



Archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Walton Road Drakelow, Derbyshire July 2014

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Illustrator: Amir Bassir



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OAS/S REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Molanort1-189341	
Project title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Walton Road, Drakelow, Derbyshire, July 2014		
Short description	In July 2014 an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by MOLA Northampton on behalf of CgMs Consulting. A possible Roman enclosure ditch, furrows of medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, and a modern and an undated ditch were identified by the works.		
Project type	Trial trench evaluation		
Previous work	Desk-based assessment; geophysical survey		
Current land use	Pasture		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	Roman and undated		
Significant finds			
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Derbyshire		
Site address	Walton Road, Drakelow		
Easting Northing	SK 2498 2035		
Area (sq m/ha)	6.8 ha		
Height aOD	c 60m AOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator			
Project Design originator	CgMs Consulting Ltd		
Director/Supervisor	Chris Jones		
Project Manager	Liz Muldowney (MOLA Northampton)		
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	28/07/2014		
End date	31/07/2014		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical	DBYMU 2014_13	Pottery	
Paper		Site records (1 archive box)	
Digital		Client report PDF. Survey Data, Photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Walton Road, Drakelow, Derbyshire, July 2014		
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Archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Walton Road Drakelow, Derbyshire July 2014

Abstract

In July 2014 an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by MOLA Northampton on behalf of CgMs Consulting. A possible Roman enclosure ditch, furrows of medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, and a modern and an undated ditch were identified by the works.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA Northampton was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Walton Road, Drakelow, Derbyshire (NGR: SK 2498 2035; Fig 1). The work was undertaken as a condition of planning consent (9/2014/0363) for development of the land. The works were carried out in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012)

The works followed a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by MOLA Northampton (Muldowney 2014).

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

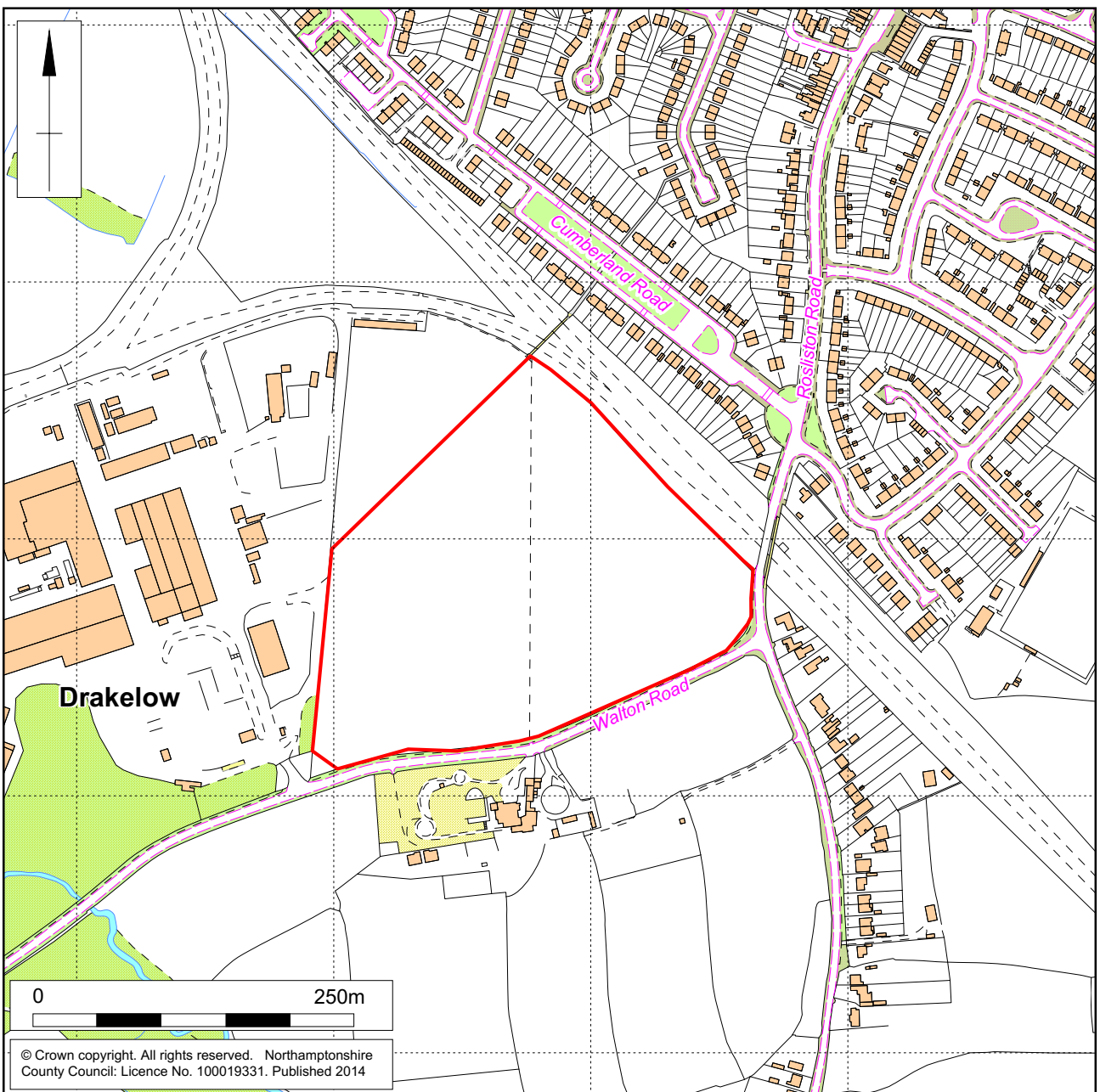
The site comprises an area of c 6.8ha across a single pasture field at a height of c 60m aOD. The site is located to the south-west of Stapenhill within the parish of Drakelow, lying just to the south of Burton-on-Trent. It is bounded to the east and north by the mainline railway, to the south by Walton Road, to the west by industrial units and to the north-west by the portion of the field lying outside of the development.

