

**An archaeological evaluation at
Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road,
Stanway, Colchester, Essex
September-October 2008**

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**commissioned by Andrew Josephs
on behalf of Tarmac Ltd**

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1 Summary

The site lies 500m to the north of the Late Iron Age elite burial site excavated at Stanway Quarry in 1986 and 1994-5. Prior to a planning proposal for the expansion of the aggregate quarry on the site, a 5% evaluation was carried out by means of 99 trenches totalling 2,960 m in length.

The majority of the excavated features were post-medieval and modern ditches, and natural features. Significant archaeological features were concentrated on the southern edge of the eastern part of the evaluation site, ie in Field 6. There were two principal periods of activity, ie Middle Iron Age and Roman. There was evidence for a Middle Iron Age settlement, possibly connected with a curvilinear enclosure detected during an earlier geophysical survey, and this included significant quantities of pottery, and loom-weight fragments indicating local cloth-weaving. A number of ditches cut in the Roman period, probably in the 2nd century AD, may have defined a rectilinear enclosure measuring approximately 62 m by 70 m. Small fragments of ditches may represent a contemporary field system.

The particular interest of this site is how closely the sequence of Middle Iron Age occupation followed by a possible Roman enclosure relates to the Stanway burial site to the south, where a Middle Iron Age ditched domestic enclosure was succeeded by a series of enclosures containing elite Late Iron Age burials, including the 'warrior burial' and the 'doctor's burial', at Stanway Quarry.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

- 2.1 This is the archive report on an archaeological evaluation carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex in September and October 2008.
- 2.2 The evaluation was commissioned on behalf of Tarmac Ltd by Mr Andrew Josephs, and was carried out prior to a planning proposal for the expansion of the Stanway Quarry into the area currently occupied by the Fiveways Fruit Farm.
- 2.3 Prior to the evaluation, a geophysical survey was carried out by gradiometer by Northamptonshire Archaeology (the report of 2008 is included as Appendix 1). The tight work schedule did not allow the trench layout to take the results of the geophysical survey into account, and the layout had to be modified because of potential ecological issues identified in a previous survey by Ecological Consultants commissioned by Tarmac Limited.
- 2.4 All archaeological work was carried out according to a brief written by Mr Adrian Gascoyne of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management (HEM) team and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) agreed between the HEM team and CAT.
- 2.5 The Fiveways Fruit Farm site consists of approximately 15 hectares of agricultural land currently under cultivation in areas of arable and fruit trees.
- 2.6 The site was centred at NGR TL 9576 2320.
- 2.7 This report mirrors standards and practices contained in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CM 2002) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (CM 2003), the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b). The guidance contained in the documents *Management of archaeological projects* (MAP 2), and *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy* (EAA 8), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) was also followed.

3 Archaeological background (Fig 1)

The following archaeological background is based on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held by Essex County Council in Chelmsford.

The Stanway Quarry and the proposed quarry extension area are located immediately to the west of the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, and close to the Gosbecks site. Gosbecks has an extensive history of use throughout the Late Iron Age and Roman periods (CAR 11; Hawkes & Hull 1947; Crummy 1997). During the Late Iron Age, the Gosbecks site was the focus of a native tribal centre, with an enclosed farmstead connected to the corresponding field systems by a network of droveways, and protected by a series of earthwork fortifications or dykes. The outermost of these defensive earthworks, Gryme's Dyke (EHER no 11637), is located close to the eastern boundary of the proposed quarry extension.

The Gosbecks site includes an Iron Age funerary enclosure in which a Romano-Celtic temple complex was later constructed (EHER no 11649), along with other large public buildings including a theatre (EHER nos 11646-11647). Both the Gosbecks site and Gryme's Dyke are listed as Scheduled Ancient Monuments. South of the site of the proposed quarry extension here, excavations in advance of sand and gravel extraction at Stanway Quarry revealed five enclosures (EHER no 12552), including an Iron Age farmstead, a Middle Iron Age domestic enclosure and four elite Late Iron Age funerary enclosures of burials of high-status individuals (Crummy *et al* 2007). Aerial photography has also revealed cropmarks of a double-ditched enclosure and a linear feature (EHER no 11756) on the southern boundary of the proposed quarry extension on this site. These may continue north into the current site. To the north of the proposed extension within Fiveways Fruit Farm, a Roman coin, a Sestertius of Trajan, was found (EHER no 12726).

4 Aim

The aim of the evaluation was to establish the location, extent, character, date, condition and importance of any archaeological remains on the site.

5 Results (Figs 2-10)

General

The evaluation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator. Two layers were removed by machine: a thick humic topsoil (L1) and a slightly silty clay layer (?cover loam L2). This revealed the natural glacial sands and gravels (L3) in which the archaeological features were visible. All excavation below that point was done by hand. Other details of methodology are given in the WSI.

5.1 Field 1 (overgrown scrub): Trenches 1-19

Trench 1: summary

Located on the northern edge of Field 1, T1 contained no significant archaeological features, but the remains of a modern brick drainage hub indicated that a modern building had recently been demolished on this spot.

Trench 1 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|--------------------|-------------|--------|
| F154 | Brick drainage hub | - | modern |

Trench 2: summary

T2 was located on the northern edge of Field 1. It contained no archaeological features.

Trench 3: summary

T3 was located in the northern half of Field 1. At its eastern end was a natural pit (F166). This had a washed-out fine silt fill, and an irregular profile indicating a natural origin – possibly a tree-throw pit.

Trench 3 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| F166 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |

Trench 4: summary

T4 was not excavated because its location fell within an exclusion zone enforced around a badger sett. As reasonable relocation of the trench was not possible, it was abandoned.

Trenches 5-6: summary

T5 and T6 were located in the centre of Field 1. They contained no archaeological features.

Trench 7: summary

T7 was located in the centre of Field 1. It contained a single archaeological feature, ie pit F153 which had a washed-out fine silt fill and an irregular profile indicating a natural origin – possibly a tree-throw pit.

Trench 7 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| F153 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |

Trench 8: summary

Located on the eastern edge of Field 1, T8 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 9: summary

As with T4, T9 was not excavated as its location fell within an exclusion zone enforced around a badger sett. As reasonable relocation of the trench was not possible, it was abandoned.

Trench 10: summary

Located in the centre of Field 1, T10 contained two natural pits (F155 and F156). Both pits had a washed-out fine silt fill and an irregular profile, indicating a natural origin – possibly tree-throw pits. However, charcoal flecking in the fills may indicate stump removal as part of an episode of agricultural land clearance rather than purely natural wastage.

Trench 10 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| F155 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |
| F156 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |

Trenches 11-12: summary

Located in the centre of Field 1, T11 and T12 contained no archaeological features.

Trenches 13-14: summary

Located on the eastern edge of Field 1, T13 and T14 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 15: summary

Located in the centre of Field 1, T15 contained a natural linear feature (F157).

Trench 15 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------|-------------|---------|
| F157 | Natural linear | - | undated |

Trench 16: summary

Located in the centre of Field 1, T16 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 17: summary

Located in the centre of Field 1, T17 contained a single archaeological feature (F163). This was a north-south aligned linear feature, the slightly irregular cut of which indicates that it is of natural origin.

Trench 17 – archaeological contexts and their dating

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------|-------------|---------|
| F163 | Natural linear | - | undated |

Trench 18: summary

Located on the southern edge of Field 1, T18 contained two archaeological features, ie F158 and F162. F158 was a north-south aligned linear feature with a slightly irregular cut indicative of natural origin. F162 had a washed-out fine silt fill and an irregular profile, indicating that it may have been a tree-throw pit.

Trench 18 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| F158 | Natural linear | - | undated |
| F162 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |

Trench 19: summary

Located on the southern edge of Field 1, T19 contained two archaeological features, ie F164 and F165. Both of these features appeared to be natural pits with washed-out fine silt fills and irregular profiles, which indicates that they may have been tree-throw pits. However, charcoal flecking in their fills may be evidence of fire and, therefore, deliberate tree-stump removal rather than natural wastage.

Trench 19 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| F164 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |
| F165 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |

Field 2 (arable): Trenches 20-30

Trench 20: summary

Located on the northern edge of Field 2, T20 contained three archaeological features (F1, F2, F4). F1 and F4 were natural linear features with slightly irregular cuts. Pit F2 had a washed-out fine silty fill and an irregular profile, indicating that it may have been a tree-throw pit.

Trench 20 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| F1 | Natural linear | - | undated |
| F2 | Natural linear | - | undated |
| F4 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |

Trench 21: summary

Located on the western edge of Field 2, T21 contained four archaeological features (F3, F5, F6, F7). Linear features F3 and F7 had irregular cuts (particularly F3), indicating that both were of natural origin.

Pits F5 and F6, characterised by fine, leached-out silt fills and irregular profiles, were probably tree-throw pits.

Trench 21 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| F3 | Natural linear | - | undated |
| F5 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |
| F6 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |
| F7 | Natural linear | - | undated |

Trench 22: summary

Located on the eastern edge of Field 2, T22 contained a single archaeological feature – F10, the terminal end of a ditch. The even profile and humic fill indicate that it may have been a recent field boundary ditch. However, there was no datable material from the fill.

At the eastern end of T22, F8 appeared to be a remnant of an irrigation system used when the area was a fruit orchard, before it was converted to arable cultivation.

Trench 22 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| F8 | Plastic irrigation pipe | - | modern |
| F10 | Ditch | - | post-medieval/ modern |

Trench 23: summary

T23 was located in the centre of Field 2. It contained two archaeological features. A linear feature (F11) and a pit (F9). The slightly irregular nature of the cut of F11 indicates that it was probably of natural origin. Pit F9 was characterised by a fine silt fill and an irregular profile, which is indicative of a tree-throw pit.

F11 was in direct alignment with a curvilinear feature of suspected geological origin detected during the geophysical survey (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008). There is very little doubt that it is the same feature.

Trench 23 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| F9 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |
| F11 | Natural linear | - | undated |

Trench 24: summary

Located on the eastern edge of Field 2, T24 contained no archaeological features. During the geophysical survey, a feature of potential geological origin was detected which should have crossed this trench (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008). However, the feature was not seen.

Trench 25: summary

T25 was located in the centre of Field 2. It contained no archaeological features. However, a large geological feature (F14) in the centre of the trench coincided precisely with the position of a feature of potential geological origin detected at this point during the geophysical survey (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008).

Trench 25 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------|-------------|---------|
| F14 | Natural linear | - | undated |

Trench 26: summary

Located on the eastern edge of Field 2, T26 contained no archaeological features.

Trenches 27-28: summary

Located in the southern half of the Field 2, T27-T28 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 29: summary

Located on the southern edge of Field 2, T29 contained a linear feature (F13). This had a slightly irregular cut and leached-out fill, indicating that it was probably of natural origin (associated with glacial melt water and run-off channels).

Trench 29 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------|-------------|---------|
| F13 | Natural linear | - | undated |

Trench 30: summary

Located on the southern edge of Field 2, T30 contained three post-medieval ditches (F12, F20, F22 – probably all field boundaries), and a natural linear F22. F12, which was dated by a fragment of peg-tile, was also intercepted as F24 in both T36 and T37. Undated ditches F20 and F21 appeared to follow a similar alignment to F12, and may also have been field boundaries. The fill and cut of F22 indicate that it was of natural origin.

Trench 30 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| F12 | Ditch | Peg-tile fragment, iron lump | post-medieval |
| F20 | Ditch | - | ?post-medieval |
| F21 | Ditch | - | ?post-medieval |
| F22 | Natural linear | - | undated |

Field 3 (arable): Trenches 31-38

Trenches 31-33: summary

Located in the north-western corner of Field 3, T31-T33 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 34: summary

Located in the centre of Field 3, T34 contained four archaeological features – two natural linears (F23, F26), and two natural pits which were probably tree-throw pits (F25, F31).

Trench 34 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-------|
| F23 | Natural linear | Peg-tile fragment, iron lump | - |
| F26 | Natural linear | - | - |
| F25 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | - |
| F31 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | - |

Trench 35: summary

Located in the centre of Field 3, T35 contained a natural pit F18. This was characterised by a fine silt fill and a slightly irregular profile, indicative of a tree-throw pit. However charcoal flecking observed in the excavated fill may indicate the removal of a stump as part of agricultural land clearance rather than a natural event.

Trench 35 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| F18 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |

Trench 36: summary

Located in the southern half of Field 3, T36 contained three archaeological features, ie linear features F24 and F27, and natural linear F28. Linear feature F24 was a large V-shaped ditch which was a continuation of post-medieval ditch F12 in T30 and T37. F27 was an undated ditch; F30 was a natural linear.

Trench 36 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| F12 | Ditch | Peg-tile fragment, iron lump | post-medieval |
| F24 | Field boundary ditch | Peg-tile fragment | post-medieval |
| F27 | Ditch | - | undated |
| F30 | Natural linear | - | ?post-medieval |

Trench 37: summary

Located in the southern half of Field 3, T37 contained three archaeological features, ie linear features F24 and F29, and pit F28. F28 was characterised by a fine silt fill and a slightly irregular profile indicative of a tree-throw pit. Ditch F24 was a large, V-shaped post-medieval field boundary ditch, and was a continuation of post-medieval ditch F12 in T30 and F24 in T36.

F29 was an undated but possibly post-medieval field ditch similarly aligned to F24.

Trench 37 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| F24 | Field boundary ditch | Peg-tile fragment | post-medieval |
| F28 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |
| F29 | Field boundary ditch | - | post-medieval |

Trench 38: summary

T38 was located on the southern edge of Field 3. It contained four archaeological features, ie ditches F15, F16 and F19, and pit F17. Ditches F15 and F16 were possibly the terminal ends of field boundaries. Linear feature F19 was more irregular, and was more likely to have been of natural origin. F17 was characterised by a fine silt fill and a slightly irregular profile, indicative of a tree-throw pit.

Trench 38 – archaeology.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------------|-------------|---------|
| F15 | Field boundary ditch | Roman tile | Roman |
| F16 | Field boundary ditch | - | ?Roman |
| F17 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |
| F19 | Natural linear | - | undated |

Field 4 (arable): Trenches 39-40

Trench 39: summary

T39 was located on the western edge of Field 4. It contained five archaeological features – a ditch F35, and post-holes F32-F34 and F36. Ditch F35 was undated, but its alignment and humic fill indicate that it was probably a post-medieval field boundary ditch.

Post-holes F32-F34 and F36 all appear to be related, and may have been structural, possibly part of a fence. There was no dated material in their fills, but the peg-tile in adjacent post-holes F38 and F39 (in T40) indicate that these are probably all post-medieval.

Trench 39 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| F32 | Post-hole | - | undated – ?post-medieval |
| F33 | Post-hole | - | undated – ?post-medieval |
| F34 | Post-hole | - | undated – ?post-medieval |
| F35 | Ditch | - | ?post-medieval |
| F36 | Post-hole | - | undated – ?post-medieval |

Trench 40: summary

T40 was located on the eastern edge of Field 4. It contained seven archaeological features – post-holes F37-F42. Two (F38-F39) were dated by peg-tile fragments. They are all probably recent post-holes connected with some agricultural function, but further interpretation is difficult.

F40 contained Middle Iron Age pottery, which is almost certainly residual here, given the peg-tile in the fills of post-holes F38 and F39.

Trench 40 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| F37 | Post-hole | - | undated – ?post-medieval |
| F38 | Post-hole | Peg-tile fragment | post-medieval |
| F39 | Post-hole | Peg-tile fragment | post-medieval |
| F40 | Post-hole | - | undated – ?post-medieval |
| F41 | Post-hole | - | undated – ?post-medieval |
| F42 | Post-hole | - | undated – ?post-medieval |

Centre of evaluation site: Trenches 41-47

Trenches 41-47: summary

T41-T47 were not excavated because, after the design of the trench layout, a decision was made to preserve the fruit trees in this area.

Field 5 (centre of evaluation site): Trenches 48-57

Trench 48: summary

T48 was located on the western edge of Field 5. It contained five archaeological features, ie pits F43-F46, and natural linear F50. The pits had fine silt fills and an irregular profile, which indicate a natural origin as tree-throw pits. However, F45 and F46 contained modern pottery (not retained) and a peg-tile fragment respectively, and so are likely to be of modern agricultural origin.

Trench 48 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| F43 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |
| F44 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |
| F45 | Agricultural pit | Modern pottery (not retained) | modern |
| F46 | Agricultural pit | Peg-tile fragment | post-medieval |
| F50 | Natural linear | - | undated |

Trench 49: summary

Located on the northern edge of Field 5, T49 contained a two archaeological features, ie a post-medieval ditch (F47) and a post-medieval pit (F48). Pit F48 contained peg-tile fragment fragments, dating it to the post-medieval period.

Trench 49 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| F47 | Ditch | - | undated – ?post-medieval |
| F48 | Agricultural pit | Peg-tile fragments | post-medieval |

Trench 50: summary

T50 was located on the northern edge of Field 5. It contained two archaeological features, ie linears F53 and F60. F53 was probably a field boundary ditch. Although it aligned with F63 in T56 to the east, F63 was a convincing natural feature. It had no datable material in its fill, but it is reasonable to assume that F53 dates to the post-

medieval period. F60 was irregular with one almost vertical side, indicative of a natural origin.

Trench 50 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| F53 | Ditch | - | ?post-medieval |
| F60 | Natural linear | - | undated |

Trench 51: summary

T51 was located on the northern edge of Field 5. It contained two archaeological features – linears F54 and F55, both of which appeared to be of natural origin. Their shallow irregular forms are indicative of glacial formation.

Trench 51 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------|-------------|---------|
| F54 | Natural linear | - | undated |
| F55 | Natural linear | - | undated |

Trenches 52-53: summary

Located on the eastern edge of Field 5, T52 and T53 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 54: summary

T54 was located on the western edge of Field 5. It contained two archaeological features, ie linear F51 and pit F52, both of which appeared to be of natural origin. Linear F51 was shallow and irregular in profile. Pit F52 had a fine silty fill and an irregular profile, generally indicative of a tree-throw pit. However, its middle fill contained charcoal flecking, which may indicate deliberate tree-stump removal.

Trench 54 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| F51 | Natural linear | - | undated |
| F52 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |

Trench 55: summary

T55 was located in the centre of Field 5. It contained two archaeological features, ie pit F58 and linear F59. Pit F58 appeared to be of natural origin, perhaps a tree-throw pit. However, its fill contained charcoal flecks which may indicate deliberate tree-stump removal. Ditch F59 had a far more regular profile and slightly more humic fill. It corresponded with field boundary ditch F47 in T49. There was no datable material in either feature.

Trench 55 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| F58 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |
| F59 | Field boundary ditch | - | undated - ?post-medieval |

Trench 56: summary

T56 was located in the centre of Field 5. It contained four archaeological features – pit F61, and linear features F57, F62 and F63. Pit F58 appeared to be of natural

origin, possibly a tree-throw pit. The linears also appeared to be natural in origin; they were shallow with irregular profiles and light leached fills. In T50 (see above), it was speculated that F53 may have been a continuation of F63 in this trench. Given the natural-looking fill and form of F63, this would seem not to be the case.

Trench 56 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| F57 | Natural linear | - | undated |
| F61 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |
| F62 | Natural linear | - | undated |
| F63 | Natural linear | - | undated |

Trench 57: summary

Located on the eastern edge of Field 5, T57 contained a natural linear feature F56.

Trench 57 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------|-------------|---------|
| F56 | Natural linear | - | undated |

Trench 58: summary

T58 was located on the southern edge of Field 5. It contained a post-medieval ditch (F49) with a dark fill and a regular profile, and it was probably part of a field boundary. Peg-tile fragments were recovered from its middle to lower fills.

Trench 58 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| F49 | Ditch | Peg-tile fragment | post-medieval |
| F50 | Natural linear | - | - |

Field 6 (arable): Trenches 59-99

The trenches on the western and southern edges of Field 6 were placed to intercept a continuation of any of the cropmarks plotted in what is now the quarry void, if they should continue into the evaluation site.

Trench 59: summary

T59 was located on the western edge of Field 6. It contained a natural pit (F152) with a fine silt fill and an irregular profile, probably a tree-throw pit. However, its fill contained charcoal flecking, which may indicate deliberate tree-stump removal as part of agricultural land clearance.

Trench 59 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| F152 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |

Trenches 60-61: summary

Located in the northern part of Field 6, T60 and T61 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 62: summary

T62 was located on the northern edge of Field 6. It contained two archaeological features, ie post-hole F95 and linear feature F96. Post-hole F95 had an even profile and a dark humic fill (which may indicate a late date). Linear feature F96 was clearly of natural origin.

