

Archaeological Evaluation Report

LAND AT HILL FARM DUNS TEW

For IPV Flexgen

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Client: IPV Flexgen

Local Authority: Cherwell District Council

NGR: 445944, 229978

Planning App: 20/00574/F

Author(s): A. Short

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation via a programme of trial trenching was undertaken in May 2023 as part of post determination works for a planning application for a proposed solar farm and associated infrastructure. This report has been prepared by Alice Short of MOLA on behalf of IPV Flexgen.

The objectives of the evaluation were to groundtruth the results of geophysical survey undertaken at the site in 2019 and identify any archaeological remains that were present. The geophysical survey results showed features which suggested an extension to evidence of Middle Iron Age occupation at the adjacent solar farm site to the west which had been subject to archaeological evaluation in 2016. The wider area also has known archaeological potential due to a number of Prehistoric and Roman findspots and extensive cropmarks.

A small number of archaeological features were identified over the course of the trial trench evaluation as being of archaeological origin, though none which appeared to confirm an extension to the Middle Iron Age settlement to the west. The majority of the features identified were the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation strips and extant historic field boundaries, with a single east to west orientated ditch of a likely Roman date recorded and several sherds of Roman pottery present in one furrow. A number of geological features were also investigated and recorded. Overall the results of the evaluation have limited significance within the archaeological record and context of the wider landscape.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This evaluation report has been prepared by Alice Short of MOLA on behalf of IPV Flexgen. Archaeological evaluation via a programme of trial trenching was undertaken at the site as a condition of granted planning consent for the construction of a solar photovoltaic farm and associated infrastructure on land to the north of Hill Farm, Duns Tew (planning reference: 20/00574/F).
- 1.2. The fieldwork and site survey was carried out by K. Brown, T. Edmonds and led by A. Short all of MOLA, over the course of five days between 15th - 19th May 2023. Field drawings and plans were digitised by G. Krawzyck and the project was managed by A. Charvet, both of MOLA.
- 1.3. The site is located on land to the north of Hill Farm, Duns Tew, Bicester, Oxfordshire, OX25 6JJ (hereafter referred to as 'the site'). The National Grid Reference (NGR) given for the site is 445944, 229978 (FIGURE 1).
- 1.4. The site code allocated by MOLA is HFDT23. The OASIS ID for the project is molastan1-515076 (APPENDIX 2).
- 1.5. The work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which detailed the method to be employed for the archaeological evaluation that was undertaken (VUCICIC AND SHORT 2023).
- 1.6. The fieldwork undertaken adhered to the *Code of Conduct* (CIFA 2021) and *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIFA 2020) as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).

2. Site Background

2.1.PLANNING

- 2.1.1. Planning consent has been granted by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Cherwell District Council for the construction and installation of a standalone solar photovoltaic array with associated infrastructure, access and landscaping on land measuring c.14ha to the north of Hill Farm, Duns Tew, Bicester, OX25 6JJ. The planning reference for the application is 20/00574/F.
- 2.1.2. A post determination programme of archaeological evaluation via targeted trial trenching was agreed across the proposed development area. The trench locations were determined based upon the results of geophysical survey previously undertaken at the site in 2019, which identified features of potential archaeological origin to be investigated (BONVOISIN ET AL., 2019)

2.2.NATIONAL PLANNING LEGISLATION

- 2.2.1. In July 2018, a revised edition of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, wholly replacing the original 2012 version, with further updates in July 2021 (DLUHC 2021). This document sets out planning policies regarding the historic environment in Section 16 ‘Conserving and enhancing the historic environment’. The requirement for archaeological evaluation at the site was recommended based on guidance provided in paragraphs 194 and 195 of this document.

2.3.LOCAL PLANNING LEGISLATION

- 2.3.1. Cherwell District Council takes archaeological advice from Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (OCAS) in determining the outcome of planning applications. In providing advice, OCAS must consider appropriate policies within the relevant Local Plan. OCAS produced a brief with the requirements for the archaeological evaluation which took place.
- 2.3.2. The Cherwell Local Plan adopted 2015, sets out the LPA’s policies and proposals to support the development of the district from 2011-31. Policies relating to the Historic Environment are set out in Policy ESD 15: The

Character of the Built Historic Environment.

POLICY ESD 15: THE CHARACTER OF THE BUILT HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Conserve, sustain and enhance designated and non designated 'heritage assets' (as defined in the NPPF) including buildings, features, archaeology, conservation areas and their settings, and ensure new development is sensitively sited and integrated in accordance with advice in the NPPF and NPPG. Proposals for development that affect non-designated heritage assets will be considered taking account of the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset as set out in the NPPF and NPPG. Regeneration proposals that make sensitive use of heritage assets, particularly where these bring redundant or under used buildings or areas, especially any on English Heritage's At Risk Register, into appropriate use will be encouraged.

Include information on heritage assets sufficient to assess the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. Where archaeological potential is identified this should include an appropriate desk based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

2.3.3. The following conditions were placed on granted planning consent for the application (20/00574/F) by Cherwell District Council and are based on the guidance given in the NPPF:

Condition 7:

Prior to any demolition and the commencement of the development a professional archaeological organisation acceptable to the Local Planning Authority shall prepare an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation, relating to the application site area, which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason:

To safeguard the recording of archaeological matters within the site in accordance with Government guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

Condition 8:

Following the approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation referred to in condition 7, and prior to any demolition on the site and the commencement of the development (other than in accordance with the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation), a staged programme of archaeological evaluation and mitigation shall be carried out by the commissioned archaeological organisation in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation. The programme of work shall include all processing, research and analysis necessary to produce an accessible and useable archive and a full report for publication which shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within two years of the completion of the archaeological fieldwork.

Reason

To safeguard the identification, recording, analysis and archiving of heritage assets before they are lost and to advance understanding of the heritage assets in their wider context through publication and dissemination of the evidence in accordance with Government guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

2.4.GEOLOGY

2.4.1. The British Geological Survey GeoIndex records the underlying bedrock deposits of the site to be that of Charmouth Mudstone Formation – Mudstone. No superficial deposits are recorded across the majority of the site, with a narrow band of alluvial deposits comprising clay, silt sand and gravel along the course of Deddington Brook which runs broadly east to west along the northern site boundary (BGS 2023).

2.4.2. The natural geological (superficial) deposits recorded across the site comprised firm dark brown orange sandy clay with frequent ironstone and patches of blue grey orange clay, and firm pale brown orange and mid grey clay with iron panning and occasional large mudstone fragments. These deposits were encountered at a depth of between 0.45-0.57m below ground level (bgl) across the site.

2.5.TOPOGRAPHY AND SITE CONDITIONS

2.5.1. The site is located on land to the north of Hill Farm, Duns Tew, to the northeast of Hill Farm Lane. The village of Duns Tew is located c.1.6km to the south of the site and the village of Deddington is located c.1.9km to the north. Deddington Brook, a narrow winding watercourse meanders broadly east to west close to the northern border of the site.

2.5.2. The site lies on a floodplain at the base of a gentle, wide east to west running valley along Deddington Brook. It is surrounded by undulating farmland comprising fields of both arable and pasture. Field parcels are largely irregularly shaped and vary in size. An existing solar farm is located to the immediate west of the site. The site prior to development formed part of the land belonging to Hill Farm.

2.5.3. The development area measures c.14ha of broadly flat agricultural land over a two large open fields with no formal boundary, but which have historically been under different crops. The southern border of the fields lay open to unharvested fields with several mature trees and a hedgebank along the field boundary which leads southwards to Hill Farm.

2.5.4. In the west the site lies at c.90m above Ordinance Datum (aOD) sloping slightly to the north and south to c.87m aOD. The Tackley to Milton pumping main bisects the site north to south along the historic field boundary located in the centre of the proposed development area.

2.6.ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

2.6.1. A search of the background of the site and the vicinity was conducted and significant results are discussed below. A Heritage Assessment and Geophysical Survey produced in advance of the development by South West Archaeology Ltd in 2019 provides a detailed overview of the archaeological background of the site.

2.6.2. National Heritage List for England numbers (NHLE1234567) and Historic Environment Records (HER) numbers (MOX12345) are given as such.

PREHISTORIC

2.6.3. Evidence of Prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site is limited and comprises several isolated findspots recorded in the 1.5km radius of the site boundary. A Neolithic flint scraper was found to the north of the site (MOX3777), two Neolithic stone axes were recorded to the west and southeast of the site (MOX3732), and a Bronze Age whetstone was recorded to the southeast of the site (MOX23619).

IRON AGE/ ROMAN

2.6.4. There is evidence for significant Iron Age activity in the area. An Iron Age hillfort was recorded at Ilbury c.1.5km west of the site. Immediately to the west of the site, at the adjacent PV solar farm, geophysical survey identified a Middle to Late Iron Age “clothes line” settlement in two clusters (MOX27100). Subsequent trial trench evaluation of the settlements recorded two domestic

enclosures, linked by a single linear ditch. Several smaller roundhouse ring ditches and sub-enclosures were recorded along the southern side of the linear ditch. Iron Age pottery sherds, abraded animal bone fragments, and a small assemblage of burnt clay fragments were recovered during the course of the archaeological evaluation (MOX28739).

- 2.6.5. Geophysical survey of the site itself identified several possible settlement enclosures and structures continuing from the single linear ditch indicating the continuation of the settlements. Anomalies identified appear to represent possible roundhouse structures of a Mid to Late Iron Age date and a potential trackway was also identified (MOX27937)(BONVOISIN ET AL. 2019).
- 2.6.6. A Roman villa complex was identified c.0.7km to 1.2km east of the site during excavations by Banbury Historical Society in the late 1960s (MOX3775).
- 2.6.7. Artefact scatters comprising Roman finds have been recorded within the 1km search radius of the site. Several Roman pottery sherds have been recovered from Danes Hill (MOX3783). Two pottery jars and a carved stone slab with the figure of Vulcan were recovered from the meadow in the vicinity of Ilbury Hillfort to the west of the site (MOX3677).

MEDIEVAL AND POST MEDIEVAL

- 2.6.8. A late Saxon brooch was recovered to the south of Duns Tew (MOX3619). By the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086, a settlement comprising a population of 31 households in the hundred of Wootton was recorded (DOMESDAY ONLINE 2023).
- 2.6.9. The site was part of Open Field enclosure, established during the 8th century and belonging to Duns Tew and used for agricultural purposes. This suggests the framework of the modern landscape was established around this time, with a high probability of concurrent settlement nucleation.
- 2.6.10. Preserved Early Medieval earthworks are well attested in the HER in the vicinity of the site, including a holloway, embanked platforms and a possible mill site located to the southeast of Hill Farm (MOX3653). Ploughed out ridge and furrow cropmarks are visible across the site itself and the remains of a Deserted Medieval Village (DMV)(MOX3692) and possible moated site (MOX4621) are

recorded below Ilbury Hillfort.

2.6.11. During the Medieval period and into the Post Medieval period, earthworks recorded at Duns Tew (MOX23129) and Deddington (MOX3763) indicate a period of decline with the shifting or shrinking of settlements.

