

## APPENDIX 11B

### Interpretation of Aerial Photographs for Archaeology

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## **Bicester Eco Town, Oxfordshire**

### **PART 2: The Exemplar Site**

Interpretation of Aerial Photographs for Archaeology

October 2010

# Bicester Eco Town, Oxfordshire

## PART 2: The Exemplar Site

### Interpretation of Aerial Photographs for Archaeology

**Client Name:** Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd

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### APPENDIX

<b>Appendix 1</b>	Aerial Photographs Consulted at English Heritage National Monuments Record (EH NMR)
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### PLANS

<b>Plan 1</b>	Bicester Eco Town PART 2: The Exemplar Site Location of the Study Area  (0802/07) October 2010 CC
<b>Plan 2</b>	Bicester Eco Town PART 2: The Exemplar Site Sites identified from aerial photographs  (0802/08) October 2010 CC

## SUMMARY

- S1 This interpretation of aerial photographs was prepared by Chris Cox at Air Photo Services Ltd on behalf of Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd in October 2010. The work was commissioned to support the assessment of the potential impact of a proposed development on cultural heritage assets within the proposed Bicester Ecotown development site. The development site is split into two parts, the Exemplar Site, which is a small area in the north east of the development site, and the rest of the site, which is referred to as the Whole Site
- S2 The report contains two parts, of which this is Part 2 and assesses the Exemplar Site (**Plan 1 0802/07**). Part 1 of the report is concerned with the Proposed Development Site, which comprises the Exemplar Site and the Whole Site.
- S3 The Exemplar Site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 578 254, near Caversfield to the north west of Bicester in Oxfordshire, UK. It comprises c. 3.5 ha of agricultural land and lies within the north east portion of the Proposed Development Site. The Exemplar Site lies on limestone substrates which give rise to well drained calcareous soils and has been ploughed and used for agriculture. Calcareous soils and substrates are free draining and thus conducive to the formation of crop marks, where cereal and other crops grow more vigorously over buried ditches and pits, or less well over banks and metalled surfaces if these features are present within or below the topsoil.
- S4 The object of this aerial photographic interpretation was to provide information on the location and nature of any archaeological features or areas of archaeological potential visible on existing aerial photographs within the Exemplar Site.
- S5 Aerial photographs taken between the 1946 and the present day were examined in the library of the English Heritage National Monuments Record (EH NMR), the Oxfordshire Heritage Environment Record (OHER) and online at Google Earth (timelines between 1999 and 2010) and Multimap.co.uk (Getmapping, 1999). Photographs were examined by Chris Cox and Rog Palmer. Data supplied by the NMR Monuments Reports the OHER, Ordnance Survey (OS) and mapping and data supplied by the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983).
- S6 The Exemplar Site contains fragmentary buried ditches and natural geological features which show as marks in crops over a small part of its area.
- S7 It lies adjacent to other crop marked sites which indicates probable occupation in the Prehistoric and Romano-British periods, and to areas of Medieval farming and settlement features.
- S8 This assessment has added features to the known resource in this area. These data have been derived from oblique and vertical aerial photographs which have not been previously interpreted in detail for archaeological purposes.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This interpretation of aerial photographs was prepared by Chris Cox at Air Photo Services Ltd on behalf of Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd., in October 2010.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned to support the assessment of the potential impact of a proposed development on cultural heritage assets within the site.
- 1.3 The object of this aerial photographic interpretation was to provide information on the location and nature of any archaeological features or areas of archaeological potential visible on existing aerial photographs within the study area and its environs.
- 1.4 It is important to note that aerial photographs usually only show part of the horizontal and vertical extent of buried features. Their capacity to reveal features as vegetation marks, soil marks or upstanding features depends upon a number of environmental and agricultural factors prevalent at the time of photographic survey. The appearance of marks in crops over buried features is also governed by a complex interaction of land use, soil type, weather and other factors (Riley 1980, Wilson 1982 and 2000).
- 1.5 Air Photo Interpretation (API) data thus acts as a starting point for ground-based investigations, which may reveal further details of the date and nature of the deposits which are initially identified from the air.

## 2 THE STUDY AREA

### Location

- 2.1 The Exemplar Site is located near Caversfield to the north-west of Bicester in Oxfordshire, UK and is centred at NGR SP 578 254.
- 2.2 **Plan 1** (0802/07) shows the location of the Exemplar Site, which comprises agricultural land.
- 2.3 The Exemplar Site has been observed on aerial photographs under arable cultivation (bare soil, growing crops and ripe crops) with some smaller areas under grass, on aerial photographs taken between 1946 and the present day.

### Geology and Soils

- 2.4 The Exemplar Site lies on limestone substrates, which are particularly conducive to the formation of marks in crops over more humic, moisture retentive, buried features. These substrates give rise to well drained calcareous soils which are conducive to the formation of marks in vegetation and crops in times of drought over the sites of buried features. These soils are equally suitable for the cultivation of cereals or pasture and were attractive to past settlers due to the well drained soil and fertile environment.
- 2.5 The soil in the Exemplar Site is classified by the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983) as the Aberford type soil association (511a).

### Archaeology

- 2.6 The areas to the south and north of, but outside the boundaries of, the Exemplar Site contain recorded archaeological assets. These comprise a buried eroded ring ditch (OHER 13907) and curvilinear and rectilinear enclosures (HER 15958). There is also recorded evidence for prehistoric, Iron Age, Romano-British, Medieval, Post-Medieval and Modern military sites in the immediate environs. The Exemplar Site does not contain any previously recorded archaeological features. There are also built heritage assets (OHER 18643) to the south of the Exemplar Site and Bignall House and its gardens lie over 2km to the south-west of the Exemplar Site. The Exemplar site has been subject to an archaeological and built heritage Desk-based assessment (Wylie 2010) which contains more detailed information on the archaeological background of the site
- 2.7 This assessment aimed to identify and clarify the nature and extent of features visible on aerial photographs within the Exemplar Site.



### **3 ARCHAEOLOGY FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS**

#### **The Role of Aerial Photographic Interpretation**

- 3.1 Air photo interpretation provides an overview of landscape history and changes in land use. It provides informed guidance for subsequent desk and ground-based investigations and complements cartographic and documentary research.
- 3.2 Some information gained from aerial photographs cannot easily be detected by other means. Aerial photographs provide a chronologically documented and seasonal overview of a landscape and sites and features within it. The interpretation of contemporary and archival aerial photographs is thus an important component of multi-disciplinary archaeological investigation.
- 3.3 Interpretation of aerial photographs allows the accurate mapping of archaeological sites or natural features recorded as crop, grass or vegetation marks (caused by the differential growth of plants over buried features); soil marks (caused by differences in soil colour over ploughed buried features) and shadows cast by upstanding earthworks and features seen in relief.

#### **Limitations of the Data**

- 3.4 Aerial photographic evidence is limited by seasonal, agricultural, meteorological and environmental factors which affect the extent to which either buried or upstanding archaeological features can be detected. It is thus advantageous to examine a range of photos taken under a variety of environmental conditions in order to build up a comprehensive interpretation of the archaeological landscape. The visibility of archaeological features may differ from year to year, and be obscured by differential depths of soil or differing types of vegetation. Individual photographs often record only a small percentage of the actual extent of buried or upstanding features.

#### **Relevance in this case**

- 3.5 In this case, the range of aerial photographs available for interpretation was comprehensive, both seasonally and chronologically. It is obvious from the range of available aerial images that the area around Bicester has been surveyed and examined from the air by specialist archaeological surveyors, and also covered in full over many decades by vertical aerial surveys for non-archaeological purposes.

## **4 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS: Types and Sources**

### **Types**

- 4.1 Two types of aerial photograph are used for archaeological interpretation. Vertical aerial photographs are taken for general-purpose survey using a camera mounted inside a modified aircraft. The aircraft is flown on a pre-planned set of overlapping flight-lines which cover the survey area completely. The camera points straight towards the ground. The vertical viewpoint provides aerial photographic coverage from a fixed scale and constant 180° angles at the centre of each frame. The overlap between the areas covered by each consecutive frame is usually 60%. This overlap between frames enables the photo interpreter to study each pair of vertical photos under a stereoscope.
- 4.2 The stereoscope combines the two images to allow the interpreter to see one three-dimensional image of the ground surface. Vertical aerial photographs carry inherent distortions introduced by variations in perspective and ground height, but are essentially 'map-like' in appearance. They are generally taken for non-archaeological, civil and military purposes and form the basic data from which most modern maps are compiled. Vertical aerial photographs are a very useful source of archaeological data, particularly in areas where features survive as earthworks.
- 4.3 Oblique aerial photographs are taken using a hand held camera by an aerial archaeologist to portray features which have been identified during specialist survey. These photos are extremely useful, but contain inherent perspective distortions, which must be accounted for in rectification and mapping procedures. In this case, both vertical aerial photographs, and specialist obliques which are taken with a hand held camera by an archaeological surveyor, were available for interpretation.