Trench 62 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------|-------------|---------|
| F95 | Post-hole | - | undated |
| F96 | Natural linear | - | undated |

Trench 63: summary

Located on the northern edge of Field 6, T63 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 64: summary

T64 was located on the northern edge of Field 6. It contained two natural features, a tree-throw pit (F93) and an irregular linear feature (F94). F93 had charcoal concentrations in its fill, which could indicate deliberate tree-stump removal, possibly as agricultural land clearance. The fill of F94 was highly leached and contained numerous sand and manganese inclusions.

Trench 64 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| F93 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |
| F94 | Natural linear | - | undated |

Trench 65: summary

T65 was located on the northern edge of Field 6. It contained an undated ditch (F78), the alignment of which was slightly at variance with that of the post-medieval field system. It may, therefore, be Roman in date. There were no finds in its fill.

Trench 65 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|--------------|-------------|--------|
| F78 | Ditch | - | ?Roman |

Trench 66: summary

Located in the north-eastern corner of Field 6, T66 contained two ditches (F68-F69). F68 formed part of the post-medieval landscape, and corresponded with the north-south alignment of local field boundaries. Its fill contained a peg-tile fragment, coal and slag. F69, however, was a natural feature characterised by an irregular profile, highly-leached fills and manganese inclusions. F68 contained residual Middle Iron Age pottery.

Trench 66 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| F68 | Field boundary ditch | Peg-tile fragment, slag | post-medieval |
| F69 | Natural linear | - | undated |

Trench 67: summary

Located on the eastern edge of Field 6, T67 contained six archaeological features, ie a natural pit (F64), linear features (F71-F72) and post-holes (F73-F75).

Pit F64 was consistent with a possible tree-throw pit.

F71 and F72 were parallel ditches on a north-west/south-east alignment different to that of the post-medieval landscape. This may indicate that it was part of the Roman landscape. It is of some interest that this ditch line coincided exactly with an anomaly identified as a potential archaeological feature in the geophysical survey report (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008). Unfortunately, there were no finds in its fill.

Post-holes F73-F75 in the base ditch F71 may have been part of a fence line or a gate across a field boundary, possibly associated with stock management.

Trench 67 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| F64 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |
| F71 | Linear (ditch) | - | ?Roman |
| F72 | Linear (ditch) | - | ?Roman |
| F73 | Post-hole | - | ?Roman |
| F74 | Post-hole | - | ?Roman |
| F75 | Post-hole | - | ?Roman |

Trench 68: summary

Located on the western edge of Field 6, T68 contained three archaeological features, ie a natural pit (F144) and two ditches (F151, F159). Pit F144 was probably a tree-throw pit.

The two ditches lay at right-angles to each other. Although neither could be dated, F151 aligned with dated post-medieval ditch F120 in T84. A residual flint flake was recovered from F151.

Trench 68 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------|
| F144 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |
| F151 | Field boundary ditch | - | post-medieval |
| F159 | Ditch | - | post-medieval |

Trench 69: summary

Located in the centre of Field 6, T69 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 70: summary

T70 was located in the centre of Field 6. It contained two archaeological features, ie a natural pit (F107) and a ditch (F149). Although F149 was undated, it aligned with post-medieval ditch F120 in T84, and continued as F145 in T75 to the west and as F92 in T78 to the east.

Pit F107 had an irregular profile and highly leached-out fill, and is consistent with a tree-throw pit.

Trench 70 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| F107 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |
| F149 | Linear (ditch) | - | post-medieval |

Trench 71: summary

Located in the centre of Field 6, T71 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 72: summary

Located in the centre of Field 6, T72 contained three archaeological features, ie a pit (F116), and two ditches (F115, F126).

Ditches F115 and F126 did not appear to follow the post-medieval field alignment, and may, therefore, have formed part of an earlier (Roman) landscape. Finds were limited to a single residual flint flake in F126.

Pit F116 contained substantial deposits of charcoal, burnt flint, animal bone and a worked flint. Although it is possible that this was a ritual deposit, the finds may indicate domestic waste disposal.

Trench 72 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|--------------|---------------------------------|--------|
| F115 | Ditch | - | ?Roman |
| F116 | Pit | Flint, animal bone, burnt flint | ?Roman |
| F126 | Ditch | - | ?Roman |

Trench 73: summary

Located in the centre of Field 6, T73 contained an undated ditch (F104), possibly of Roman date, and a natural linear feature (F77). F77 had an irregular profile, and a highly-leached fill containing numerous manganese inclusions, consistent with a natural origin.

F104 appeared to be the shoulder of a large V-shaped ditch. It was so similar in profile and so close in alignment to both F67 (in T80, to the east) and F111 (in T78, to the west), that there is little doubt that they were the same feature (possibly the northern side of a possible rectilinear Roman enclosure, the eastern side of which is represented by F102 in T80 to the south). Although no datable material was recovered from F104, there was a group of Middle Iron Age and Roman material in T79 and T80 to the south. If this were an enclosure, it would invite speculation about a relationship with the elite burial site to the south of the evaluation site (Crummy *et al* 2007).

Trench 73 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------|-------------|---------|
| F77 | Natural linear | - | undated |
| F104 | Ditch | - | Roman |

Trench 74: summary

Located on the eastern edge of Field 6, T74 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 75: summary

Located on the western edge of Field 6, T75 contained a ditch F145. Although this was undated, it aligned with post-medieval ditch F120 in T84, and continued as ditch F149 in T70 to the east and as F151 in T68 to the west.

Trench 75 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------|
| F145 | Field boundary ditch | - | post-medieval |

Trench 76: summary

Located in the centre of Field 6, T76 contained a post-medieval ditch (F136). This ditch was a continuation of F135 in T83 and of F140 in T89 (both to the south) and

thus formed part of the same post-medieval landscape. This feature was highlighted as a former field boundary in the geophysical report (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008).

Trench 76 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| F136 | Field boundary ditch | - | post-medieval/ modern |

Trench 77: summary

Located in the centre of Field 6, T77 contained six archaeological features, ie a linear feature (F118), a natural pit (F122), a post-hole (F121), a pit (F124), and two stake holes (F123, F125).

Pit F122 had an irregular profile and a highly leached-out fill consistent with a tree-throw pit. Post-hole F121 may possibly have been structural. F118 was the shoulder of a large V-shaped ditch which may have been the western side of the Roman ?enclosure approximately 62m east-west by 70m north-south, the northern side of which was F111 in T78, F104 in T73 and F67 in T80, and the eastern side of which was F102 in T80. Although the ditch was undated, daub fragments in its fill indicate a Roman rather than a post-medieval date. The stake holes and small pit at the western end of the trench (F123-F125) appear to be an associated but undated group.

Trench 77 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| F118 | Linear (ditch) | Daub flecks | Roman |
| F121 | Post-hole | - | undated |
| F122 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |
| F123 | Stake hole | - | undated |
| F124 | Pit | - | undated |
| F125 | Stake hole | - | undated |

Trench 78: summary

Located in the centre of Field 6, T78 contained four archaeological features, ie linear features (F92, F110, F111) and a pit (F103).

Pit F103 contained charcoal lenses and flecks of daub, which may indicate a Roman rather than post-medieval date.

East-west aligned ditch F92 was undated, but aligned with post-medieval ditch F120 in T84, F151 in T68, F145 in T75 and F149 in T70 (all to the west), and thus formed part of the post-medieval landscape. A residual flint blade was recovered from the fill of F92.

Linear F110 was a natural feature characterised by an irregular and, in places, undercut profile, highly-leached fills and manganese inclusions.

F111 was the shoulder of a large V-shaped ditch feature and appeared to form the northern side of the Roman ?enclosure, and was a continuation of ditches F67 in T80 and F104 in T73. These features, in conjunction with F102 in T80, F118 in T77, F127 in T90 and F117 in T91, seem to have formed this large enclosure. Although F111 was undated, F67 in T80 contained Roman pottery.

Trench 78 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| F92 | Field boundary ditch | Worked flint (residual) | undated - ?post-medieval |
| F103 | Pit | Daub flecks | Roman |
| F110 | Natural linear | - | undated |
| F111 | Linear (ditch) | - | Roman |

Trench 79: summary

Located in the centre of Field 6, T79 contained six archaeological features – two natural pits (F76, F100), a linear feature (F91), and four post-holes (F97, F98, F99, F148).

Pits F76 and F100 had forms and fills which are typical of tree-throw pits. F100 was cut by ditch F91.

The alignment of ditch F91 matched more closely the alignment of the post-medieval landscape (in that it was parallel with field boundary ditch F146, F113, F108, F109, in T95, T97 and T93 respectively) than it did the Roman landscape, as is evident from the Roman ?enclosure. It also aligned with post-medieval ditch F120 in T84. The likelihood is, therefore, that it was a post-medieval ditch, and that the small, abraded scrap of Roman pottery in F91 was residual.

Post-hole F148 may have been part of a structure outside the Middle Iron Age ?enclosure defined by F102 in T80 (below). Post-holes F97-F99 were cut into the base of the ditch, and may represent a fence line for stock management.

Trench 79 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| F76 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |
| F91 | Field boundary ditch | Roman pottery (residual if ditch is post-medieval) | post-medieval |
| F97 | Post-hole | - | undated – presumed post-medieval |
| F98 | Post-hole | - | undated – presumed post-medieval |
| F99 | Post-hole | - | undated – presumed post-medieval |
| F100 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |
| F148 | Post-hole | Middle Iron Age pottery | Middle Iron Age |

Trench 80: summary

Located on the eastern edge of Field 6, T80 contained fourteen archaeological features, ie three linear features (F66, F67, F102), and eleven post-holes (F65, F80-F89).

F67 was a large V-shaped ditch which appeared to form the northern side of the Roman ?enclosure. The other sides of this enclosure were tentatively identified as F102 (eastern side), F111 (T78) and F104 (T73: northern side), F118 (T77: western side), F127 (T90) and F117 (T91: southern side). Pottery from F67 indicates a 2nd-century Roman date. Ditch F102 offers an alternative explanation, because it coincided precisely with an anomaly detected during the geophysical survey, which indicated that it may have been the western side of a Middle Iron Age curvilinear ?enclosure (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008).

Ditch F66 was a continuation of post-medieval ditches F91 in T79 and F120 in T84.

Post-holes F80-F89 were cut into the base of F66 and may have been part of a fence line used for stock control.

The two post-holes F65 and F70 were located within the Roman ?enclosure. Although they are undated, they may be associated with the ?enclosure.

Trench 80 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| F65 | Post-hole | | ?Roman |
| F66 | Linear (ditch) | Daub flecks, pottery | ?post-medieval |
| F67 | Linear (ditch) | Pottery | Roman, 2nd century |
| F70 | Post-hole | - | ?Roman |

| | | | |
|---------|----------------|---|------------------------------|
| F80-F89 | Post-hole | - | ?post-medieval |
| F102 | Linear (ditch) | | Middle Iron Age or ?Roman |

Trench 81: summary

Located on the western edge of Field 6, T81 contained two linear features (F142, F147), which extended parallel to each other on a north-south alignment. F142, in particular, was very similar to the alignment of the post-medieval landscape, although there were no finds from these features to confirm this date.

Trench 81 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| F142 | Ditch | - | ?post-medieval |
| F147 | Ditch | - | ?post-medieval |

Trench 82: summary

Located in the western half of Field 6, T82 contained a natural pit (F143) with an irregular profile, and a charcoally upper-mid fill which might indicate deliberate tree-stump removal during agricultural land clearance.

Trench 82 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| F143 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |

Trench 83: summary

Located in the western half of Field 6, T82 contained two ditches, F134 and F135. Ditch F134 was aligned more closely with the Roman landscape than with the post-medieval landscape, and fragments of Roman pottery from its fill confirm this date.

F135 was highlighted as a former field boundary in the geophysical survey report (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008).

The same ditch was been intercepted in T89 (F140) and in T76 (F136). Finds included peg-tile, coal and slag.

Trench 83 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| F134 | Ditch | Roman pottery | Roman |
| F135 | Ditch | Peg-tile fragment, clinker | post-medieval |

Trench 84: summary

Located in the centre of Field 6, T84 contained two archaeological features.

F120 was an irregular linear feature with a dark fill which may indicate a post-medieval date (it may be the same ditch as F149 in T70 and F92 in T78).

F128 was an irregular pit, possibly a tree-throw pit, although charcoal concentrations in its upper-mid fills could indicate deliberate stump removal.

Trench 84 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| F120 | Ditch | - | post-medieval |
| F128 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |

Trench 85: summary

Trench 85 was located in the centre of Field 6. The trench contained a single archaeological feature, a natural pit F112. The shallow, irregular nature of the feature indicates a tree-throw pit.

Trench 85 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| F112 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |

Trench 86: summary

Located in the centre of Field 6, T86 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 87: summary

Located on the eastern edge of Field 6, T87 contained three archaeological features, ie a natural linear feature (F79) and two pits (F90, F101).

F79 was an irregular, natural linear with leached fills and manganese inclusions. Both pit F90 and ditch F101 contained deposits of charcoal. F101 contained a large group of Middle Iron Age pottery (approximately 1.5kg, and the bulk of the Middle Iron Age pottery assemblage from this evaluation).

F101 also coincided exactly with an anomaly highlighted as a potential archaeological feature in the geophysical survey report (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008, fig 6). The geophysical survey plot shows that F101 links up with F102 in T80 (to the north) to form the Middle Iron Age curvilinear ?enclosure (Fig 6). Clearly, this ditch cannot be part of the rectilinear Roman ?enclosure and also part of the separate curvilinear Middle Iron Age ?enclosure. This issue cannot be resolved at present.

Trench 87 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------|--|---------------------------|
| F79 | Natural linear | - | undated |
| F90 | Pit | Daub | Middle Iron Age or ?Roman |
| F101 | Ditch or pit | Large group of Middle Iron Age pottery, daub | Middle Iron Age or Roman |

Trench 88: summary

Located in the south-western corner of Field 6, T88 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 89: summary

Located in the south-eastern corner of Field 6, T89 contained a single archaeological feature, ie a linear feature (F140) which was highlighted as a former field boundary in the geophysical survey report (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008). Although F140 contained Roman brick fragments, it was a continuation of the post-medieval landscape system as detected in other trenches (F135 in T83 and F136 in T76).

Trench 89 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| F140 | Linear (ditch) | Roman brick fragments | post-medieval |

Trench 90: summary

Located in the southern half of Field 6, T90 contained two archaeological features, ie a linear feature (F127) and an erosion hollow (F133).

F127 was the shoulder of a large V-shaped ditch, which can be interpreted in two ways. Firstly, its form indicates that it may have been the western side of the Roman ?enclosure, the northern side of which was defined by F111 in T78 and F104 in T73. Secondly, it aligned with Roman ditch F134 in T83 to the west. It is not clear which is the correct interpretation.

F133 was a wide and shallow feature which was probably an erosion hollow caused by long-term trampling by livestock. Pottery recovered from F133 indicates a Middle Iron Age date, in which case it may be associated with a small Middle Iron Age settlement in this vicinity.

Trench 90 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| F127 | Ditch | Roman pottery | 1st century, Roman |
| F133 | Erosion hollow | Middle Iron Age pottery | Middle Iron Age |

Trench 91: summary

Located in the southern half of Field 6, T91 contained a large V-shaped ditch (F117). This was directly aligned with F127 in T90, and may have been either a Roman field ditch, or part of the southern side of the Roman ?enclosure, the western side of which was defined by F118 in T77.

Trench 91 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|--------------|---|-------|
| F117 | Ditch | Middle Iron Age pottery, flint flake | Roman |

Trench 92: summary

Located in the south-eastern corner of Field 6, T92 contained two archaeological features. F105 was a natural linear with an irregular profile, a leached-out fill and numerous manganese inclusions. F106 was a modern pit with large fragments of wood in a charcoal-rich matrix. No finds were recovered from either of these features.

Trench 92 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| F105 | Natural linear | - | undated |
| F106 | Pit | - | post-medieval/ modern |

Trench 93: summary

Located on the south-eastern edge of Field 6, T93 contained two archaeological features, ie ditches F109 and F114.

Ditch F109 was highlighted as a former field boundary in the geophysical survey report (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008), and was a continuation of post-medieval ditch F108 in T98 and F113 in T97.

F114 was undated. Its alignment was more similar to that of the post-medieval landscape than of the Roman ?enclosure, but there were no finds to confirm or refute this.

Trench 93 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| F109 | Ditch | Peg-tile fragment, post-Roman pottery | post-medieval |
| F114 | Ditch | - | undated – ?post-medieval |

Trench 94: summary

Located on the southern edge of Field 6, T94 contained a single archaeological feature, ie a natural pit (F150). The shallow, irregular nature of the feature indicates that it was a tree-throw pit.

Trench 94 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| F150 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |

Trench 95: summary

Located on the southern edge of Field 6, T95 contained a ditch (F146). This feature was highlighted as a former field boundary in the geophysical survey report (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008), and it was a clear continuation of post-medieval ditch F113 in T97, F108 in T98 and F109 in T93, all to the east of T95.

Trench 95 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| F140 | Field boundary ditch | Roman tile and brick fragment | post-medieval |

Trench 96: summary

Located on the southern edge of Field 6, T96 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 97: summary

Located on the southern edge of Field 6, T97 contained three archaeological features, ie linear features (F113, F129) and a natural pit (F119).

Ditch F113 was identified as a former field boundary in the geophysical survey report (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008), and it was a continuation of the post-Roman ditch F146 (T95), F108 (T98) and F109 (T93).

F129 was a shallow linear feature cutting the upper fill of natural pit F119. The ditch was undated, and as it cuts the Middle Iron Age pit F119 it is likely to belong to one of the two main site periods, either Roman or post-medieval.

A large quantity of Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from the upper-mid fill of pit F119.

Trench 97 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| F113 | Field boundary ditch | Peg-tile fragment, brick fragment | post-medieval |
| F119 | Pit | Middle Iron Age pottery | Middle Iron Age |
| F129 | Ditch | | undated |

Trench 98: summary

Located on the southern edge of Field 6, T98 contained a ditch (F108), which was highlighted as a former field boundary in the geophysical survey report

(Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008). It was a continuation of the post-medieval ditch F109 in T93, F113 in T97 and F146 in T95.

Trench 98 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| F108 | Field boundary ditch | Peg-tile fragment, 19th-century glass | modern |

Trench 99: summary

Located in the south-eastern corner of Field 6, T99 contained no archaeological features.

Field 7 (arable): Trenches 100-107

Trench 100: summary

Located on the northern edge of Field 7, T100 contained a post-medieval ditch (F139), the fill of which contained peg-tile fragments and post-medieval pottery, including a whole stoneware bottle. The ditch alignment matched that of other post-medieval ditches (ie F146/F113/F108/F109 in T95, T97, T98, T93 respectively) and corresponds with the post-medieval agricultural landscape.

Trench 100 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|--------------|--|--------|
| F139 | Ditch | 19th- to 20th-century pottery, peg-tile fragment | modern |

Trench 101: summary

Located on the northern edge of Field 7, T101 contained a tree-throw pit (F141), which was irregular and had charcoal concentrations in its upper-mid fills which may indicate deliberate tree-stump removal.

Trench 101 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------|-------------|---------|
| F141 | Tree-throw pit | - | undated |

Trench 102: summary

Located in the centre of Field 7, T102 contained an undated ditch, possibly a ditch terminal (F160). Its alignment was slightly more similar to that of the post-medieval field system, rather than that of the Roman ?enclosure.

Trench 102 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| F160 | Ditch | Burnt flint | undated – ?post-medieval |

Trench 103: summary

Located on the northern edge of Field 7, T103 contained two archaeological features, ie ditch F137 and natural pit F138.

Ditch F137 was dated by 19th- to 20th-century pottery. Pit F138 had an irregular profile and a leached-out fill typical of a tree-throw pit.

Trench 103 – archaeological contexts and their dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------|--|---------|
| F137 | Ditch | 19th- to 20th-century pottery, peg-tile fragments, post-medieval brick fragments | modern |
| F138 | Tree-throw pit | - | undated |

Trenches 104-105: summary

Located in the centre of Field 7, T104-T105 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 106: summary

Located on the southern edge of Field 7, T106 contained a natural pit (F132), which was probably a tree-throw pit.

Trench 106 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| F132 | ?Tree-throw pit | - | undated |

Trench 107: summary

Located on the southern edge of Field 7, T107 contained two natural features, ie F130 and F131. F130 was a natural linear feature with an irregular shallow profile, a leached-out fill, and manganese inclusions. Pit F131 had the leached-out fill and irregular base typical of a tree-throw pit.