2.6.12. Hill Farm appears to have been associated with relatively early enclosure of part of the Open Fields attached to Duns Tew (17th century or earlier). By 1808, the Open Field was subdivided into numerous straight closes running down to the stream (then called South Brook). Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) records the fields comprising the site as 'Prairie/Amalgamated Enclosures' with 'Planned Enclosures' to the north of the stream, arising from Open Field enclosure in the 19th century (BONVOISIN ET AL. 2019).

2.6.13. Several records in the HER provide evidence of local industrial activity including pottery works to the west of the site (MOX3776), lime kilns to the southeast of the site (MOX3606) and brickworks to the northeast (MOX3744). The farm buildings at Hill Farm appear to be early 18th century in date including a former domestic range. Two barns at Hill Farm are Grade II listed (NHLE1200578)

2.6.14. Early edition OS mapping (1875-1880) indicates the field divisions had decreased and by this time the land comprised a plot of four field parcels divided by boundaries. Details of numerous sales of Hill Farm and the surrounding farmland are recorded through the 19th and 20th century, indicating it was a stock and dairy farm with 10ha listed as arable, though none of the field names are recorded (BONVOISIN ET AL. 2019).

2.6.15. During the 20th century the four field divisions amalgamated into a single land parcel. An easement for a pumping main between Tackley and Milton is visible on the 2015-16 satellite imagery for the site, which bisects the site north to south. The solar farm adjacent to the west of the site was constructed in the late 2010s.

2.7. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2.7.1. Planning consent has been granted for the proposed installation of a standalone

Solar PV array and associated infrastructure and landscaping (planning reference 20/00574/F). The proposed development will include rows of solar photovoltaic panels, battery storage, inverters, a substation and switchroom, security cameras, fencing and access track.

2.8.GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

2.8.1. Geophysical survey was conducted by South West Archaeology Ltd in August 2019 (BONVOISIN ET AL. 2019). The survey was conducted over the two fields of the proposed development and identified 32 groups of anomalies, detailing several phases of relict field boundaries, small apparent structures, ridge and furrow cultivation strips and modern utilities (FIGURE 3). The interpreted linear responses were categorised as ‘probable archaeology’, ‘possible archaeology’, ‘weak archaeology’ and ‘agricultural’ (FIGURE 4 and FIGURE 5).

3. Aims

3.1. The general aims of the evaluation were to:

- ◆ Evaluate the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site;
- ◆ Determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains
- ◆ Limit damage to significant archaeological deposits;
- ◆ Sample excavate any deposits on site in order to record the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on site within the areas identified as being impacted upon by the works;
- ◆ Ensure that the significance of the historic environment of the site is investigated, evidenced, recorded and made publicly accessible in line with National Planning Policy;
- ◆ Characterise the full archaeological sequence down to undisturbed geological deposits. Where the full depths of deep features cannot be safely or practicably excavated their full depths will be established by hand auger soundings;
- ◆ Establish the requirement for preservation of in situ remains and to collect enough information to allow further investigation and a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised, if required. If further mitigation works are required as a result of the evaluation these will be agreed in a separate document;
- ◆ Identify any research priorities that may be relevant which are outlined in the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (ALGAO 2023).

3.2. The specific aims of the evaluation were to:

- ◆ Further define and understand the extent and character of the possible Mid/Late Iron Age to Early Roman activity identified as a result of the geophysical survey undertaken at the site;
- ◆ Further understand the extent to which past activity at the site, such as Medieval and Post Medieval ridge and furrow and modern agricultural activity and drainage, has affected the state of preservation of any archaeological remains that are present.

4. Methodology

- 4.1. For a full description of the methodology of the archaeological evaluation and recording please refer to Section 4 of the WSI (VUCICIC AND SHORT 2023).
- 4.2. The proposed development area subject to archaeological evaluation measures c.14ha. In agreement with OCAS, a total of 10 trial trenches linear in form were excavated which measured 50m in length by 1.8m in width (FIGURE 2 and FIGURE 3) and which targeted features of interest as identified in the geophysical survey (FIGURE 4 and FIGURE 5) (BONVOISIN ET AL. 2019). Trenches were also positioned to target areas identified in the geophysical survey as being absent of anomalies/features.
- 4.3. The trench locations were accurately surveyed prior to excavation and were located using a Leica Survey Grade RTK GPS operating to an accuracy of +/-0.05m in relation to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum. The trenches were scanned by Cable Avoidance Tools (CAT) by a competent and trained operator prior to excavation and no unknown or previously unidentified services or other constraints were encountered.
- 4.4. The trenches were excavated by a 20t 360 degree tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. The machine strip was monitored under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.
- 4.5. Machine excavation was conducted in c.0.10m spits to the depth of the uppermost significant archaeological horizon or natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. The topsoil and subsoil were stripped and stored separately and kept a safe distance from the trench edge and one end of the trench was battered for safe access and egress.
- 4.6. Identified features were surveyed prior to excavation. Examination and cleaning of all archaeological deposits was undertaken by hand using appropriate hand tools, including features and horizontal deposits. Any archaeological deposits excavated were recorded in section and plan (photographed, drawn and surveyed by GPS as per the methodology outlined in Section 4.5 of the WSI). The objective was to characterise and date features rather than entirely remove them.

4.7. Features were investigated following the methodology outlined below:

- ◆ 50% of each intrusive feature (pits, postholes) which were 100% excavated if finds recovery was required;
- ◆ Slots of 1m width or less in linear features;
- ◆ All terminals and intersections of linear features.

4.8. No significant archaeological deposits worthy of *in situ* preservation were recorded during the course of the evaluation.

4.9. A site monitoring visit was undertaken once all trenches had been opened by Victoria Green, Planning Archaeologist for OCAS who provided advice on excavation and sampling strategy.

4.10. The site code provided by MOLA is HFDT23. The code was used to label (using appropriate materials not adhesive labels) all sheets, plans and other drawings; all context and recording sheets; all photographs; all other elements of the documentary archive. The OASIS ID for the project is molastan-515076.

4.11. Recording was carried out on *pro forma* recording sheets based on the Museum of London 'single context' recording system, further information on which can be found in the Museum of London *Archaeological Site Manual* (SPENCE 1994).

4.12. All identified artefacts, industrial and faunal remains were collected and retained. All finds were bagged, cleaned, processed and analysed by finds specialists for production of the finds reports (see Section 6).

4.13. All works were carried out in accordance with the *Code of Conduct* (CIFA 2021) and *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIFA 2020).

5. Results

5.1. The following results provide a summary of the significant features identified and investigated during the course of the trench evaluation. Results are given trench by trench in numerical order, a complete and detailed description of which is provided in APPENDIX 1. Not all context numbers are referred to in the text or are illustrated but all are included in the archive. Deposit and fill numbers are given in (parentheses) and cut numbers are given in [square brackets]. Trench features, contexts and drawing numbers are prefixed by their relevant trench number.

5.2. A total of ten trenches were excavated during the course of evaluation all of which measured 50m in length by 1.8m in width. All contained stratigraphic deposits of topsoil comprising a friable mid grey brown clayey silt, overlying subsoil of varying depths of a friable mid brown orange sandy or silty clay, which in turn overlie the natural substrate. All archaeological features identified were cut into natural deposits.

5.3. Of the ten trenches excavated, two contained features of archaeological origin and two contained features of geological origin. Trenches 1-6, 9 and 10 were absent of archaeological features and are discussed where relevant hereafter, and all descriptions of their stratigraphic deposits are listed in APPENDIX 1. Trenches 2 and 9 were positioned to investigate areas absent of anomalies identified in the geophysical survey and were found to contain no features, and as such are not discussed further.

TRENCH 1

5.4. Located in the northwest of the site (FIGURE 2 and FIGURE 3), Trench 1 was positioned to target two poorly defined linear anomalies identified on the results of the geophysical survey. These were interpreted as a possible continuation of the linear boundary ditch forming the 'clothes line' settlement recorded at the adjacent site to the west in 2016 (HEWITT 2016).

5.5. No archaeological features were identified along the extent of the trench. Diffuse areas of changes in the natural deposits were investigated along its length to confirm their non archaeological origin. The natural deposits (103) comprised a firm pale brown orange and mid grey clay with iron panning, with patches of firm mid brown red sandy clay, which were encountered at a depth of 0.46m bgl.

TRENCH 3

5.6. Trench 3 (FIGURE 4) was located in the southwest of the site and was positioned to target an area absent of archaeological features as interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey. A single east to west orientated linear feature of non archaeological origin was identified and recorded in the southern end of the trench [304] (PLATE 1).

5.7. Feature [304] comprised an irregular linear feature in plan which measured 1.10m in width by 0.17m in depth and continued beyond the east and west limits of the excavated trench edge (FIGURE 6). It had steep concave sides and an uneven base and contained a single homogenous and very sterile infill (304) of a firm mid brown orange sandy clay absent of dateable finds. The feature was recorded as being of geological in origin, possibly representing an infilled water channel or a feature resulting from frost thaw cracking.

TRENCH 4

5.8. Trench 4 (FIGURE 4) was positioned to investigate two ephemeral linear anomalies identified in the results of the geophysical survey. No archaeological features were identified within the trench extent during the course of the evaluation. The trench was positioned on a slight depression which sloped downwards to the northwest and as a result the natural deposits were encountered deeper than in all other trenches at a depth of 0.57m bgl.

5.9. A seam of compacted bedrock (mudstone) measuring c.0.40m in width extended across the southeastern corner of the trench which corresponded to the linear anomaly identified in the geophysical survey at this end of the trench.

TRENCH 5

5.10. Trench 5 (FIGURE 4) was located in the centre of the site and was positioned to investigate two linear anomalies and an anomaly of 'possible archaeology' in the northern end of the trench. Once opened, the area of 'possible archaeology' was identified as a change in the natural deposits from sandy clay to clay with a concentration of iron panning.

5.11. Three linear features were identified in the south of the trench on an east to west

alignment which continued both east and west extents of the trench edge. The northern two of these were investigated and recorded [504][506] and identified as being of geological in origin due to their form and character. Comparable to feature [304], they likely represent infilled water channels or features resulting from frost thaw cracking.

5.12. Linear feature [504] comprised steep straight sides and a concave base (PLATE 2) (FIGURE 7). It comprised an irregular shape in plan which measured 0.95m in the centre of the trench and 0.60m at its narrowest against the western trench limit of excavation. It contained a single infill (505) of a sterile, firm mid orange brown sandy clay of 0.28m in depth which contained no finds.

5.13. Linear feature [506] was located c.1.25m to the north of feature [504] and comprised steep concave sides and a flat base, and measured 2.00m in width by 0.22m in depth (PLATE 3) (FIGURE 7). It contained a single sterile infill (507) of a firm mid red brown sandy clay comparable to the infill of the third identified linear feature which lie to the south of feature [504].

TRENCH 6

5.14. Trench 6 (FIGURE 5) was positioned north to south and was recorded as containing no archaeological features. A linear feature identified as a continuation of geological feature [506] was located in the centre of the trench, and a further continuation of the iron panning concentration in Trench 5 was identified in trench in the area of 'possible archaeology' as defined on the results of the geophysical survey.

