406204).

Trench 4063 (Figure 136; Plate 593)

6.6.262 Trench 4063 was located to the north-east of Trench 4062 and was targeted on the same series of parallel linear features. A total of two ditches were present, both correlating to the targeted features.

6.6.263 The northern ditch [406303] (width 3.2m, depth >0.9m) also correlated with a historic field boundary (OS 1887d; Figure 101). It had steeply sloping sides and contained modern material, organic remains and a clay pipe stem of 17th/early 18th century AD date.

6.6.264 The southern ditch [406305] (width 2.16m, depth 0.6m) was flat based with sloping sides and two fills: a mottled brown clay silt (406306), followed by a dark brown clay silt (406307). Clay pipe stem of late 17th/late 18th century AD date was retrieved.

Trench 4064 (Figure 138; Plates 594 & 595)

6.6.265 Trench 4064 was located in the north-eastern corner of the field and was targeted on an east-to-west aligned linear feature. A single east-to-west aligned ditch was recorded, approximately 30m to the south of the targeted feature.

6.6.266 Ditch [406402] (width 1.67m, depth 0.13m) was shallow and flat based, with a fill of dark brown silty clay (406403). No dating evidence was present.

Field D-4

6.6.267 Field D-4 was descoped from the archaeological evaluation.

Field D-5-01 (Trenches 4010–4030, 4178, 4179 & 4186; Figures 100, 101, 142–150, 162 & 163; Plates 596–649)

6.6.268 The northern part of Field D-5-01 is located on a large east-west aligned roddon in the south of Area D, with an area of marine alluvium in the southern part of the field. It is also located within an area of cropmarks believed to represent a Roman ditch network and drove road (MLI22296). A particular concentration of archaeology was identified on the roddon. The anomalies in this area are slightly fragmentary but seem to comprise enclosures with subdivisions and internal features. Further linear features were recorded outside this concentration, including curving parallel features that follow the roddon contour, and straighter features that extend into the marine alluvium area. Every trench in this field was found to be archaeologically positive and correlation with the geophysical survey was confirmed throughout. Within the high-density area (Trenches 4018, 4019, 4020, 4021, 4022, 4026, 4178 and 4186) evaluation often found a higher density of features than projected. A total of 127 cut features were recorded in this field. The artefacts from this field included items of Late Iron Age/Roman, Roman, post-medieval and modern date, while the assemblage itself was indicative of settlement activity and salt production.

6.6.269 The high-density area included ditches, curvilinear ditches, gullies, pits, postholes, a square feature, boundary ditches and settling tanks. These were often inter-cutting and indicative of multiple phases of activity with artefactual evidence spanning the Late Iron Age to the 2nd to 3rd century AD. Much of this area can be characterised as a potential settlement area associated with salt-making. While dense, this area was found to be spatially restricted in line with the geophysical survey. At least three subdivided enclosures could be defined within this space. The northern enclosure area can be estimated to cover an area of 51mx55m with a double ditched boundary (Trenches 4020 & 4022), curvilinear features and a sub-enclosure area of high density (Trench 4022). The artefactual dating evidence spanned the Late Iron Age to the early Roman period. The enclosure to the south-west (Trench 4021) can be estimated to cover an area of c.41mx50m and was found to be similarly subdivided, although no discrete features were present. It was found to be of potential later date with finds of 2nd century AD+ date present. The south-eastern enclosure (Trench 4021) was of a more oval shape and Roman and mid-2nd to 3rd century AD date.

6.6.270 Immediately outside these enclosure areas two additional dense complexes of activity were investigated. These smaller complexes were investigated in Trenches 4019, 4026 and 4178 and were found to represent probable salterns. In Trench 4026 the features included settling tanks, pits, ditches, evidence for burning and significant quantities of briquetage, ash and charcoal. The finds ranged from the mid-1st to mid-2nd century to the late 2nd to 3rd century AD in date. In Trench 4178 a small enclosure (c. 20m x 11m) was recorded, with recuts and fills formed of briquetage fragments. Unfortunately, a large post-medieval pit [417820] (length >2m, width 6.8m depth 0.82m) was present in the centre of this probable saltern,

truncating any internal features. The activity in Trench 4019 appeared to form part of the same feature complex. This activity potentially dated from the mid-1st century to the 3rd century AD. Further evidence for salt-making in the field was provided by briquetage recovered from Trenches 4019, 4022, 4024, 4026, 4178 and 4186, totalling c. 18.3kg.

6.6.271 In the western part of the high-density area, a pair of small abutting enclosures (c. 41mx18m and 31mx24m) were investigated by Trenches 4186 and 4018 respectively. Roman and post-medieval ditches were present and it was unclear which period these enclosures dated to.

6.6.272 In the southern part of the field, a pair of parallel ditches, forming a probable trackway/droveway were present. These continued from the edge of the surveyed area to the east through the field and into Field D-6, linking the high density settlement and salt production area in D-5-01 to a similar area in Field D-6. Investigation in Trenches 4013, 4014, 4019 and 4178 revealed that they had been recut on multiple occasions, similarly to the evidence seen in Areas B and C (Plate 425). This was more prevalent on the side close to the marine alluvium area, suggesting one side may have been frequently flooded and required more maintenance. The two original ditches in Trench 4014, measured 1.7m–1.98m and 0.6m–0.64m in depth with steeply sloping sides.

6.6.273 The archaeological remains in the remainder of the field were found to be low density and of probable agricultural and drainage function (Trenches 4010, 4011, 4012, 4015, 4016, 4017, 4024, 4025, 4027, 4029, 4029 and 4179). On the northern part of the roddon, this included multiple parallel ditches of probable post-medieval date (Trenches 4020, 4027, 4028 and 4029) following similar alignments to the extant and historical field boundaries (OS 1887d; Figure 101).

6.6.274 The roddon was formed of yellow-brown sandy silt. Marine alluvium, where present, was formed of blueish clay. A layer of grey clay silt subsoil, measuring 0.13m in depth, was recorded in a one trench (Trench 4025). The overlying topsoil was a grey-brown silty clay, measuring 0.27m–0.43m in depth. It contained fragments of pottery of post-medieval and modern date.

Trench 4010 (Figure 142; Plates 596 & 597)

6.6.275 Trench 4010 was located in the south-western part of the trench, within the marine alluvium area. It was targeted on an east-to-west aligned linear feature and contained a corresponding ditch and a geological feature [401002]. It was located outside the area of cropmarks recorded on the HER.

6.6.276 Ditch [401004] (width 2.98m, depth 0.76m) was flat based with stepped sides. It contained a pale blue-grey silty clay (401007), followed by dark brown-grey silty clay (401006). It was recut by a shallower ditch [401003] (width 1.44m, depth 0.2m), filled by a light brown silty sand (401005). A small animal bone assemblage totalling 15 fragments of bone from sheep/goat and unidentified animal was recovered. No dating evidence was present.

Trench 4011 (Plates 598 & 599)

6.6.277 Trench 4011 was located in the marine alluvium area to the south of the field. It was targeted on two linear features and contained two corresponding ditches. It was located outside the area of cropmarks recorded on the HER.

6.6.278 In the western part of the trench, ditch [401103] (width 1.84m, depth 0.5m) was flat based with steeply sloping sides and greyish silty clay fills (401104) and (401105). Its alignment

closely followed the extant field boundary, and its continuation [401202], excavated in Trench 4012, contained modern material.

6.6.279 Ditch [401106] (width 2.35m, depth 0.16m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned with a flat base and sloping sides. The stratigraphic sequence comprised the following: a blue-grey clay (401107), followed by a ditch recut [401108] (width 1.64m, depth 0.47m), a fill of blue-grey clay (401109), followed by deliberately redeposited roddon material (401110) and finally a grey-black clay silt (401111). This fill sequence indicates natural infilling and maintenance in waterlogged conditions, followed by a deliberate backfill at the end of use. No dating evidence was present.

Trench 4012 (Figure 142; Plates 600 & 601)

6.6.280 Trench 4012 was located in the marine alluvium area to the south of the roddon and was targeted on two linear features. It contained a single ditch [401202] (width 3.12m, depth 1.02m) with a flat base and stepped sides. A single fill of dark grey clay (401203) with modern material, including nylon string (not recovered) was present. It can be characterised as an older field boundary, backfilled in the modern period.

Trench 4013 (Figures 143; Plate 602)

6.6.281 Trench 4013 was located on the roddon and targeted on a pair of parallel linear features. These linear features followed a meandering path from a field to the east of the Site, through Field D-5-01 and into Field D-6 and can be theorised to represent a trackway/droveway. A pair of ditches [401305] (width 4m) and [401302] (width 2.62m) were present confirming the aerial survey. These were surveyed, but not excavated due to this feature's investigation in Trenches 4178, 4014 and 4182. A Roman date can be assigned based on dating evidence from the droveway/trackway in Trench 4182, in Field D-6.

Trench 4014 (Figures 144 & 163; Plates 603 & 604)

6.6.282 Trench 4014 was located on the roddon and targeted on the same trackway/droveway as Trench 4013.

6.6.283 The northern ditch [401410] (width 1.7m, depth 0.64m) was concave in profile with four fills: a light grey silt (401411), followed by a dark brown clay silt (401412), a mottled yellow-brown silt (401413) and finally a brown clay silt (401414). Although no recuts were recorded, the sharpness of the interface between fills and profiles within the fill sequence were suggestive of ditch maintenance. A single fragment of cow bone was recovered.

6.6.284 The southern ditch [401402] (width 1.98m, depth 0.6m) had a similar profile with a slightly flatter base. The following stratigraphic sequence was present: a basal fill of mixed redeposited natural (401403); followed by a yellow-white silt (401404); a ditch recut [401405] (width >0.65m, depth 0.5m) with a concave profile; a fill of yellow-white silt (401406); a second ditch recut [401407] (width 1.3m, depth 0.5m); a fill of grey clay silt (401408) and finally a slightly oxidised pale grey silt (401409). The overlying topsoil was slumped slightly into the remaining depression. Roman dates can be assigned, based on the feature's continuation in Trench 4182, in Field D-6.

Trench 4015 (Figure 143; Plates 605 & 606)

6.6.285 Trench 4015 was located along the southern edge of roddon and within the area of known cropmarks (MLI22296). It was targeted on a single linear feature of uncertain wider character and was found to contain two ditches. No dating evidence was present.

6.6.286 The western ditch [401503] (width 1.02m, depth 0.42m) was north-east-to-south-west aligned with a concave profile. A single fill of dark brown-grey silty clay with orange patches (401504) was recorded.

6.6.287 The eastern ditch [401505] (width 4.2m, depth 0.95m) was broadly north-to-south aligned with a wide concave profile. It contained a mottled base silting (401506), followed by a slumping fill (401510) and was recut by ditch [401511] (width 2.35m, depth 0.65m). The recut contained a dark reddish-brown silty clay (401507), followed by a dark grey-brown silty clay (401508) and finally a yellow-brown silty clay (401509). The ditch was cut by a similarly aligned field drain.

Trench 4016 (Figure 144; Plates 607 & 608)

6.6.288 Trench 4016 was located to the north-west of Trench 4013 and was targeted on a slightly fragmentary geophysical anomaly, forming part of a possible squarish feature. This was confirmed within the trench along with an additional ditch and a three throw [401608].

6.6.289 The northernmost feature was a broadly east-to-west aligned ditch [401610] (width 2.52m, depth 0.86m) with a deep concave profile. It contained a fill sequence of natural silting (401611), followed by deliberate backfill (401612). No dating evidence was present.

6.6.290 Towards the centre of the trench, the geophysical anomaly correlated with a substantial ditch [401603] (width 2.2m, depth 1.12m) and recut [401605] (width 4.62m, depth 1.1m). both were concave in profile with sandy silt fills. The overall character and function is uncertain as the ditch was not confirmed in other targeted trenches. It also correlated well with a mapped field boundary (OS 1887d; Figure 101).

Trench 4017 (Figure 144; Plates 609 & 610)

6.6.291 Trench 4017 was located within an apparently blank area of roddon, and was found to contain five sets of ditches.

6.6.292 Ditch [401704] (width 1.22m, depth 0.32m) was north-to-south aligned. It was concave in profile with a single fill of grey silty clay (401708).

6.6.293 Ditch [401714] (width 1m, depth 0.34m) was east-to-west aligned with a concave profile and a grey brown silty clay fill (401714). Based on the potential coaxial alignments of ditches [401704] and [401714] and similar profiles, it is possible that they form an L-shaped or coaxial feature.

6.6.294 Ditch [401713] (width 2.92m, depth 0.3m) was north-east-to-south-west aligned with a very flat and shallow profile. It had a basal fill of mottled grey-brown (401717), followed by black-brown silty clay (401716) and finally a mottled grey and yellow silty clay (401715).

6.6.295 Ditch [401703] (width 1.56m, depth 0.48m) was north-to-south aligned and steeply concave in profile. It contained three fills: a mottled light blue silty clay (401707), followed by a grey-black silty clay (401706) and finally a pale grey-brown silty clay (401705).

6.6.296 No dating evidence was recovered from these ditches.

6.6.297 The final ditch [401709] (width 3.32m, depth 1.14m) to the west, correlated with a mapped field boundary (OS 1887d; Figure 101) and can be assigned a modern date. It was flat based with convex sides. Fragments of CBM, identified as possible late medieval brick, late medieval–post-medieval fragments, possible modern pantile and fragments of possible briquetage were recovered as well as pottery sherds of late 17th/18th century AD date and two clay pipe stems of late 18th century AD onwards.

Trench 4018 (Figure 145; Plate 611)

6.6.298 Trench 4018 was located on the roddon, within the edge of the archaeologically dense area. It was targeted on potential enclosure features, identified via aerial and geophysical survey. These were confirmed within the trench and dated to the post-medieval period. A natural feature [401804] was also observed.

6.6.299 The western ditch [401812] (width 3.4m, depth 0.8m) formed the probable western side of the enclosure. It had a flat base with sloping sides and a fill sequence of brown-grey silty clay (401811), followed by yellow-brown silty clay (401810) and finally light grey-brown silty clay (401809). Fragments of late medieval brick, post-medieval pantile and post-medieval brick and pottery sherds of late medieval, 19th/early 20th century AD date and clay pipe stem of 17th/18th century AD date were recovered as well as an iron knife blade of probable late Iron Age date.

6.6.300 Ditch [401808] (width 1.1m, depth 0.52m) was steeply sided and almost V-shaped in profile. It contained three fills: a dark grey-brown silty clay (401807), followed by a brown-grey silty clay (401806) and dark brown silty clay (401805). Two fragments of animal bone from unidentified animal were recovered. Based on the geophysical survey this ditch could have formed the eastern boundary of a narrow enclosure or an internal boundary to a larger enclosure.

Trench 4019 (Figure 145; Plates 612 & 613)

6.6.301 Trench 4019 was located on the roddon and was targeted on part of a dense cluster of geophysical anomalies and onto the possible trackway/droveway. The trackway/drove ditches were left unexcavated, due to their investigation in other trenches. The features in the northern part of the trench, appeared to form part of salt-making complex alongside Trench 4178 and the wider geophysical cluster.

6.6.302 The northern feature was a shallow gully [401910] (width 09.42m, depth 0.13m), on a north-west-to-south-east alignment. It contained a fill of mottled grey-black silty clay (401911) with bone, burnt bone and charcoal, indicating domestic waste deposition. The animal bone assemblage totalled 24 fragments from cow and unidentified animal.

6.6.303 Towards the centre of the trench, ditch [401903] (width 0.62m, depth 0.22m), and recut [401905] (width 1.71m, depth 0.56m) formed part of a possible rectilinear enclosure. The initial cut was highly truncated with an infill of light orange-brown sandy silt (401904). The recut [401905] had a flat base and sloping sides with four fills: an orange-brown silty clay (4012906), a brown-black sandy silt (401907), a light orange-brown silty clay (401908) and finally a grey-brown sandy clay (401909). Animal bone, four sherds of pottery of Late Iron Age date, 58 fragments of briquetage (344g), derived from containers, supports and miscellaneous and three fragments (50g) of smithing slag were retrieved. The animal bone assemblage from ditch recut [401905] totalled seven fragments from medium mammal, mammal and unidentified animal.

6.6.304 Within the enclosed area, a shallow curvilinear ditch [401912/401918] (width 0.32m, depth 0.09m) was recorded. It contained an orange-brown silty clay (401913/401919) and was cut by pit [401914]. CBM inclusions were observed.

6.6.305 Pit [401914] (length 1.75m, width >1.48m, depth 0.23m) was large, irregularly shaped and shallow. A total of three fills were present: a light orange-brown silty clay (401915), followed by a dark grey-brown silty clay (401916) and finally an orange-brown silty clay (401917). A small assemblage of Late Iron Age pottery was present.

Trench 4020 (Figure 148; Plates 614 & 615)

6.6.306 Trench 4020 was targeted on the northern edge of the large area of archaeological and geophysical density in the field. A large number of archaeological features were present, representing part of a probable settlement area. Occasional sherds of Roman and Iron Age/Roman pottery were present.

6.6.307 To the north outside the probable settlement area, two ditches corresponding to a north-east-to-south-west aligned anomaly were recorded. Ditch [402006] (width 3.6m, depth 0.96m) was flat based with slightly stepped sides and a fill of grey-brown clay (402007). Ditch [402008] (width 1.55m, depth 0.55m) was concave in profile with a similar fill (402009). No dating evidence was recovered, but they appeared to follow a post-medieval trend.

6.6.308 Ditches [402010] and [402016] appeared to form a double ditched northern boundary to the possible settlement area. Ditch [402010] (width 2.28m, depth 1.02m) had steeply sloping sides and a narrow flat base. The internal ditch [402016] (width 0.64m, depth 0.3m) was much smaller with a concave profile. The fill sequence for the larger external ditch [402010], comprised: brown-grey silty clay (402011), followed by white-grey sandy silt (402012), brown-grey silty clay (402013), a white grey sandy silt (402014) and finally a dark brown-grey silty clay (402015). Briquetage fragments were also observed. These fills were indicative of slow low energy silting with occasional changes to water energy over a long period of time. Shell-gritted pottery sherds of possible Roman date were retrieved from ditch [402010] as well as 129 fragments of briquetage (165g), derived from containers and miscellaneous elements and 20 fragments of animal bone from medium mammal and unidentified animal. Environmental sampling <40013> of ditch [402010] found a charred indeterminate cereal caryopsis and charred weed seeds of wet/damp environs.

6.6.309 The wider function of ditch [402028] (width 1.2m, depth 0.2m) within the enclosure interior was uncertain. It contained a dark fill (402029) with briquetage.

6.6.310 Ditch [402003/402022] (length >4.9m, width 0.61m, depth 0.19m), represented another ditch of uncertain wider function. It was north-to-south aligned and flat based with a fill of yellow-brown silt (402004), followed by a blue-grey clay silt (402005). Shell-gritted pottery sherds of Iron Age/Roman date and 34 fragments of animal bone from cow, large mammal and unidentified animal were recovered as well as 219 fragments of briquetage (858g) derived from containers, supports and miscellaneous elements. Environmental sampling <40005> found charcoal, insect remains, mollusc shell and burrowing molluscs.

6.6.311 Towards the southern part of the trench, ditches [402018] (width 0.6m, depth 0.26m) and [402020] (width 0.7m, depth 0.18m) appeared to represent large subdivisions within the possible settlement area. It was unclear whether [402020] cut [402018] or if they represented two parts of a sharp corner. Both ditches were flat based with fill of dark green-grey sandy silt, formed via waste deposition. Briquetage, animal bone, CBM and four sherds of grog-gritted

pottery of 1st to 2nd century date were recovered. Ditch [402020] contained three fragments of briquetage (325g), derived from support and structural elements and two fragments of cow bone.

6.6.312 Ditch [402024] (width 4.7m, depth 1.3m) within the enclosure area, corresponded to a mapped field boundary and contained modern material. It truncated an earlier ditch/natural feature [402028] (width 1.2m, depth 0.2m of uncertain date and character. Ditch [402024] was concave in profile with a fill of black-brown silty clay (402025) and a ditch recut [402026] (width 2.3m, depth 0.8m) followed by a deliberate backfill (402027). It contained 50 fragments of briquetage (172g) derived from contains, supports and miscellaneous elements.

Trench 4021 (Figure 145; Plates 617-620)

6.6.313 Trench 4021 was located in the southern part of the probable settlement area, targeted into an area of dense geophysical anomalies. A total of six ditches, split across two possible larger enclosures were present.

6.6.314 Ditch [402103] (width 1.7m, depth 0.66m), can be interpreted as the eastern boundary of an enclosure. It was V-shaped in profile with a narrow flat base and contained a series of five fills: a yellowish-green silty sand, followed by a grey-brown sandy silt (402117) with possible ash, a pink-brown sandy silt with clay and briquetage (402118), a mottled yellow-grey and grey-brown clay silt (402119) and finally a pink-brown sandy silt with clay flecks (4021120). A small quantity of briquetage (46g) was retrieved and identified as miscellaneous elements. A small animal bone assemblage, totalling three fragments of sheep/goat, small mammal and unidentified animal was also retrieved. The fill sequence suggests deposition of some waste associated with salt-making with periods of natural silting. It was recut by a smaller ditch [402121] (width 0.72m, depth 0.16m), which was very different in profile and fill, possibly suggesting a change in function.

6.6.315 A north-to-south aligned ditch [402123] (width 1.36m, depth 0.3m) was present within the western enclosure interior. It was concave in profile and filled via slow low energy silting followed by deliberate backfill. It was possibly cut by ditch [402125].

6.6.316 Ditch [402125] (width 1.9m, depth 0.62m) can be interpreted as the northern boundary of a squarish subdivision within the western enclosure. It was concave in profile with a fill of brown-grey silty clay (402126), formed via slow silting. A small assemblage of pottery sherds of 2nd century AD or later date were recovered, including a greyware bowl mimicking samian ware.

6.6.317 Ditches [402104] and [402111] can be can identified as representing the western boundary of an enclosure to the east. Ditch [402104] (width 7.4m, depth >1.2m) was substantial with the base not reached in excavation. It contained a fill sequence of: grey-brown silty clay (402107), followed by a mottled sandy silt (402108), a black-brown sandy silt (402109) and finally a dark grey-brown sandy silt (402110). It contained 11 pottery sherds of Roman and mid-2nd–3rd century AD date, including part of a white ware flagon and two fragments of animal bone from pig and horse. Ditch [402111] (width 2.5m, depth 1.16m) was narrower with steeply sloped sides. It contained an infilling sequence of grey-brown silty clay (402112), followed by a mottled fill (402113), a possible burnt layer (402114) and finally a dark grey-brown sandy silt (402115). This sequence suggests periods of slow and fast infilling following changing water conditions with a period of burnt waste deposition.

6.6.318 Ditch [402105] (width 0.9m, depth 0.34m) represented an interior feature of uncertain wider function within the eastern enclosure. It had sloped sides and a fill of sandy silt with occasional briquetage (402106).

6.6.319 Curvilinear ditch [402128] (width 0.26m, depth 0.07m) was also located within the eastern enclosure area. It was shallow and flat based with a brown clay silt fill (402120).

Trench 4022 (Figure 146 & 148; Plates 621-623)

6.6.320 Trench 4022 was targeted on the probable settlement area within the same large enclosure as Trench 4020. It contained a high density of features, with multiple phases. The waste deposits from this area were suggestive of domestic activity and salt production.

6.6.321 In the southern part of the trench, the southern boundary of the enclosure was represented by ditches [402203] and [402205]. Ditch [402203] (width 1.9m, depth 0.68m) had a narrow flat base with changes to slope present in the sides. It contained a grey pink fill, formed from briquetage waste deposition and ash (402204). A large briquetage assemblage totalling 3,285 fragments (3,939g) and derived from majority containers, with supports, structural elements and miscellaneous elements was also present as well as four fragments of animal bone from medium mammal and unidentified animal. A single fragment (1g) of cinder was also retrieved. Environmental sampling <40003> found charcoal, insect remains, mollusc shell and burrowing molluscs. Ditch [402205] (width 3.96m, depth 0.69m) had a wide concave profile with two fills: an organic black-brown clay silt (402206), followed by a briquetage rich silty sand (402207), formed via waste deposition.

6.6.322 Towards the centre of the trench, the northern boundary of a possible smallish sub-enclosure within the larger enclosure was represented by ditch [402208] (width 1.92m, depth 0.44m). It had a concave profile and a greenish grey sandy silt fill (402209). The remaining features were located within this possible sub-enclosure and consisted of small ditches.

6.6.323 Ditch [402210] (width 0.8m, depth 0.24m) was east-to-west aligned and flat based. It contained a single fill of brown-grey silty with no finds (402211). Environmental sampling <40013> found charcoal, mollusc shell and burrowing molluscs.

6.6.324 The trench also contained an oval pit/ditch terminus [402212] (width 0.45m, depth 0.17m) with a concave profile. It contained a blue-grey basal fill (402213), followed by a grey-brown sandy silt (402214) and was cut by ditch [402215]. A small group of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery sherds were recovered. Ditch [402215] (width 0.94m, depth 0.29m) was parallel to ditch [402210] and similar in profile, however it was dissimilar in fill, with three fills containing charcoal and very frequent briquetage. The briquetage assemblage comprised 1,473 fragments (4,835g), derived from structural elements, supports, miscellaneous and occasionally containers. An animal bone assemblage with eight bone fragments from pig and unidentified animal was also retrieved. Environmental sampling <40004> found charred weed seeds of arable/ruderal ground and of wet/damp environs, charcoal, mollusc shell and burrowing molluscs.

6.6.325 A possible trample deposit (402202) (depth 0.08m) was present within this area. It contained two fragments of cow bone and was cut by ditches [402232/402234] and [402219/402222].

6.6.326 Ditch [402232/402234] (width 0.5m, depth 0.12m) was broadly east-to-west aligned with a shallow profile and a fill of pale brown-grey sandy silt (402235). It was cut by ditch [402236/402229].

6.6.327 Ditch [402219/402222] (width 1m–1.06m, depth 0.4m) contained an orangey-brown sandy silt (402223), followed by a light blue-grey sandy silt (402224) and finally a greyish-pink-brown sandy silt (402225) with briquetage. The briquetage assemblage totalled eight fragments (232g) and comprised container, support and miscellaneous elements. The animal bone assemblage totalled 122 fragments from cow, sheep/goat, large mammal, medium mammal and unidentified animal. It was cut by ditch [402236/402229].

6.6.328 Ditch [402236/402229] (width 0.34m–0.5m, depth 0.2m–0.44m) was broadly north-north-east-to-south-south-west aligned for c.3.9m of its length, with a ditch corner present in the south. The ditch was squarish in profile and a single fill of brown-grey sandy silt (402237) with occasional lamination. An animal bone assemblage totalling 29 fragments from cow, sheep/goat, large mammal, medium mammal and unidentified animal was recovered. The ditch [402236/402229] was cut by ditch [402238] and a shallow waste pit [402226].

6.6.329 Ditch [402238] (width 0.64m, depth 0.21m) was east-to-west aligned with a shallow concave profile and a mixed fill with occasional briquetage (402239). This fill also contained two fragments of animal bone from cow and sheep/goat.

6.6.330 Shallow waste pit [402226] (length >1m, width 1.36m, depth 0.24m) contained grey-black sandy silty ash (402227) and dark grey-brown sandy silt (402228). Both fills contained ash, charcoal and briquetage. A total of 88 fragments of briquetage were recovered (294g). This generally comprised container and miscellaneous elements with two fragments of support elements. A fragment of horned pyramidal pedestal of probable Early/Middle Iron Age date was present in this assemblage, suggesting Middle Iron Age salt-making in this area, prior to the Late Iron Age/Roman features. The animal bone assemblage totalled 95 fragments, often burnt, from cow and unidentified animal. Environmental sampling <40000> found charcoal, mollusc shell and burrowing molluscs. A sample of charred straw from fill (40227) was submitted for radiocarbon dating was returned a date of 1970 +/- 30 BP (39–9 cal BC (11.7%); 1–123 cal AD (83.7%)).

Trench 4023 (Figure 148; Plates 624-626)

6.6.331 Trench 4023 was located on the roddon and just outside the area of previously known Roman cropmarks (MLI22296). It targeted geophysical anomalies of uncertain character and found three ditches and a gully, which did not correlate well with the anomaly. No dating evidence was present.

6.6.332 The northern ditch was large and east-to-west aligned. Only the narrow base of the original cut [402306] (width 1.5m, depth 1.2m) was visible in section. It contained initial silting fills of grey brown clay (402307) and (402310). The ditch recut [402303] (width 6.7m, depth 0.9m) had a wide concave profile. It contained four silty fills with black-brown silts found towards the base.

6.6.333 Gully [402315] (width 0.39m, depth 0.21m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned with a flat base. It contained a green-grey silty clay fill (402316).

6.6.334 Ditch [402313] (width 0.7m, depth 0.1m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned with a concave profile. It contained a brown-grey clay silt (402314). A total of 703 fragments of animal bone were retrieved via sampling, and were identified as sheep/goat, medium mammal and unidentified animal. Environmental sampling <40006> found charcoal, insect remains and burrowing molluscs.

6.6.335 Ditch [402311] (width 1.9m, depth 0.9m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned with a V-shaped profile and contained a dark brownish-grey clay fill (402312).

Trench 4024 (Figure 149; Plates 627 & 628)

6.6.336 Trench 4024 was located within a lower density area within the area of previously known Roman cropmarks (MLI22296) and was targeted on two linear features.

6.6.337 The western ditch [402403] (width 3.62m, depth 0.6m) was flat based and north-to-south aligned. It contained a grey brown silty clay (402406), followed by a brownish-grey silty clay (402405). A fragmentary horseshoe of Late Saxon/early Norman date were retrieved. A small briquetage assemblage was also present, totalling six fragments (9g) from containers or miscellaneous elements. The ditch was recut by ditch [402404] (width 1.74m, depth 0.5m), which had a narrower concave profile and a white brown sandy clay fill (402408), followed by a brown-grey silty clay (402407). This later ditch contained four fragments of briquetage (23g) from miscellaneous elements.

6.6.338 Ditch [402411] (width 1.92m, depth 0.58m) had a similar alignment, steeply sloping sides and a flat base. A total of three fills were present: a light brown sandy clay (402414), a peaty deposit (402413) and a silty clay (402412). A small pottery assemblage with medieval and post-medieval pottery of mid-16th–18th century date was recovered. A small briquetage assemblage totalling 14 fragments (45g) was also present. Based on the aerial survey it is possible that the ditches formed a small enclosure.

6.6.339 Pit [402409] (length >1m, width 0.52m, depth 0.12m) was squarish and appeared to be modern in date.

Trench 4025 (Figure 150; Plate 629)

6.6.340 Trench 4025 was located at the northern edge of the roddon and outside the area of previously known cropmarks (MLI22296). It was targeted on a linear feature and found two ditches: a north-east-to-south-west aligned ditch [402503] (width 1.2m), cut by a modern north-to-south aligned ditch [402505] (width >2.2m). Both ditches were surveyed in plan without excavation. The north-east-to-south-west aligned ditch [402503] followed a similar alignment to the extant field boundaries and post-medieval ditches in the northern part of the field.

Trench 4026 (Figures 147, 148 & 162; Plates 630–634)

6.6.341 Trench 4026 was targeted on a cluster of curvilinear geophysical anomalies close to the probable settlement area. It was located on the roddon and within the area of previously known Roman cropmarks (MLI22296). A high density of features were recorded, including a clay lined settling tank, ditches and evidence for burning. It was identified overall as a possible saltern with multiple phases. The trench was extended twice, to a maximum width of c.7m, to investigate these features. A field drain [402628] was also present.

6.6.342 Towards the centre of the ditch, a ditch [402616] (width 1.14m, depth 0.2m) was present, forming part of a curvilinear enclosure. It is uncertain which features were contemporary with this enclosure. A single fill of dark brown clay silt with up to 10% briquetage was present (402617). Roman pottery of late 1st to mid-2nd century AD date and a fragment of horse bone were also recovered. A small briquetage assemblage totalling eight fragments (111g) was recovered and identified as support and miscellaneous elements.

6.6.343 To the south ditch terminus/pit [402607] (width ≥1.15m, depth 0.56m) was slightly V-shaped in profile and appears to have been used to dispose of salt production waste. It contained a greenish brown silty clay (402615), a c.50% briquetage fill (402614), a briquetage-rich clay silt (402613) and a lens of orange-brown clay (402612). The final fill/overlying layer (402611) (depth 0.22m) comprised c. 50% briquetage fragments within a clay silt matrix. The original extent of the feature was masked by later truncations and a partially overlying layer upper fill (402611). The large briquetage assemblage, totalled 517 fragments (3,659g) and derived from containers, supports, structural elements and miscellaneous. A small assemblage of eight fragments of animal bone from sheep/goat bone, small mammal and unidentified animal was also recovered, with burning occasionally seen. Environmental sampling <40016> found charcoal and fishbone/microfauna.

6.6.344 Within the northern part of the trench, two rectangular settling tanks were present [402603] (length >1.8m, width >1.3m, depth 0.18m) and [402605] (length 3.5, width ≥2.4m, depth 0.12m). Both were flat based with vertical sides and fills of dark grey-black clay silt or silt clay. Fragments of silty fired clay and a fragment of unidentified animal bone were recovered from [402603] via environmental sampling <40017>, which also found charcoal and burrowing molluscs. Occasional briquetage was present. Settling tank [402605] cut (402611) and ditch terminus/pit [402607].

6.6.345 To the south of these features, two squarish pits were present. Pit [402621] (length >0.85m, width >0.62m, depth 0.27m) was not clearly visible in plan. It was shallow with steeply sloping sides and contained c.80% briquetage. It was cut by possible ditch terminus [402609]. Pit [402633] (length >0.3m, width >0.35m, depth 0.09m) had an uncertain extent with a single briquetage rich fill (402634). A total of five fragments of briquetage (151g) were recovered, identified as structural and miscellaneous elements. It may have represented part of the same feature as pit [402621]. It was cut by ditch [402635].

6.6.346 Possible ditch terminus [402609] (length >1.38m, width >2.06m, depth 0.54m) was slightly irregular in shape and cut [402621]. It contained a series of fills suggestive of waste disposal, Including a basal fill of clay silt (402620), followed by burnt material (402610), a layer of briquetage (402618) and finally a humic black-brown clay silt (402619). It contained five fragments of animal bone from horse, and unidentified, briquetage, Roman pottery of late 2nd to 3rd century and late 1st to mid-2nd century AD date and a fragment (3g) of cinder. The briquetage assemblage was found within the burnt material layer (402610) (90 fragments; 690g) and the briquetage layer (402618) (2,142 fragments; 4,269g), totalling 2,232 fragments (4,959g). The majority of fragments were identified as container elements with support, miscellaneous and large structural fragments also present. Environmental sampling (<40014> & 40015> found a rich charred plant assemblage with cereal caryopses of wheat, rounded wheat, emmer/spelt wheat, wheat/barley, barley, hulled barley, barley/oat rye/wheat, oat, and indeterminate cereal, charred chaff from wheat, bread wheat, hulled barley and indeterminate straw, common vetch and cabbage/mustard and weed seeds of arable/ruderal ground, of wet/damp environs and of wooded/shady environs. Charcoal, worm capsules, mollusc shell and burrowing mollusc were also present.

6.6.347 Ditch [402635] (width 2.35m, depth 0.12m) was broadly east-to-west aligned. It was uncertain whether it represented a southern boundary to the enclosure formed by ditch [402616] or part of a second curvilinear enclosure to the south. It was wide and shallow with a similar fill to [402616]. It contained four fragments (289g) of briquetage, derived from structural support and miscellaneous elements.

6.6.348 A third settling tank [402629] (length ≥2.5m, width ≥1.6m, depth 0.35m) was present to south of the potentially enclosed area/within the second enclosure. It was squarish in plan with a clay lining (402630) and two fills: (402631) and (402632) representing waste deposition and silting after disuse. A small briquetage assemblage totalling 10 fragments (69g) was recovered, derived from container, supports and miscellaneous elements.

6.6.349 At the southern end of the trench, ditch [402623] (width 3m, depth 0.75m), appeared to form the northern boundary of a possible rectilinear enclosure to the south. It was wide and concave in profile with fills of: dark brown silt (402624, mottled grey/yellow silt (402625), grey silt (402626) and a brown clay silt (402627). A small quantity of briquetage was present in each fill.

6.6.350 A probable modern ditch [402637] (width >1.88m, depth 0.88m) and recuts [402639] (width 1.72m, depth 0.92m) and [402641] (width >0.42m, depth 0.48m) was also recorded in the northern extent of the trench. These features were flat based with silty fills and correlated with a mapped field boundary (OS 1887d; Figure 101).

Trench 4027 (Figure 149; Plates 635 & 636)

6.6.351 Trench 4027 was located on the roddon, outside the areas of archaeological density and outside the area of previously known Roman cropmarks (MLI22296). It was targeted on a north-east-to-south-west aligned linear and was targeted, recorded three ditches with recuts on the same alignment. These appear to have formed part of a post-medieval field system.

6.6.352 The northern ditch [402714] (width 2.12m, depth 0.3m) was flat based with near vertical sides and a brown-black fill (402715).

6.6.353 D itch [402712] (width 3m, depth 0.2m) was highly truncated by the later ditch recut [402703] (width 1.6m, depth 0.58m), which was more substantial than [402714], but similar in profile. It contained a clay silt fill (402704) and was recut by a ditch [402705] (width 1.24m, depth 0.46m) with a concave profile. This ditch contained a dark brown silty clay (402706) followed by a paler clay silt (402707).

6.6.354 The southern ditch [402708] (width 3.2m, depth 0.94m) was broadly concave with a narrow base. It contained mottled clay silts (4027098), followed by grey clay silt (402710) and finally dark brown clay silt (402711).

Trench 4028 (Figure 148; Plate 637)

6.6.355 Trench 4028 was located on the northern part of the roddon outside the area of archaeological density. It was targeted on a geophysical anomaly also targeted by Trench 4020 and found three similarly aligned ditches. These appear to have formed part pf a post-medieval field system.

6.6.356 The northern ditch [402802] (width 2.45m, depth 0.75m) was flat based with steeply sloping sides. The fills comprised a brownish-grey silt followed by brownish silty clays.

6.6.357 Ditch [402806] (width 2.3m, depth 0.4m) was flat based and shallower with similar fills.

6.6.358 Ditch [402809] (width 3.2m, depth 1.1m) was broadly concave profile with a narrow base. It contained fills of brownish silty clays, followed by a black-brown silty clay and finally a grey-brown silty clay.

Trench 4029 (Figure 149; Plate 638)

6.6.359 Trench 4029 was located on the northern part of the roddon outside the area of archaeological density. It was targeted on a linear feature and found two ditches following the same alignment as seen in Trenches 4027, 4028 and the northern part of Trench 4020.

6.6.360 The northern ditch [402906] (width 2.58m, depth 0.46m) was flat based in profile with a fill of brownish-grey silty clay (402907).

6.6.361 The southern ditch [402905] (width 3.88m, depth 0.84m) was V-shaped in profile with a fill of orange grey sandy clay (402904), followed by grey-brown silty clay (402903). These features can be observed to share an alignment with historical field boundaries (OS 1887d; Figure 101), suggesting a post-medieval date.

Trench 4030 (Figure 142; Plates 639-641)

6.6.362 Trench 4030 was located on the southern part of the roddon, outside the area of archaeological density and within the area of previously known Roman cropmarks (MLI22296). It was targeted on a feature of uncertain character and was found to contain a ditch and a large modern feature.

6.6.363 Ditch [403005] (width 0.76m, depth 0.32m) was concave in profile and contained a blue-grey silty clay (403006). It was recut by ditch [403003] (width 1.24m, depth 0.18m), which contained a brown-grey silt (403004). No dating evidence was present.

6.6.364 The modern feature [403007/403009] (length 25m, width >2, depth 1.05m) was a large rubbish pit, visible as a depression in the landscape, prior to excavation. It contained a series of dumping layers followed by a cap of redeposited roddon material. The artefactual assemblage included a fragment of modern pantile, three pottery sherds of 19th/20th century AD date, an iron nail, 12 complete glass objects and two further fragmentary glass objects of overall 20th century date. The assemblage was suggestive of domestic waste.

Trench 4178 (Figures 145 & 163; Plates 642–645)

6.6.365 Trench 4178 was located on the roddon, within the area of previously known Roman cropmarks (MLI22296) and was targeted on the same complex as Trench 4019. A high density of archaeological features were present, representing a possible saltern. A large post-medieval feature [417820] was present in the saltern interior, truncating the interior features. Heavy disturbance from animal burrowing was also observed. While the features from this trench spanned the Late Iron Age, Roman and post-medieval periods, the briquetage assemblage included a small quantity of shelly limestone tempered container sherds, which are characteristic of Early to Middle Iron Age salt production (Morris 2001, 352; Lane 2018, 58; 8.3.13), suggesting a less visible earlier phase of activity.

6.6.366 In the northern part of the trench, ditches [417802] (width 1.87m, depth 0.65m) and [417824] [417826] formed the northern and southern boundaries of a rectilinear enclosure. Ditch [417802] was flat based and broadly concave in profile with a series of fills: a burnt fill containing ash and charcoal (417807), a mottled silt (417806), a yellow-grey silting fill (417805), a grey pink fill of briquetage, ash and heat affected stone (417804), and a final fill of pink ash, charcoal and briquetage (417803). A large pottery assemblage totalling 113 sherds (2.135kg) was recovered. This spanned the Late Iron Age to the 2nd to 3rd century in date and included sherds from a Gallo-Belgic platter. A single sherd of 17th/18th century pottery was also recovered, this can be considered to be intrusive based on the disturbance recorded in

this area and the clear dating of the rest of the assemblage. The briquetage assemblage totalled 183 fragments (5,867g) and included large structural elements, supports, miscellaneous and occasional container elements. The animal bone assemblage totalled 99 fragments of bone and derived from cow, sheep/goat, large mammal, medium mammal and unidentified animal. Ditch [417826] (width 1.4m, depth 0.42m) had steeply sloping sides and a fill of yellow-brown sandy silt (417827) with briquetage and four fragments of animal bone from cow, horse, medium mammal and unidentified animal. It was recut by ditch terminus/pit [417824] (width 2.1m, depth 0.24m), which contained a fill comprising 80% briquetage (417825). A single fragment of smithing slag (1g), two possibly intrusive fragments of clay pipe of 18th century AD date onwards and a single fragment of unidentifiable animal bone were also recovered. The briquetage assemblage from this final recut, totalled 1,910 fragments (3,657g) and derived from containers, structural elements and miscellaneous. The animal bone assemblage from the final recut totalled three fragments of bone from medium mammal and unidentified animal. Environmental sampling <40019> of the recut [417824] found charcoal, worm capsules and mollusc shell.

6.6.367 Within the enclosure interior two ditches, two pits/postholes and two ditches/pits were present. Pit/postholes [417813] (diameter 0.5m, depth 0.3m) and [417817] (width c. 0.5m, depth 0.3m) had concave profiles and grey silty fills with ash, charcoal and briquetage. Heavy disturbance from animal burrowing was observed and modern material was also recovered. The briquetage assemblage from pit/posthole [417813] totalled 53 fragments (549g), derived from containers, supports and miscellaneous. The briquetage assemblage from [417817] totalled 319 fragments (1,945g), often derived from containers with support and miscellaneous elements also present. Both pits were cut by ditch [417815], which appeared to form part of a curvilinear sub-division. Ditch [417815] (width <1m, depth 0.46m) was concave in profile with a dark grey clay silt (417816) containing briquetage, ashy lenses, nodules of redeposited material, Roman pottery of 2nd to early 3rd century AD date and bone. The briquetage assemblage totalled 417 fragments (2,591g) with frequent container fragments, supports, miscellaneous and occasional large structural elements. Pits/ditches [417831] (width 0.4m, depth 0.2m) and [417833] (width 0.58m, depth 0.36m) were concave in profile with fills of mottled clay silt containing briquetage and redeposited natural. They were truncated by a post-medieval feature [417820]. Ditch/animal burrow [417822] (width 0.4m, depth 0.09m) was located in the southern part of the enclosure. It was north-west-to-south-east aligned and contained a pink-grey ash and briquetage fill (417821). The briquetage assemblage totalled 53 fragments (801g) and derived from containers, supports and miscellaneous.

6.6.368 To the south of the enclosure, two parallel ditches [417834] and [417809], formed a continuation of the possible trackway/droveway seen across the field. Ditch [417809] (width 2.12m, depth 0.74m) had steep sides and a flat base with a fill of grey-brown silty clay (417811), followed by a ditch recut [417812] (width 1.82m, depth 0.5m) and finally by a black-brown clay silt (417810). Animal bone, CBM and two glass shards, identified as the neck of 17th/18th century AD bottle and possible window glass were retrieved as well as seven fragments (48g) of briquetage. Ditch [417834] (width 3.32, depth 0.96m) had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The basal fill was formed of layers of silty clay and silty sand (417837), followed by a light grey sandy clay (417836) and finally by a grey-black sandy clay (417835). Environmental sampling <40020> of ditch [417834] found charcoal and mollusc shell.

6.6.369 The post-medieval feature [417820] (length 6.8m, width >2m, depth 0.82m) was located in the possible saltern interior and subdivided area, truncating pits/postholes [417831] and [417833]. A series of dumped deposits were present (417829), (417828), (417823) and (417819), containing ash, animal bone, 31 sherds of pottery, spanning the late 14th/16th

century to the 18th century AD in date, residual briquetage, fired clay fragments, brick fragments of post-medieval and 19th century date, seven fragments of window glass, nine fragments of clay pipe of 19th century AD date and 18th century AD onwards date and a few flakes of hammerscale (1.5g). The briquetage assemblage totalled 121 fragments (1,190g), derived from containers, supports, structural elements and miscellaneous. The animal bone assemblage comprised 1,665 bone fragments from cow, sheep/goat, horse, deer, bird, goose, chicken, dog, fox, large mammal, medium mammal, small animal, unidentified animal and foetal animal remains. This included an MNI of five geese and three horses. The skeletal parts frequently found within the assemblage were from low meat yield elements and sometimes had butchery marks, indicating butchery and processing. Environmental sampling <40018> of the feature found a rich charred plant assemblage with wheat, rounded wheat, wheat/barley, barley, hulled barley, barley/oat, rye/wheat, oat and indeterminate cereal caryopses, chaff from bread wheat, hulled barley, oat, indeterminate and straw fragments, common vetch, broad bean, hazelnut shell, weed seeds of arable/ruderal ground and of wet/damps environs and indeterminate weed seeds. Charcoal, worm capsules, mollusc shell and burrowing mollusc were also present.

Trench 4179 (Figure 143; Plates 646 & 647)

6.6.370 Trench 4179 was located on the marine alluvium close to the southern edge of the roddon and within the area of previously known Roman cropmarks (MLI22296). It was targeted on linear features, possibly forming a rectilinear enclosure alongside those investigated in Trench 4015. These were confirmed within the trench.

6.6.371 North-to-south aligned ditch [417907] (width 3.5m, depth 0.58m) was wide and concave in profile. It contained a blue-grey silty clay (417908) and was recut by ditch [417909] (width 3m, depth 0.72m). This later ditch was then infilled by a dark blue-grey clay silt (417910) and was in turn recut by [417911], which contained a brown-grey silty clay (417912) and a final infill of reddish-brown clay silt (417913). No dating evidence was present. Environmental sampling <40012> of the recut [417909] found charcoal, fly pupae and mollusc shell.

6.6.372 East-to-west aligned ditch [417903] (width 6.42, depth 1.16m) was substantial and could be dated to the modern period by the presence of plastic.

Trench 4186 (Figure 145; Plates 648 & 649)

6.6.373 Trench 4186 targeted a rectilinear enclosure associated with an enclosure investigated in Trench 4018. These enclosures were located close to, but just outside the area of high archaeological density. Post-medieval dates can be provisionally assigned.

6.6.374 The enclosure comprised ditches [418619/418615], [418617] and [418624] and [418621]. The northern enclosure ditch [418619/418615] (width 7.54m, depth >0.98m) was substantial with sloping sides. It contained a backfill with post-medieval pottery of 17th/18th century AD date, fragments of post-medieval pantile, a shard from a 17th to 20th century AD glass bottle, two fragments of briquetage (156g) and 12 fragments of animal bone, from cow and unidentified animal. It was recut by a smaller ditch [418617] (width 0.94m, depth 0.15m) with a concave profile and a clay silt fill (418618). Ditch [418624] (width 0.88m, depth 0.8m) had uneven steeply sloping sides and fills of orange-brown clay silt (418625), followed by grey-brown silty clay (418626) and (418627). It was recut by ditch [418621] (width 1.26m, depth 0.28m), which contained orange-brown silty clay (418622), and clay silt (418623). Animal bone was recovered.

6.6.375 Inside the enclosure two ditches [418609] and [418612] and a posthole [418606] were recorded. Ditch [418609] (width 0.6m, depth 0.22m) was north-east-to-south-west aligned with a concave profile. It contained a possible slumping fill (418610), followed by a grey sandy clayey silt (4186) with rare briquetage. A single structural briquetage fragment (82g) was retrieved. Ditch [418612] (width 1.45m, depth 0.42m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned with a concave profile. It contained two fills of silty clay (418613) and (418614), a single pottery sherd of 18th/19th century AD date and a single fragment of horse bone. Posthole [418606] (length >0.25m, width 0.41m, depth 0.33m) was round with slightly undercut sides. It was unclear whether it had in-situ burning or dumps of burnt material (418607) and (418608). A small briquetage assemblage totalling 10 fragments (14g) was retrieved. Environmental sampling <38> found charcoal and little else.

Field D-5-02 (4001–4009; Figures 100, 101, 151–152 & 163; Plates 650–661)

6.6.376 Field D-5-02 is located to the south of D-1-01 and mostly contains an area of marine alluvium with a thin meandering branch of roddon.

6.6.377 The geophysical survey found slightly fragmentary and amorphous anomalies of possible archaeological nature. The anomalies generally followed the edge of the roddon with one feature identified to the south. Multiple linear features were also identified in the aerial survey. The majority of targeted cropmark features were not present with the geophysical survey found to be much better in predicting archaeological features. Occasional ditches and a possible pit were present in Trenches 4001, 4003 and 4009 with the remaining trenches found to be archaeologically blank. A single ditch [400907], in Trench 4009, could be dated to the Roman period.

6.6.378 The roddon in this field was composed of light brown-yellow clay silt with light grey concentrations and flecking. The marine alluvium was composed of blue-grey clay. The topsoil was found to be a dark grey clay, measuring 0.26m–0.42m. Fragments of medieval to post-medieval brick were retrieved from the topsoil.

Trench 4001 (Figure 151; Plates 650 & 651)

6.6.379 Trench 4001 was targeted on fragmentary geophysical anomalies on the marine alluvium area. It contained a single north-east-to-south-west aligned ditch [400103] (width 2.42m, depth 0.67m) with a concave profile and a single fill of grey and orange-brown clay (400104). No dating evidence was present.

Trench 4003 (Figures 152 & 163; Plates 653 & 654)

6.6.380 Trench 4003 was located across a thin area of roddon and was targeted on two linear features. It contained a natural feature [4000304], a possible pit [400305] and a ditch [400307]. No dating evidence was present.

6.6.381 Possible pit [400305] (length 2.18m, width 1.16m, depth 0.54m) was round and flat based with a single fill of grey brown silty clay (400306).

6.6.382 Ditch [400307] (width 3.31m, depth 0.44m) was east-to-west aligned with a wide uneven profile. It contained a single fill of grey-brown silty clay (400308).

Trench 4009 (Figure 151; Plates 660 & 661)

6.6.383 Trench 4009 was targeted on a narrow roddon and a fragmentary geophysical anomaly. It contained two ditches.

6.6.384 Ditch [400907] (width 1.86m, depth 0.68m) was north-east-to-south-west aligned with a concave profile and a brown-grey silty clay fill (400308). A single sherd of Roman pottery and six fragments of animal bone from medium mammal and unidentified animal were recovered.

6.6.385 Ditch [400903] (width 2.81m, depth 0.78m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned with a concave profile. The fill sequence comprised grey clay (400904), followed by a peaty deposit (400905) and finally a sandy clay (400906).

Field D-6 (Trenches 4031–4041 & 4180–4182; Figures 100, 101, 153–160 & 163; Plates 662–695)

6.6.386 Field D-6 is located to the west of D-5-01 and contains a continuation of the same large roddon. It is also located within an area of Romano-British cropmarks (MLI2262). A concentration of archaeological features was identified by the geophysical survey in the northern part of the roddon. This consists of multiple enclosure complexes with internal features, divisions, and curvilinear features (Trenches 4021, 4029, 4031, 4033, 4034, 4049, 4180, 4181). To the south, a potential rectilinear enclosure was identified by the geophysics (evaluated in Trenches 4036, 4037 and 4038), as well as a high number of north-east-to-south-west linear features. All of the trenches had archaeological features and almost all of the geophysical anomalies corresponded to features. Densities of archaeology were higher than expected. All trenches in this field were archaeologically positive. Briquetage was collected from features in Trenches 4031, 4032, 4033, 4039 and 4182, indicting salt-making activity.

6.6.387 The concentration of archaeological features can be characterised as a probable settlement area, with similarities to the one seen in Field D-5-01 to the east. A Roman date, spanning the 1st to 4th centuries AD can be confidently ascribed based on a rich artefactual assemblage. Possible cess deposits, frequent animal bone and the rich pottery assemblage all indicated settlement activity in this area, with the domestic character further highlighted by the presence of a baby feeding vessel in ditch [418230], Trench 4182. Similar to the high-density complex in Field D-5-01, briquetage was often recovered from this area, indicating salt-making activity. A particular concentration was found in Trench 4032, where the briquetage assemblage also included a pedestal.

6.6.388 The settlement appears to have been built along the edge of the roddon, potentially utilising an area of dry ground and exploitation the wetland beyond. Similarly, to the probable settlement area in Field D-5-01, it also appeared to be spatially limited as projected by the geophysical survey. Provisionally the results appear to indicate a series of closely spaced complexes, with subdivided enclosures, internal features and possible ring gullies. The presence of enclosures and internal features was confirmed in Trenches 4031, 4032, 4033, 4034, 4036, 4180, 4181 and 4182. Enclosure ditches were often found to be substantial, probably reflecting a need for drainage. Trenches excavated at the edges of the settlement area (Trenches 4180, 4181 & 4036) found that the associated archaeological remains continued slightly further than suggested by the aerial and geophysical survey.

6.6.389 A small enclosure complex was investigated in Trench 4032, to the south of a large probable settlement area. Within the enclosure area in Trench 4032, features included pits, postholes and ditches. The fills in internal ditch [403213] (width 0.8m, depth 0.28m) were highly indicative of domestic waste and included greenish deposits suggestive of cess, animal bone, burnt animal bone, shell and fired clay as well as briquetage. Further features were present

outside the enclosed area, including a flat based rectangular feature [403228] (length 2.7m, width 0.8m, depth 0.26m).

6.6.390 A possible droveway/trackway continuing from Field D-5-01 was investigated in Trench 4182 with original cuts artefactually dated to the 3rd century AD and recuts dated to the late 3rd to 4th century AD. This droveway/trackway appeared to link the two settlement areas. A potential second trackway/droveway was excavated in Trench 4041.

6.6.391 Further features found in Trenches 4039 and 4040, included ditches, a shallow sub-circular feature [403916] (length 2.4m, width >1.63m, depth 0.22m) and a possible ring ditch [403912] (width 1.03m, depth 0.3m), indicating another area of activity. As briquetage was obtained from this area, this activity can be theorised to include salt-making.

6.6.392 Outside the high-density area, the aerial survey identified a possible enclosure and sub enclosure. This was investigated in Trenches 4036–4038. This enclosure can be tentatively dated to the late medieval period, based on pottery recovered from ditch [403706] in Trench 4037. It was found to consist of substantial ditches with recuts frequently present. The northern extent of the sub enclosure was represented by ditch [403611] (width 2.5m, depth 0.76m) and recut [403614] (width 2.05m, depth 0.38m). The western extent of the enclosure was represented by ditch [403703] (width 1.32m, depth 0.74m) and recut [403706] (width 1.1m, depth 0.54m). Fills were generally formed of greyish sand silts. The character of this area is likely to have been agricultural and the rich evidence for domestic activity seen to the north was not present. Further ditches possibly forming part of an associated coaxial system were found in Trenches 4039 and 4040.

6.6.393 Across the field, both the geophysical and aerial surveys identified a high quantity of north-east-to-south-west aligned linear features, present in the majority of trenches, which were evidently of a separate phase to the enclosures and high-density area, based on spatial relationships. Occasionally artefactual evidence for a post-medieval date was present and a later date can also be inferred from the similar alignment of the features to the 19th century and modern field systems (OS 1887d; Figure 101) and the occasional presence of similarly aligned field drains. The extent of these features in the southern part of the field appears to correlate with a mapped field boundary (Figure 06b). The linear features were investigated in all trenches except Trenches 4039 and 4040 and were almost always found to correspond to deep ditches, which varied in profile, from flat-based, to broadly concave. Ditch [403117] (width 1.8m, depth 0.68m) contained a fill sequence with blackish silty sands towards the base and greyer silty sands towards the top. A total of five fragments of animal bone from unidentified species were recovered. A similar fill sequence was seen in ditches [403327] (width 2.3m, depth 1m) and [403502] (width 2.3m, depth 1m).

6.6.394 The roddon was composed of yellowish clay silt, clay sand, silty sand, and silt. In Trench 4041 part of the roddon was eroded and in Trench 4037 a clay deposit (403701) (depth 0.26m) was found in the roddon. Marine alluvium, which was only present in Trench 4180, comprised dark grey silty clay. Subsoil was occasionally present (Trenches 4038 and 4040), where it varied in depth between 0.11m–0.28. The overlying topsoil was a grey-brown silty clay, measuring approximately 0.3m–0.4m in depth. It occasionally contained sherds of post-medieval pottery, shards of 19th/20th century glass, clay pipe, briquetage and animal bone.

Trench 4031 (Figure 153; Plates 662–665)

6.6.395 Trench 4031 was located in the archaeologically dense are in the northern part of the roddon and was targeted on a small dense complex of geophysical anomalies.

6.6.396 In the northern part of the trench a boundary formed by a broadly east-to-west aligned ditch and four recuts was recorded. Ditch [403103] (width 1.62m, depth 0.52m) was concave in profile with an ashy mottled fill (403104), followed by a yellow-brown sandy silt (403105). A small assemblage of Roman pottery of possible 3rd century AD date was recovered, including samian and Nene valley ware. A single fragment of briquetage (74g) was recovered. Ditch [403106] (width 2.68m, depth 1m) was steeply sided and concave in profile. It contained a fill of grey-brown sandy silt (403107) and was recut by ditch [403108] (width 2.22m, depth 0.66m), which contained a black-brown sandy silt (403109), followed by orange-brown sandy silt (403110). A single disarticulated human bone was recovered from the ditch. This was identified as the right tibia of an adult/young adult with an active lifestyle. These ditches were all recut by ditch [403111] (width 4.22m, depth 0.64m), which had a steeply sided concave profile and two fills formed via slow silting (403112) and (403113). The final recut [403114] (width 2.68m, depth >0.64m) was flat based with a black-brown sandy silt (403115), followed by grey-brown silty sandy clay (403116). A stone hone of probable Roman date was recovered. It is uncertain whether these boundaries were associated with the complex.

6.6.397 A curvilinear feature [403149] (width 0.96m, depth 0.46m) was present in the central part of the trench. It had a concave profile and two brown-grey sandy silt fills (403150) and (403151). A small quantity of Roman pottery dated to the mid-2nd to 3rd century AD was recovered. It was cut by pit [403152] (length >2.35m, width >0.8m, depth 0.3m), which was of uncertain function and contained silty clay fills. A small group of pottery sherds, including a colour-coated vessel, was recovered and dated to the mid-2nd to mid-3rd century AD and a single fragment of unidentifiable animal bone was also recovered.

6.6.398 To the south, ditches [403131] (width 2.22m, depth 0.76m) and [403134] (width >0.68mn, depth >0.14m), possibly formed the same flat based ditch, cut by ditch [403146]. They were east-to-west aligned with a flat base and based on the geophysical survey may have formed part of an enclosure ditch. They contained a mottled clay fill (403132), followed by a patchy and mottled sandy silt (403133). A redeposited natural [403145] was present in [403134]. The ditch recut [403146] (width 3.24m, depth 1.42m), was a narrow V-shaped ditch with successive fills formed via waste deposition and water movement. The sequence comprised a mottled grey-black fill with a timber (403136), a mottled grey-brown silt with ash (403137), a mottled yellow-grey sandy silt (403138), a burnt fill with lenses of paler material (403139), a brown-yellow sandy silt (403140), a grey silt with lenses (403141), a grey silt with c.5% ash (403142), a mottled silt (403143) and a dark grey clay silt (403144). Animal bone, CBM, pottery, timber, briquetage and three stone hones of probable Roman date were retrieved from the ditch fills. The pottery assemblage totalled 87 sherds (1.762kg). It spanned the 1st/2nd century to the possible 3rd century AD and included imported fine wares. The briquetage assemblage totalled 15 fragments (58g). These derived from containers and supports. The animal bone assemblage totalled 70 fragments of bone from horse, cow, sheep/goat, dog, fox, pig, large mammal, medium mammal, small mammal, foetal animal remains and unidentified animal. Environmental sampling (<40027> & <40030) of ditch [403146] found a rich charred plant assemblage with cereal caryopses of wheat, germinated wheat, emmer/spelt wheat, germinated emmer/spelt wheat, spelt wheat with attached spikelet forks, wheat/barley, hulled barley, oat, indeterminate cereal and coleoptile, the charred chaff assemblage included wheat, spelt, hulled barley, indeterminate rachis and indeterminate straw fragments, the charred legumes included common vetch and pea and charred weed seeds associated with arable/ruderal ground and with wet/damp environs were present. Charcoal, fly pupae and mollusc sheet were also present with the charcoal was identified as oak.

6.6.399 Ditch [403122] (width 2.26m, depth 0.68m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned with a concave profile. It contained a series of thin fills (403123), (403124), (403125), (403126), (403127), (403128), (403129) and (403130), formed via silting and waste deposition events. A sherd of colour-coated ware, dated to the mid-2nd to 4th century AD and a worked stone of uncertain function were recovered as well as a large briquetage assemblage, totalling 198 fragments (2,337g), from containers, supports and miscellaneous elements and 36 fragments of animal bone from cow, frog, small mammal, medium mammal and unidentified animal. Environmental sampling <40031> found charcoal and mollusc shell.

6.6.400 Pit [403147] (length 1.4m, width >0.76m, depth >0.2m) was located to the south of ditch [403122] and contained animal burials and a single sherd of samian ware. Within this an articulated horse burial was recorded, left in situ and re-buried. Observation in the field suggested that this may have been a pregnant horse. The recovered animal bone assemblage totalled 60 fragments of bone from horse, cow, large mammal, medium mammal and unidentified animal.