Trench 107 – archaeological context and its dating.

| Context no | Context type | Dated finds | Phase |
|------------|----------------|-------------|---------|
| F130 | Natural linear | - | undated |
| F131 | Tree-throw pit | - | undated |

6 Finds

6.1 Small finds and bulk fired clay

by Nina Crummy

The assemblage is very small, but ranges in date from Middle Iron Age to modern.

The only items of any antiquity are small fragments of Middle Iron Age fired clay triangular loom-weights, used on a warp-weighted loom. All derive from Middle Iron Age features. Similar loom-weights in varying fabrics have been found nearby at the Abbotstone site and Stanway Quarry (CAT Report 312, 52-61; Crummy *et al* 2007, 38-45). Their manufacture and method of use are discussed in the Stanway Quarry burial site report (Crummy *et al* 2007). Their presence on all three sites in this area of Stanway parish imply the keeping of sheep for wool and are evidence of Middle Iron Age communities self-sufficient in the manufacture of textiles.

SF 1. (Finds no 29) F117. Middle Iron Age ditch. Abraded fragment from one corner of a triangular fired clay loom-weight, including part of a perforation. The fabric is equivalent to Stanway Fabric A, hard-fired sandy clay with occasional pieces of flint grit, fired to a dull orange-brown. All the surfaces, original and broken, are covered with post-use sooting. Weight 71 g.

SF 3. (Finds no 19) F101. Middle Iron Age pit. Four abraded fragments from one or more triangular loom-weights. The fabric is a sandy clay with occasional

pieces of flint grit; fired internally to dark grey, externally to buff. Total weight 91 g.

SF 4. (Finds no 13) F70. ?Middle Iron Age post-hole. Three small abraded fragments from a fired clay loom-weight. The fabric is as SF 3; one fragment retains a void from a small pebble. Total weight 41 g.

(Finds no 31) F119. Middle Iron Age ?pit. Six tiny fragments of buff/grey fired clay, possibly from one or more loom-weights or from a hearth or oven. Total weight 4 g.

SF 2. (Finds no 23) F113. Post-medieval/modern field boundary ditch. Small tile of hard mortar, missing one corner. 123 by 130 mm, 29-35 mm thick. Possibly made to replace a missing floor tile.

SF 5. (Finds no 22) F109. Post-medieval/modern field boundary ditch. Fragment of a large iron horseshoe. Length 149 mm. The size would be appropriate for a heavy horse breed, such as the Suffolk Punch or the Shire Horse.

SF 6. (Finds no 1) F12. Post-medieval agricultural ditch. Iron structural fitting, consisting of a holdfast with tubular bracket projecting from the lozenge-shaped head. Length 155 mm.

6.2 Prehistoric and Roman pottery (Figs 11-12; Tables 1-3)

by Stephen Benfield

6.2.1 Prehistoric pottery Fabric and recording

A total of 180 sherds of prehistoric, pre-Belgic pottery weighing 1,488 g was recovered during the evaluation. Where discernible, all the pottery is hand-made. The prehistoric pottery fabrics used to record this pottery (Fabrics A-D below) are based on Sealey 2007, but the fabric categories have been simplified for this report. The sherds variously contain inclusions of sand, organic material and crushed burnt flint. The crushed burnt flint is clearly identifiable as a tempering agent that has been deliberately added to the clay. The organic inclusions appear as black burnt material in the fabric and as burnt-out voids, both in the fabric and sherd surfaces, indicating small chaff-like fragments. Much of this organic material, although not necessarily all, is probably a deliberate additive to the clay, especially in Fabric B. Much of the sand visible in the fabric of the sherds may also have been added as a tempering agent. All of these materials are simply referred to in the text as 'temper'. No grog-tempered pottery was recorded among the sherds.

Prehistoric pottery fabrics used in this report:

- A sand-tempered, can have some burnt organic-temper or inclusions in the fabric
- B sand-tempered with common voids from organic-temper visible in the surfaces
- C sand with flint-temper
- D predominantly flint-tempered

All of the significant or diagnostic pottery has been numbered and illustrated (Figs 12-13). A full catalogue of the pottery is provided in the site archive.

The character and date of the assemblage

The majority of the pottery (over 85 % by both numbers of sherds and by weight) is sand-tempered. A number of these sherds also have some inclusions from burnt organic material. A further 10% or so of the sherds have common voids from pieces of burnt-out organic-temper clearly visible in the surfaces. About 5 % of the sherds contain both sand-temper and flint-temper. About 1.5% of sherds can be described simply as flint-tempered (Table 1). The fabrics and forms present suggest an assemblage of Early-Middle Iron Age or Middle Iron Age date.

There is a decline in the quantity of flint-tempered pottery from the Late Bronze Age into the Early and Middle Iron Age (Sealey 2007, 50). The proportion of flint-tempered pottery among assemblages dated as Middle Iron Age in Essex can vary considerably, from about 50-60% at Stanway Quarry and Orsett Cock, to less than 10% at sites such as Little Waltham (Sealey 2007, 51). However, it seems clear that

the use of flint as temper survives in pottery assemblages in Essex in the Middle Iron Age. Sherds with flint-temper are mixed with sand-tempered sherds in the fill of the Roman ?enclosure ditch (F67, finds no 14). There is, therefore, no reason to attribute the sherds with flint-temper here to an earlier period and the assemblage is consistent with a Middle Iron Age date of c 300-50 BC.

Table 1: proportions of prehistoric pottery fabrics.

| Fabric | sherds | sherds: % of total | weight (in g) | weight: % of total |
|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A | 159 | 88.3 | 1,274 | 85.6 |
| B | 12 | 6.6 | 148 | 9.9 |
| C | 6 | 3.3 | 43 | 2.8 |
| D | 3 | 1.6 | 23 | 1.5 |
| Totals | 180 | 99.8 | 1,488 | 99.8 |

A minimum of eleven separate pots could be recognised from the different shapes of rims recovered (see Catalogue below). Four of these vessel rims, ie about a third of the total, were decorated. Three of these had small indentations or cuts on the rim top made at an angle to the rim, possibly by the use of a fingernail. The other was decorated with regular depressions, probably resulting from pushing down the rim with a finger, and with finger dimple impressions on the external surface below the rim. Only two other sherds may have carried decoration. One small abraded body sherd had an external, probably horizontal, groove (F148, finds no 41). Another small body sherd, probably from the shoulder area of the vessel, had a vertical groove, although this could be a void caused by a large fragment of chaff burning out (F67, finds no 15).

The presence of decoration on the tops of some of the rims and the absence of clear decoration on any of the body sherds is, as with the composition of the fabrics listed above, comparable to the Iron Age Phase 2 assemblage at Stanway Quarry (Sealey 2007, 57-8) and reinforces a coherent probable Middle Iron Age date for the assemblage.

Catalogue of significant sherds from the Middle Iron Age pots

- 1 Rim and shoulder, 2 joining sherds, the fabric contains small-medium sand with occasional larger sand particles, grey-brown exterior, dark grey-brown to dark grey interior and fabric. Fabric A. F119, finds number 37, weight 33g.
- 2 Flat-topped rim, dark grey-brown surfaces and fabric, small-medium sand inclusions. Fabric A. F68, finds number 12, weight 11 g.
- 3 Flat-topped rim, rim decorated with small diagonal cuts or indentations, possibly fingernail impressions, small-medium sand inclusions with rare larger sand particles, some burnt organic-temper in fabric with some surface voids from fragments of burnt-out organic-temper, clouded grey-brown and brown surfaces dark grey fabric. Fabric A. F101, finds number 19, weight 13 g.
- 4 Simple, partly rolled-over, rim, small-medium sand inclusions with rare larger sand particles with some surface voids from burnt-out organic-temper or inclusions, brown to grey-brown surfaces and grey-brown fabric. Fabric A. F101, finds number 19, weight 9 g.
- 5 Small simple pointed rim sherd, small-medium sand inclusions, dark brown to grey-brown surfaces and grey-brown fabric. Fabric A. F101, finds number 19, weight 6 g.
- 6 Two rim sherds (not joining) from an open bowl, finger-impressed dimples inside and ?decorative finger-impressed dimples on exterior, top of rim decorated with finger-end depressions, small-medium with occasional large sand inclusions, rare burnt-out organic inclusions visible in surface, red-brown surfaces with grey fabric. Fabric A. F101, finds number 19, weight 47 g.
- 7 Flat-topped rim from a necked jar or bowl, small sand inclusions with rare larger sand particles with some surface voids from burnt-out organic-temper or inclusions, grey-brown exterior with dark-grey interior and fabric. Fabric A. F101, finds number 19, weight 14 g.

- 8 Flat-topped rim from a necked jar or bowl, small sand inclusions with rare larger sand particles, dark-grey surfaces and fabric. Fabric A. F101, finds number 19, weight 14 g.
- 9 Five rim sherds, two joining, probably all part of the same pot, abraded, rim decorated with small diagonal cuts or indentations, possibly fingernail impressions, small-medium sand inclusions, clouded reddish-brown and grey exterior, dark grey-brown interior and fabric. Fabric A. F101, finds number 19, weight 23 g.
- 10 Flat-topped rim sherd, abraded, decorated with small diagonal cuts or indentations, possibly fingernail impressions, small-medium and large sand inclusions, reddish grey-brown interior (abraded) and grey exterior, reddish-brown fabric. Fabric A. F101, finds number 19, weight 12 g.
- 11 Rim sherd from a small jar or bowl with a simple everted rim, dark grey-brown to dark-grey surfaces and fabric. Fabric A. F67, finds number 14, weight 2 g.
- 12 Base and lower body sherd, abraded exterior surface, faint vertical ridging on body probably caused by finger wipe marks, contains small-medium sand with occasional larger sand particles and some organic-temper, brown to red-brown exterior, grey interior and fabric. Fabric B. F68, finds number 12, 128 g.
- 13 Base sherd, burnished exterior surface, mostly small but with some medium sand inclusions and some organic-temper, pale grey-brown to brown interior, dark grey-brown fabric and exterior. Fabric B. F68, finds number 12, weight 16 g.

Context of the prehistoric pottery

The largest group of pottery was recovered from pit F101 (Table 2). Ignoring single sherds, from F40 and F134, the pottery from F101 also has one of the higher average sherd weights at 6.7 g. The highest average sherd weight was among pottery from the ditch F68 at 29 g. Similarities between some of the sherds recovered from this ditch (F68) suggest that they are probably part of one pot, possibly broken as a whole or part pot in the ditch.

More commonly, groups of about 20 sherds or less were recovered from the features with average sherd weights of between about 7 g and 5 g per feature (Table 2). Of particular interest is the pottery recovered from the ditches of the Roman ?enclosure, ie F67, F117 and F127, as these may relate to the dating of the ?enclosure. Between them these ditches produced a total of some 29 sherds weighing 173 g, giving an average sherd weight, overall, of 5.9 g. Therefore, in terms of average sherd weight, ignoring the single sherds from features and the pottery from pit F68, the pottery recovered from the ditches of the ?enclosure does not stand out in relation to the general assemblage. This does not suggest any different depositional circumstances relating to it, or of itself; unfortunately, neither helps to indicate a Middle Iron Age date or indicate residual sherds in a later ditch. It can be noted that, at Stanway Quarry, a site which included a Middle Iron Age ditched domestic enclosure, the average sherd weight for the Middle Iron Age pottery was 6.9 g, which was considered a low value for assemblages of this date (Sealey 2007, 48).

Table 2: prehistoric pottery sherds and weight by feature with average sherd weight.

| Feature | type | sherds | weight in g | average sherd weight (in g) |
|---------------|---------------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| F40 | Post-hole | 1 | 18 | 18.0 |
| F67 | Ditch of Roman ?enclosure | 14 | 78 | 5.5 |
| F68 | Ditch | 15 | 448 | 29.0 |
| F101 | Pit | 103 | 694 | 6.7 |
| F117 | Ditch of Roman ?enclosure | 11 | 74 | 6.7 |
| F119 | Pit | 22 | 128 | 5.8 |
| F127 | Ditch of Roman ?enclosure | 4 | 21 | 5.2 |
| F133 | Erosion hollow | 3 | 12 | 4.0 |
| F134 | Ditch | 1 | 10 | 10.0 |
| F148 | Post-hole | 2 | 5 | 2.5 |
| Totals | | 176 | 1,488 | |

6.2.2 Roman pottery

Pottery fabrics and recording

A very small quantity of Roman pottery, ie 28 sherds weighing 130 g, was recovered. This has been recorded using the Roman pottery fabric type series devised for *CAR 10*, in which the fabrics are recorded as two-letter codes. These letter codes, together with the full fabric name, are set out in Table 3. The number of sherds recorded for each fabric type is also given in Table 3. Where appropriate, the fabric code for the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection has been included (Tomber & Dore 1998). The pot forms were recorded, where possible, using the Camulodunum (Cam) Roman pottery form type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958). Dating of the pottery broadly follows the dating of pottery fabric and forms in *CAR 10*. For each context, the number of sherds and the identifiable pottery forms were recorded for each finds number by fabric type (see Catalogue below).

Table 3: Roman pottery fabrics, with number of sherds and weight by fabric.

| Fabric code | Fabric name | National Roman Fabric Reference Collection fabric code | sherds | weight (in g) |
|-------------|---|--|--------|---------------|
| BA | plain samian forms | | | |
| SG | South Gaulish plain samian (La Graufesenque) | LGF SA | 1 | 14 |
| GB | BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2 | COL BB2 | 9 | 34 |
| GX | other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares | | 1 8 | 8 2 |

The character and date of the assemblage

The small quantity of Roman pottery was recovered from four contexts, ie two of the ditches of the Roman ?enclosure (F67, F127) and two other ditches (F91, F134). Only sherds from two vessels are closely datable and both of these are from the ditches of the Roman ?enclosure. These are a single abraded base sherd from a South Gaulish samian platter or dish which can be dated to the 1st century (F127, finds no 30). There are also nine sherds from a single black-burnished ware, category 2 (BB2) dish of form Cam 37A, dated early 2nd-late 2nd/early 3rd century (from F67, finds no 14).

In addition to the black-burnished ware dish, one other vessel was recognisable. This was a jar or bowl in sandy local coarse ware, represented by about fifteen sherds (from F127, finds no 30). All of the other Roman pottery recovered (four sherds in total) consists only of single abraded sherds from different vessels.

6.2.3 Discussion

All of the prehistoric pottery could be dated to the period of the Middle Iron Age, c 300-50 BC. The closely-dated Roman pottery, among what is a very small Roman assemblage, is of 1st- and 2nd-century date. There is no pottery among the assemblage, based on an absence of any recorded grog-tempered ware, which can be dated to the period of the Late Iron Age c 50 BC-AD 43.

The quantity of Middle Iron Age pottery is consistent with a settlement here. The absence of Late Iron Age pottery, if not simply a product of the sample size resulting from the evaluation, suggests a period of abandonment of the area. The small quantity of Roman pottery indicates at least some activity in the 1st-2nd century. That some of this material was recovered from the fill of the Roman ?enclosure ditch (F67, finds no 14 and F127, finds no 30), indicates that these ditches were at least partly open in the Roman period.

6.3 The post-Roman pottery

by Howard Brooks

Description of pottery

Fabrics present are as follows (after *CAR 7*): Fabric 21, sandy orange ware; Fabric 45m (modern stoneware); and Fabric 48d (modern ironstone). A list of fabrics by context is given in the catalogue below.

Comment

This is an extremely small group of pottery (7 sherds, 345 g). None of the stratified material need be earlier than 20th century, though a 19th century date is possible. The unstratified piece is a medieval or late medieval twisted rod handle in a sandy orange fabric.

Catalogue of post-Roman pottery

F39

Finds number 6

2 sherds Fabric 45m (modern stoneware), from a large bottle, 46 g. Probably 20th century.

F137

Finds number 35

3 sherds Fabric 48d (modern ironstone), 6 g. 19th-20th century.

F139

Finds number 38

1 complete Fabric 45m blacking bottle, 256 g. 19th-20th century.

Unstratified

Finds number 24

1 fragment of twisted rod handle, Fabric 21 type, 37 g. 13th-16th century.

6.4 The flints (Table 4)

by Adam Wightman

Twelve flints were collected. They were either residual in Iron Age, Roman or post-medieval features, or they were unstratified. The group consists of one serrated blade, two tertiary flakes, two primary flakes, two possible blades (both could have been made by mechanical action), two pieces of burnt flint and two pieces that almost certainly were not burnt or humanly struck and are the product of mechanical action (see Table 4).

Of the twelve collected pieces, only five can be attributed with any certainty to the human knapping sequence, and of these only one can be described as a desired end product. This artefact, the blade from F92 (finds no 18), is a well-made piece with serrated lateral edges that appear intentionally created. Conversely, the serrated edges on the tertiary flake from F151 (finds no 41) are the result of damage, either from use-wear or from plough-damage after the piece was discarded.

The three other humanly-struck flakes do not exhibit any signs of use or working. Two of these are primary removals and the other is a tertiary removal, perhaps from the axe-thinning process.

Three flakes, two of which are from unstratified contexts, can only be described as probable artefacts as they do not exhibit the more convincing characteristics that result from the knapping process. Of these, a small piece that could be a small broken blade is the most convincing artefact.

Finally, two pieces of burnt flint were collected from F101, and these two pieces were almost certainly mechanically created and not humanly struck.

The presence of such few flints from a large evaluation on agricultural land indicates that prehistoric activity in the landscape was minimal. This is especially apparent when compared to the number of flint artefacts recovered from the smaller evaluation by CAT at Great Bentley in Essex (CAT Report 450, 13-16). The higher number of waste flakes than formal tools here would suggest that tool production as opposed to use was more prevalent in the area, although the scattered nature of the

flint finds combined with the small sample size would make such a conclusion very tentative.

Table 4: flint catalogue.

| Context | Finds no | Description | Date |
|---------|----------|--|-----------------|
| F39 | 6 | 1 large piece of mechanically broken flint (not humanly struck). | |
| F91 | 27 | 1 tertiary flake, very thin and sharp (possible axe-thinning flake). | ?Neolithic |
| F92 | 18 | 1 serrated blade, tertiary, 49mm long. | Early Neolithic |
| F101 | 19 | 2 pieces of burnt flint (1 unburnt and not humanly struck piece). | |
| F117 | 26 | 2 primary flakes, one with a hinge fracture and the other with a cortical and heavily patinated dorsal face (poor raw material). | |
| F135 | 34 | 1 possible small blade 26mm long. Possible use wear. | |
| F151 | 42 | 1 tertiary flake, small and thin, edge is serrated. | |
| U/S | 4 | 1 possible secondary flake (could have been broken by mechanical action). | |
| U/S | 11 | 1 possible secondary blade from curving core edge (could have been broken by mechanical action). | |

6.5 The faunal remains (Table 5)

by Adam Wightman

Introduction

Only seven pieces of animal bone were recovered (73.3 g) from the 166 features excavated in the evaluation. All seven pieces were from a charcoal-rich Roman pit (F116) which also contained burnt flints (see Table 5).

Methodology

All of the bone was examined to determine range of species and elements present. Each bone was inspected to determine if evidence of bone-, horn- or antler-working was present in the assemblage. Evidence of butchering and any indications of skinning, horn-working and other modifications were recorded. When possible, a record was made of ages and any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Counts and weights were taken and recorded for each context. All information was input directly into an Excel database for analysis. Measurements were not taken for the bones that came from contexts other than L8 as there would have been too little data for any meaningful interpretation. The analysis was carried out following a modified version of the guidelines produced by English Heritage (Davis 1992).

The assemblage – findings

The bone is soft, white and has a powdery/chalky feel which suggests that it has been burnt at a high temperature. That all the bone fragments recovered have been subjected to burning would suggest that, under normal circumstances, bone does not preserve well in the soil of this area. Despite the poor condition of the bone, it was possible to identify one fragment as *bos* tibia and one fragment as humerus from a large mammal. The rest of the bone was only attributable to large mammal due to the small size of the fragments and poor level of preservation.

Discussion and conclusions

This small sample of bone tells us little about the part animals played in the lives of the people of this area in the Roman period, other than the presence of cattle and the burning of probable food waste. It also suggests that, if further work was to be carried out in the area, the quantity of animal bone recovered would be low.

Table 5: catalogue of faunal remains from Roman pit F116 (finds no 25).