### **Sources of Data**

#### **English Heritage National Monuments Record (EH NMR)**

- 4.4 National Monuments Record (NMR) Centre, English Heritage, Kemble Drive, Swindon, Coversearch number 53316. Vertical and oblique photographs dating from 1946 to 1996 provided a primary source of data for the assessment. Photographs held at OHER were also consulted. The oblique photos in the OHER are also held in the NMR, but the OHER also hold vertical aerial photographs taken in 1961 (FAS), 1981 and 1991 (Geonex).
- 4.5 The ortho-rectified mosaics of vertical aerial photographs provided by Bluesky, the GeoInformation Group, Getmapping plc and TeleAtlas were consulted online for this assessment in September and October 2010 and included all available timelines.

## 5 INTERPRETATION AND MAPPING METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 All photographs were interpreted in accordance with the client's brief for works at this site and Palmer & Cox (1993).
- 5.2 The photographs were closely examined, under 1.5x and 4x magnification and interpreted with the aid of a mirror stereoscope where appropriate, or in detail on screen when consulted as digital files.
- 5.3 Photographs which were selected for mapping were scanned and ortho-rectified using AirPhoto 3.41 software to a 1:2500 scale surveyed OS digital map base. The resulting rectified files were then imported to AutoCad as geo-tiff files and the accurate positions of all visible archaeological features were mapped as a separate digital layer.
- 5.4 All control point mismatch values between the map and the photographs fell below 2.0 m, which lies within the stated accuracy of OS mapping at 1:2500 scale.
- 5.5 Printed maps are presently scaled to fit the appropriate paper size for illustration. They are also provided digitally for accurate scaling as required by the client, for import to a Geographic Information System (GIS) in Drawing Exchange Format release 12 (DXF 12).

## 6 RESULTS

- 6.1 The Exemplar Site lies on limestone, in an area where surrounding fields show extensive evidence for 'patterned ground', other buried periglacial features and cracking and jointing in the underlying rocks (Stephens 1990). These features show as marks in the crops alongside marks caused by buried ditches and pits which show the position of eroded archaeological sites.
- 6.2 The area to the immediate south of the Exemplar Site contains extensive evidence for buried enclosures, ditches and pits which indicates the presence of a probable Prehistoric or Romano-British settlement or farmstead site. This, and other sites in the vicinity, are detailed in Part 1 of this report and lie within the Whole Site.
- 6.3 All sites within or adjacent to the Exemplar Site are illustrated in **Plan 2** (0802/08). It is not possible to accurately date these sites without reference to excavated dating material. AP1, described below, lies partially within the Exemplar Site.

<b>AP Site</b>	AP 1, <b>Plan 2</b> (0802/08)
<b>NGR</b>	SP 576 254
<b>Location</b>	Partially within Exemplar Site at Caversfield
<b>Site type</b>	Ditches and enclosure
<b>OHER</b>	NA
<b>DBA</b>	NA
<b>Photo references</b>	75/312 031, 68/252 017, 94-214 005 – 007, SP 5724/1 & 2

### Description

The Exemplar Site contains evidence for fragmentary ditches and possible ditched enclosures. These are heavily masked by natural geological features and show as marks in crops on vertical aerial photographs. The focus of these features is a buried ditched sub rectangular enclosure which lies to the immediate south of the Exemplar Site, outside its boundary. These features are all eroded and buried and are visible only via marks in crops where the plants grow more vigorously over the buried ditches in times of drought.

There is also a sub-rectangular area of deeper soil which may be a place where local quarrying has been undertaken for stone extraction, then filled in when worked out. The majority of the Exemplar Site contains no further visible archaeological features.

- 6.4 Other sites lie to the south, north and west of the Exemplar Site. These comprise the upstanding remains of a Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) over 250m to the northeast of the Proposed Development Site (AP 2), eroded and upstanding remains of Medieval fields to the immediate west and northwest of the Exemplar Site, partially within the Whole Site (AP 3) and an area of complex crop marked enclosures, ditches and pits at AP 4, to the south and west of the Exemplar Site, within the Whole Site.

## 7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The Exemplar Site contains evidence for anomalies in the top and sub soils caused by periglacial features and jointing in the underlying limestone which show as marks in crops. These features underlie evidence for archaeological ditches, enclosures and pits the majority of which lie just outside the boundary of the Exemplar Site, ad some fragmentary features which are visible within one portion of the Exemplar Site..
- 7.2 The crop marked features which lie within the Exemplar Site are not as apparently complex nor as extensive as the features which lie outside the Exemplar Site to the south in the Whole Site.
- 7.3 The visible archaeological features within the Exemplar Site comprise fragmentary ditches which may be associated with an enclosure which lies just outside the boundary of the Exemplar Site (0802/08), within the Whole Site.
- 7.4 The Exemplar Site is separated from the remains of the DMV at Caversfield by Caversfield House and its grounds, which lies to the north and outside of the Proposed Development Area. There are no visible traces of Medieval settlement features within the Exemplar Site from the aerial photographs.
- 7.5 The majority of the Exemplar Site contains no visible crop marked archaeological features beyond the fragmentary ditches illustrated at **Plan 2** (0802/08). Its proximity to other buried archaeological sites, which lie within the Whole Site, may be considered when determining any potential for archaeological deposits within the Exemplar Site.

## 8 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Soil Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 6, South East England. 1:250000 scale.

Palmer R & Cox C, 1993	<i>Uses of Aerial photography in Archaeological Evaluations</i> IfA Technical Paper 12. IfA Reading
Riley DNR, 1980	<i>Early Landscape from the Air</i> . Sheffield
Stephens N (ed), 1990	<i>Natural Landscapes of Britain from the Air</i> Cambridge
Wilson DR 1982 and 2000	<i>Air Photo Interpretation for Archaeologists</i> London 1 <sup>st</sup> Ed 1982 and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed 2000, Stroud
Wylie, 2010	<i>Bicester Ecotown – Exemplar Site Desk-based Assessment</i> . Hyder Consulting, unpublished client report. report no. 0505-UA001881-UE31-R-01

## APPENDIX 1

### Aerial Photographs Consulted at English Heritage National Monuments Record (EH NMR)

ENGLISH HERITAGE : NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD

Air Photographs

Customer oblique listing - Obliques, Standard Order

Customer enquiry reference number: 53316

Photo reference (NGR and Index number)	Film and frame number	Original number	Date	Film type		Map Reference (6 figure grid ref)
SP 5724 / 1	NMR 4634 / 05		02 JUN 1990	Black& white	70mm,120,220	SP 573248
SP 5724 / 2	NMR 4634 / 06		02 JUN 1990	Black& white	70mm,120,220	SP 573248



ENGLISH HERITAGE : NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD

Air Photographs

Full single listing - Verticals, Standard order

Customer enquiry reference: 53316

Sortie number	Library number	Camera position	Frame number	Held	Centre point	Run	Date	Sortie quality	Scale 1:	Focal length (in inches)	Film details (in inches)
RAF/CPE/UK/1897	562	RP	3152	P	SP 566 257	4	12 DEC 1946	AB	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/CPE/UK/1897	562	RP	3153	P	SP 574 258	4	12 DEC 1946	AB	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/CPE/UK/1897	562	RS	4152	P	SP 570 242	10	12 DEC 1946	AB	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/CPE/UK/1897	562	RS	4153	P	SP 578 243	10	12 DEC 1946	AB	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/CPE/UK/1897	562	RS	4319	P	SP 581 241	12	12 DEC 1946	AB	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/CPE/UK/1897	562	RS	4320	P	SP 575 240	12	12 DEC 1946	AB	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
RAF/CPE/UK/1897	562	RS	4321	P	SP 569 240	12	12 DEC 1946	AB	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5
FSL/6125	1118A	V	12109	P	SP 562 224	43	1961	A	8000	6	Black and White 9 x 9
FSL/6125	1118A	V	12110	P	SP 569 224	43	1961	A	8000	6	Black and White 9 x 9
FSL/6125	1118A	V	13114	P	SP 567 251	46	1961	A	8000	6	Black and White 9 x 9