TRENCH 7

5.15. Three features of archaeological origin were identified along the extent of Trench 7, corresponding to linear anomalies and a historic field boundary identified in the results of the geophysical survey (FIGURE 5). In the south of the trench, linear feature [704] comprised steep uneven sides and a concave base, and measured 0.98m in width by 0.47m in depth (FIGURE 8; PLATES 4 & 5). It continued beyond the east and west trench limit of excavation and contained a single fill [705] of a firm dark grey brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks. Several sherds of pottery were recovered from within the fill comprising several rim sherds and body sherds of several different vessels, all of which appeared to be of a mid-late Roman date

(AD240-410).

- 5.16. In the north end of the trench two intercutting linear features were recorded [706] [708] (FIGURE 8; PLATE 6). Feature [706] comprised steep straight sides and a flat base and measured >1.09m in width by 0.68m in depth. It contained a single fill (707) of a firm mid grey brown silty clay which contained no finds. The feature was recorded as being of non archaeological in origin and was cut on its southern side by historic field boundary [708].
- 5.17. Field boundary [708] comprised steep concave sides and a concave base and measured 1.26m in width by 0.75m in depth. It contained a single infill (709) of a firm but moist dark grey brown clayey silt mottled with light yellow grey clay with well preserved tree root remnants throughout, within which residual mid-late Roman dated pottery sherds were also recovered. A continuation of the historic field boundary was identified on an east to west alignment in the western end of Trench 8.

TRENCH 8

- 5.18. Trench 8 was located in the east of the site and contained the highest number of archaeological features identified across the site (FIGURE 9 and FIGURE 10). These features comprised a series of parallel northeast to southeast orientated linear features, several of which corresponded to features identified in the results of the geophysical survey as 'agricultural' and represent the remains of ridge and furrow earthworks.
- 5.19. In the west of the trench, an east to west orientated linear feature containing an infill of a dark grey brown clayey silt mottled with light yellow grey clay was identified as a continuation of historic field boundary [708] located in the northern end of Trench 7.
- 5.20. Located to the southeast of this field boundary, two intercutting linear features were recorded [804][806] (FIGURE 10; PLATE 7). Linear feature [804] comprised moderate straight sides and a northwestwards sloping base, and measured 0.94m in width by 0.37m in depth. It contained a single firm mid grey brown clayey silt mottled with light yellow grey clay and had severe rooting disturbance throughout. Feature [804] was cut along the northwestern edge of linear feature [806].

5.21. Linear feature [806] measured 1.83m in length by 0.27m in depth and continued beyond the trench limits of excavation. It comprised moderate straight sides and a flat base and contained two distinct infills (807)(814). Lower fill (807) comprised a firm mid grey brown silty clay mottled with pale blue yellow clay, and upper fill (814) comprised a firm dark grey brown clayey silt. The feature appeared to be the remains of the base of a furrow, forming part of the linear ridge and furrow field system which extends northeast to southwest across the extent of the site.

5.22. Two further furrows were investigated in the centre of the trench [808][810] (FIGURE 9). They both comprised steep straight sides and a flat base and measured 3.48m and 3.84m in width respectively. They also both contained a single infill of a firm mid grey brown silty clay within both of which residual mid-late Roman (AD240-410) pottery sherds were recovered.

5.23. In the southeastern end of the trench a further linear feature was investigated and recorded [812] (FIGURE 10; PLATE 8). It comprised steep straight sides and a flat base and measured 3.80m in width by 0.34m in depth, and contained a single infill (813) of a firm dark grey brown silty clay with occasional rooting throughout. The form and character of the feature is more comparable with that of the furrows investigated throughout the trench, also being on the same parallel northeast to southwest alignment and spaced c.3m southeast of [810]. A quantity of abraded pottery sherds of mid-late Roman (AD240-410) date and two residual Late Iron Age sherds were recovered from the feature, suggesting the feature represents a furrow which disturbed a feature of an earlier (Roman) date, no evidence of which was identified within the extent of Trench 8.

TRENCH 10

5.24. Trench 10 was located in the southeast of the site and was positioned so as to investigate a linear anomaly interpreted in the results of the geophysical survey as 'weak archaeology' (FIGURE 5). The geophysical greyscale data shows this to be a possible bank or positive feature, and was visible on the field surface as a small ridge/undulation in the landscape. Excavation of the trench found no evidence of subsurface deposits or features which related to this anomaly.

6. Finds Summary Report by Aileen Tierney MA ACIFA

6.1. INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

- 6.1.1. The finds assemblage recovered was washed, quantified (count and weight) and bagged by the post excavation team at MOLA Stansted and then passed for assessment to a number of specialists.
- 6.1.2. The assemblage is of a small size, with the pottery having the largest quantity with just under 1kg of material. Animal bone, fired clay and iron are present in much smaller quantities. All of the pottery assemblage, which originated from four separate contexts, dates to the mid to late Roman period (TABLE 1).
- 6.1.3. The finds assessment and reporting was managed and collated by A. Tierney. Specialists were selected from a pool of internal specialists with assessments completed in June 2023. Spotdates were produced by Lanah Hewson, animal bone assessment by Yasmine de Gruchy with all finds summarised here by Aileen Tierney.

6.2. RESULTS

POTTERY by Lanah Hewson

- 6.2.1. Results of the initial pottery assessment are presented below in TABLE 1. A total of 117 sherds (965g) of Roman pottery was recovered from four contexts (all linears, two of which have been identified as furrows). All date to the mid – late Roman period, with levels of abrasion noted on numerous sherds.
- 6.2.2. Context (705), the single fill of Linear [704] comprises 40 sherds (232g) and dates to AD250 – AD410. This assemblage includes several sherds of Oxfordshire oxidised ware including rim sherds of a lid, rim and body sherds from a greyware bead and flange bowl or dish, body sherds in a pink grog tempered ware and some base sherds of black burnished ware complete with a curved burnished line.
- 6.2.3. Context (809), the single fill of Furrow [808] comprises eight sherds (23g) and dates to AD240 – AD410. This small group includes Oxfordshire oxidised and buff ware sherds in addition to some Samian sherd. These sherds are

abraded.

- 6.2.4. Context (811), the single fill of Furrow [810] comprises nine sherds (32g) and dates to AD240 – AD410. The similarly small group also contained abraded Oxfordshire oxidised ware sherds, a single sherd of pink grog tempered ware and a sherd of black burnished ware. This group also included a cornice rim and further body sherds of a harder fired vessel.
- 6.2.5. Context (813), the single fill of Linear [812] comprises the largest group of pottery at 60 sherds (678g). Two sherds of sand and grog tempered ware date to the Late Iron Age and are likely residual, while the remainder of this group date to AD240 – AD410. The group comprises more Oxfordshire oxidised wares in the forms of mortarium, jars and bowls, Oxfordshire whiteware in the forms of mortarium and beaker elements and Greyware rim sherds in the form of a wide mouth bowl and a hook rimmed vessel. Sherds of black burnished ware, pink grog tempered wares and the footring of a Samian vessel were also present in this group. A number of these fragments exhibit surface abrasion.
- 6.2.6. All four contexts of pottery date roughly to the same period, but given the level of abrasion on some of the material, there is the potential that they represent material from earlier Roman features which have been truncated and were not visible in the trenches excavated.

CONTEXT NUMBER	FEATURE TYPE	COUNT	WEIGHT (G)	PERIOD	EARLIEST DATE (TPQ)	LATEST DATE
705	Fill of linear feature [704]	40	232	Roman	c.AD240	c.AD410
709	Fill of linear feature [708]	2	9	Roman	c.AD40	c.AD410
809	Fill of linear feature [808]	8	23	Roman	c.AD240	c.AD410
811	Fill of furrow [810]	9	32	Roman	c.AD240	c.AD410
813	Fill of furrow [812]	60	678	Roman	c.AD240	c.AD410

Table 1 - Pottery summary

ANIMAL BONE by Yasmine de Gruchy MSc

- 6.2.7. Sixty-eight grams of hand-collected animal bone from ditch fill (813) and 3.5 grams wet-sieved bone from ditch fill (705) totaling 80 fragments were submitted for assessment.
- 6.2.8. The assemblage was assessed following current guidelines (BAKER AND WORLEY, 2019), with each context recorded in terms of weight (g), estimated fragment count, preservation, faunal composition, taphonomic indicators and potential for age determination and metric data.
- 6.2.9. Every fragment of the vertebrate faunal assemblage was examined and recorded as identifiable to taxon, to taxon size (e.g., large [cattle-size], medium [sheep], small mammal [squirrel-size and below]) or as unidentifiable. Animal bones were quantified using Number of Identified Specimens (NISP), or number of countable elements. Fragments were considered identifiable if they comprised at least 50% of one bone zone or tooth crown (following [SERJEANTSON 1996](#)). Zone definitions for the mandible were used, transcribed from a bovid mandible illustration (Serjeantson nd) as described in Worley 2017.
- 6.2.10. Of the 18 fragments of hand-collected material, the NISP is three, comprising one sheep/goat mandibular molar (M1/M2), a large mammal tibial fragment and one femoral head of a medium-to-large mammal. The remaining hand-collected fragments were classified to medium or large mammal.
- 6.2.11. Wet-sieved bone comprised 62 highly fragmented and burnt mammal bone. No countable elements were recovered, although a tooth root fragment from a medium-sized mammal is present.
- 6.2.12. The condition of each bone fragment was recorded on a scale of 1 to 5, whereby 1 indicated 'excellent' condition and 5 indicated 'very poor' preservation. This provides an ordinal scale on which to assess each context regarding the degree of fragmentation and the level of surface preservation. This system is only internally consistent and cannot be used to compare bone preservation across different assemblages.
- 6.2.13. Preservation within the assemblage was poor and fragmentation is high. Root

etching and weathering is evident, with damage to the cortical surface, and in some instances the trabecular bone is completely degraded. Due to the fragmentation and poor preservation of the animal bone, no metric nor dental or epiphyseal age-determination is possible for this assemblage.

FIRED CLAY

6.2.14. A total of seven fragments of fired clay (20.5g) were recovered from two contexts (705 and 709). All comprised an oxidised sandy fabric with a partial surface identified on one fragment from (705).

IRON

6.2.15. Four iron fragments (12.5g) form part of this assemblage; all were recovered from Sample 1 (Context 705). One has been identified as a possible hobnail, the others have not been assigned an object type at this point.

6.3.RESULTS

6.3.1. This small assemblage comprises pottery, fired clay, animal bone and iron. The pottery has all been dated to the mid to late Roman period, but given the level of abrasion noted on some of the sherds, some may represent material from Roman features disturbed by the later furrows. The presence of fired clay including a possible object and the Roman hobnail support the presence of Roman activity on this site, albeit not through distinct undisturbed features.

6.3.2. It is recommended that the pottery, fired clay and iron be revisited at the next stage of work. Further analysis of the pottery in terms of levels of abrasion should assist in assessing the residual nature of the material and the dating of the features identified.

6.3.3. Given the burial condition for preservation on this site is unfavourable for animal bone, the small assemblage size and poor condition, no further work on the animal bone is needed.

7. Environmental Sampling by Yasmine de Gruchy MSc

7.1. INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

7.1.1. One bulk sample, comprising forty litres, was recovered from ditch fill (705) and presented for assessment. The sample was processed using a Siraf-style flotation tank by Yasmine de Gruchy of MOLA. The washovers (flots) were caught on a 250µm sieve, and the heavy fraction ('residue') retained on a 500µm mesh.