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total quantity | 7 | | | | | |
| Wt (in g) | 52.2 | 9.5 | 5 | 4.6 | 1.8 | 0.2 |
| Species | <i>bos</i> | large mammal | large mammal | large mammal | large mammal | large mammal |
| Species quantity | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Bone | tibia | humerus | unidentified | unidentified | unidentified | unidentified |
| Butchery | burnt | burnt | burnt | burnt | burnt | burnt |
| Max length (mm) | | | 6-8 | 4-6 | 2-4 | 0-2 |
| Bone fragment type | | | diaphysis | diaphysis | diaphysis | diaphysis |
| Comments | soft, white powdery, poor condition | poor condition | poor condition | poor condition | poor condition | poor condition |
| Z1 | | | | | | |
| Z2 | | | | | | |
| Z3 | 1 | | | | | |
| Z4 | 1 | | | | | |
| Z5 | 1 | | | | | |
| Z6 | | | | | | |
| Z7 | | | | | | |
| Z8 | | | | | | |
| Side | right | | | | | |

7 Discussion (Figs 1, 6)

General

During this evaluation, 166 features were recorded. Of these, 71 (ie 43% of all features) were natural linears of probable geological origin, or tree-throw pits. Of the remaining number, 65 (ie 40% of all features) were post-medieval or modern (usually field boundary ditches). There were only 27 significant archaeological features, of which three were Middle Iron Age (1.5%), three were Middle Iron Age or Roman (1.5%), and twenty-one were Roman (12% of total). Five features were undated (2% of total).

Natural features

There is no need to discuss the features of natural or geological origin, apart from noting their presence. The natural features recorded as possible tree-throw pits are of more interest, because they may involve human activity. It is, of course, possible that all the tree-throw pits are of entirely natural origin, and represent hollows created by the uprooted root systems of trees blown down in storms.

In some cases, however, charcoal in the fills of the tree-throw pits may indicate that the trees were deliberately burnt down by humans. Such charcoally fills were noted in eleven out of the 39 (definite and possible) tree-throw pits, showing possible human interference in almost one-third of all instances of trees being uprooted on the site. Unfortunately, the lack of associated finds means that we cannot date this possible human interference with any accuracy. However, the suggestion that the uprooting of trees is likely to be associated with Neolithic-period land clearance is supported by the presence of two unstratified Neolithic flint flakes.

The Middle Iron Age

As discussed above, it is possible that the earliest activity here was land clearance in the Neolithic period, but the extreme paucity of flints and the absence of Neolithic pottery means that the possibility of Neolithic domestic activity on this site can be

ruled out (and, by inference, the tree clearing must have been carried out by people who did not live on this site).

Following this possible Neolithic land clearance, there is no evidence of activity during the succeeding Bronze Age. By contrast, there is considerable evidence of activity during the Middle Iron Age. Over 1.4kg of Middle Iron Age pottery came from a number of contexts. Most of it was residual in Roman ditches, but a large group came from pit F101 in T87. It is of considerable interest that the geophysical survey (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008) showed a curvilinear ditch feature which coincides exactly with pit F101. It may, therefore, be the case that this pottery was not in a pit, as originally thought, but in a ditch which is *ipso facto* dated to the Middle Iron Age.

Other evidence of Middle Iron Age activity takes the form of fragments of loom-weights from four contexts including ditch/pit F101. These finds indicate that woollen cloth was being woven on this site. Another feature of interest is F133 in T90. This seemed to be an area of trample, probably caused by animals tethered or fenced on this spot. It is of course uncertain which kind of animal caused this trample, but, if this interpretation is correct, then meat and milk may tentatively be added to the list of local produce. Except for the possible Middle Iron Age enclosure, there is no evidence of the digging of ditches in the Middle Iron Age.

Although interesting in its own right, the Middle Iron Age material from the evaluation takes on an extra significance because it is located only 600m north of Stanway Quarry site Enclosure 2, a ditched Middle Iron Age domestic enclosure with a probable round-house (Crummy *et al* 2007). The material from the evaluation can be interpreted as another element of the same Middle Iron Age farmed landscape.

The Late Iron Age

The absence of pottery dated to the Late Iron Age (from c 50 BC to AD 43) indicates a lack of activity here at that time.

The Roman period

A number of ditches were cut in the 1st or 2nd century across the area which had been the focus of the Middle Iron Age occupation, and just to the west of the possible curvilinear enclosure identified as a result of the geophysical survey (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008). The nature of these ditches, many of which shared a V-profile, indicated that they may have defined a rectilinear enclosure measuring approximately 62m east-west by 70m north-south. There are three problems with the identification of this ?enclosure. Firstly, none of the corners were located. Secondly, the southern half of this ?enclosure is not well defined. Thirdly, the eastern ditch of this ?enclosure should have passed through T87, but did not, though perhaps there was an entrance here. If an alternative interpretation is preferred, ie that there is no Roman enclosure here, then this does not alter the fact that there are substantial Roman ditches on this site.

The ?enclosure was not the only Roman landscape feature. The ditch postulated as the southern side of the ?enclosure continued almost 30m to the west (through T83). This may be either a continuation of the southern side of the ?enclosure, or an independent ditch line. It is always difficult in an evaluation to know precisely where isolated ditch fragments fit into any given period, but some of the isolated ditch fragments may be Roman in date. Among the possible Roman features is the ditch approximately 40m to the north of the ?enclosure (F78 in T65). Thus, there may have been contemporary field ditches defining a field system around the ?enclosure.

Undated post-holes adjacent to the eastern ditch of the ?enclosure may have been parts of structures within the ?enclosure, and post-holes cut into its northern ditch may be parts of fence lines associated with stock management.

If the ?enclosure can be shown to have been an enclosure, then it will take on a wider significance because of the presence only 500m to the south of the Stanway burial site. Typically, the Stanway funerary enclosures each had a prominent feature – a burial chamber or pyre site – along a central axis. No such features were found on the evaluation site, but the hypothetical central point did not coincide with any of the trenches.

Post-medieval/modern landscape

The dominant features identified by this evaluation were field boundary ditches of the post-medieval, and sometimes the modern, periods. Many of these are to be seen on early OS coverage, and many were detected during the geophysical survey (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008). During the evaluation, it could clearly be seen that the projected lines of the excavated ditches continued as modern hedges. For instance, F136 and F135 in T76 and T83 continued the line of the hedgerow directly to the north. The post-medieval agricultural landscape is, therefore, broadly in line with that which still exists and is in use today.

Other features can possibly be associated with this modern farming landscape. Although the majority of the tree-throw pits were undated, it is possible that some of them are the result of modern tree-stump removal.

8 Archive deposition

The finds and the paper and digital archive are held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but both will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums under accession code 2008.147.

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Note: all CAT reports, except DBAs (desk-based assessments) are available online at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk> in .pdf format.

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11 Glossary

| | |
|---------------|--|
| CM | Colchester and Ipswich Museums |
| context | specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made |
| ECC | Essex County Council |
| EHER | Essex Historic Environment Record |
| faunal | animal |
| feature | an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor |
| Late Iron Age | c 50 BC to AD 43 (the Roman invasion) |
| medieval | period from AD 1066 to c AD 1500 |
| MIA | Middle Iron Age (c 300 BC to 50 BC) |
| modern | c 1800 to the present |
| natural | geological deposit undisturbed by human activity |
| NGR | National Grid Reference |
| OS | Ordnance Survey |
| post-medieval | c 1500 to c 1800 |
| prehistory | the years BC |
| residual | an early find in a later context (eg a Roman coin in a Victorian pit) |
| Roman | the period from AD 43 to approximately AD 410 |
| RRCSAL | Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London |
| U/S | unstratified, ie no context |

12 Context list

(All weights are in grammes. Only those finds which are not quantified elsewhere in this report are quantified here.)

| Context | Trench | Description | Finds numbers (bold) with details | Date |
|---------|--------|---|--|--------------------------|
| F1 | T20 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F2 | T20 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F3 | T21 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F4 | T20 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F5 | T21 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F6 | T21 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F7 | T21 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F8 | T22 | Irrigation duct (plastic pipe) | | modern |
| F9 | T23 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F10 | T22 | Ditch with humic fill | | post-medieval/ modern |
| F11 | T23 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F12 | T30 | Field boundary ditch, dark fill (continued as F24 in T37) | 1: Iron fitting, modern gate hinge?; unworked limestone lump, 912g. 2: 1 Roman brick fragment, 1,000g. | post-medieval |
| F13 | T29 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F14 | T25 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F15 | T38 | Ditch, possibly terminal | 3: 1 Roman tile fragment, 18g. | Roman |
| F16 | T38 | Ditch, possibly terminal | | ?Roman |
| F17 | T38 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F18 | T35 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F19 | T38 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F20 | T30 | Field boundary ditch, continued as F12 | | ?post-medieval |
| F21 | T30 | Ditch | | ?post-medieval |
| F22 | T30 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F23 | T34 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F24 | T36 | Field boundary ditch, continued as F12 | | post-medieval |
| F24 | T37 | Field boundary ditch, continued as F12 | | post-medieval |
| F25 | T34 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F26 | T34 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F27 | T36 | Ditch | | post-medieval |
| F28 | T37 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F29 | T37 | Field boundary ditch | | post-medieval |
| F30 | T36 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F31 | T34 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F32 | T39 | Post-hole | | ?post-medieval |
| F33 | T39 | Post-hole | | ?post-medieval |
| F34 | T39 | Post-hole | | ?post-medieval |
| F35 | T39 | Ditch associated with post-holes F32-F36? | | ?post-medieval |
| F36 | T39 | Post-hole | | ?post-medieval |
| F37 | T40 | Post-hole | | ?post-medieval |
| F38 | T40 | Post-hole | 5: 1 peg-tile fragment, 97g. | post-medieval |
| F39 | T40 | Post-hole | 6: 2 peg-tile fragments, 67g. 20th-century pottery. | modern |

| Context | Trench | Description | Finds numbers (bold) with details | Date |
|---------|--------|---|---|-------------------------------|
| F40 | T40 | Post-hole | 16: Middle Iron Age pottery. | post-medieval |
| F41 | T40 | Post-hole | | ?post-medieval |
| F42 | T40 | Post-hole | | ?post-medieval |
| F43 | T48 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F44 | T48 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F45 | T48 | Agricultural pit | | modern |
| F46 | T48 | Agricultural pit | 8: 2 peg-tile fragments, 11g. D. | modern |
| F47 | T49 | Ditch | | undated – ?post-medieval |
| F48 | T49 | Agricultural pit | 10: 1 peg-tile fragment, 25g. D. | post-medieval |
| F49 | T58 | Ditch | 9: 1 peg-tile fragment, 3g. D. | post-medieval/ modern |
| F50 | T58 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F51 | T54 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F52 | T54 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F53 | T50 | Ditch | | ?post-medieval |
| F54 | T51 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F55 | T51 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F56 | T57 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F57 | T56 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F58 | T55 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F59 | T55 | Ditch | | undated – post-medieval |
| F60 | T50 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F61 | T56 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F62 | T56 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F63 | T56 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F64 | T67 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F65 | T80 | Post-hole | | ?Roman |
| F66 | T80 | Ditch cut by stake holes | | ?post-medieval |
| F67 | T80 | Ditch - northern side of Roman ?enclosure (see also F102, F111) | 14: Middle Iron Age and early 2nd- to 3rd-century pottery. 15: Middle Iron Age pottery. | Roman, 2nd-3rd century |
| F68 | T66 | Ditch | 12: Middle Iron Age pottery, 448g (residual). 12: 2 peg-tile fragments, 40g. D. 4 post-medieval or modern brick fragments, 488g, one 56mm thick. D. Coal, slag. D. | post-medieval |
| F69 | T66 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F70 | T80 | Post-hole | 13: Three small abraded fragments from a fired clay loom-weight. | undated – ?Middle Iron Age |
| F71 | T67 | Ditch cut by post-holes | | ?Roman |
| F72 | T67 | Ditch | | ?Roman |
| F73 | T67 | Post-hole, part of fence in ditch F71 | | ?Roman |
| F74 | T67 | Post hole, part of fence in ditch F71 | | ?Roman |
| F75 | T67 | Post-hole, part of fence in ditch F71 | | ?Roman |
| F76 | T79 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F77 | T73 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F78 | T65 | Ditch | | ?Roman |
| F79 | T87 | Natural linear feature | | - |

| Context | Trench | Description | Finds numbers (bold) with details | Date |
|---------|--------|---|--|---------------------------|
| F80 | T80 | Post-hole, part of fence in ditch F66 | | ?post-medieval |
| F81 | T80 | Post-hole, part of fence in ditch F66 | | ?post-medieval |
| F82 | T80 | Post-hole, part of fence in ditch F66 | | ?post-medieval |
| F83 | T80 | Post-hole, part of fence in ditch F66 | | ?post-medieval |
| F84 | T80 | Post-hole, part of fence in ditch F66 | | ?post-medieval |
| F85 | T80 | Post-hole, part of fence in ditch F66 | | ?post-medieval |
| F86 | T80 | Post-hole, part of fence in ditch F66 | | ?post-medieval |
| F87 | T80 | Post-hole, part of fence in ditch F66 | | ?post-medieval |
| F88 | T80 | Post-hole, part of fence in ditch F66 | | ?post-medieval |
| F89 | T80 | Post-hole, part of fence in ditch F66 | | ?post-medieval |
| F90 | T87 | Waste pit with dark fill | | Middle Iron Age or ?Roman |
| F91 | T79 | Ditch cut by stake holes | 17: Roman pottery (1st-early 2nd century). 27: ?Neolithic flint flake. | post-medieval |
| F92 | T78 | Field boundary ditch | 18: Early Neolithic blade. | post-medieval |
| F93 | T64 | ?Tree-throw pit; charcoal in fill | | - |
| F94 | T64 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F95 | T62 | Post-hole | | undated |
| F96 | T62 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F97 | 79 | Post-hole, part of fence in ditch F91 | | ?post-medieval |
| F98 | T79 | Post-hole, part of fence in ditch F91 | | ?post-medieval |
| F99 | T79 | Post-hole, part of fence in ditch F91 | | ?post-medieval |
| F100 | T79 | ?Tree-throw pit; charcoal in fill - land clearance? | | - |
| F101 | T87 | Ditch or pit with dark fill, domestic dump? | 19: Large group Middle Iron Age pottery. 1 piece burnt flint. Four abraded fragments from one or more Middle Iron Age loom-weights. | Middle Iron Age or Roman |
| F102 | T80 | V-profile ditch - eastern side of Roman ?enclosure | | Middle Iron Age or Roman |
| F103 | T78 | Pit, associated with F92? | Daub. | ?Roman |
| F104 | T73 | Ditch, northern side of Roman ?enclosure, continued as F67? | | Roman |
| F105 | T92 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F106 | T92 | Charcoally agricultural pit | | post-medieval/modern |
| F107 | T70 | ?Tree-throw pit; charcoal in fill | | - |
| F108 | T98 | Field boundary ditch | 28: 3 peg-tile fragments, 27g. D. 28: 1 piece 19th-century+ bottle glass, 5g. | modern |

| Context | Trench | Description | Finds numbers (bold) with details | Date |
|---------|--------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| | | | 28: 3 small oyster shell fragments, 2g. D. | |
| F109 | T93 | Field boundary ditch, continuation of F108 | 22: Fragment of a large iron horseshoe - Suffolk Punch or Shire Horse. Peg-tile fragment, animal bone – D. | post-medieval/ modern |
| F110 | T78 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F111 | T78 | Ditch, northern side of Roman ?enclosure, continued F67, F104 | | Roman |
| F112 | T85 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F113 | T97 | Field boundary ditch - continuation of F108, F109 | | post-medieval/ modern |
| F114 | T93 | Ditch | | undated – ?post-medieval |
| F115 | T72 | Ditch | | ?Roman |
| F116 | T72 | Charcoally pit | 25: animal bone fragments. | Roman |
| F117 | T91 | V-profile ditch, southern side of Roman ?enclosure | 26: Middle Iron Age pottery. 2 flint flakes. 29: Abraded fragment of a triangular Middle Iron Age loom-weight. | Roman |
| F118 | T77 | Roman ?enclosure ditch (see also F111, F104) | | Roman |
| F119 | T97 | ?Pit; cut by ditch F129 | 37: MIA pottery. | Middle Iron Age |
| F120 | T84 | Ditch | | post-medieval |
| F121 | T77 | Post-hole | | Roman |
| F122 | T77 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F123 | T77 | Stake hole – part of a fence? | | undated |
| F124 | T77 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F125 | T77 | Stake hole | | undated |
| F126 | T72 | Ditch | | ?Roman |
| F127 | T90 | V-profile ditch, southern side of Roman ?enclosure, continued as F117 | 30: MIA and Roman pottery. Flint flake. | Roman, 1st century |
| F128 | T84 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F129 | T97 | Ditch, cuts pit F119 | | undated |
| F130 | T107 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F131 | T107 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F132 | T106 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F133 | T90 | Stock trample - erosion hollow | 32: MIA pottery. | Middle Iron Age |
| F134 | T83 | Ditch | 33: MIA and ?Roman pottery. | Roman |
| F135 | T83 | Field boundary ditch | 34: 1 peg-tile fragment, 70g. D. 34: 1 possible flint flake. Clinker. D. | post-medieval/ modern |
| F136 | T76 | Field boundary ditch, continuation of F135 | 36: 2 Peg-tile fragments, 131g. D. 1 ?Roman brick fragment, 447g. | post-medieval/ modern |
| F137 | T103 | Ditch | 35: 19th- to 20th-century pottery. 2 peg-tile fragments, 97g. D. 35: 2 post-medieval brick fragments, 50g. D. | modern |
| F138 | T103 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F139 | T100 | Ditch | 38: 19th- to 20th-century pottery. Peg-tile, brick fragments. D. | post-medieval/ modern |

| Context | Trench | Description | Finds numbers (bold) with details | Date |
|---------|--------|--|--|-----------------|
| F140 | T89 | Ditch | 39 : 1 Roman brick fragment, 249g. 39 : 2 brick scraps, Roman, 8g. D. | post-medieval |
| F141 | T101 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F142 | T81 | Ditch | | post-medieval |
| F143 | T82 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F144 | T68 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F145 | T75 | Ditch | | post-medieval |
| F146 | T95 | Ditch | 40 : 4 peg-tile fragments, 85g. D. | post-medieval |
| F147 | T81 | Ditch | | post-medieval |
| F148 | T79 | Post-hole | 41 : MIA pottery. | Middel Iron Age |
| F149 | T70 | Ditch | | post-medieval |
| F150 | T94 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F151 | T68 | Field boundary ditch, continuation of F145 | 42 : Flint flake. | post-medieval |
| F152 | T59 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F153 | T7 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F154 | T1 | Brick drainage hub | | modern |
| F155 | T10 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F156 | T10 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F157 | T15 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F158 | T18 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F159 | T68 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F160 | T102 | Ditch, terminal end? | | ?post-medieval |
| F161 | T103 | (this was F137 renumbered) | | (modern) |
| F162 | T18 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F163 | T17 | Natural linear feature | | - |
| F164 | T19 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F165 | T19 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| F166 | T3 | ?Tree-throw pit | | - |
| L1 | all | Agricultural topsoil | | modern |
| L2 | all | Accumulation horizon silty clay | | post-Roman |
| L3 | all | Geological sands and gravels | | - |

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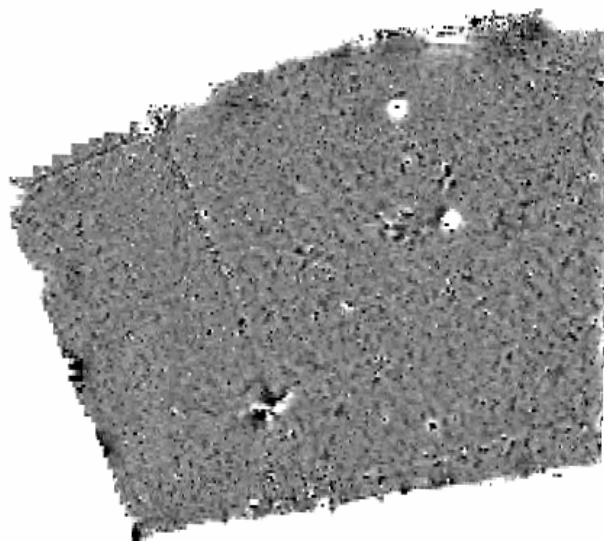
**13 Appendix: archaeological geophysical survey on land at
Stanway, Colchester, Essex – September 2008
by Northamptonshire Archaeology**



Northamptonshire
County Council

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Geophysical Survey
on Land at Stanway, Colchester,
Essex
September 2008



Ian Fisher and John Walford

October 2008

Report 08/183

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| Checked by | Pat Chapman | | 03/11/08 |
| Verified by | Adrian Butler | | 03/11/08 |
| Approved by | Andy Chapman | | 03/11/08 |

OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Project name | Archaeological Geophysical Survey on Land at Stanway, Colchester, Essex | |
| Short description | Northamptonshire Archaeology conducted an archaeological geophysical survey on land, located to the south-west of Colchester, Essex. Approximately 7ha of detailed gradiometer survey was carried out in seven fields. The survey identified four possible enclosures, former field boundaries and a dry valley. | |
| Project type | Geophysical survey | |
| Site status | None | |
| Previous work | None | |
| Current Land use | Agricultural | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| Monument type/ period | | |
| Significant finds | None | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| County | Essex | |
| Site address | Colchester, Essex | |
| Study area | 14 ha | |
| OS Easting & Northing | 595200, 223000 – 595900, 223300 | |
| Height OD | 26m-36m AOD | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Organisation | Northamptonshire Archaeology | |
| Project brief originator | Andrew Josephs Ltd | |
| Project Design originator | Andrew Josephs Ltd | |
| Director/Supervisor | John Walford | |
| Project Manager | Adrian Butler | |
| Sponsor or funding body | Tarmac Quarry Products Ltd | |
| PROJECT DATE | | |
| Start date | September 2008 | |
| End date | September 2008 | |
| ARCHIVES | Location | Content |
| Physical | n/a | |
| Paper | NA | Site survey records |
| Digital | NA | Geophysical survey & GIS data |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| Title | Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report | |
| Serial title & volume | Archaeological Geophysical Survey on Land at Stanway, Colchester, Essex | |
| Author(s) | NA Report 08/183 | |
| Page numbers | Ian Fisher & John Walford | |
| Date | 9 | |
| | 03/11/08 | |

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| 3 | TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY | 2 |
| 4 | METHODOLOGY | 2 |
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Fig 5 Detailed Gradiometer Results Fields 5 & 9, 1:1000

Fig 6 Detailed Gradiometer Interpretation Fields 5 & 9, 1:1000

Fig 7 Detailed Gradiometer Results Fields 7 & 11, 1:1000

Fig 8 Detailed Gradiometer Interpretation Fields 7 & 11, 1:1000

ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY ON LAND

AT STANWAY, COLCHESTER, ESSEX

SEPTEMBER 2008

ABSTRACT

Northamptonshire Archaeology conducted an archaeological geophysical survey on land, located to the south-west of Colchester, Essex. Approximately 7ha of detailed gradiometer survey was carried out in seven fields. The survey identified four possible enclosures, former field boundaries and a dry valley.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by Andrew Josephs Ltd, on behalf of Tarmac Quarry Products Ltd, to undertake an archaeological geophysical survey on land south-west of Colchester, Essex (NGR TL 956, 232; Fig 1). The work was undertaken to support a planning proposal for the expansion of the existing sand and gravel quarry to the south.