6.6.401 Ditch [403117] (width 1.8m, depth 0.62m) in the southern part of the ditch can be identified with the trend of parallel north-east-to-south-west ditches seen across the field. It had steeply sloping sides, a flat base and three fills formed via silting in waterlogged conditions. A timber {403102} was found in the base of the ditch. The ditch contained an assemblage of 18 sherds (227g) of Roman pottery of late 2nd to 3rd century AD date and two fragments of briquetage (4g). The pottery assemblage included a white ware flagon with evidence of a resin repair. Environmental sampling <40026> found charcoal and worm capsules.

Trench 4032 (Figure 154 & 160; Plates 666–670)

6.6.402 Trench 4032 was targeted on the area of high archaeological density in the northern part of the field, specifically targeting the southern part of an enclosure complex and an area of activity outside the enclosure complex. The features are highly suggestive of a settlement area and the feature fills were also suggestive of domestic waste and occasionally of salt-making activity. Heavy disturbance from burrowing was noted in the majority of features. The briquetage assemblage from this trench included a small quantity of shelly, limestone-tempered container sherds, which are characteristic of Early to Middle Iron Age salt production (Morris 2001, 352; Lane 2018, 58; see 8.3.13 below), suggesting a less visible earlier phase of activity.

6.6.403 The southern boundary of the enclosure was represented by ditch [403255] and its recuts. Ditch [403255] (width >1.44m, depth 0.8m) was flat based with steeply sloping, slightly convex sides. The fills comprised charcoal and bone rich clay silts (403256) and (403257), from which two pottery sherds of uncertain early medieval/high medieval date and 56 fragments of animal bone from sheep/goat, small mammal and unidentified animal were recovered. These sometimes showed signs of burning. Environmental sampling <40025> found charcoal and insect remains. Sampling also found a few flakes (0.3g) of hammer scale. A sample of the sheep/goat bone was submitted for radiocarbon dating, however, the collogen content was insufficient for full analysis. Radiocarbon dating returned a date of 2010 +/- 30 BP (52 cal BC–81 cal AD (91.7%); 98–110 cal AD (2.1%); 89–78 cal BC (1.6%)), suggesting a date in the beginning of the Roman period. The enclosure ditch was recut by ditch [403261] (width >0.9m, depth >0.56m) and finally recut by ditch [403266] (width 2.18m, depth 0.44m). The fills of these later ditches were formed via slow silting and waste deposition. A fragment of CBM and a piece (13g) of hearth/furnace line slag were retrieved from ditch [403261] and 15 fragments of briquetage (88g), from miscellaneous elements, a piece (7g) of smithing slag, 19 fragments of animal bone from cow, sheep/goat, large mammal, medium mammal and unidentified

animal, with occasional signs of burning, heat-affected stone and stone of uncertain function were retrieved from [403266]. These enclosure ditches indicate that the enclosure was long lived and maintained and had a clear domestic character.

6.6.404 A total of three two ditches and a gully were present within the enclosure area: [403213], [403229/403258] and [403231].

6.6.405 Ditch [403213] (width 0.8m, depth 0.28m) was broadly east-to-west aligned with a steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a series of fills formed through waste deposition and varying water conditions, including a grey-white silt and dark grey mottled fills. Occasional green hued fills suggested deposition of human waste. The finds assemblage included briquetage, 38 fragments of animal bone from sheep/goat, medium mall and unidentified animal with burning occasionally noted, shell and three sherds of pottery of broadly Roman date. The briquetage assemblage totalled 35 fragments (612g) and generally derived from structural elements with container and miscellaneous also present. Environmental sampling <40023> found charred cereal caryopses of wheat and indeterminate cereal, charred indeterminate straws fragments, charred weed seeds of arable/ruderal ground and of wet/damp environs, charcoal, insect remains and burrowing molluscs.

6.6.406 Gully [403229/403258] (width 0.62m, depth 0.31m) was north-to-south aligned with a steeply sided concave profile. It contained a yellow-orange silty clay (403230), followed by a green grey clay silt (403232), possibly suggestive of cess deposition. A small animal bone assemblage totalling 39 fragments from cow and unidentified animal with occasional burning and three natural flints with signs of burning were retrieved as well as a single sherd of pottery of prehistoric/Early Anglo-Saxon date and 10 fragments of briquetage (482g), derived from containers, supports and miscellaneous elements. Environmental sampling (<40028> & <40029>) found charcoal and mollusc shell. It was cut by the enclosure ditch recut [403261], but its relationship with the original enclosure is uncertain. It was also cut by ditch [403231] (width 0.4m, depth 0.44m), which was flat based and contained a fill formed from silted bands. A single fragment of unidentifiable animal bone, a sherd of pottery of prehistoric/Early Anglo-Saxon date and a single fragment of briquetage (14g) were recovered. This ditch was recut again by ditch [403269] (width 1.6m, depth 0.46m) and followed by a black-brown deposit. A small animal bone assemblage totalling 14 fragments from cow, large mammal, medium mammal and unidentified animal and 43 fragments of briquetage (48g) were retrieved. These derived from containers and miscellaneous elements.

6.6.407 The features to the south of the larger enclosure complex appear to have formed a smaller coaxial complex. The principal features comprised a north-to-south aligned ditch [403235] and recuts and three sets of east-to-west aligned ditches [403210], [403207] and [403225] and recuts.

6.6.408 Ditch [403235] (width >0.7m, depth 0.3m) was the earliest of the north-to-south aligned ditches in this area. It had a concave profile and a fill of grey-blue sandy silt (403236), followed by dark grey sandy silt (403237), a pink-brown sandy silt (403238) and finally by a brown-grey sandy silt (403239) and contained five fragments of animal bone derived from cow, large mammal and unidentified animal. It was recut by ditch [403240]. Ditch recut [403240] (width 0.6m, depth 0.22m) was flat based with three fills formed via slow silting (403241) and (403242), followed by waste deposition with charcoal and ash (4032432) and contained a single fragment of cow bone. It was cut by pit/terminus [403227] and rectangular tank-like pit [403228/403250].

6.6.409 Ditch [403210] (width 1.06m, depth 0.28) was east-to-west aligned and terminated within the trench. Its profile was inconsistent and its fills comprised blue/green-grey silty clay (403212), followed by a black-grey sandy silt clay (403211). High quantities of charcoal and briquetage indicated waste deposition, possibly associated with saltern activity. The briquetage assemblage totalled 1,158 fragments (3,627g), derived from containers (930 fragments; 2,841g), miscellaneous (169 fragments; 218g), supports (49 fragments; 591g) and a structural element (5g). Six fragments of animal bone from cow, large mammal, small mammal and unidentified animal were also recovered. Environmental sampling (<40021> & <40022>) found charcoal, worm capsules, mollusc shell and burrowing molluscs.

6.6.410 Ditch [403204] (width 1.44m, depth 0.7m) was not visible in plan due to the re-cutting of the feature by ditch [403207]. It had a squarish profile with was steeply sided with a flat base and a thin fill of blue-grey silty clay (403205), followed by a mottled orange and grey silty clay (403206). These fills contained two fragments of briquetage (12g) from support elements and a fragment of sheep/goat bone. The ditch recut [403207] (width 1.8m, depth 0.48m) had a more concave profile and a similar infill sequence. CBM and a single fragment of briquetage (28g) were recovered.

6.6.411 Ditch [403218] (width 1.22m, depth >0.48m) was also not visible in plan due to truncation. In section it had a squarish profile similar to ditch [403204], with an initial fill of blue-grey silty clay (403219), followed by a dark brown-grey silty clay (403220). Similarly, again, it was recut by a ditch [403225] (2.2m, depth 0.72m) with a concave profile. This final ditch contained a single fill of dark grey-brown silty clay (403226). A fragment of Roman tile was recovered from this final ditch.

6.6.412 Between the two complexes, and post-dating the north-to-south aligned trenches and therefore the probable co-axial system, there was a series of intercutting pits. These appear to have been of early Roman date.

6.6.413 Pit/terminus [403227] (length >0.52m, width >0.52m, depth 0.4m) had a deep concave profile and a series of five fills, formed via waste deposition and silting (403244), (403245), (403246), (403247) and (403248). Briquetage, charcoal and ash rich fills were present. The briquetage assemblage totalled 19 fragments (650g) and derived from structural, support and miscellaneous elements with a single fragment from a container. The pit was cut by a rectangular tank-like feature [403228/403250].

6.6.414 Pit [403221] (length >2m, width 0.92m, depth 0.28m) was located towards the central area. It was an elongated oval in plan with a flat base and fills possibly formed via natural processes (403222), (403223), (403224) and (403252). A fragment of unidentified anima bone, a ABG for a crane and five sherds of Roman pottery of 1st century AD date were retrieved. The feature was cut by a rectangular tank-like pit [403228/403250].

6.6.415 Rectangular tank-like pit [403228/403250] (length >1.63, width >0.38m, depth 0.28m) was flat based with vertical sides and contained a single fill of grey-black sandy silt (403249/403251) with pottery, six fragments of animal bone from cow and unidentified animal and fired clay/briquetage fragments. Although tank-like the exact function of the pit is currently uncertain. The pottery was dated to the 1st to 2nd century AD and a single fragment of briquetage (2g) were recovered.

6.6.416 The remaining features to the south of the large enclosure complex comprised a small circular posthole [403253] (diameter 0.3m, depth 0.16m) a north-west-to-south-east aligned ditch [403202] (width 0.67m, depth 0.2m). This ditch was concave in profile with a waste fill

(403203) containing two fragments of animal bone from large mammal and unidentified animal, occasional briquetage and a fragment of fired clay.

Trench 4033 (Figures 155, 160 & 163; Plates 671-673)

6.6.417 Trench 4033 was targeted on an enclosure complex in the dense northern area of the roddon. The features present can be characterised as Roman settlement features, followed by a post-medieval field system.

6.6.418 The external enclosure boundary was represented by ditch [403320] (width 1.7m, depth 0.7m), which was concave in profile with two fills: a blue-grey clay (403321), followed by a reddish-brown silty clay (403322). Small quantities of briquetage were present.

6.6.419 Towards the centre of the trench, internal sub-division was represented by ditches [403325] and [403305/403323] and their recuts. Ditch [403305/4033223] (width >1.7m, depth 0.55m) was flat based with a blue-grey clay fill (403306), followed by a grey-brown sandy silt (403307) and a dark grey-brown clay (403309). An animal bone assemblage of 34 fragments from cow and unidentified animal was retrieved from the ditch. The ditch [403305/403323] was recut by ditch [403308] (width >1.3m, depth 0.4m). The recut contained a yellow-grey sandy silt (403310), possibly formed via backfill and a redeposited natural (403311). A small quantity of briquetage was present, totalling 56 fragments (173g), derived from containers, supports and miscellaneous elements. Ditch [403325] (width 0.54m, depth 0.4m) cut ditch [403305/4033223]. It was narrow with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill of silty sand with lenses (403326). This ditch and recut appears to have represented a small squarish/open sub enclosure with internal features, possibly representing a domestic area. It was cut by a curvilinear ditch [403303] (width 0.6m, depth 0.3m) and a pit [403312].

6.6.420 The curvilinear ditch [403303] was flat based and contained a black-brown silty clay (403304) with 60 fragments of briquetage (355g), derived from containers, supports and miscellaneous and three fragments of animal bone from cow and unidentified animal. It is considered to represent a potential ring gully and therefore a potential roundhouse. The pit [403312] (width 0.6m, depth 0.3m) was not fully visible within the trench and contained a deposit of burnt red-brown clay (403313).

6.6.421 Ditches [403327] and [403332] were north-east-to-south-west aligned and formed part of a field system across the field. Ditch [403327] (width 3.28m, depth 0.99m) had steeply sloping sides and a flat wide base. It contained a sandy silt (403328) and was recut by ditch [403329] (width 1.3m, depth 0.84m). This ditch contained blue-grey clay (403330), followed by reddish-brown silty clay with occasional briquetage (403331). The briquetage assemblage totalled 19 fragments (143g) and generally derived from miscellaneous elements with container fragments occasionally present. Ditch [403332] (width 3.3m, depth >1.38m) had sloping uneven sides and a series of fills formed via a long period of silting followed by backfill. CBM and a clay pipe stem of late 17th/late 18th century AD date were retrieved confirming a post-medieval date as well as 29 fragments (465g) of briquetage, derived from containers, supports and miscellaneous and two fragments of cow bone.

6.6.422 The final ditch [403315] (width 1.1m, depth 0.22m) followed a similar alignment to ditches [403327] and [403332]. It is uncertain which phase of features it was part of. It was flat based and contained a grey-brown silty clay (403316), followed by a reddish-brown silty clay with c.5% briquetage. It was cut by a possible pit [403318] (width 0.4m, length 0.5m, depth 0.15m), which contained nine fragments of animal bone from cow, large mammal and unidentified animal.

Trench 4034 (Figure 156; Plates 674 & 675)

6.6.423 Trench 4034 was located within the archaeologically dense area in the northern part of the roddon and was targeted on an area of more fragmentary geophysical anomalies. A series of ditches were present, dated to the Roman and post-medieval periods.

6.6.424 The northern ditch [403406] (width 1.1m, depth 0.64m) was east-to-west aligned with a flat base and wide profile. It contained three fills: a pale grey silty clay (403407), followed by a thin black silty clay (403408) and finally another pale grey silty clay (403409). No dating evidence was present.

6.6.425 Ditch [403410] (width 2.6m, depth >0.72m) was north-east-to-south-west aligned following the alignment of historic field boundaries (OS 1887d; Figure 101) and the field system seen across the field. It contained a modern field drain possibly installed during the ditch backfill.

6.6.426 Ditch [403404] (width 0.68m, depth 0.38m) was broadly east-to-west aligned. It was V-shaped in profile with a grey-brown silty clay fill (403405). A single fragment of unidentifiable animal bone, pottery , CBM six fragments of briquetage (18g) from miscellaneous elements and a container were retrieved. The pottery was dated to the 1st century AD.

6.6.427 Gully [403402] (width 0.67m, depth 0.16m) was north-east-to-south-west aligned with a shallow concave profile. It contained a fill of orange-grey silty clay (403403) with three small fragments of briquetage (5g) and fired clay fragments identified as possible briquetage.

6.6.428 Multiple intercutting features were present in the southern end of the trench. The earliest of these could be dated to the 17th century AD, while the latest could be dated to the late 18th/19th century AD. Frequent pottery and CBM of medieval to late medieval date, hinted at an earlier origin to these features.

6.6.429 One of the earliest ditches in this area, ditch [403412] (width 1.8m, depth 0.6m) was obscured in plan. It had a flat based profile and contained, medieval, late medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds, dated overall to the 17th century AD, fragments of post-medieval brick, possible post-medieval floor tile, possible late medieval brick, a fragment of post-medieval/modern CBM, four fragments of unidentifiable animal bone and coal with fills formed via silting followed by backfill. It was cut by parallel ditches [403417] and [403415]. Ditch [403415] (width 1.1m, depth 0.3m) was north-east-to-south-west aligned with a flat based concave profile. CBM and coal were both present in the fill. Ditch [403417/403423] (width >1.08m, depth >0.8m) ran had steeply sloping, slightly convex sides and was filled via backfilling. It contained a sherd of pottery of 15th/17th century date. It was cut by ditch/pit [403425] (width >0.8m, depth >0.3m), which was more east-to-west aligned with a shallow profile. A single fragment of briquetage (14g) and fragments of briquetage/CBM were retrieved. This ditch was cut by ditch [403420]. Ditch [403420] (width >1.5m, depth 1.2m) was north-east-to-south-west aligned, following the known field system. It was flat based and appeared to have been backfilled at the end of use. Sherds of pottery of 17th/18th century date, fragments of medieval/late medieval and possible late medieval brick and 88 small fragments of briquetage (92g) were recovered. The briquetage is likely to have been residual. It was cut by ditch [403421] (width >1.1m, depth 1.1m), which contained a timber drain {T403422}, nine fragments of possible late medieval brick, a pottery assemblage spanning the medieval period to the late 18th/19th century AD, six shards of glass from bottles of 17th/18th and 19th/20th century AD date and 34 fragments of animal bone from cow, horse, sheep/goat, dog, pig, vole, large mammal, small mammal and unidentifiable animal. Environmental sampling <40032> of ditch [403420] found a charred plant assemblage with

cereal caryopses of wheat, rounded wheat, wheat/barley, barley, hulled barley, rye, oat and indeterminate cereal, indeterminate straw fragments, weed seeds of arable/ruderal ground and of wet/damps environs and indeterminate weed seeds. Charcoal, insect remains, mollusc shell and burrowing mollusc were also present in the sample.

Trench 4035 (Figure 157; Plates 676 & 677)

6.6.430 Trench 4035 was located in the archaeologically sparse area towards the roddon centre. It was targeted on a series of north-east-to-south-west linear features and found four corresponding ditches, three of which were excavated.

6.6.431 The northernmost ditch [403506] (width 2.61m, depths 0.72m) had sloping sides and a flat base with a brown-grey silty clay fill (403507). A total of 12 fragments (45g) of briquetage were retrieved, identified as containers, supports and miscellaneous elements.

6.6.432 Ditches [403502] (width 3.74m, depth 0.96] and [403504] (width 2.1m, depth 0.78m) were similar in profile and fill.

6.6.433 These ditches can be characterised as part of a post-medieval field system.

Trench 4036 (Figure 153; Plates 678 & 679)

6.6.434 Trench 4036 was located close to the southern edge of the area of archaeological density and targeted on a series of linear features. Multiple ditches were recorded in the trench, with one ditch [403609] not excavated due to the presence of a field drain truncating the feature. 4th century pottery and a fragment of unidentifiable animal bone was retrieved from the feature surface.

6.6.435 In the northern part of the trench, ditch terminus [403621] (width 0.28m, depth 0.2m) may have formed a southern boundary to the enclosure to the direct north of the trench. However, this could not be confirmed due to the fragmentary nature of the geophysical anomalies. It was square ended with a flat based profile and a dark grey-brown silty fill (403622). Broadly Roman pottery and two animal bone fragments, one identified as cow, were retrieved.

6.6.436 In the southern part of the trench, ditch [403611] (width 2.5m, depth 0.76m) appears to correspond to part of a squarish enclosure. It was flat based with silty clay fills, five fragments of briquetage (254g), a fragment of large mammal bone and was recut by ditch [403614] (width 2.05m, depth 0.38m), which also appeared to have filled via silting and contained a single fragment of unidentifiable animal bone. No dating evidence was recorded; however, this enclosure system can be tentatively dated to the late medieval period via pottery from ditch [403706] in Trench 4037. Environmental sampling <40007> of [403611] found charcoal and insect remains and sampling <40008> of the recut [403614] found charcoal and mollusc shell.

6.6.437 Ditch [403605] may have formed part of the same enclosure system as ditch [403611], although this was more uncertain. It had a wide concave profile and contained a dark grey-blue clay silt (403606), 20 sherds of Roman pottery of late 2nd to 3rd century AD date, a single fragment of briquetage (89g), derived from aa support and 16 fragments of animal bone from cow, deer and unidentified. It was recut by ditch [403607] (width 2.24m, depth 0.18m), which contained a grey-white clay silt (403608), a single sherd of pottery from a colour-coated flagon, dated to the late 2nd to 3rd century AD and six fragments of animal bone from cow and unidentified animal. A gully [403603] (width 0.94m, depth 0.46m) cut by ditch [403605] was also present in this area. It was concave in profile and contained Nene Valley ware of mid-

2nd to 3rd century AD date as well as two pieces (10g) of cinder and a fragment of large mammal bone. Environmental sampling <40001> of the original ditch [403605] found charred wheat and emmer/spelt wheat cereal caryopses, charred wheat spikelet fork, charred indeterminate straw fragments, charred large legume and common vetch, charred weed seeds of arable/ruderal ground and of wet/damp environs as well as charcoal and burrowing molluscs. Environmental sampling <40002> of the ditch recut [403607] found charred common vetch, charcoal, worm capsules, mollusc shell and burrowing molluscs.

6.6.438 Ditches [403624] and [403617] appeared to form part of the north-east-to-south-west aligned field system, seen throughout the field. Ditch [403617] (width 1.64m, depth 0.4m) was flat based with a mottled, naturally silted fill. Ditch [403624] (width 3.9m, depth >1.04m) had steeply sloping to convex sides. It was recut by ditch [403628] (width 2.02m, depth 0.62m), which was shallower and more concave in profile. This ditch also contained fill formed by natural silting. A small group of Nene Valley ware pottery sherds of mid-2nd century AD was retrieved, however, based on the feature's alignment with other ditches a post-medieval date can be inferred. A single unidentifiable animal bone was also present.

6.6.439 A pit [403619] (length >0.36m, width 0.54m, depth 0.16m) was found cutting ditch [403617]. This pit was round with a concave profile and a fill of grey silty clay with Roman pottery of mid-2nd to 3rd century AD date and a piece (146g) of bog ore.

Trench 4037 (Figures 153 & 163; Plates 680 & 681)

6.6.440 Trench was located in the archaeological sparser area on the roddon and targeted a series of linear features.

6.6.441 In the southern end of the field, ditch [403703] (width 1.32m, depth 0.74m) was north-to-south aligned and may have formed part of a rectilinear enclosure. It was concave in profile with sandy silt fills (403704) and (403705) and was recut by ditch [403706] (1.1m, depth 0.54m). This recut had a similar profile and fill formation, with three sherds of late medieval pottery of possible 15th century AD date and a single fragment of cow bone retrieved. Ditch [403712] (width 1.12m, depth 0.42m) was east-to-west aligned, possibly associated with the possible rectilinear enclosure, although this was less clear. It was flat based with a mottled silty clay fill (403713). These ditches, indicate that the rectilinear enclosures outside the archaeologically dense area, were of probable non domestic character, possibly representing fields or paddocks and were of probable medieval origin.

6.6.442 The north-east-to-south-west aligned field system was represented by two ditches [403717] (width 2.44m, depth 1.02m) and [403709] (width 1.68m, depth 0.62m). The northern ditch [403717] was more substantial with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was also recut by ditch [403714] (width 0.92m, depth 0.3m). The southern ditch [403709] was shallower with a concave profile. The ditch fills generally comprised silty sands. A post-medieval date can be inferred.

Trench 4038 (Figure 158; Plates 682 & 683)

6.6.443 Trench 4038 was located to the south-east of Trench 4037, within the archaeologically sparser area. A single ditch [403803] was investigated within this trench.

6.6.444 Ditch [403803] (width 2.08m, depth 0.62m) was east-to-west aligned and appear to form part of the same rectilinear enclosure, represented by ditch [403703] in Trench 4037. It was

concave in profile with a black-grey silty clay fill (403803). A medieval/post-medieval date can be inferred based on the dating evidence from ditch [403706] in Trench 4037

Trench 4039 (Figure 159; Plates 684 & 685)

6.6.445 Trench 4039 was located in the south-western corner of the field on the roddon and was targeted on a single north-east-to-south-west aligned linear feature. A pit/tree throw and four ditches were recorded.

6.6.446 Pit/tree throw [403916] (length 2.4m, width >1.63m, depth 0.22m) was round and shallow. It contained a brown-grey silty clay (403917).

6.6.447 Possible ring ditch [403912] (width 1.03m, depth 0.3m) was located in the western part of the trench. It was not possible to estimate a projected continuation based on the evidence from the trench. The possible ring ditch had a concave base and a fill of orange-grey silty clay (403913). It was cut by two ditches [403914] and [403905].

6.6.448 Ditch [403905] (width 2.36m, depth 0.58m) was north-west-to-south-east aligned with a flat base and silty clay fills. It was recut by ditch [403911] (width 1.52m, depth 0.36m), which was similar in profile with a single fill of black-brown silt (403910). Environmental sampling <40010> found charcoal and burrowing molluscs.

6.6.449 Ditch [403914] (width 1.23m, depth 0.5m) correlated with the targeted feature and had a flat based profile with a grey-brown silty clay full (403915). Another similarly aligned ditch [403903] (width 1.46m, depth 0.34m) was present at the eastern end of the trench. It had a similar profile and fill. These ditches appear to have been associated with a late medieval coaxial field system seen in the field.

Trench 4040 (Figure 159; Plates 686 & 687)

6.6.450 Trench 4040 was located in the sparse area in the southern part of the roddon and was targeted on linear features suggestive of field systems. A total of four ditches were present.

6.6.451 The northern ditch [404009] (width 2.1m, depth 0.6m) was north-east-to-south-west aligned with a flat based profile and a black clay silt fill (404010) and four fragments of unidentifiable animal bone. The ditches alignment matched nearby mapped field boundaries (OS 1887d; Figure 101) and the post-medieval field system seen elsewhere within the field. Environmental sampling <40009> found mollusc shell.

6.6.452 An east-to-west aligned ditch [404007] (width 2.05m, depth 0.32m) was recorded towards the centre of the trench. It was wide and flat based with a black-brown silty clay fill (404008). Fragments of post-medieval field drain were recovered.

6.6.453 A north-to-south aligned ditch [404005] (width 3.04m, depth 0.24m) was present to the south-east. This ditch had a wide concave profile and a blue-grey silty clay fill (404006).

6.6.454 Ditches [404007] and [404005] both appeared to form part of a field system on an east-to-west and north-to-south co-axial system, possibly associated with the rectilinear enclosures to the north and the ditches seen in Trench 4039.

6.6.455 The final ditch/gully [404003] (width 0.64m, depth 0.2m) was east-to-west aligned, but more uncertain in overall extent due to a non-correspondence with features in the wider aerial survey. It was concave in profile with a black brown silty clay fill (404004).

Trench 4041 (Figure 158; Plates 688 & 689)

6.6.456 Trench 4041 was located in the sparse area at the south of the roddon and was targeted on two sets of linear features. Trench investigation found two ditches on a north-west-to-south-east alignment and two ditches on a north-east-to-south-west alignment.

6.6.457 The two north-west-to-south-east aligned ditches [404103] (width 1.76m, depth 0.58m) and [404107] (width 1.44m, depth 0.56m) were both flat based and can be inferred to have been non-contemporary with the north-east-to-south-west aligned field system. Identification as part of a boundary or as a potential droveway/trackway are both possible. The northern ditch [404103] was recut by ditch [404112] (width 1.54m, depth 0.58m) and a broad fill sequence of grey-brown silty clays followed by darker silty clays was present across the ditches.

6.6.458 The north-east-to-south-west aligned ditches can be characterised as part the post-medieval field system seen across the field. Only one of these was excavated within the trench. Ditch [404105] (width 4.48m, depth 0.48m) was wide and concave in profile with a dark brown-grey silty clay fill (404106). It was recut by ditch [404109] (width 2.9m, depth 0.44m), which contained a brown-grey silty clay (404110).

Trench 4180 (Figure 160; Plates 690-692)

6.6.459 Trench 4180 was targeted on the northern extent of the large rectilinear enclosure complex targeted by Trench 4032. It was located at the northern extent of the area of archaeological density and across the northern boundary of the roddon and marine alluvium area. The remains within the trench were relatively sparse, corresponding to a potential open area within the enclosure and lack of activity outside.

6.6.460 The enclosure was represented by ditch [418009] (width 3.38m, depth 0.5m), which had an uneven base and steeply sloping sides. The fill sequence comprised clay silts suggestive of silting and possibly deposition of human waste (418010), (418011) and (418012), followed by a final black-grey silty clay (418013). Finds of pottery, briquetage, three fragments of large mammal bone, worked animal bone, and a piece of hearth bottom (279g), formed in a smithing hearth, were recovered. The worked animal bone was identified as part of a possible small blade crafted from a sheep/goat tibia. This possible blade type is generally found in Iron Age contexts, but is sometimes associated with the early Roman period. The pottery was identified as a grog-gritted sherd from a large-necked storage jar and dated to the mid-1st to early 2nd century AD. The briquetage assemblage totalled 26 fragments (872g) and derived from supports, and structural elements with single fragments representing containers and miscellaneous elements.

6.6.461 Within the enclosure, a single ditch was recorded. Ditch [418003] (width 5.32m, depth 1.06m) was broadly east-to-west aligned with a wide and flat base. It was infilled via flooding and slow silting events and recut by ditch [418016] (width 3.34m, depth 0.66m). It is unclear whether this ditch relates to the enclosure complex or to a later field system, however, the fill of the ditch recut [418016] was suggestive of a more modern backfill event. A single sherd of Roman pottery of 1st century AD date and 13 fragments of cow, medium mammal and unidentified animal bone was retrieved from the earlier ditch [418003].

6.6.462 Ditch [418014] (width 4.72m, depth 0.52m) was located outside the enclosure and on a similar alignment to both the enclosure and the post-medieval field system. It was wide and concave with a field drain installed prior to backfill. It can be considered to be of post-medieval date.

Trench 4181 (Figure 160; Plates 693 & 694)

6.6.463 Trench 4181 was targeted on an apparently blank area of marine alluvium to the direct north of the area of archaeological density. It contained a north-east-to-south-west aligned ditch [418102], which appeared to represent a continuation of a ditch associated with an enclosure complex, and a second later ditch [418112]. A geological feature [418108] was also present.

6.6.464 Ditch [418102] (width 3.56m, depth 0.98m) was wide and concave in profile with a fill of orange-grey clay (418103), followed by a blue-grey clay (418104). It was recut by ditch [418105] (width 2.4m, depth 0.45m), which contained a black-brown sandy clay (418106). An Iron Age/Roman date can be inferred based on its association with the enclosure complex.

6.6.465 The ditches were cut by a narrow meandering ditch [418107/418114] (width 1.24m, depth 0.6m) with a flat base. This ditch contained four fills formed via silting in varying water conditions followed by backfill and two fragments of unidentifiable animal bone. The date is uncertain, although a Roman/post-Roman date can be stratigraphically inferred.

Trench 4182 (Figure 160; Plate 695)

6.6.466 Trench 4182 was targeted on an area of fragmentary geophysical anomalies to at the southern extent of the area archaeological density. Multiples features were present, including part of a probable trackway/droveway, part of a probable post-medieval field system and three ditches of more uncertain function.

6.6.467 In the southern extent of the trench, two north-west-to-south-east aligned ditches [418215] (width 3.1m, depth 1.16m) and [418203] (width 2.36m, depth 0.8m) formed a probable continuation of the trackway/droveway seen across Field D-5-01. Both ditches were concave in profile with fills, formed via slow silting in wet conditions. A small group of Roman pottery of 3rd century date was retrieved from ditch [418215]. They were followed by recuts [418217] (width 2.94m, depth 0.8m) and [418206] (width 0.94m, depth 0.4m). The recuts were infilled with an initial organic fill formed in standing water, followed by slow silting events and finally a possible backfilling event. A small group of Nene Valley ware of mid-2nd to 3rd century date was retrieved from recut [418206] and a larger assemblage, including colour-coated ware was retrieved of late 3rd to 4th century AD date was retrieved from recut [418217]. A small assemblage of briquetage, totalling 7 fragments (26g) from miscellaneous elements, was retrieved from recut [418217] as well as four fragments of large mammal and unidentifiable animal bone. Ditch [418203] was also cut by a north-west-to-south-east aligned ditch [418209].

6.6.468 Ditch [418209] (width 2.03m, depth 0.92m) was concave in profile with a sequence of low energy silting events (418210), (418211), followed by a possible backfill (418212). Fragments of medieval/late medieval brick and a fragment of unidentifiable animal bone were retrieved. It was recut by a shallow flat based ditch [418213], which contained a final infill formed via natural silting (418214). Environmental sampling <40024> found charcoal, fly pupae, and mollusc shell.

6.6.469 Ditch [418221] (width 1.2m, depth 0.36m) was east-to-west aligned and located in the northern part of the trench. A long sequence of natural infilling events and ditch maintenance was recorded, including three recuts: [418230] (width 1.4m, depth 0.56m), [418235] (width 1.16m, depth 0.18m), [418223] (width 1.17m, depth 0.3m), [418225] (width 1.27m, depth 0.33m), [418227] (width 1.37m, depth 0.32m) and [418233] (width 0.5m, depth 0.24m). A single sherd of late 3rd to 4th century AD dated colour-coated beaker was retrieved from ditch

[418223], four sherds of mid-2nd to 3rd century AD pottery were retrieved from ditch [418225]. A small group of late 3rd to 4th century pottery sherds were retrieved from ditch [418227] with Roman tile, possible medieval/late medieval brick fragments, three fragments of cow, medium mammal and unidentifiable animal bone and a tiny, possibly intrusive modern sherd also present. Sherds from a tettina/baby feeder vessel as well as greyware were present in ditch [418230] with a mid-2nd to 3rd century date as well as five fragments of animal bone identified as badger, cow and unidentified. The pottery from ditch [418233] was dated to the 3rd century AD onwards. This ditch also contained a single fragment of briquetage (6g) from a container. Ditch [418235] contained a fragment of large mammal bone.

6.6.470 Ditch [418242] (width 1.56m, depth 0.68m) was a north-to-south aligned ditch with a concave profile. It contained an initial silt fill (418243), followed by sandy silts (4158244) and (418245). A large pottery assemblage of 65 sherds (648g) was retrieved spanning the 3rd and 4th centuries AD as well as a small briquetage assemblage totalling nine fragments (23g), derived from containers and miscellaneous elements and 19 fragments of animal bone from cow, pig, medium mammal and unidentified animal.

6.6.471 Ditch [418239] (width 2.8m, depth 1.2m) formed part of the north-east-to-south-west aligned post-medieval field system seen across the field. It was infilled by silty clays with three fragments of animal bone from medium large and unidentified animal and was recut by ditch [418237] (width 2.8m, depth 1m) which contained a final fill of brown-black silty clay (418238). A pottery assemblage of 3rd century AD and onwards date and four small fragments of briquetage (5g) was retrieved from ditch [418239] and two fragments of briquetage (3g) from containers and miscellaneous elements was retrieved from ditch [418237].

7 THE GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST PITTING

By [redacted]

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 A scheme of geoarchaeological test pits were undertaken across the four land parcels that comprise the site. The test pits were located in areas between roddons which were identified from processed LiDAR imagery and geophysical surveys. These locations were chosen as it was anticipated that fewer significant archaeological features would be located. Prior to works, it was assumed that the BGS mapped Tidal Flat Deposits outside of the areas of roddons would be of sufficient depth to preserve any deposits of archaeological significance in-situ given the limited impact of the PV modules. As such, the test pits were intended to provide information relating to the depositional sequence of the fen, and to determine if inter-roddon organic or gravel deposits were present, which may suggest locales for human activity.

7.2 Methodology

7.2.1 Geoarchaeological test pits were excavated to the maximum safe extent of the machine bucket and/or soils stability, which was approximately between 3.50 to 4.00m BGL (Below Ground Level). The pits were recorded by a geoarchaeologist using the Troels-Smith (1955) system of sediment classification. The scheme breaks down a sediment sample into four main components and allows the inclusion of extra components that are also present, but that are not dominant. Key physical properties of the sediment layers are darkness (Da), stratification (St), elasticity (El), dryness of the sediment (Sicc) and the sharpness of the upper sediment boundary (UB). Water strikes were also recorded.

7.2.2 A summary of the sedimentary and physical properties classified by Troels-Smith (1955) and a stratigraphic breakdown of the deposits was recorded on proforma log sheets. These are tabulated in Appendix 2.

7.2.3 Bulk samples were retained from deposits with the potential to provide palaeoenvironmental data or material for radiocarbon dating. Sampling was based on the judgement of the attending geoarchaeologist, aiming to characterise the broad sequence of deposits.

7.2.4 Topsoil and subsoil were kept separate during removal and stored separately at either side of the test pit to enable sequential backfilling of the excavations. Topsoil and subsoil bunds were placed at a safe distance (minimum 1m) from the trench edge. Spoil was checked for artefacts both visually and with a metal detector when safe to do so.

7.2.5 During works, several of the initially proposed test pits were descoped. These included one test pit (TP148) in Area A, this was due to an amendment made following the likelihood of encountering human remains from a downed WWII plane. In Area B, TP201 was descoped. Within Area D 24 test pits were descoped due to the risk of the presence of unexploded ordnance in the northern extent of the land parcel. Also, within Area D, a number of test pits were limited in depth due to soft and unstable roddon deposits which caused a high level of ground instability during machine excavation. As a result, some test pits within this area did not reach the intended depths of 3.50 to 4.00m BGL.

7.3 Results

7.3.1 Geoarchaeological test pits were excavated across all four land parcels and yielded lithologies which were consistent with what was anticipated based on nearby BGS boreholes. The overall lithology across the site was composed of lowermost deposits of soft blue clay and orange/brown clay with occasional instances of intercalated peat deposits, overlain in some instance by sand and silts, and in other, directly underlying the sandy, silty clay agricultural topsoil which was present across the site.

Land Parcel A

7.3.2 The lithology for land parcel A consists of lower deposits of dark blue/blue clay and orange/brown clay extending to depths of around 2.20 to 4.40m BGL within most areas of the land parcel, followed by dark brown silty sandy topsoil. Within a number of test pits, deposits of intercalated peat were recorded at depths of around 1.90 to 3.70m BGL. These peat deposits were very humified with frequent reed inclusions and fragments of waterlogged wood identified as oak (*Quercus* sp.). Overlying the clay deposits in some instances (such as TP105, 109, 114, 115, 133, 135, 138, 147, 146, 159) mottled yellow brown sandy silt and laminated light grey and red/brown sandy clayey silt was recorded at depths of around 0.40m – 0.80m BGL, directly underlying the agricultural topsoil (see plate 701).

7.3.3 Although the stratigraphic sequence was largely consistent (Figures 165, 166), the depth at which the peat horizon was encountered varied from 2.18m BGL (-1.78m OD) in the south to 3.45m (-2.77m OD) in the centre and 2.68m (-2.28m OD) at the north. The west-east transect similarly displays an undulating profile rising to 2.12m (-1.50m OD) at the east. These likely reflect variations in underlying topography or local conditions now masked by tidal flat deposits.

Land Parcels B and C

7.3.4 The lithology for land parcel B and C were much the same as A, with more regular instances of silt and sand deposits (Figure 167). Peat deposits within this area were identified at depths of c. 2.70 to 4.20m BGL (such as in TP204, 209, 216, 220, 222, 226, 229, 231, 232, 233, 235, 236, 237, 240, 243, 244, 245, 250, 251, 254, 259, 260, 261, 263, 264, 272, 273, 274, 276, 277,278, 279, 282, and 285) regularly across Area B (see Plate 705). Again, these peat deposits were humified, often intercalated within the clay deposits, including reed and oak and alder roundwood inclusions, but did not contain any archaeological materials.

7.3.5 The lowermost superficial geological deposit recorded comprised two occurrences of a pale yellow/grey coarse sand with very frequent flint gravel recorded in TP210 and TP259 in Parcel B. Within these test pits it was recorded as being at 4.08m BGL (-2.93m OD) and 3.00m BGL (-1.78m OD) respectively. This gravel was recorded as overlying weathered bedrock within TP210 at 4.15m BGL (-3.00m OD).

7.3.6 Beyond the above two interventions, the lowermost deposit within most test pits (and stratigraphically overlying the gravel) has been a blue silty clay which extends beyond the maximum depth reached in test pitting (<=4.00m).

7.3.7 No peat was recorded during the test pitting of land parcel C, the lithology was mostly composed of oxidized and blue clay directly underlying the agriculturally worked topsoil.

Land Parcel D

7.3.8 The test pitting for Area D again yielded similar lithologies (Figure 168), with deposits of orange-brown and blue clay underlying the worked topsoil with frequent instances of sand and silt deposits, and peat recorded across the area. Peat deposits were identified at depths of c. 2.15 to 4.00m BGL (e.g. in TP422, 428, 429, 439, 444, 445, 451, 454, 455, 457, 458, 460, 463, 464, 471, 473) sometimes as mottles within the Barroway Drove Bed clays (TP427, 446, 449). In the south-west of the area this was encountered at elevations as great as -1.28m OD, but more generally lower lying at c. -1.9m OD. Overlying the clay in some instances deposits of mottled grey/red, yellow-brown and light orange-brown sandy silt were recorded at depths of between 0.15m – 3.60m BGL, directly underlying the agricultural topsoil (TP427, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 453, 454, 455, 458, 462, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 472, 474, 475).

7.4 Discussion

7.4.1 Throughout the entirety of the test pitting programme, the overall stratigraphy as recorded in 209 machine-dug test pits were relatively uniform and typical of the deposits within wider fenland contexts, generally comprising peat deposits, Barroway Drove Beds clays and Roddon silts. This was reflected within the resulting deposit models (see Figures 165 - 168).

Sand and gravel

7.4.2 The lowermost deposits found across the site were composed of rare instances of pale yellow/grey coarse sand with very frequent flint gravel (recorded in TP210 and TP259, land parcel B). This gravel may relate to post-Anglian Pleistocene fluvial deposition by the former course of the River Welland.

Peat deposits

7.4.3 Frequent instances of peat were recorded across land parcels A, B, and D, either underlying or intercalated with the Barroway Drove Beds. The peat is interpreted as 'Lower Peat', as defined by the general fenland sequence, and represent the remains of freshwater reed beds that accumulated around c. 6000 to 2000 years BP (Zalasiewicz 1986; Smith et al. 2010).

7.4.4 This lower peat is a blanket deposit found across much of the wider area. Three bulk sediment samples were taken from the lower peat deposits at depths of between 3.00 – 3.46m BGL (see Appendix 3, Table A3-3).

7.4.5 A broadly Neolithic date for the Lower Peat was anticipated. Organic material identified during palaeoenvironmental processing of samples from the Lower Peat deposit in test pits TP140, TP222, and TP271 from land parcels A and B were submitted for analysis. Radiocarbon dating yielded consistent dates for the three peat deposits of 2870 – 2580 calBC (95.4% probability) (TP140), 2890 – 2630 calBC (95.4% probability) (TP222), and 2880 – 2630 calBC (95.4% probability) (TP271) respectively, placing the deposits firmly within the mid to late Neolithic period (see Appendix 3, Table A3-2 for further details).

Barroway Drove Beds

7.4.6 Overlying, and at times intercalated with, the peat were deposits of dark grey/blue clay known as Barroway Drove Beds (Tidal Flat Deposits). These deposits are of tidal origin and were deposited during periods of marine transgressions representing marginal marine salt marsh palaeoenvironments. Where peat was absent these represented the lowest deposit recorded in the majority of test pits. The upper metre of these tidal clays was oxidised and has orange

mottling, lying below the seasonal water table, although they are still part of the same sedimentary unit.

7.4.7 Within the Barroway Drove Bed material, lenses of shell deposits were recorded within test pits TP146, 222, 245, 250, 252, 263, 272, 273, 446, 447, 453. The shell layers consist of organically deposited tidal material as part of the Barroway Drove Beds and are not of archaeological significance.

Roddons

7.4.8 Overlying the Barroway Drove Beds, within occasional test pits across all land parcels, were thin upper layers of pale cream/yellow or red, poorly-sorted, silty fine sand. These represent the edges of roddons, fossilized silt and sand-filled tidal creek systems of mid to late Holocene age (Smith et al. 2012). Roddon deposits were found to be infrequent across areas A, B, and C but frequent across D. No archaeological features were identified within the test pits.

7.4.9 Roddon deposits were observed in greater frequency across land parcel D due to the large roddon trunk, identified during geophysical and aerial surveys, that meanders across the site through fields D-2-02, D-2-03, D-2-04, D-3-03, D-3-02, and D-3-01. Within these fields the observed deposits were consistent in most instances with the extent of the roddon as identified within the geophysical surveys; though the dendritic networks visible within the LiDAR survey of this area were much fainter than within the other areas of the site. Exceptions included TP439, TP451, TP458, and TP472.

7.4.10 Within Area C geophysical surveys identified a large roddon trunk running across fields C-1-01, C-1-03, C-1-06, and C-1-07 with a number of smaller branches extending across the rest of the area. Again, the recorded stratigraphy tended to be consistent with the geophysical surveys, with the exception of TP309, TP313 and TP315 where roddon deposits were recorded outside of the channels identified during the survey.

7.4.11 Geophysical surveys of Area B showed the roddon trunk identified in Area C extended into fields B-1-13, B-1-14, B-1-10, B-1-09, B-1-08, and branching off into fields B-1-06, B-1-03, B-1-02, B-1-07, and B-1-01. Test pits located within the roddon channel such as TP234, TP211, and TP274 contained deposits of roddon material as anticipated.

7.4.12 A number of test pits outside the roddon channel such as TP204, 205, 211, 222, 229, 235, 245, 246, 250, 251, 263, 274, 279, 281 contained deposits of roddon material. This reveals the extent of the roddons creek system to be greater than identified within the geophysical survey.

7.4.13 Across land parcel D, the roddon material was observed to have accumulated in two phases of deposition. A higher energy phase of the palaeochannel was represented by poorly sorted fine sands overlain by fine grey/brown sandy clayey silts. These deposits were less frequent across the area. More frequently recorded were finer grained deposits which characterised the upper roddon material. These finer grained, siltier deposits represent a lower energy phase of deposition. This later stage of the channel may reflect intermittent deposition after the lower roddon channel had become largely infilled (Smith et al. 2012).

7.4.14 Major “trunk” roddons are characterised by being rich in fine sands with little change in grain-size from roddon mouth to the upper reaches, whereas tributaries are silt-rich, and minor tributaries also have a significant clay component (Smith et al 2012). It is therefore interpreted that the instances of roddon material recorded outside of the channels identified during

geophysical survey represent minor tributaries that would not be visible during geophysical surveys.

7.4.15 The archaeology of Area D (see Section 6.6) suggests the landscape in area D was less utilised during the prehistoric period. This is consistent with the geoarchaeological findings, with a higher frequency of these finer, siltier clayey roddon deposits recorded. The lower elevation of the area, and the presence of fainter visible roddon channels within the geophysical survey data reflect a lower, unstable estuarine landscape liable to sporadic flooding throughout the Iron Age, and periods of marine inundation occurred in the region during the late Bronze/ early Iron Age (Hayes and Lane 1992).

7.4.16 Such conditions are represented in geological sequences recorded at Little Postland, to the north east of Crowland, where a broad band of silt, extending up to 2-3km wide was formed during the prehistoric period (Hayes and Lane 1992).

Upper peat

7.4.17 No instances of the upper Nordelph peat, identified within BGS boreholes undertaken during the 1960s/70s (such as BH no. 473543), were recorded across site, although deposits of humic, peaty silty clay were noted within some of the archaeological trenches (TR3047, see section 6.5.510). These deposits likely represent traces of the Nordelph peat which had been incorporated within the topsoil during agricultural activities which have occurred on the site historically to present.

Modelling

7.4.18 Due to the size of the site, deposit models were produced separately for A and D, while the proximity of B and C allowed these to be modelled together. It was decided not to supplement the models with available BGS data. This was because these logs often omitted surface elevation data and ground elevations across site, as mentioned above, have been subjected to continuous agricultural reworking and potential deflation/erosion since the recording of the BGS logs.

8 THE FINDS

8.1 The Roman Pottery

By [redacted]

Introduction

8.1.1 Seven hundred and ninety-eight sherds (14.493kg, 14.89RE) from a maximum of 490 vessels were presented for study. Their mean sherd weight was 17.46g. The pottery was recovered from rural sites associated with roddons associated with salt production and including evidence for settlement. Pottery from the Late Iron Age period to the mid Roman periods was most common with some limited evidence for late Roman pottery. The marginal nature of these Roman assemblages is of interest and could be contrasted with assemblages from larger groups from sites such as Spalding (Darling 2007; Rowlandson 2011; Rowlandson et al. 2020), Baston (Darling et al. 2020) and the regrettably unpublished assemblages from Market Deeping.

8.1.2 The pottery came from excavations in four distinct areas of the development site for Meridian Solar Farm:

Area A (Crowland Parish, west of A16)

8.1.3 Two sherds weighing 7g from a maximum of two vessels (0 RE).

Area B (Crowland Parish, east of A16)

8.1.4 Eleven sherds weighing 192g from a maximum of 8 vessels (0 RE).

Area C (Moulton Parish, adjacent to Area B)

8.1.5 Two hundred fifty-four sherds weighing 5.181kg from a maximum of 130 vessels (4.91 RE).

Area D (Gedney Hill Parish)

8.1.6 Five hundred thirty-one sherds weighing 9.113kg from a maximum of 350 vessels (9.98 RE).

8.1.7 In addition, twenty-seven fragments of fired clay or ceramic building material and three stones were sent. The stones included two fragments of a fine hone stone that were returned to the client and are not included here. The remainder was recorded and details can be found in Appendix 12.

Methodology

8.1.8 The pottery has been archived using count and weight as measures according to the guidelines for the minimum archive by The Study Group for Roman Pottery (Darling 2004). Codes developed by the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit (CLAU, see Darling and Precious 2014) and expanded to describe the local fabrics encountered. Additional codes have been introduced based on those recommended by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997) and those in use for the East Midlands (Knight 1998). Vessels have been paralleled, where possible, to local publications. Rim equivalents (RE) have been recorded and an attempt at a 'maximum' vessel estimate has been made following Pollard (1990, 75–79).

8.1.9 A fabric summary, form summary and a dating summary by context are presented below for each area. The full sherd archive can be found in Appendix 5.

The pottery by fabric, form and context

Area A

8.1.10 Two sherds were recorded from Area A, one in a colour-coated fabric (CC1) and one of Nene Valley grey ware (NVGW). The latter was a rim from a jar or bowl but was unstratified. The stratified body sherd found in context 103806 dates the deposit to the mid-2nd to 4th century.

Area B

8.1.11 A total of eleven sherds is presented in tabulated summary below. Apart from a small group of Nene Valley grey ware found in context 206209 dating to the mid-2nd to 3rd century, the assemblage did not provide much diagnostic material beyond confirming some Roman activity. A single shell-gritted sherd may be of Earlier Prehistoric date.

Area B – Fabric Summary							
Fabric code	**Fabric group**	**Fabric details**	**Sherd**	**Sherd %**	**Weight (g)**	**Weight %**	**Total RE %**
GREY	Reduced	Miscellaneous grey wares	1	9.09%	5	2.60%	0
NVGW	Reduced	Nene Valley grey ware	1	9.09%	4	2.08%	0
IASH?	Calcareous	Native tradition shell-tempered	1	9.09%	11	5.73%	0
SHEL	Calcareous	Miscellaneous undifferentiated shell-tempered	8	72.73%	172	89.58%	0

Table 7: Area B fabric summary

Area B – Form Summary							
Form	**Form Type**	**Form Description**	**Sherd**	**Sherd %**	**Weight (g)**	**Weight %**	**Total RE%**
J	Jar	Unclassified form	1	9.09%	157	81.77%	0
-	Unknown	Form uncertain	10	90.91%	35	18.23%	0

Table 8: Area B form summary

Area B – Dating Summary							
Context	**Feature No**	**Feature Type**	**Spot date**	**Comments**	**Sherd**	**Weight (g)**	**Total RE %**
202503	202502	Ditch	Roman	A single shell-gritted sherd.	1	6	0
202509	202507	Ditch	Roman	Four small sherds of shell-gritted ware	4	2	0
203008	203007	Ditch	Roman	A single grey ware sherd.	1	5	0
206209	206208	Ditch	M2-3	A small group including Nene Valley grey ware and a shell-gritted base.	3	164	0
206215	206214	Gully	Roman	A single shell-gritted sherd.	1	4	0
210505	210504	Curvilinear cut	Prehistoric-Roman	A single sherd of shell-gritted ware.	1	11	0

Table 9: Area B dating summary

Area C

8.1.12 A total of two hundred and fifty-four sherds is presented in tabulated summary below. The range of pottery suggests activity from Late Iron Age to 3rd century AD. Two notable finds included a miniature beaker from context 300520 and the thick-walled heavy rim and body sherds from a shell-gritted oven. The latter shows remarkable similarity to the example mentioned by Darling (2012, 52). Both found not far from Spalding, built in a shell-gritted fabric and dated broadly to the 2nd century. The Spalding sites were equally connected to salt-making activities where the evidence and range of samian and tableware point towards a well-established Roman settlement.

8.1.13 The miniature beaker with a bag-shaped body form but no rim appeared in good condition. Such miniature vessels are often associated with funerary or religious traditions (Graham and Graham 2017) and may indicate a votive offering or even use as a container for the inhalation of narcotics (Dunne et al. 2024, 136). The context within which the beaker was found is dated to 2nd century AD.

Area C – Fabric Summary							
Fabric code	**Fabric group**	**Fabric details**	**Sherd**	**Sherd %**	**Weight (g)**	**Weight %**	**Total RE %**
SAM	Samian	Undifferentiated	10	3.94%	62	1.20%	26
MORT	Mortaria	Mortaria; undifferentiated	1	0.39%	8	0.15%	0
GFIN	Fine	Miscellaneous fine grey wares	3	1.18%	10	0.19%	23
CC1	Fine	Colour coated fabric 1	24	9.45%	347	6.70%	147
CR	Oxidised	Roman cream wares (various)	6	2.36%	79	1.52%	0
OX	Oxidised	Misc. oxidized wares	1	0.39%	10	0.19%	0
GREY	Reduced	Miscellaneous grey wares	26	10.24%	545	10.52%	26
GROG	Reduced	Grog tempered wares	10	3.94%	356	6.87%	7
IAGR2	Reduced	Iron Age tradition 'Gritty': Site fabric 2	9	3.54%	614	11.85%	0
IASA2	Reduced	Iron Age Sandy: Site Fabric 2	12	4.72%	236	4.56%	15
NVGW	Reduced	Nene Valley grey ware	56	22.05%	922	17.80%	109
NVGY	Reduced	Earlier Nene Valle grey ware	2	0.79%	43	0.83%	25
IASH1	Calcareous	Iron Age Shell Gritted: Site Fabric 1	23	9.06%	502	9.69%	0
SHEL	Calcareous	Miscellaneous undifferentiated shell-tempered	47	18.50%	1282	24.74%	82
SLSHB	Calcareous	Bourne shell gritted	1	0.39%	81	1.56%	31
IAGROG	Grog	Iron Age Grog tempered wares	22	8.66%	81	1.56%	0
IAVE	Handmade	includes veg voids	1	0.39%	3	0.06%	0

Table 10: Area C fabric summary

Area C – Form Summary							
Form	**Form Type**	**Form Description**	**Sherd**	**Sherd %**	**Weight (g)**	**Weight %**	**Total RE%**
BK	Beaker	Unclassified form	3	1.18%	24	0.46%	23
BKBAG	Beaker	Baggy	1	0.39%	13	0.25%	15
BKCUR	Beaker	Curve-rimmed form	1	0.39%	6	0.12%	10
BKFG	Beaker	Funnel necked grooved-rimmed	1	0.39%	8	0.15%	10
BKFOS	Beaker	Folded scaled beaker	6	2.36%	65	1.25%	0
BKM	Beaker	Miniature	3	1.18%	55	1.06%	0
BKNK	Beaker	Necked	2	0.79%	11	0.21%	11
B	Bowl	Unclassified form	2	0.79%	13	0.25%	0
BBR	Bowl	Bead rimmed	2	0.79%	7	0.14%	4
BFB	Bowl	Bead and flange bowl	1	0.39%	22	0.42%	8
BFL	Bowl	Flange rimmed (e.g. Gillam 1970 Types 218-220)	2	0.79%	65	1.25%	15

Area C – Form Summary							
Form	**Form Type**	**Form Description**	**Sherd**	**Sherd %**	**Weight (g)**	**Weight %**	**Total RE%**
BNK	Bowl	Necked	1	0.39%	44	0.85%	7
BTR	Bowl	Triangular rimmed (e.g. Gillam 1970 Types 222-3)	1	0.39%	7	0.14%	2
18/31-31	Bowl/dish	Samian form- see Webster 1996	1	0.39%	29	0.56%	7
BD	Bowl/dish	-	4	1.57%	15	0.29%	19
CLSD	Closed	Form	52	20.47%	1825	35.22%	0
DGR	Dish	Grooved rim	1	0.39%	9	0.17%	8
DPR	Dish	Plain rim	2	0.79%	30	0.58%	9
F	Flagon	Unclassified form	1	0.39%	63	1.22%	0
J	Jar	Unclassified form	15	5.91%	809	15.61%	0
JBN3	Jar	Bourne type jar no. 3; Bolton 1968 Fig. 1.1	1	0.39%	81	1.56%	31
JCOR	Jar	Cordoned	3	1.18%	34	0.66%	0
JEV	Jar	Everted rim	1	0.39%	19	0.37%	10
JLH	Jar	Lug-handled	22	8.66%	81	1.56%	0
JNK	Jar	Necked	8	3.15%	157	3.03%	112
JNN	Jar	Narrow-necked	23	9.06%	452	8.72%	115
JUR	Jar	Undercut rim	1	0.39%	45	0.87%	12
JBK	Jar/Beaker	Small jar or beaker	1	0.39%	3	0.06%	8
JB	Jar/Bowl	Unclassified form	3	1.18%	56	1.08%	36
JBNK	Jar/Bowl	Necked	2	0.79%	82	1.58%	19
OVEN	Misc	Oven/Clibanus	5	1.97%	177	3.42%	0
M	Mortaria	Unclassified Form	1	0.39%	8	0.15%	0
OPEN	Open	Form	5	1.97%	146	2.82%	0
-	Unknown	Form uncertain	76	29.92%	720	13.90%	0

Table 11: Area C form summary

Area C – Dating Summary							
Context	**Feature No**	**Feature Type**	**Spot date**	**Comments**	**Sherd**	**Weight (g)**	**Total RE %**
300509	300506	Linear cut	Late Iron Age?-Roman	A single sherd of shell gritted ware.	1	3	0
300520	300513	Ditch	M2	Sherds from a grey ware miniature bag-shaped beaker and a further sherd from sample 30001.	4	57	0
300537	300537	Layer	Late Iron Age?-Roman	A single sherd of shell-gritted ware.	1	26	0
300550	300545	Curvilinear cut	Late Iron Age	Sherds from a handmade shell-gritted jar similar to MacKreth 1988 Figure 27.62.	3	135	0
300552	300545	Curvilinear cut	Late Iron Age	A small group of sherds from a handmade grog-gritted lug handled jar.	22	81	0
301703	301702	Ditch	M2-3	A small group including Nene Valley grey ware.	4	32	0
301705	301704	Ditch	Roman	A fine grey ware sherd and a fragment of fired clay.	1	2	0
301706	301704	Ditch	3-4C	A sherd from a colour-coated lipped bowl.	1	22	8
301708	301707	Ditch	M2-3	A basal sherd of Nene Valley grey ware.	1	71	0
301714	301713	Channel	Late Iron Age?-Roman	A shell gritted sherd.	1	11	0
301716	301715	Ditch	Roman	A single grey ware sherd.	1	2	0
301810	301805	Ditch	Late Iron Age?-Roman	A shell-gritted sherd.	1	53	0
301820	301819	Furrow	M2-3	Two sherds of Nene Valley grey ware.	2	14	0
301929	301928	Ditch	M1-M2	A small group including sherds from a large native tradition jar.	9	614	0

Area C – Dating Summary							
Context	**Feature No**	**Feature Type**	**Spot date**	**Comments**	**Sherd**	**Weight (g)**	**Total RE %**
303905	303904	Ditch	Roman	A single grey ware sherd.	1	32	0
303910	303908	Ditch	L3	A small group including sherds from a colour-coated narrow neck jar (similar to Perrin 1999 no 285) and Nene Valley grey ware including a bowl with a plain rim.	14	252	118
303914	303911	Ditch	M2-3	A small group including sherds from a Nene Valley grey ware necked jar.	2	63	48
304307	304304	Ditch	Roman	A single grey ware sherd.	1	2	0
305208	305207	Ditch	M2	A medium sized group containing a fine grog-gritted necked jar or bowl with a cordon decoration (similar to Perrin 1996 Figure 82.71), a warped Nene Valley grey ware base, shell-gritted ware necked jar, a jar with a rilled shoulder and a jar with an everted rim. Grey ware present included a base trimmed to a disc. Notably, this context also included fragments from a shell-gritted oven.	40	1715	81
305211	305210	Ditch	M2-3	A single Nene Valley grey ware sherd.	1	9	0
305213	305212	Ditch	M2-3	A small group including grey ware, shell-gritted ware and sherds from a Nene Valley grey ware lipped bowl and necked jars.	16	262	18
305308	305306	Ditch	ML1	A small group including the neck of a white ware flagon, a grey ware sherd, shell-gritted herds from jars including one with a rilled shoulder and a fine sand-gritted hand-built narrow necked jar.	33	659	15
305705	305704	Ditch	3C	A medium sized group containing samian bowls or dishes, oxidised ware, white ware including a sherd from a mortarium and Nene Valley grey ware including a corrugated jar with rouletted decoration. Colour coated ware included a scale and folded beaker, a beaker with a funnel grooved neck, a beaker with a curved rim, a bag-shaped beaker with a plain rim and a beaker with barbotine decoration. Grey ware included a necked jar with cordon decoration, beaker, a bowl with a triangular rim, a dish with a grooved rim and lipped bowl. Shell gritted ware included a Bourne type jar or bowl (JBN3), a jar with an undercut rim and a necked jar.	85	991	180
306608	306607	Hedgerow	Roman	A single sherd of fine grey ware.	1	6	23

Table 12: Area C dating summary

Area D

8.1.14 A total of five hundred and thirty-one sherds is presented in tabulated summary below. This forms the majority of the Iron Age and Roman assemblage excavated as part of the project. The date range spans from Late Iron Age to 4th century AD.

8.1.15 The largest group from a single context came from 417803 and shows some similarities with the Late Iron Age to Early Roman assemblages of nearby Orton Hall Farm Period 1 (Perrin 1996) and the Iron Age and Roman Enclosure at Werrington (MacKreth 1988) including a Gallo-Belgic imitation platter, London-type ware and shell-gritted jars with rilled decoration.

8.1.16 Samian and a variety of fine table wares ranging in date from the 1st to the 4th century AD suggest a lasting and well-established Roman settlement – however, one where it was worth repairing valued vessels, such as the white ware flagon from context 403121 with surviving residue from a resin repair.

8.1.17 Unusually, the assemblages contained the complete spout of a tettina in a white ware fabric. Traditionally interpreted as infant feeders due to their association with infant burials, recent research points towards their broader application in invalid or veteran care (Hawkins 2024).