7.1.2. The residues were weighed and air dried, then sorted into fractions using a nest of sieves (8mm, 4mm, 2mm, 1mm and 500µm). Items of interest were removed and bagged, the geological material was discarded. The flots were air dried and the dry material weighed and scanned. Macrofossil assessment (both charred and untransformed) was carried out by Carolyn Smith of MOLA. Charcoal from the residue was weighed, fragments above 4mm in size were counted and the relative abundance recorded for fragments at 4-2mm, to review potential for assessment. Botanical nomenclature follows Stace (2010).

7.2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

7.2.1. Estimated abundance of items present in the samples are presented in TABLE 2.

7.2.2. The sample contained a mix of charred and untransformed material, although the high quantity of roots in the sample makes it likely that any untransformed material is intrusive/modern.

7.2.3. Charcoal is present in both the flot and residue. Charcoal from flot comprised moderate (11-50) to abundant (>100) quantities from sizes over 4mm to under 2mm. The residual charcoal comprised 171 fragments above 4mm and an abundant quantity between 2-4mm.

7.2.4. Ditch fill (705) contained a moderate quantity of charred grain, predominantly comprising a mixture of unidentifiable cereal, wheat and spelt wheat (*Triticum* sp. *T. spelta*), and barley (*Hordeum* sp). A single grain of possibly emmer wheat (*T. cf. dicoccum*) was recovered from the residue. The residue also contained singly fragments of charred chaff, wheat glumebase (*Triticum* sp) and a culm node (Cereal) – non-edible plant remains associated with cereal grain

processing.

- 7.2.5. Several charred seeds belonging to wild species were present; including ryegrass (*Lolium* sp) and meadow grass (*Poa* sp) – commonly found as ‘weeds’ growing amongst cereal fields. Charred goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp), sedges (*Carex* sp), cleavers (*Galium* sp) and docks (*Rumex* sp), species commonly found in open/cultivated/rough ground were also present.
- 7.2.6. Other plant remains present includes untransformed seeds of wild species also common in open/cultivated/rough ground. These comprise: curly leaved dock (*Rumex crispus*), knotgrass (*Polygonum* sp), goosefoot and legumes (Fabaceae), some of which were clover (*Trifolium* sp).
- 7.2.7. The quantity of charred macrofossils is not high enough for statistical significance and therefore provides limited insight into agricultural practices at the site. However, the presence of charred wild species and chaff suggests some form of early-stage crop processing or rubbish burning may have been taking place. The presence of emmer wheat proposes a deposit of early date, possibly Roman, aligning with the spot dating evidence.

Context Number	705	
Sample Number	1	
Sample Volume (L.)	40	
Context Description	Charcoal rich ditch fill	
Provisional Date	Roman	
	Flot	Residue
Weight after processing (g)		3470
Volume (ml)	160	2900
Geological component		ferrous
% modern roots	80	
Recommendations		
Notes		
CHARCOAL - Estimated abundance only		
>4mm	++	++++
2 - 4mm	++++	++++
<2mm	++++	
CHARRED PLANT REMAINS		
Cereal frags	+	+
Cereal	+	+
<i>Triticum sp</i>	+	+
<i>T. spelta</i>	+	+
<u><i>T.cf dicoccum</i></u>		+
Hordeum sp	+	
<i>Triticum sp - glume base</i>		+
Fabaceae		+
Lolium sp	+	
<i>Poa sp</i>		+
<i>Galium sp</i>	+	+
<i>Chenopodium sp</i>	+	
Carex sp	+	
Rumex sp	+	
SEEDS; OTHER PLANT		
MACROFOSSILS		
Chenopodium sp	+	+
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	+	
<i>Polygonum sp</i>	+	
Fabaceae	+	
<i>Trifolium ssp</i>	+	
INSECTS and other invertebrates - estimated abundance only		
	+	
BONE - estimated abundance and weight		+ 3.5g
POT - count and weight		+ (5g)
FIRE CLAY - estimated abundance and weight		+ (7.5g)
Fe OBJECT- count and weight		+ (12.5g) nails

Table 2 -Estimated abundance of remains in samples to estimated abundance: + = 1-10 items, ++=11-50; +++ =51-100; +++++ - >100.

8. Summary and Conclusions

- 8.1. A site on land to the north of Hill Farm, Duns Tew, Oxfordshire is proposed for redevelopment as a solar farm. The proposed works include the construction of photovoltaic solar panels and associated infrastructure including access, fencing and landscaping (planning reference: 20/00574/F)
- 8.2. Archaeological evaluation via a programme of trial trenching was undertaken at the site as a condition of granted planning consent. The works succeeded a programme of geophysical survey undertaken at the site in August 2019 (BONVOISIN ET AL. 2019).
- 8.3. A total of ten trial trenches were excavated across the site which covers an area c.14ha which currently lies under pasture. The trenches were positioned to investigate features identified in the results of the geophysical survey. The OASIS ID for the project is molastan-515076 (APPENDIX 2).
- 8.4. A small number of archaeological features were identified, investigated and recorded across the site. All features identified appeared to have been cut into natural geological deposits and remained largely unaffected (avoiding truncation) as a result of agricultural disturbance or modern agricultural processes to the overburden (i.e. ploughing). Several of these corresponded to anomalies identified on the geophysical survey and several others aligned with features of the ridge and furrow field system which extends across the entire site.
- 8.5. Features were predominantly focused in the west of the site and comprised linear features located within Trenches 7 and 8. Features identified and recorded elsewhere across the site in Trenches 3 and 5 corresponded to geological features likely glacial channels or run off channels from the brook to the north.
- 8.6. Finds recovered from features in Trenches 7 and 8 largely comprised pottery sherds, animal bone fragments and small fragments of fired clay. The pottery sherds were slightly abraded or abraded and are indicative of residual finds present in features of a later date.
- 8.7. The features in Trench 7 represent field system or boundary ditches of a Roman [704][708] and Post Medieval date [706]. A continuation of the Post Medieval field boundary was identified in Trench 8 [815]. Roman pottery sherds were recovered

from features [808], [810] and [812] in Trench 8. These features appear to be furrows pertaining to ridge and furrow field systems of a Medieval or Post Medieval date which appear to have truncated Roman features located beyond the extent of the trench and consequently contain residual Roman material.

8.8.No evidence was identifiable across the site of Iron Age activity relating to the 'clothes line' settlement identified on the geophysical survey to which the trenches were positioned to target, and was recorded in the evaluation undertaken on the adjacent site to the west.

8.9.Overall the evaluation provides a limited basis on which to form a general interpretation of past activity and land use across the site. The results of the geophysical survey were significant in determining the location of features but had limited significance in determining their nature in being of geological or archaeological origin. Evidence identified, investigated and recorded is indicative of a landscape manipulated for agricultural usage with possible small scale settlement and peripheral occupation activity in the mid-late Roman period which lies outside the extent of the trenches investigated. Subsequent agricultural activity at the site in the Medieval/Post Medieval period is evidenced in the form of ridge and furrow features.

9. Archive

9.1. The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 10 Trench Sheets
- ◆ 17 x Drawing Film
- ◆ 23 x Context Sheets
- ◆ 1 x Photographic Register

9.2. The finds archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x box artefacts as described in Section 6 (all materials).

9.3. The archive is to be deposited at Oxfordshire Museum Services.

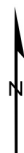
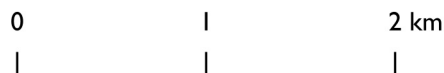
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FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site Location - General



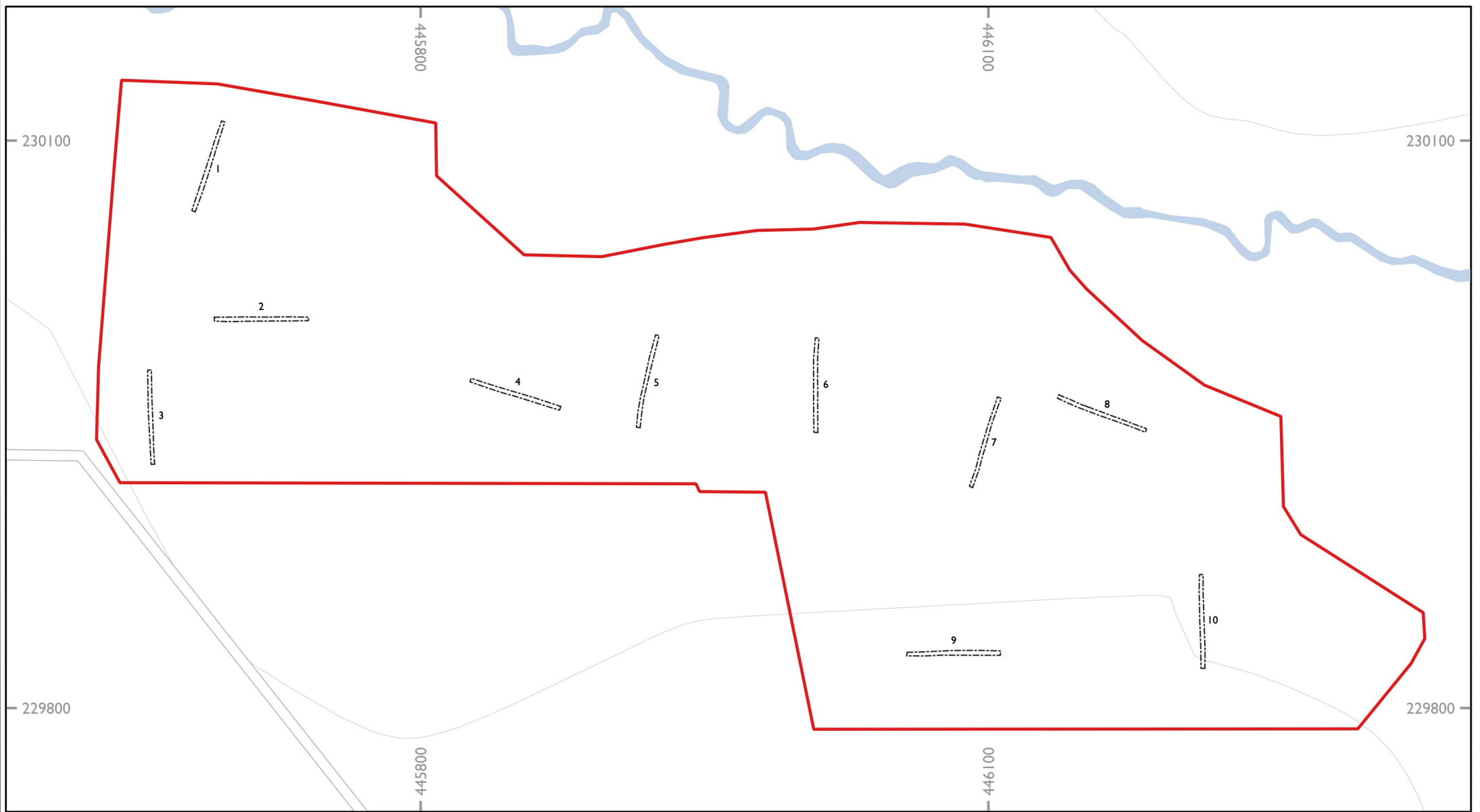
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
DESCRIPTION // Site Location