The site is underlain by Mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2014). The soils across the site are recorded as freely draining slightly acid loamy soils (Landis 2014).

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

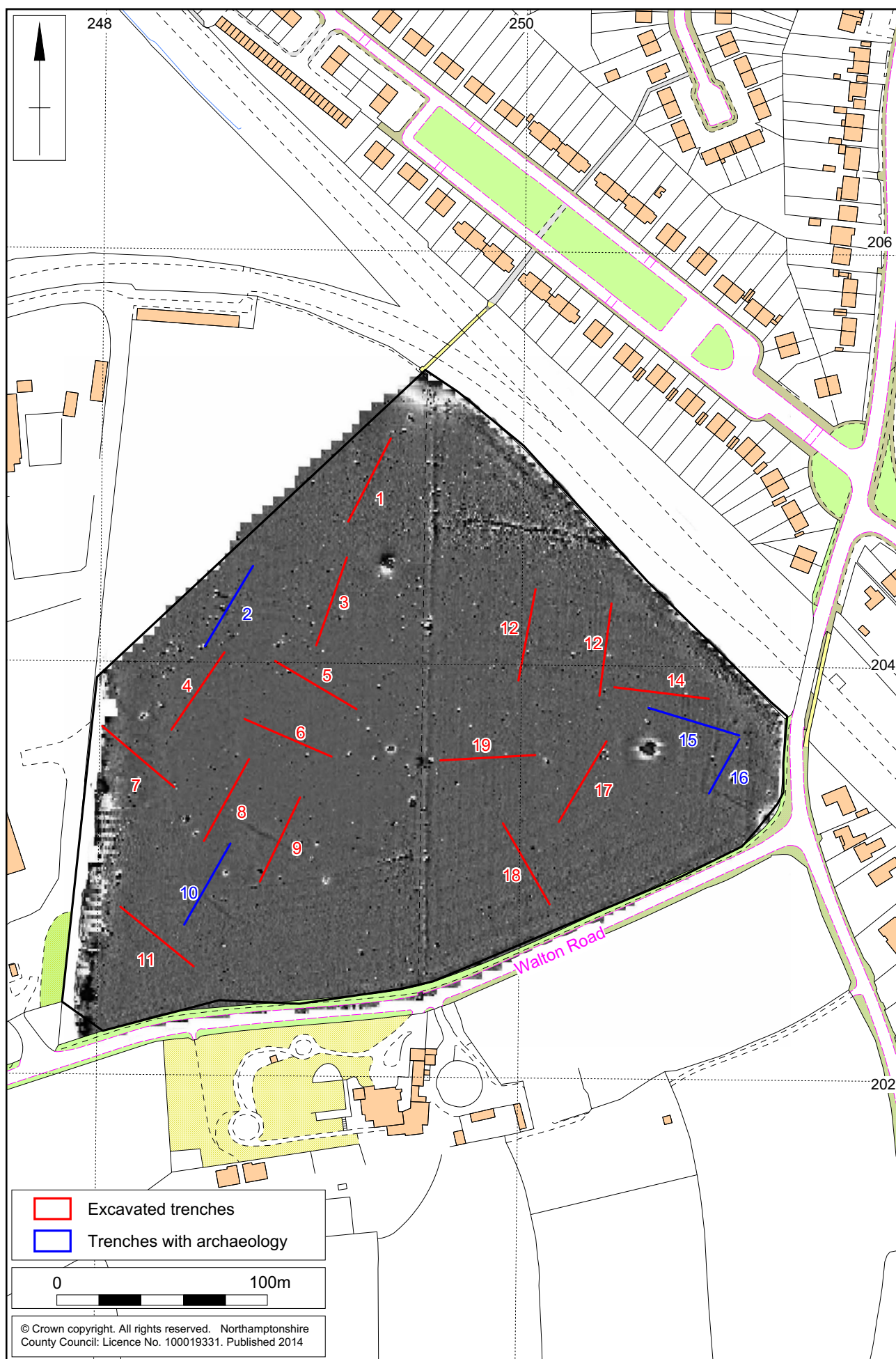
The historical background was summarised in the Written scheme of Investigation (Muldowney 2014) and is reproduced here.