Area D – Fabric Summary							
Fabric code	**Fabric group**	**Fabric details**	**Sherd**	**Sherd %**	**Weight (g)**	**Weight %**	**Total RE %**
SAM	Samian	Undifferentiated	15	2.82%	173	1.90%	28
MONV	Mortaria	Nene Valley mortaria	1	0.19%	101	1.11%	11
GFIN	Fine	Miscellaneous fine grey wares	5	0.94%	33	0.36%	0
LOND	Fine	London wares	1	0.19%	5	0.05%	0
CC	Fine	Other colour-coated wares	2	0.38%	46	0.50%	13
CC1	Fine	Colour coated fabric 1	65	12.24%	628	6.89%	67
CC2	Fine	Dark colour-coat and red fabric- Late Roman fabric	2	0.38%	14	0.15%	11
CC2?	Fine	Dark colour-coat and red fabric- Late Roman fabric	1	0.19%	1	0.01%	0
NVGCC	Fine	Nene Valley grey colour-coated ware	2	0.38%	33	0.36%	16
CR	Oxidised	Roman cream wares (various)	14	2.64%	226	2.48%	119
CR?	Oxidised	Roman cream wares	2	0.38%	19	0.21%	0
NVPA	Oxidised	Nene Valley parchment ware	1	0.19%	4	0.04%	4
OX	Oxidised	Misc. oxidized wares	3	0.56%	35	0.38%	16
OX?	Oxidised	Misc. oxidised wares	3	0.56%	8	0.09%	0
OXFIN	Oxidised	Fine Oxidised fabric	1	0.19%	3	0.03%	0
OXL	Oxidised	Light oxidised fabrics	1	0.19%	8	0.09%	0
GREY	Reduced	Miscellaneous grey wares	94	17.70%	1452	15.93%	210
GREY?	Reduced	Miscellaneous grey wares	7	1.32%	40	0.44%	0
GROG	Reduced	Grog tempered wares	5	0.94%	53	0.58%	0
IAGR2	Reduced	Iron Age tradition 'Gritty': Site fabric 2	1	0.19%	193	2.12%	14
IASA	Reduced	IA type sandy wares	3	0.56%	55	0.60%	0
IASA2	Reduced	Iron Age Sandy: Site Fabric 2	2	0.38%	116	1.27%	7
NVGW	Reduced	Nene Valley grey ware	116	21.85%	2159	23.69%	219
NVGW?	Reduced	Nene Valley grey ware	1	0.19%	14	0.15%	0
NVGY	Reduced	Earlier Nene Valle grey ware	11	2.07%	175	1.92%	31
IASH	Calcareous	Native tradition shell-tempered	5	0.94%	97	1.06%	7

Area D – Fabric Summary							
Fabric code	**Fabric group**	**Fabric details**	**Sherd**	**Sherd %**	**Weight (g)**	**Weight %**	**Total RE %**
IASH?	Calcareous	Native tradition shell-tempered	2	0.38%	81	0.89%	0
IASH1	Calcareous	Iron Age Shell Gritted: Site Fabric 1	36	6.78%	1242	13.63%	26
IASH2	Calcareous	Iron Age Shell Gritted: Site Fabric 2	1	0.19%	28	0.31%	0
IASH5	Calcareous	Iron Age Shell Gritted; Site Fabric 5	2	0.38%	10	0.11%	0
SHEL	Calcareous	Miscellaneous undifferentiated shell-tempered	85	16.01%	1873	20.55%	197
SHEL?	Calcareous	Shell gritted	2	0.38%	2	0.02%	0
SLSHB	Calcareous	Bourne shell gritted	35	6.59%	113	1.24%	2
IAGROG	Grog	Iron Age Grog tempered wares	1	0.19%	26	0.29%	0
WWGR	Grog	Light fired grog-gritted wares	1	0.19%	17	0.19%	0
MISC	Misc	Miscellaneous uncategorised	1	0.19%	29	0.32%	0
MOD	Post Med+	Modern pottery, undifferentiated	1	0.19%	1	0.01%	0

Table 13: Area D fabric summary

Area D – Form Summary							
Form	**Form Type**	**Form Description**	**Sherd**	**Sherd %**	**Weight (g)**	**Weight %**	**Total RE%**
BK	Beaker	Unclassified form	19	3.58%	53	0.58%	19
BKEV	Beaker	Everted rim	2	0.38%	8	0.09%	2
BKFN	Beaker	Funnel necked; form unknown	1	0.19%	6	0.07%	0
BKFO	Beaker	Folded; indeterminate type	2	0.38%	7	0.08%	0
BKFOFG	Beaker	Folded; Funnel neck grooved	1	0.19%	9	0.10%	11
29	Bowl	Samian form- see Webster 1996	1	0.19%	17	0.19%	12
B	Bowl	Unclassified form	5	0.94%	236	2.59%	23
B30	Bowl	Imitation samian 30	4	0.75%	97	1.06%	38
B36	Bowl	Copy of samian form 36	2	0.38%	106	1.16%	26
BCAR	Bowl	Carinated	1	0.19%	26	0.29%	0
BFB	Bowl	Bead and flange bowl	7	1.32%	65	0.71%	11
BFL	Bowl	Flange rimmed (e.g. Gillam 1970 Types 218-220)	4	0.75%	140	1.54%	18
BNK	Bowl	Necked	12	2.26%	347	3.81%	82
BPR	Bowl	Plain rimmed	3	0.56%	422	4.63%	43
BD	Bowl/dish	-	11	2.07%	130	1.43%	18
CLSD	Closed	Form	78	14.69%	1459	16.01%	0
33	Cup	Samian form- see Webster 1996	1	0.19%	3	0.03%	0
C?	Cup	Form	1	0.19%	4	0.04%	4
DPR	Dish	Plain rim	5	0.94%	72	0.79%	39
F	Flagon	Unclassified form	4	0.75%	69	0.76%	25
FL	Flagon	Large	1	0.19%	9	0.10%	0
FTR	Flagon	Ringed dominant top ring	1	0.19%	19	0.21%	85
FJ	Flagon/jar	Unclassified form	21	3.95%	171	1.88%	10
J	Jar	Unclassified form	16	3.01%	770	8.45%	20
JCH	Jar	Channel rim- Iron Age type	1	0.19%	19	0.21%	10

Area D – Form Summary							
Form	**Form Type**	**Form Description**	**Sherd**	**Sherd %**	**Weight (g)**	**Weight %**	**Total RE%**
JEV	Jar	Everted rim	2	0.38%	15	0.16%	9
JL	Jar	Large	2	0.38%	82	0.90%	14
JNK	Jar	Necked	37	6.97%	886	9.72%	199
JNN	Jar	Narrow-necked	6	1.13%	53	0.58%	43
JS	Jar	Storage	8	1.51%	292	3.20%	2
JS?	Jar	Storage	1	0.19%	67	0.74%	0
JS52	Jar	Storage (form as Webster 1949 Figure 12.48)	1	0.19%	193	2.12%	14
JWM	Jar	Wide-mouthed as RPNV 3-5	2	0.38%	88	0.97%	29
JBK	Jar/Beaker	Small jar or beaker	4	0.75%	26	0.29%	40
JB	Jar/Bowl	Unclassified form	19	3.58%	218	2.39%	39
JBL	Jar/Bowl	Large	1	0.19%	54	0.59%	7
JBNK	Jar/Bowl	Necked	12	2.26%	206	2.26%	39
L	Lid	Unclassified form	1	0.19%	131	1.44%	8
LD	Lid/dish	Unclassified	1	0.19%	66	0.72%	7
ZBIB	Misc	Biberon	1	0.19%	12	0.13%	0
M	Mortaria	Unclassified Form	1	0.19%	101	1.11%	11
OPEN	Open	Form	21	3.95%	398	4.37%	0
PGB	Plate	Gallo-Belgic imitation	5	0.94%	72	0.79%	39
-	Unknown	Form uncertain	202	38.04%	1889	20.73%	2

Table 14: Area D form summary

Area D – Dating Summary							
Context	**Feature No**	**Feature Type**	**Spot date**	**Comments**	**Sherd**	**Weight (g)**	**Total RE %**
400902	400902	Layer	Roman	A single sherd of fine grey ware.	1	4	0
400908	400907	Ditch	Roman	A single sherd of fine grey ware.	1	2	0
401907	401905	Ditch	Late Iron Age	A small group including shell gritted ware.	3	49	0
401909	401905	Ditch	Late Iron Age	A single sherd of shell-gritted sherd.	1	15	0
402000	402000	Layer	Late Iron Age	A single sherd of shell-gritted sherd.	1	8	0
402013	402010	Ditch	Roman?	Three shell-gritted sherds from sample 40013.	3	35	0
402021	402020	Ditch	1-2C	Excoriated grog-gritted sherds.	4	19	0
402023	402022	Ditch	Iron Age-Roman	Two excoriated shell-gritted sherds.	1	14	0
402107	402104	Ditch	M2-3	A small group including a white ware flagon or jar with a bifurcated rim (similar to Perrin 1999 no 329), Nene Valley grey ware, shell-gritted sherds, and sherds from Iron Age sandy wares.	7	82	10
402108	402104	Ditch	Roman	A small group containing grey ware and shell-gritted ware.	4	65	0
402119	402103	Ditch	L1-2?	A single sherd from an unusual white ware lid with a central hole made and trimmed pre-firing.	1	131	8
402126	402125	Ditch	2C+	A small group containing grey ware sherds from a bowl mimicking a samian Drag 30 form, a grey ware jar and a shell gritted sherd.	13	446	38
402213	402212	Pit	Late Iron Age-Roman?	A small group including handmade shell-gritted sherds.	4	8	10
402227	402226	Pit	1C	A single sherd of shell-gritted ware.	1	12	0
402610	402609	Pit	L2-3	A small group including sherds from a shell-gritted bowl and a large jar.	3	190	23
402617	402616	Ditch	L1-M2	A single grog-gritted sherd.	1	34	0
402618	402609	Ditch	M1-M2	A single sherd of early Roman grey ware.	1	3	0
403105	403103	Ditch	3C?	A small group including samian, a colour-coated lipped bowl, Nene Valley grey ware and a grey ware vessel with combed wavy line decoration.	6	77	10

Area D – Dating Summary							
Context	**Feature No**	**Feature Type**	**Spot date**	**Comments**	**Sherd**	**Weight (g)**	**Total RE %**
403118	403117	Ditch	L2-3	A single sherd from a colour-coated bowl mimicking samian form Drag.36.	1	62	13
403121	403117	Ditch	L2-3	A small group including samian, a white ware flagon with evidence of a resin repair, Nene Valley grey ware, grey ware, colour-coated ware and a tiny shell-gritted sherd.	17	165	119
403123/ 403124	4003122	Ditch	M2-4	A small group including colour-coated ware and shell gritted ware.	4	35	0
403137	403146	Ditch	ML2	A medium sized group including samian from a 29 bowl and a 33 cup, a fine oxidised ware beaker, white ware, a small colour-coated sherd, a parchment ware cup or bowl, Nene Valley grey ware, and sherds from a native tradition shell-gritted jar. Grey ware included a sherd from a lid or bowl with a triangular rim, a narrow neck jar with cordon decoration. A fragment of fired clay was also present.	34	473	49
403141	403146	Ditch	ML2	A single sherd from a Nene Valley grey ware lipped bowl.	1	113	10
403142	403146	Ditch	1-2C	A single sherd from a shell-gritted necked jar with cordon decoration.	1	22	14
403143	403146	Ditch	3C?	A small group containing sherds from Nene Valley grey ware including a plain rim dish, a jar and a flagon, possibly with a pinched neck, as well as a shell gritted basal sherd. This context also included a fragment of a hone stone.	13	389	10
403144	403146	Ditch	3C?	A medium sized group containing samian including a burnt foot-ring base and sherds from Nene Valley grey ware including a jar and a necked jar or bowl. Grey ware present included a sherd from a necked bowl with scored lattice decoration, and fine grey ware. Also, shell-gritted ware including a necked jar. A second bag contained a sherd from a handmade storage jar and a fragment of fired clay. This context also included a fragment of a hone stone.	38	765	44
403148	403147	Pit	2C?	A single sherd from a samian form 33 cup. The samian specialist could refine this date.	1	5	5
403150	403149	Ditch	M2-3	A small group containing Nene Valley grey ware and a shell-gritted sherd.	2	29	3
403154	403152	Pit	M2-M3	A small group including a colour-coated vessel with barbotine diagonal lines and Nene Valley grey ware.	3	19	0
403217	403213	Ditch	Roman	A small group including a shell-gritted sherd and a grey ware sherd. An additional bag contained a sherd from handmade shell-gritted jar and a fragment of fired clay or briquetage.	3	32	14
403222	403221	Pit	1C	A small group containing handmade shell-gritted ware.	5	62	0
403249	403228	Rectangular feature	1-2C?	A shell-gritted sherd.	1	6	7
403405	403404	Gully	1C	A single sherd of shell-gritted ware	1	28	0
403600	403600	Layer	M2-3	A single sherd of Nene Valley grey ware.	1	21	0
403604	403603	Gully	3C	A small group including a Nene Valley colour-coated dish with a plain rim, grey ware, ceramic building material and a sherd from a Nene Valley mortarium.	3	122	25

Area D – Dating Summary							
Context	**Feature No**	**Feature Type**	**Spot date**	**Comments**	**Sherd**	**Weight (g)**	**Total RE %**
403606	403605	Ditch	L2-3	A small group including a single white ware vessel and a large proportion of a colour-coated flagon or jar with rouletted decoration.	20	160	0
403608	403607	Ditch	L2-3	A single sherd from a colour-coated flagon.	1	9	0
403610	403609	Ditch	4C?	A small group including Nene Valley grey ware and sherds from a paint decorated beaker.	4	12	0
403620	403619	Pit	M2-3	A small group including Nene Valley grey ware and grey ware.	2	7	0
403622	403621	Ditch	Roman	Two small, oxidised sherds.	2	5	0
403630	403628	Ditch	M2-3	A small group including Nene Valley grey ware and Bourne type shell-gritted ware.	5	40	0
408004	408003	Ditch	L1-?E2	A foot ring base from a samian bowl. Samian specialist could refine this date.	1	64	0
417803	417802	Ditch	ML1	A medium sized group containing Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery with parallels to Werrington and the Orton Hall Farm Period 1 assemblages in Cambridgeshire. This included the neck from a light-fired flagon, a sherd of London ware with fern stamps, and an unusual, oxidised ware jar or beaker with comb stab decoration. Grey ware included sherds from a Gallo-Belgic platter (similar to Perrin 1996 Figure 81.28) and an early Nene Valley grey ware necked jar or bowl with a cordon (similar to Perrin 1996 Figure 81.25). Shell-gritted wares included a possibly intrusive Bourne type shell-gritted sherd, handmade shell-gritted ware jars, and transitional shell-gritted ware including a jar with rilled decoration (similar to MacKreth 1988 Figure 28.84 and Figure 27.70). A fragment of fired clay was also noted.	73	1944	140
417804	417802	Ditch	2C	A small group containing a grey ware Gallo-Belgic platter, native tradition shell-gritted ware and a sherd of white ware.	11	144	15
417806	417802	Ditch	2-3C	A medium sized group of sherds from a Bourne type shell-gritted vessel.	26	41	0
417807	417802	Ditch	L1-2	A small group containing grey ware and white ware.	4	15	0
417816	417815	Ditch	2-E3	A small group of sherds from a shell-gritted, necked jar (similar to Perrin 1996 no. 435).	3	99	41
418008	418003	Ditch	1C	A sherd from a Late Iron Age to early Roman necked bowl similar to Darling and Precious 2014 no. 734-5.	1	114	7
418013	418009	Ditch	M1-E2	A grog-gritted sherd from a large, necked storage jar.	1	193	14
418200	418200	Layer	M2-3	A medium sized group including Nene Valley grey ware, colour-coated ware, shell-gritted ware a white ware.	27	300	32
418208	418206	Ditch	M2-3	A small group of Nene valley grey ware.	2	19	2
418216	418215	Ditch	3C	A small group including grey ware and a Nene Valley grey ware narrow necked jar and a large, necked bowl (Perrin 1999, No. 41).	7	177	47
418220	418217	Ditch	L3-4	A medium sized group including a colour-coated necked jar, grey ware necked jar, shell-gritted ware, a colour-coated necked jar and a bowl or dish. Nene Valley grey ware included a large bowl with a plain rim, a plain rimmed dish and a lipped bowl. Although colour-coated	23	780	109

Area D – Dating Summary							
Context	**Feature No**	**Feature Type**	**Spot date**	**Comments**	**Sherd**	**Weight (g)**	**Total RE %**
				necked jars were made in the 3rd century AD a late Roman date appears likely.			
418224	418223	Ditch	L3-4	A sherd from a colour-coated beaker with a grooved funnel rim.	1	9	11
418226	418225	Ditch	M2-3	A small group including grey ware, Nene Valley grey ware, white ware, shell-gritted ware and a fragment of fired clay.	5	80	8
418228	418227	Ditch	Modern/ L3-4	A small group including Nene Valley grey ware, a samian bowl or dish, a colour-coated necked jar and a straight sided bead and flanged bowl. A tiny, modern brown glazed sherd was also presented for study	16	95	20
418231	418230	Ditch	M2-3	A spout from a tettina/ baby feeder type vessel in a white fired fabric, possibly originally a colour-coated vessel. A further bag included shell-gritted ware, Nene Valley grey ware and a sherd from a colour-coated folded beaker.	5	45	0
418232	418230	Ditch	M2-3	A Nene Valley grey ware sherd.	1	4	0
418234	418233	Ditch	3C+	A shell-gritted sherd and a heavily burnt fragment from a colour-coated bowl (B36).	2	47	13
418240	418239	Ditch	3C+	A small group including Nene Valley grey ware and a colour-coated sherd from a bowl or dish.	4	32	0
418241	418239	Ditch	L3-4	A medium sized group including Nene Valley, a grey ware plain rimmed dish, colour-coated ware, a shell-gritted dish, oxidised ware and grog-gritted ware. Further small scraps of samian were present in an additional bag. A fragment of CBM was also present.	26	330	27
418243	418242	Ditch	L3	A small group including a sherd from a folded colour-coated beaker with barbotine 'lazy s' decoration (Perrin 1999, No. 163-4), a plain rimmed dish, grey ware, Nene Valley grey ware, shell-gritted ware and fired clay with 'salt surfaces'.	7	46	8
418244	418242	Ditch	3C+	A small group including a Nene Valley grey ware wide-mouthed jar, a shell-gritted jar, a colour-coated vessel and grey ware.	16	162	27
418245	418242	Ditch	4C	A small group including a sherd from a paint decorated beaker, Nene Valley grey ware, grey ware and an oxidised sherd. Two small fragments of fired clay were also present.	12	78	12
UNSTRAT(4018)	UNSTRAT	UNSTRAT	M1-2	A single sherd from a white ware flagon.	1	26	0
UNSTRAT(4031)	UNSTRAT	UNSTRAT	2C+	A small group including Bourne type shell-gritted ware and a grey ware sherd were recovered from the spoil heap. In addition, a small group of shell-gritted ware, Neve Valley grey ware large jar, and plain rimmed beaker in a colour-coated fabric. Also present were fragments of fired clay. In a second bag, a single vesicular fragment possibly from a large jar. In a third bag, basal sherds from a bowl or dish.	10	171	33
UNSTRAT(4182)	UNSTRAT	UNSTRAT	L3-4	A small group including an oxidised ware sherd, white ware, Nene Valley grey ware, shell-gritted ware, a colour-coated plain rimmed dish and a straight sided bead and flanged bowl.	26	297	20

Table 15: Area D dating summary

Research potential

8.1.18 The East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework outlines the Research Strategy strategic objectives and for the Iron Age and Romano-British period (Knight et al 2012). The relevant sections are listed below.

Iron Age

4A Compile audit of radiocarbon, dendrochronological and other scientific dates

4B Refine ceramic chronology by additional radiocarbon dating and typological analyses

4E Assess the evidence for the evolution of settlement hierarchies

4G Study the distribution and use of artefacts (Knight et al 2012)

8.1.19 The small quantity of Iron Age pottery from this project could be contrasted with other groups from Iron Age settlements in this part of the fens such as Spalding (Rowlandson 2011; Rowlandson et al. 2020; Darling 2007) and Market Deeping (Davies 1993; Knight 2010). The significance of the assemblage rests upon the association with salt production, the Iron Age pottery assemblage was otherwise fairly unremarkable and limited which was perhaps unsurprising given the land would have been marginal for settlement in the Iron Age.

Roman

5B Disseminate and synthesise information on Roman finds

5J Instigate regional scale characterisation study of industry (Knight et al 2012)

8.1.20 The aim of the analysis would be to:

8.1.21 Contrast this assemblage with other groups from salt working sites in this part of the fens from sites such as Baston and Spalding (Darling et al. 2020; Rowlandson 2011; Rowlandson et al. 2020; Precious 2001) and from sites recently investigated further to the north from the Triton Knoll and Viking Link schemes (Christie and Hogue (eds) 2025; Daniel in press).

8.1.22 Illustrate the unusual vessels notably the tettina, the white ware lid, the London ware vessel and the range of other vessels selected to show the similarity with the pottery from these sites, in modern day southern Lincolnshire, with the pottery in use in the Peterborough area at sites such as Werrington more so than with groups from the Boston area (e.g. Rowlandson and Fiske 2019; Christie and Hogue (eds) 2025).

Recommendations

8.1.23 It is recommended that this pottery should be deposited with the relevant local museum along with the rest of the archive. The material presented for study was in good condition and no further work is required for conservation.

8.1.24 Diagnostic forms from this site have been paralleled. There are 13 vessels (marked with 'D' numbers) selected and recommended for illustration.

8.1.25 The 27 fragments of fired clay and other finds noted in this assessment should be sent to the relevant specialists for discussion prior to any final report on the finds from this site.

8.2 The Post-Roman Pottery

By [redacted]

Introduction

8.2.1 Post-Roman pottery was recovered from four excavation areas, a total of 180 sherds (4906g). Quantities for each area are shown in Table 16 and a summary catalogue by context is included in Appendix 6. Spot dates are included in Appendix 7.

Area	Parish	No.	Wt (g)	eve	MNV
A	Crowland	15	360	0.23	12
B	Crowland/Cowbit	19	706	1.05	19
C	Crowland	7	55	0.00	7
D	Fleet	139	3785	1.71	93
Totals		*180*	*4906*	*2.99*	*131*

Table 16: Post-Roman pottery quantification by site.

Methodology

8.2.2 Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). The minimum number of vessels (MNV) within each context was also recorded, but cross-fitting was not attempted unless particularly distinctive vessels were observed in more than one context. All fabric codes were assigned based on the author's fabric series (Anderson 2024) and matched to the Lincolnshire CNames. Methods follow MPRG recommendations (MPRG 2001) and form terminology follows MPRG classifications (1998). The results were input directly onto an Access database, which forms the archive catalogue.

Summary of the assemblages by excavation area

Area A – Crowland

8.2.3 All post-Roman pottery in this area was of post-medieval and modern date. Table 17 shows the quantities of post-Roman pottery from this area, recovered from six contexts in four trenches.

Description	Fabric	Lincs CName	Date range	No	Wt/g	eve	MNV
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	GRE	16th-M.18th c.	1	6		1
Midlands coarse blackware	MIDB	MLBSL	17th-18th c.	6	187	0.05	3
Late blackware	LBW	LBLAK	18th-E.20th c.	1	31	0.03	1
Porcelain	PORC	PORC	18th-20th c.	1	8		1

Description	Fabric	Lincs CName	Date range	No	Wt/g	eve	MNV
English stoneware	ESW	ENGS	M.18th-E.20th c.	4	124	0.07	4
Refined factory-made whiteware	REFW	WHITE	19th-20th c.	2	4	0.08	2
Totals				*15*	*360*	*0.23*	*12*

Table 17: Post-Roman pottery from Area A.

8.2.4 A base fragment of GRE came from furrow fill (101504). Coarse blackware sherds were found in topsoil (103800) and (104600), and ditch fill (104205) and included a ?bowl rim of lid-seated form.

8.2.5 A bowl rim sherd of flat-topped everted type in late blackware was found in ditch fill (104606), together with a fragment of stoneware and a small piece of refined whiteware with green slip externally. A small fragment of undecorated porcelain came from topsoil (104600), which also produced sherds of a stoneware ?bottle and preserve jar, and a refined whiteware saucer rim. One other fragment of stoneware, part of a brown glazed large storage vessel with a wide strap handle, was from ?ditch fill (103804).

Area B – Crowland/Cowbit

8.2.6 This area produced 19 sherds from nine contexts in five trenches, with quantities as shown in Table 18.

Description	Fabric	Lincs CName	Date range	No	Wt/g	eve	MNV
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	GRE	16th-M.18th c.	1	199		1
Midlands coarse blackware	MIDB	MLBSL	17th-18th c.	3	54		3
Staffs white salt-glazed stoneware	SWSW	SWSG	18th c.	1	3		1
Porcelain	PORC	PORC	18th-20th c.	1	4		1
Late blackware	LBW	LBLAK	18th-E.20th c.	1	5		1
Late glazed red earthenware	LGRE	LGRE	18th-E.20th c.	1	22		1
Creamware	CRW	CREA	M.18th-E.19th c.	1	1		1
English stoneware	ESW	ENGS	M.18th-E.20th c.	2	396	1.00	2
Pearlware	PEW	PEARL	L.18th-19th c.	6	13	0.05	6
Late post-medieval earthenware	LPME	LERTH	19th-20th c.	1	8		1
Refined factory-made whiteware	REFW	WHITE	19th-20th c.	1	1		1
Totals				*19*	*706*	*1.05*	*19*

Table 18: Post-Roman pottery from Area B.

8.2.7 Post-medieval wares comprised a large piece of a GRE bowl from ditch fill (207708), and three body and base fragments of coarse blackware from ditch fills (207620), (207708) and (214205).

8.2.8 A body fragment of a white salt-glazed stoneware vessel decorated with the barley seed pattern was found in ditch fill (202509). A base fragment of late blackware came from ditch fill (203103). As well as the MIDB sherd from ditch fill (207620), there were small fragments of porcelain, willow pattern and other pearlware, refined whiteware and plant pot, as well as a larger piece of late GRE. Ditch fill (207622) in the same trench contained fragments of a large stoneware storage vessel, a pearlware blue shell-edge rim, and a willow pattern pearlware fragment. In Trench 2077, three contexts produced small quantities of modern wares, comprising a pearlware ?plate rim with a floral transfer print, a small piece of creamware, and a complete stoneware bottle.

Area C – Crowland

8.2.9 Three contexts produced seven sherds, as shown in Table 19.

Description	Fabric	Lincs CName	Date range	No	Wt/g	eve	MNV
Bourne B ware	BOUB	BOUB	M.12th-14th c.	2	10		2
Frechen stoneware	FREC	FREC	16th-17th c.	1	6		1
Iron-glazed blackware	IGBW	PMBL	16th-18th c.	1	9		1
Pearlware	PEW	PEARL	L.18th-19th c.	2	3		2
English stoneware	ESW	ENGS	M.18th-E.20th c.	1	27		1
Totals				*7*	*55*	*0.00*	*7*

Table 19: Post-Roman pottery from Area C.

8.2.10 Ditch fill (303506) contained two body sherds of medieval Bourne B ware, and a stoneware handle of probably 18th/19th-century date.

8.2.11 A body sherd of Frechen stoneware and a piece of iron-glazed blackware from layer (307513) suggest a 16th/17th-century date for the context.

8.2.12 Ditch fill (306322) produced two small fragments of pearlware, including a body fragment with a moulded ?foliate design internally.

Area D – Fleet

8.2.13 There were 138 sherds from 22 contexts spread across eleven trenches in this area (Table 20).

Description	Fabric	Lincs CName	Date range	No	Wt/g	eve	MNV
Unidentified handmade	UNHM	MISC		1	47		1

Description	Fabric	Lincs CName	Date range	No	Wt/g	eve	MNV
?Early medieval shelly ware	EMSHW	EMSH	M.11th-M.12th c.	1	8		1
?Developed St Neots-type ware	DNEOT	DNEOT	M.12th-M.13th c.	1	40		1
Bourne B ware	BOUB	BOUB	M.12th-14th c.	5	75		2
Toynton ware	TOYN	TOY	M.13th-M.15th c.	2	10		1
Late medieval Ely-type ware	LMEL	LMEL	15th c.	3	12		1
Late medieval local wares	LMLOC	LMLOC	M.14th-M.16th c.	6	70	0.21	4
Bourne D ware	BOUD	BOU	M.14th-M.17th c.	11	444	0.25	6
Midlands purple ware	MIDP	MP	L.14th-16th c.	22	1266	0.30	11
Iron-glazed blackware	IGBW	PMBL	16th-18th c.	4	19		1
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	GRE	16th-M.18th c.	16	330	0.12	14
Dutch-type slipware	DUTS	NHSLIP	17th c.	4	110		1
Midlands coarse blackware	MIDB	MLBSL	17th-18th c.	19	841	0.39	17
Staffordshire slipware	STAF	STSL	L.17th-18th c.	2	9		2
Staffs manganese glazed ware	STMG	STMO	L.17th-18th c.	9	269		2
Post-medieval redware	PMRW	PMRED	M.16th-19th c.	1	4		1
Tin-glazed earthenware	TGE	TGW	M.17th-18th c.	1	7		1
Staffs white salt-glazed stoneware	SWSW	SWSG	18th c.	10	25	0.14	8
Late blackware	LBW	LBLAK	18th-E.20th c.	2	123	0.07	2
Creamware	CRW	CREA	M.18th-E.19th c.	1	1		1
Pearlware	PEW	PEARL	L.18th-19th c.	8	17		6
Refined factory-made whiteware	REFW	WHITE	19th-20th c.	7	32	0.13	7
Late slipped redware	LSRW	SUND	L.18th-E.20th c.	1	17		1
Yellow/buff ware	YELW	NCBW	L.18th-E.20th c.	2	9	0.10	1
Totals				*139*	*3785*	*1.71*	*93*

Table 20: Post-Roman pottery from Area D.

8.2.14 A fragment of a thick-walled handmade vessel containing moderate shell and limestone and occasional sand was cream-coloured externally and dark grey across the rest of the sherd, although the internal surface was worn away. The fragment may be Early Saxon, but could equally be prehistoric. It was found in Roman gully fill (403232).

8.2.15 Two shelly ware sherds of possible early medieval date were collected from ditch fill (403256), which has a preliminary phasing of Iron Age. One sherd appeared to be handmade and contained the typical shell fossils associated with St Neots-type wares. However, the same fossils are present in Roman Harrold ware, southern Maxey-type ware, and also Lyveden-Stanion wares of medieval date, so other identifications are possible. A black body sherd with ?oyster-type fossils in it may also be early medieval, but again there are parallels for this fabric in other periods.

8.2.16 Several sherds of medieval glazed wares were found. The majority were Bourne B types, but there were also two fragments of a Toynton ware vessel. All fragments of this date were body sherds with green or yellow glaze externally.

8.2.17 Three sherds with green glaze internally were from a late medieval Ely-type ware, and a few sherds were probably late medieval wares of more local manufacture. These included a jar/pipkin rim and a possible small bowl rim. Bourne D ware, which spans the late medieval and early post-medieval periods, included fragments of two bowls, and some body sherds with spots of glaze and/or thin white slip.

8.2.18 As elsewhere on the site, the majority of pottery was of post-medieval date. Local redwares and blackwares were fairly common, with the GRE group including part of the rim of a ?plate and the full profile of a dish. The Midlands purple ware group included a ?chamber pot and twelve sherds of a 'butterpot' jar. A slipware plate with a T-shaped rim was decorated with trailed white slip forming concentric lines on the rim, and may be of Dutch origin (cf. Jennings 1981, 92, no. 624). Fragments of Midlands coarse blackwares were common, and included rims of a ?bowl, a ?dish and three jars. Two sherds of Staffordshire-type slipware were decorated with combed brown slip internally and were probably pieces of plates. Nine sherds were part of a Staffordshire manganese glazed tankard. One small sherd of TGE had a light blue glaze and was probably an English product.

8.2.19 Early modern wares included several small pieces of white salt-glazed tablewares including a ?saucer and a small bowl. Two fragments of late blackware included a large fragment of a pancheon rim. Sherds of creamware and pearlware were all small, but the latter included a ?plate rim and several fragments decorated with willow pattern and other blue transfer prints. The refined whitewares also included a plate rim, and a willow pattern cup. One sherd of late slipped redware (so-called 'Sunderland coarseware') was a fragment of base, probably from a bowl, with internal white slip. Two sherds of a yellow kitchenware bowl were decorated with thin white lines externally.

8.2.20 The distribution of pottery in Area D by trench and pot period is shown in Table 21.

Trench	EMed?	Med	LMed	PMed	PMed-Mod	Mod	Un	*Totals*
4017			2		1			*3*
4018				1		14		*15*
4024		2		4				*6*

Trench	EMed?	Med	LMed	PMed	PMed-Mod	Mod	Un	*Totals*
4025			1					*1*
4030						4		*4*
4032	2						1	*3*
4034		5	14	3	7	1		*30*
4037			3					*3*
4168			1	4	10			*15*
4178				29	7	10		*46*
4182				3	2	1		*6*
4186				1	4	1		*6*
U/S				1				*1*

Table 21: Distribution of pottery by trench and pot period in Area D (sherd count)

8.2.21 Most of these trenches produced only small quantities of post-Roman pottery, with the largest concentrations found in Trenches 4018, 4034, and 4178 in the south of the site, and 4168 further to the north.

Overview

8.2.22 Very little high to late medieval pottery is included in the assemblage, with most sherds coming from the known production sites at Bourne, Toynton and Ely. Only glazed wares of this period were present. The early post-medieval period is represented by local and Midlands wares, with some redwares probably being of East Anglian origin, and there were a few imported wares from Germany and the Low Countries. Midlands wares dominate during the 17th/18th century, although some of the redwares may also date to this period. The modern wares are typical of much of the country in the later 18th and 19th centuries.

8.2.23 While there are a few small concentrations of post-medieval pottery in some parts of the site, which may be of value to investigate further in the field, in general this assemblage covers a fairly broad date range and is widely dispersed across a number of fields, occurring mainly in ditch fills. As such, many of the sherds probably represent the scattering of urban waste in nightsoil and manure, and they may have little relevance to this rural landscape. The large group from Trench 4178 may represent 18th-century backfilling of a quarry pit.

8.3 Briquetage

By [redacted]

8.3.1 A total of 18,053 pieces of briquetage weighing 85,127g was recovered, principally from Areas C and D. The briquetage is predominantly of Late Iron Age to Early Roman date with activity in Area C, Field C-1-01 mostly dating to around the mid-1st century BC to 1st century AD, and in Area D, Field D-5-01 focused on the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD. The assemblage is mostly poorly preserved and is almost all redeposited in ditches and pits, though a small number of pieces were recovered from settling tanks in Area D.

Methodology

8.3.2 The assemblage was analysed and recorded using the methodology devised for the briquetage recovered during the Fenland Management Project (Lane and Morris 2001). The complete assemblage was analysed and the briquetage recorded by context, grouped by class, form, and fabric, and counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Container wall thickness was recorded, and diameter, width and height of pedestals and other supports were noted where complete measurements were available. Examples of diagnostic forms within each class were selected for illustration. Material was also selected for retention based on condition, completeness, and diagnostic utility, with the remainder of the material recommended for discard once full publication is complete.

Area A Crowland

8.3.3 A small briquetage assemblage of fifteen fragments weighing 343g was recovered from Area A, fourteen fragments, 33g from Field A-1-07 Trench 1053 and one fragment 10g from Field A-1-12, Trench 1045. The assemblage contains a range of container body sherds (BS) and a single rounded rim (R5), and two incomplete spacer clips, all in organic tempered fabric (Table 22). The organic fabrics have characteristic sparse fine elongated voids left by burnt out organic material perhaps spelt wheat or barley chaff and were in use from the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period (Morris 2001, 354). The clips retain the impressions of rounded rims where they have been pressed between containers to stabilise them during heating. Both clips have been exposed to brine splashes leaving salt bleaching, and changing the upper surfaces to a characteristic pink, orange colour. Both type of clips have been found at Morton Saltern dated to the late 1st to 2nd century BC (Crosby 2001). The remainder of the assemblage comprises fragments from undiagnostic supports, and miscellaneous structural material perhaps from hearth walls, in a mix of sandy and organic fabrics, some containing calcareous material perhaps chalk.

Class	Form	Fabric	Quantity	Weight (g)
Container	BS1	V1	4	46
	BS99	V1	1	21
	R5	V1	1	5
Support	CL1	V1	1	28
	CL6	V1	1	22

Class	Form	Fabric	Quantity	Weight (g)
	SP misc.	V1	3	76
Structural	St misc.	Q1	1	72
		V1	1	10
Misc.	U misc.	V1	2	63
Total			15	343

Table 22: Briquetage from Area A by class form and fabric.

8.3.4 A fragment of copper alloy sheet found in Field A-1-11 Trench 1006, context (100608) had been tentatively suggested as being associated with salt production, however this is unlikely as copper is highly reactive with salt and would likely spoil or discolour the brine.

Area B Crowland/Moulton

8.3.5 Area B produced only nineteen fragments of briquetage weighing 1,211g. The assemblage includes two container body sherds, one from the area where the main body of the container is joined to the container end (BS2) the second undiagnostic (BS99). The container sherds came from ditch [206210], Field B-1-10, Trench 2062, which also contained mid-2nd to 3rd century Roman pottery. One small fragment of undiagnostic support was also recovered (curvilinear [212104] Field B-1-08, Trench 2121), however the bulk of the small assemblage is comprised of structural material from the lining of a hearth (LN3, LN99), in a mix of sandy and organic tempered fabrics. The larger sandy fragments have broken along the weak points where coils or layers have been applied to the structure wall and have one smoothed surface. All the hearth lining fragments were recovered from ditch terminus [208802] in Trench 2008, Field B-5.

Class	Form	Fabric	Quantity	Weight (g)
Container	BS2	V1	1	11
	BS99	Q1	1	4
Support	SP misc.	V1	1	11
Structural	LN3	Q1	1	599
		V1	1	467
	LN99	Q1	5	83
	St Misc.	Q1	2	26
Misc.	U misc.	V1	7	10
Total			19	1211

Table 23: Briquetage from Area B by class form and fabric.

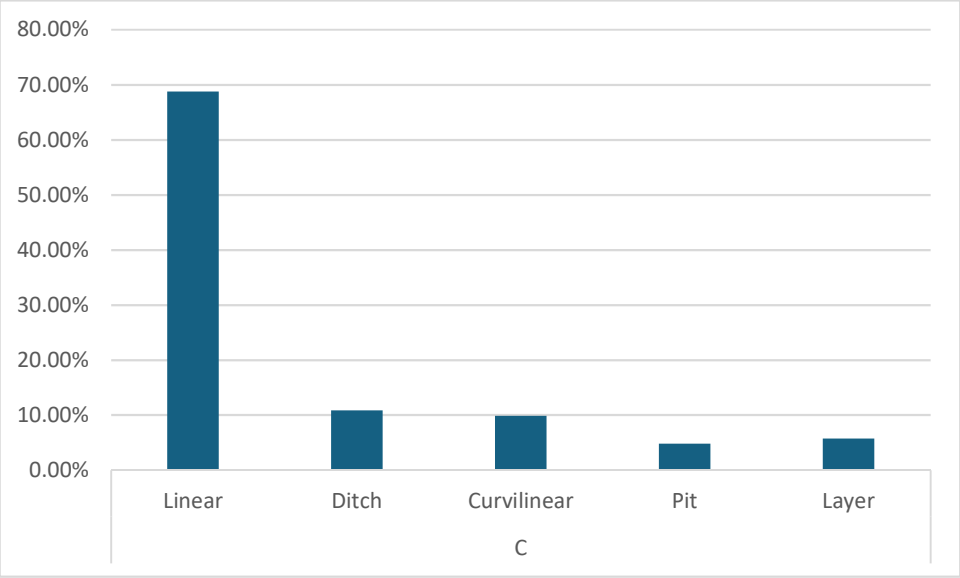
Area C Crowland/Moulton

8.3.6 The large briquetage assemblage from Area C contains a total of 4,032 fragments weighing 33,192g. The bulk of the assemblage came from Trench 3005 in Field C-1-01, with smaller assemblages recovered from Trenches 3057 and 3072 in Field C-1-03, and a single fragment from Trench 3052 Field C-1-07 (Table 24). The majority of the pottery from contexts which also contain briquetage in Field C-1-01 dates to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period, and a similar date is proposed for the briquetage assemblage.

Field	Trench	Quantity	Weight
C-1-01	3005	3716	31184
C-1-03	3057	17	73
	3072	298	1931
C-1-07	3052	1	4
Total		*4032*	*33192*

Table 24: Briquetage from Area C by field and trench.

8.3.7 The majority of the assemblage came from the fills of linear features with smaller quantities from ditches, curvilinear features, pits, and layers. No in-situ material was recovered, and the bulk of the assemblage is redeposited, though it is possible that some of the linear features and ditches represent water management associated with salt production.



Graph 1: Briquetage from Area C by feature type

8.3.8 The assemblage contains 1,094 container sherds, all but one in organic tempered fabric. Container fragments are mostly flat body sherds from the container wall (BS1) but include curved body sherds from the container wall (BS2). The container sherds vary in colour some being orange on both surfaces, and others orange on one surface and white from salt exposure on the opposing surface. Base 'base' angles where the end panel is joined to the body of the container are also flat (B1), curved (B4) or slightly flared (B2). The rims are hand formed with

rounded (R3) or pointed (R5) termini. This suggests hand formed troughs and pans were being used for boiling the brine comparable to those found at the late 1st to 2nd century AD Morton Saltern (Lane and Morris 2001, fig.32, 5).

Type	Form	Fabric	Quantity	Weight (g)
'Base' or end join	B1	V1	11	109
	B2	V1	3	43
	B4	V1	16	244
Body sherd	BS1	Q1	1	6
		V1	992	2409
	BS2	V1	24	218
	BS99	V1	44	69
Rim	R3	V1	2	11
	R5	V1	1	9
Total			***1094***	***3118***

Table 25: Container fragments from Area C by form and fabric

8.3.9 A fragment of lead sheet was recovered from ditch [300513] in Trench 3005, Field C-1-01, which also contained mid-2nd century AD pottery. It is possible that the fragment came from a lead pan used to heat the brine. Lead pans were widely used as a replacement for the ceramic containers in Roman salt-making in Cheshire particularly around Middlewich (Garner 2005, 23) and were possibly also used at the late Roman saltern at Middleton, Norfolk, suggested by the absence of ceramic container sherds and the use of sturdy cylindrical flat-topped pedestals (Percival 2001, 192). In Lincolnshire however lead pans are not known to have been used until the post-Roman period, where they are evidenced by the absence of ceramic container sherds and drips and prills of lead waste from manufacture and repair of the pans (Lane 2018, 56).

Support	Form	Fabric	Quantity	Weight (g)
Pedestal	PD1	V1	4	808
	PD2	V1	2	357
	PD3	V1	29	4432
	PD12	V1	5	596
	PD99	V1	53	3016
Clip	CL1	V1	8	174

Support	Form	Fabric	Quantity	Weight (g)
	CL2	V1	1	17
	CL3	V1	2	36
	CL4	V1	1	44
	CL6	V1	1	191
	CL7	V1	1	9
	CL99	V1	4	97
Brick	BK1	Q1	1	69
	BK2	V1	5	463
Wedge	W99	V1	1	21
Undiagnostic	SP Misc.	Q1	1	23
		V1	206	4536
Total			***325***	***14889***

Table 26: Support fragments from Area C by form and fabric

8.3.10 The assemblage contains a range of hand-squeezed pedestals, used to support the pans during the evaporation process. Many of the pedestals show bleaching from exposure to salt from brine splashes, a trait associated with Late Iron Age and Roman briquetage (Lane 2018, 65). The majority of the pedestals are squat with flat tops (PD1), lipped tops (PD2), or angled tops (PD3), or are short and disc-shaped with a curved top and irregular base, the latter used as an addition on top of another pedestal to level up the container (PD12). Similar to these flattened PD12 pedestals is a fragment of possible wedge, a support type formed by pressing wet clay between the pan and a pedestal or perhaps the pan and the hearth wall to further stabilize the container during evaporation (W99). The range of curved and flat surfaces left by the impressions of the containers on the pedestal tops suggest that these were probably made by a mix of trough shaped pans with curved bases, and flat based pans, both types found at Morton Saltern (Crosby 2001, 122). In addition to the pedestals the containers were also stabilized with a series of improvised clips which bridged the gaps between the pans. These are cylindrical with one or two lips which retain the impressions of the container rims (CL1 CL2) or flattened cylinders or bridges, occasionally with rim impressions (CL3 CL 4 CL 6). A variant is also present with a more rectangular profile (CL7). The clips typically have orange surfaces, often with splashes of salt bleaching. All the clips forms are comparable to examples from Morton Saltern (Lane and Morris 2001, table 89).

8.3.11 A small number of fragments from possible bricks were also found. These slightly tapering rectangular supports have been found in the Late Iron Age to Early Roman briquetage assemblage from Morton Canal and the late 1st to 2nd century AD assemblage from Morton Saltern (Lane and Morris 2001, table 89).

8.3.12 Structural material forms only a small component of the assemblage (117 fragments 6,064g). The majority of the pieces are undiagnostic (76 fragments 3557g) and are made of organic

tempered fabric, suggesting that they may represent superstructure made of a similar fabric to the containers and improvised supports. A small group of 41 fragments, 2,507g, are primarily made of sandy fabrics with occasional detrital inclusions (fabric Q1). These have the characteristic laminated appearance of hearth lining and are likely made of minimally processed local clays, with sand added to aid construction and improve refractory properties (Williams 2001, 185).

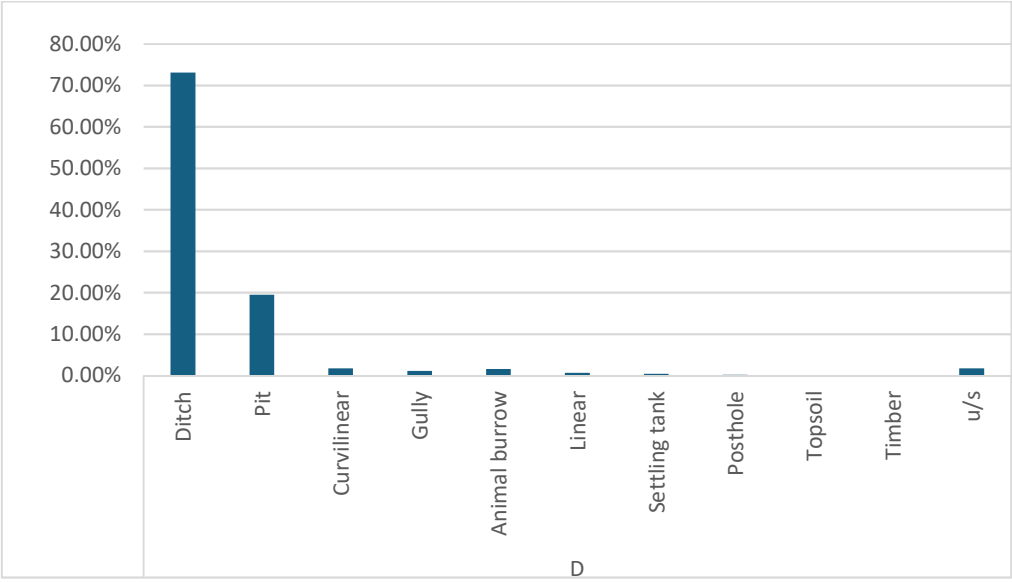
Area D Gedney Hill

8.3.13 A total of 13,987 fragments weighing 50,381kg was recovered from Area D, the majority from Field D-5-01 (11,177 fragments, 37,173g). Pottery associated with the assemblage mostly dates to the mid-1st to 2nd centuries AD and much of the briquetage is probably contemporary with this. The presence of settling tanks in Trench 4026 also helps to confirm this dating, as settling tanks only came into use in Lincolnshire from the Late Iron Age, continuing to be used into the Roman period (Lane 2018, 104). However, it is likely that salt production was also taking place in or near Area D in the mid-Iron Age, as a small number of shelly limestone tempered container sherds were also found (Trenches 4032 and 4178) along with a fragment of horned pyramidal pedestal (Trench 4022, pit [402228]), these being characteristic of Early to Middle Iron Age salt production (Morris 2001, 352; Lane 2018 58).

Field	Trench	Quantity	Weight
D-2-01	4120	11	472
D-2-04	4168	2	156
D-3-01	4104	602	692
D-3-02	4098	331	1136
D-5-01	4019	58	344
	4020	401	1520
	4021	2	46
	4022	4854	9300
	4024	24	77
	4026	2776	9238
	4178	3062	16648
D-6	4031	216	2473
	4032	1304	5584
	4033	164	1136
	4034	98	129
	4035	13	134

Field	Trench	Quantity	Weight
	4036	5	254
	4180	26	872
	4182	27	74
	4186	11	96
Total		*13987*	*50381*

Table 27: Briquetage fragments from Area D by field and trench



Graph 2: Briquetage from Area D by feature type

8.3.14 Briquetage was recovered from a range of feature types (Graph 2), though most came from ditches which produced 74% of the total assemblage by weight. The single organic tempered container sherd from the settling tank [402631] is the only briquetage from any feature definitively associated with salt production, with the remainder of the assemblage being redeposited.

Type	Form	Fabric	Quantity	Weight (g)
'Base' or end join	B1	V1	19	214
	B2	V1	5	73
	B4	V1	13	270
	B6	V1	1	9
	B99	V1	4	19
Body sherd	BS	V1	7	55
	BS1	L1	3	17

Type	Form	Fabric	Quantity	Weight (g)
		Q1	9	33
		V1	3444	7609
	BS2	V1	48	424
	BS99	V1	706	877
Rim	R3	V1	54	214
	R4	V1	4	57
	R5	V1	14	70
Total			*4331*	*9941*

Table 28: Container fragments from Area D by form and fabric

8.3.15 A large assemblage of container fragments was recovered (Table 28). The majority of the sherds are made of organic tempered fabrics characteristic of Late Iron Age to Roman briquetage containers, though three sherds, 17g, are made of shelly limestone tempered fabric typical of Iron Age containers and nine sherds 33g are made of sandy fabrics. Container sherds made in sandy or silty fabrics are rare with only single examples found in the mid to Late Iron Age assemblage at Cowbit and the early Roman saltern at Morton (Morris 2001, 353). The container assemblage comprises a mix of straight and curved body sherds (BS1 &BS2), as well as simple straight and curved 'base' sherds from the angle where the container wall joins the container end (B1 B4). Five 'base' sherds have pinched or flared joins (B2) and one has a convex angle suggesting a slightly curved end wall to the container (B6). All the rims are hand formed with rounded (R3), flattened (R4) or pointed rim termini (R5).

Type	Form	Fabric	Quantity	Weight (g)
Pedestal	PD1	V1	3	627
	PD4	Q1	1	39
	PD10	VQ1	1	328
	PD12	V1	6	327
	PD99	Q1	2	223
		V1	23	979
Clip	CL1	L1	1	14
		Q1	3	45
		V1	13	319
		VQ1	1	20

Type	Form	Fabric	Quantity	Weight (g)
	CL2	Q1	1	30
		V1	9	294
	CL3	V1	1	16
	CL4	L1	1	8
	CL6	Q1	1	28
		V1	1	9
	CL7	V1	1	29
	CL99	Q1	1	35
		V1	15	388
Misc.	SP Misc.	L1	1	12
		Q1	20	376
		QL1	1	69
		V1	391	6215
		VQ1	1	182
Total			*499*	*10612*

Table 29: Support fragments from Area D by form and fabric

8.3.16 Thirty-six fragments from pedestals were recovered (2,523g; Table 29). A single fragment from a horned pyramidal-type pedestal (PD4) which feature a rectangular body tapering to a curved top with single horn is comparable to examples from the Middle Iron Age site at Cowbit (Lane 2018, fig.26, 1). A second possible Iron Age pedestal form is made of fine silty fabric with sparse organic inclusions (PD10). The pedestal has rim impression to the pedestal base suggesting that containers were stacked one above the other during evaporation and is found at both Middle Iron Age Cowbit and Early Roman Morton Saltern (Lane and Morris 2001, table 89). The short and disc-shaped pedestal with a curved top and irregular base (PD12) was also found at Morton Saltern. The remaining pedestals are hand-squeezed with flat tops (PD1), of which two complete examples were recorded. The PD1 pedestals show salt splashing and bleaching, and some have fingertip impressions. The other pedestal forms show less salt bleaching, perhaps reflecting less intense exposure to brine more typical of middle Iron Age production (Lane 2018, 65).

8.3.17 The only other support type represented in the assemblage are *ad hoc* stabilizer clips (Table 28). These include cylindrical lipped forms with one or two lipped termini (CL1 and CL2), and slightly flattened versions (CL3 and CL4), short bridge-shaped stabilizers (CL6), and brick-shaped stabilizers (CL7). Forms CL1 and CL2 are found on Iron Age and early Roman assemblages whilst all forms are found at early Roman sites (Lane and Morris 2001, table 89).

8.3.18 A small assemblage of structural material was recovered. All are hearth lining pieces in a range of sandy and organic tempered fabrics (Table 30). One fragment of lining material came from the fill of settling tank [402633], the remainder were mostly collected from ditch fills, with larger assemblages recovered from ditches [402215] and [402607] and pit [417824], perhaps suggesting that these features lay close to the hearths from which the lining fragments derived.

Class	Form	Fabric	Quantity	Weight (g)
Lining	LN1	Q1	16	535
		V1	159	5993
		VQ1	1	36
	LN2	Q1	1	80
		V1	9	1765
	LN3	V1	2	866
	LN5	V1	1	234
	LN99	Q1	4	311
		V1	7	269
		VQ1	5	117
Total			*205*	*10206*

Table 30: Structural fragments from Area D by form and fabric

Discussion

8.3.19 The large briquetage assemblage from the Meridian 10020 project indicates sustained salt production in Area C and particularly Area D, with the Area C production probably dating to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period whilst salt-working in Area D perhaps began a little earlier in the Middle Iron Age, perhaps contemporary with the saltern site at Cowbit to the north-west of the Meridian excavations, and continuing into the early Roman period. Little of the briquetage is directly associated with surviving in-situ saltern structures, with the exception of a small quantity of material recovered from settling tanks. This is however often typical of briquetage assemblages with salt production being seasonal and dependant on fluctuating brine sources from the saltmarsh creeks, and sites often dispersed after use by clearance and subsequent agricultural activity. Further surviving saltern structures could also be revealed if further excavation were to take place, particularly in Area D. The assemblage is of especial interest as it is associated with a reasonably sized pottery assemblage, which provides some potential for further dating the briquetage assemblage.

Recommendations

8.3.20 A full report is required considering the assemblage in its regional context. This will incorporate the results of any further stratigraphic or absolute dating achieved. Twenty-five

pieces of briquetage will be recommended for illustration, by drawing and photograph. A full catalogue of illustrated material will be included in the report.

8.3.21 Further analysis and report writing will take three days to complete.

Acknowledgements

8.3.22 I am grateful to [redacted] who catalogued the assemblage.

8.4 CBM, Mortar and Fired Clay

By [redacted]

Introduction

8.4.1 Ceramic building material (CBM) totalling 143 pieces (20627g) was recovered from four areas during the evaluation. Quantities for each are shown in Table 31 and a full catalogue by context is included in Appendix 9–11.

Area	Parish	No.	Wt (g)	Min no
A	Crowland	24	2367	22
B	Crowland/Cowbit	44	5288	33
C	Crowland	10	761	5
D	Fleet	65	12211	53
Totals		*143*	*20627*	*113*

Table 31: CBM quantification by area

Methodology

8.4.2 The CBM was quantified by context, fabric and type, using fragment count and weight in grams. Fabrics are based on coarseness of sand within the matrix and major inclusions, but for smaller fragments this may mean classification simply on the basis of the sand content. Roman forms were identified with the aid of Brodribb (1987), and later forms are based on Drury (1993). The presence of burning, combing, finger marks, mortar and other surface treatments was recorded. Measurements were recorded if the full thickness was present, for all but roof tiles. Data were input into an MS Access database, which forms the archive catalogue.

Summary of the assemblages by excavation area

Area A – Crowland

8.4.3 CBM was recovered from eight trenches in this area. Table 32 shows the forms present in this assemblage.

Form	Code	No	Wt (g)	Min. No.
Brick	B	5	1616	4
	B?	1	21	1
Quarry floor tile	QFT	1	53	1
Field drain	FD	15	664	14
	FD?	1	10	1
Field drain/drainpipe	FD/DP	1	3	1

Form	Code	No	Wt (g)	Min. No.
Totals		*24*	*2367*	*22*

Table 32: CBM form quantities, Area A.

8.4.4 Fragments of brick were collected from two contexts. A small fragment of brick with straw impressions on the base and in an estuarine clay fabric may be of medieval date; it was found in sample <15> from gully fill (104003). All other brick fragments were from ditch fill (104205). These included a large fragment of an estuarine clay brick which was 58mm thick, and overfired (blown). Two fragments of a brick in a fine sandy fabric were 56mm thick. One other large fragment was in a fine sandy calcareous fabric and was 53mm thick. This range of sizes probably indicates a dump of material recovered from more than one structure, with bricks dating between the 15th and 18th centuries. One other small fragment in a silty calcareous fabric may have had a shallow frog, suggesting a 19th-century date.

8.4.5 One fragment of a late 19th or early 20th-century quarry floor tile, 17mm thick and with moulded ?square keying on the base, was collected from topsoil (102000).

8.4.6 All other CBM from this area comprised pieces of field drain. These were generally in fine silty fabrics, some with voids due to the leaching of calcareous material. Most were D-section pieces with a flat base and curving upper part and they varied in size. Pieces from topsoil (102000) varied from 70 to 120mm in diameter/curvature. One fragment with a finely smoothed surface may have been part of a domestic drainpipe, rather than a field drain. All are likely to date to the 19th century or later.

Area B – Crowland/Cowbit

8.4.7 Eleven trenches contained CBM in this area, the majority from Trenches 2076 and 2077. Table 33 shows the quantities of CBM recovered from this area.

Form	Code	No	Wt (g)	Min. No.
Pantile	PAN	4	233	3
	PAN?	1	29	1
Ridge tile	RID	1	195	1
Brick	B	20	4301	15
	B?	5	149	4
Floor brick/floor tile	FB/FT	1	166	1
Quarry floor tile	QFT	1	63	1
Field drain	FD	6	22	3
	FD?	1	37	1
Field drain/drainpipe	FD/DP	1	5	1

Form	Code	No	Wt (g)	Min. No.
Drainpipe	DP	2	42	1
Unidentified	UN	1	16	1
Totals		*44*	*5258*	*33*

Table 33: CBM form quantities, Area B

8.4.8 A few fragments of roof tile were recovered. Two pieces of a pantile in a fine sandy fabric came from ditch fill (204703) and was probably of 18th-century or later date. Another possible pantile was from topsoil (212300), but the underside was unsanded – it is likely to be a machine made example of 19th-century or later date. A fine sandy post-medieval ridge tile fragment was found in ditch fill (207718).

8.4.9 This group was dominated by fragments of brick. Small fragments of probable late medieval or early post-medieval bricks were collected from ditch fills (202304), (202509) and (200511), and there was a piece of compressed clay/shale brick of later 19th to 20th-century date in ditch fill (206904). Several estuarine clay and other bricks were recovered from contexts in Trenches 2076 and 2077. Most of these were probably slop-moulded bricks of later medieval date, some with straw/organic impressions on the base. One had a reduced core and another had been overfired with blown areas at both ends of one stretcher face. The latter was complete and measured 233mm x 92–110mm x 53–60mm. The example with a reduced core was significantly water-eroded. One brick in an orange silty micaceous fabric with sharp arrises – found in ditch fill (207628) – was probably later, and measured 97 x 60mm. Another two fragments of a silty brick with sharp arrises came from ditch fill (207620).

8.4.10 A floor brick or tile in a white-firing silty fabric with calcareous inclusions had a smoothed (?unworn) surface and was more than 35mm thick. It was found in ditch fill (207620) and probably dates to the 18th/19th century. A fragment of quarry floor tile with moulded straight-edged keying was of later 19th/20th-century date and was found in topsoil (209800).

8.4.11 Fragments of field drain and domestic drainpipe were relatively frequent finds, but most pieces were small. They included a similar range to the larger pieces identified in Area A.

Area C – Crowland

8.4.12 Table 34 shows the quantities of CBM by form from this area.

Form	Code	No	Wt (g)	Min. No.
Roman tile	RBT	2	437	1
	RBT?	1	249	1
Brick	B	4	55	1
	B?	1	2	1
Field drain	FD	2	18	1
Totals		*10*	*761*	*5*

Table 34: CBM form quantities, Area C.

8.4.13 Only a small quantity of CBM was found in this area, spread across five trenches. Of most significance was a small quantity of Roman tile, found in ditch fills (305705) and (306322). Two joining fragments of a tile, 40mm thick, had a curving finger mark 'signature' at the corner. The other fragment was less certainly identified as it was not full-thickness (39+mm thick) and could possibly be a late medieval brick. Four small fragments of possible late medieval estuarine clay brick were found in ditch fill (307512), and a very small piece of ?brick in a fine sandy fabric was found in ditch fill (302113). Two pieces of a post-medieval field drain came from ditch fill (305906).

Area D – Fleet

8.4.14 Ten trenches produced CBM in this area, with particular concentrations in Trenches 4018 and 4034. Table 35 shows the quantities of CBM from this area.

Form	Code	No	Wt (g)	Min. No.
Roman tile	RBT	2	170	2
Pantile	PAN	10	621	10
	PAN?	1	2	1
Brick	B	41	10104	32
	B?	4	774	4
Floor tile?	FT?	1	268	1
Field drain	FD	3	253	1
Unidentified	UN	3	19	2
Totals		*65*	*12211*	*53*

Table 35: CBM form quantities, Area D.

8.4.15 Two pieces of Roman tile were identified. These were a fragment measuring 43mm thick in ditch fill (403226) and a small ?burnt piece from ditch fill (418228) which was 32mm thick. The latter is towards the top end of the range of thicknesses for a flanged tegula, and perhaps both pieces are more likely to be wall or floor tile of this period.

8.4.16 Fragments of roof tile were all pantiles, including one edge piece with a nib. Both handmade post-medieval and machine-made modern pieces were found, with the largest group from ditch fill (401809).

8.4.17 Bricks formed the largest proportion of the Area D assemblage. Like Area C, there was a high proportion of estuarine clay slop-moulded bricks of probable late medieval date. These were found in trenches 4018, 4034 and 4182, all towards the south of the area. The group included several pieces which were overfired, cracked and blown, with one piece having a glass, vitrified surface. The bricks varied in size. One complete example was 218 x 100 x 67mm, and there were six other fragments with full widths (91–125mm) and ten pieces with full thickness (49–65mm, with most over 57mm thick). The thinnest, widest brick (125 x 49mm) had sunken

margins and sparse straw on the base, and may be the earliest from the site. While poorly made bricks such as these could sometimes be used as hardcore in structures, they may also be indicative of brickmaking in the area – similar material was recovered from Cowbit Fen on the A16 (Lincs HER monument MLI98506), some 7km to the north-west. A few post-medieval bricks were also recovered. One example from topsoil (403400) was 62mm thick and had patchy lime mortar on the surface, which contained carbonised material. Four bricks were in white-firing gault-type clays and probably came from Cambridgeshire. These included one brick which was 60mm thick and possibly of 19th-century date, found in pit fill (417819). A possible floor tile, 36mm thick, was in a similar fabric, and came from ditch fill (403414).