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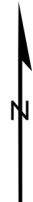
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FIGURE 2 // Site location - detail



-  Site redline
-  Excavated trench

0 50 m



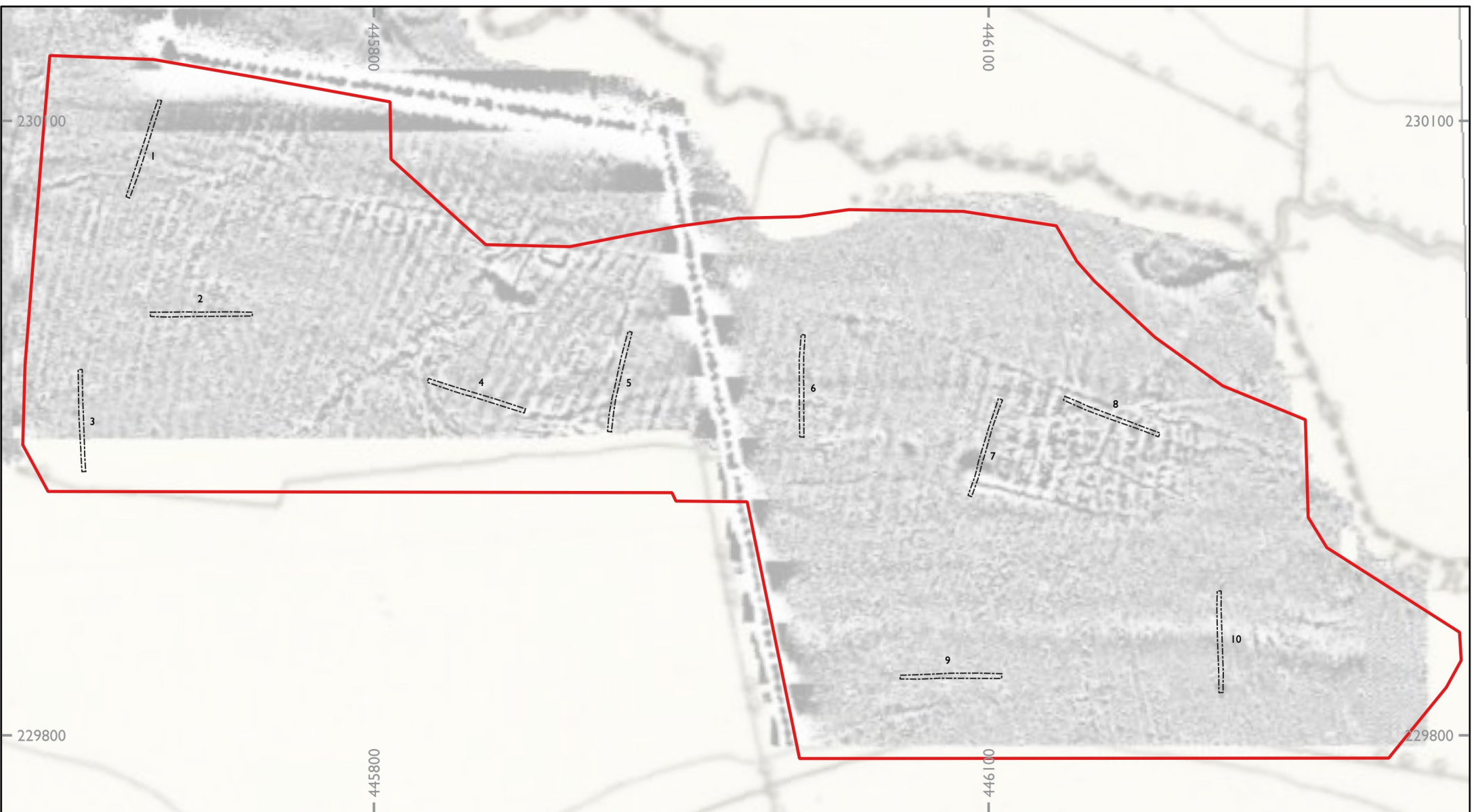
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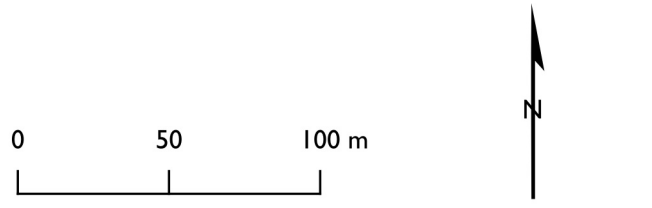
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FIGURE 3 // Trenches with greyscale geophysics



-  Site redline
-  Excavated trench



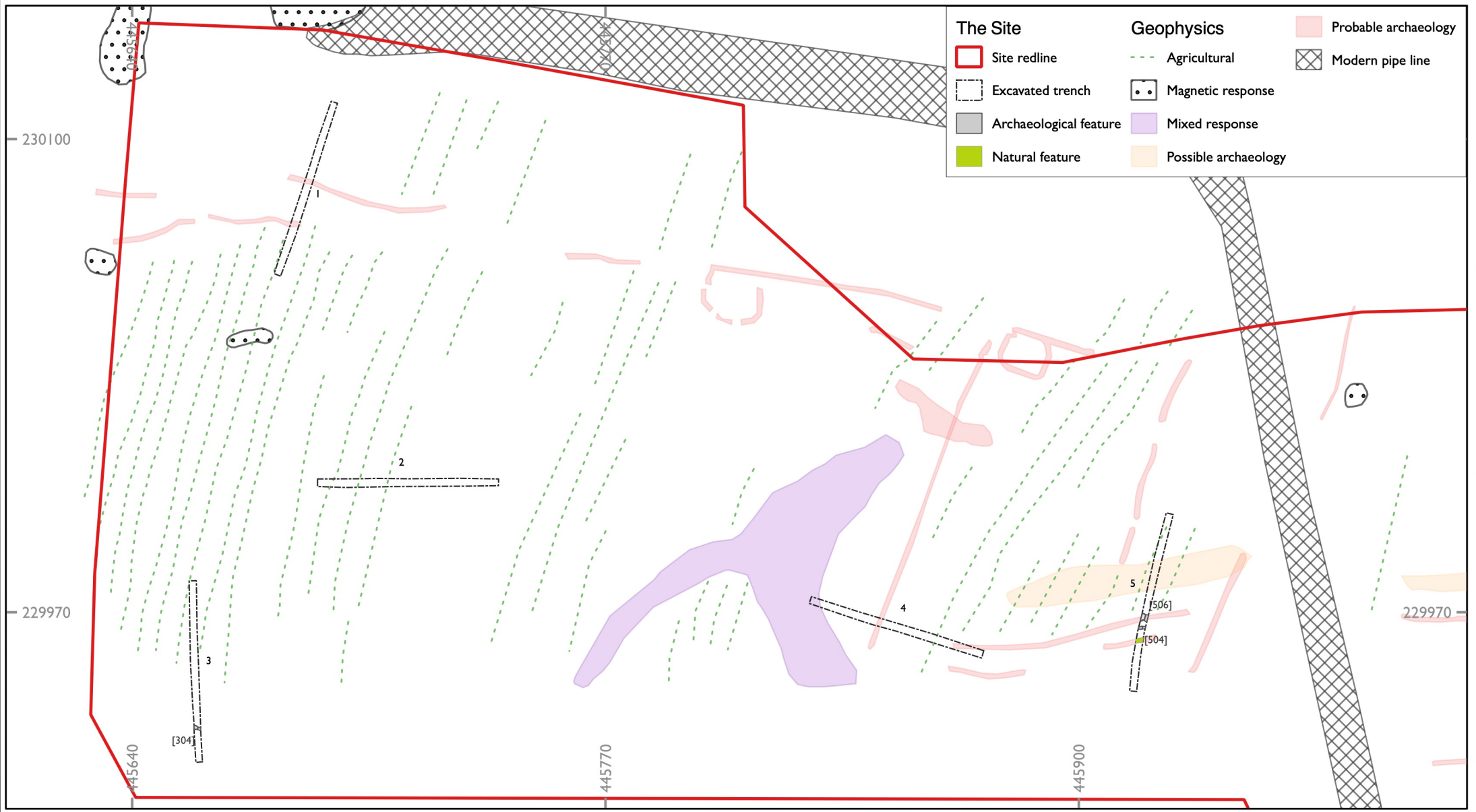
PROJECT // 4463E - Duns Tew, Bicester

DESCRIPTION // Trenches with greyscale geophysics

Interpreted geophysical survey results provided by South West Archaeology Ltd

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FIGURE 4 // Trenches 1-5 with interpreted geophysics



The Site		Geophysics		Probable archaeology	
	Site redline		Agricultural		Modern pipe line
	Excavated trench		Magnetic response		
	Archaeological feature		Mixed response		
	Natural feature		Possible archaeology		