FSL/6125	1118A	V	13115	P	SP 574 251	46	1961	A	8000	6	Black and White 9 x 9
FSL/6125	1118A	V	13116	P	SP 581 251	46	1961	A	8000	6	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/73252	10419	V	76	P	SP 569 249	1	06 JUN 1973	A	7700	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/73252	10419	V	77	P	SP 576 249	1	06 JUN 1973	A	7700	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/73252	10419	V	78	P	SP 583 249	1	06 JUN 1973	A	7700	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/66042	11626	V	35	P	SP 565 252	5	29 APR 1966	A	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/66042	11626	V	36	P	SP 574 251	5	29 APR 1966	A	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/66042	11626	V	37	P	SP 579 252	5	29 APR 1966	A	7500	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/68252	11632	V	16	P	SP 568 250	2	05 JUL 1968	A	6400	6	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/68252	11632	V	17	P	SP 572 247	2	05 JUL 1968	A	6400	6	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/68252	11632	V	18	P	SP 576 243	2	05 JUL 1968	A	6400	6	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/75312	12174	V	31	P	SP 576 243	1	05 JUL 1975	A	10600	6	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/84243	12669	V	1024	P	SP 575 249	5	26 NOV 1984	A	10000	6	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/84243	12669	V	1025	P	SP 575 258	5	26 NOV 1984	A	10000	6	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/94214	14692	V	5	P	SP 570 256	1	28 JUN 1994	A	6500	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/94214	14692	V	6	P	SP 570 250	1	28 JUN 1994	A	6500	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/94214	14692	V	7	P	SP 570 245	1	28 JUN 1994	A	6500	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/94214	14692	V	28	P	SP 579 247	2	28 JUN 1994	A	6500	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/94214	14692	V	29	P	SP 579 252	2	28 JUN 1994	A	6500	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/94214	14692	V	30	P	SP 579 258	2	28 JUN 1994	A	6500	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/96633	15201	V	77	P	SP 570 255	2	15 JUN 1996	A	7900	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/96633	15201	V	78	P	SP 575 255	2	15 JUN 1996	A	7900	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/96633	15201	V	79	P	SP 580 255	2	15 JUN 1996	A	7900	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/96634	15202	V	50	P	SP 579 245	2	15 JUN 1996	A	7900	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/96634	15202	V	51	P	SP 574 245	2	15 JUN 1996	A	7900	12	Black and White 9 x 9
OS/96634	15202	V	52	P	SP 569 245	2	15 JUN 1996	A	7900	12	Black and White 9 x 9