8.4.18 Three fragments of a D-section post-medieval field drain were found in ditch fill (404008).

Mortar

8.4.19 Fragments of lime mortar and plaster (23 pieces, 207g) were recovered from ditch fill (207620) in Area B (Appendix 10). One small piece of plaster contained fine sand aggregates and was 6mm thick with a smoothed surface. The rest of the material from this context comprised slightly coarser pieces with flat surfaces, some up to 28mm thick, and containing fine sand and calcareous aggregates. These fragments probably represent pointing.

Fired Clay

8.4.20 A total of 41 fragments of fired clay (146g) was recovered from eleven contexts (Appendix 11). No fired clay was collected from Area A, and there was only one piece from Area B, with the majority from Area C and a small group from Area D.

8.4.21 The fired clay was fully catalogued and quantified by context, fabric and type, using fragment count and weight in grams. The presence and form of surface fragments and impressions were recorded, and wattle dimensions measured where possible. Data were input into an MS Access database which forms the archive catalogue.

8.4.22 The fired clay was in a range of silty fabrics, as shown in Table 36.

Fabric	Code	No	Wt/g
silty	s	4	5
silty micaceous	sm	5	7
sm with clay pellets	smcp	10	49
sm with organics	smo	19	62
sm with voids	smv	2	22
silty with voids	sv	1	1
Totals		*41*	*146*

Table 36: Fired clay quantities by fabric.

8.4.23 All fragments were small and most were heavily abraded. A few pieces may be briquetage, as they contained fine organic material (smo fabric, with grass-shaped voids). The remainder were undiagnostic.

8.5 The Small Finds

By [redacted]

Introduction

8.5.1 An assemblage of around one hundred small finds, mostly made of iron, was recovered from twenty-seven separate contexts, spread across twenty-three trenches. Each trench provided a small quantity of material, with the exception of the larger assemblages from contexts 207620 and 401809. The former assemblage consists largely of modern material, whilst the finds from context 401809 include Roman and early medieval objects. Iron nails dominate the assemblage but there are also objects of Iron Age and later date.

8.5.2 The small finds are described below by period, beginning with the Iron Age to Roman material, and are considered by area within these periods.

Iron Age to Roman Small Finds

8.5.3 One of the earliest small finds from the site is a fragmentary segment of a sheep or goat tibia with the proximal end removed, pierced by a lateral perforation, coming from context 418013 in Area D. The lower part of the bone has fractured away but it is likely that it originally formed part of a small blade, with the lower midshaft sliced and tapering to a point. It is possible that it is an unfinished implement, given that the surviving part has not been sliced but these were long implements with relatively short sliced terminals and comparable examples from Danebury also lack the sliced component (Sellwood 1984a, Figure 7.33). Small pointed blades occur in late Bronze Age contexts but are more commonly found in the Iron Age. They have been separated into a number of types, based essentially on the raw material, the specific bone type and the end of the bone chosen for their manufacture (Sellwood 1984a, 385; Britnell 2000). Blades with the proximal end of a sheep or goat tibia forming the basal part are a feature of the middle to late Iron Age in particular, increasing in popularity as the type cut from the distal end of the bone decreased in number (Olsen 2003, 103; Riddler 2018, 221). They are mainly confined to the Iron Age, but some have also been found in contexts of early Roman date (Greep 1983, 159-63). They are regarded as bone spearheads, with the lateral perforation used to secure a wooden shaft hafted on to the basal end (Olsen 2003, 108-9).

8.5.4 A small, annular bead of light brown clay from context 203008 in Area B is also likely to be of Iron Age date. Beads of this material occur in Iron Age contexts and appear to be superseded by glass beads over time (Foulds 2017, 3). Several examples were recovered from Danebury (Poole 1984, 398).

8.5.5 Part of an iron knife blade from context 401809 in Area D is probably of late Iron Age date. It has a curved cutting edge and lightly concave back and broadly resembles Manning's type 12a, a knife form that occurs across the Roman period (Manning 1985, 114). However, type 12 has a straight back and the lightly concave back form seen here corresponds better with Class 1 from Danebury, a class essentially of late Iron Age date (Sellwood 1984b, 349 and Figure 7.10.2.25).

8.5.6 An iron implement from context 214205 in Area B can be identified as a small tanged chisel, with a blade of rectangular section at one end and a tapering tang at the other end. It is a small and delicate version of the object type, most likely used in woodworking, and the equivalent to Humphrey's type B2 chisels from London (Humphreys 2021, 216).

8.5.7 A large assemblage of lead sheet from context 300530 in Area C, now in numerous pieces weighing around 80g, originally formed part of a lead salt pan, probably of Roman date. It would have acted as a sheet of metal on which salt was placed to evaporate. In a similar way, thin copper alloy sheet from context 100608 in Area A is also encased in salt and perhaps formed part of another sheet metal salt pan or other vessel (see 8.3.4). Both objects are heavily corroded and shattered, in part as a result of the salt residues that they retain. The lead salt pan is thicker than the copper alloy sheet and would originally have been much heavier. Lead salt pans have been found at Nantwich, and it has been suggested that they should be present in Roman Lincolnshire as well (Lane and Morris 2001, 244).

Early Medieval Finds

8.5.8 The early medieval period is not well represented, but two items from Area D can be discussed here. A fragmentary iron horseshoe from context 402406 in Area D survives in several pieces but includes closely spaced nail holes and a wavy outer circumference, allowing it to be placed in Clark's type 1 (Clark 1995, 85). The type first occurs in the late Saxon period and continues into the early part of the Norman period. The shaft of an iron clench bolt from context 401809, also in Area D, is circular in section and includes lateral wood remains. Fragments of the discoidal head and the rove at the opposite end survive, and the bolt originally clenched wood 33mm in width. Clench bolts can be seen in England from the seventh century onwards and are particularly common in the late Saxon period, as shown at Fishergate in York, for example (Rogers 1993, 1410-12). They continued in use into the earlier part of the medieval period, however (Margeson 1993, 146-8; Edberg 2011, 13-14). They were used in the construction of clinker-built vessels but also in structures, particularly with doors, hatches and covers.

Late Medieval to Early Post-Medieval Finds

8.5.9 Several objects can be placed in the late medieval to early post-medieval period, covering the fifteenth and sixteenth century. An unusual fragment of a double-looped rectangular buckle (Sf 1) from context 301929 in Area C has fractured across one of its loops. Both ends were thickened and raised lightly above the frame, and the short central pin bar is lightly indented. It is unusual to see a buckle of this form made in lead, rather than copper alloy, but it may have been a shoe buckle. The form is a simple one, occurring across the late medieval to early post-medieval period (Whitehead 1996, 76). Fragments of a wooden patten were recovered from context 207627 in Area B, in the fill of a ditch that largely contained modern finds. Pattens are wooden overshoes that were worn in damp environments, protecting leather footwear (Grew and de Neergaard 1988, 91-101). They became popular from the fifteenth century onwards and continued in use across the earlier part of the post-medieval period.

Late Post Medieval to Modern Small Finds

8.5.10 The late post medieval small finds consist largely of nails, either square in section with blunt terminals, or straight nails with circular sections, a form still used today. A number of iron strips from several different contexts are also of this date. Some of the larger nails have discoidal heads and shafts that are square over the upper part and rectangular over the lower part, with rounded terminals. They include a large iron nail from the fill of a modern feature in trench 4030 (context 403016) in Area D, with a lightly curved shaft that tapers to a blunt terminal. A complete nail from context 207628 in Area B has a rectangular, domed head and would have been used to secure a floorboard.

8.5.11 A bone mount from context 207711 in Area B has been lathe-turned and includes a screw thread at either end on the inner surface, enabling it to function as a connecting piece

between two tubes of bone. It may have functioned as part of a composite bone syringe, similar to examples from the Netherlands of nineteenth-century date (Rijkelijkhuizen 2024, 122-4). An iron socketed hoe from context 104606 in Area A formed part of an agricultural implement.

8.5.12 A large iron horseshoe from context 203103 in Area B is 180mm in width and includes traces of fullered grooves on one side. These characteristics indicate that it is post-medieval in date, and its oval shape suggests that it was placed on a front foot of the horse – the back feet were shod with horseshoes that were more circular in shape. A larger group of three iron horseshoes of a similar type and date came from context 104604 in Area D, the fill of a modern pit. Other finds of modern date include a shotgun cartridge from context 100304 in Area A and several lengths of wire from context 207711, the fill of a pit in Area B.

8.6 The Slags

By [redacted]

Introduction

8.6.1 This report describes the material classified as slag recovered from evaluation excavations at Meridian Solar Farm, near Crowland, Lincolnshire. The site is situated on the flat Lincolnshire Fens southwest of the Wash. The solid geology of the area is the Jurassic Oxford Clay Formation-Mudstone, overlain by Quaternary tidal flat deposits. A brief overview of the material from the site is provided, followed by a detailed description and quantification. The significance of the material is discussed and recommendations made for further work. The assessment report follows the guidelines issued by English Heritage (Dungworth 2015, 13-14).

8.6.2 Catalogues of the slags are provided in Appendix 13.

Slag Classification

8.6.3 The slags were visually examined, and the classification is based solely on morphology. The debris associated with metalworking or submitted in the understanding that they are associated with metalworking, can be divided into two broad groups; residues diagnostic of a particular metallurgical process or non-diagnostic residues that may have derived from any pyrotechnological process (McDonnell 2001). The diagnostic ferrous debris can be attributed to a particular ironworking process; these comprise ores and the ironworking slags, i.e. the macro, hand recovered smelting and smithing slags and the micro-residues such as hammerscale and slag fragments recovered from sieving programmes. The second group are the diagnostic non-ferrous metalworking debris, e.g. crucibles and moulds. Thirdly, there are the non-diagnostic slags, which could have been generated by a number of different processes but show no diagnostic characteristic that can identify the process. In many cases the non-diagnostic residues, e.g. hearth or furnace lining, may be ascribed to a particular process through archaeological association. The residue classifications used in the report are defined below.

Diagnostic Ferrous Slags and Residues

8.6.4 Bog Ore. This iron ore is formed in low lying boggy areas and was probably the principal ore type used in the Iron Age.

8.6.5 Hearth Bottom - a plano-convex accumulation of iron silicate slag formed in the smithing hearth. The dimensions of the hearth bottoms (weight (grams), major diameter (mm), minor diameter (mm) and depth (mm)) are tabulated.

8.6.6 Smithing Slag - randomly shaped pieces of iron silicate slag generated by the smithing process. In general slag is described as smithing slag unless there is good evidence to indicate that it derived from the smelting process.

8.6.7 Hammerscale - there are two forms of hammerscale, flake and spheroidal generated during the smithing process. The presence of hammerscale is therefore a strong indicator that smithing (primary or secondary) was carried out on the site. Their small size precludes their hand recovery, and they are usually recovered during soil sample sieving (for environmental data).

Non-Diagnostic Slags and Residues

8.6.8 Hearth or Furnace Lining - the clay lining of an industrial hearth, furnace or kiln that has a vitrified or slag-attacked face. It is not possible to distinguish between furnace and hearth lining.

8.6.9 Cinder - high silica-content slag that can either be formed in a smithing hearth or through high a temperature reaction between silica and ferruginous material. It can be considered either a non-diagnostic slag or a diagnostic slag depending on its iron content and morphology.

8.6.10 Other - material other than slag, e.g. stone or unidentified material.

Results

Overview

8.6.11 A very small assemblage of iron smithing debris (total slag weight 0.4kg).

Description

8.6.12 Table A13-1, Appendix 13, lists the slag types, count and weight present on the site, and a list of the identification of the magnetic fractions recovered from the sieving programme is provided in Table A13-2. The assemblage comprises a single hearth bottom (dimensions are presented in Table A13-3), a small amount of smithing slag, and a few flakes of hammerscale were recovered from two contexts (Table A13-2), neither of which contained slag. There was a single fragment of hearth lining, which may be a piece of a blowhole. There was nearly 0.5kg of bog ore dominated by a single lump (weight 146 grams) from Context 403620. A small quantity of light grey cinder was present. The small piece of material classified as 'other' was either a fragment of bog ore or iron corrosion products.

Discussion and Significance

8.6.13 The assemblage is small and is widely distributed across the area investigated. Table A13-4 shows that most of the material was recovered from Field D 6, and Trench 403 in particular (Table A13-5). It is a background scatter of smithing debris from a nearby settlement.

Recommendations

8.6.14 The assemblage is small (0.4kg of slag) and a typical background scatter. Unless a settlement is expected in the area, then no further work is required. The assemblage should be retained until all investigations are complete and then reviewed.

8.7 The Worked Stone

By [redacted]

Introduction

8.7.1 The worked stone assemblage from the site comprises four hones, two fragments of slate, several fragments of sandstone of unknown function, one fragment of sandstone that may have been used for unidentified processing activities, and two natural mudstones. Three of the hones are of a sandstone type that has been identified by Allen (2022) as Cretaceous Weald Clay formation sandstone and the three fragments are derived from at least two complete objects. The other hone is of a coarser sandstone type. All four were probably initially in use during the Roman era. The sandstone fragments and slate may have been used as building material but their purpose and date are not known.

Methodology

8.7.2 The stone artefacts were visually inspected using a 10x magnification hand lens to determine stone composition. Typological characteristics and lithological descriptions for all fragments were recorded. Signs of use and manufacture, such as wear traces and the presence of rebates were also noted.

The Hones

8.7.3 Four hones were present in the assemblage. All four were bar-shaped with either square or rectangular shaped cross-sections. The first (403143) was formed from a pale grey fine-grained laminated quartz sandstone with scattered shell, occasional charcoal flecks and glauconite with carbonate cement. The same stone type was identified for hones 403136 and 403144. Hone 403143 was 86mm long, 25mm wide and 14mm thick and had one rounded end, with the other end broken. The hone was also broken along the bedding plane of the stone towards one end. The remains of a rebate were visible along one surface width, but this was faint and barely visible in profile.

8.7.4 Hone 403136 measured 69mm in length, 25mm in width and 10mm in thickness. It was broken at both ends and heavily worn. There was clear evidence of a rebate visible along one surface width of the stone. Hone 403144 measured 53mm in length, 22mm in width and 9mm in thickness. It was very well worn with two broken ends and no traces of rebates remaining.

8.7.5 The final hone, 403116, was of a different stone type. This was a pale grey semi-coarse grained laminated sandstone. It was a larger size than the other three hones, measuring 78mm in length, 37mm in width and 34mm in thickness. This classifies it as a semiportable type that was less likely to be transported from one sharpening location to another. The hone was broken at one end and rounded at the other, possibly from wear.

Possible Building Material

8.7.6 Two fragments of slate were identified in the assemblage and are of unknown origin or date (207708, 207620). It is likely that these were used as building material, probably for roofing. Several fragments of laminated sandstone from 207620 and 207708 showed no evidence for being worked and were broken along the natural bedding plane of the stone. It is possible that they were brought to the site to be used for building material, but there is nothing on the fragments to suggest their function or date of use. These fragments and the slate may relate to the demolished farm building in Trench 2076 (YA/2025/177)

Natural Stone

8.7.7 Two small mudstones (403123, 403124) were identified that have a natural calcareous concretion adhered to them. These are not of archaeological interest.

Other

8.7.8 A small fragment of dark grey coloured fine grained massive quartz sandstone with silica cement (403268) showed signs of possible wear on one side. The fragment was an irregular shape with one side presenting a naturally weathered crust. It could represent a hone or processing stone casually used from recycled building material. However, it is not possible to identify what type of activity was involved.

Discussion

8.7.9 Four hones were present in the assemblage. Of these, three were of the same stone type (403143, 403136, 403144). The lithology of the hones is a matter for debate having been identified as Cretaceous Weald Clay formation sandstone by Allen (2022), while Green (forthcoming) opts for a possible continental source. Regardless of the source, this stone type and form of hone is common in Roman contexts, is distributed widely in Britain and has also been identified in continental Europe (Reniere 2018). They were probably used for everyday domestic sharpening of plane bladed or for craftworking tools (Banfield 2023). Complete and unused examples recovered from Wroxeter measured up to 140mm in length (Williams 1989). Therefore, the minimum number of hones in the assemblage is two

8.7.10 Hones of this type were manufactured into bar shapes from slabs and many excavated examples retain 'rebates' along the width to show where the stone was split as part of this process. The hones 403136 and 403143 retain evidence for these rebates along one width, which show that these objects were manufactured using the same methods. It is thought that Wealden sandstone bar-shaped hones were centrally distributed from London due to the large volume of unused examples that were uncovered in the city at New Fresh Wharf (Rhodes, 1986). Discovery of others in pre-Boudiccan deposits in London signify their manufacture and use prior to AD 60, and, as yet, there have been no known examples recovered from secure use contexts that post-date the Roman era. It is probable that the manufacture and distribution of the Wealden sandstone hones ended sometime in the mid-3rd century AD according to the stratigraphic analysis of the hones dumped at New Fresh Wharf (Banfield 2023).

8.7.11 The three hones uncovered at Meridian, therefore, provide possible evidence for the site's connection to London trade routes during the Roman era. These hones are most common in locations where there is a dearth of suitable natural sources of stones to use for sharpening, which is why they are numerous in London (Banfield 2023). The geology of the Meridian site suggests that this may also have been the case there. The significant signs of wear on the hones prior to their discard also indicate that casual exploitation of natural stone sources was not an alternative to replacement.

8.7.12 The fourth hone (403116) was of a coarser sandstone type and a larger size. As a semi-portable type with a different texture to that of the other examples, it is likely that it was used for rougher stages of sharpening and suggests a more diverse range of activities, possible associated with craft or industry. As with the other three examples from the site, the bar shape of the hone suggests that it was used to sharpen plane bladed tools.

Conclusion

8.7.13 The presence of sandstone and slate at the site probably relate to their possible use as building material. However, the fragments do not provide any way of verifying this use as there is no sign of working. Contextual information indicates that these fragments may relate to a demolished farm building in Trench 2076. Similarly, the possible processing stone provides little information relating to possible archaeological significance.

8.7.14 The four hones recovered from the site present the most interesting element of the assemblage, especially the three that were formed using the Weald Clay formation sandstone. The presence of these objects suggests that there was a deficit of suitable local stone for sharpening and that specially made bar-shaped hones had to be brought in, probably from London, which acted as a centralised distribution hub for these items. The first use of these hones at the meridian site probably occurred sometime between AD 60 and the middle of the 3rd century AD. However, it should be noted that hones are often reused, recycled and redeposited and the context of their discovery may date much later than the initial period of their use.

8.7.15 All four hones are bar-shaped types and would have been used to sharpen plane bladed tools such as knives and flat bladed chisels. The variation in hone textures with the two different stone types suggest that the hones may have been used for craftworking or industrial pursuits, where different sharpening activities needed to be accommodated for. The more coarse-grained hone would have been used for the earlier stages of whetting, while the Weald Clay types were best used afterwards to refine the blade. They were also useful for other everyday sharpening, possibly in a domestic context.

8.7.16 Overall, the worked stone assemblage provides evidence for exchange networks between London and the Meridian site during the Roman period and possible craft or industrial activity. This may have been linked to salt production, as evidenced in other parts of the site.

Summary Table

Context No	Function	Type	L (mm)	W (mm)	T (mm)	W (g)
403143	Hone	Primary, portable, bar-shaped	86	25	14	55.7
403136	Hone	Primary, portable, bar-shaped	69	25	10	37.6
207708	Building material	N/A				4.7
403123/4	Unknown	N/A				7.4
207708	Building material?	N/A				21.3
207620	Building material?	N/A				215.2
403268	Unknown	N/A				83
403116	Hone	Primary, semi portable, bar shaped	78	37	34	125.4
403144	Hone	Primary, portable, bar shaped	53	22	9	23.4

Table 37: Summary table of worked stone

Recommendations for Retention/Discard

8.7.17 It is recommended that the worked stone from contexts 403143, 403136, 403268, 403116 and 403144 are retained. The remaining stone objects can be discarded.

8.8 The Glass

By [redacted]

Introduction

8.8.1 Forty-nine glass artefacts, weighing a total of 3646g, were collected from the 10020 Meridian Solar site. These consisted of complete bottles and jars as well as unidentifiable fragments. The objects were catalogued by context number and object, with counts, weight, and identifiable features being noted (Appendix 14).

The assemblage

8.8.2 A total of 12 complete glass objects was collected from a single context on the Meridian Solar site. These were all forms of bottles or jars and were collected from context 403016, the fill of a modern dump. Three showed branding that was identifiable: a Brylcreem hair cream jar, a bovril jar, and a Pan Yan pickles jar, all dating to the 20th century. The other vessels included all displayed mould lines and embossed lettering, giving them a 19th century onwards date. In addition to these complete vessels, the fragmentary remains of a condiments jar and a glass lid were also recovered from this context.

8.8.3 A further 35 fragments of glass were recovered from 12 additional contexts. These were largely vessel fragments although 9 fragments of possible window glass were recovered from contexts 104404, 207624, and 417823. Unidentifiable fragments were also recovered from contexts 104600 and 418200, and 3 small pieces of possible glass slag from context 306322. These were small droplets of dark coloured glass and no other evidence of glass working were identified amongst the assemblage.

8.8.4 Of the vessel fragments recovered, they could all be identified as bottle or jar fragments; although the size of the fragments prohibited any identification of maker or bottle type. Several of these bottles have been dated to the 17th – 19th century due to the presence of mouth blown characteristics. Of note was a green bottle neck fragment that featured an etched "2…." on the shoulder of the vessel. The neck was short, suggesting a 17th – 18th century "english bottle" rather than an earlier onion bottle but no other dateable characteristics were evident.

Discussion

8.8.5 A small concentration of modern glass fragments can be seen within context 403016, a fill within a modern dump. These are likely to all date to the 20th century, providing a date for this activity. The vessels contained within the dump suggest the objects originated from domestic setting as beverages, food stuffs, medicines, and personal hygiene vessels were all present.

8.8.6 In addition to the modern midden, a small collection of fragments were collected from contexts across the site. No notable concentrations were seen within these remains and their inclusion with topsoils and ditch fills suggests that these were the result of casual loss or imported soils, as opposed to deliberate deposition. The exception to this were the 7 fragments of window glass collected from the post med pit 417823. The concentration of post medieval finds within this feature suggest that they were the result of deliberate deposition and it is likely that this pit acted as a waste receptacle.

Recommendations

8.8.7 The complete glass vessels from this site are 20th century in date and of known types. It is suggested that these be deselected from the archive due to these reasons. The remaining assemblage ranges in date from the 17th – 20th century. Discard is recommended for this material due to its fragmentary nature and late date, subject to museum agreement. It has limited ability to contribute to site formation processes or wider regional development.

8.9 The Clay Pipe

By [redacted]

Introduction

8.9.1 Thirty-six fragments of clay tobacco pipe, weighing a total of 88g, were recovered from 17 contexts across the Meridian Solar site. Where no identifiable features were present on these fragments, dating was established by borehole dimension. Measurements were taken using a tape measure or metric drill bit, due to the unavailability of imperial bits, and were converted to fractional inches to allow comparison with established chronologies; recorded in Higgins 2017. A table detailing the conversion used is available below. Where complete bowls were available, these have been compared to general and regional typologies (Oswald 1975).

The assemblage

8.9.2 The assemblage collected from the Meridian site was fragmentary in nature, with only two complete bowls being found. These were retrieved from contexts 207626 and 417828. The bowl from context 207626, a modern ditch, showed a spur and borehole of 5/64-6/64". Comparisons with regional typologies suggests that it dated to the late 17th century and matched Lincolnshire examples. The bowl retrieved from context 417828, a large post medieval pit, showed a small, narrow, heel and a borehole of 4/64-5/64". These and other features suggest an 18th century date for this bowl. In addition to these complete bowls, 7 further fragments of bowl were collected from contexts across the site. These were too fragmentary to identify any date able or traceable features and as such were dated to the 17th – 19th century. These are discussed further, in conjunction with the stems, below.

8.9.3 A collection of 27 stem fragments were collected from a total of 15 contexts across the site, none with any identifiable features. As a result of the lack of additional evidence, these were dated by their borehole diameter.

8.9.4 A single stem was found in conjunction with the complete bowl from context 207626. This displayed a borehole diameter of 6/64", suggesting a late 17th – late 18th century date. Evidence of it belonging to the same pipe as the bowl was not seen. Trench 2076 produced a small concentration of clay pipes, with a further 9 fragments being recovered from context 207627. The borehole diameters of these ranged from 4/64 – 8/64th suggesting a wide dating range of 17th – 19th century for them. One of the fragmentary pieces of bowl also originated from this trench (context 207620).

8.9.5 A second small collection was retrieved from Trench 4178. In addition to the complete bowl retrieved from fill 417828 (within cut 417820), a single stem, displaying a 4/64" borehole, was collected. This dated to the late 18th century or later. A further 5 fragments were retrieved from this feature, 4 from fill 417823 and a single stem from fill 417819. These stems displayed boreholes of 4/64 – 5/64" and dated to the late 18th and 19th centuries. Two of the unidentifiable bowl fragments were also retrieved from context 417823. In addition to those fragments found within the large post medieval pit, two stem fragments were collected from context 417826, the fill of a ditch within the same trench. These were retrieved during the processing of environmental samples and were late 18th century – later in date.

8.9.6 No further concentrations of pipe fragments can be seen within the remaining collection. Singular fragments were recovered from trenches 1012, 2023, 2024, 2142, 4017, 4018, and 4033. The dating of these can be seen within Table 38. Two fragments were retrieved from

Trench 4063, contexts 406304 and 406306. These were both of 17th – 18th century date although one displayed a heel and small portion of the bowl body. This allowed narrower dating to the 17th – early 18th century. The remaining portion of bowl was not of a size that allowed comparison with regional typologies although an upright bowl could be distinguished.

Context	Sample number	Form	Borehole (mm)	Borehole (imperial)	Count	Weight (g)	Dating
101205		Stem	2	5/64	1	5	Late 18th century - later
202304		Stem	1.5-2	4/64-5/64	1	1	Late 18th century - later
202403		Stem	2.5-3	6/64-8/64	1	1	17th - early 18th century
207620		Bowl			1	1	
207626		Stem	2.5	6/64	1	3	late 17th - late 18th century
207626		Bowl	2-2.5	5/64-6/64	1	13	1680-1700
207627		Stem	2.5-3	6/64-8/64	1	6	17th - early 18th century
207627		Stem	2.5-3	6/64-8/64	1	1	17th - early 18th century
207627		Stem	2.5	6/64	1	1	late 17th - late 18th century
207627		Stem	1.5	4/64	1	1	Late 18th century - later
207627		Stem	2.5-3	6/64-8/64	1	1	17th - early 18th century
207627		Stem	2-2.5	5/64-6/64	1	1	late 17th - late 18th century
207627		Stem	2.5-3	6/64-8/64	1	1	17th - early 18th century
207627		Stem	1.5-2	4/64-5/64	1	1	Late 18th century - later
207627		Stem	1.5-2	4/64-5/64	1	1	Late 18th century - later
214205		Stem	1.5-2	4/64-5/64	1	1	Late 18th century - later
401710		Stem	2	5/64	1	1	Late 18th century - later
401809		Stem	2.5-3	6/64-8/64	1	3	17th - early 18th century
403337		Stem	2.5	6/64	1	3	late 17th - late 18th century
403600		Bowl			4	3	

Context	Sample number	Form	Borehole (mm)	Borehole (imperial)	Count	Weight (g)	Dating
406304		Stem	2.5-3	6/64-8/64	1	8	17th - early 18th century
406306		Stem	2-2.5	5/64-6/64	1	4	late 17th - late 18th century
417819		Stem	1.5-2	4/64-5/64	1	3	Late 18th century - later
417823		Bowl			1	1	
417823		Stem	1.5-2	4/64-5/64	1	3	Late 18th century - later
417823		Stem	1.5-2	4/64-5/64	1	1	Late 18th century - later
417823		Stem	1.5-2	4/64-5/64	1	1	Late 18th century - later
417823		Stem	2	5/64	1	1	Mid 19th century
417823		Bowl			1	1	
417826	40018	Stem	1.5-2	4/64-5/64	1	1	Late 18th century - later
417826	40018	Stem	1.5	4/64	1	1	Late 18th century - later
417828		Stem	1.5	4/64	1	3	Late 18th century - later
417828		Bowl	1.5-2	4/64-5/64	1	11	18th century?

Table 38: Catalogue of clay pipe

Discussion

8.9.7 Two small concentrations of clay pipe fragments can be seen across the Meridian Solar site. These were centered around Trenches 2076 and 4178. Both trenches contained large post medieval – modern features. In Trench 2076, it is likely that the clay pipe fragments represent casual loss and disposal within the landscape, during agricultural activities. In Trench 4718, the inclusion of many of the pieces within the large post - medieval pit [417820] suggests that they may have been the result of deliberate disposal, rather than casual loss. The remaining fragments were recovered scattered across the site and were likely the result of casual loss or imported soils during agricultural activity within the post medieval and modern periods.

Recommendations

8.9.8 The clay pipe assemblage from 10020 Meridian has limited potential to inform local and regional typologies and traditions. The stem fragments present are unmarked by markers marks or decoration and as such are suggested for discard. The complete bowls allow some comparison with other collections but are unmarked and undecorated. It is recommended that these be retained with the archive although deselection may be posited based on the museum's collection and the limited information these bowls provide. No further work on this assemblage is required.

8.10 The Flint

By [redacted]

Introduction

8.10.1 A total of 5 flints (weighing 253g) was recovered during excavations at Meridian Solar Farm, of which only one was anthropogenically modified. The worked flint was recovered from context (104200), which is the overlying topsoil of Trench 1042. Of the remaining four flints recovered, three are burnt and were recovered together from context (403230). None of the contexts from which the flints were recovered is securely dated, aside from the topsoil which is of modern date. The single worked flint from this assemblage is a Lower Palaeolithic handaxe, which is a chronologically diagnostic tool type, but clearly residual in the modern topsoil context.

Methodology

8.10.2 The worked lithic was catalogued in accordance with standard debitage, tool, or core types (Butler 2005; Ballin 2021). Metric data, including length, width, thickness, and weight was recorded for each flint, and the handaxe was afforded a more in-depth analysis of its metric measurements in alignment with the dataset presented by Roe (1968). Qualitative data was also recorded for the handaxe, recording levels of abrasion, patination, constrainment, and edge damage (after Scott 2011). Technological attributes recorded included number of scars on both the dorsal and ventral side of the tool, percentage of cortex remaining, and edge profile. Information regarding overall condition, breaks and modern damage, burning, and technology were recorded and where possible, an attempt at dating has been made. All metric measurements were made using calipers and artefacts were weighed using digital scales to the nearest full gram. This data was then entered into a database on a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

Assemblage description

8.10.3 The assemblage comprises a single worked lithic tool out of the total of five flints recovered, the rest being naturally produced flints. Three of the four natural flints were recovered from context (403230), the basal fill of gulley [403229] in area D. These show evidence of burning but bear no other evidence that they have been anthropogenically modified. The remaining natural flint from context (304300) is a frost-shattered flake with no utilisation damage or retouch on any edge or surface.

Artefact type	Palaeolithic	Undated	Total
Handaxe	1		1
Frost flake		1	1
Burnt chip		3	3
Total	1	4	5

Table 39:Summary of flint assemblage

Flakes

8.10.4 No struck flakes were present within this assemblage.

Cores

8.10.5 No cores were present within this assemblage

Retouched tools

8.10.6 A single retouched tool comes from this assemblage. The tool, a handaxe, is an example of a Lower Palaeolithic Wymer (1999) type D, as it is relatively crude in form and has not been refined to any great extent. The cortex still covering both the dorsal and ventral faces totals around 50% of the lithic which shows the constrainment of the piece in one dimension. The dorsal side of the tool bears a total of eight flake scars (counted where they cover an area of over 5mm^2), and the ventral face bears 13. These low flake scar numbers are indicative of the lack of refinement of this tool. The handaxe's overall condition is relatively poor, with moderate abrasion and post-depositional edge damage. The tool is also heavily patinated and moderately stained which is further evidence for the length of time that has passed since it was first knapped and discarded.

Raw material discussion

8.10.7 The assemblage comprises entirely of flint, with 100% of both the worked and natural pieces retaining some degree of dorsal cortex. The flint from this site is gravel-derived, evidenced by the coarser quality of the flint alongside the thinner, more abraded cortex. Gravel-derived flint can be found in secondary sources such as rivers and gravel deposits, and despite being of generally lower quality than chalk-derived flint, it is a more readily available source of material. The nearest chalk deposits are at the eastern coast (BGS 2026), which may explain the use of less fine-grained river gravel flint as a matter of convenience.

Assemblage condition

8.10.8 The assemblage varies in condition across the five artefacts. The natural frost flake is in the best condition, likely indicating how recently it was flaked. The burnt flints are in a more weathered condition as a result of the heat from the fire cracking the flint and weakening the internal structure, making them more susceptible to natural weathering and abrasion. The final lithic, the handaxe, is in the worst condition, showing moderate edge damage and abrasion, likely a result of the artefact moving through natural sediments between the time of its deposition and the time of its discovery. Overall, the assemblage is of a moderately poor condition.

Discussion

8.10.9 The Wymer type D handaxe from Meridian Solar Farm provides an indication of possible human activity in the wider area of the site during the Lower Palaeolithic period. The burnt chips of naturally struck flint from context (403230) are also evidence of human occupation at this site, though it is not possible to infer a date range for the activity associated with these flints. The limited lithic assemblage suggests that human occupation at this site during prehistory was scarce and ephemeral. The handaxe must clearly be residual within the topsoil context, and therefore cannot offer much information regarding the occupation of the site, but how far it might be removed from its original context remains uncertain. No further work is recommended but retention as part of the site archive is advised.

8.11 The Leather

By [redacted]

Methodology

8.11.1 This report is based on examination of the material in May 2026. In the basic record (section 5 below) the shoe bottom components are described in order of their occurrence from top (insole) to bottom (tread sole). All measurements are in millimetres (mm), + indicates an incomplete measurement i.e. the item is broken. Leather species were identified by hair follicle pattern using low-powered magnification. Unless stated otherwise, shoe bottom components are assumed to be of cattle hide because of the thickness, compaction, and wear.

8.11.2 The terminology employed is that in common use in the archaeological leather literature with reference to the known 19th and earlier 20th century shoemaking techniques as specified in Swann 1982 and Salaman 1986. The term shoe is a generic term covering all forms of footwear including boots.

8.11.3 The images supplied are not to publication standard. The images are provided as a record, to illustrate points made in the text, and to show views required for any publication.

Condition

8.11.4 The shoe remains are in varying condition. The highly fragmentary remains in SF4 bag 1/3 are principally metal, dry/slightly damp, and heavily encrusted with soil. The shoe remains in SF4 bags 2/3 and 3/3 are wet and waterlogged. The leather and metal are currently packed in double self-sealing polythene bags within light-excluding plastic inside an air-tight plastic storage box.

Summary

8.11.5 The highly fragmentary remains of three shoes of riveted construction (SF4) were recovered from fill (206706) of N-S orientated ditch [206704] in Field B 1-14 attributed to the post-medieval period (York Archaeology 2025c, 77). Two apparently of similar size to fit an adult (SF4 bag 2/3), the third more slender and of smaller size (SF4 bag 3/3), but all of the same construction. In each case only partial remains of the shoe bottom are present, no uppers survive so that the style or styles of the shoes and their equivalent modern shoe sizes are unknown. The remains of the two larger shoes, Shoe 1 and Shoe 2, possibly a pair, appear to be of brass riveted construction while the smaller shoe, Shoe 3, may be of iron (steel) riveted construction. In riveted construction the shoe bottom components, that is insole, any middle layers and outer sole (also called a tread sole), are joined with a single or, in this case, a double row of small round-sectioned metal rivets. These metal rivets, are also known as nails, consequently riveted construction may also be termed nailed construction. Riveted construction was widely used for lower-priced boots and shoes during the second half of the 19th and first part of the 20th century (Swann 1982, 32; Salaman 1986, 157). The heavily encrusted remains of an iron horseshoe-shaped ‘heel plate’ or ‘heel iron’ from a large shoe heel and fragments broken from iron hobnails, some aligned in a single row, were found in the same fill (SF4 bag 1/3). The curvature of the heel plate fragments is compatible with the seat (heel area) of the largest shoe bottom, Shoe 1, and there is no reason to think that it does not come from the low stacked leather heel that originally had been attached to that shoe. Encrustation from iron hobnails was present on the soles of the two larger shoe bottoms and

broken hobnails were associated with all three shoes indicating that they were outdoor shoes or boots intended for heavy wear.

Basic record of organic items examined

Archaeological evaluation at Meridian Solar Farm, Spalding, Lincolnshire (10020)

Site 10020 Context 105309 fill of curvilinear gully [105308] Trench 1053 Field A 1-07

8.11.6 Organic, probably bark: Two small inflexible fragments with all edges broken, essentially of flat section with uneven surfaces, with both faces irregularly 'ribbed' or corrugated. The larger fragment has two natural holes present that superficially appear man-made. Dark brown in colour. 36+x28+x1.92mm; 25+x19+x1.61mm, combined Wt.1g

Site 10020 SF4 Context 206706 fill of ditch [206704] Trench 2067 Field B 1-14

SF 4 Bag1/3: Iron, copper alloy, leather, highly fragmentary remains of shoe bottom, heel plate and hobnails. Condition: Dry/Damp heavily encrusted with soil

8.11.7 10+ fragments of metalwork with organic (leather) material adhering, their form obscured by metal corrosion products and soil. Includes a broken iron horseshoe-shaped heel plate of large adult size comprising 4 fragments, 3 joining, of U-shaped flat sectioned iron plate c 20mm wide and c 4mm thick. Metal nail/rivet shanks with soil-covered leather fragments protrude from one face. The largest fragment 74+x25mm, maximum thickness with encrustation 21.5mm thick, 26.25mm including nail shank. Other fragments include pieces broken from a closely-spaced row of iron dome-headed nails (hobnails), head diameter c 12mm, with shanks protruding from surrounding black coloured material presumed to be leather. Also a piece broken from the perimeter of a shoe bottom layer comprising a square fragment 25+x22+mm of black coloured leather 3.62mm thick with a very small piece of a second layer adhering, and a flat round- headed, round-sectioned metal nail/rivet protruding from it. The nail shank is shallowly ribbed and greenish in colour suggesting it to be brass with iron corrosion products also present. A pair of round holes for similar nail/rivets are spaced c 5mm from the shank.



Image 1: {SF4} heel plate



Image 2: {SF4} iron heel plate and hobnails

SF 4 Bag 2/3: Leather, brass, iron, remains of two shoe bottoms of riveted construction. Condition: Wet

8.11.8 Shoe 1: The wide waist and seat of a shoe bottom of riveted construction and of adult size, broken away across the lower tread area so that the shape of the tread and toe are unknown. What remains of the shoe bottom is not distinctly shaped for the left or right foot so that the foot is uncertain. The shoe bottom comprises an insole and (tread) sole with a middle sole seen in section, the total thickness of the bottom layers is c 15.5mm. The insole, surviving at the waist area, is shiny and black in colour and slightly narrower in width than the middle sole and tread sole beneath. The tread (or outer) sole: External view (ground surface) shows a double row of round sectioned brass rivet/nails, each diameter 2mm, running along each side of the waist area c 5mm inward from the edge, with 2 individual rivets at the centre of the upper waist area. A single row of iron nails runs around the edge of the seat spaced c10mm apart, across the lower waist and scattered across the seat to attach a separate heel. A small fragment, c 25+x18+x12mm thick, of the separate low stacked leather heel remains at the centre of the upper seat preserved around two of the nails. The brass rivets are covered in a thin layer of iron corrosion products. A small area of iron encrustation is present at the broken edge of the lower tread on one side (left) of the tread sole marking the position of an iron hobnail that had presumably attached a half sole to the tread (now missing). The internal view of the sole seat (flesh view) reveals the double row of rivets continuing around the perimeter of the seat with remains of leather layers adhering.

8.11.9 Shoe 1 surviving length 160+mm, waist width 65mm, seat width c 75mm



Image 3: {SF4} Shoe 1, insole view



Image 4: {SF4} Shoe 1 sole detail showing heel remains



Image 5: {SF4} Shoe 1 tread sole

8.11.10 Shoe 2: The right-side waist area broken from a second shoe bottom of riveted construction. The insole is shiny and black in colour and c 4mm thick, cattle hide, grain pattern visible. Below the insole, the lasting margin of the shoe upper, possibly middle packing, a middle sole and the tread sole, are visible in section. The tread sole: waist area with a double row of round sectioned metal rivets, each 2mm diameter, running 6mm inward from the edge. The rivets are covered in a thin layer of iron corrosion products but two have green corrosion present indicating brass. Iron encrustation is present close to the edge at one end from an iron hobnail.

The curvature of the waist of the shoe bottom matches that of shoe 1, so possibly from a shoe of the same size and its pair.

8.11.11 Shoe 2: surviving length 92+mm, width 44+mm.

8.11.12 Also a small fragment of insole 40+x38+mm 4.55mm thick, cattlehide, grain pattern visible, and several small fragments broken from the shoe bottoms.



Image 6: {SF4} Shoe 2 insole view



Image 7: {SF4} Shoe 2 tread sole view

SF4 Bag 3/3: Leather, iron, remains of shoe bottom of riveted construction. Condition: Wet.

8.11.13 Shoe 3: The waist and seat from a third shoe bottom of riveted construction, irregularly broken away at the lower tread and at the edge of the seat. This third shoe is smaller and narrower than Shoe 1 and 2. The waist area is not distinctly shaped but what survives suggests a right foot shoe. The shoe bottom comprises an insole, middle sole and tread sole with a total surviving thickness of 19.18mm. In section 2 or 3 layers can be seen between the insole and the tread sole so that middle packing or other filling may be present. The insole is shiny and black in colour 3.65mm thick. The middle sole below, 4.04mm thick, appears to survive to its complete width of 43mm at the waist. The tread sole: a double row of metal rivets, each 2mm diameter, runs 3mm inward from the edge on the surviving left side. The rivets of the two rows are staggered and not aligned side by side as in Shoe 2 and 3. The rivets are covered with a thin layer of iron corrosion products but no green colouration is visible that would indicate brass rather than iron. The impression made by a separate heel, now missing, is visible at the seat.

Shoe 3: surviving length134+mm, waist width 48mm, seat width 56+mm.

8.11.14 Also various small fragments including a fragment with a double row of round sectioned iron rivets and three fragments with larger iron hobnails with angular sectioned shanks.



Image 8: {SF4} Shoe 3 insole view



Image 9: {SF4} Shoe 3 tread sole view

9 THE HUMAN REMAINS

By [redacted] *and* [redacted]

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 The archaeological evaluation at Meridian Solar, Spalding, revealed the disarticulated human remains of one individual (SK 1), represented by one right tibia. This was found within a linear feature, interpreted as a potential boundary ditch (i.e., [403108]). No further human remains were found associated with this individual, nor were other burials found on site.

9.1.2 The reporting entails initial osteological assessment of the disarticulated remains in order to identify possible demographic attributes, metrics, and pathology. Recommendations for further work are provided below.

9.2 Methodology

9.2.1 The condition of skeletal material was assessed macroscopically and recorded according to guidelines set out by BABAO and Mitchell and Brickley (2017). Preservation was recorded as "grades" that were simplified into Good (grades 0-2), Fair (3-4) and Poor (4-5). Completeness was categorised as percentage bracket from: 5-10%, 11-30%, 31-50%, 51-75%, and 76-100%. Bone fragmentation was categorised from low, moderate, and high; and bone surface condition scored on categories between grades 0-4 (with 0 being excellent surface condition). Where soil acidity, drainage, or burial type affected preservation (recorded as post-depositional or taphonomic change), these were also recorded. The remains were assessed for age and sex using methods recommended by Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994) and Mitchell and Brickley (2017). The age at death for adult inhumations was based on postcranial epiphyseal fusion (Schwartz 1995, 185-222; Schaefer et al. 2009; Ubelaker 1989). Assessing presence or absence of non-metric traits (genetic or acquired anatomical variations) followed methods recommended by Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994). General disease classifications follow Aufderheide and Rodrígeuz (2006), Barnes (2012), Ortner (2019), Mann and Hunt (2005), Ortner (1981), Ortner and Putschar (1989), Steinbock (1976), Waldron (2021) and Wells (1964).

9.2.2 This assessment report has been compiled in line with CIfA Standards (Mitchell and Brickley 2017), and Historic England Guidance (Mays 2018).

9.3 Results

Skeletal Preservation

9.3.1 The remains consisted of one individual (SK 1), which showed an overall fair preservation, but was only 5% complete (represented by one right tibia). The tibia was not complete, but showed taphonomic breakages of both proximal and distal ends, with some degree of erosion of the anterior crest.

Demographic Attributes

Age

9.3.2 Assessment of age of individual SK 1 was based on the degree of epiphyseal fusion of the proximal end of the tibia. The complete fusion of this suggests that SK 1 was older than 13-15 years of age, classifying them as a potential young adult or adult.

Pathology

9.3.3 Some lifestyle related modifications observed on the remains suggested that this individual might have suffered from possible knee joint instability and/or chronic stresses from walking, running or high intensity activity involving the knees.

9.3.4 In particular, this was indicated by the presence of bone spurs and bone remodelling of the popliteal line, which is the attachment site of the soleus and popliteus muscles. While the first is essential for standing, walking and running, and is also actively involved when bending the knees; the main function of the latter is to initiate knee flexion from a standing position (Gaine and Mohammed 2022).

9.3.5 Some bone remodelling was also observed on the medial surface of the proximal shaft, indicating strain and intense activity of the pes anserinus group muscles (i.e., sartorius, gracilis and semitendinosus muscles), which is also related to the flexion and internal rotation of the knee.

9.3.6 Finally, the higher spiking of the lateral tibial intercondylar spine alongside some microporosity and a slight discoloration of the tibial plateau could indicate the initial phase of a potential joint disease (e.g., osteoarthritis) of the tibiofemoral joint (Mann and Hunt 2025; Hayeri et al. 2010). Although this could not be confirmed due to the taphonomic damage to the anterior proximal end, which hindered the observation of possible osteophytes on the contour of the joint.

9.4 Conclusions

9.4.1 The remains of one individual (SK 1) were recovered from a linear feature, which was interpreted as a potential boundary ditch. The presence of disarticulated human bones were not uncommon in the later Bronze Age and Iron Age and have been associated with practices of excarnation (Willis, 2023).

9.4.2 This individual was represented by one fragmented right tibia, whose complete epiphyseal fusion indicated SK 1 was either a young adult or an adult (older than 13-15 years of age). Other routine assessments for biological profiling of human remains, such as sex estimation, calculation of stature, and observation of non-metric traits, could not be performed in this instance, due to the absence of other skeletal elements and the fragmentary conditions of the recovered tibia. Pathological and lifestyle related modifications were especially observed on the proximal end of the tibia. These occurred as bone spurs and bone remodelling at the attachment sites of muscles specifically involved in flexion and rotation of the knee joint, which indicated SK 1 had an active lifestyle and might have suffered from knee joint diseases.

9.4.3 The remains could be radiocarbon dated to ascertain their time period. This would shed a light on the funerary practices here adopted and contextualise the remains within the history of this site.

10 MAMMAL, AMPHIBIAN, FISH AND BIRD BONES

By [redacted]

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 A total of 6392 animal bones and teeth was recovered from the site. Of this number, 4698 fragments were hand-collected and a further 1694 fragments were recovered during residue sorting. These were recovered from features spanning the late Iron Age to Modern deposits. Several bones also had fresh breaks, which were refitted where possible and, in each case, also counted as one specimen. Vertebrae (except axis and atlas vertebrae) and ribs were only recorded to the classification of large, medium, or small mammals, with bones that appeared to derive from a partially articulated animal being recorded as one specimen. This was done to prevent artificial inflation of the number of those species within the overall totals.

10.1.2 This report discusses the specimens by period, with post-medieval and modern deposits are not considered for further analysis beyond a primary assessment. Assigned Burial Groups (ABGs) are discussed within their corresponding periods with only one not being dated and discussed separately. Poorly dated remains are tabulated only and not discussed further.

10.1.3 A full, possibly pregnant, horse burial was identified on site but was left in situ and reburied, dated to the Roman period [403146]. This will not be discussed alongside the unphased ABGs as no commentary can be provided on height or age of the individual.

10.2 Methods

10.2.1 Levels of preservation were recorded using Behrensmeyer's (1978) standards, with burning and gnawing also recorded. Butchery was recorded in detail, noting the butchery mark type (chop, cut, saw, shave) and its location on the bone.

10.2.2 Attempts were made to identify all bone fragments to element and species, with some exceptions. Mammal ribs, vertebrae, skull fragments and long bones fragments not identifiable to species, were classed as large- (cattle/horse), medium- (sheep/pig/dog), small- (cat, rabbit, badger) and micro- (rat/vole) sized mammal (except for atlas and axis vertebrae, and the more durable/diagnostic parts of the cranium, namely the zygomatic, occipital, maxilla and horn core, which were identified to species). Ribs were only counted when the rib head was present. Apart from the calcanei and astragali, carpals and tarsals were not recorded. Morphological criteria of Boessneck (1969), Payne (1985), Prummel and Frisch (1986) and Halstead et al. (2002) were utilised to attempt to distinguish between sheep (Ovis) and goat (Capra). Red deer was distinguished from cattle using Prummel (1988).

10.2.3 Similarly, for birds, all elements were identified, where possible, to species, apart from vertebrae and ribs, which were classed simply as 'bird'. Presence or absence of a pneumatised proximal foramen of the femur and the continuation of the medial calcaneal ridge on the tarsometatarsus were used to distinguish chicken/guinea fowl from pheasant bones (Cohen and Serjeantson 1996, 63, 79). Geese lack suitable morphological criteria on which to differentiate between individual species, and there is also considerable size overlap between species (Barnes et al. 2000, 91). The domestication status of geese and ducks in the Roman period is also unclear. Presence or absence of tarsometatarsi cockspurs and the presence of medullary bone was used to differentiate between male and female chickens (Driver 1982).

10.2.4 All identified fragments were recorded as individual specimens, with the exception of fresh breaks, which were refitted where possible, and counted as one element. Partial or complete skeletons were recorded as one specimen, with details of the elements present, completeness and measurements noted.

10.2.5 The zoning systems set out by Serjeantson (1996) for mammals and Cohen and Serjeantson (1996) for birds were used to record elements. These were used to work out the Minimum Number of Elements (MNE) for cattle, sheep and pigs. Grant's methods (1982) were used for recording tooth wear in cattle, sheep and pigs, with age categories assigned following O'Connor (2004, 158—165), to enable comparison with other assemblages. Epiphyses were recorded as 'foetal', 'neonatal', 'unfused', 'fusing' or 'fused'. Bone fusion data for sheep/goat, cattle and pigs were grouped into 'early', 'intermediate' or 'late' fusing epiphyses, following O'Connor (e.g. O'Connor 2003, 166). As bird bones lack epiphyses, elements were recorded as 'fused' or 'unfused.' Morphological and metrical traits of the pelvis and horn cores were used to sex sheep/goat (Hatting 1995; Greenfield 2006), although no suitable landmarks were present to enable sexing of cattle or pigs. Measurements were taken following von den Driesch (1976) for mammals and Cohen and Serjeantson (1996) for birds. Withers (shoulder) heights were calculated using von den Dreisch and Boessneck 1974), except for cattle astragali, for which Tsalkin (1970) was used.

10.3 Taphonomy and Condition

10.3.1 The majority of the assemblage was in good to fair condition (Table A21-1, Appendix 21) but friable with extreme levels of fragmentation reducing most of the assemblage to fragments. This resulted in only 780 of the hand-collected fragments being identified to species (Table A21-3) and a further 29 of fragments recovered during residue sorting being identifiable. Despite some refitting of modern breaks being performed a large number of fragments were simply too destroyed to reassemble with any degree of accuracy. Of these 780 hand-collected fragments, only 395 of them could further be assigned to specific phases. A further 20 residue-sorted specimens were similarly assigned to both species and phase.

10.3.2 There were very few instances of recordable gnawing (0.63% of hand collected specimens, 0.17% of residue sorted specimens). This may reflect rapid burial within most deposits, although the low frequency is more likely influenced by the high degree of fragmentation and poor preservation, which may have obscured surface modifications. Many of the specimens recovered from Area B were covered in considerable levels of mineral concretion and root damage observable on the bones. This is also in contrast to the high level of loose teeth and mandibles and maxillae recovered without many teeth remaining in place which suggests significant post-depositional movement but could once again be the result of destruction during excavation or post-excavation processes.

10.3.3 Instances of butchery were scarce, most likely obscured by the level of fragmentation, but where it did appear they most likely represent a mixture of primary and secondary butchery. With some evidence for hanging of meat for curing, drying or storage. As well as evidence for joint separation and processing of carcasses.

10.3.4 Relatively few fragments of hand-collected specimens (2.27%, 100 fragments) exhibited evidence of burning, with most being recovered from ditches associated with enclosures and gullies, most likely connected with hearth waste from within settlements. Especially as most were calcined and fragmentary remains, not indicative of routine burning for cooking or as disposal. A significantly higher percentage of residue sorted specimens displayed evidence of burning (14.04%, 238 fragments) than hand-collected specimens but broadly reflected the

trends already discussed. There is a slight increase in the number of fragments recovered from pits but this could be attributed to a sampling bias of choosing to sample discrete features rather than linear ones.

10.3.5 Small sample sizes can be unreliable indicators of on-site activity and discussion about minimum sample sizes range from 100 fragments of main domesticates (cattle, sheep/goat and pig) to 300 fragments or more (Davis 1995, 46) (Hambleton 1999, 39). Only the number of identified specimens (NISP) dated to the post-medieval period (158 fragments) achieves this number. When combining all of the specimens recovered from the multiple Roman phases it does meet the lower figure of main domesticates at 114 specimens. Consequently, discussion of the Roman material considers both individual phase assemblages and the combined Roman assemblage where broader patterns may be identified, although any interpretations should be treated with appropriate caution. The high fragmentation and the tendency for the densest bones or parts of bones to have survived all point to a collection which is more reflective of taphonomic pathways, rather than providing a reasonable picture of on-site practices, diet and animal husbandry. The dearth of ageable or measurable remains also compound the ability to explore these aspects of the site.

10.4 Late Iron Age

10.4.1 Animal remains recovered from Iron Age features were highly limited and largely consisted of specimens in a poor condition, with both hand-collected and residue sorted totalling 23 specimens. The only identifiable fragments belonged to cattle with one being recovered from curvilinear [300545] and the other from the rectilinear enclosure recut [401905] possibly associated with saltern activity and could possibly be related to further ditches in the vicinity holding a Roman date (Table A21-2).

10.4.2 No further commentary can be provided.

10.5 Late Iron Age to Romano-British

10.5.1 Slightly more specimens (129) were recovered from transitional features (Table A21-1). With most coming from rectilinear ditch [417802], followed by another possible enclosure ditch [402003], and ditch [402003] with the remaining 10 specimens being recovered from a curvilinear feature [210502] and [210504].

Species Represented

10.5.2 This phases assemblage consists solely of the remains of principal domestic livestock species. Within the hand collected specimens, cattle were the most common identified species (10.47%, 11 fragments). Followed by sheep/goat with eight specimens and pig with three specimens. These species were all represented by one fragment within the residue sorted specimens.

10.5.3 In addition, five unidentified foetal specimens were recovered from a single deposit, most likely representing a single foetal individual.

10.5.4 Due to the small size of the assemblage, further interpretation of species abundance and animal husbandry is limited. Nevertheless, the presence of these three principal domestic livestock species is consistent with a typical domestic faunal assemblage of the period.

Body Parts Represented and Butchery

10.5.5 Three specimens exhibited evidence of canid gnawing, indicating that at least some specimens were exposed and accessible to scavengers prior to final deposition. Seven fragments displayed evidence of burning, all of which were calcined; yet, given the small size of the assemblage it is unclear whether this reflects deliberate disposal within a hearth or incidental exposure to fire.

10.6 Romano-British (43-410CE)

10.6.1 A total of 1248 specimens (148 identifiable) was recovered from features dated to the Romano-British period. The assemblage was recovered predominantly from ditches (78.44%, 979 specimens), relating to possible enclosures or boundaries, followed by gullies (17.63%, 220 specimens). A further 42 specimens were recovered from a possible droveway [301816] and [301812] and seven specimens from a saltern tank pit [403228]. The predominance of material from ditches and gullies suggests that much of the assemblage derives from secondary deposits associated with settlement activity and refuse disposal.

10.6.2 Given the relatively limited number of identified specimens within each phase, discussion focuses on broad patterns in species representation and taphonomy, whilst recognising the constraint imposed by assemblage size.

Species Represented

10.6.3 The specimens recovered from features dated 1st to 2nd Century are dominated by cattle, represented by 35 hand-collected specimens and a further four retrieved through residue sorting. Sheep/goat is the second most abundant, with 11 hand-collected specimens identified, followed by two horse specimens. Pig and chicken are each represented by a single hand-collected specimen.

10.6.4 The 2nd to 3rd century Romano-British assemblage is mostly made up of cattle, represented by 31 hand-collected specimens and six reside sorted fragments. Sheep/goat is the second most common taxon, with five hand-collected specimens, followed by horse and pig (both with two identified specimens). Whilst dog is represented by eight specimens they most likely derive from a single individual within the same deposit. Seven foetal remains were also recovered but they could not be identified and no further information can be provided. Other taxa are represented only by isolated finds, including a poorly preserved fragment of red deer antler, three fox specimens, three badger specimens and a single chicken bone. The antler provides evidence for the presence of the species but does not necessarily indicate the exploitation of venison or game animals. Given their low frequency and occurrence in unrelated deposits, the fox and badger remains are most likely derived from animals that died on site, naturally accumulated or are intrusive in nature, rather than evidence of deliberate exploitation.

10.6.5 The 3rd to 4th century assemblage is much smaller, comprising four cattle specimens, with sheep/goat, horse and pig all being represented by one specimen. A further pig specimen was recovered through residue sorting. Two frog specimens were also recovered from deposits of this date but most likely represent natural accumulation rather than deliberate human activity. Cattle remain the most abundant species but the continued presence of the other species indicates the continued exploitation of all principal domestic livestock species.

10.6.6 A further 22 specimens could only be broadly assigned to the Romano-British period. These comprised twelve cattle specimens, nine horse and a single sheep/goat specimen. The predominance of cattle within this material mirrors the patterns observed within the other

phases with the high proportion of horse remains most likely a consequence of the small sample size.

10.6.7 When the Romano-British assemblage is considered as a whole, cattle are consistently the dominant taxon throughout all phases, in both hand-collected and residue-sorted material. Sheep/goat and pig are present in all phases, although in considerably lower numbers, whilst horse remains appear sporadically throughout the period. The greater taxonomic diversity observed within the 2nd to 3rd century, especially in comparison to the small assemblage size of the 3rd to 4th century assemblage could be attributed to a decrease in settlement size or level. However, it is more likely related to the limited proportion of site investigated through trial trenching and the assemblage may not be fully representative of activities taking place across the settlement. The occurrence of several taxa represented only by isolated specimens suggests that the observed diversity may reflect chance retrieval of particular deposits rather than any real relation to husbandry or consumption practices.

Ageing and Sexing

10.6.8 Epiphyseal fusion data is limited but indicates that the majority of specimens within the assemblage survived to skeletal maturity (Table A21-5). The predominance of fused elements across the taxa suggests that most animals were raised to full maturity, however the small sample size limits further interpretation of mortality patterns and animal husbandry.

10.6.9 Evidence for sex determination was also limited to three instances. Two chicken tarsometatarsi from different deposits lacked the presence of a spur, indicating the specimens most likely derived from a female. A cattle pelvis was also able to be identified as male. As these are the only instances of sexed specimens, no further interpretation of sex ratios or livestock management can be made.

10.6.10 Dental ageing evidence indicates the presence of both juvenile and adult animals. A cattle mandible with a retained deciduous fourth premolar and lightly worn molars suggests a juvenile to subadult age at death (O'Connor, 2004). In contrast, a further cattle mandible exhibits a far more advanced tooth wear, indicative of an individual that survived far into adulthood (approximately 6-8 years). Single tooth analysis further supports evidence of the presence of juvenile and adult animals. Sheep/Goat teeth wear suggests animals surviving into adulthood, including at least one individual aged approximately 2-4 years. Although the assemblage is too small to facilitate detailed interpretation the available evidence indicates the exploitation of a mixed husbandry regime, including the culling of young animals for meat as well as potentially breeding, dairying or physical labour.

Body Parts Represented and Butchery

10.6.11 The distribution of skeletal elements among the main domesticates is restricted but shows the presence of both cranial and post-cranial remains (Table A21-4). Although the assemblage is too small to permit detailed analysis of carcass processing or disposal practices, the presence of both meat-bearing limb bones and lower limb elements suggests that at least some primary butchery and carcass processing may have taken place locally.

10.6.12 Eight examples of canid gnawing and five examples of rodent gnawing were identified across the assemblage. The presence of both forms of gnawing indicates that at least some bones were left exposed prior to final deposition but was not a widespread feature of the assemblage's taphonomic history.

10.6.13 This is further reflected in the butchery present within the period (Table A21-1). Modifications consistent with a range of carcass-processing activities, ranging from fine cut marks to sawing

and chopping, indicative of skinning, joint separation and meat removal. In addition, two sheep/goat cranial fragments had been deliberately modified, with horncore removal and the crania split sagittally to facilitate brain removal, demonstrating that at least some livestock were locally processed on site.

Metrics

10.6.14 Informative metric data was limited to cattle specimens, and included a radius and three metacarpals. The complete radius measured 247mm in greatest length (Bp 69mm, SD 37mm and Bd 56mm). These measurements indicate an individual of small to medium stature but are consistent with size ranges within Romano-British rural settlements (Gaunt, et al. 2024). The complete metacarpal is also consistent with a smaller individual, due to the single instance of this no commentary could be given on sex determination. However, additional metacarpal fragments produced a significantly wider proximal breadth, indicating the presence of larger individuals within the assemblage.

Associated Bone Groups

10.6.15 A partial ABG of a common crane was retrieved from pit [403221]. In comparison to corvids, bones of the common crane are less common finds on Roman sites. Estimates from Romano-British archaeological sites indicate that specimens have been found in approximately 10-14% of assemblages (Allen, 2011) (Serjeantson, 2023) (Yalden and Albarella, 2009). They are found on a range of different sites, such as urban, military and also some lower status rural settlements. Evidence of butchery on these other sites indicates that the crane was eaten and may have been prized, however no such butchery was observed on this individual and may have more so indicated naturally wastage or intrusive remains.