0 50 m

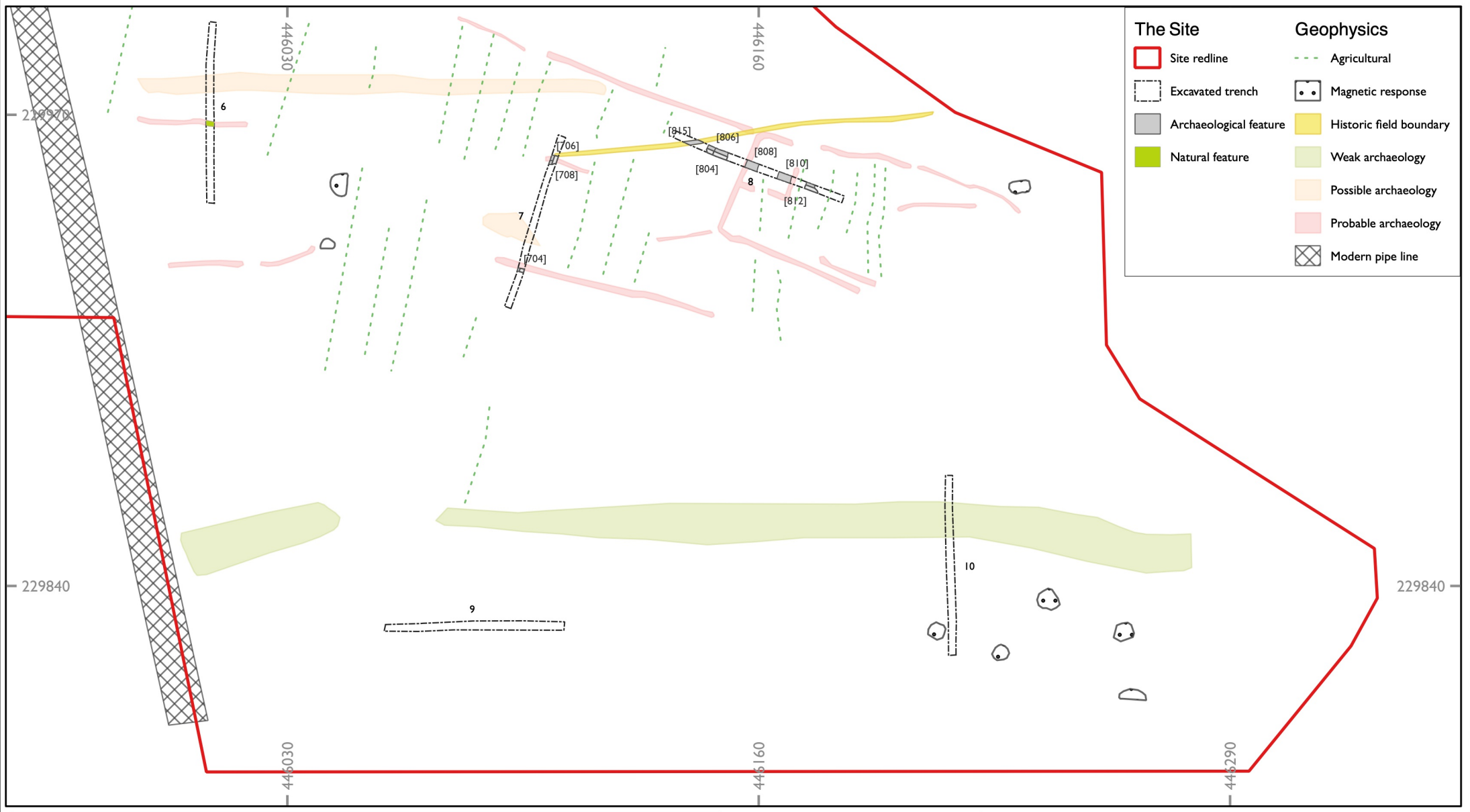
PROJECT // 4463E - Duns Tew, Bicester

DESCRIPTION // Trenches 1-5 with identified features and interpreted geophysics

Interpreted geophysical survey results provided by South West Archaeology Ltd

DOC REF: LP4463E-AER-v.1

FIGURE 5 // Trenches 6-10 with interpreted geophysics



The Site		Geophysics	
	Site redline		Agricultural
	Excavated trench		Magnetic response
	Archaeological feature		Historic field boundary
	Natural feature		Weak archaeology
			Possible archaeology
			Probable archaeology
			Modern pipe line

0 50 m

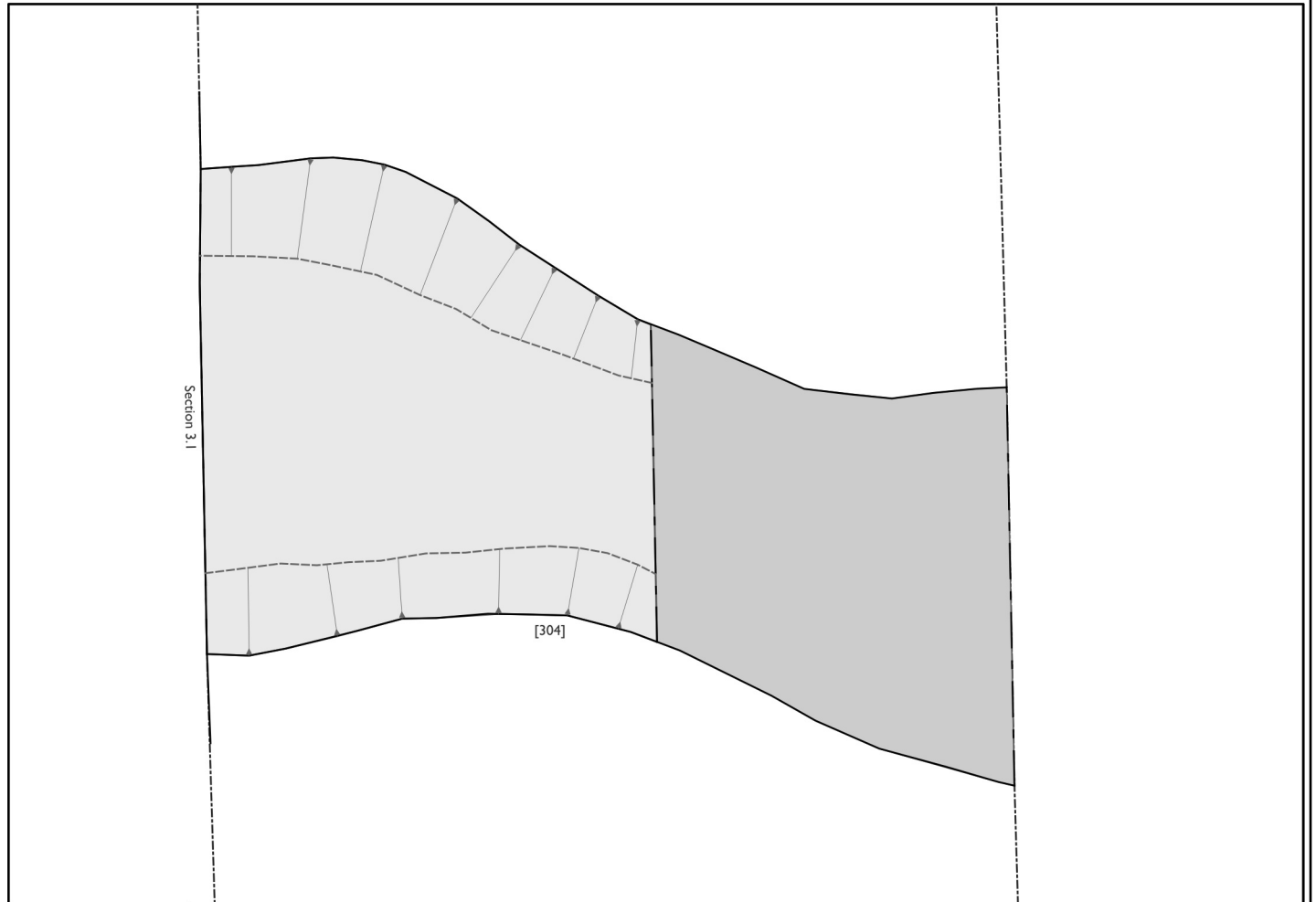
PROJECT // 4463E - Duns Tew, Bicester

DESCRIPTION // Trenches 6-10 with identified features and interpreted geophysics

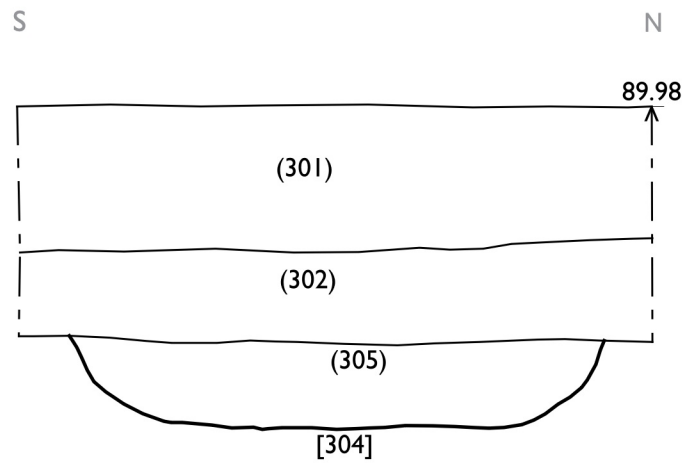
Interpreted geophysical survey results provided by South West Archaeology Ltd

DOC REF: LP4463E-AER-v.1

FIGURE 6 // Plan and Section of [304]



Section 3.1



0 0.5 m



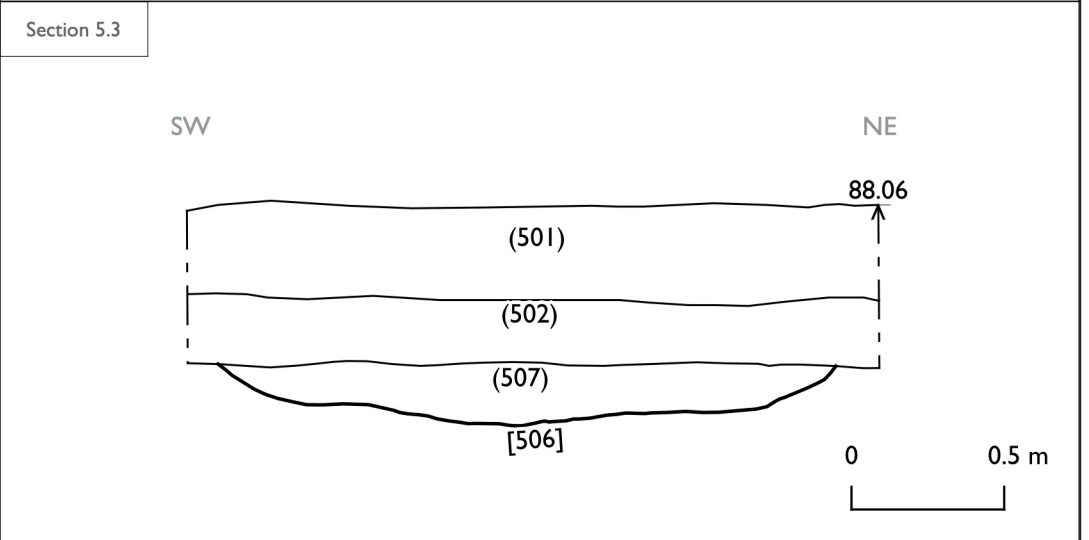
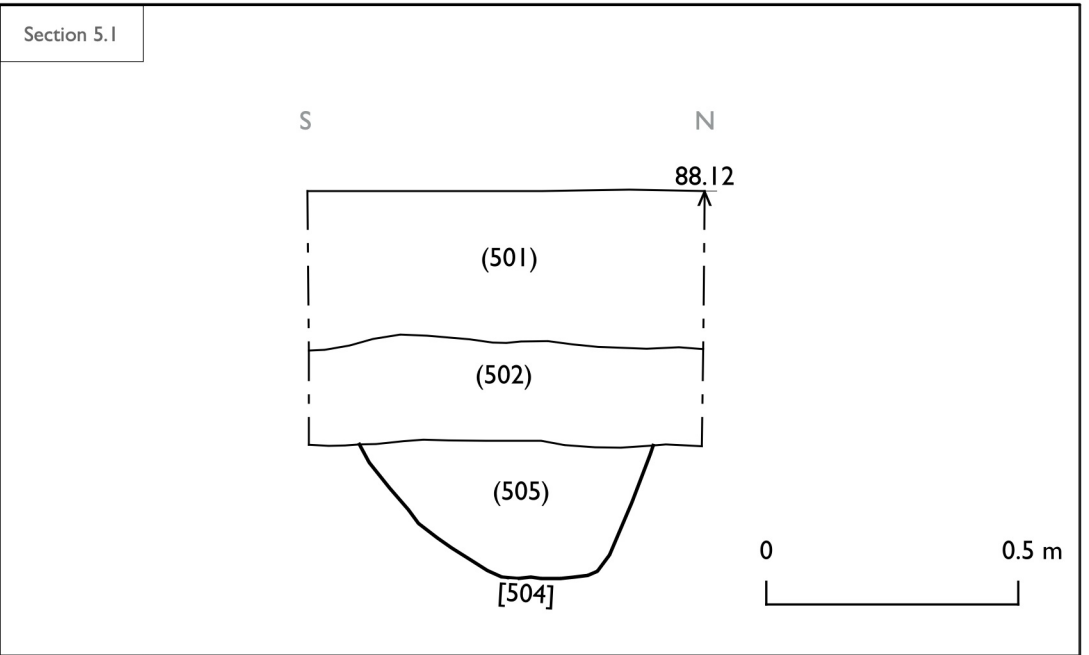
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