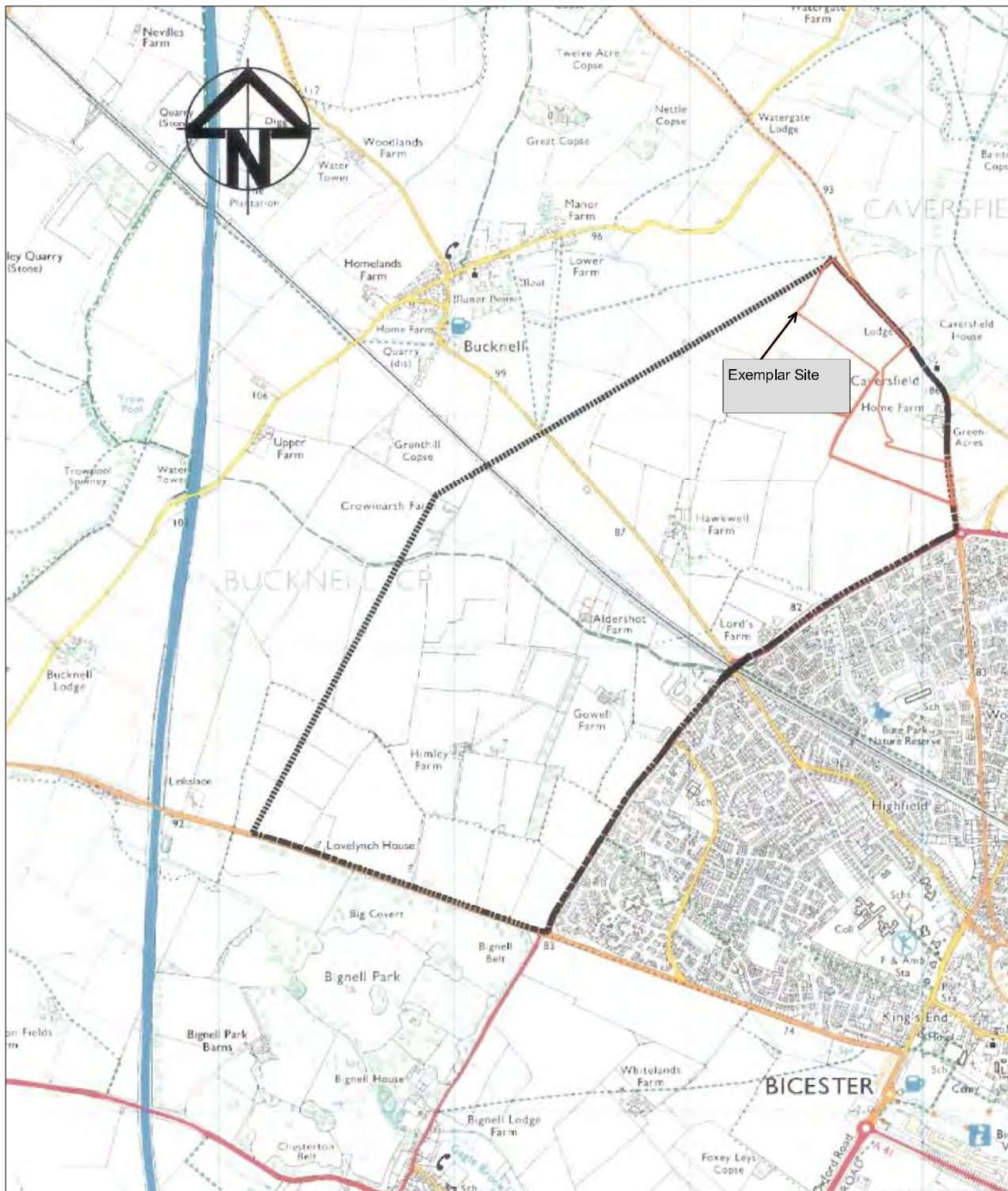
## **PLANS**

**Plan 1**      Bicester Eco Town PART 2: The Exemplar Site  
Location of the Study Area

**0802/07   October 2010   CC**

**Plan 2**      Bicester Eco Town PART 2: The Exemplar Site  
Sites identified from aerial photographs

**0802/08   October 2010   CC**



**Drawing Title** | PLAN 1 Bicester Eco Town PART 2: The Exemplar Site  
Location of the Study Area

**Client** | Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd

**Project** | Bicester Eco Town

**Plan no** | 0802/07

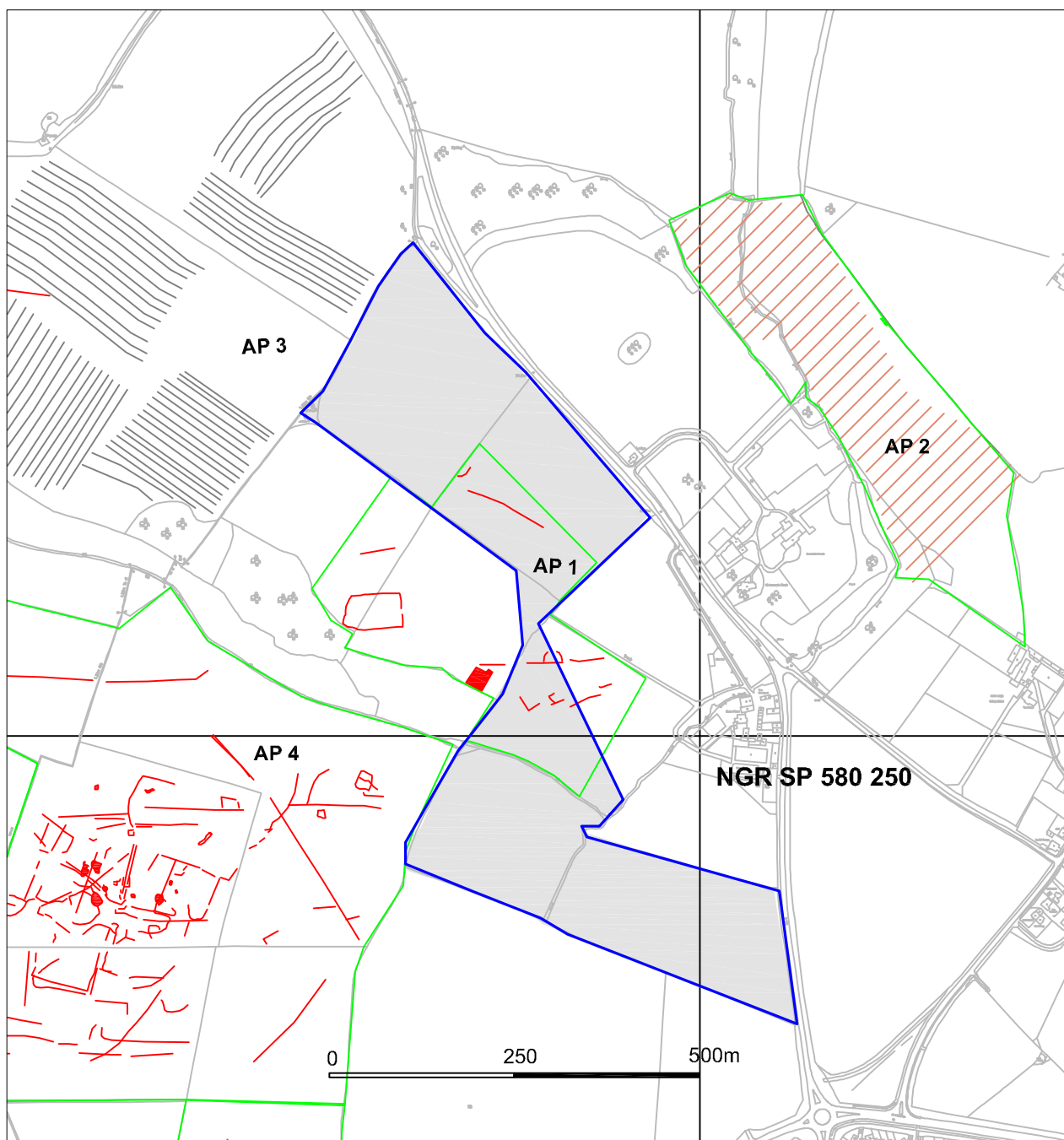
**Scale** | NA

**Date** | 10 2010 cc



The Proposed Development Site

The Exemplar Site



**Drawing Title** | **PLAN 2 Bicester Eco Town PART 2: The Exemplar Site**  
**Sites identified from aerial photographs**

**Client** | Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd

**Project** | Bicester Eco Town

**Plan no** | 0802/08

**Scale** | As shown

**Date** | 10 2010 cc

- The Exemplar Site
- AP site polygons
- AP 1 AP site numbers referred in the text
- Buried features which show as marks in crops
- Areas of Medieval ploughing (ridge and furrow)
- Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) at Caversfield

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## APPENDIX 11C

### Archaeological Evaluation Report

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# Bicester Eco Town Exemplar Site Caversfield Oxon



## Archaeological Evaluation Report

oxfordarchaeology  
  
southsouthsouth  
October 2010


**Client: Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd**

Issue No: 1  
OA Job No: 4841  
NGR: SP 5788 2520





Client Name: Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd  
Client Ref No:  
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Document Type: Evaluation Report  
Issue/Version Number: 1  
Grid Reference: SP 5788 2520  
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OA Job Number: 4841  
Site Code: BIECO 10  
Invoice Code: BIECO EV  
Receiving Museum: Oxfordshire County Museum Service  
Museum Accession No: OXCMS:2010.65  
Event No:

Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Signature
1	Brian Dean Project Officer	Andrew Norton Senior Project Manager	Alan Hardy Senior Project Manager	

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Illustrated by Markus Dylewski

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## **Bicester Eco Town Exemplar Site, Caversfield, Oxon**

### *Archaeological Evaluation Report*

*Written by Brian Dean*

*and illustrated by Markus Dylewski*

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## **Summary**

*Between 6th and 24th September 2010, Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) completed a programme of archaeological evaluation at Home Farm, Bicester on behalf of Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd. A total of 70 trenches measuring 50 m x 2 m were excavated accounting for 4% of the 21 ha site.*

*Only six trenches contained features worthy of further investigation. These features were all linear and varied in orientation and dimensions. The features were recorded and interpreted as possible agricultural ditches, but with the caveat that they were ambiguous and could equally be natural features. The fills of the excavated features bore a marked resemblance in colour, composition and compaction to the natural geology observed in low-lying areas of the site, and towards the southern limit of the site. No finds were recovered.*

*The results suggest that the exemplar site lies in an area devoid of significant archaeological activity.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 The site lies to the north-west of Bicester and is bounded by Home Farm and the B4100 to the north and east, and farmland to the south and west (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 Richard Oram (OCC) issued a brief (OCC 2010) detailing the archaeological requirements of the work, and OAS produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining how those requirements would be met (OA 2010). The evaluation comprised 70 trenches measuring 50 m x 2 m, which represents 4% of the site (Fig. 2). Areas of saplings, manure storage areas and streams could not be evaluated.
- 1.1.3 Because of the presence of livestock the site was split into two areas (A and B), with the trenches within Area A being fully recorded and backfilled before commencing work in Area B.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies at approximately 85.7 m OD and the underlying geology is cornbrash. The site is currently agricultural land and comprises c. 21 ha. The majority of the land is currently utilised as grazing land for livestock with only a single field (eastern field in Area A) used for crops.
- 1.2.2 The natural geology within the northern part of the site comprises limestone, and the geology within the southern part of the site comprises sandy clay with limestone patches.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site is described in the brief (OCC 2010) and is summarised below.
- 1.3.2 There has been no previous archaeological investigation within the proposed site but several recorded monuments lie close by.
- 1.3.3 Aerial photographs show a series of rectangular enclosures 400 m to the south-west of the proposed site. These are likely to be Iron Age in origin, and associated with a settlement recorded in advance of the construction of a housing estate at Slade Farm,
- 1.3.4 The 10th- or 11th-century Church of St Lawrence lies to the north-east of the site and a post-medieval fishpond survives to the south of the church. A Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) is recorded at Caversfield to the east of the exemplar site.
- 1.3.5 Home Farm is a listed 17th-century farmhouse and lies to the south of the church and east of the site.

### 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Jenny Wylie of Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd and Richard Oram of Oxfordshire County Council for their help and advice throughout the work. Thanks are also extended to Mr and Mrs Phipps, the landowners, for their assistance during the works. The fieldwork was directed by the author who was assisted by Kevin Moon, John Boothroyd and Gemma Stewart.



## 2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains.
- 2.1.2 To identify any prehistoric remains and any settlement associated with the Church of St Lawrence and Caversfield DMV.
- 2.1.3 To make available the the results of the work.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 Prior to excavation all trenches were scanned with a CAT to identify any unrecorded services. Excavation was carried out by a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a 2 m wide toothless ditching bucket. All mechanical excavation was undertaken under direct archaeological supervision.
- 2.2.2 All undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin was removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon (the natural geology), in successive, level spits.
- 2.2.3 Following mechanical excavation, all areas of the trench that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Recording took place in accordance with the OA fieldwork manual (Wilkinson 1992).

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented as a written description of the features and deposits observed. An index of all trenches is also presented in tabular form (Appendix 1).

### 3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 All deposits appeared to be undisturbed by modern activity, although truncation through ploughing cannot be ruled out. The natural geology comprised cornbrash in the north of the site, and a sandy silt deposit in the south of the site and in lower lying areas. The area was free-draining and the water-table was not encountered at any point during the evaluation. The natural geology was overlain by a buried ploughsoil averaging 0.06 m in depth, which was overlain by 0.3 m of topsoil (Figs. 3-7). Sections 4001 and 6701 (Fig. 7) are not located on a trench plan but are designed to be representative of the soil sequence in the southern fields (Trenches 40 and 67).

### 3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Six of the seventy trenches contained features worthy of further investigation. The limited possible archaeological deposits were not exclusive to specific area or topology.

### 3.4 Trenches in Area A

- 3.4.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3) contained a NE-SW aligned linear feature with irregular sides and base running across the width of the trench. The feature (103) was 1.1 m wide by 0.32 m deep. The fill (104) was a homogeneous mid orangey brown silty sand. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit.
- 3.4.2 Trench 30 (Fig. 4) contained a N-S aligned linear feature with irregular sides running across the width of the trench. The feature (3003) was 1.16 m wide by 0.13 m deep. The fill (3004) was a homogeneous mid orangey brown sandy silt. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit. As with the deposit observed in Trench 1 (104) the fill appeared very similar to the natural deposits in the south of the site.