There are no known features or finds of prehistoric date, although modern archaeological interventions in the vicinity have also been limited.



Scale 1:5000

Site Location Fig 1



Scale 1:2500

The excavated trenches with geophysical survey Fig 2

Romano-British

A Romano-British enclosure within Stapenhill was excavated in 1955, no structural remains were encountered but the enclosure was interpreted as the remains of a settlement site.

Anglo-Saxon or medieval

An Anglo-Saxon cemetery containing 34 graves and two cremation pits was excavated just to the south-east of the Romano-British enclosure in a brick quarry.

Three sides of an extant moated site survive in a wooded area north of Walton Road to the south-west of the development area. This site is believed to date from the medieval period by comparison with similar moated sites.

The exact location of the Deserted Medieval Village of Drakelow is unknown, however, map references suggest that it might be approximately 400m to the north-west of the development area.

Post-medieval

The majority of the references within the search area relate to post-medieval activity in the vicinity of the development area. These include two grade II listed structures associated with the former Drakelow Hall (Stable block 82948 and Garden wall. Also a water mill and probable associated leat; a series of field boundaries recorded as cropmarks or earthworks on aerial photography; industrial structures including three brickworks and a sawmill; osier beds now redeveloped as a golf course.

Modern

Four pill boxes, still extant in the late 20th century at the railway viaduct over the River Trent to the north of the site, were part of World War Two aerial defences.

Previous work

An archaeological geophysical survey was carried out on the development area in June 2014. This identified one previous post-medieval field boundary, the extant footpath, ridge and furrow traces and four linear anomalies (Prestige 2014).

The 1882 Ordnance Survey map shows four east-west field boundaries stemming from a central north-south boundary which have since been removed (Oldmaps 2014).

3 METHODOLOGY

Nineteen trial trenches were excavated in accordance with a trench plan prepared by MOLA Northampton and approved by Steve Baker (Development Control Archaeologist). The trench plan was designed to test anomalies revealed by the geophysical survey as well as providing a general coverage of the proposed development area (Fig 2). All trenches were positioned using a Leica Viva RTK GPS and measured 45m long by 1.80m wide. A total area of 1539 square metres was excavated.

A 14 ton 360 mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket was used to remove overburden to archaeological levels or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features. A hand-drawn plan of all archaeological features was made at scale 1:100 and was related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Archaeological deposits were examined by hand excavation to

determine their nature. Recording followed standard MOLA Northampton procedures as described in the Fieldwork Manual (MOLA 2014). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships and interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. Context sheets were cross-referenced to scale plans, section drawings and photographs. Photography was with 35mm black and white film and with digital images. Sections were drawn at scale 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate and related to Ordnance Survey datum.

