

Land at Lutterworth Road Burbage  
Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Trent and Peak Archaeology were commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of their clients, to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Lutterworth Road, Burbage, Leicestershire (Fig 1, SP 445 918). The work was undertaken in advance of an application for residential development in-line with *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).
- 1.2 The site comprises 3.5ha of land located on the southern edge of Burbage. It is bounded to the east by Lutterworth Road and the rear boundaries of properties fronting onto Lutterworth Road. To the west it is bounded by Workhouse Lane, to the north by fields and allotment gardens and to the south by the M69.
- 1.3 The site lies at approximately 115m aOD and slopes gently down from north-east to south-west. The underlying geology is mapped as Mercia Mudstone Group with overlying deposits of sand and gravel (BGS 2014)
- 1.4 All works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Trent and Peak Archaeology (Taylor 2014) which was approved by Leicestershire County Council's Senior Planning Archaeologist. The evaluation adhered to standards set out in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008) and those required by Leicestershire County Council (LCC 1997)

## **2 BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS**

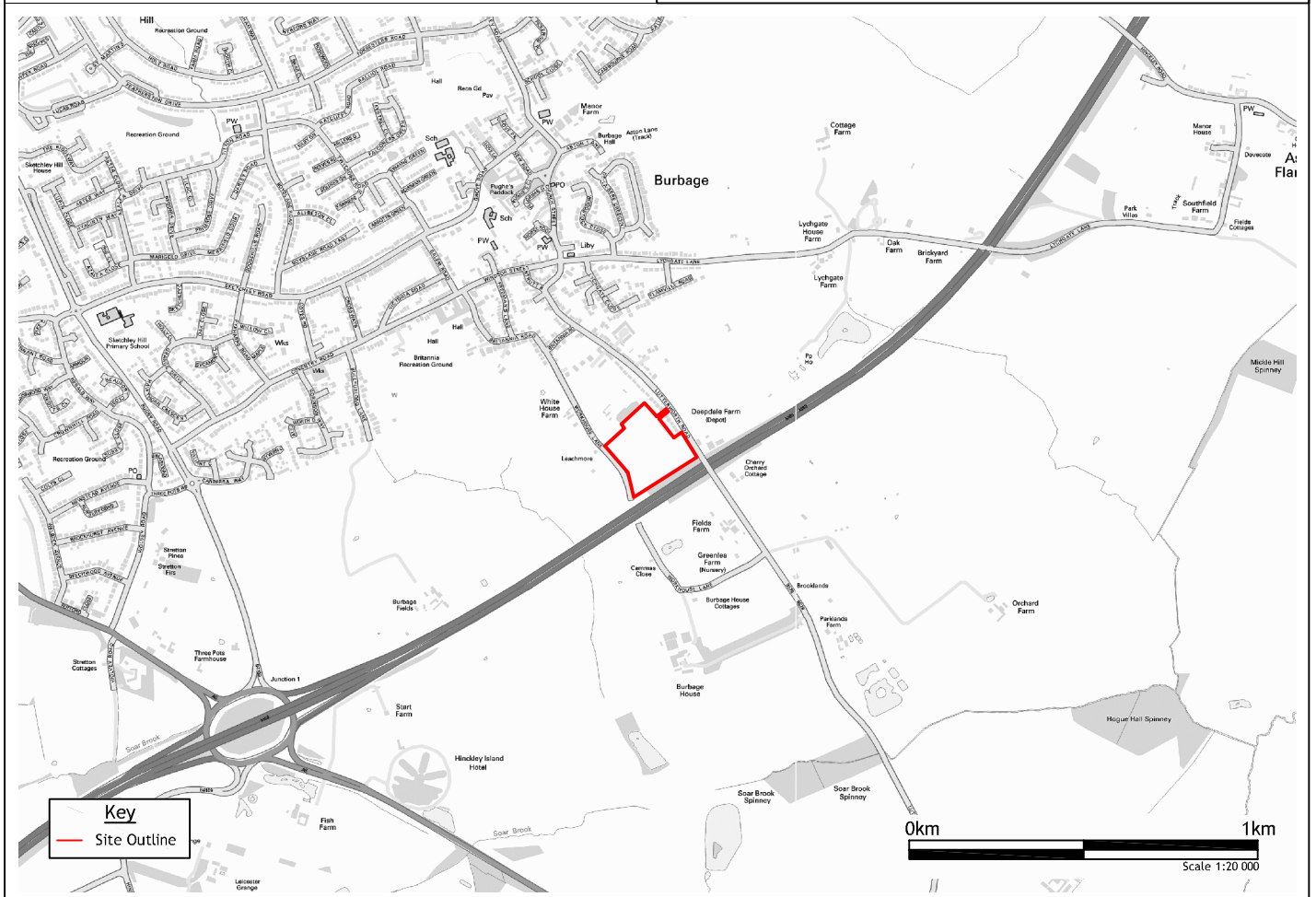
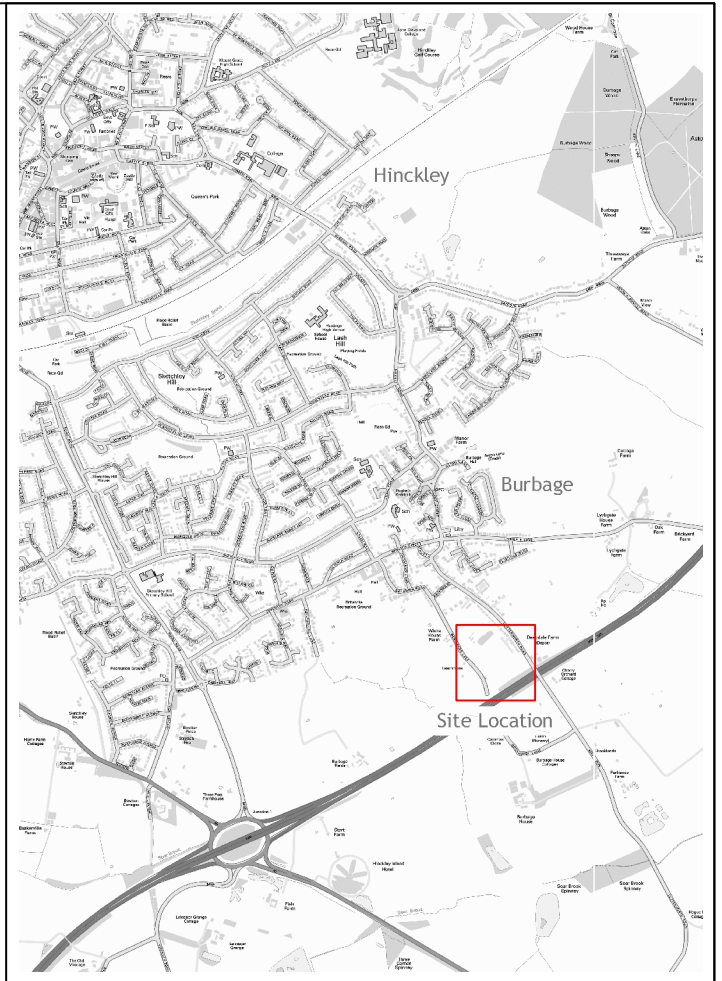
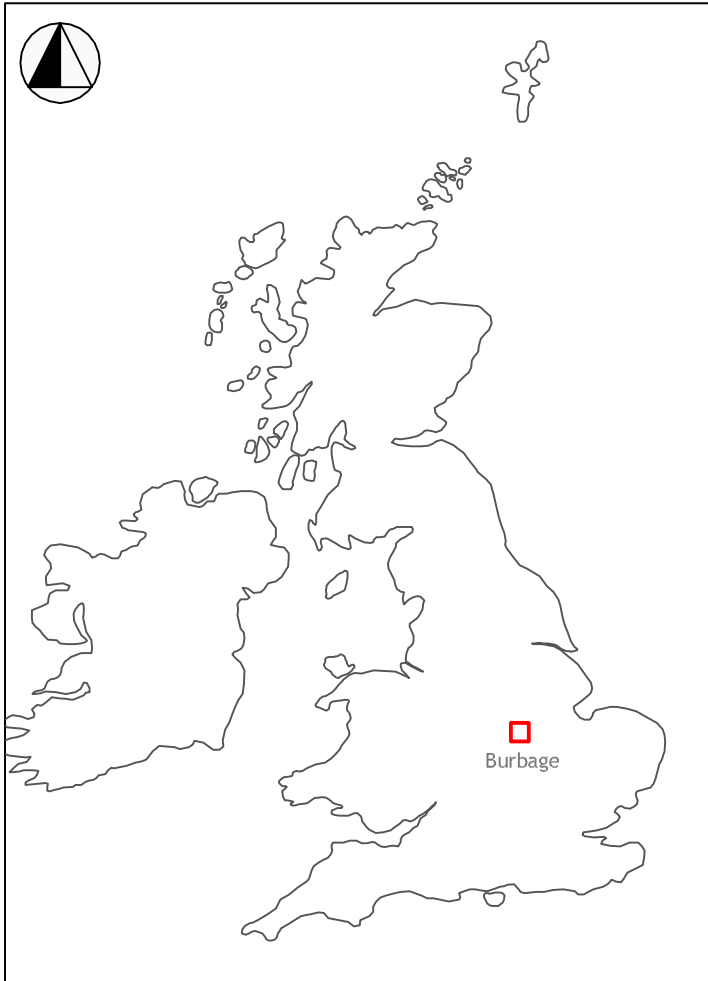
- 2.1 A desk based assessment carried out by CgMs Consulting identified that there are no designated or non designated heritage assets within the proposed development area (CgMs 2014).
- 2.2 A Roman agricultural site is recorded 335m to the north-west of the proposed development area (MLE18736). This comprised a series of ditches and gullies which produced few finds. Excavations in adjacent fields revealed part of a Roman field system and eight late Bronze Age cremation burials (Mapplethorpe 2014).
- 2.3 A geophysical survey of the northern field within the proposed development area identified a modern service pipe, a former field boundary and evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation of probable medieval origin (ASWYAS 2014). Earthwork ridge and furrow are visible in the southern field.