### 3.5 Trenches in Area B

- 3.5.1 Trench 47 (Fig. 5) contained a NW-SE aligned wide linear feature with an irregular base. The feature (4703) measured 2.7 m wide by 0.34 m depth and extended across the width of the trench. The fill (4704) was a homogeneous mid reddish brown sandy clay. No artefacts were recovered from this fill.
- 3.5.2 Trench 52 (Fig. 6) contained a NW-SE aligned linear feature with an uneven base and irregular sides. This feature (5203) measured 2.5 m width by 0.27 m depth and extended across the width of the trench. The fill (5204) was a homogeneous mid reddish brown clayey sand.
- 3.5.3 Trench 53 (not illustrated) contained a shallow linear feature oriented N-S. The feature (5303) measured 1.96 m width by 0.12 m depth and extended across the width of the trench. The fill (5304) was a homogeneous mid reddish brown sandy clay. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit, which was most likely a natural hollow.
- 3.5.4 Trench 54 (Fig. 7) contained a linear feature with irregular sides and base oriented NE-SW. The feature (5402) measured 2.4 m width by 0.36 m depth and extended across



the width of the trench. The fill (5403) was a homogeneous mid orangey brown silty sand. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit.

### **3.6 Finds summary**

- 3.6.1 Only a single feature contained any artefactual evidence. Fill 5204 (Trench 52) contained two fragments of eroded animal bone. These fragments were retrieved from the top of the fill deposit and may be intrusive and result from ploughing activity.
- 3.6.2 Modern metalwork was noted in Trenches 50 and 53. Each trench contained a single item recovered from the bottom of the topsoil and in both cases the items were iron pins from modern agricultural machinery.

## 4 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The trenches represented a fair sample of the available site (4%) and were located in such a manner as to maximise the probability of exposing archaeological deposits. The trenches targeted different topologies within the site allowing clear characterisation of the area.

### 4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The general aims of the evaluation were to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits and to assess the extent, condition, character, quality and date of these remains. The specific aims of this evaluation were to identify any Prehistoric remains and any settlement associated with the Church of St Lawrence and Caversfield DMV.
- 4.2.2 These aims were met with the results being that a low density of possible archaeological deposits were observed. Dating was not available for any feature excavated.

### 4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 A total of six features were investigated in the process of this evaluation programme. Five were linear in nature and were located in a dispersed pattern across the site, one feature was most likely a natural hollow.
- 4.3.2 Two features were located in Area A. Both were linear in plan but excavation revealed them to have irregular shallow sides with uneven bases. It is possible that these represent ditches despite the diffuse nature of the cuts. The areas in which these 'ditches' were located were relatively flat, which leaves them more open to be interpreted as anthropogenic in nature though natural action cannot be ruled out with confidence.
- 4.3.3 In Area B three trenches contained possible archaeological deposits. Feature 5402 was a wide linear with an undulating base. The sides were relatively steep and regular but the north-western edge was markedly undercut. This may suggest water action having an affect on the geology. The two remaining features investigated were no less ambiguous. Features 4703 and 5203 were both wide and linear in plan. Again both had irregular sides and uneven bases. The base of 5203 was markedly undulating and its profile was a rounded 'W' in shape. This appears to represent geological formation rather than anthropogenic activity. With the exception of 5303 all the linear features examined in area B ran in the direction of the prevailing slope and this may add weight to their interpretation as natural/geological features in the landscape.
- 4.3.4 Evidence of geological variation was observed during the excavation of trenches in the southern field (Trenches 56-70). Isolated limestone patches and larger areas of sandy silt were observed. The consistency, compaction and colour of the sandy silt was similar to the 'fills' of the linear features, and as such a geological interpretation is more likely.
- 4.3.5 A very shallow N-S oriented linear was also excavated but not drawn (5303; Trench 53). The depth and profile was indicative of a furrow but as no other furrows were observed throughout the evaluation, it was determined that this was a natural hollow.



#### **4.4 Significance**

- 4.4.1 The results of the evaluation suggest no archaeological activity in the area of the exemplar site. No convincing evidence was recovered that could link any activity in this area with any of the monuments to the north-east or to the evidence for field systems to the south-west. This may mean that activity in this site was limited to agrarian practices that did not result in the partitioning of the land. Given the nature of the geology it is unlikely that drainage construction would have been necessary as the area is very quick draining.
- 4.4.2 The archaeological evidence is not significant and any construction is unlikely to disturb significant archaeological features.



## APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench contained a single linear feature (103) oriented NE-SW which cut the natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)		0.42
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
100	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-	
101	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-	
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	
103	Cut	1.1	0.32	Cut of linear	-	-	
104	Fill	1.1	0.32	Fill of linear			

Trench 2							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)		0.24
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
200	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-	
201	Layer	-	0.02	Subsoil	-	-	
202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 3							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)		0.35
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
300	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-	
301	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-	
302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	



Trench 4						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.49
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
400	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.19	Subsoil	-	-
	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 5						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.26
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
500	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 6						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.32
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
600	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 7		
<b>General description</b>		<b>Orientation</b>
		N-S



Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
700	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-	
701	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-	
702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 8							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
800	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-	
801	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-	
	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 9							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)		0.28
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
900	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-	
901	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-	
902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

<b>Trench 10</b>						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	N-S	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.34	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2	





					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1000	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

<b>Trench 11</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.35
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1100	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
1101	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-
1102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

<b>Trench 12</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.32
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1200	Layer	-	0.29	Topsoil	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.03	Subsoil	-	-
1202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

<b>Trench 13</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.32
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						



context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1300	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
1301	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-
1302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 14							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)		0.22
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1400	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil	-	-	
1401	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-	
1402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 15							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)		0.36
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1500	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-	
1501	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-	
1502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 16							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)		0.34
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1600	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-	



1601	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
1602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 17							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)		0.28
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1700	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-	
1701	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-	
1702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 18							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
					Avg. depth (m)		0.27
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.							
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1800	Layer	-	0.19	Topsoil	-	-	
1801	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-	
1802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 19							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)		0.42
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1900	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-	
1901	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-	
1902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	



Trench 20						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.52
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2000	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
2001	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-
2002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 21						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.32
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2100	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
2101	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
2102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 22						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.24
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2200	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-
2201	Layer	-	0.01	Subsoil	-	-
2202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 23						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W



Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)		0.34
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
2300	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil	-	-	
2301	Layer	-	0.03	Subsoil	-	-	
2302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 24							
General description  Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Orientation		N-S
					Avg. depth (m)		0.36
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
2400	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-	
2401	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-	
2402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 25							
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Orientation		NE-SW
					Avg. depth (m)		0.33
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		43.5
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
2500	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-	
2501	Layer	-	0.03	Subsoil	-	-	
2502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 26						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	N-S	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.37	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	2	



					Length (m)	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2600	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
2601	Layer	-	0.03	Subsoil	-	-
2602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

<b>Trench 27</b>						
<b>General description</b>					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2700	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2701	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-
2702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

<b>Trench 28</b>						
<b>General description</b>					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)	0.28
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2800	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
2801	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
2802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

<b>Trench 29</b>						
<b>General description</b>					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
<b>Contexts</b>						



context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2900	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
2901	Layer	-	0.02	Subsoil	-	-
2902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 30						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained a single linear feature (3003) oriented N-S which cut the natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3000	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
3001	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
3002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
3003	Cut	1.16	0.13	Cut of linear	-	-
3004	Fill	1.16	0.13	Fill of linear	-	-

Trench 31						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)	0.43
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3100	Layer	-	0.37	Topsoil	-	-
3101	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
3102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 32						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)	0.27
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						



context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3200	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
3201	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-
3202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

**Trench 33**

General description					Orientation		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)		0.32
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
3300	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-	
3301	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-	
3302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

**Trench 34**

General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)		0.36
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
3400	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-	
3401	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-	
3402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

**Trench 35**

General description					Orientation		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)		0.47
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
3500	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-	





3501	Layer	-	0.09	Subsoil	-	-
3502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 36							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)		0.44
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
3600	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-	
3601	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-	
3602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 37							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)		0.32
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
3700	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-	
3701	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-	
3702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 38							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)		0.28
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
3800	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-	
3801	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-	
3802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	



Trench 39						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.32
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3900	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
3901	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
3902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 40						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.24
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4000	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
4001	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
4002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 41						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.32
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4100	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
4101	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
4102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 42						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W



Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)		0.26
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
4200	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-	
4201	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-	
4202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 43							
General description					Orientation		NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural mid-dark orangey brown, clayey sand.					Avg. depth (m)		0.32
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
4300	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-	
4301	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-	
4302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 44							
General description					Orientation		N-S
					Avg. depth (m)		0.34
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash to the north with a mid-dark orangey brown, clayey sand towards the southern quarter.							
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
4400	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-	
4401	Layer	-	0.09	Subsoil	-	-	
4402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 45		
General description	Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural mid-dark orangey brown, clayey sand.	Avg. depth (m)	0.35
	Width (m)	2