DESCRIPTION // Plan and Section of [304]

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FIGURE 7 // Plan and section of [504] and [506]



-  Trench boundary
-  Archaeological feature
-  Intervention



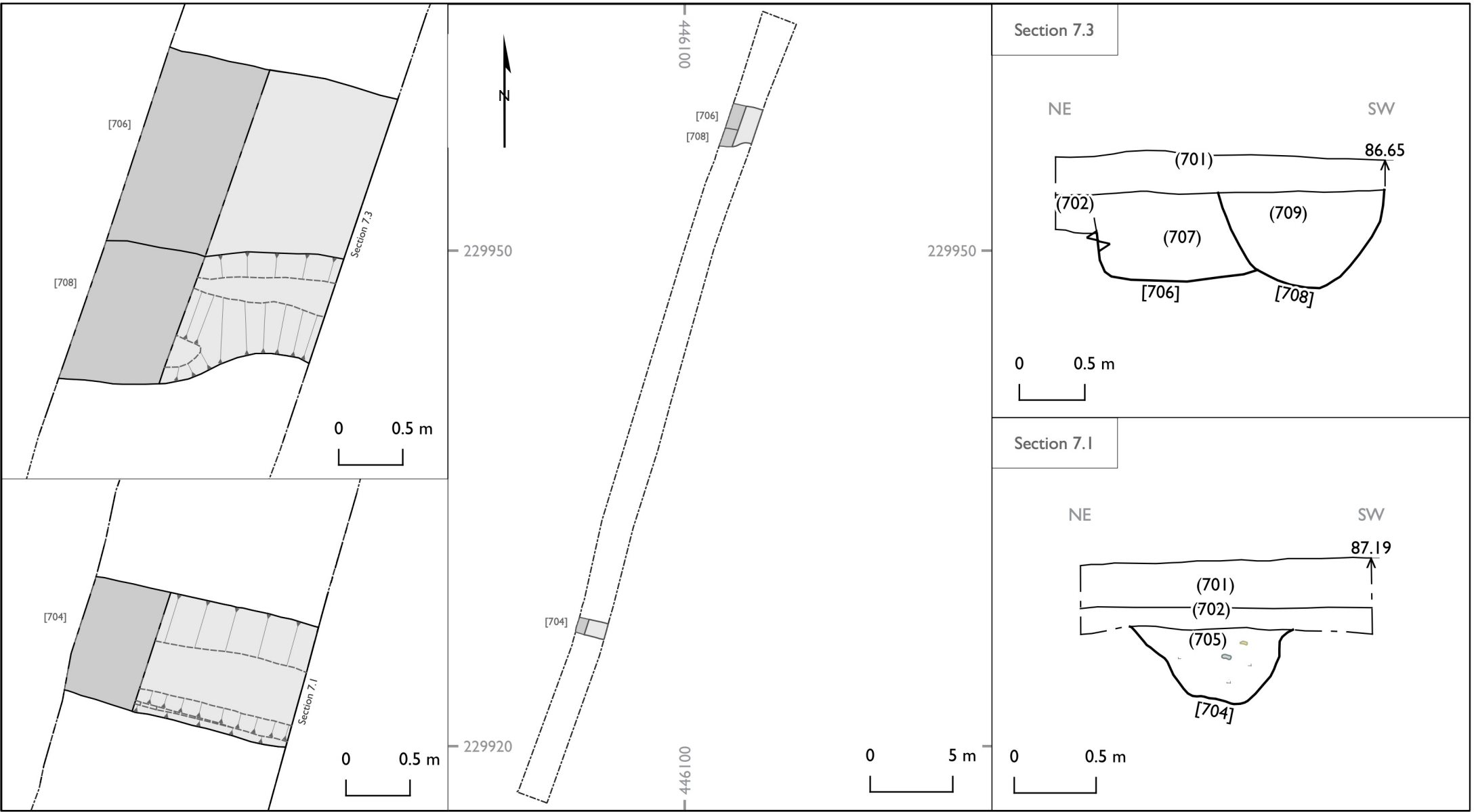
PROJECT // 4463E - Duns Tew, Bicester

DESCRIPTION // Plan and section of [504] and [506]

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FIGURE 8 // Plans and Sections of [704] and [706]/[708]



Trench boundary	Charcoal
Intervention	Pot
Archaeological feature	Stone

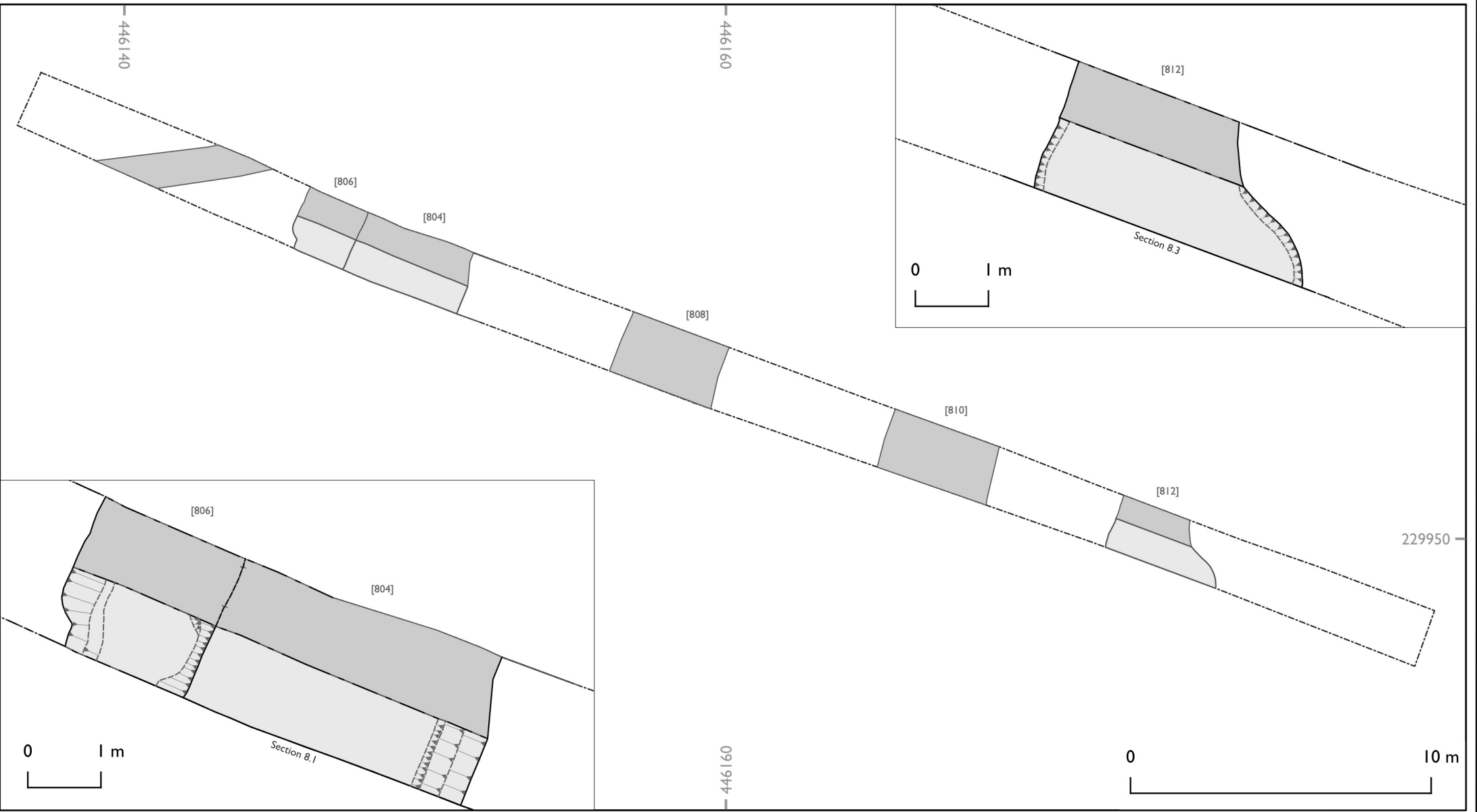
PROJECT // 4463E - Duns Tew, Bicester

DESCRIPTION // Plans and Sections of [704] and [706]/[708] with the location within Trench 7

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FIGURE 9 // Plan of Trench 8 with detail slots of [804]/[806] and [812]



Trench boundary

Archaeological feature

Intervention



PROJECT // 4463E - Duns Tew, Bicester

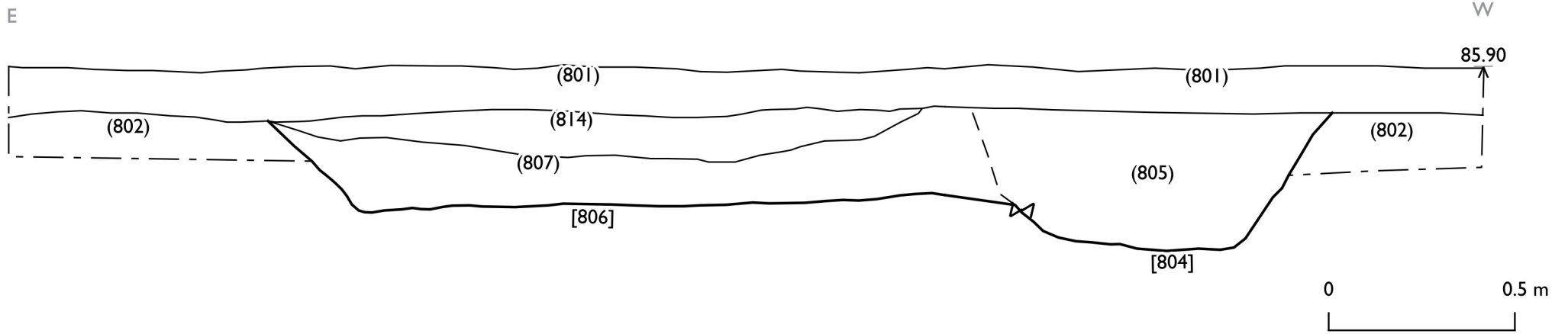
DESCRIPTION // Plan of Trench 8 with detail slots of [804]/[806] and [812]

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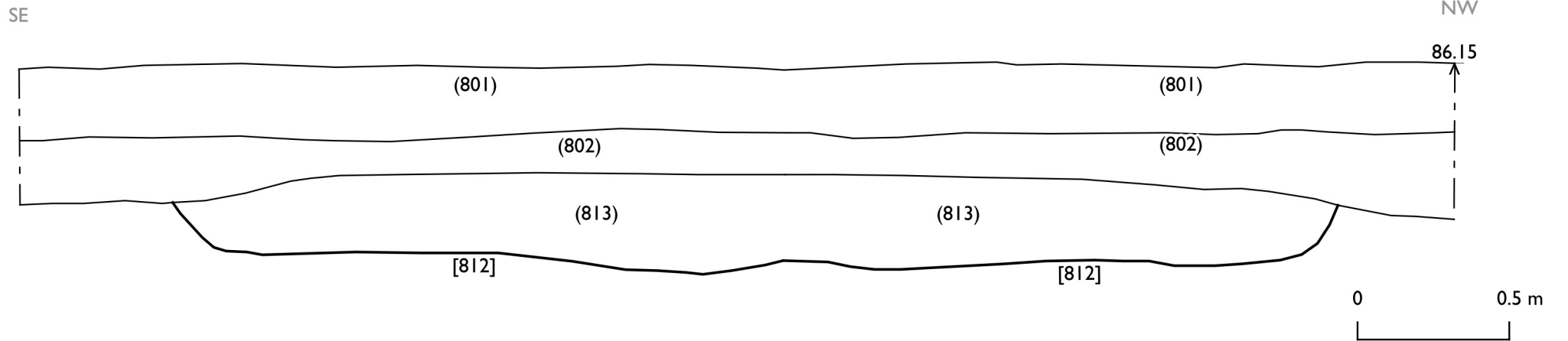
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FIGURE 10 // Section of [804]/[806] and [812]

Section 8.1



Section 8.1



PROJECT // 4463E - Duns Tew, Bicester

DESCRIPTION // Section of [804]/[806] and [812]

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DOC REF: LP4463E-AER-v.1

PLATES



Plate 1 - Linear feature [304] looking west. 1.0m scale.