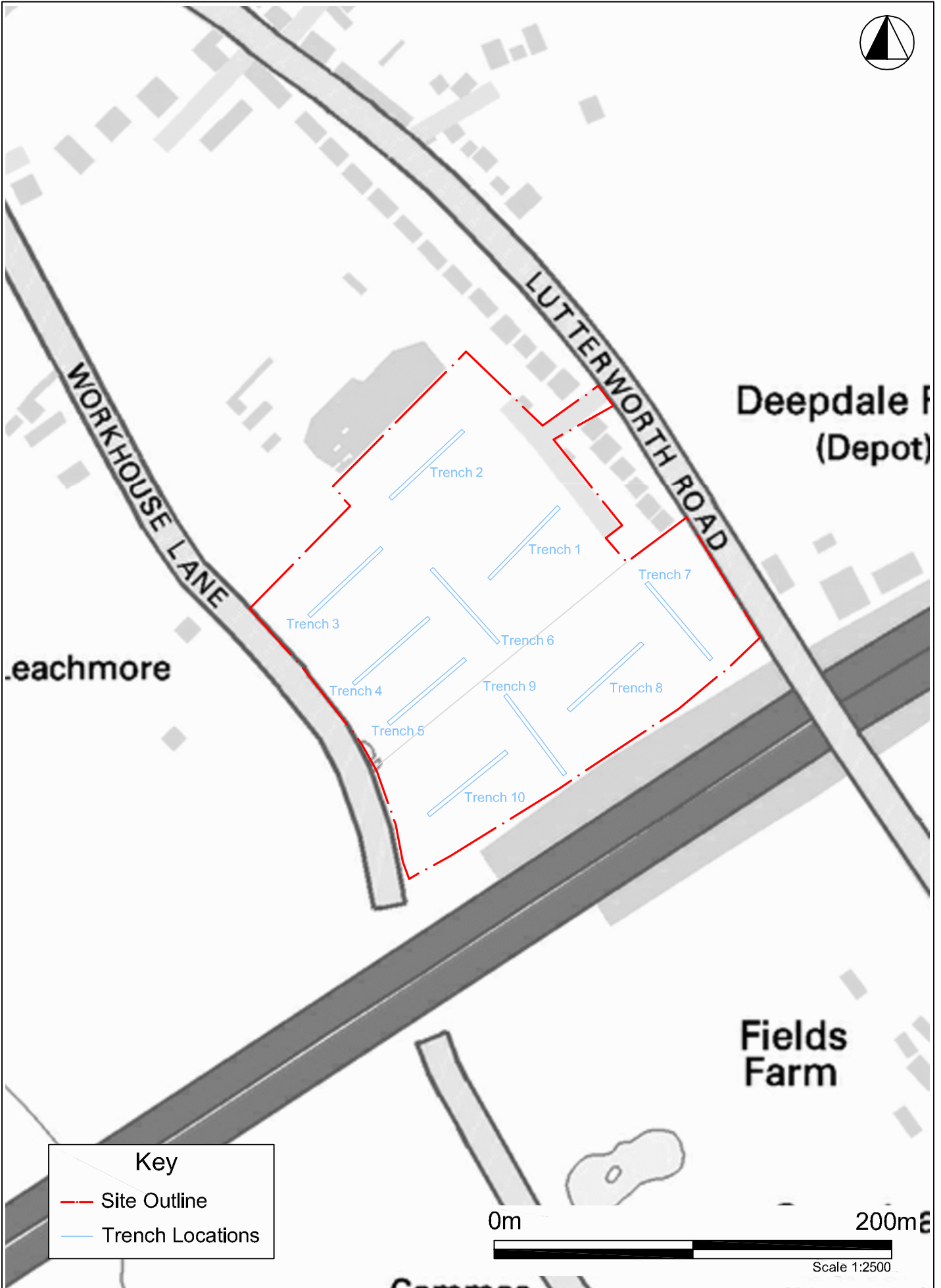
## **3 OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 The objective of the evaluation was to identify and characterise (date, extent and preservation) any archaeological features and deposits that may be impacted upon by the proposed development and to confirm or otherwise the results of the geophysical survey.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 A total of 10 trenches, each 50m long by 1.8m wide were excavated within the proposed development area (Fig. 2) in locations agreed by Leicestershire County Council's Senior Planning Archaeologist.