The objectives of the geophysical survey were to identify the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The programme consisted of a detailed gradiometer survey of approximately 7ha area of land.

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The proposed quarry extension is located within the civil parish of Stanway, south-west of Colchester. The site comprises a group of eleven fields totalling 14ha. The site is currently under a mixed cultivation regime, with some fields in arable use and others containing orchards. At the time of survey, seven of the eleven fields were surveyable (7ha).

The area is mapped by the British Geological Survey as being London Clay, with superficial deposits of Glacial Sand and Gravel (BGS 1:625,000 geology map: www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex accessed 28/10/08).

3 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

The field pattern has changed very little since the late 19th century, other than for the addition and removal of hedge lines to increase field numbers or size. In 1939, it was documented that much of the area was woodland (Essex 1:2,500 map, 1939: www.old-maps.co.uk accessed 28/10/08).

4 **METHODOLOGY**

Geophysical survey was carried out in accordance with the Method Statement (NA 2008) and English Heritage and the Institute of Field Archaeologists Guidelines (EH 2008 & Gaffney, Gater and Ovendon 2002). Seven fields were subject to geophysical survey.

Detailed Gradiometer Survey

All detailed magnetometer survey was undertaken using Bartington Grad601-2 fluxgate gradiometers. The Grad601-2 is constructed as a dual-sensor instrument with two vertical gradiometers separated on a yoke to enable two lines of survey to be recorded in tandem.

Seven blocks were surveyed in detail in Fields 1-7. The detailed gradiometer survey was composed of a total of 101 whole and partial, 30m x 30m grid-squares. Each grid square was traversed at rapid walking pace in zigzag mode; and data was recorded every 0.25m along traverses spaced at 1.0m separations. All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the aforementioned guidelines (EH 2008 & Gaffney, Gater and Ovendon 2002).

The data was analysed using Geoplot 3.00u software. Low (negative) magnetism is shown as white and high (positive) magnetism as black in the resultant greytone plots. To avoid the introduction of processing errors, minimal manipulation was carried out on the data. The 'Zero Mean Traverse' function was applied in order to bring the average level of each data line into a balanced zero.

The processed data is presented here in the form of a greyscale highlighting the weaker magnetic anomalies (-4nT / +4nT scale; Figs 2, 3, 5, and 7) georectified to the Ordnance Survey base. Interpretative plots have been generated from the results (Figs 4, 6, and 8), both sets of figures are referred to directly in the following section.

5 SURVEY RESULTS

Detailed Gradiometer Survey

Field 2 (Figs 3 & 4)

The survey identified two positive magnetic linear anomalies that may be archaeologically significant. The first ditch was orientated east to west, located in the north of the survey area. The second was located in the south of the survey area and extended north-east into Field 3. The survey also traversed a dry valley, evident in the field. This was recorded as three linear anomalies, orientated north-east to south-west and can be seen to extend into Field 3 (geological feature). A single ferrous anomaly was identified and represents a manhole cover.

Field 3 (Figs 3 & 4)

In the south of the survey area, three positive linear anomalies were detected, possibly part of a rectilinear enclosure. The long axis is orientated north to south and extends towards Field 2, but it is not visible in the data from Field 2. The dry valley continues and extends northwards, represented by a single curving anomaly. The survey also identified two ferrous anomalies, indicating manhole covers.

Field 4 (Figs 3 & 4)

No significant anomalies were detected. However, only a small area was surveyed.

Field 5 (Figs 5 & 6)

The survey did not identify any significant archaeological remains.

Field 7 (Figs 7 & 8)

The survey was hindered by tree planting; survey was only possible in between lines of trees. The survey results do not show any significant anomalies.

Field 9 (Figs 5 & 6)

Three possible archaeological anomalies were identified adjacent to the eastern boundary. These included a sinuous positive linear anomaly, orientated east to west, a length of ditch that may form part of a sub-rectangular enclosure. Immediately south, the survey detected a curving anomaly. It may be part of an enclosure that extends towards Field 10. A second curvilinear anomaly (an oval enclosure) was identified further south. In the western part of the survey area, former field boundaries were recorded. A linear anomaly orientated north-west to south-east is visible on the

1934 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map for Essex and indicates that Field 9 was previously two fields and that the anomaly detected is a former field boundary (www.old-maps.co.uk accessed 28/10/08). Two more field boundaries, orientated north-east to south-west were identified. Two ferrous anomalies, of unknown provenance, were also detected.

Field 11 (Figs 7 & 8)

No significant anomalies were detected by the survey

6 CONCLUSION

The survey successfully identified anomalies relating to archaeological and geological features and former field boundaries. Four possible enclosures were recorded, a rectangular feature in Field 3 and two ovoid and one possible sub-rectangular enclosure in Field 9 as well as a dry valley in Field 3. No other significant anomalies were identified.

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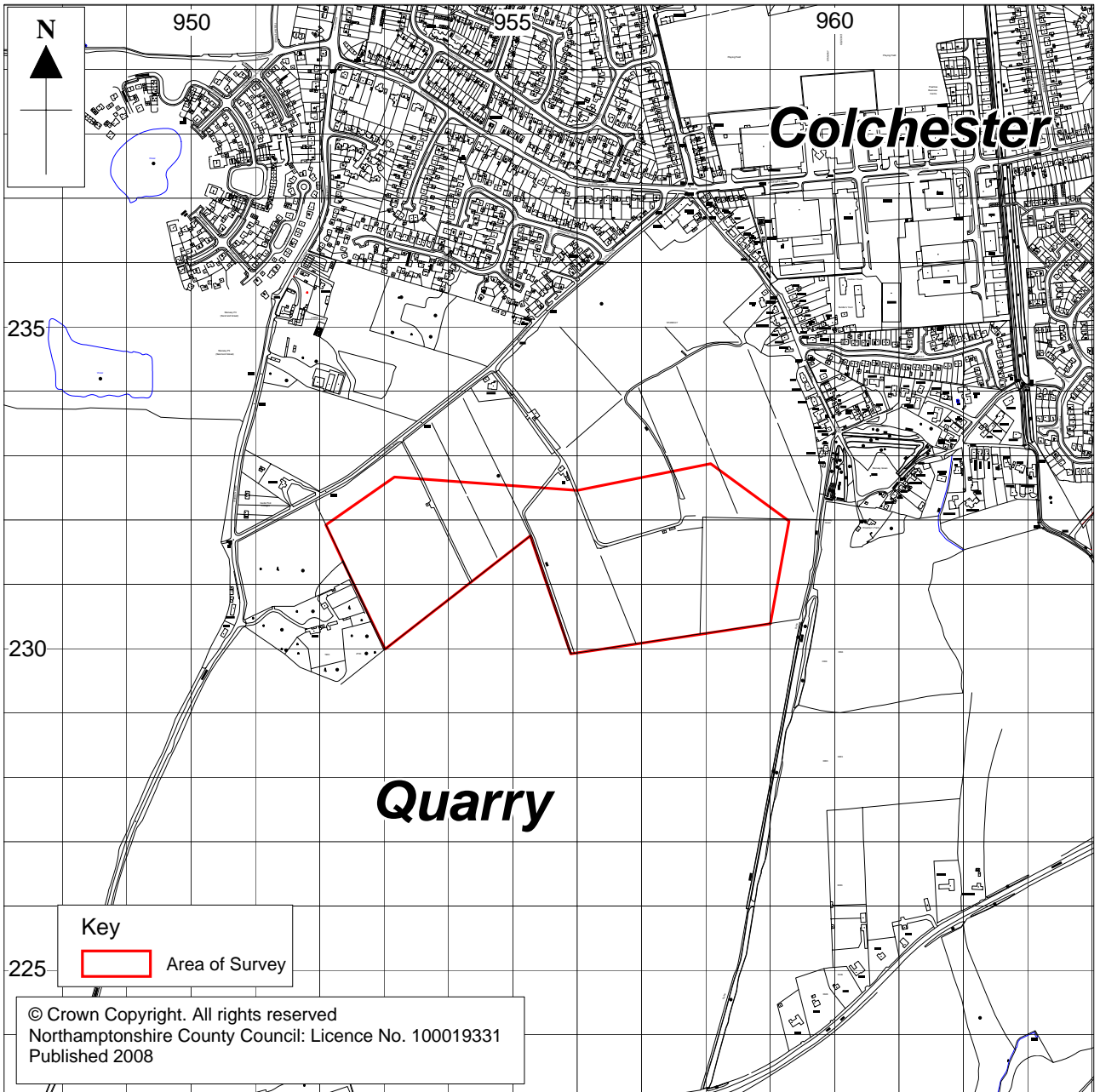
Gaffney, C, Gater, J, and Ovendon, S, 2002 *The Use of Geophysical Techniques in Archaeological Evaluations*, Institute of Field Archaeologists Technical Paper, **6**

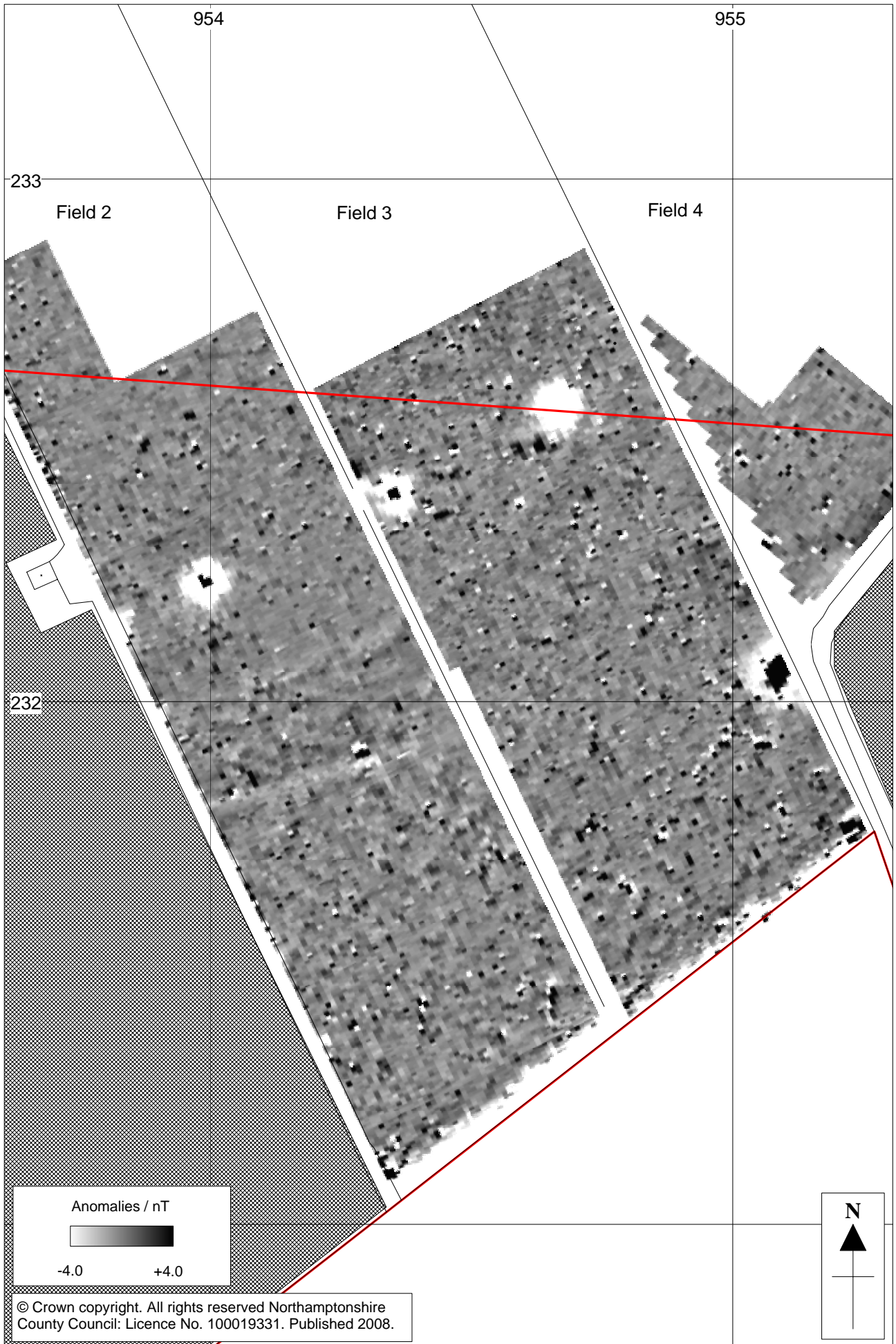
NA 2008 *Land at Stanway, near Colchester, Essex. Archaeological Geophysical Method Statement*

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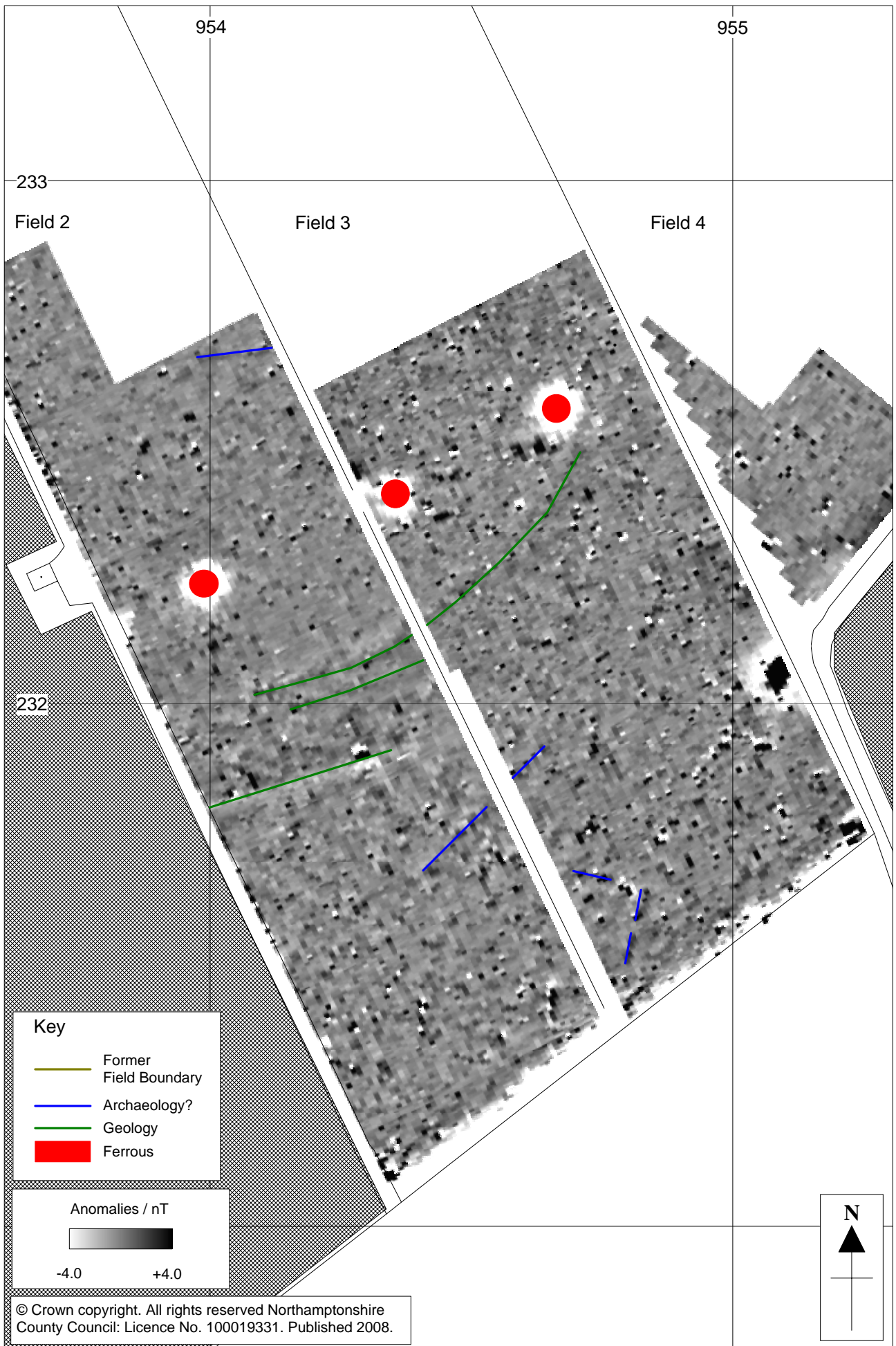
3 November 2008