10.7 Medieval (410-1485CE)

10.7.1 A total of 226 specimens was hand collected from features dated to the medieval period. Only eight could be identified to species level. Three cattle, three sheep/goat and two chicken specimens. The remaining specimens consisted of unidentifiable fragments that could only be assigned to broad categories. The low number of identified specimens and high degree of fragmentation preclude any meaningful interpretation of species abundance or livestock exploitation during this period.

10.8 Post Medieval (1485-1750CE)

10.8.1 A total of 2067 animal bone fragments was hand collected from features dated to the post-medieval period, with a further 187 collected from residue sorting. 211 specimens from the hand-collected material could be identified to species and only three could be identified to species from the residue-sorted fragments. The assemblage was recovered predominantly from pits (93.56%, 1934 specimens), including 571 fragments from deposits interpreted as deliberate dumping events. Within these dumps included eight ABGs which will be briefly discussed. A further 6.53% were recovered from ditches (135 specimens), with a single fragment originating from a gully. The concentration of material from pits, specifically those associated with dumping deposits, suggests much of the assemblage represents significant refuse disposal. Despite the relatively large number of identified specimens, analysis will be limited to species and brief commentary on the ABGs due to the age of the assemblage.

Species Represented

10.8.2 The hand-collected post-medieval assemblage is principally composed of cattle (72 specimens) and sheep/goat (64 specimens). Horse is the third most abundant species, with 26 identified specimens, followed by pig (21). Other species are represented only by isolated finds. Including, a single red deer, dog, fox and frog/toad specimen. The deer specimen provides evidence of the species but could not be used to infer hunting behaviour. The fox and frog remains most likely representing natural accumulation. The comparatively high representation of goose and chicken remains could indicate that domestic fowl also formed a component of the site's animal economy.

Associated Bone Groups

10.8.3 Pit [417820] contained a notable concentration of animal remains, including an MNI of five geese and three horses. One horse was represented by juvenile remains, while another exhibited extensive osteophytes affecting multiple elements. Further specimens recovered from the pit also included numerous isolated teeth, metapodials and distal limb elements; skeletal parts that are frequently associated with primary butchery and processing waste due to their comparatively low meat yield. Three specimens displayed cut marks, confirming that at least some carcasses had undergone processing prior to deposition. The presence of multiple ABGs and predominance of low-yield skeletal elements suggests that the pit represents a series of deliberate dumping episodes. The geese all display similar bone measurements, suggesting they come from the same grouping. Whether this is a domestic grouping or a wild group can not be determined due to the low sample number. The inclusion of both domestic fowl and horse remains may indicate the disposal of material from multiple events, although the precise circumstances of deposition remain unclear.

10.8.4 An ABG of a juvenile cattle, deposited in ditch [207707] was also recovered. No evidence of butchery or other modification was observed, the remains most likely represent the deposition of an individual that died prior to reaching maturity, possibly due to poor health or a failure to thrive. The precise circumstances of deposition can not be determined, although the remains are consistent with the loss and disposal of a young animal within an agricultural context.

10.8.5 A further ABG was identified within pit [207704] comprising the remains of a single chicken. No evidence of butchery was observed on the recovered elements and the remains suggest the deposition of a substantial proportion of a single carcass. It is unclear whether this represents deposition of domestic waste or natural mortality.

10.9 Modern (1750CE to Present)

10.9.1 The modern assemblage consisted of 733 hand-collected specimens and one residue-sorted specimen. Of these 733 specimens, 20 were identifiable to species. The majority (76.53%) of which were recovered from pits (561 specimens), with a further 172 specimens from ditches. This pattern indicates a continuation of the post-medieval pattern of deposition, of structured refuse disposal rather than in-situ occupation deposits.

Species Represented

10.9.2 Chicken was the most frequently identified species (6 specimens), followed by sheep/goat (5). Cattle and pig were both represented by three specimens, with horse present as only a single fragment. A single teal bone was recovered, representing the only wildfowl species identified within the modern assemblage.

Associated Bone Groups

10.9.3 Pit [207710] contained the near-complete remains of a juvenile pig and a juvenile sheep/goat. No evidence of butchery was observed on the recovered elements and the deposition most likely represents the disposal of two young animals that died, due to natural sickness or poor health.

10.10 Discussion

10.10.1 No significant commentary can be provided on the late Iron Age or transitional Iron Age to Roman features due to the limited identifiable fragments recovered.

10.10.2 The Romano-British faunal assemblage is characteristic of rural agricultural settlements, with cattle forming the dominant species across all century groups. This pattern is broadly consistent with other Romano-British sites, nationally and more locally within the Lincolnshire fenland, with the transition from the Iron Age economy to one frequently dominated by the presence of cattle over sheep (Allen 2011; Gaunt et al. 2024). Whilst the sample size is too small to reconstruct detailed mortality profiles, the presence of both juvenile and mature adult specimens of both sexes suggests that livestock were not managed solely for meat production, with the retention of mature specimens for dairying, breeding or labour. The predominance of the assemblage being recovered from ditches and gullies further supports the interpretation that much of the assemblage represents domestic refuse deposited within settlement boundary features as well as the butchery marks demonstrating that at least some primary butchery was performed locally. Several less common species, including common crane, red deer, fox, badger and frog were identified. However, these are represented by isolated specimens or ABGs and provide little evidence for specialised exploitation. The antler could represent some exploitation but due to the poor quality no butchery or working could be identified. Whilst the fox, badger and frog are most likely explained by natural wastage or intrusive activity. Similarly, the common crane lacks evidence of butchery and may represent a naturally deposited individual. Overall, the assemblage is best interpreted as reflecting the routine disposal of waste generated by a rural farming community, with cattle forming the principal component of the Site's animal husbandry.

10.10.3 The post-medieval assemblage is substantially larger than any of the other phases. It is dominated by a near equal level of cattle and sheep/goat remains, with pig and horse present in lower numbers. This pattern is typical of rural post-medieval assemblages and reflects a mixed livestock system. Bird remains, particularly chicken and geese, suggest the presence of domestic fowl, although their role within the local environment cannot be fully defined. The assemblage is largely derived from pit deposits, including a number of deliberate dumping events, indicating refuse disposal events rather than in-situ activity. ABGs include multiple individuals, some of which were juvenile or showed evidence of pathological conditions. Indicating formalised deposition of natural waste or dispatching of unwell animals from settlements. Butchery evidence was present and comparatively frequent, indicating some carcass processing with occasional gnawing suggesting some remains were exposed prior to final deposition. Therefore, the assemblage represents routine waste disposal within a rural settlement engaged in multiple livestock husbandry.

10.10.4 The modern assemblage was small and highly fragmented with the material predominantly derived from pit contexts, continuing the depositional pattern observed in earlier phases characterised by structured refuse disposal. The domination of domestic species alongside the ABG deposition of juvenile individuals represents routine domestic waste disposal within a modern rural context.

10.10.5 Perinatal remains are most likely the result of natural mortality within livestock populations and appeared across most phases. Their presence may also reflect routine disposal of stillbirths or neonates within domestic and agricultural settings.

10.10.6 Across all phases, the assemblage reflects a broadly continuous pattern of rural livestock exploitation, with cattle remaining the dominant taxon from the Romano-British period up until the post-medieval period. The limited earlier Iron age assemblage limits the commentary to only meaningful comparison from the Roman period onwards. With sheep/goat forming a consistently secondary resource. While later periods show increasing diversity in species representation and a transition away from in-situ settlement deposition to structured refuse dumping within pits, the overall character of the assemblage remains consistent. A continuity in agricultural practices within a long-lived rural landscape.

10.11 Conclusion

10.1.1 Given the relatively limited nature of the Iron Age and transitional assemblages, as well as the higher interpretative value of the Romano-British remains, it is recommended that all faunal remains from the earlier phases and unphased contexts are retained for potential future analysis. To allow for reassessment should further excavation expand the sample size and contextual information of the site. The post-medieval and modern assemblages, while informative, are sufficiently recorded within the current analysis and are recommended for discard.

11 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

By [redacted]

11.1 Introduction

11.1.1 One hundred and eight bulk environmental samples were taken during archaeological investigations at Meridian for the recovery of environmental remains such as plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, faunal remains and Mollusca, as well as to assist finds recovery. The samples were taken from prehistoric, Romano-British and post-medieval/ modern deposits as well as a number of undated features. In addition, three geoarchaeological sub-samples dating to the Neolithic/ Late Bronze Age were submitted for processing for the recovery of waterlogged plant macrofossils and wood. The following report discusses the charred and waterlogged plant macrofossils, charcoal and wood and their contribution to understanding the diet, arable economy and local environment of the site as well as fuel selection and use.

11.2 Methodology

11.2.1 The bulk environmental samples, ranging from 10 to 40L in volume, were processed, in their entirety, by flotation using a 500µm mesh for the heavy residue and a 250µm mesh for the retention of the flot before being air dried. The residues were passed through 8, 4 and 2mm sieves and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Appendix 22, Tables A22-1 to A22-5). A magnet was passed along each fraction for the retention of potential industrial debris. Artefacts recovered from the samples were distributed to specialists and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. Two litre sub-samples from the geoarchaeological samples were processed using geological sieves of apertures of 2mm and 250µm and the flots retained wet.

11.2.2 The flots were analysed under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and and the contents of the dry flots recorded in (Tables A22-6 to A22-8) and the wet flots in Table A22-15. Identification of the charred and waterlogged plant remains was based on observations of gross morphology and surface cell structure and where necessary relevant reference manuals (Cappers *et al* 2006; Jacomet 2006) were consulted. Quantification was based on minimum number of individuals and nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild plants and Zohary and Hopf (1994) for cereals. The charred plant macrofossil identifications are listed in Tables A22-9 to A22-14.

11.2.3 Charcoal was submitted for analysis from Roman ditch [403146] as it contained >3g from the >4mm fraction of the heavy residue. One hundred fragments were identified from each sample based on the minimum number of fragments principle for temperate regions proposed by Asouti and Austin (2005). Fragments were sectioned by hand along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale and Cutler 2000; Hather 2000). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 500x was used to further identify the fragments. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Schoch *et al* 2004; Hather 2000; Schweingruber 1990). Quantification and taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Table A22-16 and nomenclature follows Stace (1997). Waterlogged wood was identified using the same methodology but using a reflected light microscope at magnifications up to x1000 and results recorded in Table A22-16 .

11.3 Results

Waterlogged Flots

Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age

11.3.1 The waterlogged flots from the geoarchaeological samples contained abundant organic detritus and roots along with small wood fragments, most too small for identification. Reeds were present in samples B-01-08 and B-01-09. Sample A-01-9 contained a blackthorn drupe (*Prunus spinosa*) as well as broken drupe fragments whilst several seeds of fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) were identified in sample B-01-09. Moderately well-preserved waterlogged wood fragments were present in all the waterlogged flots and consisted of oak (*Quercus* sp.) in each, with that in sample B-01-08 deriving from roundwood, from a small branch or twig. The roundwood was also accompanied by bark and an indeterminate fragment which was affected by lignitic degradation. Lignitic degradation is associated with the prolonged exposure of the wood prior to burial; the wood degrades before being preserved in the anoxic conditions (Schweingruber 1990). An alder (*Alnus* sp.) roundwood fragment accompanied the oak in sample B-01-09.

Area A

Charred Plant Macrofossils

Post-Medieval and Modern

11.3.2 Charred plant macrofossils were largely absent from the samples from Area A with preservation of those recorded ranging from moderate to good. A single bedstraw (*Galium aparine*) seed was identified in post-medieval ditch [104204]. Modern ditch/ geological feature [103803] contained a single barley (*Hordeum* sp.) caryopsis whilst a knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) seed was recorded in fill (100610) of modern ditch [100605]. Modern gully [104004] contained three oat (*Avena* sp.) caryopses along with a large number of charred straw fragments. Two charred straw fragments were also present in fill (100608) of modern ditch [100605].

Areas B and C

Charred Plant Macrofossils

cf. Prehistoric/ Roman

11.3.3 Fill (212204) of ditch [212205] contained indeterminate straw fragments and weed seeds of red campion (*Silene dioica*), the daisy family (Asteraceae) and a small wild legume (Fabaceae). Fill (212304) of the same ditch contained individual caryopses of rounded wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and a wheat/ barley (Triticum/ Hordeum) caryopsis.

cf. Roman/ Iron Age

11.3.4 Moderately-well preserved charred plant macrofossils were mostly absent or infrequent from the possible Roman/ Iron Age features and consisted of sporadic cereal caryopses of wheat, barley and oat. Several of the barley grains were of the hulled variety (*Hordeum vulgare*) in ditch [206208]. The ditch also contained straw fragments and common vetch (*Vicia sativa*),

which was possibly cultivated. The weed seeds were mostly of taxa associated with arable or ruderal grassland and included fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), redshank (*Persicaria maculosa*), sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella),* spurge (*Euphorbia* sp.), wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) and bedstraw along with small wild legumes and grasses (Poaceae), including fescues (*Festuca* sp.) and annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*). Wild plants associated with wet environs were only present in ditch [206208], with the exception of a single sedge (*Carex* sp.) in ditch [207610]. Sedges were also present in ditch [206208], including oval sedge (*Carex leporine*), along with pale persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia*) and common spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*).

Roman

11.3.5 Roman boundary drainage ditch [301613] contained a single bedstraw seed whilst a straw fragment was recorded in drainage ditch [301609], the preservation of which was moderate.

Roman – 2nd/ 3rd Century

11.3.6 A well-preserved glume wheat caryopsis of emmer/ spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/ spelta*) was identified in ditch [301702].

Roman – 3rd Century

11.3.7 The charred plant macrofossils were super abundant in 3rd century Roman ditch [305704], the preservation of which was moderate. The majority of the remains were associated with weed seeds, most of which were associated with wet environs. Seeds of common spike-rush were abundant and accompanied by rushes (*Juncus* sp.), sedges, including oval and slender tufted sedge (*Carex acuta*) and meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*). Plants of arable or ruderal grassland were frequent and included sheep's sorrel, fat hen, white clover (*Trifolium repens*), corn gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*), dock (*Rumex* sp.), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), small wild legumes and wild grasses, including fescues and bromes (*Bromus* sp.). Cereal caryopses accompanied the weed seeds and were predominately of wheat, including two further identified as emmer/ spelt. A single hulled barley caryopsis was also present. Cereal chaff was more abundant than the grain and confirmed the presence of glume wheat and further identified the variety as spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*). Cultivated legumes were also recorded and included common vetch, broad bean (*Vicia faba*) and common pea (*Pisum sativum*).

Roman – Late 3rd Century

11.3.8 Several moderately well-preserved wild radish seed capsules were identified in late 3rd century recut [303911] of ditch [303908] accompanied by a large wild grass caryopsis and a sedge seed.

Roman – 3rd/ 4th Century

11.3.9 The fills (301705) and (301706) of recut [301704] of ditch [301702] contained cereal caryopses of wheat, rye/ wheat (*Secale/ Triticum)* and a possible oat (cf. *Avena* sp.) caryopsis in the latter fill. Straw fragments were also present within the recut along with weed seeds of fat hen, common chickweed (*Stellaria media*), vetch (*Vicia* sp.), wild radish, bedstraw, wild grass and rush.

Waterlogged Wood

11.3.10 Modern ditch [206704] contained a large wood plank identified as pine (*Pinus* sp.) accompanied by smaller wood fragments of Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), poplar/ willow (*Populus/ Salix*) and oak along with 15 fragments of bark.

Area D

Charred Plant Macrofossils

Iron Age/ Roman

11.3.11 Iron Age/ Roman terminus [402023] contained a single wheat caryopsis whilst straw fragments were present in the lower fill (403211) of ditch [403210].403212 Small wild grasses were identified in the upper fill (403212) of the same ditch.

cf. Roman

11.3.12 Charred straw fragments were identified in possible pit [417824] and curvilinear/ ring ditch [410407] and a single small wild grass caryopsis was recorded in pit [417824].

Roman

11.3.13 The charred plant macrofossils were mostly absent or sporadic in the Roman features in Area D but were super abundant in ditch [403146]. Wheat was the most frequent cereal caryopsis within the ditch, a small number of which were of the glume emmer/ spelt variety. The more diagnostic spikelets were still attached to several of the grains indicating the wheat variety was of the spelt variety. The frequent glume bases and spikelet forks within the assemblage further confirm the presence of glume wheat and further identified spelt. A small number of hulled barley grains accompanied the wheat as well as a single oat caryopsis. The hulled barley was likely of a 1/2 row variety indicated by a single rachis within the deposit. A small number of the grains had sprouted indicating that germination had taken place. Several detached coleoptiles also associated with germination were present. Common vetch and common pea represent cultivated legumes within the assemblage.

11.3.14 A significant proportion of the assemblage derived from weed seeds associated with arable or ruderal grassland with wild grasses prominent, including those of fescues and bromes. Seeds of fat hen, sheep's sorrel, white clover, corn gromwell, bedstraw and ribwort plantain as well as wild legumes were present. Plant remains from wet environs were present in the form of sedges, rushes and common spike-rush.

Roman – 2nd/ 3rd Century

11.3.15 The cereal composition of the charred plant macrofossil assemblages within fills (402610) and (402618) of terminus [402609] differed slightly with caryopses of hulled barley dominating the assemblage in the former and the quantities of wheat and barley relatively similar in the latter. Many of the wheat grains in the former were rounded in shape whilst one in the latter fill had the lateral striations associated with glume wheat and was of emmer/ spelt. Oat grains were frequent in fill (402610) of the terminus with several of the grains retaining the more diagnostic floret base, indicating it was of the cultivated variety (*Avena sativa*). The cereal chaff confirms the presence of emmer/ spelt wheat with spikelet forks and glume bases present within both fills, a number of which further identified the wheat variety as that of spelt. Tetraploid wheat rachis were present within fill (402610) and may be associated with the rounded wheat grains that may be of a free-threshing variety. Several of the rachis were confirmed as deriving from bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*). Hulled barley rachis within both

fills indicate that the 5/6 row variety was cultivated. A small number of the 1/2 row variety of hulled barley were identified in fill (402618) of the terminus. Common vetch was present in both fills and represents another possible cultivar along with a cabbage/ mustard (*Brassica/ Sinapis*) seed in fill (402610).

11.3.16 Weed seeds were abundant within both fills and outnumbered the cereal grain in fill (402618). The majority in the latter fill derived from plants associated with wet environs and consisted of sedges, including oval and slender tufted-sedges, common spike-rush, creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) and rushes. The same taxa were present in fill (402610) but with the presence of meadow buttercup rather than the creeping variety. Seeds of arable or ruderal grassland were more abundant in the latter fill and consisted of bedstraw, fat hen, knotgrass, docks, sheep's sorrel, curled dock (*Rumex crispus*), white clover, vetches and ribwort plantain. Wild legumes and grasses were also present and included fescues, bromes and annual meadow grass. Similar taxa were present in fill (402618) with the addition of common cornsalad (*Valerianella dentata*) and a seed of the carrot family (Apiaceae). Several wood sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) seeds were identified in fill (402610) of the terminus associated with shaded or wooded environs.

Post-Medieval – 17th Century

11.3.17 Moderately well-preserved charred plant macrofossils were frequent in 17th century ditch [403420] and consisted of wheat grains, included several rounded. Hulled barley was also present in slightly lower numbers than the wheat and were accompanied by rye (*Secale cereale*) and oat grains. Straw fragments represented the only cereal chaff within the deposit. Weed seeds of arable or ruderal grassland were the most frequent and were identified as fat hen, knotgrass, vetch and wild legumes and grasses, including annual meadow-grass. Two spike-rush seeds represent the only taxon associated with wet environs.

Post-Medieval – 19th Century

11.3.18 Charred plant macrofossils were abundant within 19th century pit [417820] and were well-preserved. Rounded wheat grains were the most common cereal accompanied by small quantities of hulled barley and two oat caryopses with the floret bases still attached indicating it was of the cultivated variety. Bread wheat rachis confirm that the rounded wheat grains likely derive from this variety and the hulled barely rachis indicate it was of the 5/6 row variety. Straw fragments accompanied the chaff along with a cultivated oat floret base. Other cultivars of common vetch and broad bean were also present along with a single hazelnut shell fragment. Weed seeds were present in low number within the pit and consisted of fat hen, sheep's sorrel, white clover, ivy-leaved speedwell (*Veronica hederofolia*), bedstraw and wild legumes and grasses, including fescues and annual meadow-grass. Meadow buttercup and sedges, including oval sedge, represent wet environs.

Charcoal

Roman

11.3.19 The charcoal in Roman ditch [403146] was moderately well-preserved and much affected by post-depositional sediment which is associated with fluctuations in the water table after burial. The charcoal was all of oak and derived from large branch or trunk wood.

11.4 Discussion and Interpretation

Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age

11.4.1 The plant macrofossils and wood fragments within the Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age waterlogged flots are likely naturally-occurring within the deposits and represent the presence of shrubby woodland along the palaeochannel. Alder would have thrived alongside the channel as it is a wet-loving taxa. The berries of sloe are inedible raw but can be cooked to make them edible (Taylor 1981, 48) and may have been exploited as a foodstuff in prehistoric times.

Area A

11.4.2 The charred plant macrofossils identified within the post-medieval and modern features in Area A are likely intrusive from earlier or later activity within the vicinity of the site and do not indicate that cereal crop processing was taking place within this area of the site.

Area B and C

11.4.3 The earlier occupation features dating from possible prehistoric/ Iron Age/ Roman activities contained low frequencies of charred plant macrofossils of cereals and associated weed seeds. They are possibly intrusive from the later Roman activity suggesting that during the Roman occupation is when crop processing began to take place at the site, albeit on a small-scale. The cereal chaff and associated weed seeds outnumbered the cereal caryopses within 3rd century Roman ditch [305704] suggesting the deposit represents the waste product of crop processing. The cereal caryopses and chaff indicate that spelt wheat was the predominant crop during the 3rd century occupation of the site with the single hulled barley seed likely present as a contaminant. Spelt wheat was the predominant crop in the Roman Midlands (Carruthers and Hunter Dowse 2019, 65) and its dominance at Meridian is unsurprising. A similar cereal assemblage was identified at Spridlington (Adams and Molloy 2025), with spelt wheat present as the main cultivar, indicating parallel arable activities across the Midlands.

11.4.4 The arable landscape was seemingly wet or frequently waterlogged indicated by the high number of wet-loving taxa within the arable weed assemblage. Common spike-rush largely grows alongside bodies of water indicating the arable fields may have lain along the banks of the River Welland and its tributaries. The other weed seeds indicate the presence of nitrophilous soils with high organic content with the white clover possibly reinvigorating the soil with nitrogen (Jones 1982, 98). Additional legumes were likely cultivated to bulk out the cereal diet and included common vetch, broad bean and pea.

11.4.5 The modern waterlogged wood indicates modern activity at the site with the dumping of a pine plank that had been tangentially converted. The Norway spruce, oak and poplar/ willow wood may have been naturally occurring or represent the offcuts from other wood working.

Area D

Roman

11.4.6 Charred plant macrofossils were mostly present in low numbers across Area D although they were abundant in Roman ditch [403146] and the various fills of 2nd/ 3rd century Roman terminus [402609]. Those sporadically present across the other Roman features are similar in composition to those within the more concentrated features thereby indicating that they derive from the same activities and were likely windblown or redeposited across the site. Spelt

wheat again played a significant role within Area D but has been accompanied by large frequencies of hulled barley within Roman terminus [402609] as well as occasional free-threshing wheat caryopses and associated chaff which further identifies it as bread wheat. Bread wheat has been identified at several Midland sites, often in conjunction with barley and has been associated with supplying the Roman army (Carruthers and Hunter Dowse 2019, 66). Hulled barley and spelt wheat were similarly co-cultivated at the Roman site of Ram Plantation, Bulby (Adams 2024) several miles to the east suggesting a local crop signature within the area. Several rounded wheat grains were present within the Ram Plantation assemblage which may also derive from a free-threshing wheat variety.

11.4.7 The weeds indicate similar arable conditions to those in Areas B and C indicating that the same fields or area may have been utilised for growing the mixed cereals. Broad bean and common vetch may have been grown to add variety to the cereal diet and the presence of a cabbage/ mustard seed may have been related to a herb/ vegetable crop to provide additional flavour. The hazelnut shell likely represents the exploitation of the nut from the wild for consumption.

11.4.8 Oak would have been ubiquitous within the landscape and it has excellent burning properties for which it was likely deliberately selected for fuelwood. The high levels of post-depositional sediment within the charcoal assemblage suggests that the water table was frequently fluctuating during burial and coincides with the weed seed assemblage which suggest wet or waterlogged environs. It is likely that the site, located near the banks of the River Welland were frequently seasonal flooded.

Post-Medieval

11.4.9 The post-medieval cereal assemblage within Area D indicates that bread wheat and hulled barley were cultivated as cereal crops with no glume wheat present within the deposit. Common vetch and broad bean were likely cultivated to add variety to the cereal diet whilst hazelnuts may have been collected from the wild for consumption. The arable soils appear to be less wet or seasonally waterlogged than those cultivated during the Roman occupation indicating a possible ‘drying-out’ of the land or that the crops were grown elsewhere. Despite more than a millennium passing between the Roman and post-medieval occupation of the site the charred plant assemblages are strikingly similar suggesting an arable signature within the Midlands.

12 DISCUSSION

12.1.1 Prior to the commencement of the evaluation, much of the activity on the Site was believed to have been dominated by salt production. This can now be reassessed following the excavation evidence which shows salt production confined to specific areas and phases and a wide spread of pastoral and settlement activity in Areas B and C; two complexes of settlement and salt-making in the southern part of Area D; and a sparse spread of peripheral and possibly seasonal activity in Area A, during the Iron Age and Roman periods.

12.1.2 A general conclusion of the evaluation was that the geophysical survey correlated well with the results of excavation. The vast majority of identified anomalies were found to correspond to archaeological features. However, other occasional features, not detected by the geophysics, were also present. Therefore, expected blank areas, especially close to roddons and areas of activity, cannot be considered fully sterile. Possible roundhouse structures were found in Areas A, B and C; these were often very shallow and potentially susceptible to being missed by the geophysical survey.

12.1.3 A complex and changing environment was identified in the roddon areas and marine alluvium formation and it is likely that changes within the fenland occurred regularly during the Site's history, affecting water movement, water levels and variation between saltwater and freshwater fen. The combination of the HER data, aerial survey, geophysical survey, geoarchaeological survey and archaeological trial trench evaluation has allowed a detailed analysis of Iron Age, Roman and post-medieval activity across a complex and changing fenland landscape.

12.2 Area A

12.2.1 The overall archaeological remains for Area A can be characterised as evidencing small-scale, peripheral, and possibly seasonal activity in the Iron Age to Roman period. Evidence for agricultural development in the medieval to post-medieval periods was also recorded during the evaluation. Many trenches did not contain archaeological features or had sparse elements. Artefactual dating for this area is limited to a single, potentially residual sherd of Roman pottery, recovered from a gully in Trench 1038, Field A-1-05 and briquetage recovered from a ring gully in Trench 1053, in Field A-1-07.

Early Prehistory

12.2.2 The early prehistoric period was not well represented within the Site. However, as the trenches were excavated onto marine alluvium and roddon deposits the full vertical stratigraphy of the Site could not be fully explored. Any pre-Iron Age land surface/layers would be expected to lie below well these deposits. The earliest deposits encountered by the deeper geoarchaeological test pitting were the Lower Peat deposits, intercalated with the Barroway Drove Beds, and radiocarbon-dated to the mid/late Neolithic, while Mesolithic land surfaces in Cowbit have been found to be buried under 10m of Flandrian sediments (Hayes and Lane 1992). However, a single lower Palaeolithic handaxe was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 1042, in Field A-1-05, signalling some human activity within the local area in the Lower Palaeolithic. Based on the vertical stratigraphy this handaxe can be considered to have moved significantly since its original deposition.

Late Iron Age to Roman

12.2.3 The evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in Area A was generally limited. The results from the evaluation depict an area with potential low to moderate activity.

12.2.4 Occasional ring gullies representing probable round houses were present (Fields A-1-07, A-1-08). These features were sometimes found on the marine alluvium area (Trench 1052, Field A-1-08) and may have corresponded to temporary habitation structures associated with seasonal activity. In Trench 1053, in Field A-1-07 the ring gully contained a small briquetage assemblage of probable Late Iron Age or Early Roman date and was radiocarbon dated to 2070 +/- 30 BP (167–22 cal BC (84.8%); 17 cal BC–7 cal AD (10%); 21–18 cal BC (0.7%)), suggesting an overall date in the Late Iron Age.

12.2.5 Undated ditches following the roddon area were present in Fields A-1-01 and A-1-07. These are likely to predate the drainage of the surrounding fenland and, based on land use patterns in Areas B and C, these may date to the late prehistoric and/or Roman periods.

12.2.6 Based on the distance from known heritage assets, on the low density of remains, and on the nature of the archaeological remains, Area A can be hypothesised has having had peripheral activity in the prehistoric to Roman period. Seasonal utilisation and small-scale habitation appear to be evidenced, indicating exploitation of wet grassland, possibly for pastoral activity. Although briquetage was present in one feature and in a layer in Trench 1045, in Field A-1-12, the small quantities present suggest that salt-making was not undertaken in the near vicinity.

Medieval to modern

12.2.7 Post-medieval to modern features were found in Trenches 1003, 1006, 1008, 1012, 1015, 1016, 1026, 1027, 1029, 1031, 1038, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1044 and 1046. These features were generally agricultural, almost always representing field boundaries and drainage. The relationship of these features to the roddon and fenland environment appears to have changed during this period, with an example of a post-medieval field system confined to a roddon in Trench 1016, possibly representing an earlier part of this period. Lenses of material formed via flooding were observed within a furrow in Trench 1015, possibly suggesting seasonal flooding of post-medieval agricultural areas on the marine alluvium. Other post-medieval to modern features were found to follow the roddon contour, possibly reflecting use of the roddons or continuing use of earlier field systems (Trench 1026 & 1042). Later features appear to have been straighter in form, without respecting the roddons, indicating drier land and more extensive use. The limited evidence for possible pre-drainage ridge and furrow cultivation utilising the furrows and later possible post-medieval and modern field systems, indicates that the area has potential to inform on the development of agriculture in association with the drainage of the fenland.

Undated

12.2.8 The ditches in Field A-1-10 and the pits in Field A-1-11 and A-1-12 could not be associated with any phased activity or trends. The character, date and significance of the features is uncertain.

Blank Areas

12.2.9 All of the trenches in Fields A-1-04 and A-1-06 were found to be archaeologically blank.

12.3 Areas B and C

12.3.1 Areas B and C were found to have high extensive archaeological remains with evidence for settlement and associated marginal activity dating to the Late Iron Age and the Roman period.

Multiple later field systems could be identified, indicating evidence for developing agriculture in the post-Roman period. Very few areas were found to have a low archaeological potential.

12.3.2 The results correlate with the known historical background of the area, which includes multiple areas of Roman settlement, allows further refinement of these records and shows that the complexes of Roman activity extend further than mapped in the HER data.

12.3.3 The Iron Age to Roman remains in Areas B and C were highly comparable to those found at Clay Lake Bank, Spalding, a Roman fenland site with evidence for settlement, agriculture and salt-making. This site was located approximately 6.6km to the north-west and included small enclosures suggestive of paddocks and field systems, pits, parallel ditches forming possible causeways, a well or watering hole and a possible structure of 2nd to 3rd century AD date (Pre-Construct Archaeology 2021). This similarity was also reflected in fill formation and the narrative of the settlement development against landscape change.

Iron Age to Early Roman

12.3.4 The large area of Roman settlement stretching across the large roddon in Areas B and C, appears to have developed from an area of settlement and salt-making in the Late Iron Age and Early Roman period. The artefactual dating evidence from these early periods is limited, preventing a full characterisation of the settlement from this phase. As artefactual dating evidence was relatively sparse within these areas, it is possible that more features date to this period than currently realised. It can also be considered that differences in material culture and use of pottery, could lead to an under recognition of Iron Age activity.

Dating and Extent

12.3.5 The earliest known feature was the ring gully [210504] and its associated features in Trench 2105, in Field B-1-14, which returned a radiocarbon date in the Middle Iron Age (354–279 cal BC (36.2%); 255–246 cal BC (1%); 231–96 cal BC (56.1%); 70–56 cal BC (2.1%)). The pottery retrieved from this feature was broadly dated to the prehistoric or Roman period, while the animal bone assemblage indicated domestic activity. As no Middle Iron Age pottery was identified on the Site and this was the only feature which returned a Middle Iron Age date, the extent of the Middle Iron activity remains unclear.

12.3.6 Artefactually dated feature evidence for the Late Iron Age comprised a curvilinear ditch [300545] within a multi-phased saltern complex in Trench 3005, in Field C-1-01. Pottery broadly dated to the Late Iron or Roman period was retrieved from a ring gully in Trench 2105 (Field B-1-14), a ditch in Trench 3017 (Field C-2-02) and a ditch from Trench 3018 (Field C-2-02). Pottery dating to the 1st century AD was retrieved from ditches in Trenches 3053 and 3055 in Field C-1-07. By the 1st to 2nd century and 2nd century AD, the pottery dated feature evidence extends to Trench 30523, in Field C-1-07 and further features in the Trench 3005, saltern complex in Field C-1-01.

12.3.7 In addition to the pottery dating, the overall briquetage assemblage was found to date to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period. In Area B briquetage was found in a ring gully in Trench 2121, in Field B-1-08, enclosure ditches in Trench 2062 in Field B-1-10, a long ditch in Trench 2069, in Field B1-01, a modern ditch in Trench 2142, in Field B-3-02, and a possible ditch terminus in Trench 2088, in Field B-5. In Area C briquetage was found in the saltern complex in Trench 3005 in Field C-1-01, from an enclosure feature in Trench 3057 and the saltern complex in Trench 3072 in Field C-1-03, and from enclosure features in Trench 3052 in Field C-1-07. This cannot be used to confidently date individual features as small fragments of

briquetage were very frequently found as residual finds in later features. However, it further illustrates a spread of Late Iron Age and Early Roman activity.

12.3.8 Based on this dating, the earliest activity in these areas comprises the Middle Iron Age ring gully [2105] in Field B-1-14. This forms part of an area of sparsely distributed ring gullies, located outside the Roman settlement core, possibly representing an earlier occupational area. Part of this area has been previously identified in the HER as a possible Iron Age settlement (MLI23180). The next earliest activity is the Late Iron Age ditch within the salt-making complex in Trench 3005, in Field C-1-01, which is evidenced to have continued into the mid-2nd century AD.

12.3.9 By the Early Roman period occupation may have stretched along the large roddon, following a similar spread to the later Roman activity and areas of density. This appears to have included a second saltern complex in Trench 3072, in Field C-1-03, which can be dated to the 1st century AD (52–81 cal AD (91.7%)) and earlier via radiocarbon dating. It also includes an area of ditches and small enclosures in Field C-1-07, representing probable small paddocks, and a possible domestic area at the edge of a denser settlement area in Field C-1-08. It may also have included the area of ring gullies and enclosure in Field B-1-08, located on an smaller area of roddon. It is unclear whether settlement comprised small and dispersed areas or whether it would have been centred in the later settlement cores (MLI20004; NHLE: 1004978; MLI20005; NHLE: 1004979; MLI20246). The two salterns (Trenches 3005 & 3072) were active in this period, and the briquetage assemblage all dates to this period. The majority of this briquetage was recovered from Area C, with just 15g from Field B-1-10 in Area B, and 8067g from Field C-1-01, 2004g from Field C-1-03, and 4g from Field C-1-07, correlating with the locations of the identified salterns.

Salt production

12.3.10 The probable saltern in Trench 3005 included multiple phases of activity: a curvilinear ditch [300545] of Late Iron Age date; a broadly dated ditch [300525]; a possible rectilinear enclosure [300513], measuring c. 13m x 25m across, based on the geophysical survey; a small squarish sub-enclosure [3000504/300541/300506], measuring c. 5.5m x 5.5m across; a ring gully [300502]; and a pit/layer [300539]. Deposits of light grey sandy silt and dark grey sandy silt (300535/300536) and (300537/300538) were found cut by and overlying saltern features. These were initially interpreted as trample, but could hint at the presence of mounded material. With the exception of the ring gully, which may instead represent a dwelling and separate phase, these features had clear dumps of salt-making waste with ash, charcoal and high quantities of briquetage. Another exception was a ditch [300528], which may have represented part of a trackway or droveway to the north. The latest phase within the saltern complex was the possible rectilinear enclosure [300513], which contained pottery dated to the mid-2nd century AD. Interestingly, a possible votive deposition of part of a grey ware miniature bag shaped beaker was found in the final peaty fill of the ditch, marking the end of the saltern's use.

12.3.11 In Trench 3072, the feature evidence and relatively low quantities of briquetage was suggestive of a peripheral feature area at the edge of a larger salt-making complex, possibly represented by the larger enclosures visible in the geophysical survey to the east and west. Within the trench the features consisted of a sub-rectangular or rounded enclosure [307206/307216/307218/307223], measuring c.12.5m x 10.5m across, which was cut by a large pit [307220] and a curvilinear ditch [307203/307209/307212]. An area of possible heat affected ground was present, hinting at the presence of a hearth, and a clay filled depression (307219) may have represented rake-out and maintenance activity for the ditches and a

possible associated bank. The pit [307220] returned a radiocarbon date of 52–81 cal AD (91.7%), suggesting that the second phase of the saltern complex dated to the beginning of the Roman period.

12.3.12 The closest comparable saltern was found at Site 4 of the A1073, Spalding-Eye Improvement Scheme (ELI3258), located near Cowbit. This saltern comprised a sub-circular enclosure ditch, measuring c. 17m x 13m internally with a possible clay lining and a second phase with rectangular pits and a traces of a second enclosure ditch. Similarly to the Area C salterns, it dated to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period (Failes and Peachey 2013). The visible part of the earlier enclosure from this complex was comparable to the one seen in Trench 3072.

12.3.13 At Ingoldmells and Helpringham the saltern complexes utilised artificial mounds, while at Cowbit the salterns utilised areas of natural higher ground (Lane and Morris 2001). The presence of an artificial mound in Trench 3005 may be tentatively suggested by the presence of the sandy silt layers (300535/300536) and (300537/300538). The potential use of mounds in the internal area of salterns can lead to the later truncation of the internal features such as tanks, hearths, ovens and superstructure. In these sites the cut elements of the hearths and ovens were relatively shallow, with much of the heating apparatus represented by briquetage superstructure (ibid). Although no in-situ hearths or stoking areas were present in Trench 3005 or 3072, the structural elements in the briquetage assemblage often included laminated areas, suggestive of hearth linings. No evidence for evaporation tanks or pits were present in either trench.

12.3.14 The briquetage container fragments were formed of organic tempered fabrics. Their form was suggestive of troughs and pans for boiling the brine and were comparable to those found at the late 1st to 2nd century AD Morton saltern (Lane and Morris 2001, fig.32, 5). Pieces of sheet lead, identified as part of a probable Roman salt pan, were retrieved from the possible trackway or droveway ditch [300528] in Trench 3005. Usage of lead salt pans is not known for salt-making in Roman Lincolnshire although they are recorded in Cheshire and postulated also in Norfolk. The usage of lead pans at the latter is suggested by the presence of flat-topped pedestals and absence of briquetage containers, however, the lead sheet from Trench 3005 was found with a high quantity of briquetage containers (8.3.9).

12.3.15 The briquetage support elements from Area C, included hand-squeezed pedestals for supporting pans, improvised clips comparable to those seen at the Morton saltern (8.3.10; Lane and Morris 2001). Possible bricks, similar to those seen at Late Iron Age to Early Roman briquetage assemblage from Morton Canal and to the late 1st to 2nd century AD assemblage from Morton saltern (Lane and Morris 2001), were also found.

Roman

12.3.16 Based on the briquetage assemblage and feature evidence, salt production appears to have ceased in Area C in the mid-2nd century AD, prior to much of the Roman activity. As salt production at Site 4 of the A1073, Spalding-Eye Improvement Scheme (ELI3258) also dated to the Late Iron Age to Early Roman period (Failes and Peachey 2013) and the nearby site of Clay Bank, Spalding had only Late Iron Age evidence for salt-making (Pre-Construct Archaeology 2021), it can be theorised that there may have been a general shift away from salt production in the locality. This could be linked to wider landscape change. With the boundary between the Iron Age to Roman fresh water and salter water fen uncertainly located in Cowbit Parish, it is possible that the boundary shifted, leaving these sites without access to brine (Hayes and Lane 1992).

12.3.17 Broadly Roman pottery was retrieved from features in Field B-1-14, B-1-10, C-1-06, C-1-07 and C-2-02. Pottery dating to the 1st century AD was retrieved from features in Trench 3039 (Field C-1-06) and Trench 3053 (Field C-1-07). Trench 3019 (Field C-2-02) contained a small quantity of pottery dated to the mid-1st to mid-2nd century and pottery dated to the 2nd to 3rd centuries was retrieved from features in Fields C-1-01, C-1-03, C-1-06, C-1-07 and C-2-02. Although precisely dated pottery was rare, the longer-lived features allow a broad narrative to be determined. While the start date for this main phase of activity is uncertain, the feature evidence suggests a large area of broadly contemporary settlement with a peak in the 2nd to 3rd centuries and continued activity into the 3rd/4th century AD.

12.3.18 In Areas B and C, along the meandering area of probable Roman settlement, further human activity was identified (Fields B-1-09, B-1-10, B-1-13, B-1-14, C-1-01, C-1-03, C-1-06, C-1-07, C-2-02). This activity continued from known areas of Roman settlement at Cate's Cove Corner (NHLE: 1004979; ML20005; MLI22043), the settlement to the north-east of Whitebread Farm (NHLE 1004978; MLI20004), and from the archaeologically dense descoped fields (C-2-03 and C-1-08), forming a near continuous corridor of activity along the large roddon. To the east the dense remains in Fields, C-1-06, C-1-07 and C-1-08 were located at the western edge of a larger roddon, measuring c. 1.3km in width. Based on the higher density of geophysical anomalies in the descoped fields, the evaluated areas appear to contain the more peripheral parts of the settlement. The scheduled settlement areas Cate's Cove Corner (NHLE: 1004979; ML20005; MLI22043) and settlement to the north-east of Whitebread Farm (NHLE 1004978; MLI20004) comprise irregular enclosures, long droveways or trackways and industrial sites.

12.3.19 The features recorded in the evaluation included long stretches of possible droveways/trackways represented by parallel sets of ditches and drainage ditches, enclosures and occasional ring gullies. A long trackway or droveway was recorded in Fields B-1-09, B-1-13, C-2-02 and C-2-03, further linking this corridor of activity. In Field C-2-02, this trackway/droveway was integrated into a series of enclosures and in Field B-1-09, possible stock management features were present and the feature extended into the area of narrower roddon, adjacent to further possible enclosure features on the roddon and marine alluvium areas. This may have allowed the movement of stock from an enclosed dryland area close to the settlement to the potentially seasonal grazing marshes to the west. Further areas of droveway/trackway were found extending from this large central feature into the sparser area in Field B-1-14, and across an area of marine alluvium onto a smaller roddon and from there along the roddon contour in Field C-2-02. Towards the west and south, the narrower and twisting roddons appear to have been utilised for access to the wetland (B-1-02, B-1-03, B-1-07, B-1-08, B-1-09, B-1-10, C-1-02, C-1-05, C-2-02). Ditches following the roddon contours, as well as small-scale enclosures and small ring gullies were sometimes recorded. While these ring gullies were characterised, prior to the evaluation, as potential salterns, they were found to be more likely to represent roundhouses. The presence of roundhouses on the thin meandering roddons, and occasionally on the marine alluvium (Trench 2096, Field B-1-13), is suggestive of potentially seasonal occupation, possibly associated with periodic utilisation of wetland pasture. Ring gullies were often found to be shallow and diffuse, with fills indicative of water inundation, which further suggests that they may have been temporary structures located in areas prone to seasonal flooding. Internal features were very rare, possibly owing to more ephemeral structures and later truncation. Features such as ditches or potential droveways between roddons (Trench 3021, Field C-2-02) are also suggestive of livestock being moved across the areas of marine alluvium.

12.3.20 This evidence is suggestive overall of pastoralism and seasonality in the use of landscape. It is unclear when this droveway system first developed and whether it represented an economic shift from the salt-making activity and it is possible that both saltwater marsh and freshwater

marsh could have been utilised for grazing (Farm Wildlife 2026). The faunal bone assemblage indicated that across the areas, and through the Iron Age to Roman periods of the Site, cattle was the most abundant animal, followed by sheep/goat, with horse, chicken and pig also exploited. Both cattle and sheep/goat could have been driven along the droveways in order to access grazing land. While the animal bone assemblage was limited, the Roman assemblage was suggestive of animals bred on the Site and of a mixed husbandry regime with animals culled at a young age for meat and other animals kept for secondary products. The evidence contrasts somewhat with the nearby site at Clay Bank, Spalding, where it appears that in the 2nd/3rd century AD cattle were bred for meat and sheep/goat were utilised for secondary products (Pre-Construct archaeology 2021), however, the faunal assemblage size from the Site was too small for a close comparison. Pig, fish and possibly chicken were also exploited at the Clay Bank, Spalding site (ibid).

12.3.21 Arable agriculture was also evidenced by the archaeobotanical assemblage, although this was limited in the majority of Iron Age/Roman and Roman features. Ditch [305704], dated to the 3rd century AD and forming part of a Roman enclosure in Field C-1-03, included waste from crop processing. Spelt wheat appears to have been the dominant crop in this assemblage, following regional trends (Carruthers and Hunter Dowse 2019, 65) with common vetch, broad bean and pea also cultivated. The charred weed seed assemblage indicated cultivation of wet/damp environs and suggested the presence of agricultural fields on the banks of bodies of water.

12.3.22 Seasonality and changing wetland conditions were also frequently evidenced by the fill sequences in the area. The ditches forming enclosures, drainage systems and trackways/droves, contained sequences showing periods of fast and slow silting, periodic flooding and prolonged flooding events and were usually recut and sometimes recut on multiple occasions.

Marine inundation events 2nd or 3rd century AD to 3rd or 4th century AD

12.3.23 In the period following the 2nd to 3rd century AD, many of the features across Areas B and C appear to have been recut and soon after infilled by the formation of thick peaty fills. This can be interpreted as an initial inundation and flooding event, a contemporary large scale re-cutting event and a final water inundation and abandonment event that left the features flooded for a prolonged period of time. Artefactual evidence from this final phase was rare, attesting to a brief period before re-flooding and the identification of the peaty fill as an abandonment fill. Pottery dating suggested a 3rd to 4th century AD date for this final phase of Roman activity. Assuming that the peaty fill formation event formed the end point of the settlement activity in Areas B and C, the final phases of activity in Area B appeared to be focused on the trackways or droveways, while the final phases in Area C focussed on trackways or droveways, small-scale enclosures suggestive of paddocks, and occasionally domestic activity in areas close to the settlement core.

12.3.24 In Area B the final recuts containing peat were present in Trenches 2004, 2005, in Fields B-1-09, in Trench 2030, In Field B-1-10, in Trenches 2001, 2002, 2076 and 2118 in Field B-1-13, with a possible example present in Trench 2046, in Field B-1-11. With the exception of Trench 2046, these were all concentrated toward the area of settlement on the large roddon and formed parts of droveways or trackways or possibly drainage in Trench 2030. No finds were retrieved from these recuts and dating from the original cuts was limited. The settlement activity seen in Field B-1-14 may have been abandoned before this point. Exceptions to the fill sequence in these areas included the 2nd to 3rd century AD enclosure investigated in Trench 2062, in Field B-1-10, drainage and trackway or droveway elements in Fields B-1-10 and B-1-

13. These may represent elements that were not recut and maintained during the final re-cutting event or those that had already gone out of use by this point. Another exception was ditch [207614] in Trench 2076, in Field B-1-13, which represented a rare re-cut following the peaty fill formation event.

12.3.25 The pattern continued through into Field C-2-02, where peat filled final recuts were seen in Trenches 3017, 3018, 3019, 3022, 3064 and 3066. The observed fill sequence was atypical in features in the marine alluvium areas (Trenches 3021 & 307514), which can be assumed to have followed differing relationships to flooding. A slightly drier environment was suggested in this field by the lower humic composition of the final infill event. The features recut prior to the final peaty infilling event comprised a small enclosure and possible paddock associated with the trackway or droveway (Trenches 3016 & 3017), the long trackway or droveway running through the area (Trench 3018 & 3019), the trackway or droveway on the smaller roddon to the south (Trenches 3022 & 3066) and ditches of uncertain wider function (Trench 3064). This again suggests a focus on the animal management features in this later phase. The best dating was retrieved from Trenches 3017 and 3018. In Trench 3017 the earlier ditch cuts [301707] were found to date to the mid-2nd to 3rd century AD, while one of the final ditch recuts [301704] could be dated to the 3rd to 4th century AD. Similar phasing was found in Trench 3018, where one of the final infills (301813) of the original ditch cut [301812] returned a radiocarbon date of 121–248 cal AD (94.1%). Further north, towards the probable settlement centre and close to the Scheduled Monument, Fields C-1-01 and C-1-02 suggested a slightly more complex picture. The ditches forming a trackway or droveway investigated in Trenches 3001, 3002 and 3004 were found to have been recut following peaty fill formations and infilled again with peaty deposits. In Trenches 3011, 3015 and 3067, ditches were recut and infilled by peaty deposits, but the peaty fill formation process appears to have stopped before complete infilling. In the case of Trench 3011 the peat filled recut [301124] was cut by a later ditch [301125], which appears to have also been associated with the Roman settlement, indicating that the peat formation event did not signify the end of the settlement activity toward the settlement core. In Field C-1-02, the fill sequence was present in Trenches 3060 and 3063, both associated with an enclosure of 3rd century AD date close to the roddon edge, but the final recut and peaty infill was less evident elsewhere within the field. It is possible within these areas, close to the settlement core that further phases of re-cutting were present, although phasing is limited in these areas.

12.3.26 Following the settlement activity and large roddon eastwards in the eastern fields, in C-1-06 and C-1-07, the fill sequences observed were more comparable to those seen in Area B and Field C-2-02. These fields are located at the roddon edge at the outskirts of the probable settlement in Field C-1-08. Final ditch recuts containing peaty fills were present in Trenches 3039, 3040, 3043, 3045, 3047, 3049, 3050, 3052, 3053, 3055, 3070 and 3071. The recuts were associated with ditches, sub-divided enclosure (Trench 3039 & 3070), small enclosures suggestive of paddocks (Trenches 3045, 3050), a possible trackway (Trench 3040) and a possible enclosure of domestic character (Trench 3052). Ditches with single peaty fills were also present in this area, possibly suggesting the cutting of new features during the re-cutting phase. This was similar to the pattern seen in Area B with a potential focus on animal husbandry, suggested by the upkeep of potential paddocks and droveways, while the tentative evidence for new features cut in this period was suggestive of increased activity during the re-cutting phase. Dating evidence from this ditch recut and peat formation event was again scarce, but ditch recut [305214], was found to have recut a ditch of mid-2nd to 3rd century AD date, a single sherd of Roman pottery was retrieved from [303904] and ditch recut [304312] was found to have cut a Roman ditch.

12.3.27 The dating of the re-cut and abandonment phase was consistent with the Clay Bank, Spalding phasing, which saw re-cutting of 2nd to 3rd century features and final dates of 3rd or 4th century AD in the final ditch recuts and peaty fills (Pre-Construct Archaeology 2021). The re-cutting phase at Clay Bank Spalding was similarly believed to have taken place across the site at the same time, following an initial marine inundation and possibly representing a 'last effort' to save the settlement against continued flooding. It is likely that these flooding or inundation events were contemporary and associated. Similarly to Areas B and C, artefacts were rare in the peaty fills formed in the recuts, suggesting that the settlements were abandoned soon after the recuts. The focus of the re-cutting phase varied slightly between the two sites. The recut features in Areas B and C, usually represented trackways, droveways and potential paddocks, suggesting continuing livestock management with potential settlement or domestic activity continuing at the fringes of Fields C-1-1, C-1-02, C-1-06 and C-1-07. A focus on causeways and enclosures was also seen in Clay Bank, Spalding with the creation of new entranceways as a notable feature (ibid). Both sites are located within 6km of each other and 3km of the modern route of the River Welland. Wider flooding events within the Welland Valley in the 2nd to 3rd century and 3rd to 4th century AD, causing settlement areas to be abandoned, can be theorised. Regionally the 3rd century AD saw increased flooding and settlement abandonment in the eastern Fens and broad settlement continuity in the Fen edge (Smith 2016) and the localised flooding events can be placed in a wider regional trend.

Overall

The evidence for Areas B and C was for a Late Iron Age and Early Roman salt-making community of uncertain size, which developed into a large area of continuous occupation by the 2nd or 3rd century AD. This later phase had evidence for trackways or droveways and enclosures, possibly used to channel livestock from the settlement to areas of wetland or wetland pasture in the west and southern parts. Within the areas of narrower roddon and wetland or potential seasonal pasture, sparse evidence for small enclosures and probable temporary dwellings was recorded. These two economies are likely to represent different phases and exploitation of differing environments. An element of transhumance can be theorised for the pastoral practices in these settlements during the Roman period. The artefactual assemblage from the probable settlement and settlement fringe areas was sparser than that from Area D, possibly suggesting more temporary settlement or lower status communities, although it can be noted that the settlement cores were excluded from the evaluation scope. The areas seem to have been increasingly flooded in the 3rd century AD and abandoned in the 3rd or 4th century AD, following local and regional trends.

Medieval to post-medieval

12.3.28 Historically, the medieval to post-medieval period saw the change from a fenland environment to drained agricultural land, with the majority of drainage efforts dating to the 17th century onwards. Accordingly, the post-Roman activity in Areas B and C generally comprised probable drainage and field systems. Dating evidence from these features was generally limited, but later features were often long, sometimes meandering, ditches, not respecting the roddons.

12.3.29 One such long, slightly meandering linear feature was seen in Fields B-1-09, B-1-10 and B-1-11. A post-medieval ditch and drain was found in Field B-1-13 and B-1-14, with further linear anomalies and ditches that appeared to form part of the same system in the northern part of the field and in Fields C-2-01 and C-2-02. In Field B-1-14 a series of substantial ditches, which did not follow the roddon, were present (2027, 2067, 2069 and 2114), one of which could be

artefactually dated to the post-medieval period. A timber drain and multiple articulated animal burials were also recovered from this area. A long curving linear anomaly was recorded in Fields B-3-02, B-1-12, B-2 and C-2-01 and was found to correspond to a pair of ditches.

12.3.30 A large-scale field or drainage system was recorded across Fields C-1-01, C-1-03 C-1-04, C-1-05, C-1-06, C-1-07 and C-1-08. This comprised a pair of parallel ditches on north-east to south-west alignment and two pairs on a broadly north-to-south alignment. Each set of ditches was spaced 24m–27m apart and the broadly north-to-south aligned ditches were spaced approximately 260m apart, possibly representing a field. This system could be dated to the post-medieval period via the evidence from interventions in Field C-1-05.

12.3.31 Possible furrows were identified in Fields B-2, aligned west-east and containing material of late medieval – post-medieval date, but too widely spaced to fully demonstrate any pattern.

12.3.32 In Field B-5, which is located close to a known deserted medieval settlement (MLI23090), a high quantity of features forming a probable post-medieval field system were present.

12.3.33 Ditches following a potential older continuation of the mapped 1887 field boundaries were found in Field B-1-07.

12.3.34 Ditches depicted by 1887 OS mapping or appearing to respect the wider field system depicted in 1887 OS mapping were found in Fields B-1-01, B-1-02, B-1-09, B-1-10, B-5, C-2-02 and C-1-06 (OS 1887c; Figure 69). However, not all mapped boundaries corresponded to archaeological features, indicating that many of the boundaries may have been less intrusive in form.

12.3.35 These field systems have potential to inform on the agricultural development of the Site and its relationship with the drainage of the fens.

12.3.36 The concentration of post-medieval to modern remains in Trenches 2076 and 2077 in Field B-1-13, correlates with a mapped farmed farmstead ‘Whitebread Farm’ (OS 1887c; Figure 25) and the structural remains found in Trench 2076 correlate with a rectangular structure depicted in the farmstead enclosure. Dumps of waste within this farmstead area included four associated bone groups, a juvenile cow, a juvenile sheep/goat, a juvenile pig and the remains of a single chicken. The disposal of juvenile animals was consistent with the loss and disposal of an animal in an agricultural context while the chicken may have represented domestic waste or natural mortality.

Undated

12.3.37 A number of features were present in Fields B-1-01 and B-1-10 that had no dating evidence and did not fit readily into the pattern of features from other periods. Further undated features were found across the majority of fields in Areas B and C, often comprising probable drainage and boundary features.

Blank Areas

12.3.38 All trenches in Fields B-1-06 were found to be archaeologically blank.

12.4 Area D

12.4.1 While evidence for Roman and post-Roman activity was found across Area D, the remains with highest archaeological potential are found in the southern part of the area. Here, two areas

of probable Roman settlement associated with salt-making activity were evidenced. Very few trenches in this area were found to be archaeologically blank.

12.4.2 The evidence from the evaluation refines the understanding of the extent, character and phasing of the known Roman activity and settlement areas within the Site, previously known via cropmarks. The evidence also refines the understanding of the interplay of human activity and the landscape. Of the two large roddons in the area, only the southern one appears to have represented dryland in the Roman period. Marine alluvium was occasionally found in the expected location of the northern roddon and very few archaeological features were present. This roddon when viewed on LiDAR (Figure 164 & 168) can be seen to be lower and less prominent and geoarchaeological investigation suggested that it would have been lower, unstable estuarine landscape liable to sporadic flooding throughout the Iron Age (7.4.15). Occasional features of Iron Age or Roman date were present in this northern zone, but the majority of the activity appears to have been later in date, possibly representing utilisation during or after Fenland drainage. The narrow curving roddons in the northern zone also appear to have been utilised in this later period, with small-scale field systems centred on the roddons and expanding slightly beyond (Fields D-2-01 and D-3-04).

Iron Age and Roman

12.4.3 Artefactually Iron Age and Roman material was almost exclusively found in the southern part of Area D (Fields D-5-01, D-5-02 & D-6) with the single exception of a sherd of samian ware recovered from a ditch in Trench 4080 (Field D-3-04). A potential saltern in the northern part of the area (Trench 4104, in Field D-3-01) was radiocarbon dated to the Early Roman period. Another potentially Iron Age/Roman feature in the northern part of the area includes a potential saltern in Trench 4098, in Field D-3-02 and a long trackway/droveway stretching across Fields D-3-01, D-3-02 and D2-02. Occasional evidence for Middle Iron Age salt production was also present in the briquetage assemblage, however no features could be associated with this phase.

12.4.4 The southern areas of Iron Age/Roman activity comprised two large foci of activity on the southern roddon, connected by a long trackway/droveway, between Fields D-5-01 and D-6. The activity foci consisted of clusters of amalgamated enclosure and/or multiple closely spaced subdivided enclosures, internal sub-divisions, pits, postholes and occasional ring gullies. The settlement complex in Field D-5-01 covers an area of approximately 267m x 100m and the settlement complex in Field D-6 covers an area of approximately 380m x 176m. These settlement foci were both active by the 1st century AD. Clusters of archaeological density, representing saltern activity were sometimes found at the edge of these areas and the frequent inclusion of briquetage across the fill of settlement features, indicated that salt-making formed a major part of the local economy. The artefactual assemblage from these foci was rich in pottery, animal bone and briquetage with glass, slag and metalwork also occasionally present. Activity was sparse outside these foci, representing probable field systems, however, dating for these field systems is currently limited. Evidence for field systems was sparse in the field (D-5-02) to the south of these features. This broad settlement pattern contrasts with the near continuous spread of activity seen in Areas B and C, although the presence of salt-making activity at the fringes of dense settlement areas is comparable between the areas. Another contrast in the remains stems from the areas targeted for excavation: the evaluated parts of Areas B and C targeted the fringes and peripheral areas of known settlements, while the southern part of Area D targeted two settlement cores.

12.4.5 The distinctive fill sequence present across Areas B and C was not as clearly prevalent in Area D, although this was partially influenced by the limited dating evidence outside areas of

settlement and deliberate deposition. The fill sequences in naturally infilled features generally indicated a constantly changing wetland environment and changing levels of water movement. Provisionally, the location of Area D, closer to the historic shoreline and the apparent longer usage of the salterns in this area, may suggest that this area remained part of the saltwater fen during the Roman period.

Settlement areas

12.4.6 The earliest activity was found within the settlement foci in Field D-5-01. Within this focus, a subdivided enclosure to the north (Trenches 4020 & 4022), covering an area of 51m x 55m, was found to date to the Late Iron Age or Roman period to the Early Roman period. The dating evidence included four sherds of grog-gritted pottery of 1st or 2nd century date recovered from an internal subdivision [402020]. Further sherds of Iron Age/Roman pottery were recovered from a ditch of uncertain function and a radiocarbon date of late 1st century BC to early 2nd century AD (39–9 cal BC (11.7%); 1–123 cal AD (83.7%) was returned for a pit [402226] found cutting earlier ditches. A significant briquetage assemblage was recovered from features in this enclosure, suggesting a nearby or associated saltern, while a high concentration of animal bone further suggested domestic activity. The two subdivided enclosures to the south of this enclosure (Trench 4021) were found to cover areas of c.41m x 50m and c.60m x 30m were found to date to the 2nd century AD and onwards and to the mid-2nd century AD to 3rd century AD.

12.4.7 In Field D-6 the northern enclosure (Trenches 4032 & 4180) was found to cover an area of c.117m x 54m. An early fill of the enclosure ditch [403255] was found to date to the beginning of the Roman period (2010 +/- 30 BP; 52 cal BC–81 cal AD (91.7%); 98–110 cal AD (2.1%); 89–78 cal BC (1.6%)) with artefactual evidence from the enclosure dated to the broad Roman period and to the mid-1st to early 2nd century AD. The enclosure complex to the south-west of the D-6 complex (Trench 4031) was slightly fragmentary in geophysical data, but can be interpolated as an area of c.93m x 57m with a date range from the 1st/2nd century to possibly the 3rd century AD. An articulated horse burial was found in one of the ditches in this complex although its significance is unclear. In the western part of the D-6 settlement focus a large area of possible amalgamated enclosures covering an area of c.159m x 91m (Trenches 4033 & 4034) was found to be of broadly Roman date with occasional 1st century AD material. The activity in Trench 4182 was more fragmentary, but also showed clear signs of domestic association, dating from the mid-2nd to 3rd century up to the 4th century AD, and possibly representing one the latest areas of settlement. While this shows a small level of settlement shift within the pattern of settlement foci, and a potential Late Iron Age phase in Field D-5-01, the majority of the settlement activity can be understood as large and complex contemporary settlement areas. The final 4th century AD phase of activity was less well represented than the earlier 2nd to 3rd century AD phase, possibly suggesting a contraction in settlement during this period. The overall pottery assemblage was indicative of a lasting and well-established Roman settlement and included samian and fine table wares.