All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008).

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

4.1 General stratigraphy

The underlying geology comprised dark reddish-brown sandy clay with patches of yellow-grey sandy clay at an average depth of 0.55m. The subsoil had an average depth of 0.20m and comprised mid red-brown sandy clay with infrequent medium sized rounded stone. The topsoil was dark brown-grey sandy silt 0.35m deep containing occasional small stones.

4.2 The trial trenches

The trench locations are shown in Figure 2 and an inventory of contexts is provided in the Appendix. Archaeological features were identified in trenches 2, 3, 10, 15 and 16. Furrows were identified in trenches 10, 12 and 13. No archaeology was identified in the remaining trenches.

Trenches 2 and 3

A linear east-west ditch [205] was identified in trench 2 and continued into trench 3 as ditch [305]. It was 0.85m wide and 0.40m deep with a V-shaped profile. It contained a dark grey-brown silty clay fill. Its alignment corresponds with a field boundary shown on the 1882 Ordnance Survey map. In both trenches it cut through the subsoil, which often indicates a modern date (Fig 3).

Trench 10

Trench 10 was aligned north-east to south-west and targeted a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey.

A ditch [1005], aligned north-west to south-east, was 22m from the southern end of the trench. It was 1.30m wide and 0.45m deep and filled with dark grey silty clay fill (1004) which contained occasional small rounded pebbles, and charcoal flecks (Fig 3). No finds were recovered from the fill.

Trenches 15 and 16

Trenches 15 and 16 were located to target two linear anomalies forming part of a possible enclosure in the eastern corner of the development area.

Central to trench 15 was ditch [1507]. It was 1.35m wide and 0.50m deep and aligned north-west to south-east. A natural accumulation of red-brown sandy clay fill (1506) with infrequent charcoal flecks, 0.20m thick, lined the base of the ditch. This was overlain by mid brown sandy clay (1505). Both fills were sealed by (1504), a very dark grey, silty clay deposit of burnt material, 0.20m thick. It contained frequent burnt stone and moderate amounts of charcoal inclusions (Fig 4).

An environmental sample taken from (1504) produced three sherds of abraded Roman pottery totalling 5g. Fragments of burnt bone, charcoal, and fired clay were also recovered.

Two ditches lay 11m from the south-western end of trench 16. Ditch [1605] was 0.70m wide and 0.23m deep and was filled with a naturally deposited, reddish-brown sandy clay fill. It was cut by ditch [1607] which was 1m wide and 0.23m deep and filled with mid red-brown sandy clay with occasional small rounded pebbles (Fig 5).

5 DISCUSSION

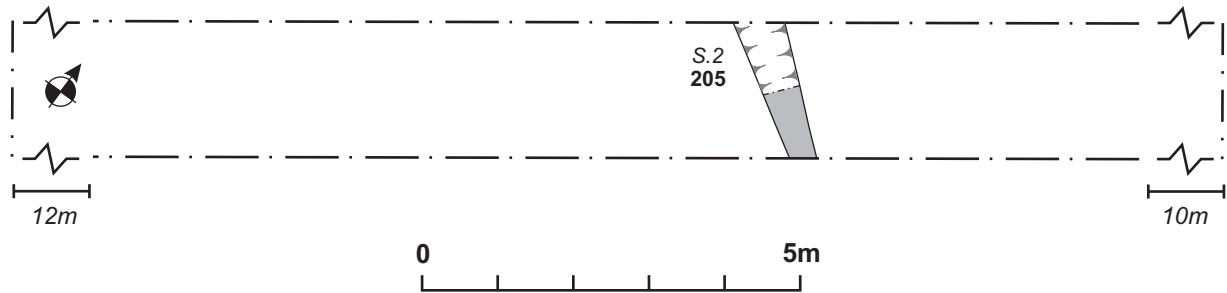
The trial trenching identified three of the four features identified by the magnetometer survey and furrows of medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation in trenches 10, 12 and 13.

The possible enclosure in the eastern corner of the development area was identified in trenches 15 and 16. Pottery recovered from fill (1505) dates ditch [1507] to the Roman period. It is likely that one of the two undated ditches located in trench 16 relate to ditch [1507] and is part of the enclosure.