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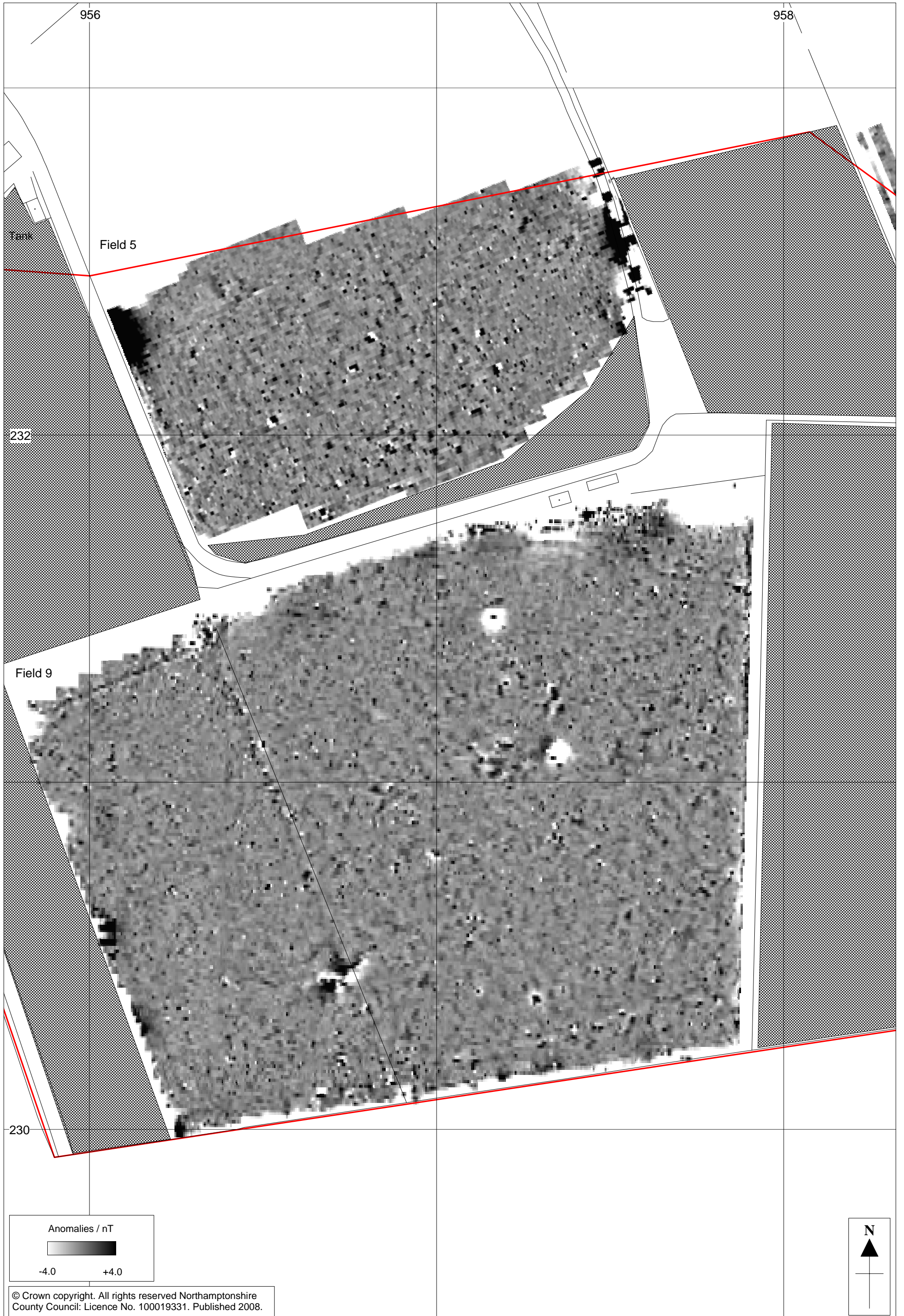
Detailed Gradiometer Results Fields 2, 3 & 4 Fig 3

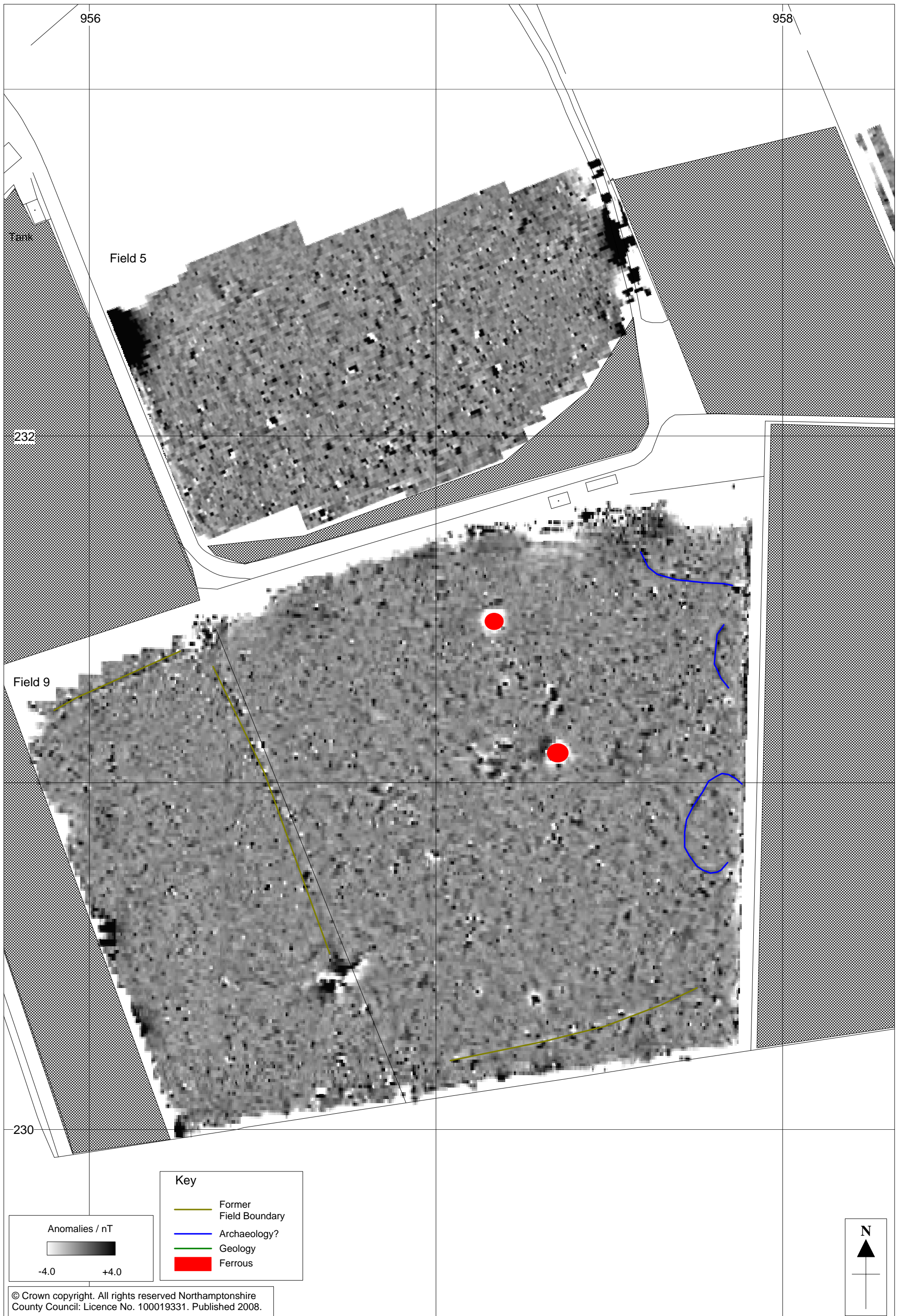


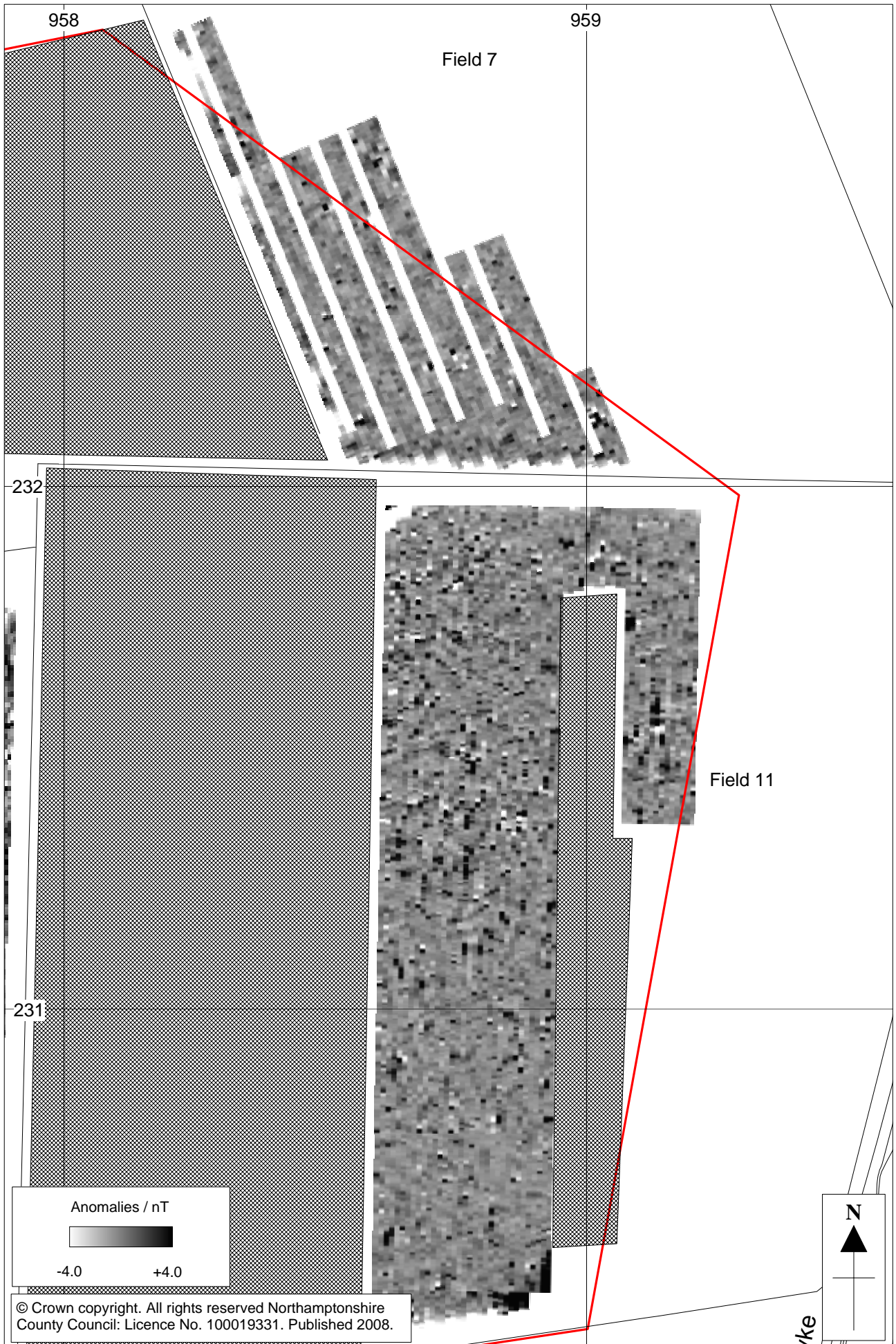
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Detailed Gradiometer Interpretation Fields 2, 3 & 4

Fig 4



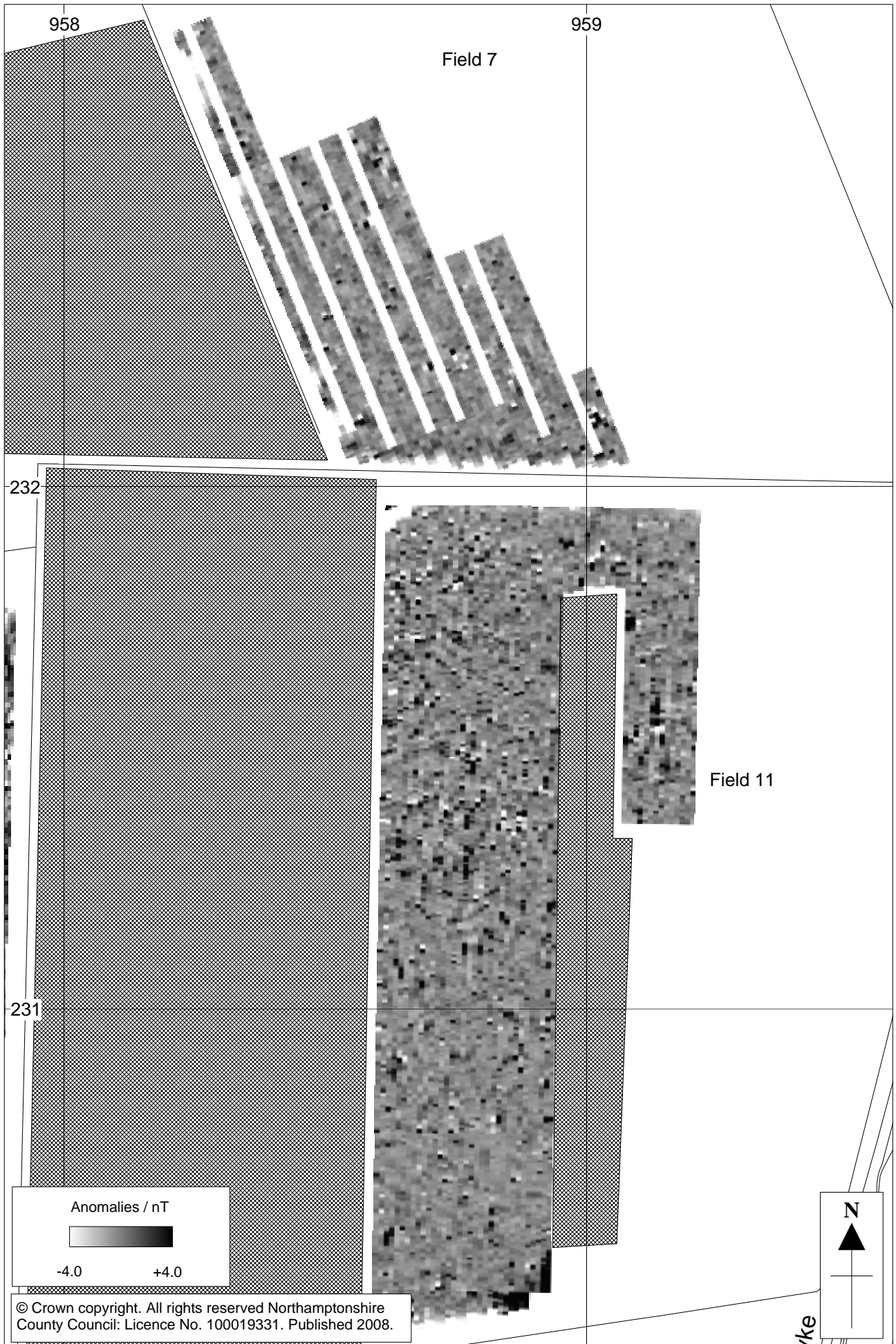




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Detailed Gradiometer Results Fields 7 & 11

Fig 7



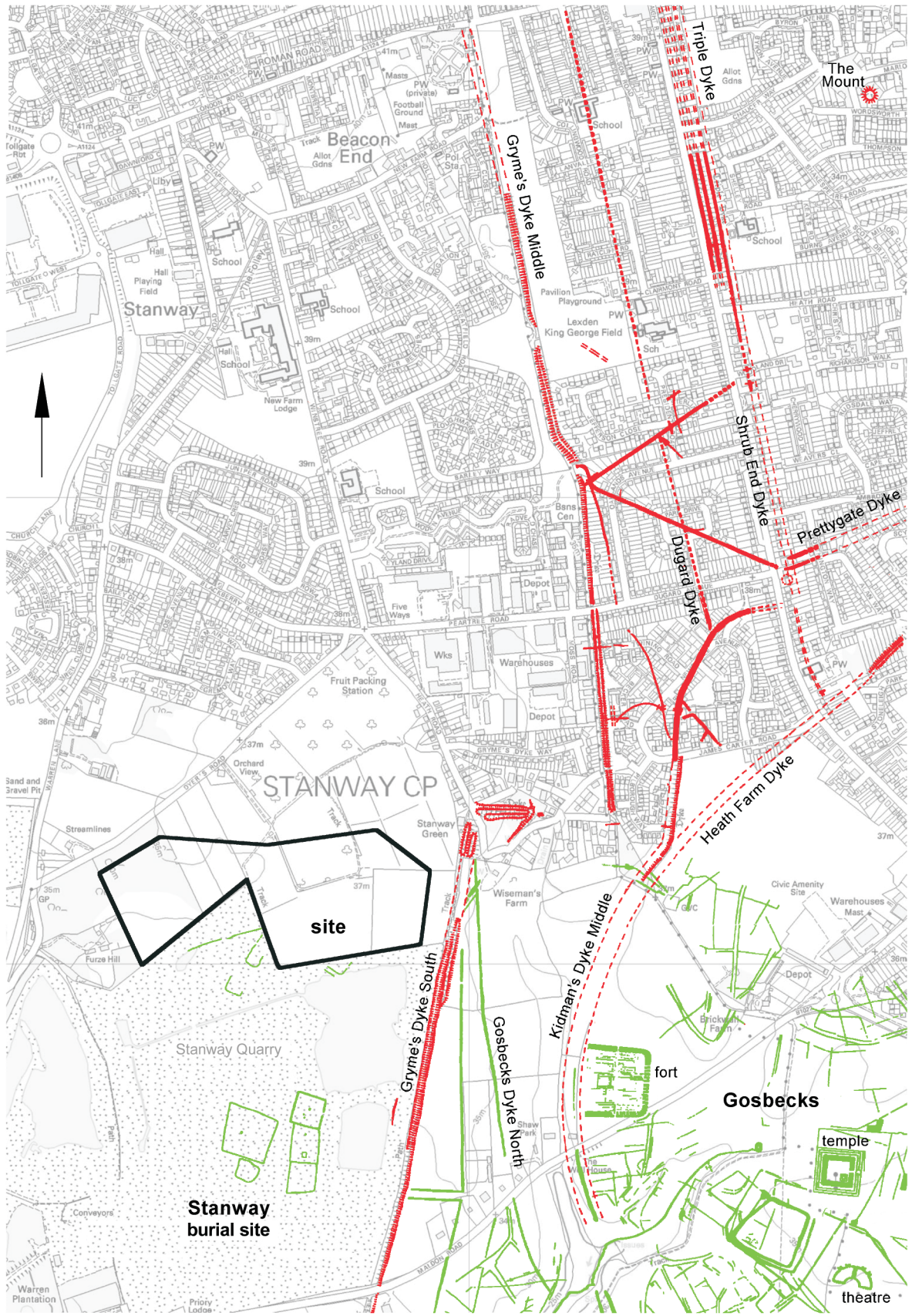


Fig 1 Site location in relation to Gryme's Dyke, Gosbecks, and the Stanway burial site.

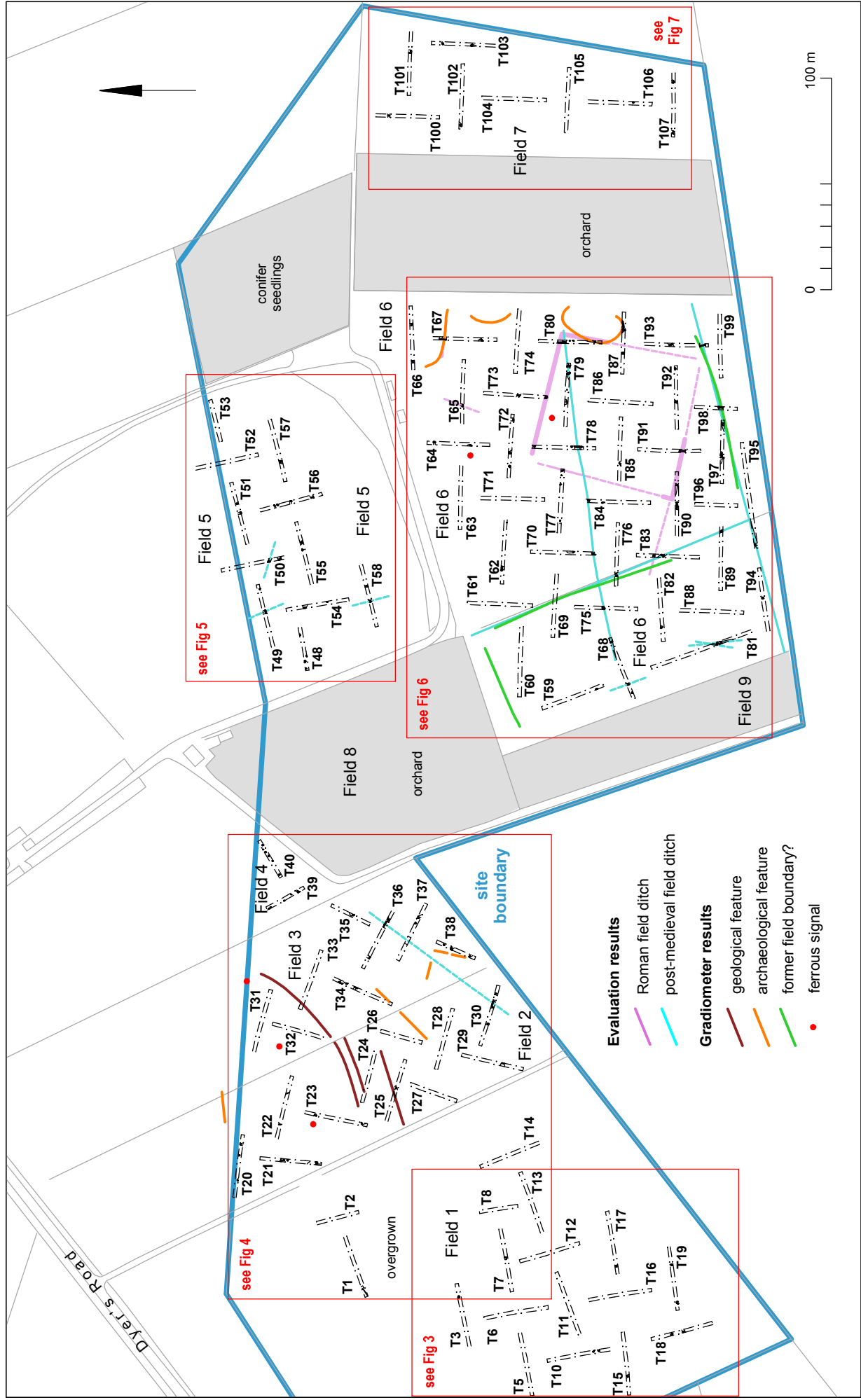


Fig 2 Trench location plan, showing field numbers (Fig 2 key applies to Figs 3-7).