12.4.8 Multiple artefacts of interest were recovered from these areas, including many examples of imported fine ware, sherds from white ware flagon with evidence of a resin repair and a spout from a tettina/ baby feeder type vessel. Tettinas have previously been associated with infants and interpreted as baby feeders, but recent research points towards a broader application in invalid or veteran care (Hawkins 2024). These artefacts have potential to inform on and/or reflect the economy and trade connections of these communities, consumption, family life and the importance and curation of certain items of material culture. Stone hones of probable Roman date were retrieved from four features in Trench 4031, in Field D-6. These would have been used to sharpen plane bladed tools for craft, industrial or domestic purposes. Three of

these hones were made of Weald Clay formation sandstone and are likely to have been imported from London.

12.4.9 Within the pottery assemblages from these features there were occasional sherds of unclear, but slightly anomalous, dating. This included two sherds of shelly-ware from the original cut [403255] of an enclosure ditch within the D-6 settlement complex. One shelly ware sherd was comparable to St Neots-type wares of medieval date, but also to Roman Harrold ware, southern Maxey-type ware, and also Lyveden-Stanion wares of medieval date. The other could be identified as potential early medieval in date, but was also found to have parallels from other periods. Another example was an internal gully [403229/403258], in Trench 4032, within the large enclosure complex to the north of Field D-6, which contained a sherd of prehistoric/Early Saxon pottery, alongside domestic material and was cut by the enclosure ditch recut. Ditch [403255] in Trench 4032, from this same enclosure also contained two sherds of uncertain early medieval/high medieval date as well as 19 small fragments (22g) of briquetage. Due to the uncertainty of the pottery dating, the rarity of such sherds in the Site and the known disturbance in this area, it is difficult to derive conclusions from these. Based on the potential dates, phasing within the prehistoric and Roman periods is possible and consistent with the rest of the phasing evidence. Early medieval dates can be considered to be less likely, based on the position of these features earlier in the stratigraphic sequences than more clearly Roman features and their presence within one of the earlier enclosures within the D-6 settlement complex.

12.4.10 Multiple pieces of slag were recovered from features in and around the northern enclosure in Field D-6 (Trenches 4032 & 4180), including a hearth bottom [418009], hearth/furnace lining [403261], smithing slag [403266] and a few flakes of hammerscale [403255]. This indicates the presence of a metal-working area in the mid-1st to early 2nd century AD in the vicinity of the northern enclosure of the D-6 settlement complex. A large piece of potential residual bog ore was found in pit [403619], in Trench 4036 close to the periphery of the D-6 settlement complex. This may hint at metal-working within this area in the earlier part of the settlement history, although this cannot be confirmed.

Arable agriculture

12.4.11 Although it is unclear whether there are any Roman field systems in Area D, environmental sampling often found rich charred plant assemblages. The weed seed assemblage overall were was similar to the Area B and C assemblage, and was suggestive of wet/waterlogged conditions and exploitation of the area for arable agriculture.

12.4.12 An abundant charred plant assemblage was recovered from ditch [403146], in the enclosure complex to the south-west of the D-6 complex, which also contained an articulated horse burial. The charred grain assemblage included spelt wheat, hulled barley and oat, with a few germinated grains. The charred weed seeds were suggestive of agricultural land and sometimes wet environs. The 2nd/ 3rd century ditch terminus [402609] from a Field D-5-01 saltern complex contained another rich assemblage with frequent barley, hulled barley, wheat, emmer/spelt, oat, possible free threshing wheat, bread wheat, common vetch and cabbage/mustard. Weed seeds were associated with wet environs, arable/rude real land and shaded/wooded environs. The makeup of the grain assemblage was similar to that seen at the Roman site of Ram Plantation, Bulby (Adams 2024) several miles to the east suggesting a local crop signature within the area.

Salterns

12.4.13 The areas of probable industrial and saltern activity associated with the settlement foci, included a small complex to the south of a subdivided enclosure, investigated in Trench 4032 (Field D-6) and two small complexes investigated by Trenches 4019, 4026 and 4178 (Field D-5-01). Salterns can be associated with the earliest phases of activity in each focus, including the Late Iron Age in Field D-5-01, continuing in use into the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD and the 1st century AD in Trench 3072, in Field C1-03. This phasing was consistent with the form and fabric of the briquetage assemblage.

12.4.14 The earliest evidence for salt production was found in the briquetage assemblage. A small part of this assemblage included shelly limestone tempered container sherds, found in Trenches 4032 in Field D-6 and 4178 in Field D-5-01 and a horned pyramidal pedestal found in Trench 4022, in Field D-5-01. These were suggestive of Early to Middle Iron Age briquetage making. All of these were found in or close to features associated with Late Iron Age or Roman salt production and hint at a Middle Iron Age origin to the salt production in these areas. Other suggestions of Middle Iron Age salt production included lower salt bleaching seen on some of the briquetage pedestals from this area (8.3.16).

12.4.15 The saltern complex investigated in Trenches 4178 and 4019, in Field D-5-01, comprised a small sub-divided enclosure and occasional small pits/postholes with feature fills often found to include high quantities of, or sometimes exclusively, briquetage and high quantities of ash and charcoal. Unfortunately, a large post-medieval feature was present in the enclosure interior, within Trench 4178, truncating any internal features present. A rich pottery assemblage was recovered spanning the Late Iron Age to the 2nd to 3rd century, suggesting that the original salt-making activity in this saltern may have predated the enclosure seen to the north (Trench 4021), but then continued through the period of the enclosure's activity. Ditch [417802] also contained a particularly large concentration of animal bone, suggesting that it was also used for dumping non-salt production waste.

12.4.16 The activity in Trench 4032, in Field D-6, included intercutting pits, tank-like pits, a small-scale enclosure features and feature fills which included high quantities of charcoal, briquetage and ash. The latest features in this small complex dated to the 1st to 2nd century AD and would have been contemporary with the large enclosure to the north.

12.4.17 One other saltern, investigated in Trench 4026, was multi-phased stratigraphically with artefactual dating spanning late 1st/mid-2nd century to the late 2nd/3rd century AD. It may have been initially contemporary with the closest rectilinear enclosure, continuing beyond the possible shift in settlement to the south. This saltern comprised curvilinear enclosures rectangular settling tanks, squarish pits and ditches with ash charcoal and briquetage heavily present in the fills. The use of settling tanks indicates a Late Iron Age or later date (Lane 2018, 104).

12.4.18 As high quantities of briquetage were found in the settlement areas and surrounding fields in the southern part of Area D, further salt-making complexes can be theorised and salt production can be inferred to have constituted a major part in the settlements' economy. The enclosure and internal features in Trench 4022 for example were found to contain 9,300g of briquetage, despite the lack of clear saltern features.

12.4.19 The salterns in Trenches 4032 (Field D-6) and 4026 (Field 5-1-01) were comparable to an Iron Age to Early Roman saltern (Site 4) found during the A1073, Spalding Eye Improvement Scheme. The Site 4 saltern comprised a small enclosure and rectangular tank-like pits, identified as settling tanks (Failes and Peachey 2013). While it is clear that heat-intensive works were undertaken in these salterns, evidence for hearth/ovens or stoking areas in Area

D was limited. In better preserved salterns shallow hearth/ovens, with ceramic slabs and pedestals and containers have been recorded (Lane and Morris 2001).

12.4.20 The briquetage container fragments were generally found to be characteristic of the Late Iron Age to Roman periods. The fabrics included shelly limestone tempers, organic tempers and sandy tempers. These latter fabrics could be paralleled with the Late Iron Age assemblage at Cowbit and the early Roman saltern at Morton (Morris 2001, 353; 8.3.15). The support elements in the briquetage assemblage comprised pedestals and stabiliser clips.

12.4.21 The long date span of the salterns and continuous evidence for salt-making throughout the settlements in Area D, suggests that salt-making was continuously practiced here from the earliest stage of activity in the Middle Iron Age into the 2nd to 3rd century. It is likely therefore that this area remained part of the saltwater fen throughout this period, although this cannot be confirmed at this stage. With the last evidence for saltern activity dated to the 2nd to 3rd century AD, in contrast to the last evidence for activity in the settlement areas in the 4th century AD, it is possible that salt-making was no longer practiced within the settlement in its last phases. This may be linked to a changing environment or economic factors and based on the relative paucity of evidence for this final settlement phase, may be associated with a contraction on the settlement.

12.4.22 The isolated salterns in the northern part of the area (Trench 4104, Field D-3-01 and Trench 4098, Field D-3-02) can be dated to the Early Roman period and to the Late Iron Age or Early Roman period, based on radiocarbon dating from Trench 4104 and the overall dating of the briquetage assemblage, present in both. The saltern in Trench 4104 consisted of a small D-shaped enclosure [410407/410410], two ditches and a pit/posthole, with heat affected material, pink ashy fills and briquetage in high quantities as well as naturally deposited silts. Pieces of smithing slag were also found within ditch [410407/410410], with bog ore fragments and possible bog ore dust found in other features within the trench, suggesting metal-working may also have occurred in similar features. Further small D-shaped enclosures can be seen in the vicinity of the trench in the geophysical survey, suggesting a small complex. The enclosure ditch from this potential saltern was radiocarbon dated to the mid-1st to mid-2nd century AD (48–83 cal AD (9.1.1%); 96–114 cal AD (4.3%). The salt-making features in Trench 4098 consisted of a series of intercutting pits containing high quantities of heat affected material and briquetage, these were located within a marine alluvium area in contrast to the other salterns on the Site. It is believed that many salterns contained raised working areas, which may alongside truncation explain the relative limited evidence for internal features in these salterns (Lane and Morris 2001). Within this northern, lower lying roddon and potentially wetter area, potential Iron Age and Roman features are very rare, suggesting an area of peripheral activity and activity-based exploitation. Both salt-working areas were located on the outer curve of the roddon, although marine alluvium was present in Trench 4098, indicating that it had been part of the wetland, prior to or during the Iron Age and Roman periods.

Other features

12.4.23 Finds from the probable droveway/trackway (Trenches 4013, 4014, 4019, 4178 & 4182; Fields D-5-01 & D-6) connecting the settlement foci were generally sparse, but finds of CBM, and animal bone were sometimes present with pottery of mid-2nd to 3rd and late 3rd to 4th century AD recovered from the feature in Trench 4182. It can be inferred therefore to have remained in use until the last phase of Roman activity within this area.

12.4.24 The possible Roman ditch in Trench 4080 (Field D-3-04) was associated with a probable field system of irregularly shaped parcels of land, broadly enclosing curving areas of roddon and subdivided into uneven strips. It is currently uncertain whether the single pottery sherd dating the feature represents a residual inclusion.

12.4.25 The remaining features in the area were highly limited in artefactual dating evidence, but generally included field systems and a single trackway/droveway. It is likely that some of these features were Iron Age/Roman in date, but it was not possible to radiocarbon date these features.

Medieval to modern

12.4.26 Similarly to Areas B and C, evidence for post-Roman field systems was present across the area (Fields D-2-01, D-2-04, D-3-02, D-3-06, D-5-01, D-5-02 and D6). Many of these spatially respected the 1887 OS boundaries (OS 1887d; Figure 101).

12.4.27 In the southern part of the area, at least two phases of post-Roman field systems were identified. In Field D-6, a co-axial field system, including enclosures of varying sizes was identified (Trenches 4036, 4037, 4038, 4039, 4040). These could be dated to the late medieval period via pottery of 15th century AD date recovered from ditch [403706] in Trench 4037. The later field system in this field consisted of a series of closely spaced ditches on a north-east to south-west alignment. These formed a series of narrow strips and can be seen to have evolved into the distinctive field system extant in the area, similar boundaries were also seen in Field D-3-06 and D-4. It can be theorised that the field strips were consolidated as the drier land reduced the need for drainage. In Field D-5-01, Trenches 4018 and 4186, found a pair of conjoined enclosures of post-medieval date. The date ranges spanned the broad post-medieval period and the 17th/18th century with an internal ditch of 18th/19th century date also present. A medieval ditch [402403] was also present in Trench 4024. To the north of the field, a series of parallel ditches following the alignment of the extant field system were present (Trenches 4029, 4027, 4020, 4028), echoing the development seen in Field D-6.

12.4.28 The drainage of the fens was visible in the archaeobotanical assemblage, which showed far fewer weed seeds associated with wet/damp environs in this period.

12.4.29 Trench 4178, in Field D-5-01, contained a large pit [417820] with evidence for multiple dumping events. The assemblage included a MNI of three horses and five geese and was suggestive of butchery waste within an agricultural context.

Undated

12.4.30 The majority of fields in Area D contain features which cannot currently be dated. This included the possible field system and enclosures in Field D-2-01, a large arc-shaped feature Field D-2-04, a pair of meandering ditches found in Fields D-2-02, D-3-01 and D-3-02, a field system seen in Fields D-3-02 and a meandering feature seen in Fields D-3-02 and D-3-03. Based on the nearby dated features Roman or medieval–modern dates are both possible.

12.5 Wider Context and Regional Research Agenda

Earlier prehistoric environment

12.5.1 Frequent instances of peat were recorded in geoarchaeological test pits across land parcels A, B, and D. The peat is interpreted as 'Lower Peat', as defined by the general fenland sequence, and represent the remains of freshwater reed beds that accumulated around c. 6000 to 2000

years BP (Zalasiewicz 1986; Smith et al. 2010), which was confirmed through radiocarbon dating of the deposits which more firmly placed their deposition around the mid to late Neolithic period.

Environmental Interplay in the Iron Age and Roman periods

12.5.2 The excavations at nearby Cowbit Wash found that Iron Age activity was often concentrated on the outer and driers parts of the roddons (Lane and Morris 2001). The Iron Age and Early Roman activity in Areas B and C appeared to be confined to the inner edge of the curving roddon, however, the outer edge, which contained a high density of probable Roman settlement remains was often excluded from the scope. In the Roman period a clear pattern of more permanent and complex activity on the roddons, and highly limited probable pastoral activity on the marine alluvium areas, could be characterised.

12.5.3 In Area D, there was a broad continuity in the location of the settlement foci between the Late Iron Age and Roman periods. Both settlement foci were located on the same roddon, with the D-5-01 focus, broadly central and the D-6 focus located on the northern shore.

12.5.4 The archaeobotanical assemblage indicated utilisation of wet/damp environs in the Roman period for arable agriculture, across areas B, C and D.

12.5.5 The two large roddons both branched off an even larger roddon, which connected them (Figure 164). As the c. 2.7km area, which separates the known areas of settlement has a near continuous spread of cropmarks and cropmark complexes it is likely that there were further areas of settlement between the Area C and D settlements. Travel between these areas also would have been possible.

12.5.6 Salt production would have been dependant on the presence of saltwater fen, while the exploitation of seasonal wetland pasture would have been possible in both freshwater and saltwater fen. Salt was probably produced in Areas C from the Late Iron Age to the 2nd century AD and in Area D from the Middle Iron Age into the 2nd or 3rd century AD. Similarly, Site 4 for the A1073, Spalding-Eye Improvement Scheme, located to the north of Area B on the Crowland Bypass, contained a saltern of Late Iron Age to Early Roman date with no evidence for production following this period (Failes and Peachey 2013). In Areas B and C, a series of features including trackways or droveways, small enclosures, suggestive of possible paddocks and small ring gullies suggestive of temporary dwellings were present, stretching from the settlement cores into the narrower winding areas of roddon. These were suggestive of animal management, seasonal exploitation of wetland pasture and possible seasonal transhumance. These dated to the Roman period and often the 2nd to 3rd century and potentially represent a later phase of economic activity in Areas B and C adapted to the freshwater fenland. The variation between the areas in this regard may be due to the location of Area D, further to the east and closer to the coastline. While the location of the boundary between marshland and fenland in Cowbit parish during Iron Age and Roman periods is uncertain and subjective (Hayes and Lane 1992), it may tentatively have been located between Area C and D during the latter part of the Roman period.

12.5.7 Throughout the Site the Roman fill sequences suggested a complex and changing environment. In Areas B and C periods of changing water levels, prolonged flooding and periodic flooding were evidenced, with a final re-cutting event post-dating the 2nd to 3rd century, followed soon after by a peat formation event of 3rd to 4th century AD or later date.

The dating, stratigraphy and fills closely followed the fill sequence seen at the nearby site of Land at Clay Bank, Spalding (Pre-Construct Archaeology 2021), suggesting wider contemporary flooding events. In both sites the final peaty fill formation suggested a prolonged period of water inundation and represented or formed part of the settlement abandonment. These localised events were both located within 6km of each other and close to the route of the River Welland. Within the eastern Fenland they can be placed in a wider context of increased flooding and settlement abandonment in the 3rd century AD (Smith 2016).

12.5.8 The fill sequence did not follow this clear pattern to the same extent in Area D, suggesting differing environmental change. The two settlement foci in the southern part of Area D were located further from the River Welland and on a wider area of roddon (Figure 168). Both the large roddon in Areas B and C and the southern roddon in Area D branched from a roddon of c. 1.3km width, which ran between them (Figure 164). The distance and the large roddon would have given Area D more protection from flooding associated with the River Welland. The position of the settlement foci on the northern banks of the roddon would also have been more sheltered than the southern banks.

12.5.9 In the northern part of Area D the roddon appears to have been much less pronounced. There was limited evidence of activity, including a saltern (Trench 4104) and pits with possible salt-making waste (Trench 4098). A probable trackway of uncertain date (Trenches 4103, 4172 & 4173) and field systems of uncertain, but likely medieval or later date were also present in this area. The sparseness of remains in this area combined with the shallower profile of the roddon visible in LiDAR suggests a more watery and less utilised area in the Roman period.

12.5.10 This was consistent with the results of the geoarchaeological test pits, where roddon material was identified within a large number of test pits. The geoarchaeological test pits revealed the presence of roddon material outside of the channels identified during geophysical surveys, suggesting that roddon limits were beyond those identified and/or possibly represent minor tributaries not visible within the geophysical survey data. The recorded roddon material was finer and siltier and thus likely represents lower energy channels, which is consistent with the fainter and more complex roddon networks identified during previous geophysical surveys.

12.5.11 The lower elevation of the area, and the presence of fainter visible roddon channels within the geophysical survey data reflect a lower, unstable estuarine landscape liable to sporadic flooding throughout the Iron Age, and periods of marine inundation occurred in the region during the late Bronze/ early Iron Age (EAA, 1992), such is consistent with archaeological results indicating less utilisation of area D during the prehistoric period.

12.5.12 This is of relevance to the East of England research agenda:

LIA-Rom 06: How can we increase our understanding of the Iron Age and Roman environment?

Salt production and economic activity

12.5.13 Prehistoric salt-making was seasonal and was likely to have been undertaken between March and June in the Fenland and between May and September in Central Southern England. This would have been undertaken alongside other seasonal production activities such as agricultural and pastoralism, with pastoralism and seasonal outfield grazing considered to have been compatible (Lane and Morris 2001). Seasonal grazing is evidenced in Areas B and C by the droveways into the marine alluvium areas and enclosures and temporary dwellings, however, it is unclear whether this was contemporary with the salt production in these areas

and there is some evidence that the local economy in Areas B and C switched towards pastoralism as salt production declined.

12.5.14 In Area C salt production occurred in at least two locations (Fields C-1-01 & C-1-03) both located on the large area of roddon and close to the settlement cores. Salt production formed part of the early economy of these areas, and appears to have commenced in the Late Iron Age, into the 1st to 2nd century AD.

12.5.15 In Area D in contrast, there is artefactual evidence for Middle Iron Age salt production and feature evidence for Late Iron Age salt production, which appears to have continued into the 2nd to 3rd century AD, without large gaps in production. Far more evidence for salt-making was also present within the settlement areas of Area D, suggesting that it played a greater and sustained role in the economies of these communities. Salt production appears to have ceased after the Early Roman period and the later 4th century contraction in the settlement could be tentatively linked to the cessation of salt production as well as the increased flooding seen in fenland sites in the 3rd century AD (Smith 2016).

12.5.16 In a wider context salt-making in the Lincolnshire fenland is known in the Iron Age, but greatly expanded in the first two centuries of the Roman period (Lane and Morris 2001). Within the Site the presence of Late Iron Age saltern features in Area C and D, within larger complexes of Roman salt-making and settlement activity, appears to reflect this trend. It could be theorised that the potentially small-scale salt-making communities in and around the Site expanded in the Roman period, following economic demand and technological advancement in briquetage. It can also be theorised that the salt-making community in Area D, enjoyed economic surplus and exotic trade in the Early Roman period.

12.5.17 There is also wider evidence of standardisation of saltern form in the Late Iron age to Early Roman periods, generally comprising pennanular, sub-square ditches with one entrance internal ovens and two or three rectangular settling tanks (Lane 2018). All of the salterns on the Site appear to conform to this trend.

12.5.18 It has been postulated that *salinae* (saltworks) were controlled at an imperial level during the Roman period, although the details are unclear (Trimble 2001). It is not possible to assess whether this affected the saltworks in the Site at this stage of the investigation, but may be worthy of consideration at a later date.

12.5.19 This evidence is relevant to the EMHERF agenda:

4.8.2: How may diet and land-use have varied over time and between different ecological zones? Can we identify specialist pastoral zones and elucidate coastal resource exploitation strategies?

4.9.1: How can we add to our existing knowledge of industries and crafts in this region, particularly the extraction and smelting of iron and lead, salt production and quern manufacture?

5.2.1: How far was the military conquest a motor of social and economic change during the Romano-British period?

5.6.1: What resources moved in and out of the region during this period?

5.6.3: How may studies of the production, movement and consumption of pottery contribute to understanding of the regional economy?

5.6.4: What production techniques and exchange networks were involved in the manufacture and marketing of salt and building materials?

And to these East of England Research agenda:

LIA-Rom 05: How can we better understand the Late Iron Age to Roman transition?

Iron Age settlement patterns in the Fenland

12.5.20 All of the settlement foci on the Site appear to have had an Iron Age origin, suggesting continuous development between in the Iron Age and Roman periods. Iron Age features appear to be underrepresented in dating, possibly due to the survivability of the material culture, obscuring the full extent of Iron Age activity. In Areas B and C the exclusion of the Roman settlement cores from the scope would have also excluded the Iron Age elements of the settlement core, potentially excluding the foci from this period.

12.5.21 Evidence for Middle Iron Age activity on the Site is derived from radiocarbon dating of a ring gully in Field B-1-14 in Area B and in residual Middle Iron Age briquetage in Fields D-5-01 and D-6 in Area D. The Middle Iron Age ring gully was located within an area of further sparsely spaced ring gullies on a thinner area of roddon. By the Late Iron Age features such as the saltern in Trench 3005, in Field C-1-01, in Area C, were established and it is likely that the settlement activity was similar to the continuous occupational area seen in the Early Roman period.

12.5.22 In Area D both settlement foci appear to have had Late Iron Age origins, although it is unclear which elements were Late Iron Age in date. These settlement foci were both located on the same large roddon and in contrast to Areas B and C formed two spatially limited complexes with multiple sub divided enclosures.

12.5.23 It is likely that the evidence from the Site has the potential to address the following EMHERF research agenda:

4.2.1: What mechanisms may underlie intra-regional variations in site densities?

4.2.2: May the density and/or spatial extent of settlements of particular types and periods and within particular landscape zones be underestimated?

4.2.3: How can we expand our knowledge of first millennium BC activity in areas with a poor record of settlement

4.4.1: Why were settlements increasingly enclosed during this period and to what extent may the progress of enclosure have varied regionally?

4.5.3: How may nucleated and other settlements have developed in the Roman period?

4.8.3: How may agricultural changes have impacted upon settlement patterns? Can the relationship between sedentary and mobile economies be clarified, and how did this vary spatially and over time?

4.10.1: What social and economic roles may open and enclosed sites have performed, and may the progression in some areas from open to enclosed settlements imply the development of less mobile societies?

12.5.24 And these East of England research agenda:

LIA-Rom 16: Can we better distinguish between Late Iron Age and Early Roman features and sites?

Roman settlement patterns in the Fenland

12.5.25 Variation in both settlement patterns and economies appears to be present between the areas of Roman settlement in Areas B, C and in D.

12.5.26 The settlement in Areas B and C comprised areas of high density within corridors of near continuous activity. While the settlement areas in Area D were characterised by spatially restricted clusters of amalgamated and subdivided enclosures. Low level shifting of settlement areas was evidenced in Area D, but date ranges between the large enclosures and the settlement foci overlapped heavily, suggesting that the majority of the settlement areas were contemporary with each other, especially in the 1st to 3rd century AD.

12.5.27 The artefactual assemblage from Area D was far richer than the artefactual assemblage from Areas B and C. This may reflect the exclusion from scope of the more densely settled parts of these areas, or perhaps some indication of the relative status or the variation in the permanency of these settlements.

12.5.28 The evidence from these settlement areas has potential to address these agenda from the EMHERF:

5.4.1: How did the Conquest impact upon rural settlements and landscapes?

5.4.3: How did rural settlements relate to each other and to towns and military sites, and how may this have varied regionally and over time?

5.4.5: What patterns can be discerned in the location of settlements in the landscape?

5.4.6: Can we elucidate further the daily life of settlements and their role in the processing and marketing of agricultural products?

Iron Age and Roman field systems

12.5.29 It has not been possible at this stage to confidently date any of the field systems within the site as Iron Age or Roman, although there are multiple systems with potential to date to these periods. The archaeobotanical assemblage, however, was able to evidence the utilisation of wet/damp ground for arable agriculture and the cultivation of spelt, barley, oat, legumes and cabbage/mustard.

12.5.30 This evidence has the potential to address the following regional research agenda:

4.6.1: Can we shed further light upon the development of field and boundary systems?

5.5.2: How did integration into the Roman Empire impact upon the agrarian economy, including the introduction of new crops, herbs and fruits?

5.5.4: Can we chart more closely the processes of agricultural intensification and expansion and the development of field systems?

Medieval to Post-medieval agriculture, field systems and drainage

12.5.31 It is currently believed that the landscape was depopulated at the end of the Roman period, until the establishment of an abbey at Crowland in the Late Saxon period. Descriptions of the local fenland in this period describe an inhospitable wetland, with realignment of the River Welland undertaken following the founding of the Abbey (Lane and Morris 2001). Larger scale drainage efforts of the fenland as a whole were attempted in the 17th century AD. These

efforts varied in success and in 1664 AD the Welland was canalised again, resulting in the creation of the Crowland Wash (ibid). The development of agriculture on the Site through the medieval and post-medieval period reflects the reclamation and drainage of the fenland as well as potential new challenges caused by drainage efforts.

12.5.32 The evidence of furrows and a medieval/post-medieval field system seemingly constrained to a roddon in Field A-1-09 can be interpreted as a potential agricultural system within a pre drainage or partially drained fenland. It was located c. 3km to the north of Crowland Abbey and 3km to the south-west of the deserted medieval and post medieval settlement of Peakhill (MLI23090 & MLI23091). Boundary stones named 'St Guthlac's Cross' (NHLE: 1005052 & 1359254; LHER 352267) are known in the area between Area A and B. These are part of a set of seven stones, originally placed in the high medieval period to mark the extent of the Crowland Abbey estate, although they have been moved from their original positions. It may therefore have been associated with monastic land or a secular community.

12.5.33 The post-Roman drainage ditches and field boundaries across the Site were found to date to the late medieval (15th century AD) through to the modern period, with the post-medieval period the most represented. They include long meandering ditches, which did no respect the roddons or Roman settlement areas; large scale coaxial systems that do not respect the roddons, Roman settlement areas or the 19th century field systems; and later field systems that appear to have developed directly into the 19th century field system (OS 1887a–e). The evidence for decreasing enclosure in the southern part of Area D in the 19th century AD, may indicate that as the fenland became drier, many of these ditches became unnecessary. Alongside this evidence the archaeobotanical assemblage demonstrated far fewer weed seeds associated with wet/damp environs in the medieval to modern assemblages.

12.5.34 This development is relevant to the EMHERF regional research questions:

7.5.2: Can we discern significant differences in the planning, economy and landscape impact of the different monastic orders (e.g. Witham Valley)?

7.7.6: How best may we enhance study of the origins and development of early land reclamation and drainage, particularly in Lincolnshire?

8.3.2: How did water management and land drainage change the landscape during this period?

8.3.1: How can we improve our understanding of the early landscapes of enclosure and improvement and the interrelationship between arable, pasture, woodland, commons and waste?

8.3.2: How did water management and land drainage change the landscape during this period?

12.5.35 And these East of England research agenda:

E-Sax 12: What did the Early Anglo-Saxon landscape look like?

Med (Rural) 08: How can we improve our understanding of medieval rural monastic establishments, especially those of the minor orders? Med (Rural) 03: How can we improve our understanding of medieval agricultural practices?

P-Med 14: How can we characterise the post-medieval historic landscape and the factors which affected it?

Archaeology in the Fenlands

12.5.36 The current archaeological evaluation drew from, and was informed by, previous works in the Lincolnshire Fenland, including the previous fenland surveys (Hall and Coles 1994; Hayes and Lane 1992), studies of regional salt-making (Lane and Morris 2001; Lane 2008) and nearby archaeological works (Failes and Peachey 2013; Pre-Construct Archaeology 2021). A combination of Desk Based Assessment, Aerial Landscape Survey and Geophysical survey was undertaken prior to the Trial Trench Evaluation and the resulting trenches were highly targeted on features and areas of interest revealed by these surveys. The combination of these previous researches and investigations alongside extensive survey, trial trench evaluation and geoarchaeological investigation, allowed the evaluation to reveal a thorough and complex understanding of the activity and settlement on the Site and its relationship to the changing environment.

12.5.37 The cropmark survey had mixed correspondence with cropmarks were not always found to correspond to archaeological features, while geophysical survey was found to be highly correlated. In many areas the same features were revealed by both survey types, while in many other areas the differing survey types revealed different sets of features. The use of the surveys in combination was highly successful.

12.5.38 The geoarchaeological evidence revealed that roddon deposits continued further than mapped by the aerial survey and identified a stratigraphic sequence within the marine alluvium areas of Neolithic date onwards.

12.5.39 The works on this project can be used to address the following East of England research agenda:

Multi 06: How do we interpret and ground-truth cropmark evidence?

Multi 08: How can we better realise the archaeological potential of the Fenland?

13 CONCLUSIONS

13.1.1 Across the areas the topography of ancient fenland or marine alluvium and roddons structured the patterns of activity in the earlier phases of activity. In the Iron Age to Roman periods remains were tightly concentrated on the roddons, with only small-scale, potentially seasonal, features present in the marine alluvium areas. An interplay between human activity and the fenland environment was evident within these early phases. Following the historic draining of the fenland, later features were found to cover larger areas without spatially respecting the roddon system.

13.1.2 While the dating and character of the archaeological remains has been revised and refined following the initial aerial and geophysical surveys, these surveys were found to correlate well with excavation results, albeit with a slightly higher archaeological density than expected. This provides the opportunity to view the Site as a highly detailed and enhanced landscape survey.

Archaeological summary

13.1.3 The potential Iron Age/Roman remains in Area A, suggested low to moderate activity, in line with its location away from known concentrations of activity recorded in the HER. Dating evidence was highly limited, but this activity appears to have comprised occasional ditches and ring gullies. It can be characterised as a peripheral area with occasional temporary habitation, probably associated with specific activities.

13.1.4 The evaluated area in Areas B and C found enclosures, ditches and droveways associated with the fringes of a large settlement area and within a near continuous corridor of activity. Two areas of salt-making close to and within a Scheduled Monument for Roman settlement (NHLE: 1004978) were recorded. Radiocarbon dating demonstrated that settlement in these areas commenced in the Middle Iron Age, however, the lack of artefactual evidence prevented a characterisation of this period. Occasional Late Iron Age pottery and more frequently Roman pottery indicated that settlement and salt-making in this area originated in the Late Iron Age, with settlement into the 3rd to 4th century AD. Salt production in this area appears to have commenced in the Late Iron Age and continued into the Early Roman period with the latest saltern activity dated to the 2nd century AD. In the broadly Roman period and later Roman period the activity appears to have been largely pastoral in nature and potentially seasonal, with areas of enclosure to the east associated with long droveways/trackways, which continued though the corridor of activity onto the area of narrower meandering roddons to the west. Within this western area sparsely distributed small-scale enclosures, ring gullies suggestive of temporary dwellings, and drainage ditches were present. The majority of this activity was limited to the small-scale roddons with occasional features found in the marine alluvium area. Both economic activities would have been highly seasonal, utilising the changing landscape.

13.1.5 The Iron Age to Roman settlement remains in the southern part of Area D, formed two foci of broadly contemporary clustered subdivided and amalgamated enclosures (Fields D-5-01 & D-6). Salt-making appears to have formed a major aspect of the local economies of these communities and three saltern complexes were found at the outskirts of these settlements. They have potential to inform on the role of salt-making in these settlements, the settlements themselves, and the wider peripheral landscape associated with the settlements. The artefactual assemblage indicated a rich material culture, strong trade links and probable economic surplus.

13.1.6 The roddon in the northern part of Area D was lower-lying and appears to have been less utilised in the Iron Age and Roman periods. Fields D-3-01 and D-3-02 were found to contain evidence for slightly isolated salterns, dated to the Early Roman period and Iron Age or Roman period, respectively. There was also sparse, but extensive evidence for field systems covering much of the northern area, although many of these are likely to have been medieval to post-medieval in date.

13.1.7 Extensive remains associated with post-medieval field systems were found across the areas. Multiple phases of large-scale drainage and boundary systems can be seen, with occasional potentially earlier field systems concentrated onto and respecting the roddons. These remains have potential to inform on the development of agriculture in the fenland alongside the changing fenland environment.

Archaeologically blank or sparse areas

13.1.8 Area A was identified as an area with very sparse archaeological remains and large archaeologically blank areas. A large area of near continuous archaeological activity was present in Areas B and C with sparser activity towards the west and some archaeologically blank areas. The following evaluated fields can be considered to contain areas of moderate to high archaeological potential: Fields B-1-02, B-1-03, B-1-07, B-1-08, B-1-09, B-1-10, B-1-13, B-1-14, B-2, B-5, C-1-03, C-1-06, C-1-07 and C-2-02. Archaeological activity was present across the entirety of Area D with no areas of low potential and two particular areas of very high archaeological density and potential in the south (Fields D-5-01 & D-6). While highly complex and dense, the settlement and activity foci in Fields D-5-01 and D-6 were spatially limited and did not extend far beyond their surveyed extents. The potentially contemporary field systems around these features were far sparser. If appropriate, further mitigation in the southern part of Area D could include avoidance of areas of archaeological density. The following fields can be assessed as having very low archaeological potential: Fields A-1-04, A-1-06, B-1-12 and B-3-01.

Geoarchaeological test pitting

13.1.9 The purpose of the geoarchaeological test pits was to provide information relating to the depositional sequence of the fen, and to determine if inter-roddon organic or gravel deposits were present, which may suggest locales for human activity. Stratigraphy recorded across the site was determined to be consistent with wider fenland sequences, dominated by lowermost deposits of silty clay which form the Barroway Drove Beds, overlain by roddon deposits or directly by the agricultural topsoil.

13.1.10 Roddon material was identified within a large number of test pits, and most frequently within Area D. The geoarchaeological test pits revealed the presence of roddon material outside of the channels identified during geophysical surveys, suggesting that roddon limits were beyond those identified and/or possibly represent minor tributaries not visible within the geophysical survey data. The recorded roddon material was finer and siltier and thus likely represents lower energy channels, which is consistent with the fainter and more complex roddon networks identified during previous geophysical surveys.

13.1.11 Lower Peat deposits were encountered intercalated with the Barroway Drove Bed deposits frequently on site in most areas, excluding Area C. Radiocarbon dating conducted on organic material derived from the intertidal lower peat confirmed the date of these deposits to the mid/late Neolithic period.

13.1.12 Rare deposits of gravel were recorded within TP210 an TP269 in Area B, this gravel may relate to post-Anglian Pleistocene fluvial deposition by the former course of the River Welland. However, no archaeology was observed within these deposits.

Concluding notes

13.1.13 The evaluation was successful in meeting its aims and objectives. The data from this project can be used to address regional research agenda, expand the knowledge of known heritage assets and inform archaeological mitigation strategies. Within 12 months of approval of the full final report the documentary and physical archive will be deposited with Lincoln Museum, under the accession number LCNCC:2025.60 and site code MNSF25. The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service.

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The post-excavation process was managed by [redacted], assisted by [redacted]. The interim statement and interim report were written by [redacted] with contributions from [redacted]. Environmental processing was undertaken by [redacted] under the direction of [redacted]. Geoarchaeological deposit modelling was undertaken by [redacted]. The full report was written by [redacted] with contributions from [redacted] and the finds and environmental specialists listed below. The figures were produced by [redacted] supported by [redacted].

The following post excavation specialists contributed to the project: [redacted] (Roman pottery), [redacted] and [redacted] (Briquetage), [redacted] (Post-Roman pottery and CBM), [redacted] and [redacted] (Animal Bone), [redacted] (Archaeobotany).

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FIGURES

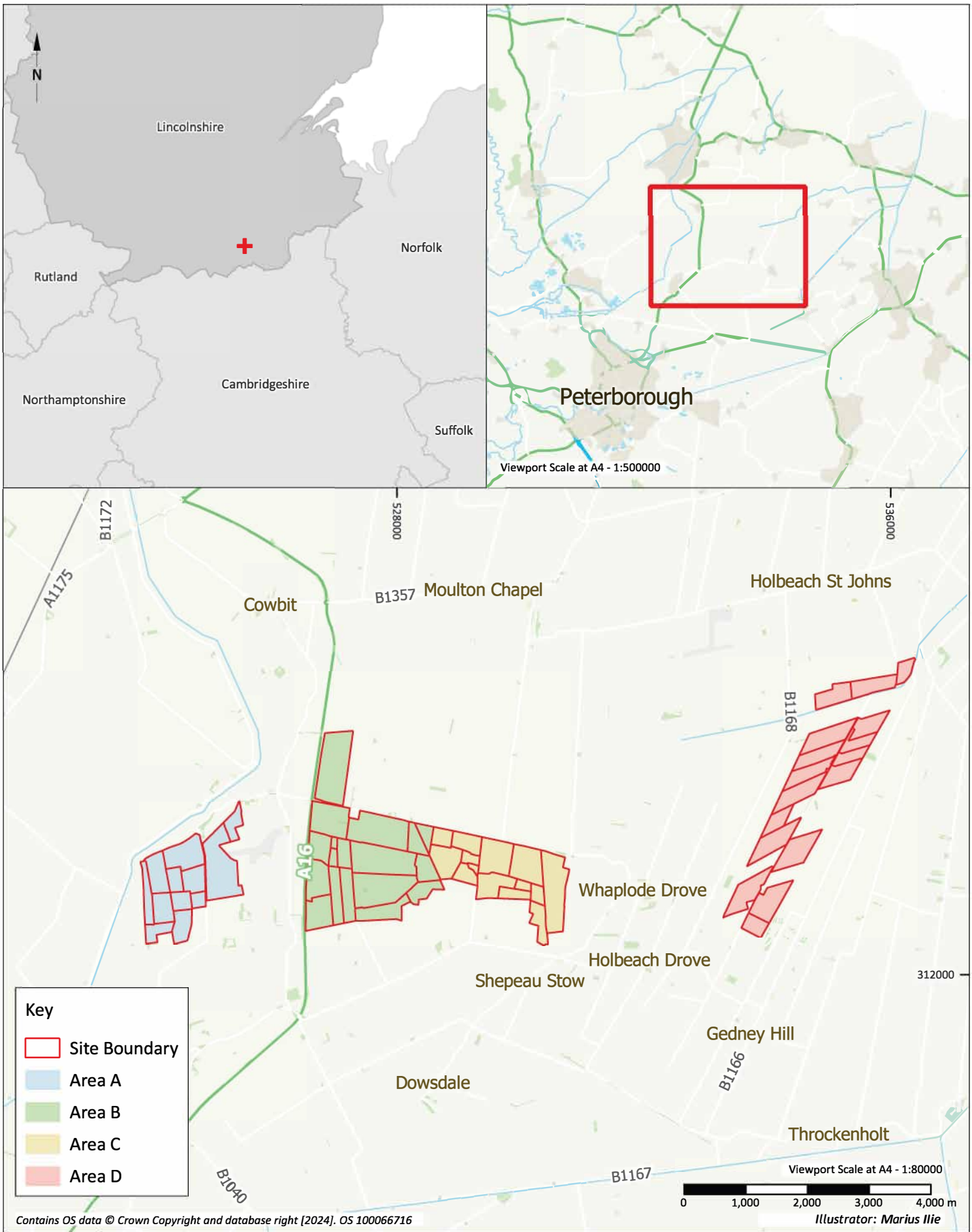


Figure 01 - Location Map
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

Phasing

- Undated
- Iron Age/Roman
- Iron Age
- Roman
- Mediveal to modern
- Medieval/ Post-medieval
- 19-20 CE
- Natural
- Geology

KEY

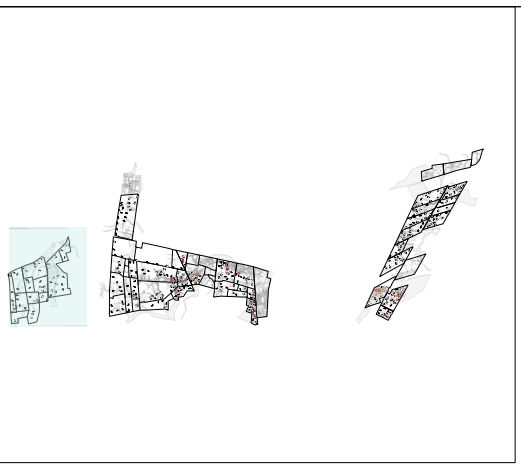
- Site boundary
- Arch. trench
- Blank trench
- Roddon
- Palaeochannel
- Arch. (aerial)
- Geophysics: arch. - possible
- Geophysics: arch. - probable

1:15000

0 1500 m

Illustrator: Marius Ilie

Figure 02 - Site plan
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

A-1-12

A-1-05

A-1-11

A-1-02

A-1-06

A-1-09

A-1-01

A-1-07

A-1-10

A-1-03

A-1-08

A-1-04

Phasing

- Undated
- Iron Age/Roman
- Iron Age
- Roman
- Mediveal to modern
- Medieval/ Post-medieval
- 19-20 CE
- Natural
- Geology

KEY

- Site boundary
- Arch. trench
- Blank trench
- Roddon
- Palaeochannel
- Arch. (aerial)
- Geophysics: arch. - possible
- Geophysics: arch. - probable

1:6500

0 650 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 03 - Plan of area A
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

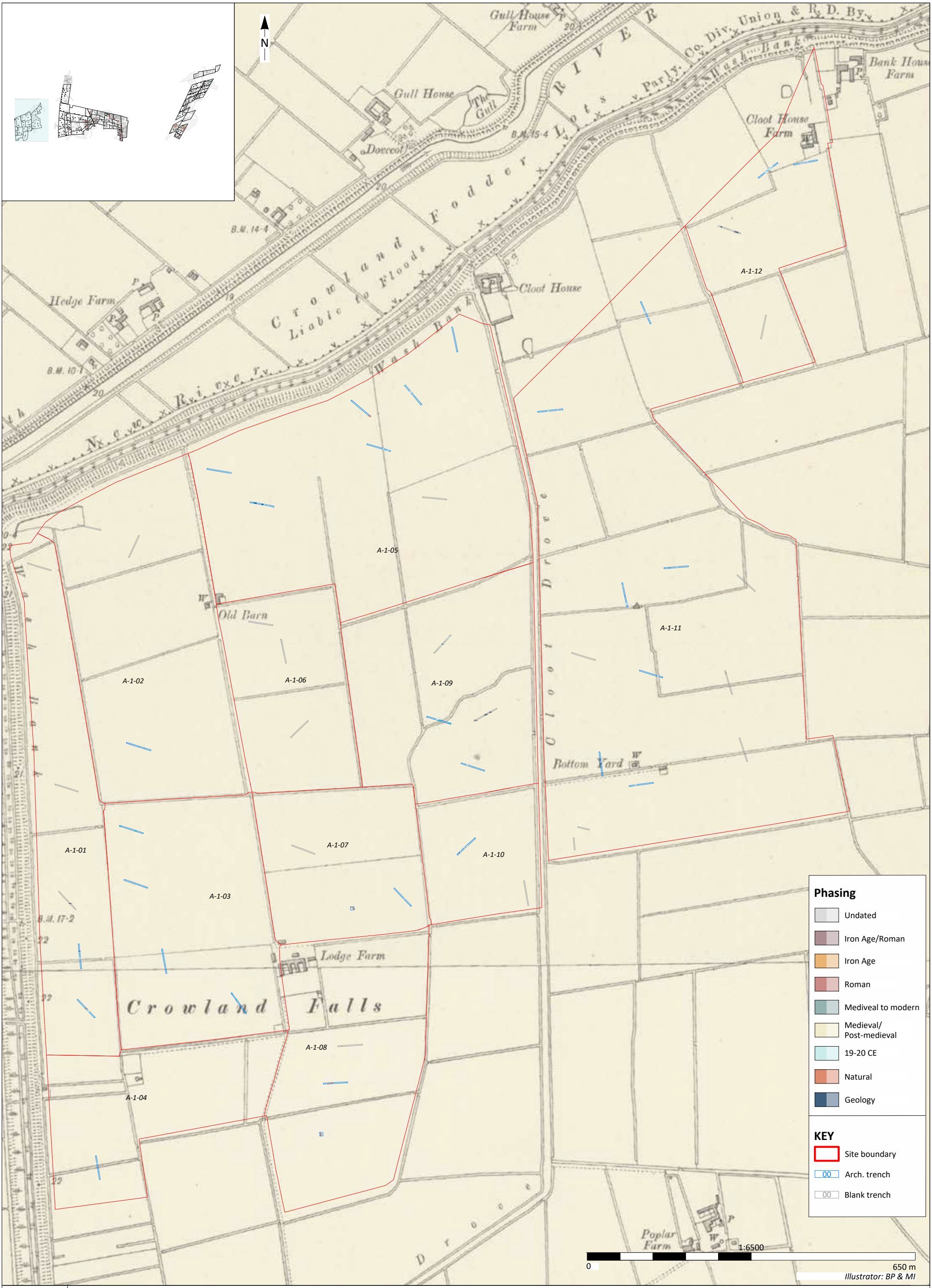


Figure 04 - Plan of area A over *OS six inch map 1888-1913*
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

[102506]

[102503]

T.1025

A-1-01

T.1026

[102606]

[102603]

Phasing

- Undated
- Medieval/ Post-medieval
- Natural

KEY

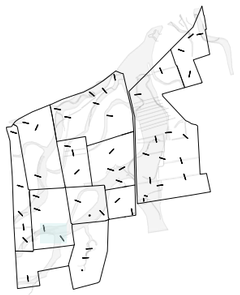
- Site boundary
- Geology
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 05 - Plan of trenches 1025 and 1026 in A-1-01
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

A-1-02

[101914]
[101912]
[101910]
[101906]
[101904]
T.1019
D.231

Phasing

Undated

KEY

Site boundary
Archaeology
Roddon
Palaeochannel
D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500
0
50 m
Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 06 - Plan of trench 1019 in A-1-02
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

T.1027

A-1-03

T.1028

Phasing

Undated

KEY

Site boundary

Furrow

Roddon

Arch. (aerial)

1:500

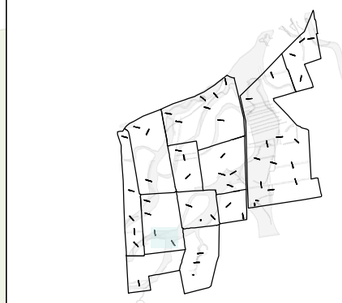
0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 07 - Plan of trenches 1027 and 1028 in A-1-03
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

T.1029



A-1-03

KEY

- Site boundary
- Modern
- Furrow
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500.0001

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

[103005]

[103003]

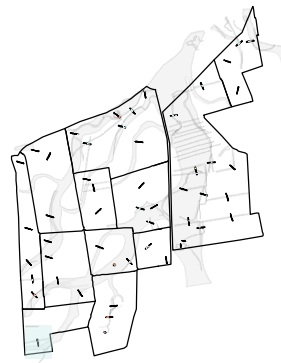
D.177

T.1030

[103004]

Figure 08 - Plan of trenches 1029 and 1030 in A-1-03
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N



A-1-04

T.1031

[103103]

Phasing

19-20 CE

KEY

Site boundary

Roddon

Palaeochannel

Arch. (aerial)

1:500.0001

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 09 - Plan of trench 1031 in A-1-04
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

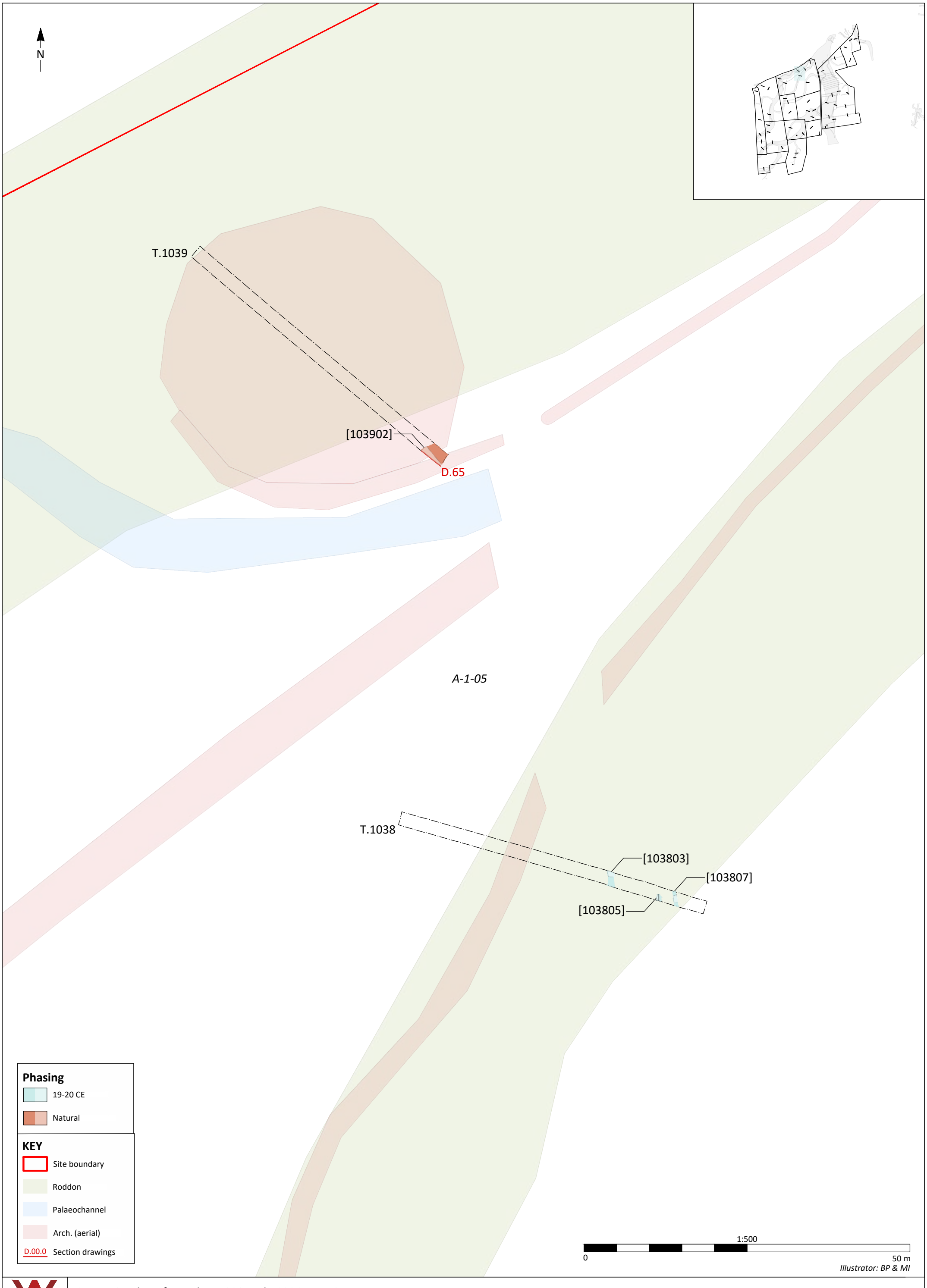


Figure 10 - Plan of trenches 1038 and 1039 in A-1-05
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

T.1041

[104103]

A-1-05

T.1040

[104004]

[104009]

[104006]

Phasing

19-20 CE

KEY

Site boundary

Geology

Roddon

Palaeochannel

Arch. (aerial)

1:500

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 11 - Plan of trenches 1040 and 1041 in A-1-05
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

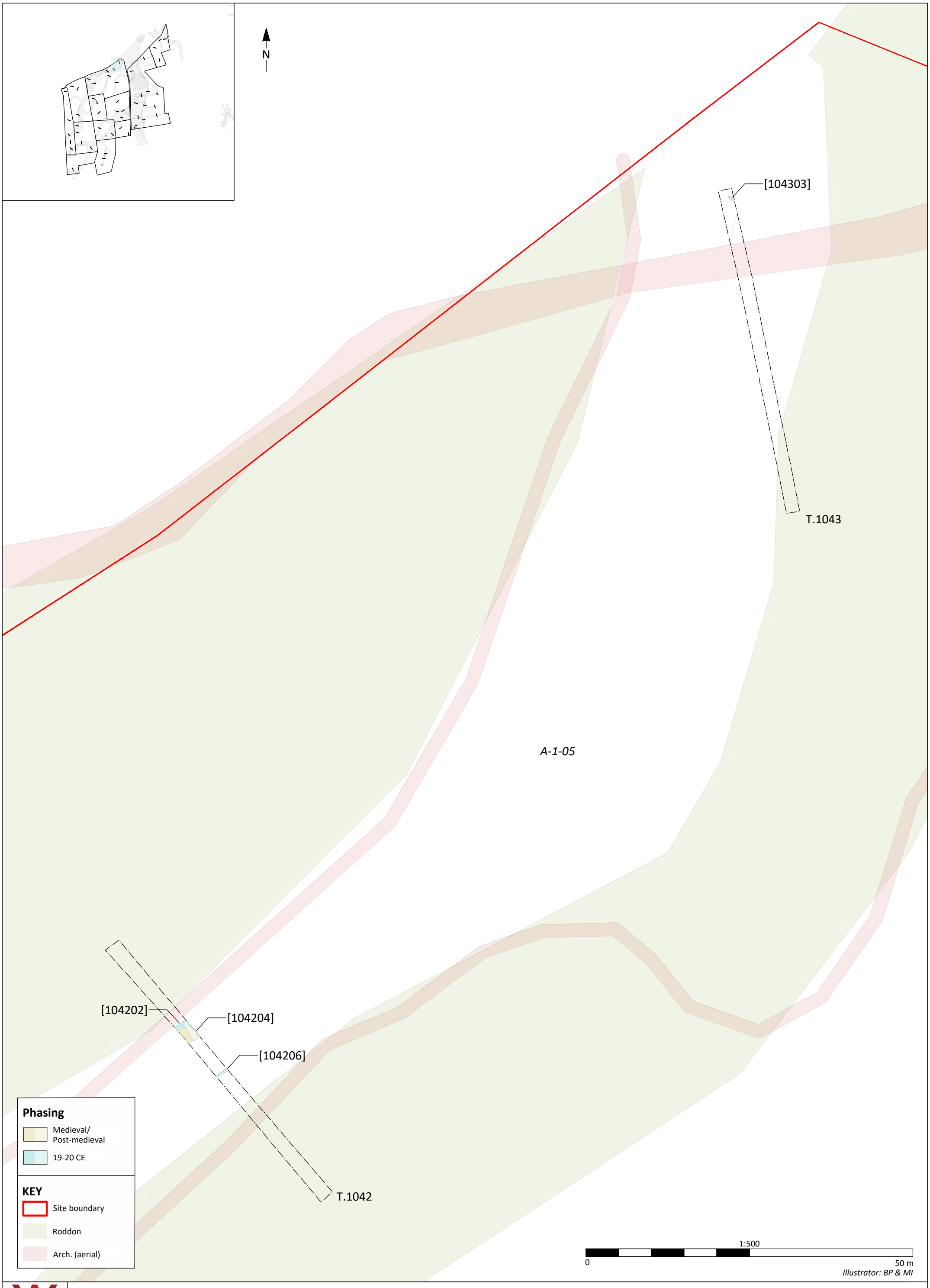
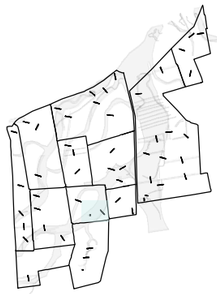


Figure 12 - Plan of trenches 1042 and 1043 in A-1-05
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

A-1-07

[103304]

T.1033

[105302]

D.153

[105304]

D.154

[105306]

D.155

D.156

[105308]

T.1053

Phasing

Undated

Iron Age

KEY

Site boundary

Roddon

Arch. (aerial)

Geophysics: arch. - probable

D.00.0 Section drawing

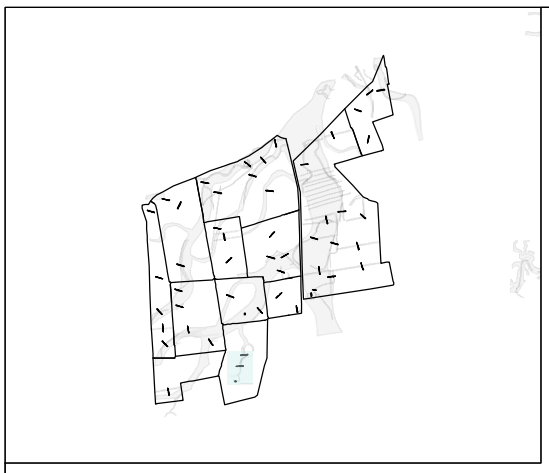
1:500

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 13 - Plan of trenches 1033 and 1053 in A-1-07
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

T.1037

[103606]

[103607]

T.1036

[103604]

A-1-08

[105202]

T.1052

Phasing

Roman

Natural

KEY

Site boundary

Unexcavated

Roddon

Palaeochannel

Geophysics: arch. - possible

1:500

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 14 - Plan of trenches 1036, 1037 and 1052 in A-1-08
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

T.1016

D.218

[101603]

T.1014

A-1-09

[101504]

T.1015

Phasing

- Medieval/ Post-medieval
- 19-20 CE

KEY

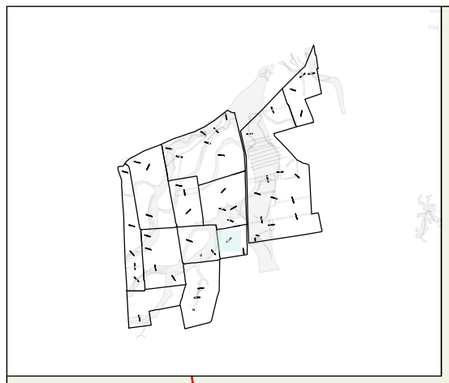
- Geology
- Furrow
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 15 - Plan of trenches 1014, 1015 and 1016 in A-1-09
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

T.1034

[103403]

[103405]

[103407]

A-1-10

Phasing

Undated

KEY

Site boundary

Unexcavated

Modern

Roddon

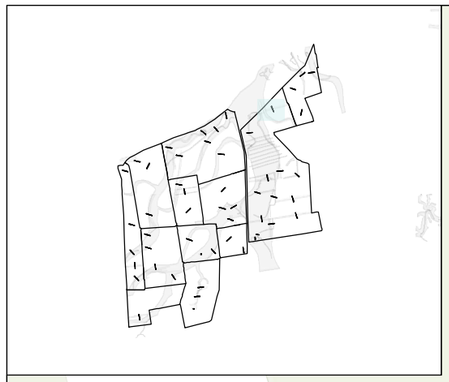
Arch. (aerial)

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 16 - Plan of trench 1034 in A-1-10
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

[100303]

T.1003

A-1-11

Phasing

19-20 CE

KEY

Site boundary

Roddon

Arch. (aerial)

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 17 - Plan of trench 1003 in A-1-11
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

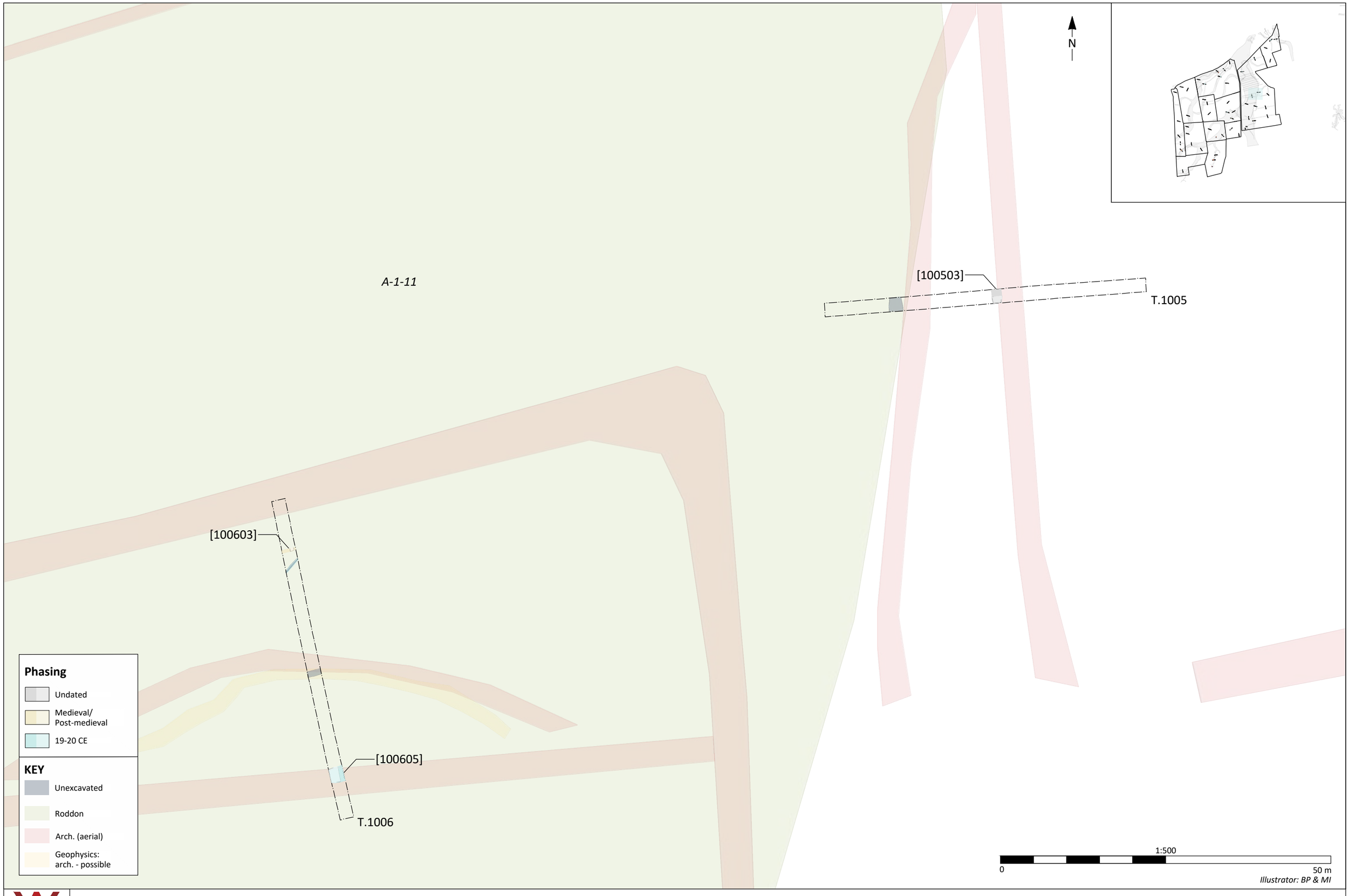
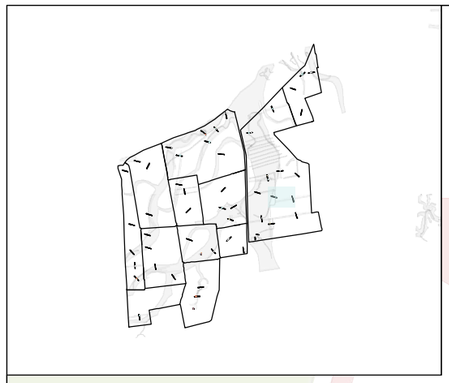