					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4500	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
4501	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
4502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

<b>Trench 46</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural mid-dark orangey brown, clayey sand.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.46
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4600	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
4601	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil	-	-
4602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

<b>Trench 47</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Contained a single linear feature (4703) oriented NW-SE which cut the natural cornbrash. The natural deposit had an increase in clayey sand towards the lower eastern end.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.3
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4700	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
4701	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
4702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4703	Cut	2.7	0.34	Cut of linear	-	-
4704	Fill	2.7	0.34	Fill of linear	-	-

<b>Trench 48</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.3
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2



					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
4800	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-
4801	Layer	-	0.03	Subsoil	-	-
4802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

<b>Trench 49</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.34
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
4900	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-
4901	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-
4902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

<b>Trench 50</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural mid-dark orangey brown, clayey sand.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.51
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
5000	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-
5001	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-
5002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

<b>Trench 51</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.28
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						



context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5100	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
5101	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-
5102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

**Trench 52**

General description					Orientation		N-S
Trench contained a single irregular wide linear feature (5203) oriented E-W which cut the natural mid-dark orangey brown, clayey sand.					Avg. depth (m)		0.36
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
5200	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-	
521	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-	
5202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	
5203	Cut	2.5	0.27	Cut of linear	-	-	
5204	Fill	2.5	0.27	Fill of linear	A. Bone	-	

**Trench 53**

General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench contained a shallow furrow (5303) oriented N-S which cut the natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)		0.42
					Width (m)		0
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
5300	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-	
5301	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-	
5302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	
5303	Cut	1.96	0.09	Cut of furrow	-	-	
5304	Fill	1.96	0.09	Fill of furrow	-	-	

**Trench 54**

General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench contained a single wide linear feature (5402) oriented NW-SE which cut the natural cornbrash.				Avg. depth (m)		0.3
				Width (m)		2



					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5400	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
5401	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
5402	Cut	2.4	0.36	Cut of linear	-	-
5403	Fill	2.4	0.36	Fill of linear	-	-
5404	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

<b>Trench 55</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.38
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5500	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
5501	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
5502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

<b>Trench 56</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural mid-dark orangey brown, clayey sand. Natural becomes stonier towards the western end of the trench where there is a break in slope.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.25
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5600	Layer	-	0.19	Topsoil	-	-
5601	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
5602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

<b>Trench 57</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural cornbrash containing bands of mid-dark orangey brown, clayey sand.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.27
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2



					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
5700	Layer	-	0.7	Topsoil	-	-
5701	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-
5702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

<b>Trench 58</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural mid-dark orangey brown, clayey sand. A stonier band up to 6 m wide was noted towards the SE end of the trench.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.42
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
5800	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
5801	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
5802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

<b>Trench 59</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash. Natural becomes sandier towards the north of the trench.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.24
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
5900	Layer	-	0.19	Topsoil	-	-
5901	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
5902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

<b>Trench 60</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural mid-dark orangey brown, clayey sand with stonier material present throughout.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.27
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						





context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6000	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
6001	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-
6002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 61						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)	0.41
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
					-	-
					-	-
					-	-

Trench 62						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash. Relatively large component of sandy silt within the natural matrix within this trench.					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6200	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
6201	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
6202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 63						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash.					Avg. depth (m)	0.24
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6300	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-



6301	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-
6302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 64							
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural cornbrash with bands of sandy silt present at intervals along the length of the trench.					Orientation		N-S
					Avg. depth (m)		0.28
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
6400	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-	
6401	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-	
6402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 65							
General description  Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash with a high component of sandy silt.					Orientation		E-W
					Avg. depth (m)		0.42
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
6500	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-	
6501	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-	
6502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 66							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a mid-dark orangey brown, sandy silt.					Avg. depth (m)		0.38
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
6600	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-	
6601	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-	
6602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	



Trench 67						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural mid-dark orangey brown, sandy silt. Irregular patches of stonier cornbrash were observed along length of the trench.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.29
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6700	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
6701	Layer	-	0.09	Subsoil	-	-
6702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 68						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash with occasional bands of mid-dark orangey brown sandy silt.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.28
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6800	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-
6801	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-
6802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 69						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash with frequent bands of mid-dark orangey brown sandy silt.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.36
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6900	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
6901	Layer	-	0.11	Subsoil	-	-
6902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 70						
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General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural cornbrash with frequent bands of mid-dark orangey brown sandy silt.					Avg. depth (m)		0.36
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
7000	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-	
7001	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-	
7002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	



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## APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OA, 2010 Bicester Eco Town, Caversfield, Oxon, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation, unpublished OA client report

OCC, 2010 Bicester Eco Town Exemplar Site, Caversfield, Design Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation, OCC unpublished report

Wilkinson, D (ed.), 1992 Fieldwork Manual, OAU unpublished report



## APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Bicester Eco Town Exemplar Site, Caversfield, Oxon

**Site code:** BIECO 10

**Grid reference:** SP 5788 2520

**Type:** Evaluation

**Date and duration:** 6/9/10 - 24/9/10

**Area of site:** 21 ha

**Summary of results:** A total of 70 trenches were excavated comprising 4% of the overall site. Of these five trenches contained features thought to require further investigation. The features excavated were all linear in plan but were found to be, at best, ambiguous in nature. The features were recorded in writing, plan and section as well as being recorded photographically in both colour and black and white.

The work allowed insight as to the topography of the site and of the natural formations observed in the area.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS:2010.65.



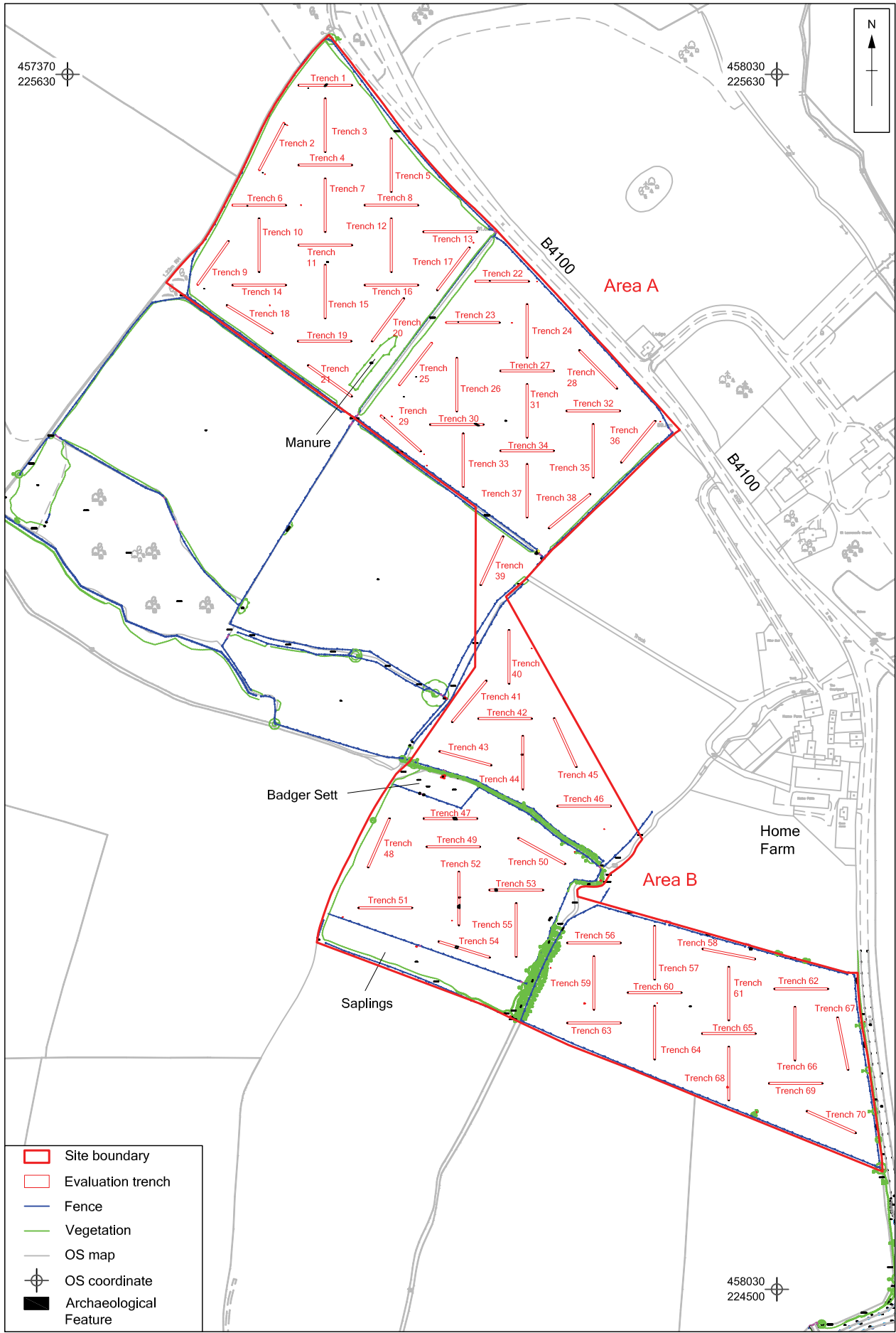
Reproduced from the Landranger 1:50,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office  
© Crown Copyright 1997. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 100005569