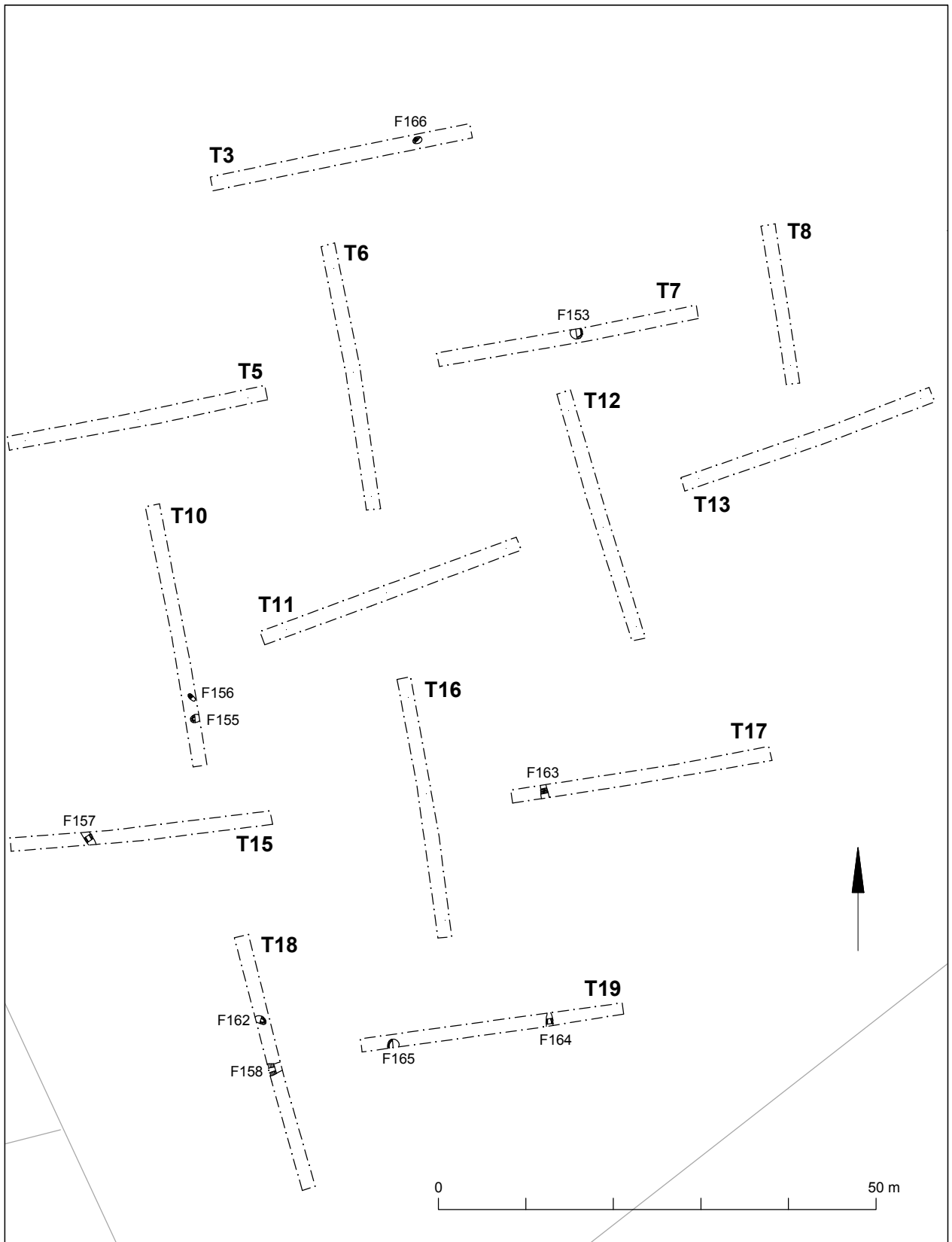


Fig 3 Inset to Figure 2.

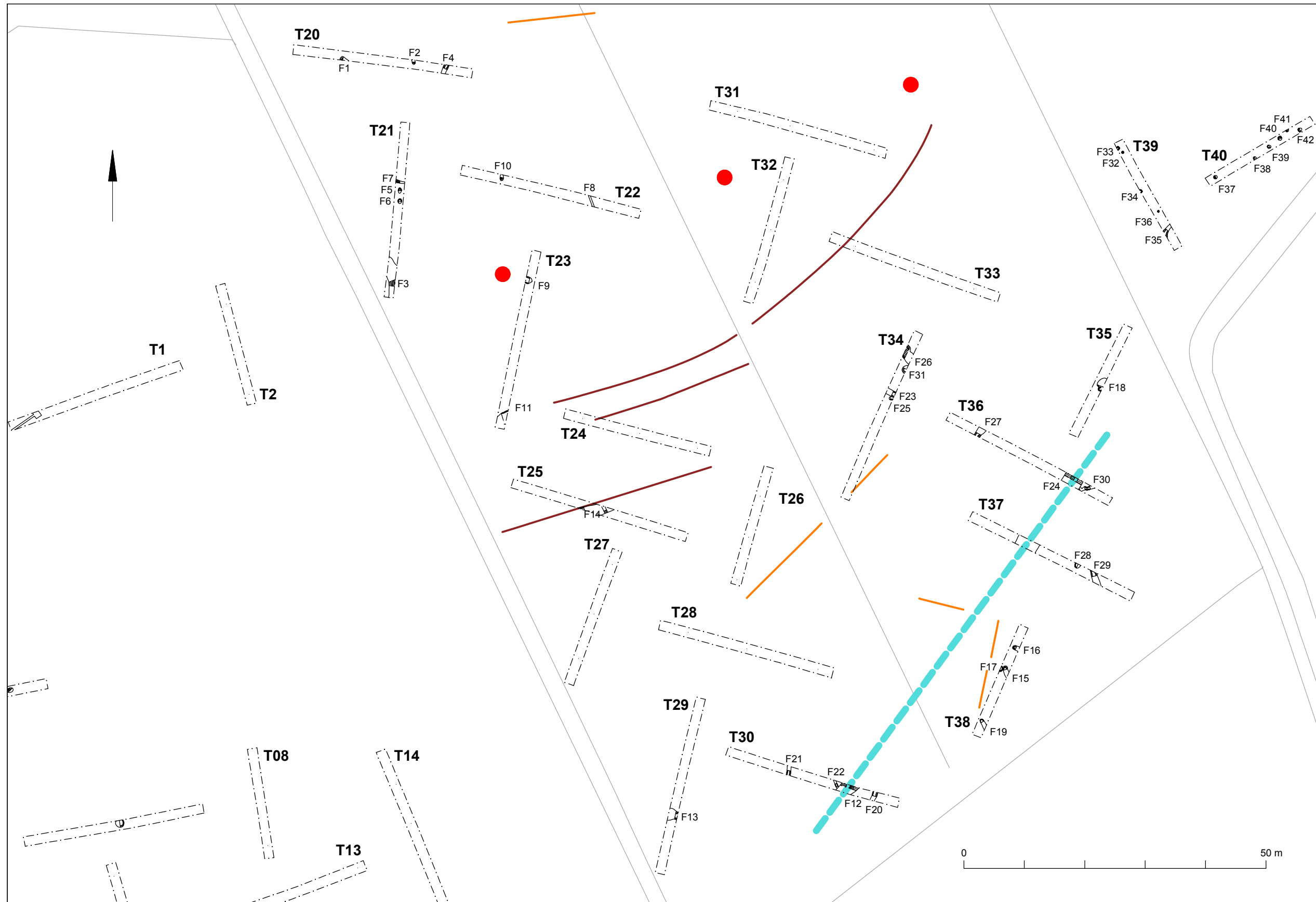


Fig 4 Inset to Figure 2.

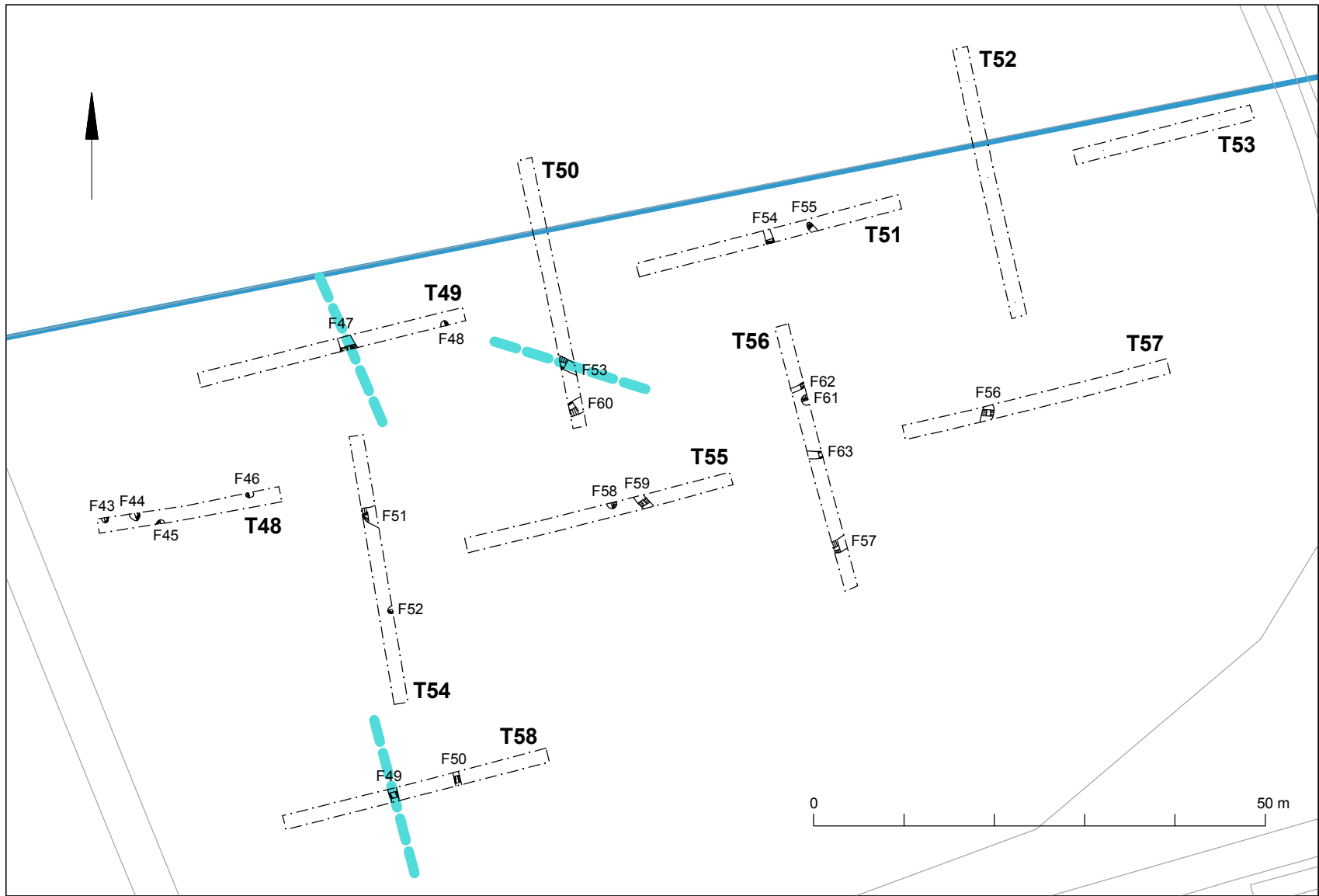


Fig 5 Inset to Figure 2.

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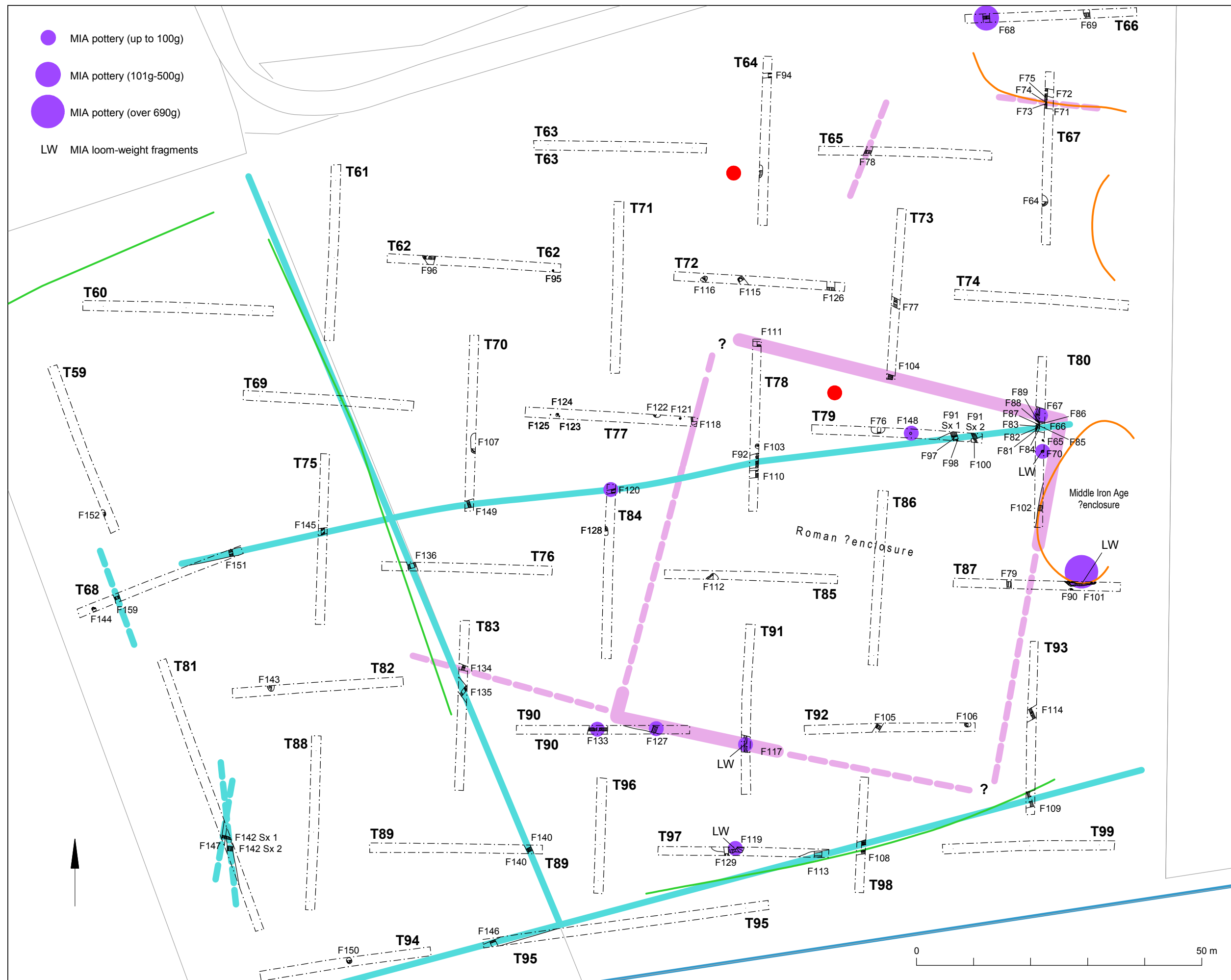
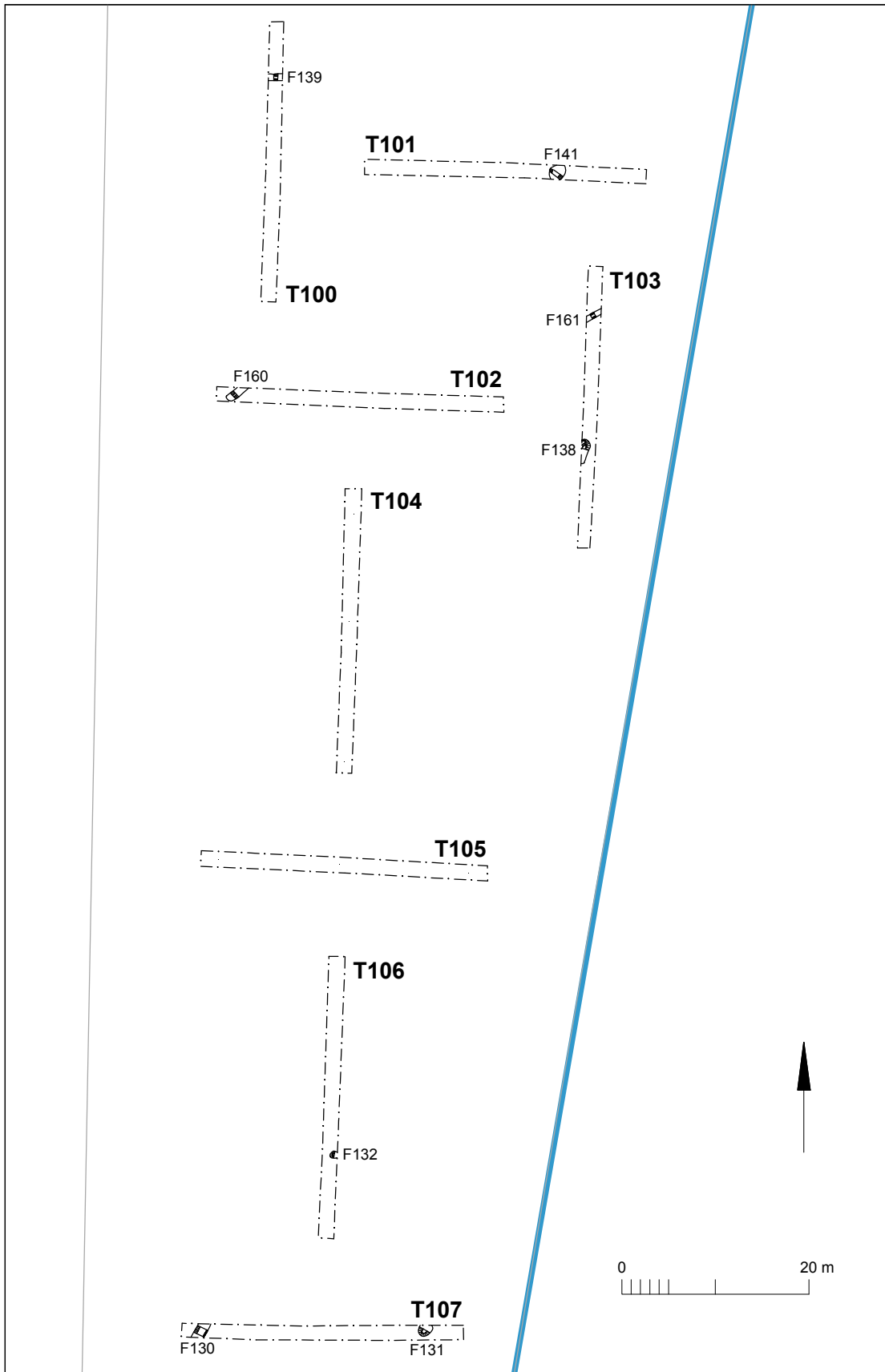


Fig 6 Inset to Figure 2.



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Fig 7 Inset to Figure 2.