Figure 18 - Plan of trenches 1005 and 1006 in A-1-11
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

A-1-11

[100802]

T.1008

T.1010

Phasing

19-20 CE

KEY

Unexcavated

Roddon

Arch. (aerial)

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 19 - Plan of trenches 1008 and 1010 in A-1-11
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

[101305]

[101303]

D.249

T.1013

[101204]

T.1012

A-1-11

Phasing

- Undated
- Medieval/ Post-medieval

KEY

- Unexcavated
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 20 - Plan of trenches 1012 and 1013 in A-1-11
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

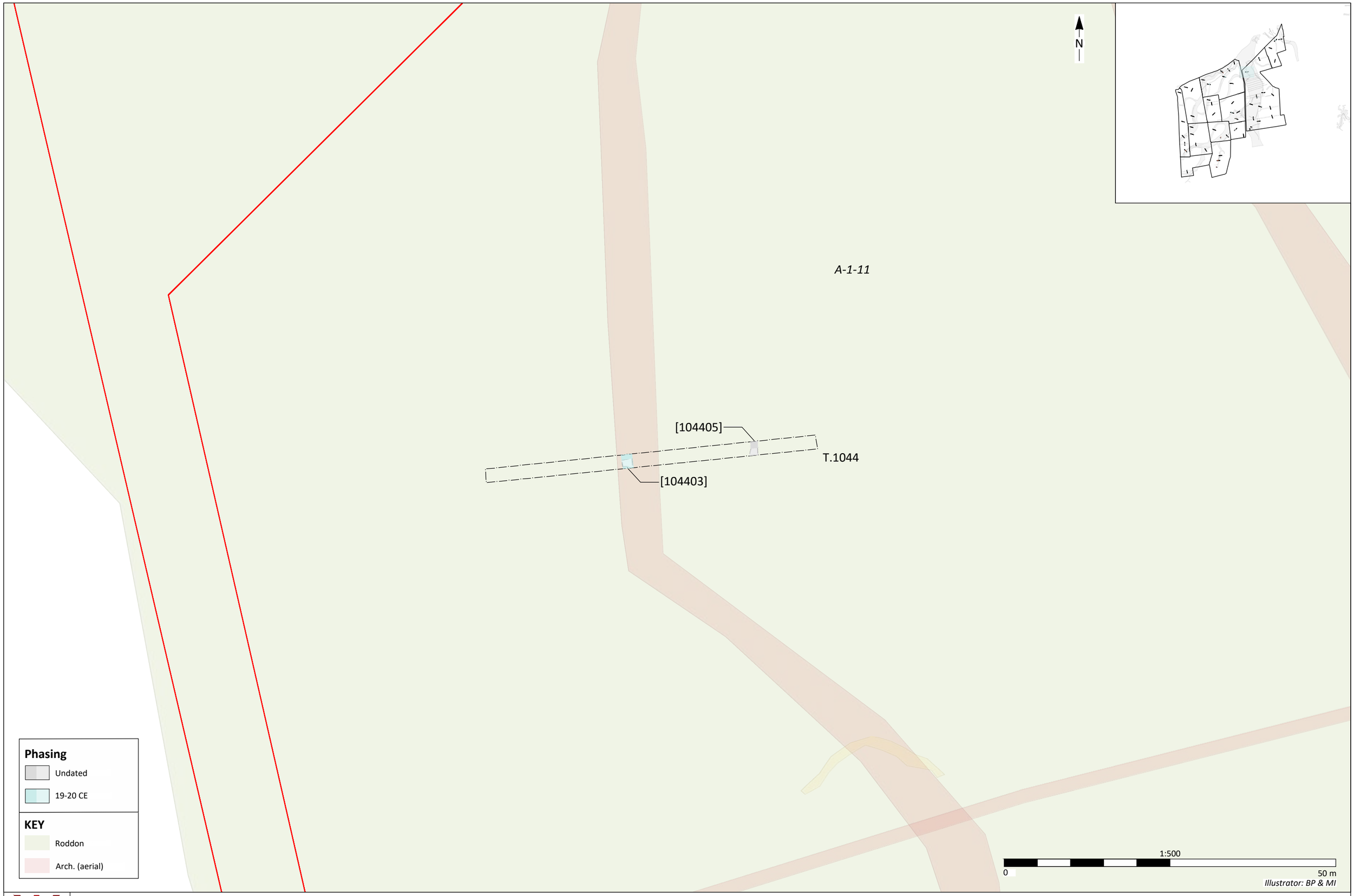


Figure 21 - Plan of trench 1044 in A-1-11
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

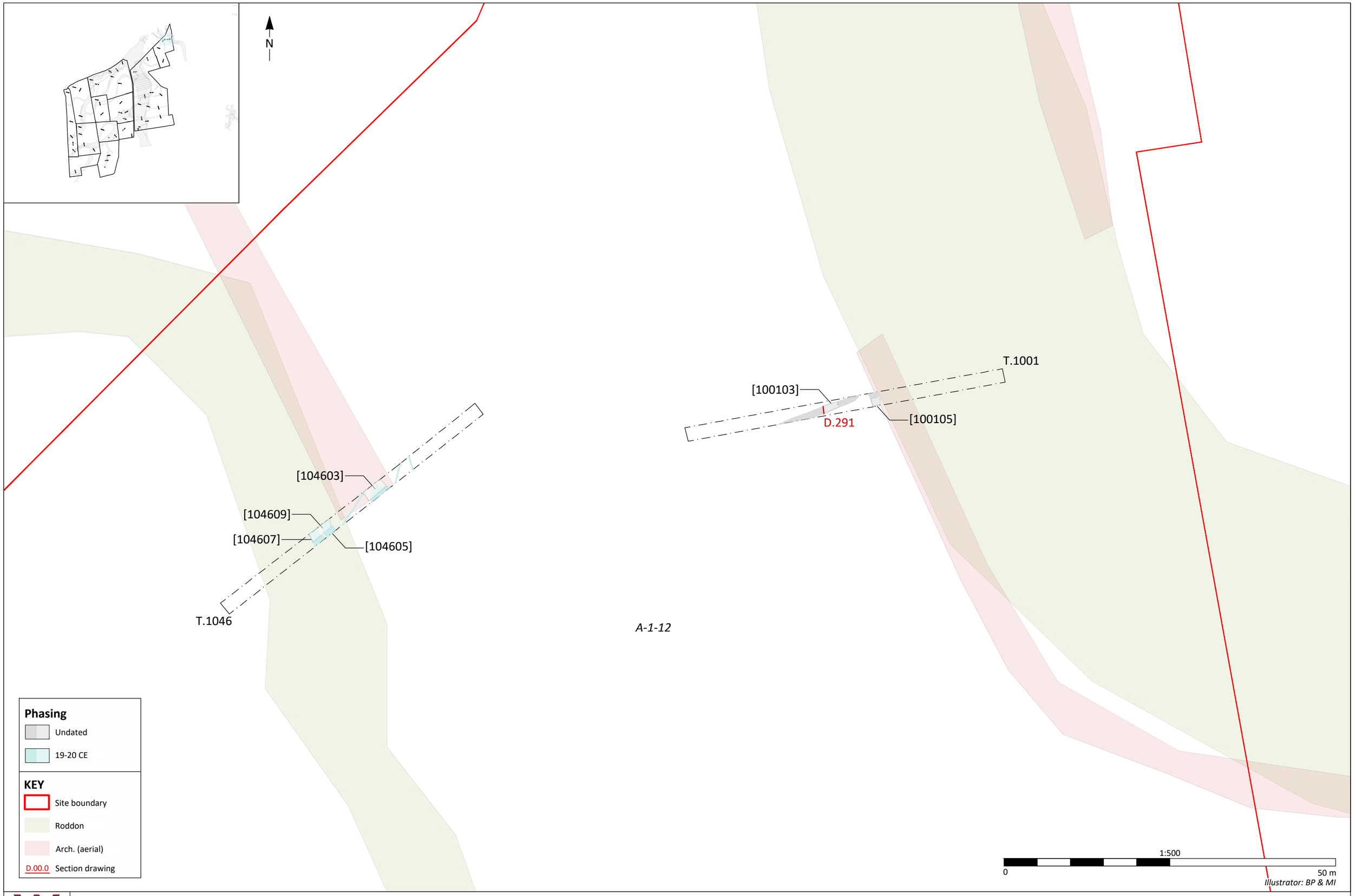
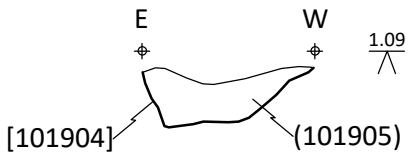
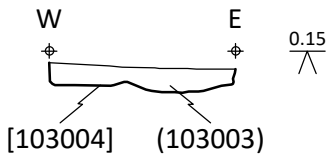


Figure 22 - Plan of trenches 1001 and 1046 in A-1-12
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

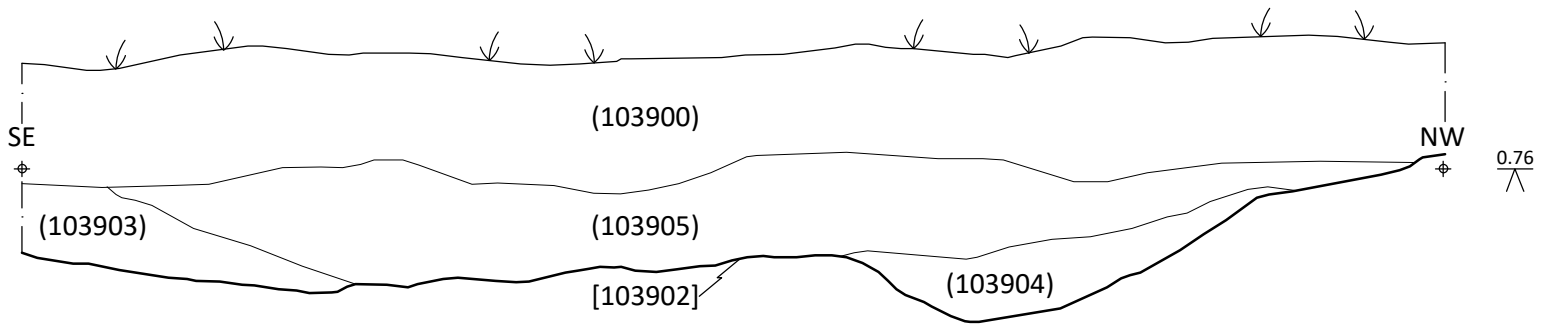
D.231
North facing section [101904]



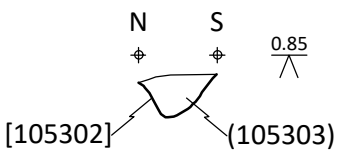
D.177
South facing section [103004]



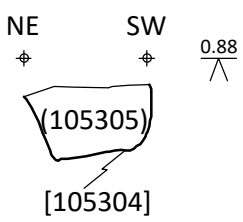
D.65
North-east facing section [103902]



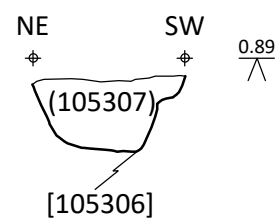
D.153
West facing section [105302]



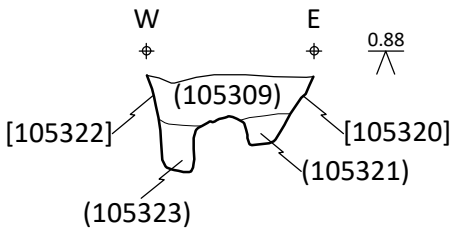
D.154
North-west facing section [105304]



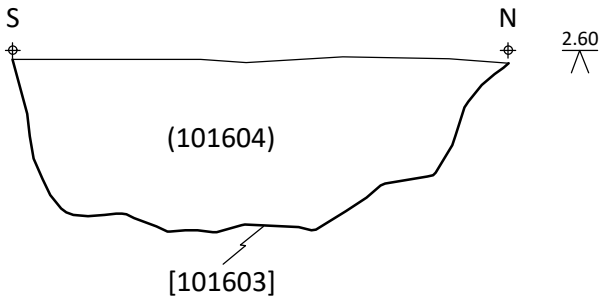
D.155
North-west facing section [105306]



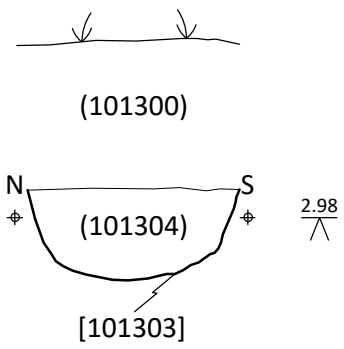
D.156
South facing section [105308], [105320] & [105322]



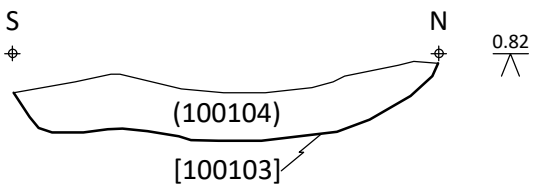
D.218
West facing section [101603]

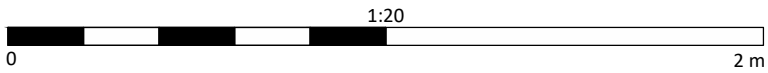


D.249
West facing section [101303]



D.291
East facing section [100103]





Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 23 - Section drawings 65, 153, 154, 155, 156, 177, 218, 231, 249 and 291
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

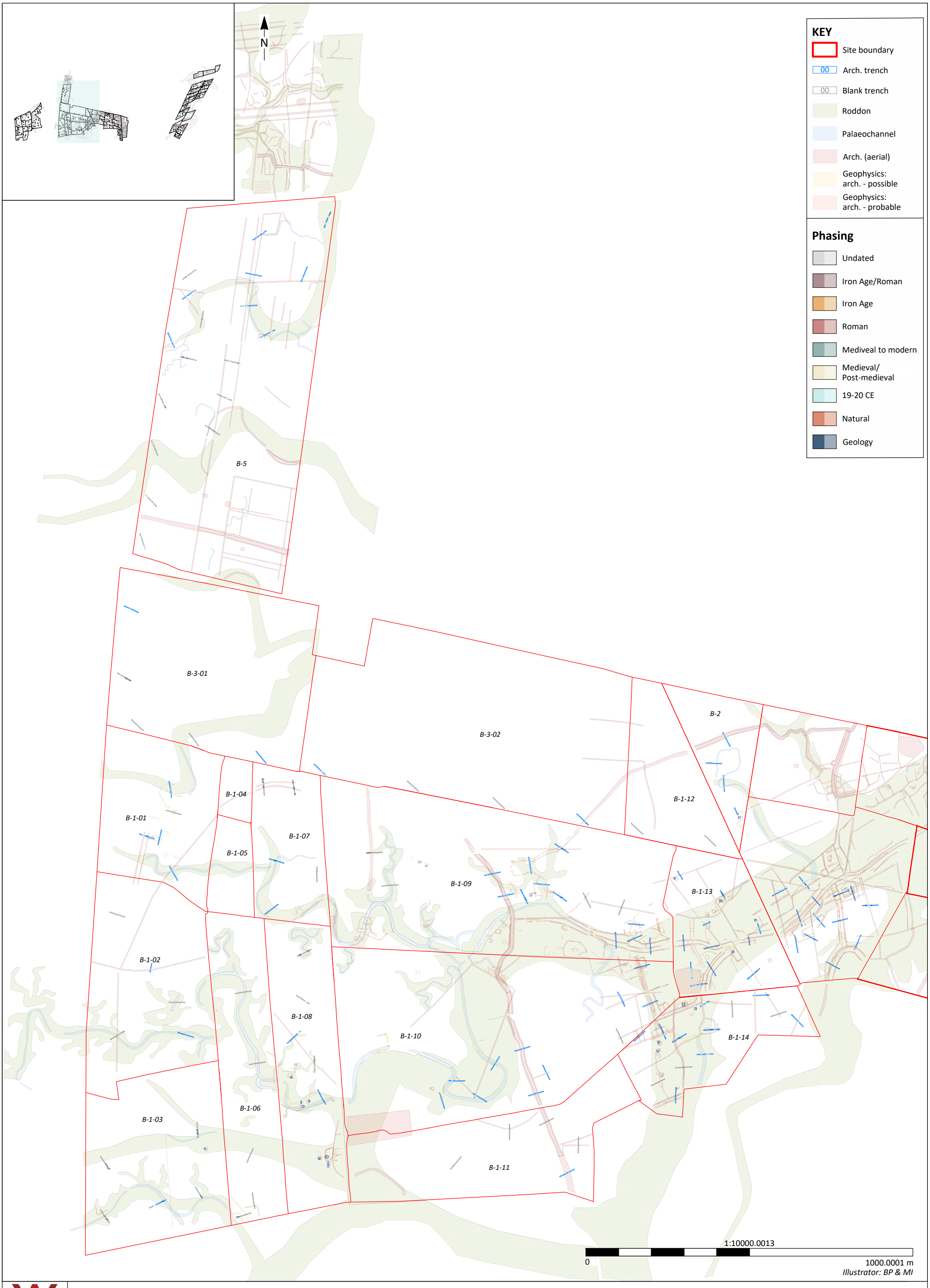


Figure 24 - Plan of area B
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

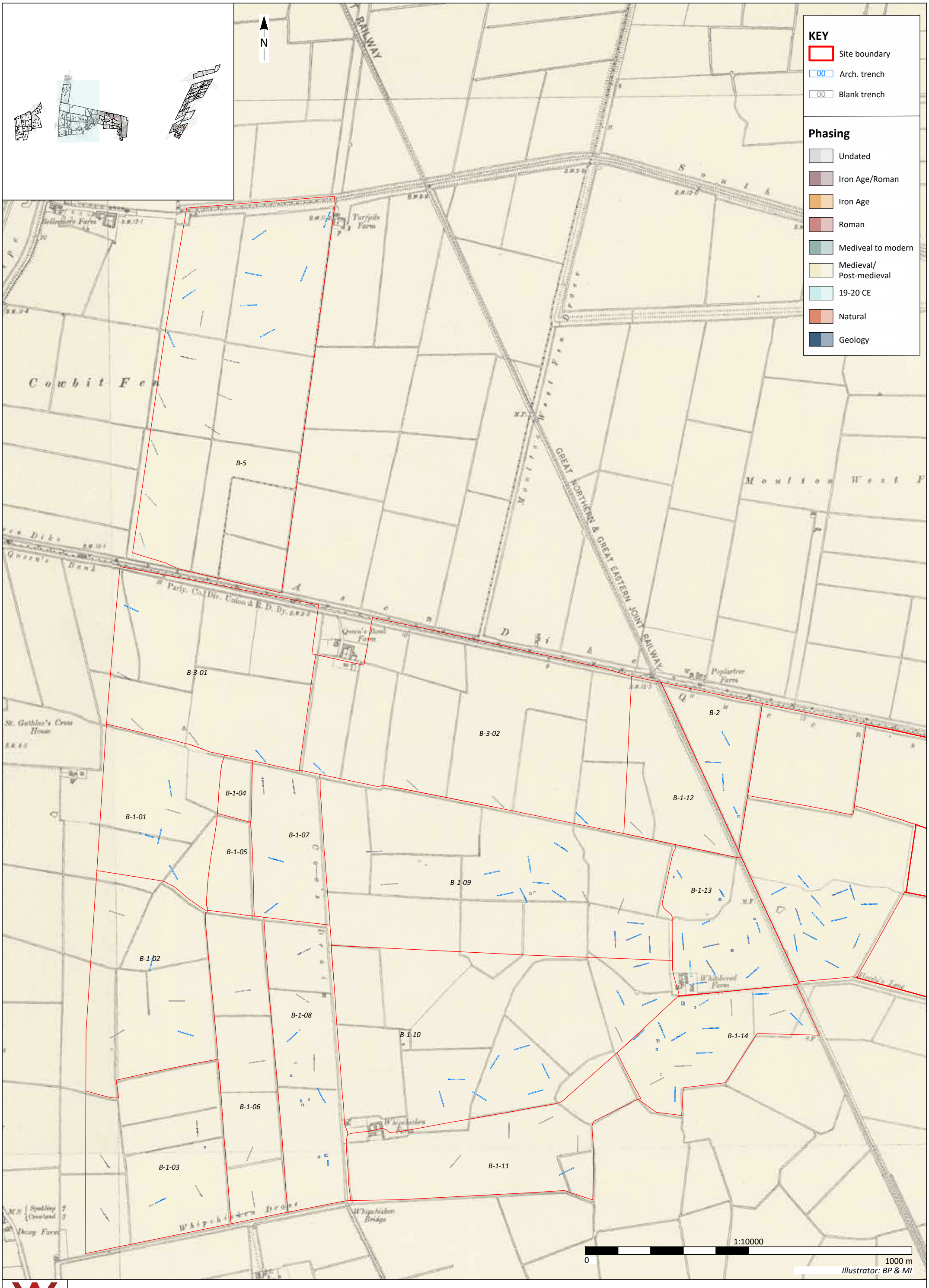


Figure 25 - Plan of area B over *OS six inch map 1888-1913*
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

[201304]

D.20061

[201302]

T.2013

B-1-01

T.2014

Phasing

Undated

KEY

Modern

Roddon

Palaeochannel

Geophysics: arch. - possible

D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 26 - Plan of trenches 2013 and 2014 in B-1-01

10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

T.2012

[211503]

T.2115

[211506]

[211509]

[201203]

B-1-01

[206903]

T.2069

Phasing

Undated

19-20 CE

KEY

Site boundary

Unexcavated

Roddon

Palaeochannel

Arch. (aerial)

Geophysics: arch. - possible

1:500

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 27 - Plan of trenches 2012, 2069 and 2115 in B-1-01

10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

D.20047

[205502]

T.2055

B-1-02

Phasing

Iron Age/Roman

KEY

Site boundary

Geology

Roddon

Palaeochannel

Geophysics: arch. - possible

D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 28 - Plan of trench 2055 in B-1-02
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

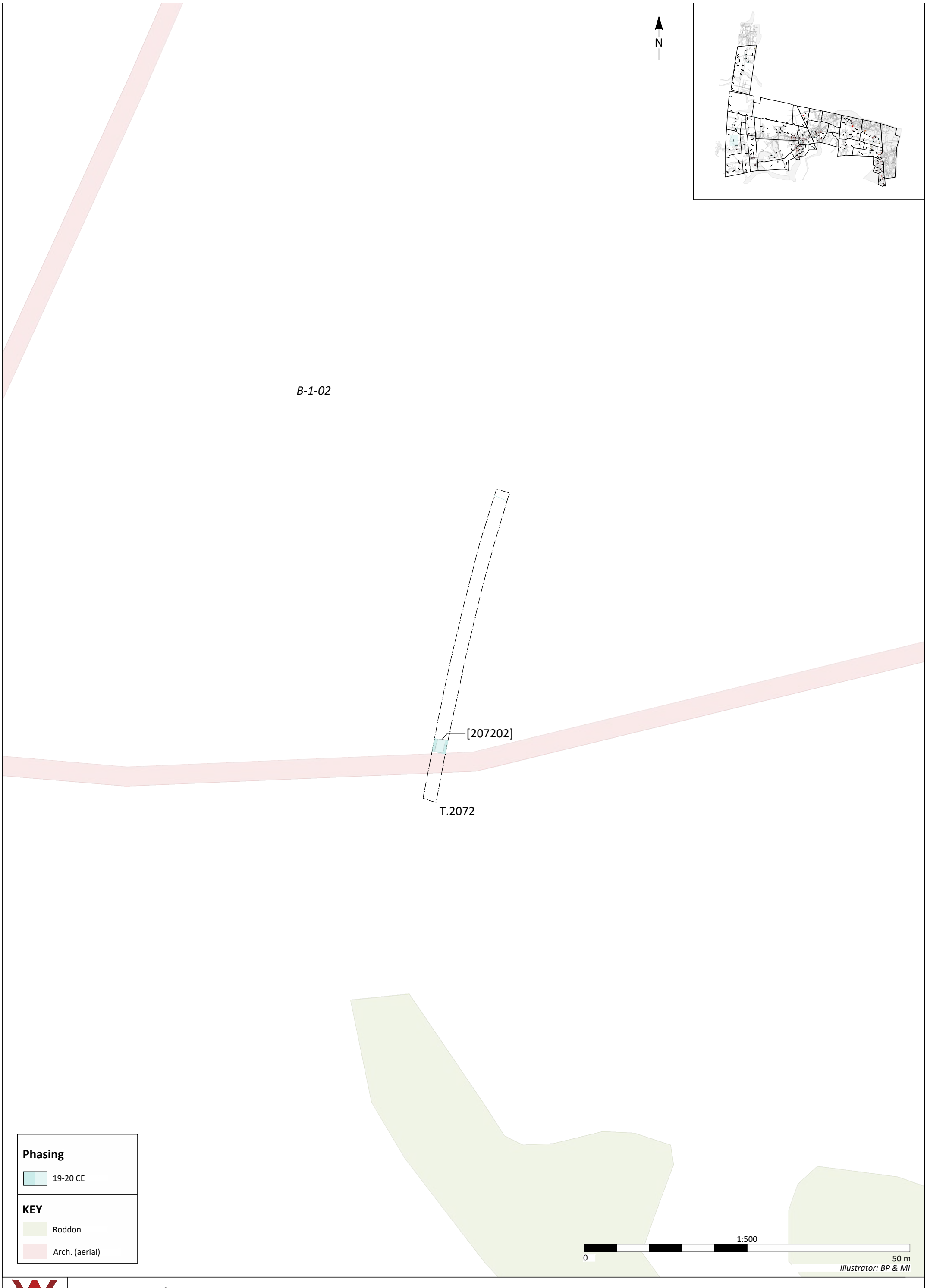


Figure 29 - Plan of trench 2072 in B-1-02
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

B-1-03

T.2040

[204204]

T.2042

T.2042

KEY

- Archaeology
- Modern
- Geology
- Roddon
- Palaeochannel

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 30 - Plan of trenches 2040 and 2042 in B-1-03
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

B-1-03

T.2041

[211105]

[211103]

T.2111

D.30

Phasing

Iron Age/Roman

KEY

Site boundary

Modern

Geology

Roddon

Palaeochannel

Geophysics: arch. - probable

D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 31 - Plan of trenches 2041 and 2111 in B-1-03
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

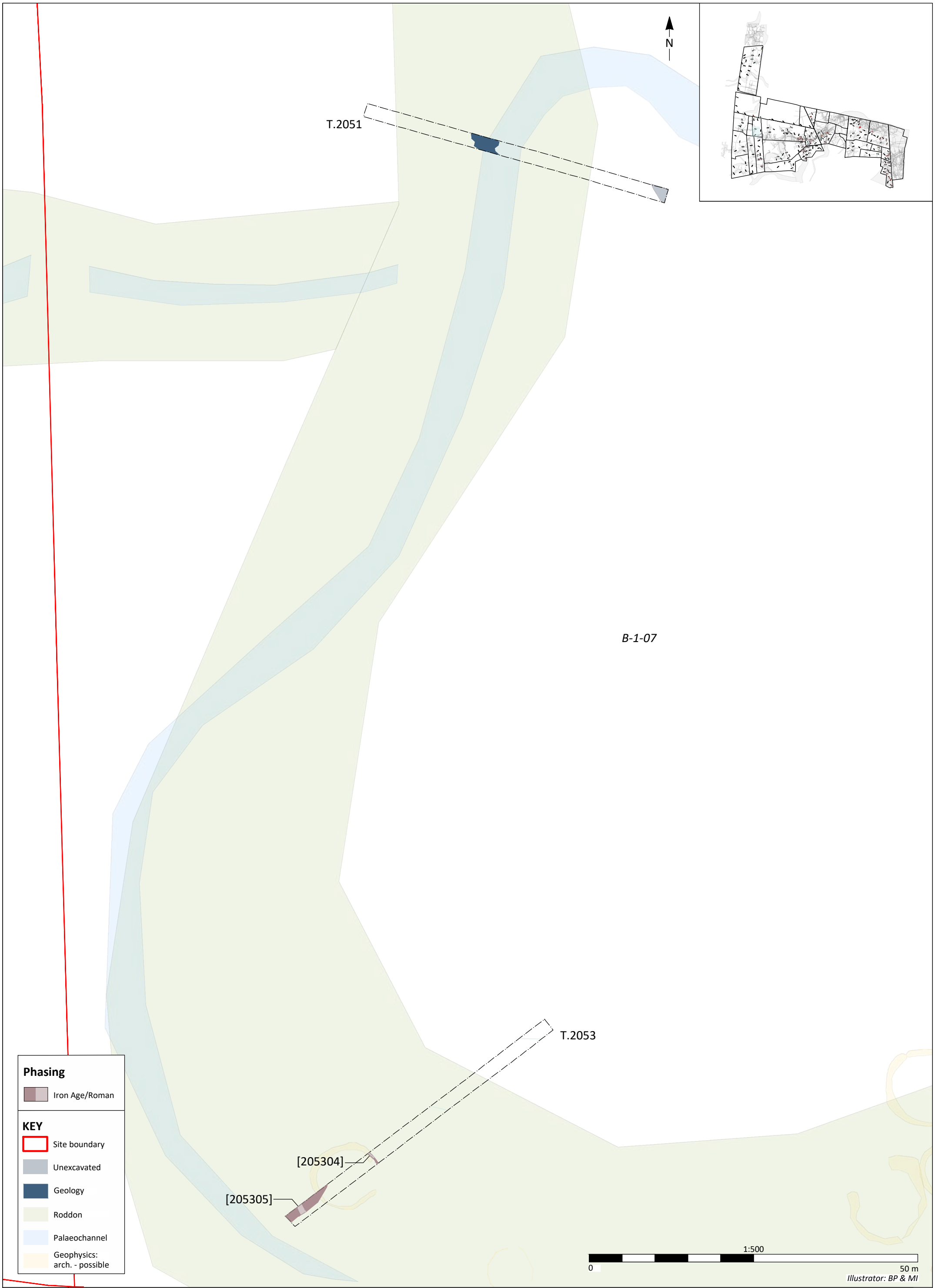


Figure 32 - Plan of trenches 2051 and 2053 in B-1-07
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



[205203]

[205204]

[205206]

T.2052

[207001]

[207006]

[207005]

T.2070

B-1-07

N

KEY

- Site boundary
- Modern
- Geology
- Geophysics: arch. - possible
- Arch. (aerial)

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 33 - Plan of trenches 2052 and 2070 in B-1-07
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

T.2018

[201803]

T.2018

B-1-08

[201602]

T.2128

T.2016

T.2127

[212704]

D.08

D.09

[212702]

Phasing

Iron Age/Roman

KEY

Site boundary

Modern

Geology

Roddon

Palaeochannel

Arch. (aerial)

Geophysics: arch. - possible

Geophysics: arch. - probable

D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 34 - Plan of trenches 2016, 2018, 2127 and 2128 in B-1-08
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

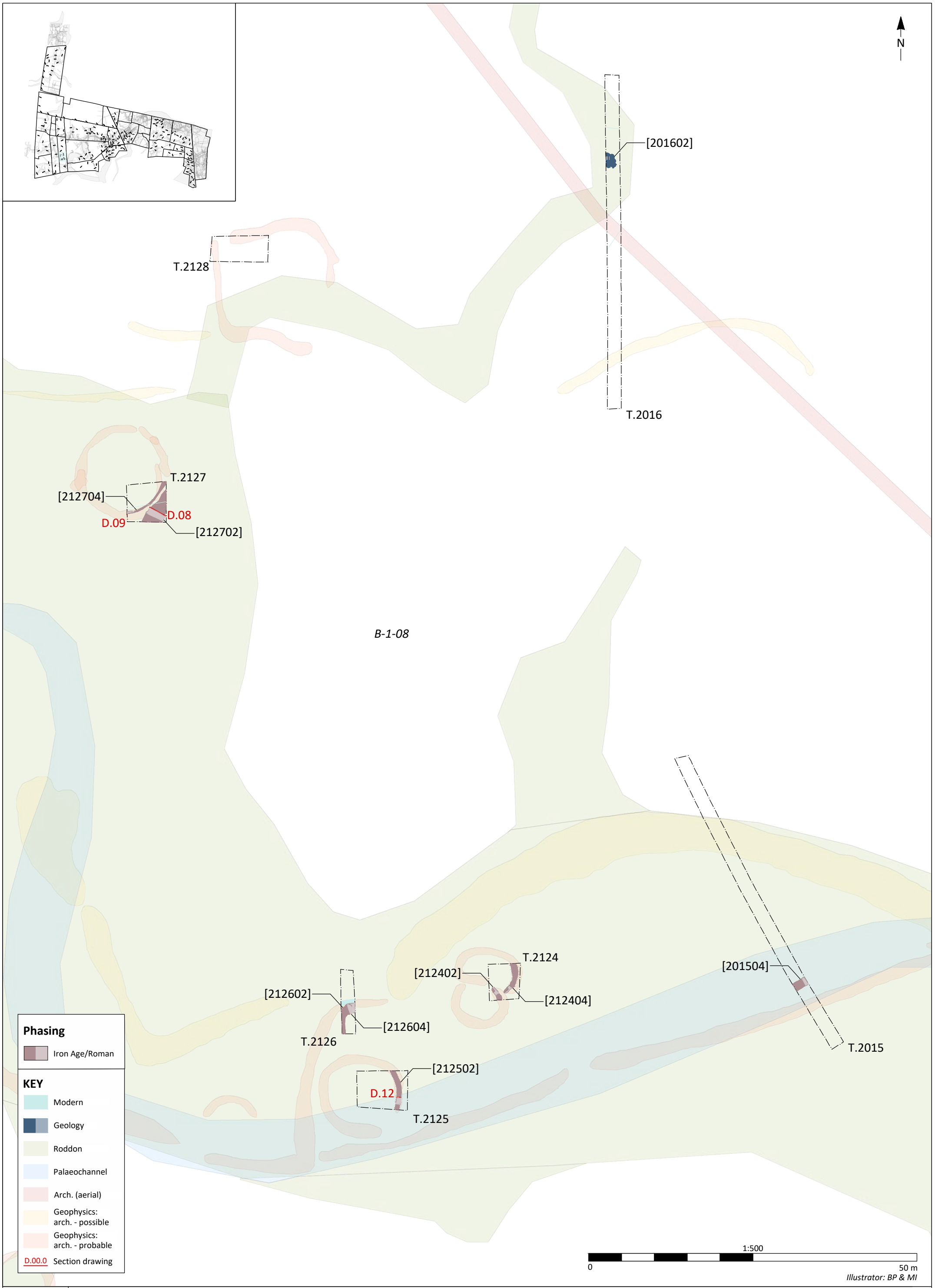


Figure 35 - Plan of trenches 2015, 2016, 2124, 2125, 2126 and 2127 in B-1-08
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

B-1-08

[212205]

D.21 D.22

[212102]

[212203]

T.2122

[212104]

T.2121

[212303]

T.2123

Phasing

Iron Age/Roman

KEY

Site boundary

Roddon

Arch. (aerial)

Geophysics: arch. - probable

D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 36 - Plan of trenches 2121, 2122 and 2123 in B-1-08
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

T.2060

[206106]
[206103]
[206108]
T.2061

B-1-09

[200410]
[200407]
[200412]
[200414]
[200405]
[200403]
D.20023
T.2004

[200610]
[200612]
[200602]
[200604]
[200614]
[2006006]
[2006008]
T.2006

T.2005
[200516]
D.20019
[200518]
[200507]
[200511]
[200503]
[200505]
[200513]

Phasing

- Iron Age/Roman
- Roman

KEY

- Roddon
- Palaeochannel
- Arch. (aerial)
- Geophysics: arch. - possible
- Geophysics: arch. - probable
- D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500
0
50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 37 - Plan of trenches 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2061 in B-1-09
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

[200710]
T.2007
[200708]
[200703]
[200706]

B-1-09

T.2058

T.2106

T.2107

D.20034
[200802]
[200804]
T.2008

Phasing

Undated

KEY

Unexcavated
Modern
Geology
Roddon
Palaeochannel
Geophysics: arch. - possible
Geophysics: arch. - probable
D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500
0
50 m
Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 38 - Plan of trenches 2007, 2008, 2058, 2106 and 2107 in B-1-09
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

[200903]

T.2009

[200904]

B-1-09

[205704]

[205706]

[205702]

T.2057

Phasing

Undated

KEY

Unexcavated

Modern

Roddon

Arch. (aerial)

Palaeochannel

Geophysics: arch. - possible

Geophysics: arch. - probable

1:500

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 39 - Plan of trenches 2009 and 2057 in B-1-09

10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

B-1-09

[201008]

[201010]

T.2010

T.2011

[201105]

[201107]

[201103]

Phasing

Undated

KEY

Unexcavated

Geology

Modern

Roddon

Arch. (aerial)

Geophysics: arch. - possible

Geophysics: arch. - probable

1:500

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 40 - Plan of trenches 2010 and 2011 in B-1-09
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

T.2033

[203305]

[203303]

B-1-10

[206302]

T.2063

T.2032

D.280

[203203]

Phasing

Undated

KEY

Modern

Roddon

Arch. (aerial)

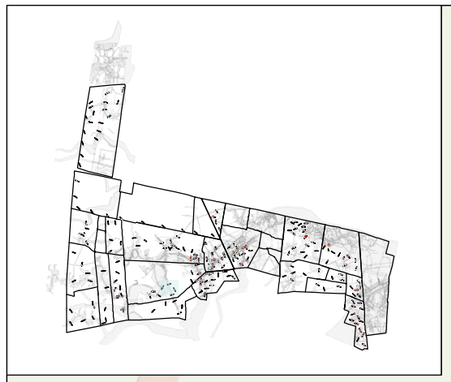
D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 41 - Plan of trench 2032, 2033 and 2063 in B-1-10
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

T.2033

[203305]

[203303]

B-1-10

T.2034

[203403]

[206302]

T.2063

Phasing

Undated

KEY

Modern

Roddon

Palaeochannel

Arch. (aerial)

Geophysics: arch. - possible

1:500

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 42 - Plan of trenches 2033, 2034 and 2063 in B-1-10
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

[203502]

[203504]

T.2035

[204803]

[204806]

T.2048

[204702]

T.2047

B-1-10

Phasing

- Undated
- Mediveal to modern
- 19-20 CE

KEY

- Unexcavated
- Roddon
- Palaeochannel
- Arch. (aerial)
- Geophysics: arch. - possible
- Geophysics: arch. - probable

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 43 - Plan of trenches 2035, 2047 and 2048 in B-1-10
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

[206203]
[206205]
[206208]
[206216]
[206211]
D.287
[206214]
T.2062

B-1-10

[203102]
T.2031

[203016]
[203014]
[203011]
[203002]
[203007]
[203004]
T.2030

Phasing

- Undated
- Iron Age/Roman
- 19-20 CE

KEY

- Unexcavated
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- Geophysics: arch. - possible
- Geophysics: arch. - probable
- D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 44 - Plan of trenches 2030, 2031 and 2062 in B-1-10
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

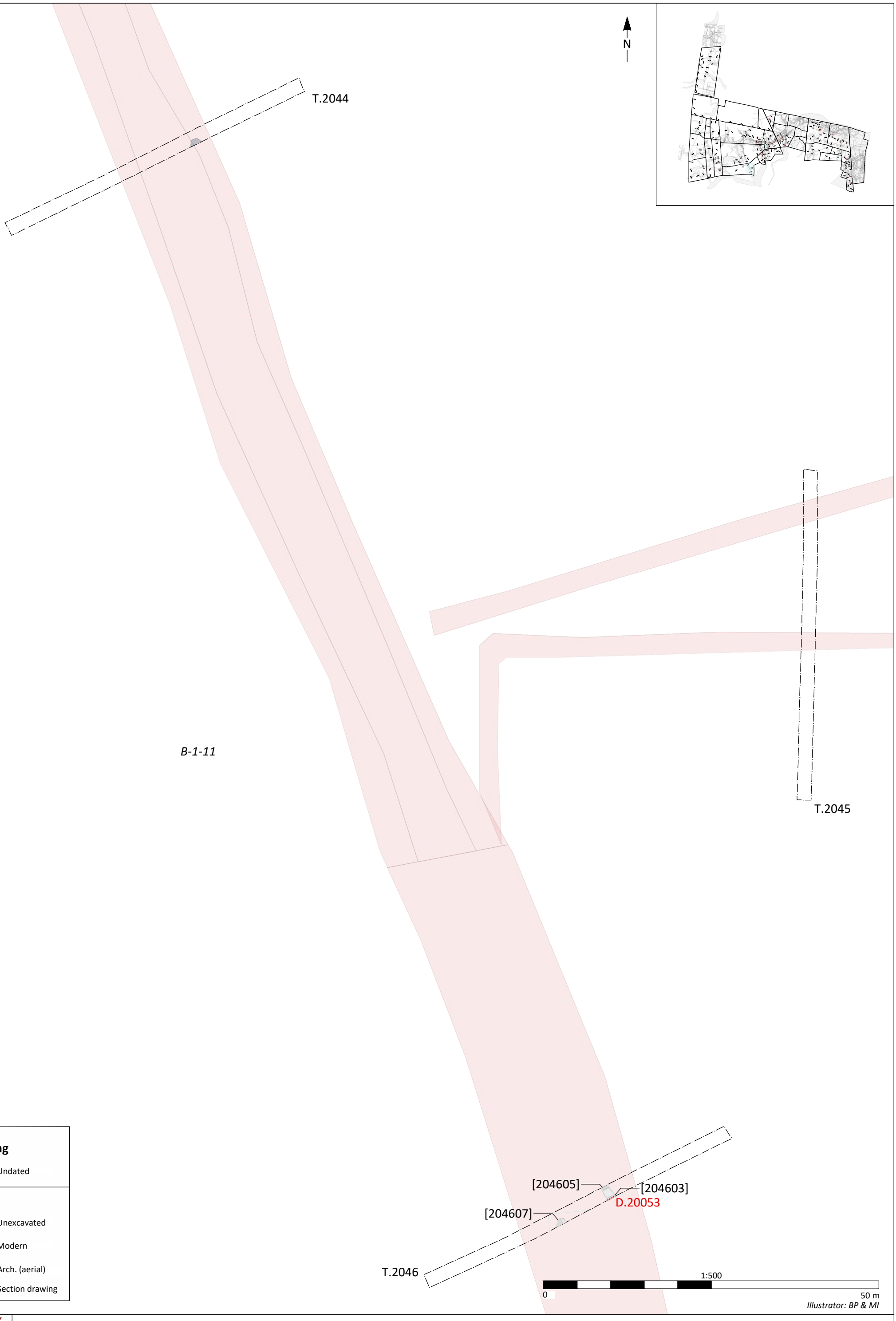


Figure 45 - Plan of trenches 2044, 2045 and 2046 in B-1-11
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

T.2078
[207813]
[207811]
[207802]
[207806]
[207804]
[207809]

[211811]
[211813]
[211804]
D.106
[211806]
[211808]
[211802]
T.2118

T.2100
[210005]
[210003]

[200109]
[200124]
[200104]
[200103]
[200111]
[200122]
[200116]
[200117]
T.2001

B-1-13

T.2003
[200303]

Phasing
- Undated
- Iron Age/Roman

KEY
- Unexcavated
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- Geophysics: arch. - possible
- Geophysics: arch. - probable
- D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500
0
50 m
Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 46 - Plan of trenches 2001, 2003, 2078, 2100 and 2118 in B-1-13
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

[200207]
[200209]
[200211]
[200217]
[200205]
[200213]
T.2002

[207813]
T.2078
[207811]
[207802]
[207806]
[207804]
[207809]

B-1-13

[207712]
[207714]
[207717]
[207710]
[207709]
[207707]
[207723]
[207725]
[207702]
T.2077

[200109]
[200124]
[200103]
[200104]
[200111]
[200122]
[200116]
[200117]
T.2001

[207602]
[207606]
T.2076
[207604]
[207629]
[207621]
[207631]
[207608]
[207616]
[207625]
[207619]
[207623]

Phasing
- Iron Age/Roman
- 19-20 CE

KEY
- Site boundary
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- Geophysics: arch. - possible
- Geophysics: arch. - probable

1:500
0
50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 47 - Plan of trenches 2001, 2002, 2076, 2077 and 2078 in B-1-13
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

T.2098

T.2113

[211302]

B-1-13

N

[209502]

T.2095

[211902]

T.2119

[211811]

[211813]

[211804]

D.106

[211808]

[211806]

[211802]

T.2118

T.2078

[207813]

[207811]

[207802]

[207806]

[207804]

[207809]

T.2100

[210005]

[210003]

Phasing

Iron Age/Roman

Mediveal to modern

KEY

Unexcavated

Roddon

Arch. (aerial)

Geophysics: arch. - possible

Geophysics: arch. - probable

D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 48 - Plan of trenches 2078, 2095, 2098, 2100, 2113 and 2118 in B-1-13
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

[211703]

[209603]

D.49

T.2096

T.2117

B-1-13

T.2120

[212006]

T.2099

[209903]

D.129

[209908]

[209906]

D.131

Phasing

- Iron Age/Roman
- Mediveal to modern

KEY

- Site boundary
- Geology
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- Geophysics: arch. - possible
- Geophysics: arch. - probable
- D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 49 - Plan of trenches 2096, 2099, 2117 and 2120 in B-1-13
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

[210204]
[210207]
T.2102

[210103]
[210105]
T.2101

T.2114
[211403]
[211411]
[211413]
[211412]
[211429]
D.200

B-1-13

[202703]
[202704]
T.2027

T.2024
[202404]
[202402]

[202802]
[202808]
[202805]
T.2028

1:500
0
50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Phasing

- Undated
- Iron Age/Roman
- 19-20 CE

KEY

- Site boundary
- Geology
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- Geophysics: arch. - possible
- Geophysics: arch. - probable
- D.00.0 Section drawing



Figure 50 - Plan of trenches 2024, 2027, 2028, 2101, 2102 and 2114 in B-1-14
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

T.2025

[202502]

[202504]

[202506]

[202507]

[206506]

T.2065

[206508]

[206505]

[206503]

T.2024

[202404]

[202402]

[210502]

D.157

[210504]

[210506]

T.2105

[210508]

[210404]

[210402]

T.2104

B-1-14

Phasing

- Undated
- Iron Age/Roman
- Iron Age
- Natural

KEY

- Site boundary
- Unexcavated
- Geology
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- Geophysics: arch. - possible
- Geophysics: arch. - probable
- D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 51 - Plan of trenches 2024, 2025, 2065, 2104 and 2105 in B-1-14
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

T.2026

T.2103

T.2116

T.2066

[206606]

[206603]

[206609]

B-1-14

Phasing

Iron Age/Roman

KEY

Site boundary

Unexcavated

Roddon

Palaeochannel

Arch. (aerial)

Geophysics: arch. - probable

D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 52 - Plan of trenches 2026, 2066, 2103 and 2116 in B-1-14
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

[206704]

[206703]

T.2067

B-1-14

T.2050

[206803]

T.2068



Phasing

19-20 CE

KEY

Site boundary

Geology

Roddon

Arch. (aerial)

1:500

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 53 - Plan of trenches 2050, 2067 and 2068 in B-1-14
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

[202207]
[202205]
[202203]
[202209]
D.43
T.2022

B-2

D.40
D.33
[207503]
T.2075

[202305]
[202303]
T.2023

Phasing

- Undated
- Medieval/ Post-medieval

KEY

- Site boundary
- Modern
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- Palaeochannel
- Geophysics: arch. - possible
- D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500
0
50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 54 - Plan of trenches 2022, 2023 and 2075 in B-2
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

[207503]

T.2075

[202305]

[202303]

T.2023

B-2

T.2112

[211203]

[211205]

[209703]

T.2097

1:500

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Phasing

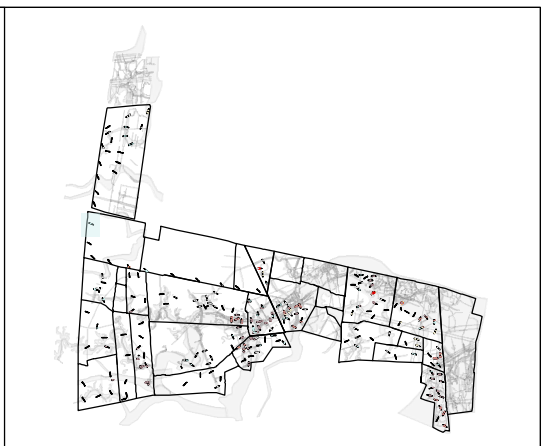
- Undated
- Iron Age/Roman
- Mediveal to modern
- Medieval/ Post-medieval

KEY

- Site boundary
- Roddon
- Palaeochannel
- Geophysics: arch. - possible
- Geophysics: arch. - probable

Figure 55 - Plan of trenches 2023, 2075, 2097 and 2112 in B-2
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N



[213102]

T.2131

B-3-01

Phasing

19-20 CE

KEY

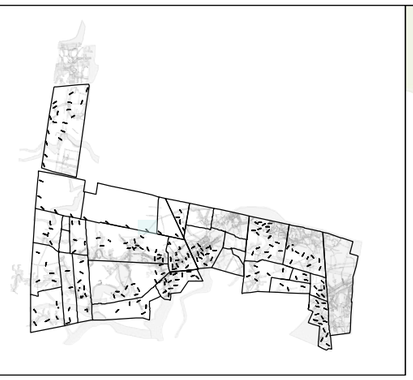
Site boundary

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 56 - Plan of trench 2131 in B-3-01
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

B-3-01

[214102]

T.2141

KEY

Site boundary

Natural

Roddon

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 57 - Plan of trench 2141 in B-3-01
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

B-3-02

T.2142

[214202]

[214204]

[214206]

Phasing

19-20 CE

KEY

Site boundary

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 58 - Plan of trench 2142 in B-3-02
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

B-3-02

T.2145

[214505]

[214503]

[214502]

Phasing

Undated

KEY

Site boundary

Geology

Arch. (aerial)

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 59 - Plan of trench 2145 in B-3-02
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

[208503]
D.20004
[208508]
[208510]
T.2085

B-5

[212903]
T.2129

Phasing
- Undated
- Mediveal to modern

KEY
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- Palaeochannel
- D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500
0
50 m
Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 60 - Plan of trenches 2085 and 2129 in B-5
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

[208703]

T.2087

T.2130

B-5

[213403]

T.2134

Phasing

Undated

KEY

Unexcavated

Geology

Modern

Roddon

Palaeochannel

Arch. (aerial)

1:500

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 61 - Plan of trenches 2087, 2130 and 2134 in B-5
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

B-5

[208802]

[208804]

T.2088

Phasing

Undated

Medieval/
Post-medieval

KEY

Site boundary

Unexcavated

Roddon

Palaeochannel

1:500

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 62 - Plan of trench 2088 in B-5
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

T.2089

[208903]

B-5

Phasing

Undated

KEY

Site boundary

Modern

Roddon

Arch. (aerial)

1:500

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 63 - Plan of trench 2089 in B-5
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

[209007]
[209003]
[209005]
T.2090

B-5

[209105]
[209103]
T.2091

Phasing
- Mediveal to modern
- 19-20 CE

KEY
- Site boundary
- Roddon
- Palaeochannel
- Arch. (aerial)

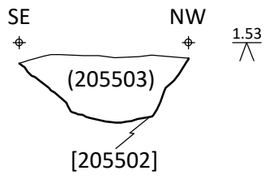
1:500
0
50 m
Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 64 - Plan of trenches 2090 and 2091 in B-5
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

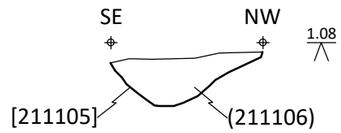
D.20061
South-east facing section [201304]



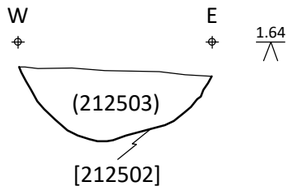
D.20047
North-east facing section [205502]



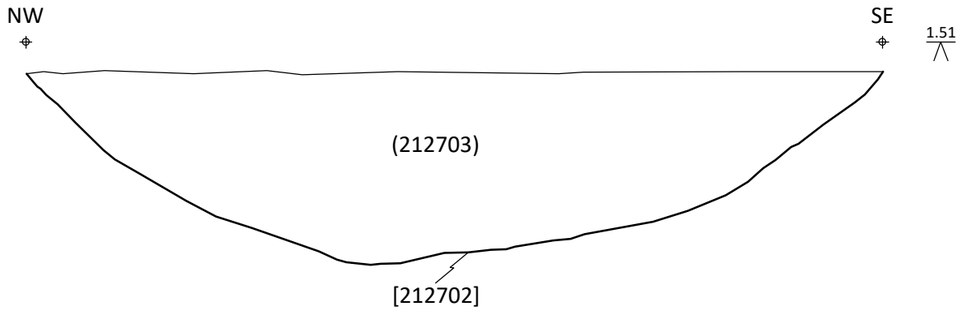
D.30
North-east facing section [211105]



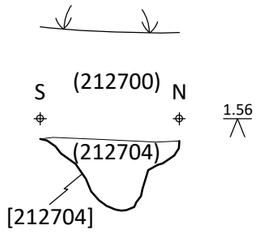
D.12
South facing section [212502]



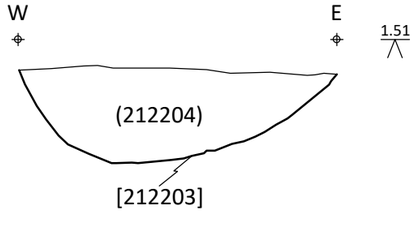
D.08
South-west facing section [212702]



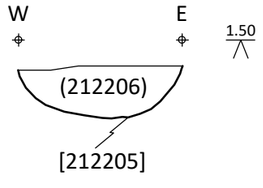
D.09
East facing section [212704]



D.21
South facing section [212203]



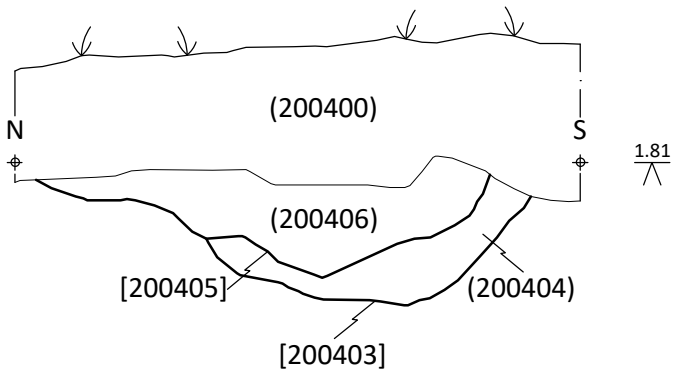
D.22
South facing section [212205]



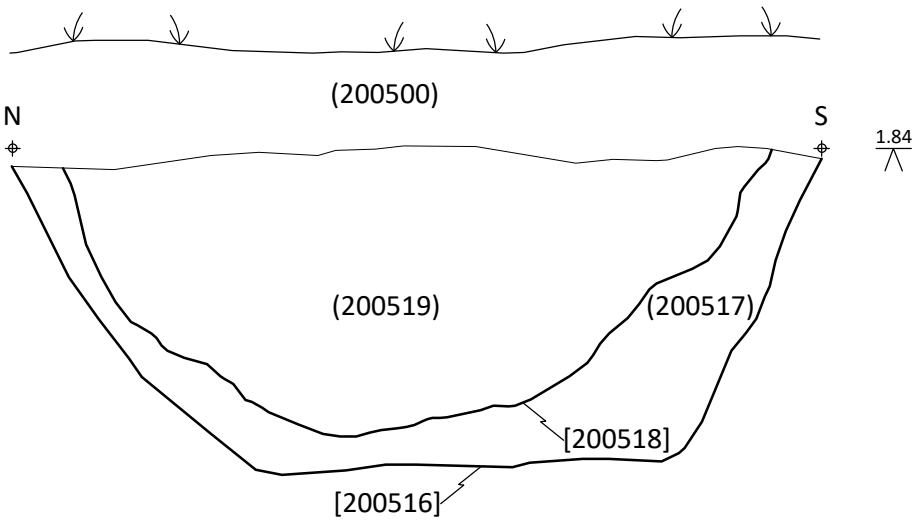
1:20
0
2 m
Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 65 - Section drawings 08, 09, 12, 21, 22, 30, 20047 and 20061
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

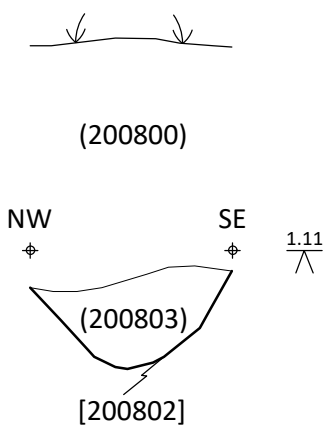
D.20023
West facing section [200403] & [200405]



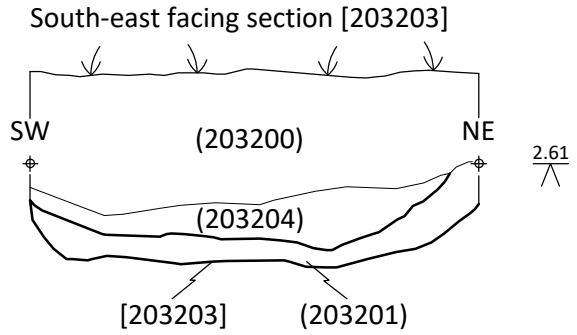
D.20019
West facing section [200516] & [200518]



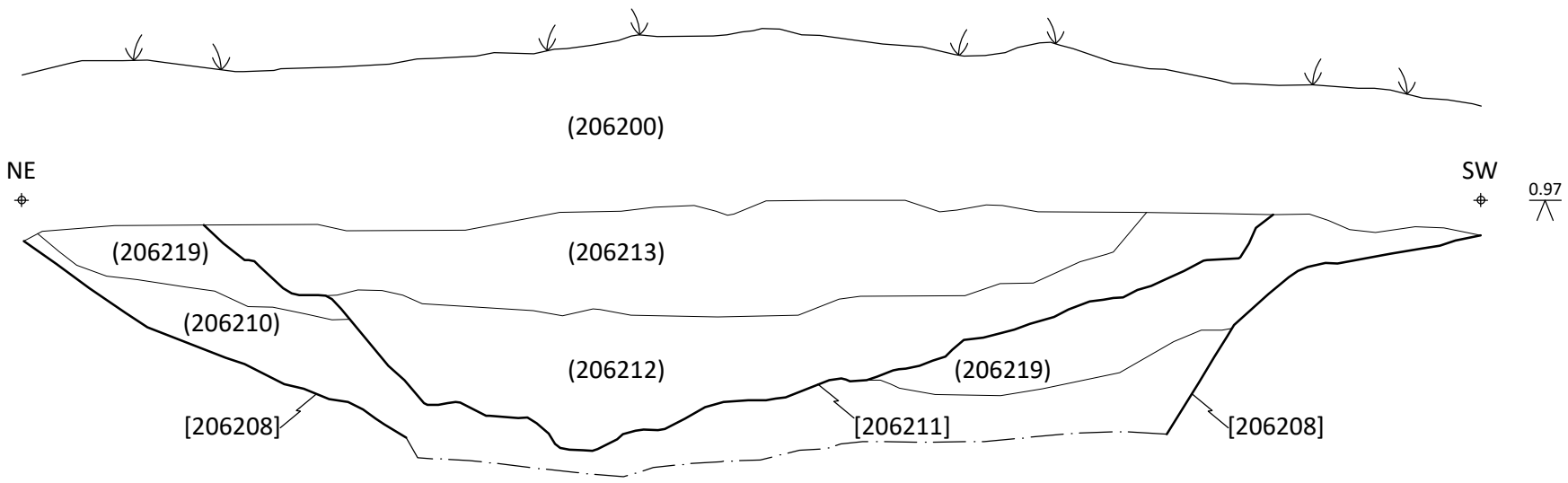
D.20034
South-west facing section [200802]



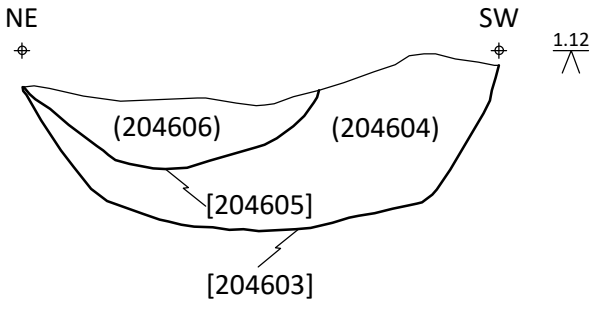
D.280
South-east facing section [203203]



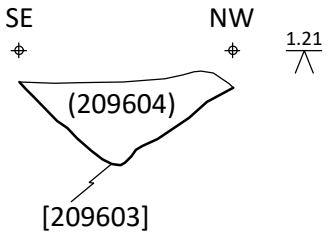
D.287
North-west facing section [206208] & [206211]