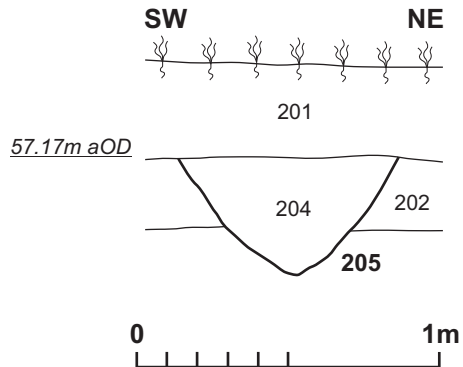
Only one of the anomalies to the west of the development area was identified as ditch [1005] in trench 10. No finds were recovered from the fill. The potential parallel ditch to the north, targeted by trenches 8 and 9, was not located and no other features were identified to explain the geophysical anomaly.

The ditch identified in trenches 2 and 3, [205] and [305], is a modern field boundary shown on the 1882 Ordnance survey map.

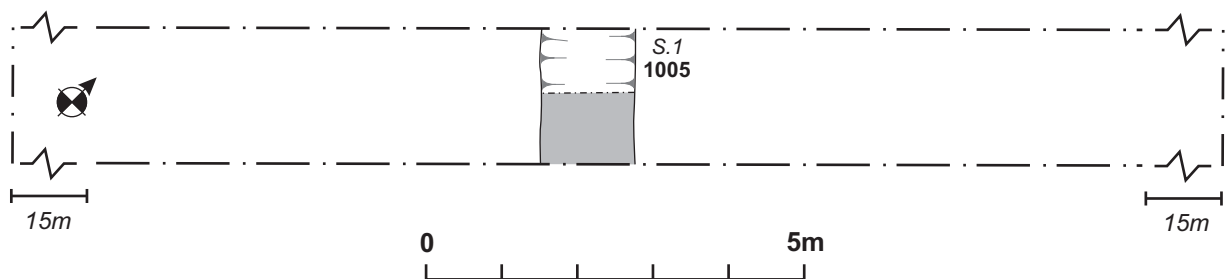
Trench 2



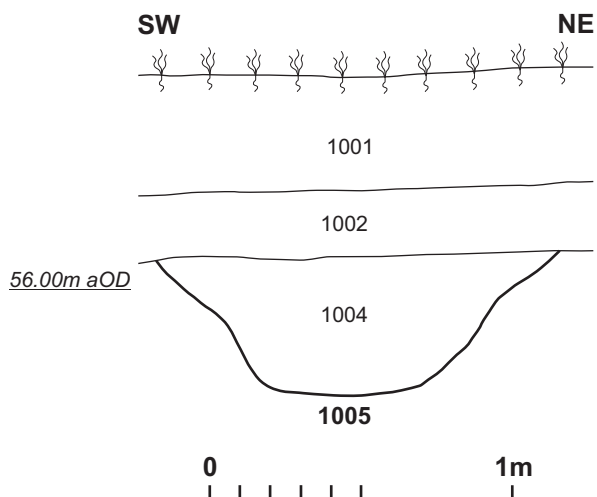
Section 2



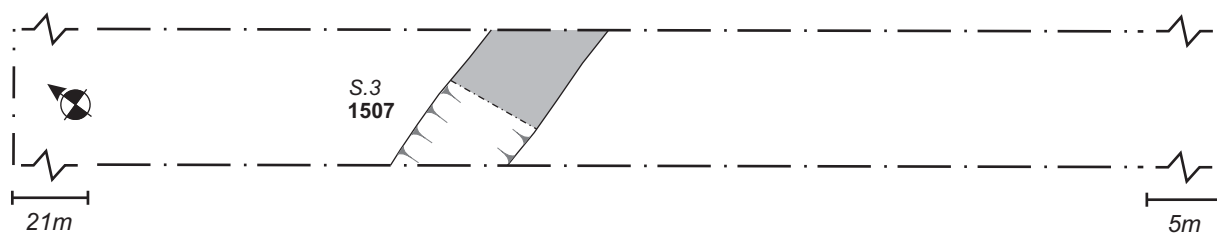
Trench 10



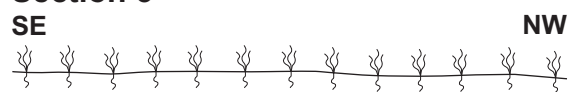
Section 1



Trench 15



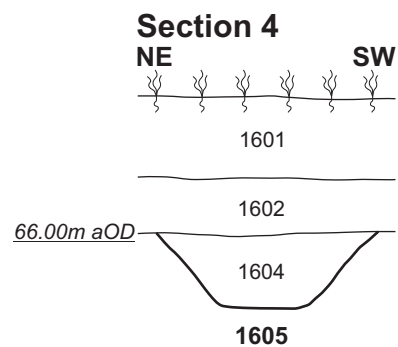
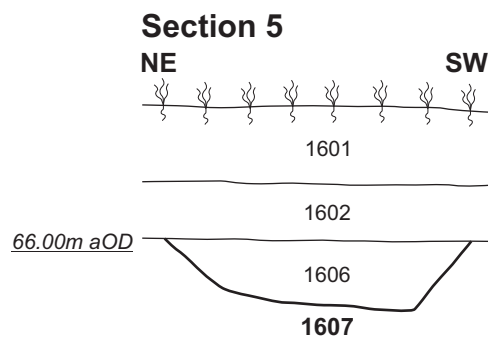
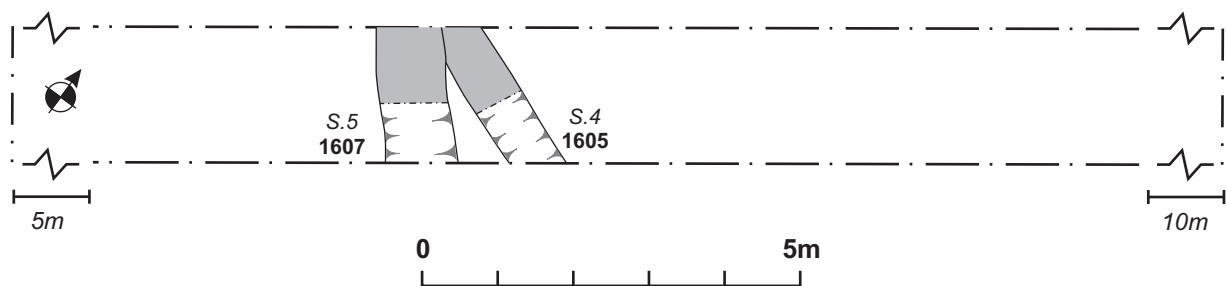
Section 3



66.00m aOD



Trench 16



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Old-Maps 2014 <http://www.old-maps.co.uk>