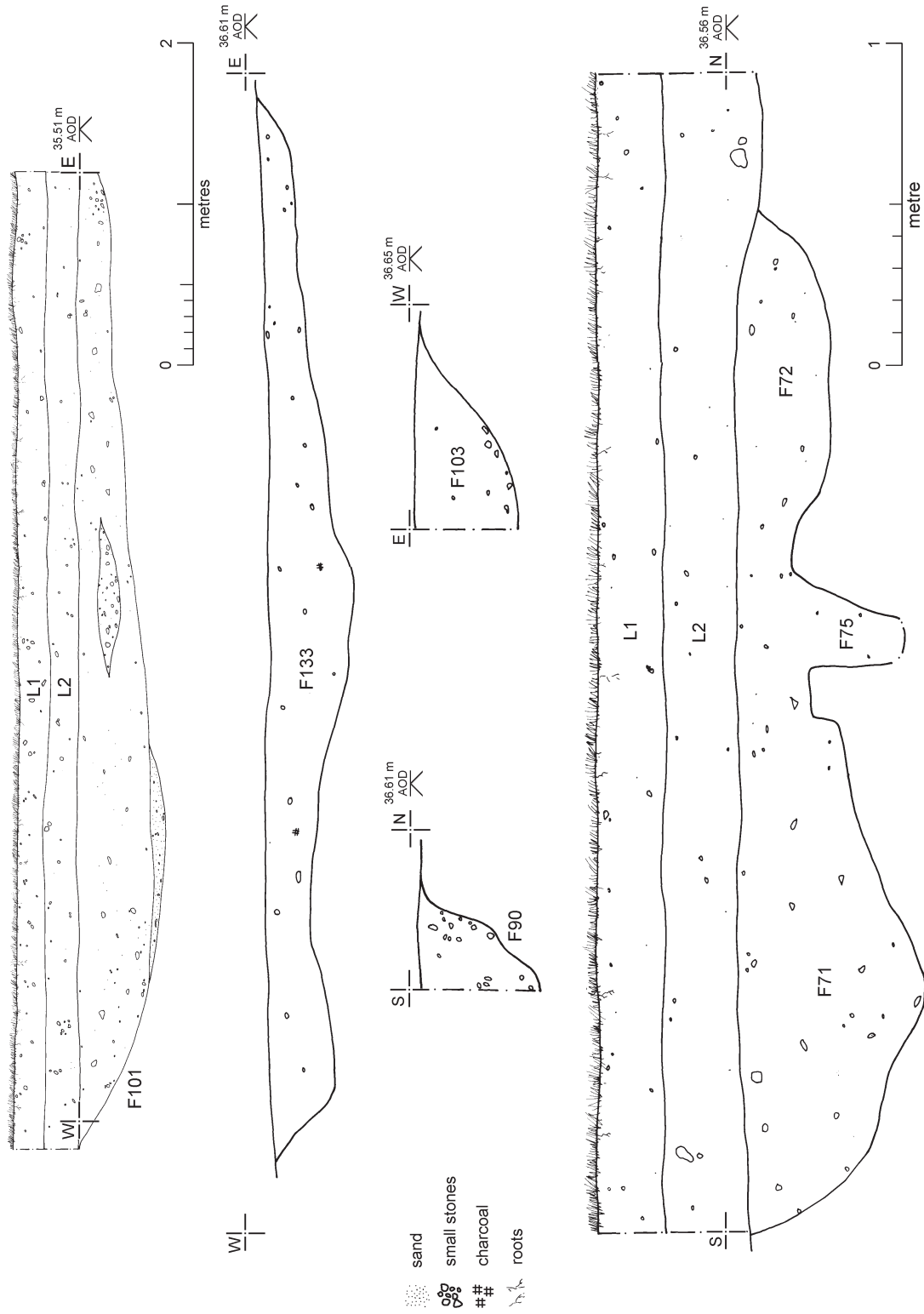


Fig 8 Middle Iron Age and Roman ditches (F101, F133); pits (F72, F90, F103); trample area (F133); and post-hole (F75): sections.

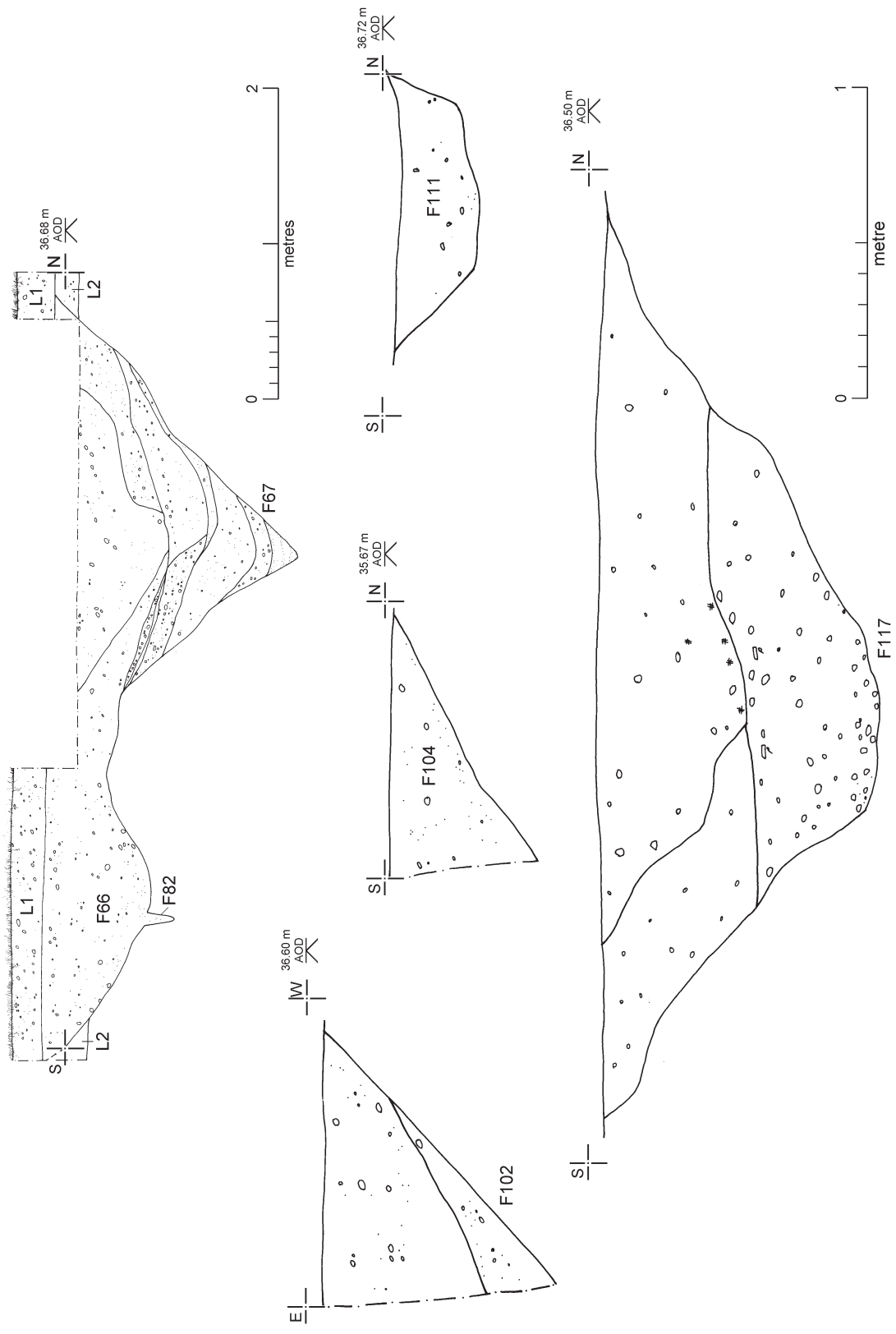


Fig 9 Ditches forming possible Roman enclosure (F67, F102, F104, F111, F117); and adjacent features (F66, F82): sections.

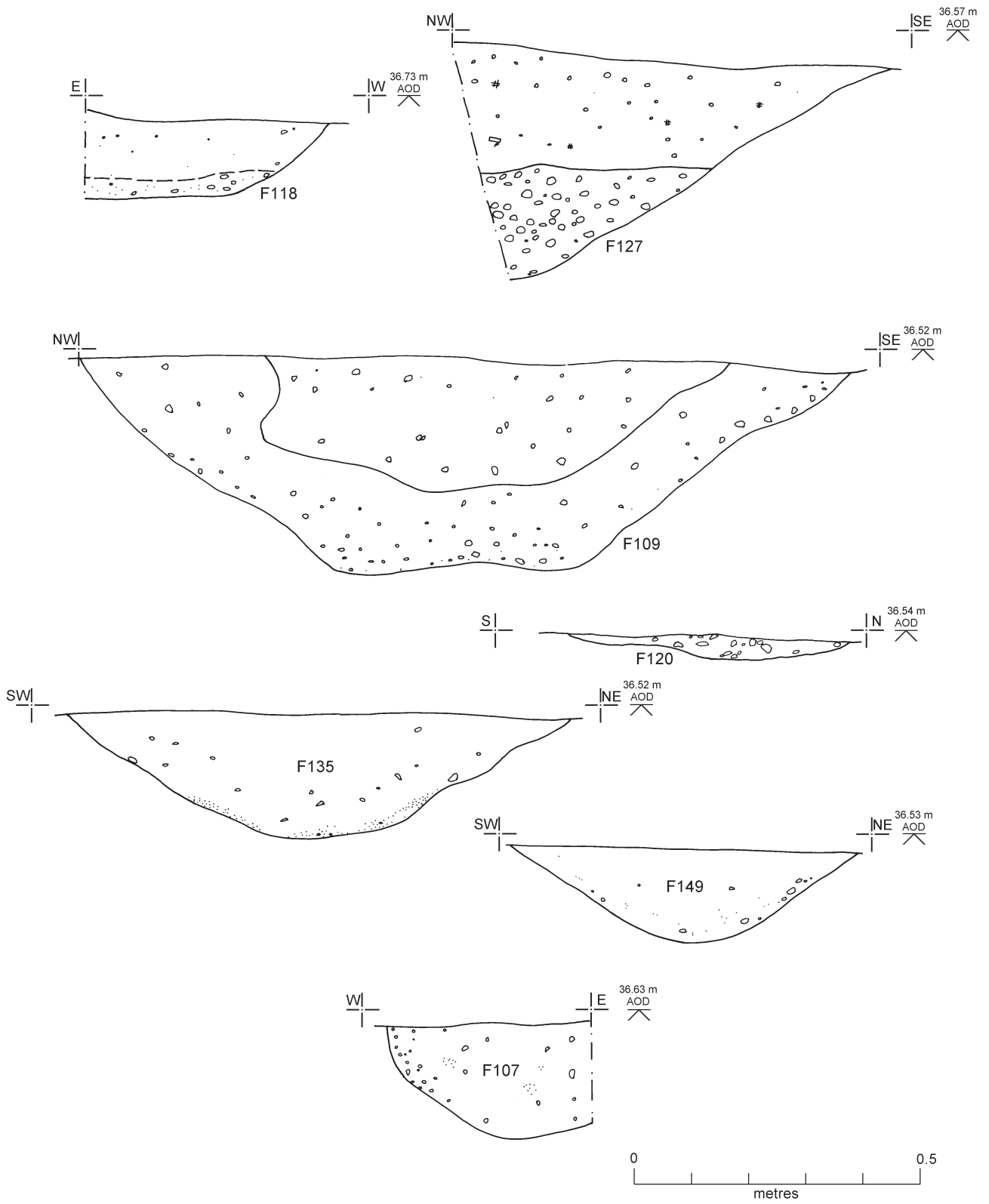


Fig 10 Roman ditches forming possible enclosure (F118, F127); post-medieval ditches (F109, F120, F135, F149); and tree-throw pit (F107): sections.

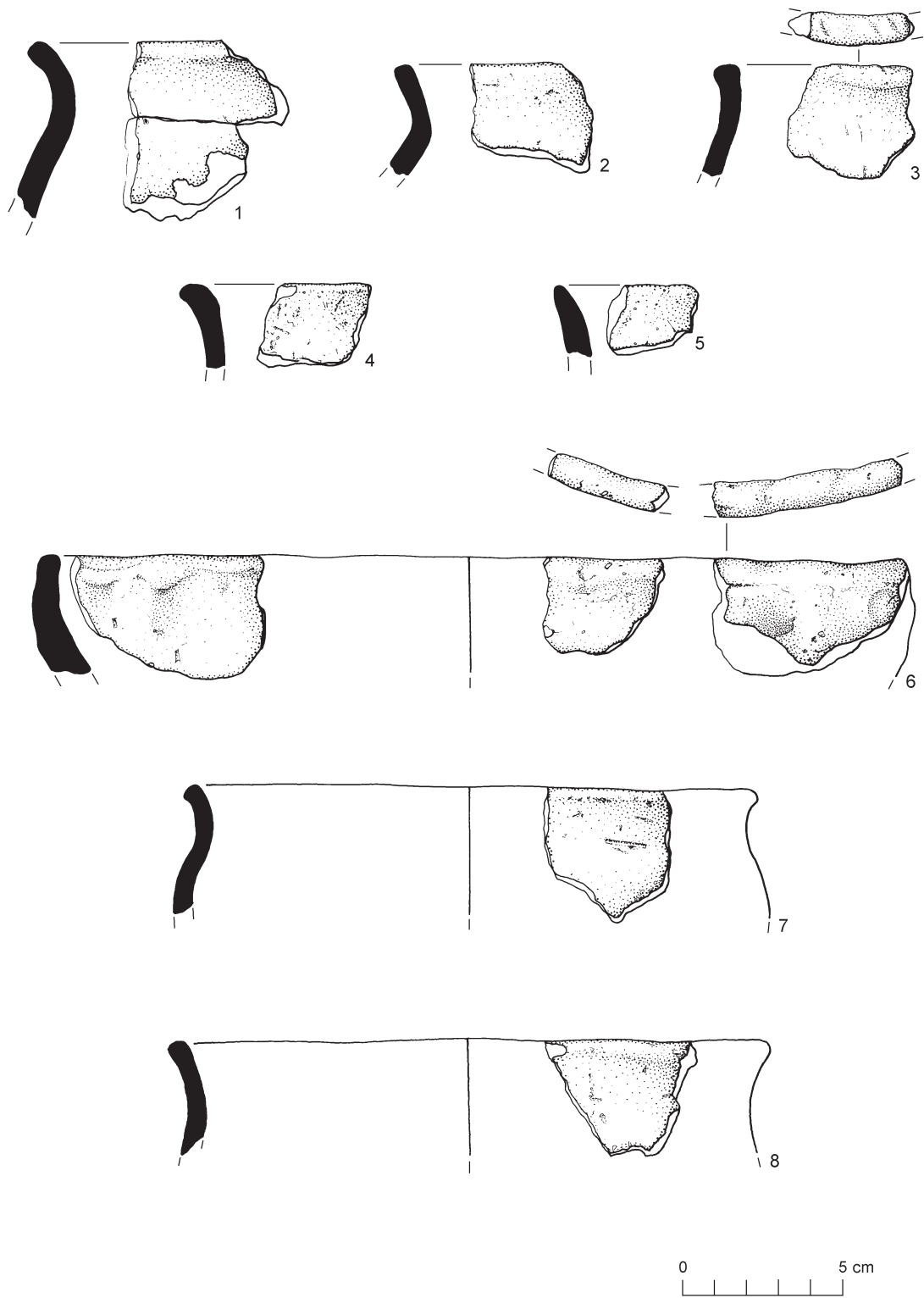


Fig 11 Prehistoric pottery.

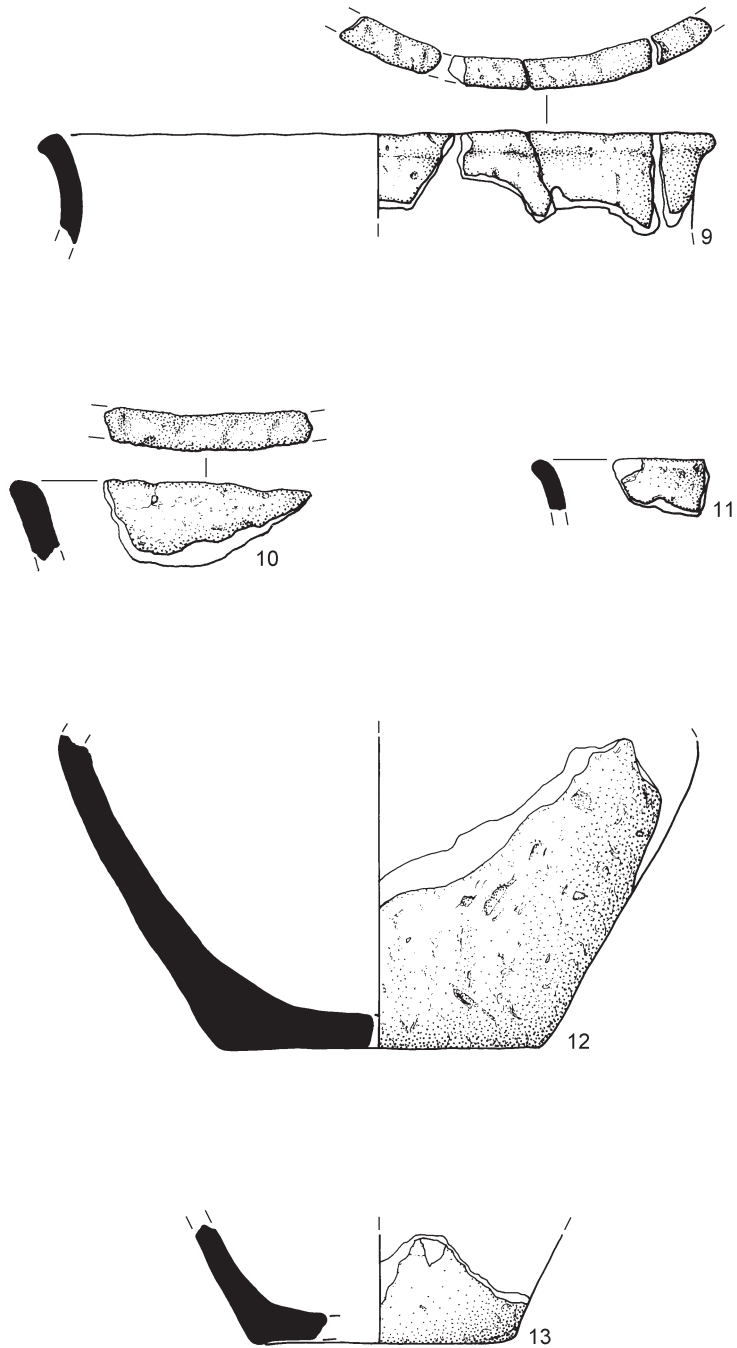


Fig 12 Prehistoric pottery.

**Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

| | |
|--|---|
| Site address: Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex | |
| Parish: Stanway | District: Colchester |
| NGR: TL 9576 2320 (c) | Site code: ECC - SYFF 08 CAT project ref. - 08/9a Museum accession - 2008.147 |
| Type of work: Evaluation | Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| Date of work: September-October 2008 | Size of area investigated: approx 15 hectares (2,960 m of trenching) |
| Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums | Funding source: Developer |
| Further seasons anticipated? Yes | Related EHER nos: 11637, 11646-11647, 11649, 11756, 12552, 12726 |
| Final report: CAT Report 493 and summary in EAH | |
| Periods represented: Middle Iron Age, Roman, post-medieval | |
| <p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>This site lies 500m to the north of the Late Iron Age elite burial site excavated at Stanway Quarry in 1986 and 1994-5. Prior to a planning proposal for the expansion of the aggregate quarry on the site, a 5% evaluation was carried out by means of 99 trenches totalling 2,960 m in length.</i></p> <p><i>The majority of the excavated features were post-medieval and modern ditches, and natural features. Significant archaeological features were concentrated on the southern edge of the eastern part of the evaluation site, ie in Field 6. There were two principal periods of activity, ie Middle Iron Age and Roman. There was evidence for a Middle Iron Age settlement, possibly connected with a curvilinear ?enclosure detected during an earlier geophysical survey, and this included significant quantities of pottery, and loom-weight fragments indicating local cloth-weaving. A number of ditches cut in the Roman period, probably in the 2nd century AD, may have defined a rectilinear enclosure measuring approximately 62 m by 70 m. Small fragments of ditches may represent a contemporary field system.</i></p> | |

The particular interest of this site is how closely the sequence of Middle Iron Age occupation followed by a possible Roman enclosure relates to the Stanway burial site to the south, where a Middle Iron Age ditched domestic enclosure was succeeded by a series of enclosures containing elite Late Iron Age burials, including the 'warrior burial' and the 'doctor's burial', at Stanway Quarry.

Previous summaries/reports: -

Keywords: Middle Iron Age, Roman, settlement, loom-weight, enclosure

Significance: **

Authors of summary:
Howard Brooks and Ben Holloway

Date of summary:
March 2009