Figure 1: Site location





Server go:/baupubs1\_AtoH\*BIECO10\*BIECOEV\*Bicester Eco Town\*MD\*04.10.10

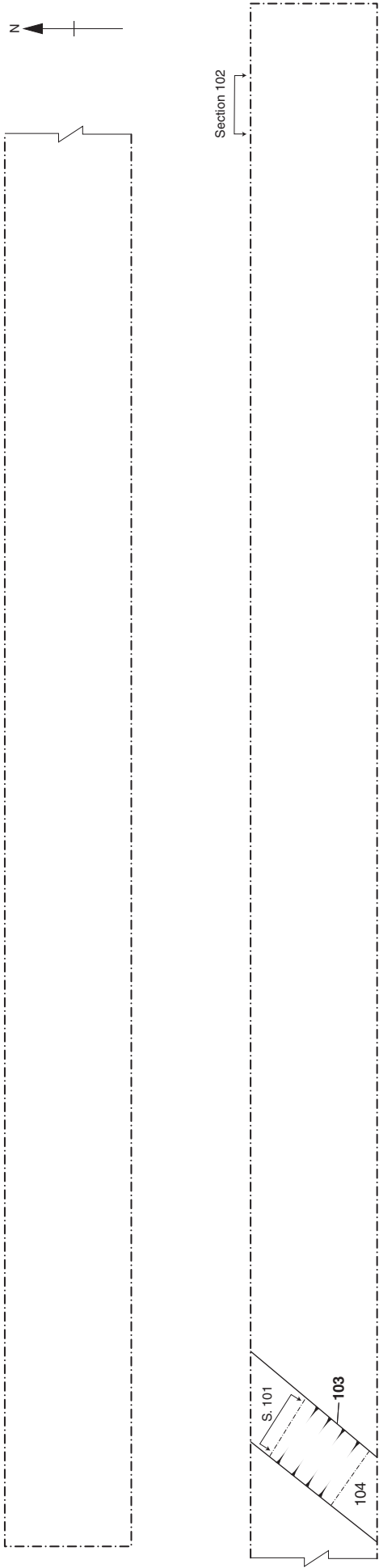


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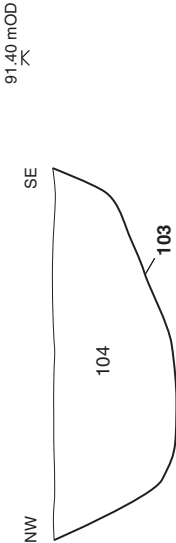
Figure 2: Trench plan



Trench 1  
Plan 101



Section 101



Section 102

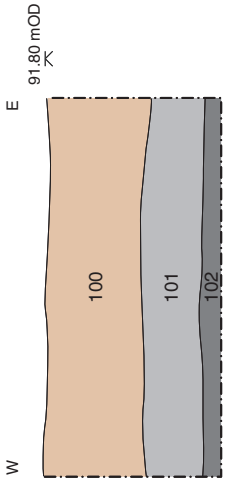
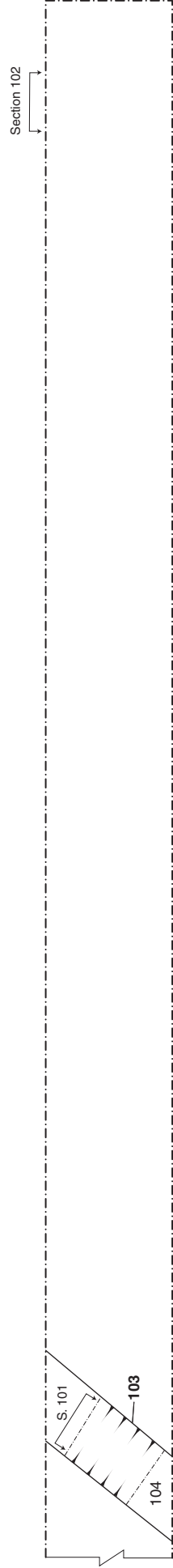


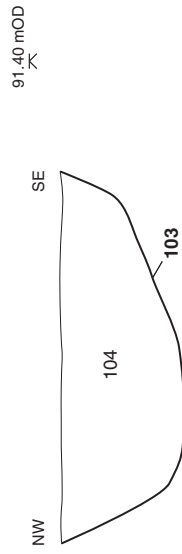
Figure 3: Trench 1, plan and sections



Trench 1  
Plan 101



Section 101



Section 102

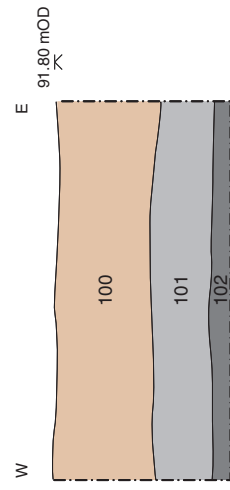


Figure 3: Trench 1, plan and sections



Trench 30  
Plan 3001



Section 3002



Section 3001

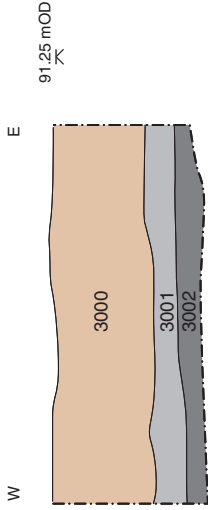
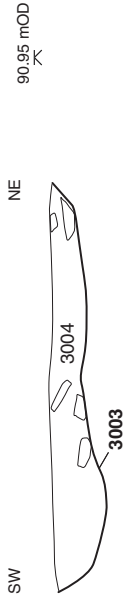
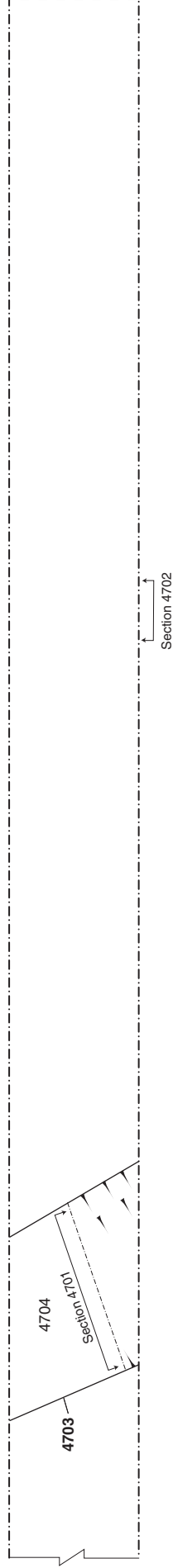


Figure 4: Trench 30, plan and sections



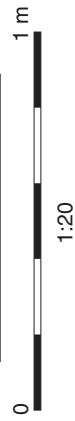
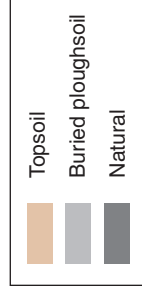
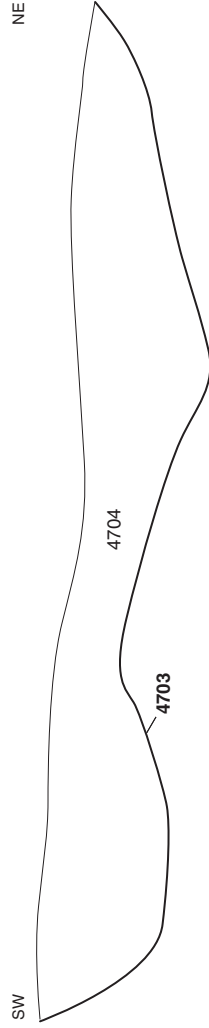