Plate 2 - Linear feature [504] looking northwest. 0.5m scale.



Plate 3 - Feature [506] looking northwest. 1.0m scale.



Plate 4 - Linear feature [704] looking east. 1.0m scale.



Plate 5 - Linear feature [704] looking east. 1.0m scale.



Plate 6 - Linear feature [706] and field boundary [708] looking east. 2.0m scale.



Plate 7 - Linear feature [804] and furrow [806] looking southwest. 2.0m scale.



Plate 8 - Furrow [812] looking southwest. 2.0m scale.

TRENCH CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

APPENDIX I

Trench 1



Trench 1 looking southwest. 2m x 1m scales.

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	FINDS TYPE	DIMENSIONS (LXWXD/T)
(101)	Friable mid grey brown clayey silt overlain with turf	Topsoil	/	D = 0–0.31m
(102)	Firm mid orange sandy clay	Subsoil	/	D = 0.31-0.46m
(103)	Firm light brown orange and mid grey clay with iron panning with patches of firm mid brown red sandy clay	Natural	/	D = >0.46m

Trench 2



Trench 2 looking west. 2m x 1m scales.

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	FINDS TYPE	DIMENSIONS (LXWXD/T)
(201)	Friable mid grey brown clayey silt overlain with turf	Topsoil	/	D = 0-0.30m
(202)	Firm mid brown orange sandy clay	Subsoil	/	D = 0.30-0.45m
(203)	Firm dark brown orange sandy clay with frequent ironstone and patches of blue grey orange clay	Natural	/	>0.45m

Trench 3



Trench 3 looking north. 2m x 1m scales.

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	FINDS TYPE	DIMENSIONS (LXWXD/T)
(301)	Friable mid grey brown clayey silt overlain with turf	Topsoil	/	D = 0-0.32m
(302)	Firm mid orange brown silty clay	Subsoil	/	D = 0.32-0.52m
(303)	Firm mid orange grey brown clay with occasional ironstone and mudstone fragments	Natural	/	D = >0.52m
[304]	E-W orientated irregular linear in plan with sharp BOS (top), steep concave sides, sharp BOS (base) and an uneven base	Cut of geological feature	/	>1.80 x 1.10 x 0.17m
(305)	Firm mid orange brown sandy clay	Fill of geological feature	/	T = 0.17m

Trench 4



Trench 4 looking northwest. 2m x 1m scales.

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	FINDS TYPE	DIMENSIONS (LXWXD/T)
(401)	Friable mid grey brown clayey silt overlain with turf	Topsoil	/	D = 0- 0.29m
(402)	Firm mid brown orange sandy clay	Subsoil	/	D = 0.32-0.57m
(403)	Firm dark brown orange sandy clay with frequent ironstone and patches of blue grey orange clay	Natural	/	D = >0.57m

Trench 5



Trench 5 looking southwest. 2m x 1m scales.

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	FINDS TYPE	DIMENSIONS (LXWXD/T)
(501)	Friable dark grey brown clayey silt overlain with turf	Topsoil	/	D = 0-0.32m
(502)	Friable mid brown orange sandy clay	Subsoil	/	D = 0.32-0.53m
(503)	Firm light brown orange and mid grey clay with iron panning	Natural	/	D = >0.53m
[504]	E-W orientated linear in plan with sharp BOS (top), steep straight sides, sharp BOS (base) and a concave base	Cut of geological feature	/	>1.80 x 0.96 x 0.28m
(505)	Firm mid orange brown sandy clay	Fill of geological feature	/	T = 0.28m
[506]	E-W orientated linear in plan with sharp BOS (top), steep concave sides, sharp BOS (base) and a flat base	Cut of geological feature	/	>1.80 x 2.00 x 0.22
(507)	Firm mid red brown sandy clay	Fill of geological feature	/	T = 0.22m

Trench 6



Trench 6 looking north. 2m x 1m scales.

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	FINDS TYPE	DIMENSIONS (LXWXD/T)
(601)	Friable mid grey brown clayey silt overlain with turf	Topsoil	/	D = 0-0.30m
(602)	Friable mid brown orange sandy clay	Subsoil	/	D = 0.30-0.47m
(603)	Firm light brown orange and mid grey clay with iron panning	Natural	/	D = >0.47m

Trench 7



Trench 7 looking northeast. 2m x 1m scales.

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	FINDS TYPE	DIMENSIONS (LXWXD/T)
(701)	Friable mid grey brown clayey silt overlain by turf	Topsoil	/	D = 0-0.39m
(702)	Firm mid brown orange sandy clay	Subsoil	/	D= 0.39-0.49m
(703)	Firm light brown orange and mid grey clay with iron panning	Natural	/	D = >0.49m
[704]	E-W orientated linear in plan with sharp BOS (top), steep uneven sides, gradual BOS (base) and a concave base	Cut of linear feature	/	>1.80 x 0.98 x 0.47m
(705)	Firm dark grey brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks	Fill of linear feature [704]	Pottery	T = 0.47m
[706]	E-W orientated linear in plan with sharp BOS (top), steep straight sides, sharp BOS (base) and a flat base	Cut of linear feature. Possible geological in origin	/	>1.80 x 1.09 x 0.68m
(707)	Firm mid grey brown silty clay	Fill of linear feature [706]	/	T = 0.68m
[708]	E-W orientated linear in plan with sharp BOS (top), steep concave sides, sharp BOS (base) and a concave base	Cut of linear feature. Historic field boundary	/	>1.80 x 1.26 x 0.75m
(709)	Firm dark grey brown clayey silt mottled with light yellow grey clay	Fill of linear feature [708]	Pottery	T = 0.75m

Trench 8



Trench 8 looking southeast. 2m x 1m scales.

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	FINDS TYPE	DIMENSIONS (LXWXD/T)
(801)	Friable dark grey brown clayey silt overlain by turf	Topsoil	/	D = 0-0.40m
(802)	Friable mid brown orange sandy clay	Subsoil	/	D = 0.40-0.52m
(803)	Friable mid grey brown clayey silt	Natural	/	D = >0.52m
[804]	NE-SW linear in plan with gradual BOS (top), moderate straight sides, gradual BOS (base) and northwestwards sloping base	Cut of linear feature. Cuts [806].	/	>1.80 x 0.94 x 0.37
(805)	Firm mid grey brown clayey silt mottled with light yellow grey clay with severe root disturbance throughout	Fill of linear feature	/	T = 0.37m
[806]	NE-SW linear in plan with sharp BOS (top), moderate straight sides, sharp BOS (base) and a flat base	Cut of linear feature (furrow). Cuts [804].	/	>1.80 x 1.83 x 0.27m
(807)	Firm mid grey brown silty clay with mottled light blue yellow clay	Lower fill of furrow [806]	/	T = 0.27m
[808]	NE-SW orientated linear in plan with steep straight sides and a flat base	Cut of linear feature (furrow)	Pottery	>1.80 x 3.48 x 0.24m
(809)	Firm mid grey brown silty clay (fill number given for finds recovery)	Fill of furrow [808]	/	0.24m
[810]	NE-SW orientated linear in plan with steep straight sides and a flat base	Cut of linear feature	Pottery	>1.80 x 3.84 x 0.25m

(811)	Firm mid grey brown silty clay (fill number given for finds recovery)	Fill of furrow [810] /	0.25m
[812]	NE-SW orientated linear in plan with sharp BOS (top), steep straight sides, gradual BOS (base) and a flat base	Cut of linear feature /	>1.80 x 3.80 x 0.34m
(813)	Firm dark brown grey silty clay with occasional rooting throughout	Fill of linear feature [812] Pottery	0.34m
(814)	Firm dark grey brown clayey silt	Upper fill of furrow [806] /	0.12m

Trench 9



Trench 9 looking east. 2m x 1m scales.

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	FINDS TYPE	DIMENSIONS (LXWXD/T)
(901)	Friable dark grey brown clayey silt overlain by turf	Topsoil	/	D = 0-0.29m
(902)	Friable mid brown orange sandy clay	Subsoil	/	D = 0.29-0.54m
(903)	Firm light brown orange and mid grey clay with iron panning	Natural	/	D = >0.54m

Trench 10



Trench 10 looking south. 2m x 1m scales.

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION	FINDS TYPE	DIMENSIONS (LXWXD/T)
(1001)	Friable dark grey brown clayey silt overlain by turf	Topsoil	/	D = 0-0.30m
(1002)	Friable mid brown orange sandy clay	Subsoil	/	D = 0.30-0.52m
(1003)	Firm light brown orange and mid grey clay with iron panning	Natural	/	D = >0.52m

OASIS SUMMARY

APPENDIX 2

Summary for molastan1-515076

OASIS ID (UID)	molastan1-515076
Project Name	Evaluation at Land at Hill Farm, Duns Tew
Sitename	Land at Hill Farm, Duns Tew
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	LP4463E
Planning Id	20/00574/F
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	MOLA Stansted
Project Dates	15-May-2023 - 19-May-2023
Location	Land at Hill Farm, Duns Tew NGR : SP 45944 29978 LL : 51.966387259454166, -1.332681471299499 12 Fig : 445944,229978
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Oxfordshire District : Cherwell Parish : Duns Tew
Project Methodology	10 linear trial trenches measuring 50m by 1.8m were positioned to target geophysical survey anomalies as a condition of granted planning consent for the construction of a solar PV farm with associated access and landscaping.
Project Results	Several linear features were recorded several of which were found to be geological in origin and several of which were the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation strips which extend across the site. A single E-W orientated ditch containing pottery sherds was recorded and was clearly identifiable on the results of the geophysical survey. No evidence of a continuation of the Middle Iron Age 'clothes line' settlement recorded adjacent to the west of the site was identified.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Oxfordshire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Alice, Short
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums Service;