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
1	45mx1.80m NE-SW	SK 24936 20509	58.68m aOD	58.16m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
101	topsoil	Firm, dark brown/grey sandy silt, occasional small inclusions	0.30m	-
102	subsoil	Firm, mid brown/red sandy clay	0.22m	-
103	natural	Firm, mixed red/brown sandy clay with lighter yellow/grey patches, with gravelly patches	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
2	45mx1.80m NE-SW	SK 24872 20446	57.47m aOD	56.95m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
201	topsoil	Same as 101	0.32m	-
202	subsoil	Same as 102	0.20m	-
203	natural	Same as 103	-	-
204	fill	Of ditch [205] firm, dark grey brown, silty clay, 1% poorly sorted rounded stones and flecks of charcoal.	0.88m	-
205	cut	Linear ditch ne-sw shallow 'V' shaped with concave rounded base.	0.88m	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
3	45mx1.80m NE-SW	SK 24916 20451	58.68m aOD	56.21m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
301	topsoil	Same as 101	0.37m	-
302	subsoil	Same as 102	0.10m	-
303	natural	Same as 103	-	-
304	fill	Of ditch [305] same as (204)	-	-
305	Cut	Of ditch [205]	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
4	45mx1.80m NE-SW	SK 24858 20404	57.27m aOD	56.71m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
401	topsoil	Same as 101	0.38m	-
402	subsoil	Same as 102	0.18m	-
403	Natural	Firm, mixed red/ brown sandy clay with lighter yellow/grey patches	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
5	45mx1.80m NW-SE	SK 24883 20400	59.38m aOD	58.82m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
501	topsoil	Same as 101	0.38m	-
502	subsoil	Same as 102	0.18m	-
503	Natural	Same as 103	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
6	45mx1.80m NW-SE	SK 24868 20372	58.95m aOD	58.36m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
601	topsoil	Same as 101	0.29m	-
602	subsoil	Same as 102	0.30m	-
603	Natural	Same as 103	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
7	45mx1.8m NW-SE	SK 24801 20368	56.65m aOD	56.17m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
701	topsoil	Same as 101	0.28m	-
702	subsoil	Same as 102	0.20	-
703	natural	Same as 103	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
8	45mx1.80m NE-SW	SK 24871 20353	57.67m aOD	57.09m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
801	topsoil	Same as 101	0.29m	-
802	subsoil	Same as 102	0.29m	-
803	Natural	Same as 103	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
9	45mx1.80m NE-SW	SK 24895 20335	58.38m aOD	57.79m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
901	topsoil	Same as 101	0.39m	-
902	subsoil	Same as 102	0.20m	-
903	Natural	Same as 103	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
10	45mx1.80m NE-SW	SK 24862 20312	56.58m aOD	56.07m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1001	topsoil	Same as 101	0.26m	-
1002	Subsoil	Same as 102	0.25m	-
1003	natural	Same as 103	-	-
1004	fill	Of ditch [1005], firm, dark grey silty clay, occasional small rounded pebbles	0.46m	-
1005	cut	Linear ditch, nw-se, slightly curved sides with curved base.	0.46m	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
11	45mx1.80m NW-SE	SK 24810 20281	56.30m aOD	55.77m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1101	topsoil	Same as 101	0.33m	-
1102	subsoil	Same as 102	0.20m	-
1103	natural	Same as 103	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
12	45mx1.80m N-S	SK 25006 20436	62.73m aOD	62.26m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
1201	topsoil	Same as 101	0.31m	-
1202	Subsoil	Same as 102	0.16m	-
1203	Natural	Same as 103	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
13	45mx1.80m N-S	SK 25042 20430	64.44m aOD	63.95m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
1301	topsoil	Same as 101	0.30m	-
1302	subsoil	Same as 102	0.19m	-
1303	Natural	Same as 103	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
14	45mx1.80m E-W	SK 25044 20389	66.36m aOD	65.87m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
1401	topsoil	Same as 101	0.30m	-
1402	subsoil	Same as 102	0.19m	-
1403	natural	Same as 103	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
15	45mx1.8m NW-SE	SK 25060 20379	66.60m aOD	66.09m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
1501	topsoil	Same as 101	0.30m	-
1502	subsoil	Same as 102	0.21m	-
1503	Natural	Same as 103	-	-
1504	fill	Of [1507] firm, very grey black silty clay, moderate burnt stones	0.20m	Pot sherds
1505	fill	Of [1507] medium, mid brown/yellow sandy clay	0.10m	-
1506	fill	Of [1507] firm, mid brown/red sandy clay, occasional small rounded pebbles	0.20m	-
1507	cut	Of linear ditch, slightly curved sides with curved base.	0.50m	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
16	45mx1.80m NE-SW	SK 25103 20365	66.60m aOD	66.05 m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
1601	topsoil	Same as 101	0.33m	-
1602	subsoil	Same as 102	0.22m	-
1603	natural	Same as 103	-	-
1604	Fill	Of [1605], firm brown/red sandy clay, occasional small rounded pebbles	0.23m	-
1605	cut	Linear ditch, e-w straight sided with flat base.	0.23m	-
1606	fill	Of [1607] firm brown red sandy clay, occasional small rounded pebbles	0.23m	-
1607	cut	Linear ditch, nw-se straight sides with flat base.	0.23m	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
17	45mx1.80m Ne-sw	SK 25040 20363	64.54 m aOD	64.07m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
1701	topsoil	Same as 101	0.27m	-
1702	subsoil	Same as 102	0.20m	-
1703	Natural	Same as 103	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
18	45mx 1.80m Nw-se	SK 24991 20323	63.54m aOD	63.09 m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
1801	topsoil	Same as 101	0.31m	-
1802	subsoil	Same as 102	0.14m	-
1803	Natural	Same as 103	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
19	45mx1.80m e-w	SK 24961 20353	63.20m aOD	62.72m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
1901	topsoil	Same as 101	0.30m	-
1902	subsoil	Same as 102	0.18m	-
1903	natural	Same as 103	-	-



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