# Trench 47 Plan 4701

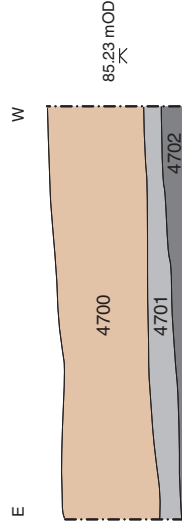


## Section 4701

85.79 mOD  
NE



## Section 4702



85.23 mOD  
W

Figure 5: Trench 47, plan and sections



Trench 52  
Plan 5201

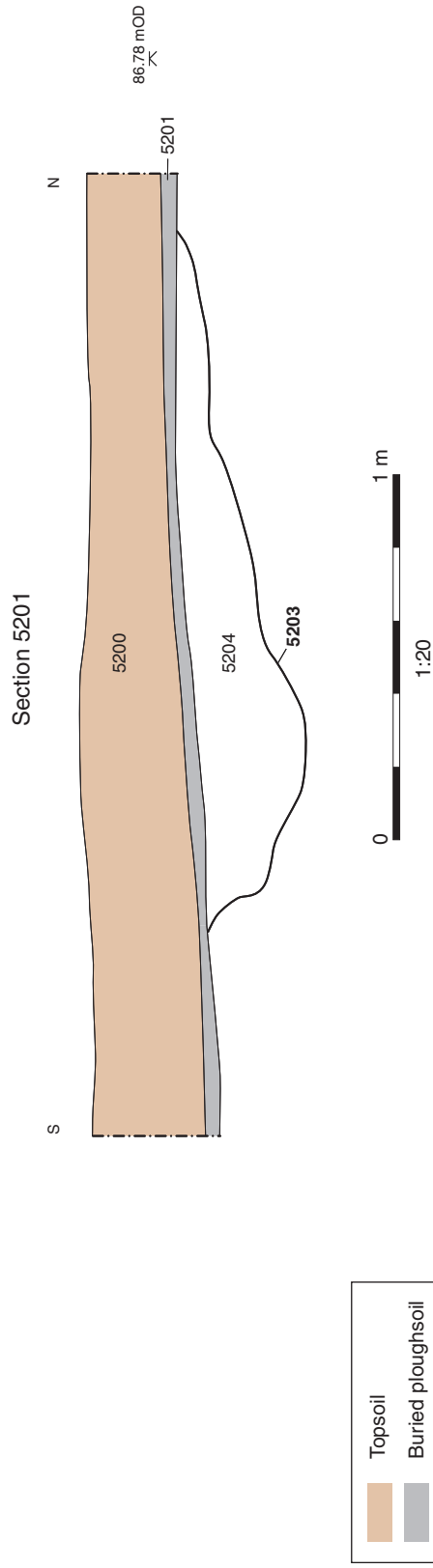
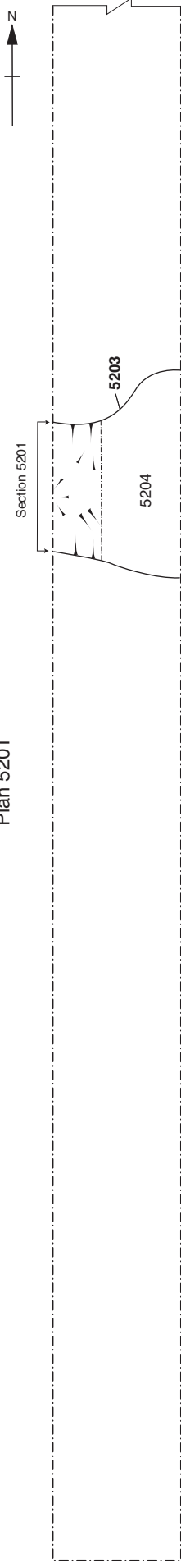


Figure 6: Trench 52, plan and section



Trench 54  
Plan 5401

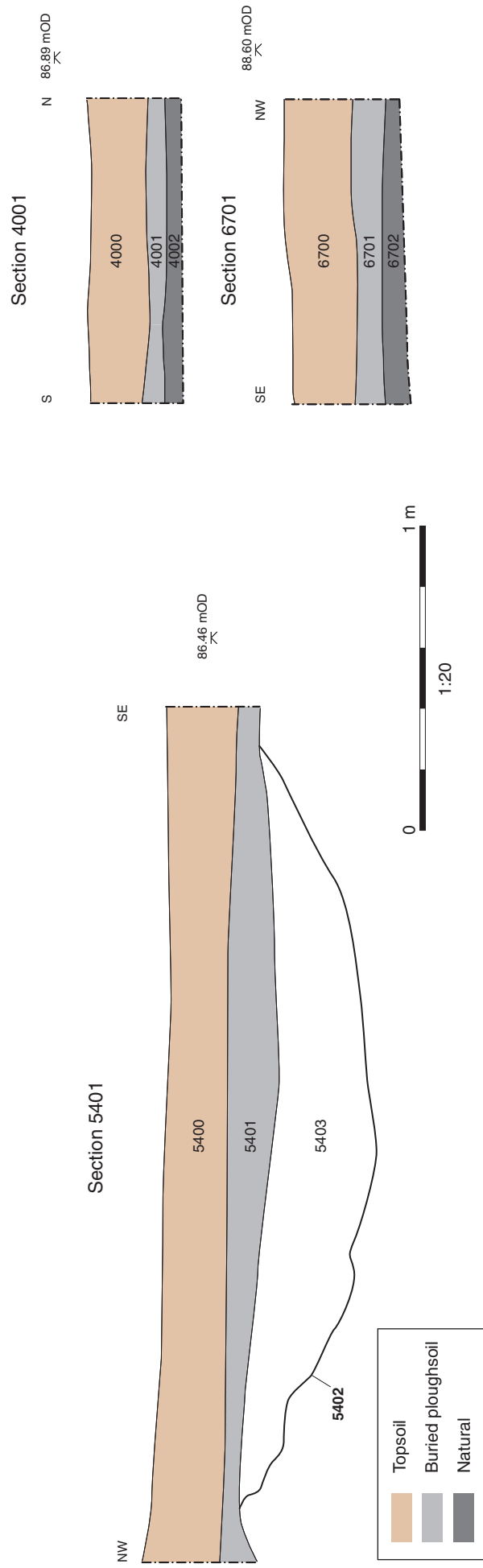
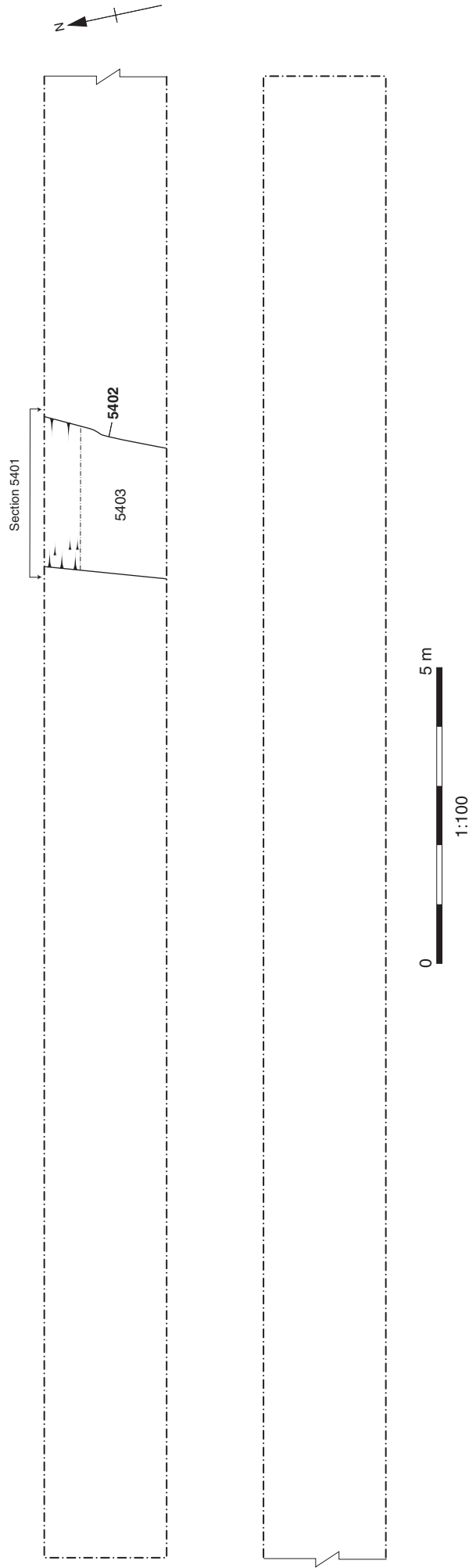


Figure 7: Trenches 40, 54 and 67, plan and sections