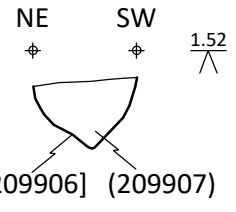
D.20053
North-west facing section [204603] & [204605]

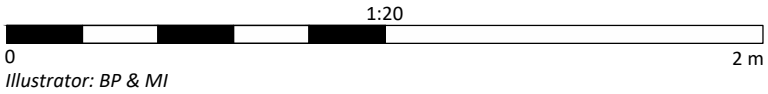


D.49
North-east facing section [209603]



D.129
North-east facing section [209906]

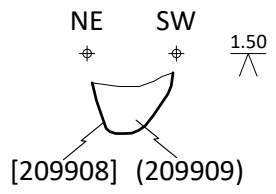




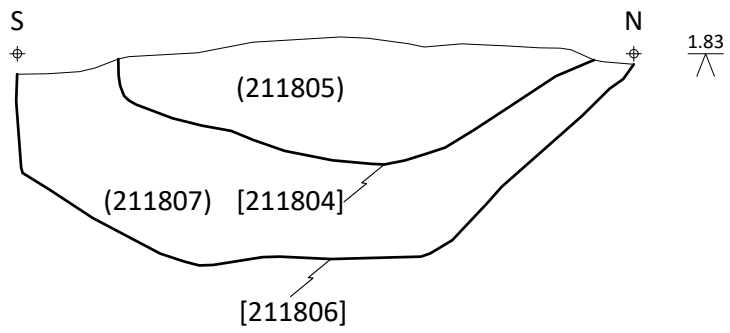
Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 66 - Section drawings 49, 129, 280, 287, 2019, 2023, 2034 and 2053
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

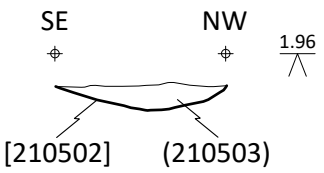
D.131
North-east facing section [209908]



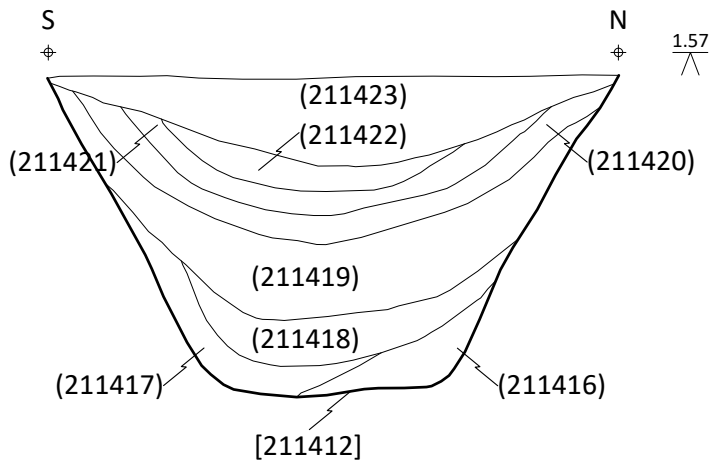
D.106
East facing section [211804] & [211806]



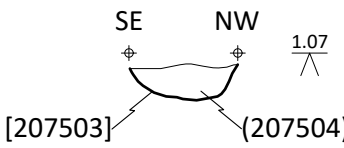
D.157
North-east facing section [210502]



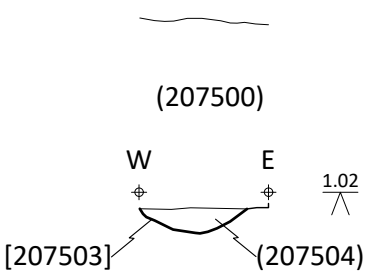
D.200
East facing section [211416]



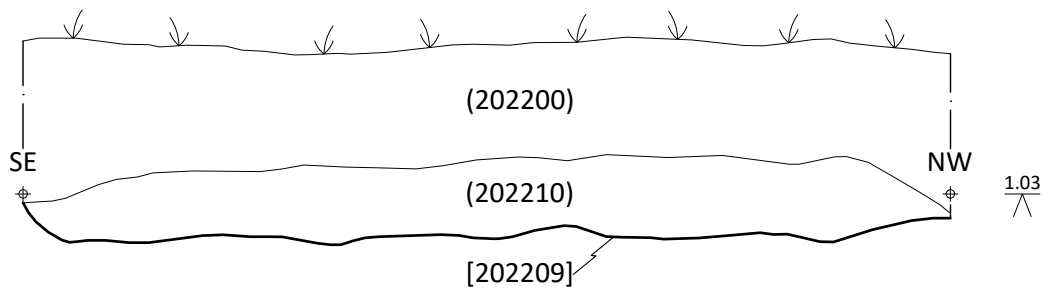
D.33
North-east facing section [207503]



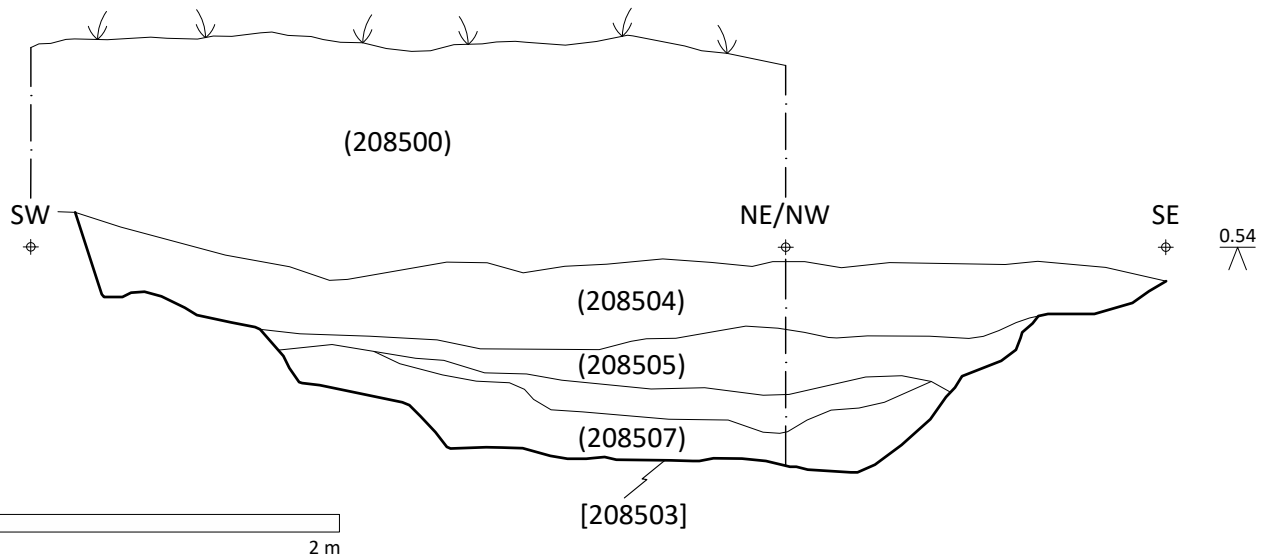
D.40
South facing section [207503]



D.43
North-east facing section [202209]

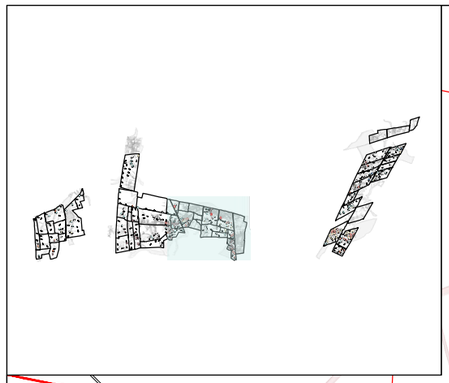


D.20004
South-east and south-west facing section [208503]



1:20
0
2 m
Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 67 - Section drawings 33, 40, 43, 106, 157, 131, 200, 2004
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

1:8000.0002

0 800 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

C-2-01

C-2-02

C-2-03

C-2-04

C-2-05

C-1-01

C-1-02

C-1-03

C-1-04

C-1-05

C-1-06

C-1-07

C-1-08

Phasing

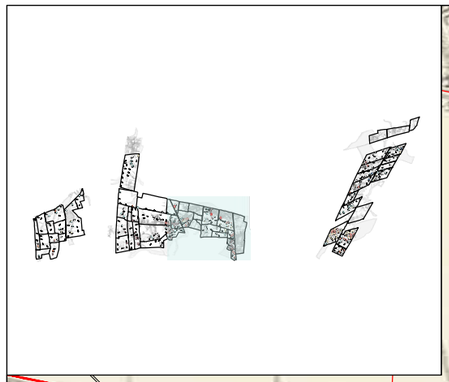
- Undated
- Iron Age/Roman
- Iron Age
- Roman
- Mediveal to modern
- Medieval/ Post-medieval
- 19-20 CE
- Natural
- Geology

KEY

- Site boundary
- Arch. trench
- Blank trench
- Roddon
- Palaeochannel
- Arch. (aerial)
- Geophysics: arch. - possible
- Geophysics: arch. - probable

Figure 68 - Plan of area C

10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

1:8000

0 800 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

C-2-01

C-2-03

C-2-04

C-2-02

C-2-05

C-1-01

C-1-03

C-1-02

C-1-04

C-1-08

C-1-05

C-1-06

C-1-07

Poplartree Farm

Providence House

Gull Farm

Red Cott

Cole's Corne

Wykdevend Farm

Hurdle's Lane

Postland Station

Postland House

Shepherd's House

KEY

- Site boundary
- Arch. trench
- Blank trench

Phasing

- Undated
- Iron Age/Roman
- Iron Age
- Roman
- Mediveal to modern
- Medieval/ Post-medieval
- 19-20 CE
- Natural
- Geology

Figure 69 - Plan of area C over *OS six inch map 1888-1913*

10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

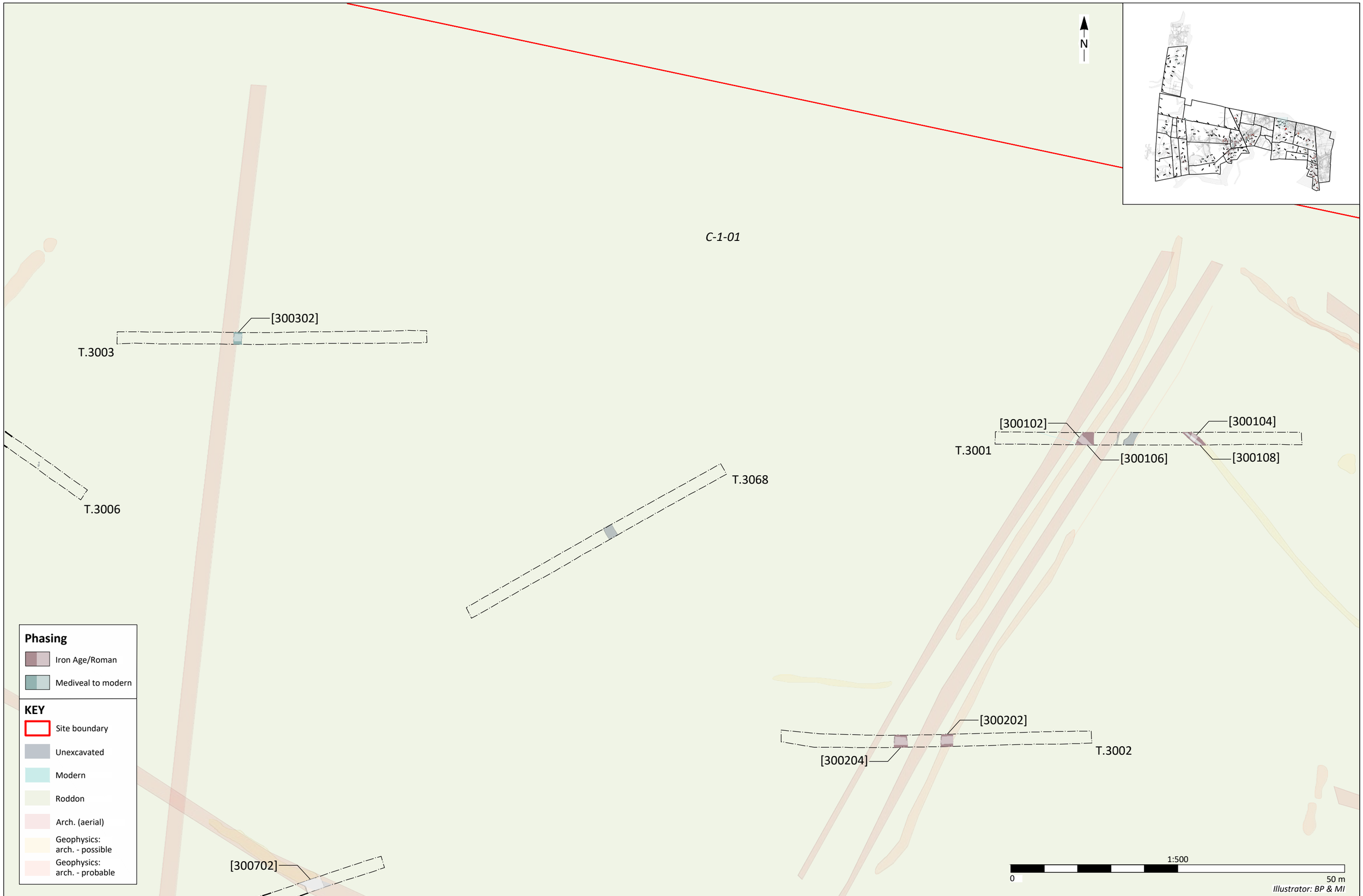


Figure 70 - Plan of trenches 3001, 3002, 3003 and 3068 in C-1-01
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

KEY

- Site boundary
- Unexcavated
- Geology
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- Geophysics: arch. - possible
- Geophysics: arch. - probable

Phasing

- Undated
- Mediveal to modern

N



[300302]

T.3003

[300603]

T.3006

C-1-01

[300702]

T.3007

T.3014

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 71 - Plan of trenches 3003, 3006, 3007 and 3014 in C-1-01
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



C-1-01

T.3005

[300528]

[300531]

D.30021

[300545]

[300525]

[300523]

[300521]

[300513]

[300502]

[300504]

[300541]

[300539]

[300506]

Phasing

Iron Age/Roman

Roman

KEY

Roddon

Arch. (aerial)

Geophysics: arch. - possible

D.00.0 Section drawing

1:200

0 20 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 72 - Plan of trench 3005 in C-1-01
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

[300202]

[300204]

T.3002

[300702]

T.3007

T.3004

[300408]

[300403]

[300414]

[300405]

[300411]

D.30039

T.3014

C-1-01

[301504]

[301502]

T.3015

Phasing

- Undated
- Iron Age/Roman
- Mediveal to modern

KEY

- Archaeology
- Unexcavated
- Modern
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- Geophysics: arch. - possible
- Geophysics: arch. - probable
- D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 73 - Plan of trenches 3002, 3004, 3007 and 3015 in C-1-01
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

[301005]

[301003]

[301010]

T.3010

C-1-01

[300804]

[300802]

T.3008

Phasing

- Undated
- Iron Age/Roman
- Mediveal to modern
- Medieval/ Post-medieval

KEY

- Unexcavated
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- Palaeochannel

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 74 - Plan of trenches 3008 and 3010 in C-1-01
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

[306708]

[306703]

T.3067

(301108)

[301102]

[301125]

[301121]

[301109]

D.288

T.3011

C-1-01

T.3012

T.3009

Phasing

- Undated
- Iron Age/Roman

KEY

- Geology
- Modern
- Furrow
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- Geophysics: arch. - possible
- D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 75 - Plan of trenches 3009, 3011 and 3067 in C-1-01
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

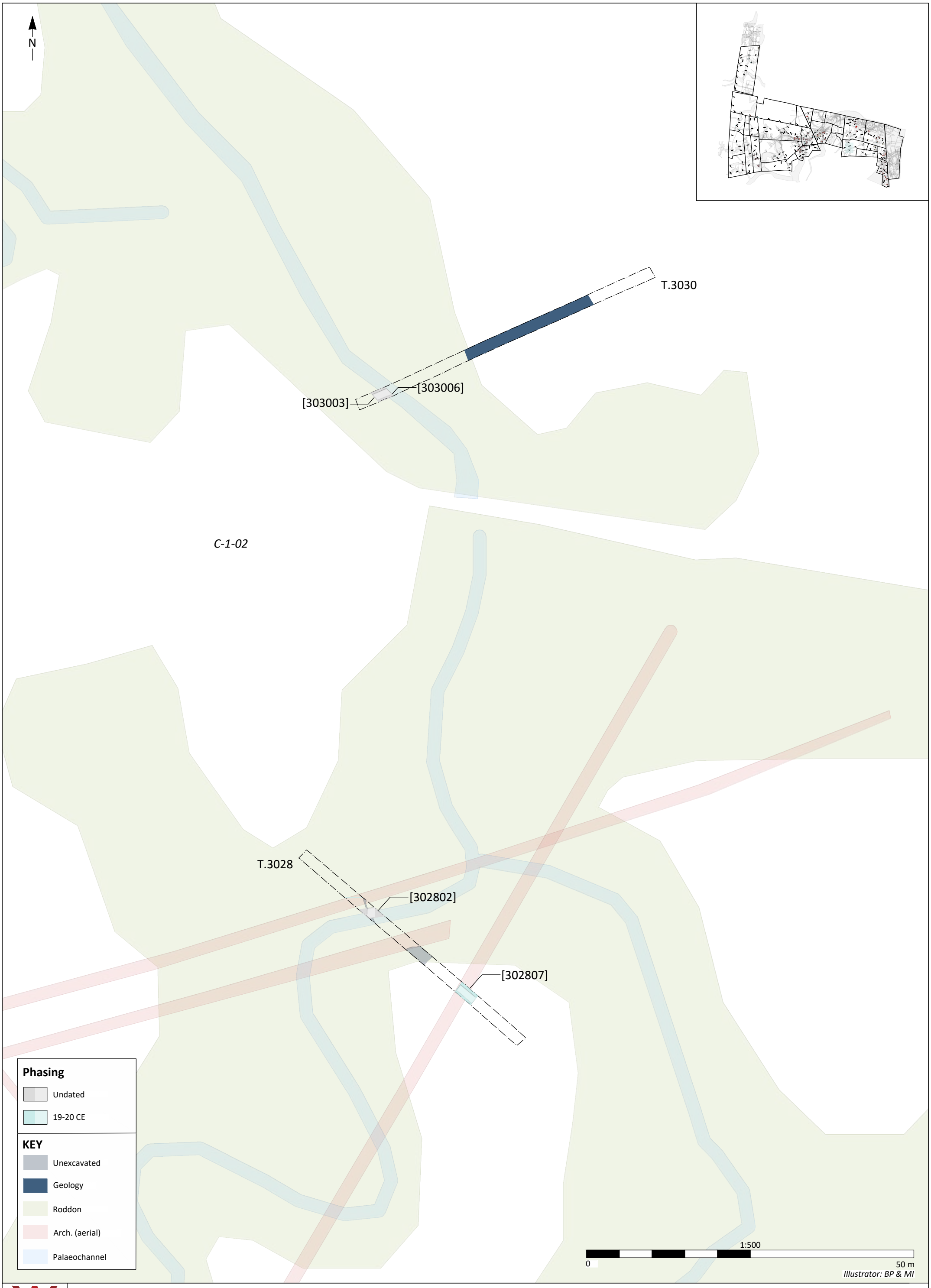


Figure 76 - Plan of trenches 3028 and 3030 in C-1-02
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

[303103]

T.3031

C-1-02

T.3030

[303006]

[303003]

Phasing

Undated

KEY

Geology

Roddon

Arch. (aerial)

Palaeochannel

1:500

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 77 - Plan of trenches 3030 and 3031 in C-1-02
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

C-1-02

[303203]

T.3032

Phasing

Undated

KEY

Site boundary

Archaeology

Unexcavated

Modern

Roddon

Arch. (aerial)

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 78 - Plan of trench 3032 in C-1-02
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

T.3058

[305803]

C-1-03

Phasing

Medieval/
Post-medieval

KEY

Site boundary

Modern

Roddon

Arch. (aerial)

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 79 - Plan of trench 3058 in C-1-03
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

[305703]

[305704]

T.3057

[306208]

[306212]

[306203]

[306206]

D.281

[306213]

T.3062

[306305]

[306302]

[306323]

[306315]

[306317]

D.273

[306307]

T.3063

C-1-03

Phasing

- Undated
- Iron Age/Roman
- Roman
- 19-20 CE

KEY

- Geology
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 80 - Plan of trenches 3057, 3062 and 3063 in C-1-03
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



T.3063

N

[306014]

[306013]

[306009]

[306005]

[306008]

T.3060

C-1-03

[305905]

[305903]

D.266

T.3059

Phasing

- Roman
- Medieval/ Post-medieval
- 19-20 CE

KEY

- Unexcavated
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 81 - Plan of trenches 3059 and 3060 in C-1-03
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

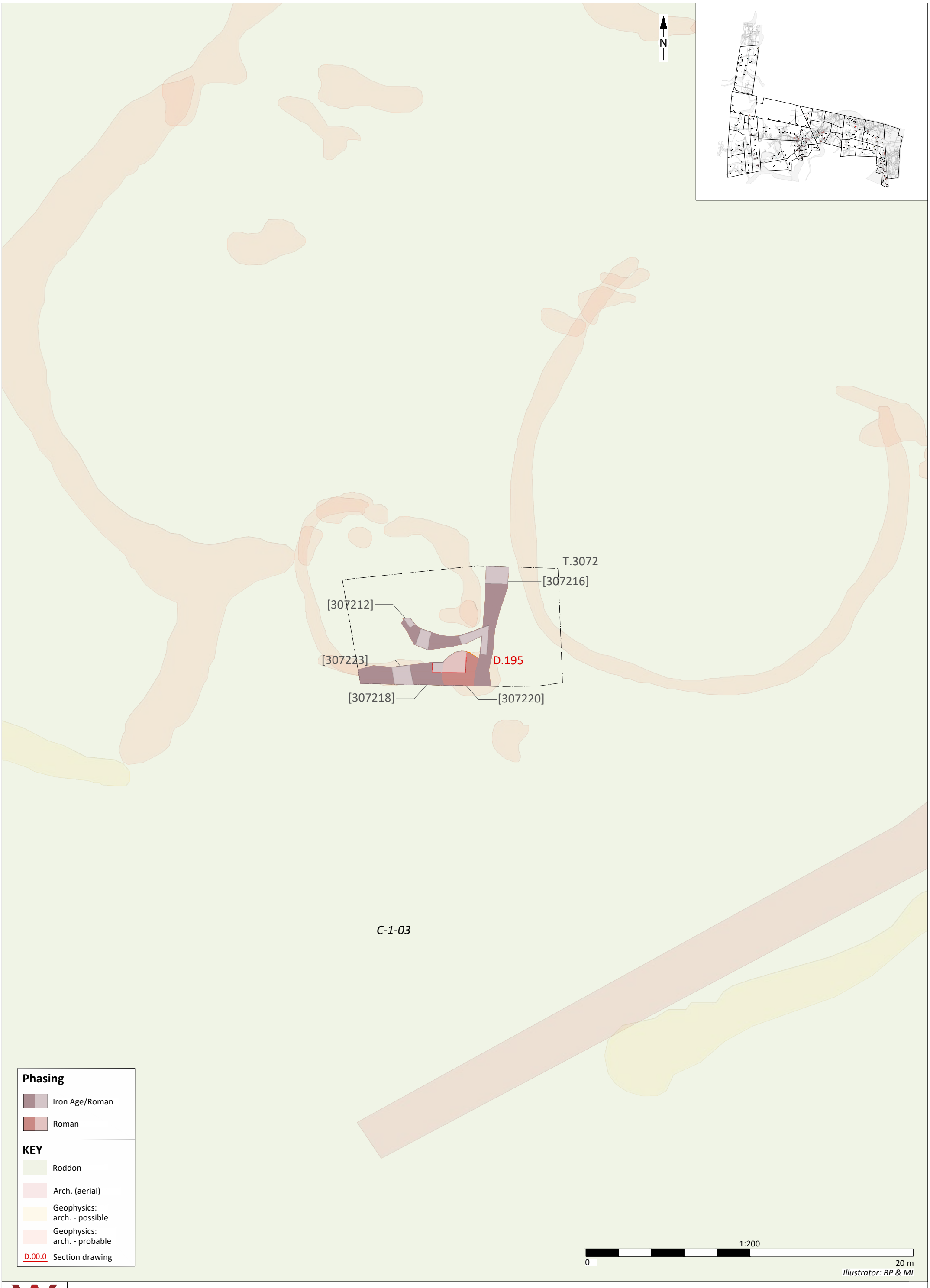


Figure 82 - Plan of trench 3072 in C-1-03
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



[303710]
[303707]
[303702]
T.3037
N
C-1-04
[303807]
[303809]
[303805]
[303802]
T.3038
Phasing
Undated
Medieval/ Post-medieval
KEY
Site boundary
Unexcavated
Geology
Roddon
Arch. (aerial)
1:500
0
50 m
Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 83 - Plan of trenches 3037 and 3038 in C-1-04
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

[303307]

[303303]

T.3033

C-1-05

[303403]

T.3034

Phasing

- Undated
- 19-20 CE

KEY

- Geology
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)

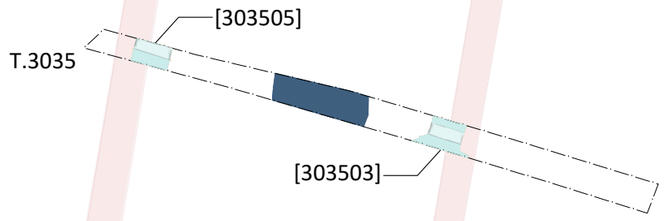
1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 84 - Plan of trenches 3033 and 3034 in C-1-05
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding





C-1-05

N

1:500
0
50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Phasing

19-20 CE

KEY

Site boundary

Geology

Roddon

Arch. (aerial)

Figure 85 - Plan of trench 3035 in C-1-05
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

T.3042

[304203]

D.3009

[304209]

[304206]

T.3039

[303904]

[303902]

[303911]

[303916]

C-1-06

[303918]

[303920]

T.3041

[307002]

[307016]

[307007]

T.3070

[307005]

[307013]

[307010]

Phasing

- Undated
- Roman
- Medieval/ Post-medieval
- 19-20 CE

KEY

- Site boundary
- Roddon
- Palaeochannel
- Arch. (aerial)
- D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 86 - Plan of trenches 3039, 3042 and 3070 in C-1-06

10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

T.3041

[303918]

[303920]

[307002]

[307016]

[307007]

T.3070

[307005]

[307013]

[307010]

C-1-06

[304005]

[304014]

[304004]

[304003]

[304007]

T.3040

[307115]

[307117]

[307119]

[307112]

[307102]

[307110]

[307106]

T.3071

Phasing

- Undated
- Roman
- 19-20 CE

KEY

- Site boundary
- Unexcavated
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- Geophysics: arch. - possible
- Geophysics: arch. - probable

1:500

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 87 - Plan of trenches 3040, 3070 and 3071 in C-1-06
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



T.3044

[304404]

[304402]

T.3043

[304302]

[304304]

[304312]

C-1-07

[304704]

[304702]

[304712]

[304706]

T.3047

[304902]

[304906]

[304904]

T.3049

N

Phasing

- Iron Age/Roman
- Mediveal to modern

KEY

- Site boundary
- Unexcavated
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 88 - Plan of trenches 3043, 3044, 3047 and 3049 in C-1-07
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



[304704]
[304702]
[304712]
[304706]
T.3047
C-1-07
[304902]
[304906]
[304904]
T.3049
N
[305102]
T.3051

Phasing

Iron Age/Roman

KEY

Site boundary
Unexcavated
Roddon
Arch. (aerial)

1:500
0
50 m
Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 89 - Plan of trenches 3047, 3049 and 3051 in C-1-07
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

T.3048

[304802]

[304804]

T.3045

[304502]

[304510]

[304509]

[304507]

[304511]

C-1-07

[305002]

[305007]

[305010]

[305016]

T.3050

[304602]

[304605]

T.3046

Phasing

Iron Age/Roman

Roman

KEY

Site boundary

Unexcavated

Roddon

Arch. (aerial)

1:500

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 90 - Plan of trenches 3045, 3046, 3048 and 3050 in C-1-07
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



Figure 91 - Plan of trenches 3052, 3053 and 3054 in C-1-07
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

C-1-07

[305502]
[305505]
[305507]
[305509]
T.3055

Phasing

Roman

KEY

Site boundary

Roddon

Arch. (aerial)

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 92 - Plan of trench 3055 in C-1-07
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



[306404] [306402]

[301611] [301613] D.81

N

T.3017

[301710] [301704] [301707] [301702] [301715] [301713]

[301603] [301605] [301607] [301609]

T.3016

D.32 [301805] [301802] [301812] [301819] [301821] [301824]

T.3018

T.3019 [301903] [301907] [301904] [301905] [301921] [301928] [301933] [301924]

[307511] [307506] [307503] [307519] [307514]

T.3075

C-2-02

[302106] [302102]

T.3021

Phasing

- Undated
- Iron Age/Roman
- Roman
- Medieval/ Post-medieval
- 19-20 CE

KEY

- Unexcavated
- Geology
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- Geophysics: arch. - probable
- D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 93 - Plan of trenches 3016, 3017, 3018, 3019, 3021 and 3075 in C-2-02
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

N

T.3064

[306407]

[306409]

[306404]

[306402]

[302005]

[302002]

[302007]

T.3020

[301805]

C-2-02

T.3019

[301903]

[307506]

[301907]

[301904]

[301905]

[301921]

[301928]

[301933]

[301924]

Phasing

- Undated
- Roman
- Mediveal to modern
- Medieval/ Post-medieval

KEY

- Site boundary
- Geology
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- Palaeochannel
- Geophysics: arch. - possible
- Geophysics: arch. - probable

1:500

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 94 - Plan of trenches 3019, 3020 and 3064 in C-2-02
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

[301611]
[301613]
D.81
T.3017
[301710]
[301704]
[301707]
[301715]
[301702]
[301713]
[301603]
[301605]
[301607]
[301609]
T.3016
N
[302303]
T.3023
[302106]
[302102]
T.3021
C-2-02
T.3066
[306603]
[306607]
1:500
0
50 m
Illustrator: BP & MI

Phasing

- Undated
- Iron Age/Roman
- Roman
- Mediveal to modern
- 19-20 CE

KEY

- Unexcavated
- Geology
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- Geophysics: arch. - probable
- D.00.0 Section drawing

Figure 95 - Plan of trenches 3016, 3017, 3021, 3023 and 3066 in C-2-02
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

[306505]
[306507]
[306503]
T.3065

[307402]
D.150
[307405]
T.3074

C-2-02

[302206]
[302208]
[302212]
[302210]
D.50
[302204]
T.3022

1:500
0
50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Phasing

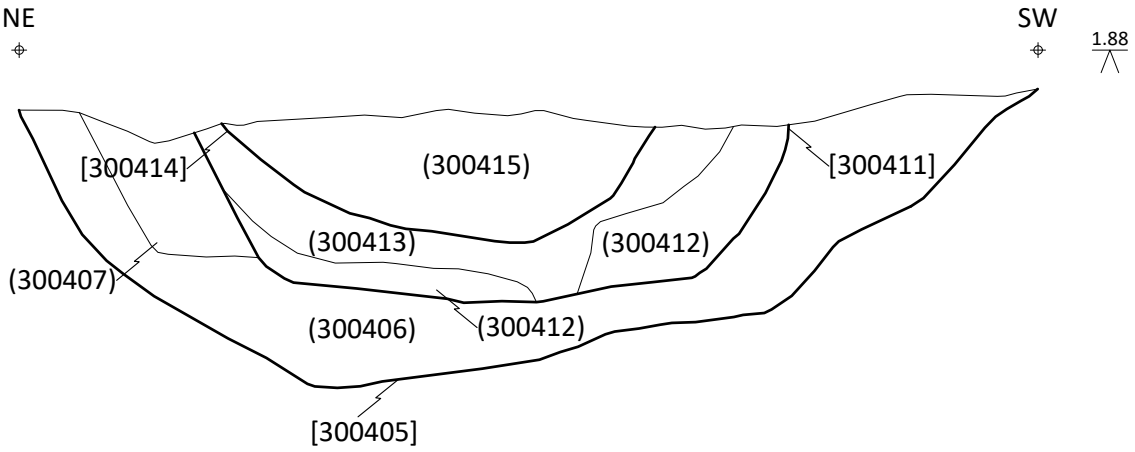
- Roman
- Mediveal to modern
- 19-20 CE

KEY

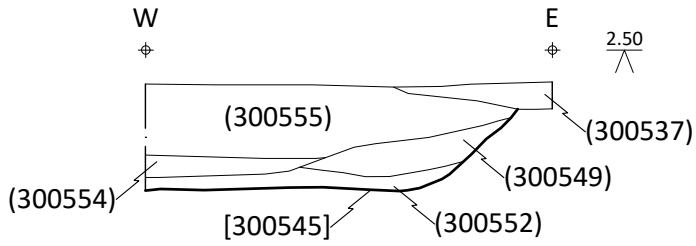
- Site boundary
- Geology
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- Geophysics: arch. - probable
- D.00.0 Section drawing

Figure 96 - Plan of trenches 3022, 2065 and 3074 in C-2-02
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

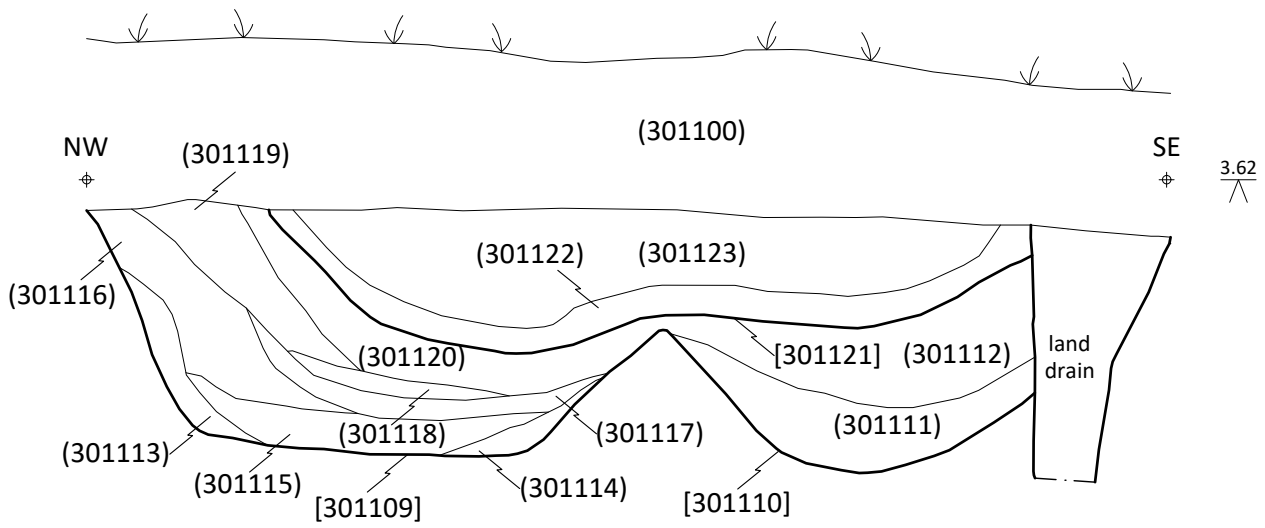
D.30039
North-west facing section [300405], [300411] & [300414]



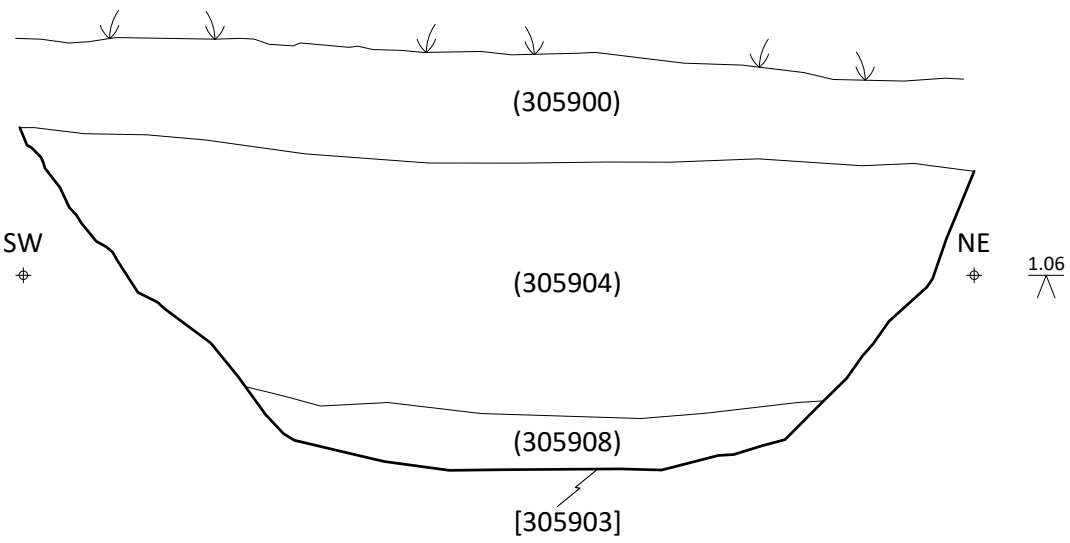
D.30021
North facing section [300545]



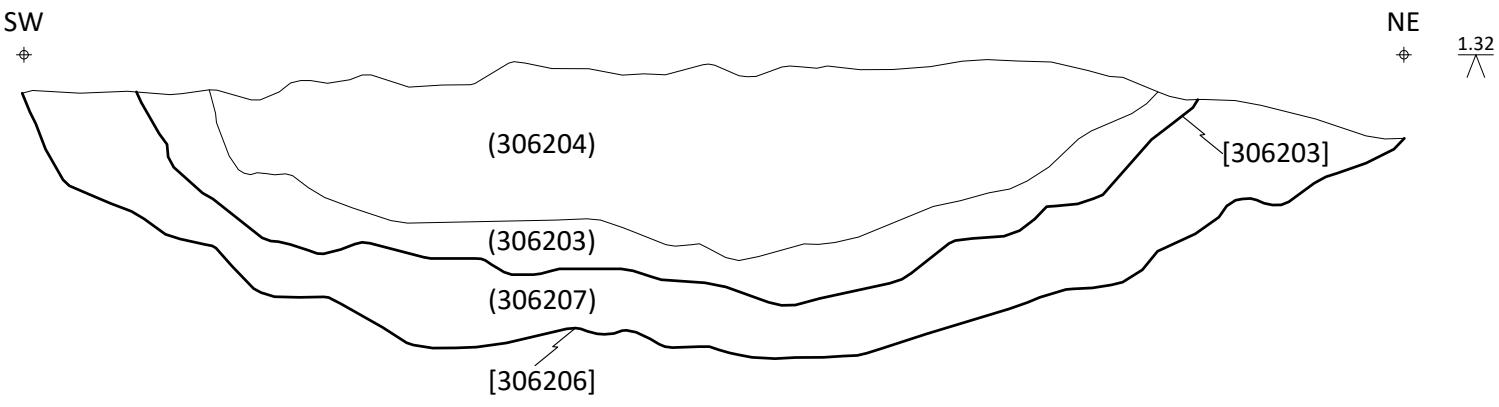
D.288
South-west facing section [301109], [301110] & [301121]

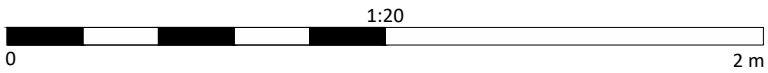


D.266
South-east facing section [305903]



D.281
South-east facing section [306203] & [306206]

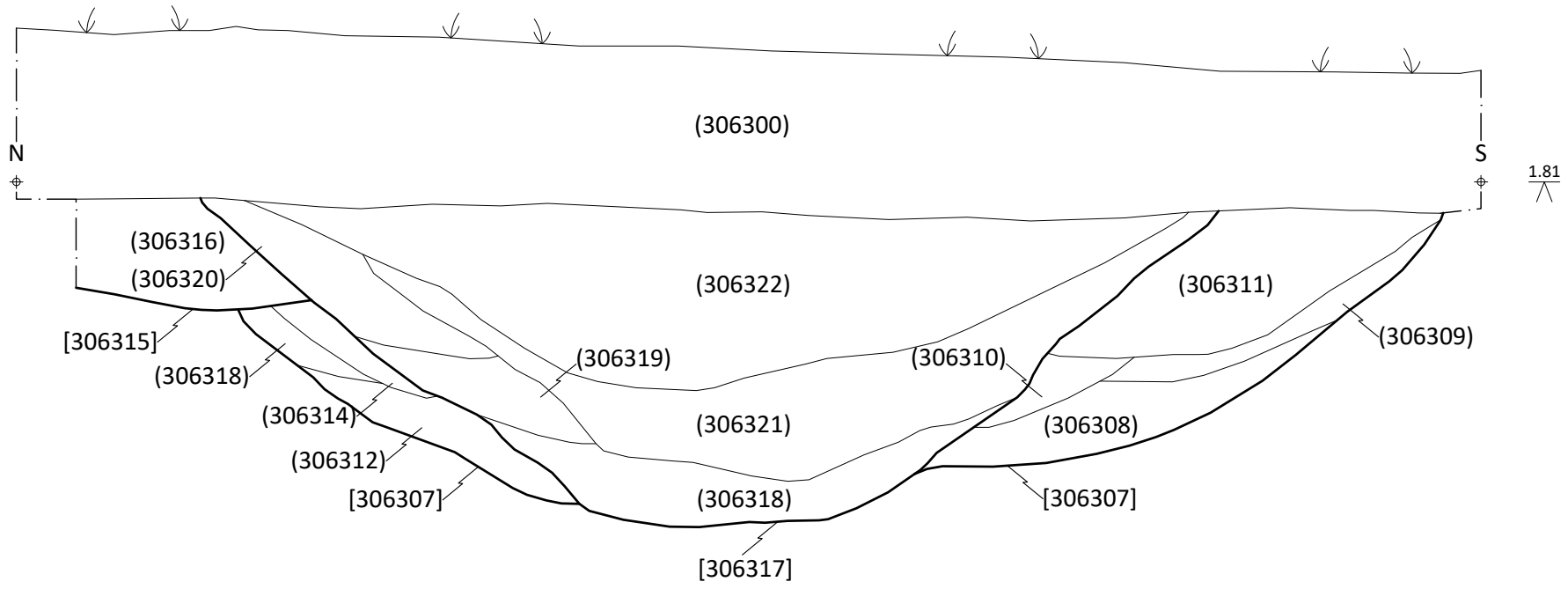




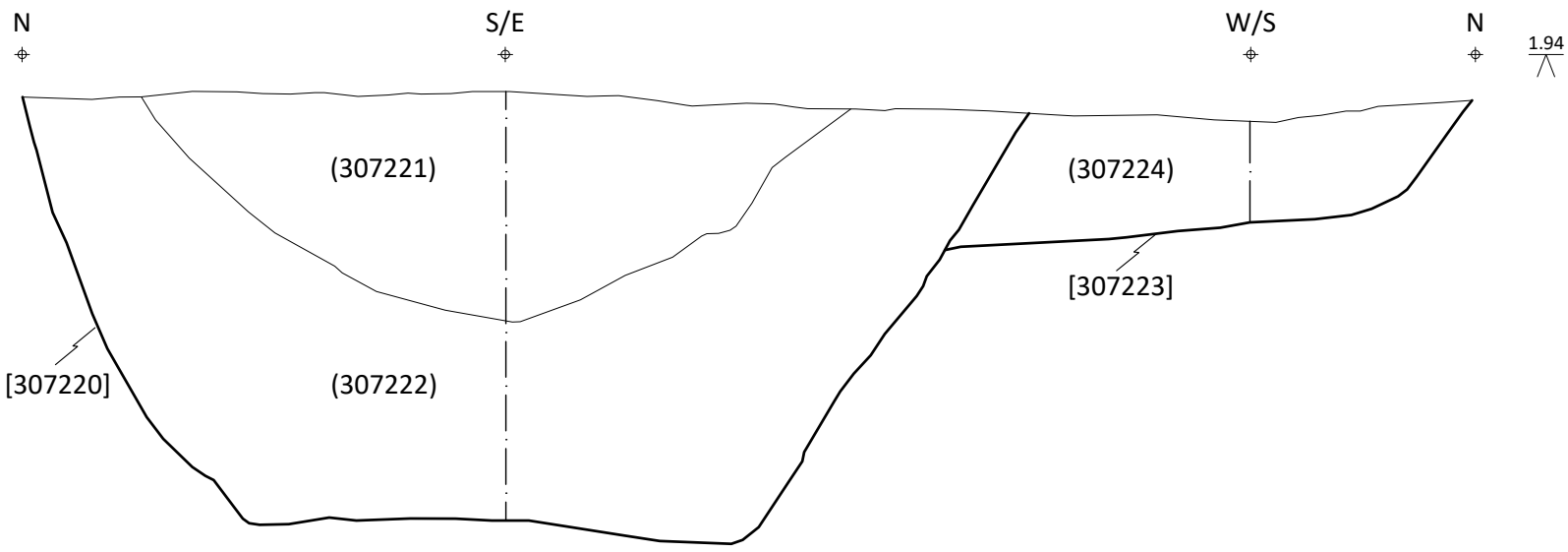
Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 97 - Section drawings 266, 281, 288, 3021 and 3039
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

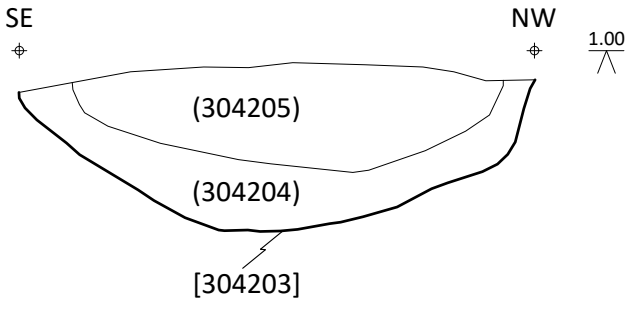
D.273
West facing section [306307], [306315] & [306317]



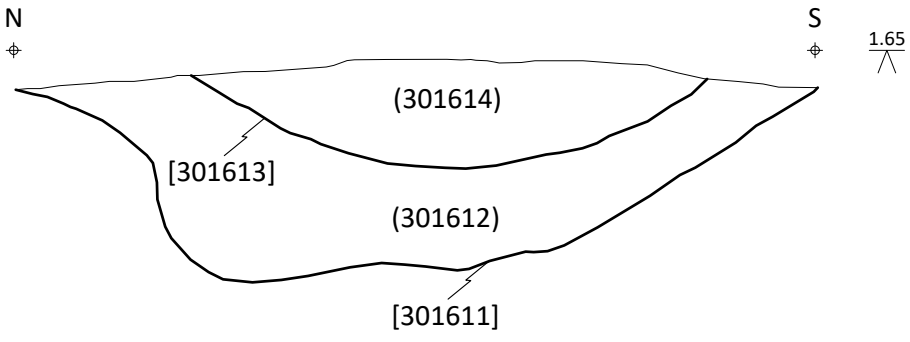
D.195
West, north and east facing section [307220] & [307223]

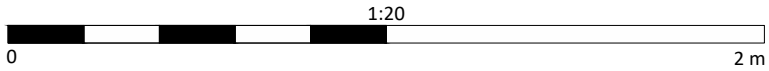


D.3009
North-east facing section [304203]



D.81
West facing section [301611] & [301613]

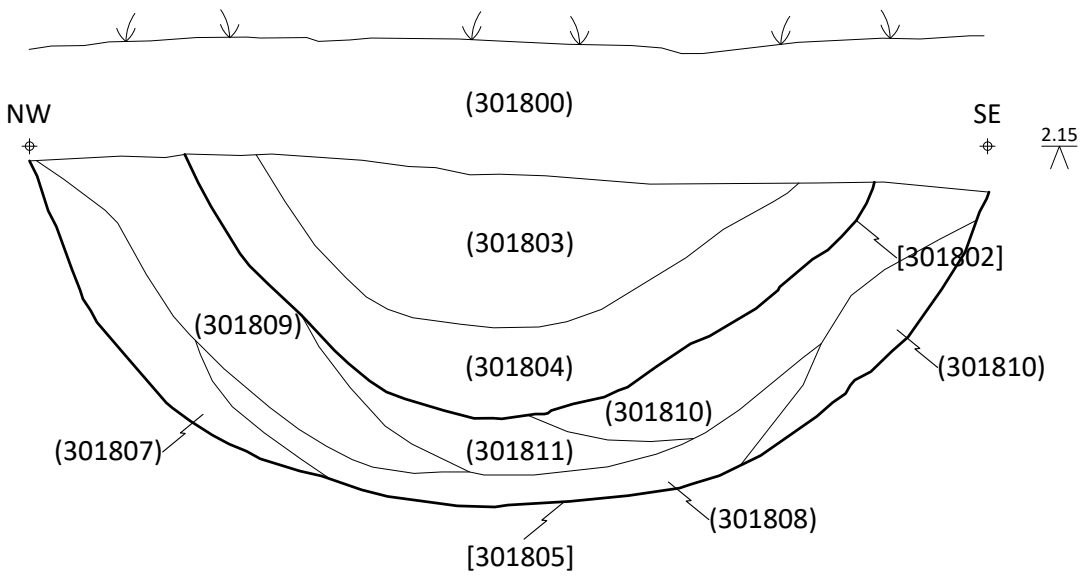




Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 98 - Section drawings 81, 195, 273 and 3009
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

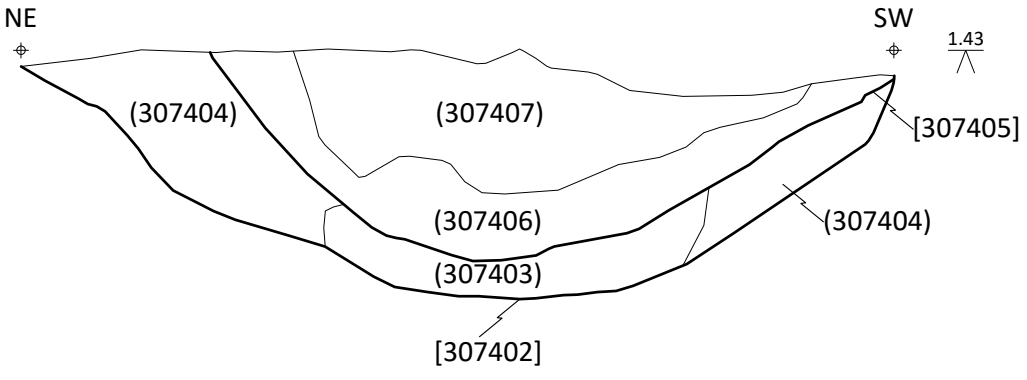
D.32
South-west facing section [301802] & [301805]



D.50
North-east facing section [302210] & [302212]

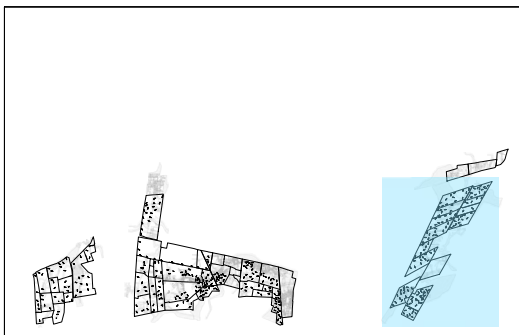


D.150
North-west facing section [307402] & [307405]



1:20
0
2 m
Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 99 - Section drawings 32, 50 and 150
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

D-2-01

D-3-01

D-2-02

D-3-02

D-2-03

D-3-03

D-2-04

D-3-04

D-3-05

D-3-06

D-4

D-6

D-5-01

D-5-02

KEY

- Site boundary
- Arch. trench
- Blank trench
- Roddon
- Palaeochannel
- Archaeology (HER)
- Geophysics: arch. - possible
- Geophysics: arch. - probable

1:10000

0 1000 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 100 - Plan of area D

10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



Figure 101 - Plan of area D over *OS six inch map 1888-1913*
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

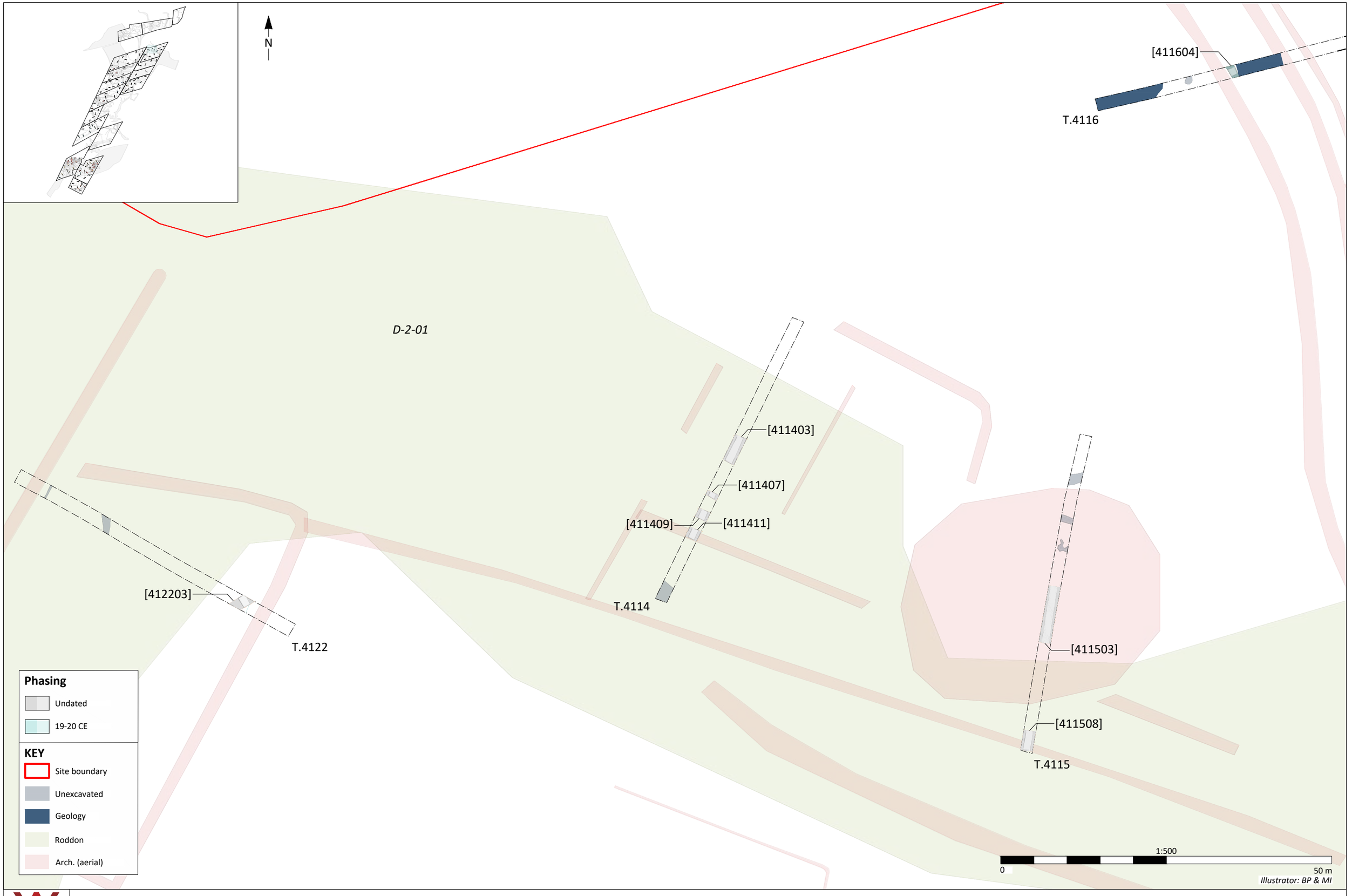
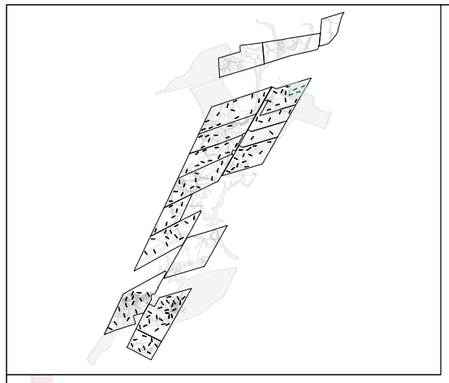


Figure 102 - Plan of trenches 4114, 4115, 4116 and 4122 in D-2-01
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

D-2-01

T.4118

[411803]

T.4177

[417702]

[417706]

D.40195

T.4117

[411703]

[411709]

[411711]

KEY

- Site boundary
- Archaeology
- Unexcavated
- Modern
- Geology
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)
- D.00.0 Section drawing

1:500

0 50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 103 - Plan of trenches 4117, 4118 and 4177 in D-2-01
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding

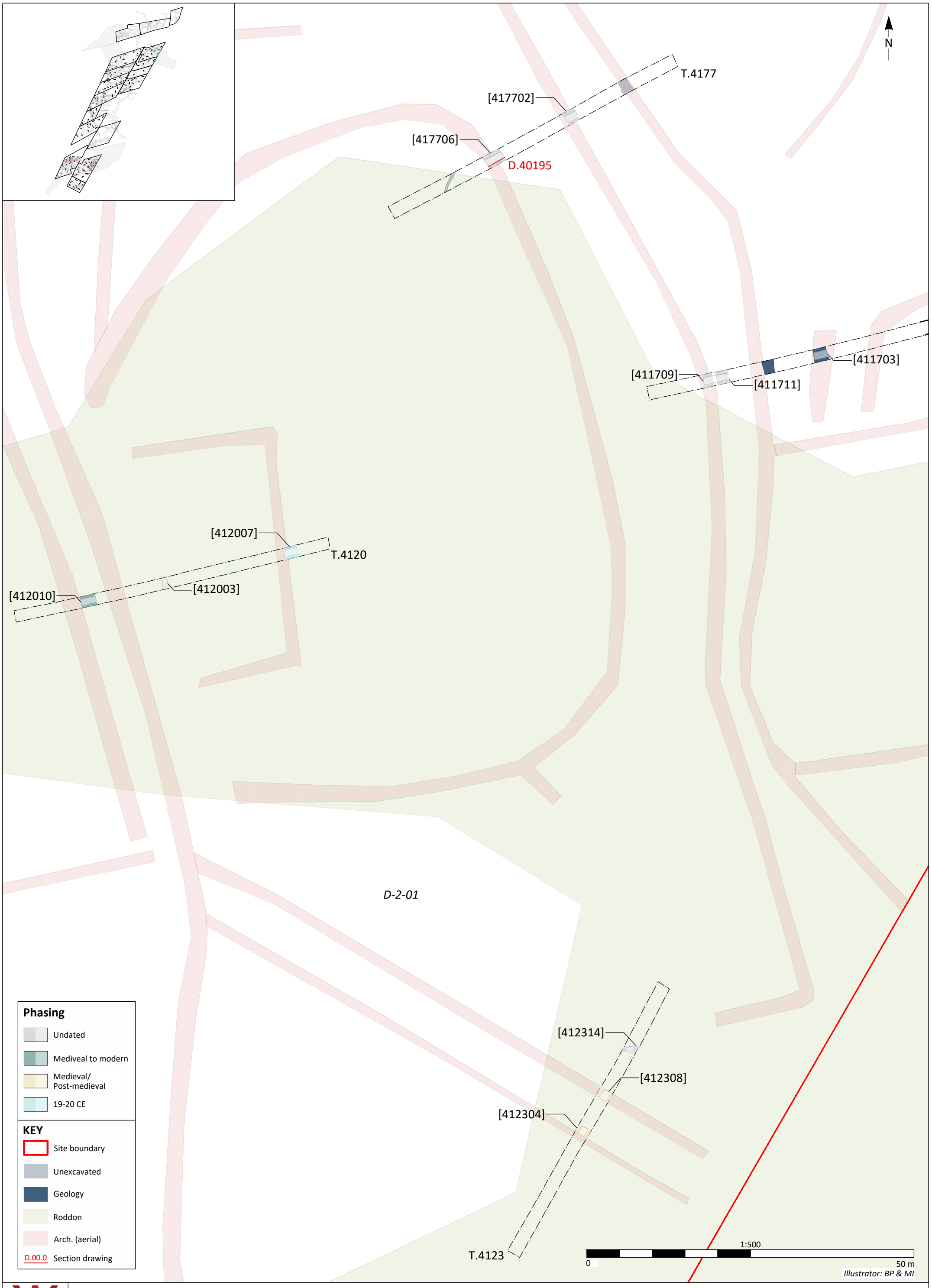
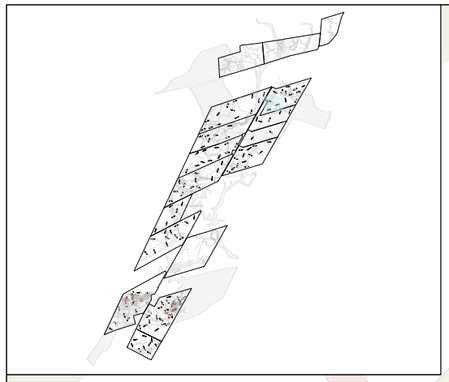


Figure 104 - Plan of trenches 4117, 4120, 4123 and 4177 in D-2-01
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



[411902]

[411905]

T.4119

D-2-01

N

[412403]

T.4124

Phasing

- Undated
- 19-20 CE

KEY

- Site boundary
- Unexcavated
- Geology
- Roddon
- Arch. (aerial)

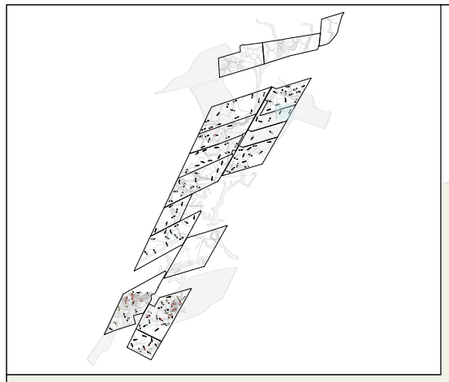
1:500

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 105 - Plan of trenches 4119 and 4124 in D-2-01
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding



N

[417303]

[417203]

T.4173

T.4172

D-2-02

Phasing

Undated

KEY

Site boundary

Unexcavated

Roddon

Arch. (aerial)

1:500

0

50 m

Illustrator: BP & MI

Figure 106 - Plan of trenches 4172 and 4173 in D-2-02
10020 - Meridian Solar, South Spalding