**Key**

- Site Outline
- Trench Locations

0m 200m  
Scale 1:2500

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4.2 Trenches were excavated using a JCB 3CX excavator with a 1.8m toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision. After topsoil removal, any subsoil was excavated in 100mm spits down to archaeological deposits or undisturbed natural clay/ decayed Mercia Mudstone. After excavation, all trenches were hand cleaned, to the appropriate extent and recorded. All spoil was scanned using a metal detector, and a final inspection was carried out visually to ensure maximum recovery of artefacts. A photographic record was maintained throughout the evaluation comprising high quality digital images.

## 5 RESULTS

5.1 **Trench 1:** The topsoil, **(1000)**, comprised a loose mid to dark grey black silt, 100mm thick. This sealed a compact mid light brown sandy clay subsoil **(1001)**, 400mm thick. The natural compact reddish blue clay **(1002)** lay at a depth of 500mm below the present ground surface. No archaeology was present within this trench.

5.2 **Trench 2:** The topsoil **(2000)** comprised a loose mid to dark grey black silt, 150mm thick. This sealed a compact mid light brown sandy clay subsoil **(2001)**, 400mm thick. The natural compacted reddish blue clay **(2002)** and mid dark brown decayed Mercia mudstone **(2003)** lay at a depth of 550 mm below the present ground surface. No archaeology was present within this trench.



Fig 3 Trench 5 looking south-west



Fig 4 Trench 8 looking north-east

5.3 **Trench 3:** The topsoil, **(3000)**, comprised a loose, dark grey black silt 150mm thick. This sealed a compact mid light brown sandy clay subsoil **(3001)**, 400mm thick. The natural compact reddish blue clay **(3002)**, and mid dark brown decayed Mercia mudstone **(3003)**, lay at a depth of 550 mm below the present ground surface. No archaeology was present within this trench.

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- 5.4 **Trench 4:** The topsoil, **(4000)**, comprised a loose dark grey black silt 150mm thick. This sealed a compact mid light brown sandy clay subsoil **(4001)**, 400mm thick. The natural compact reddish blue clay **(4002)**, and mid dark brown decayed Mercia mudstone **(4003)**, lay at a depth of 550 mm below the present ground surface. No archaeology was present within this trench
- 5.5 **Trench 5:** The topsoil, **(5000)**, comprised a loose dark grey black silt, 150mm thick. This sealed a compact mid light brown sandy clay subsoil **(5001)**, 400m thick. The natural compact reddish blue clay **(5002)**, and mid dark brown decayed Mercia mudstone **(5003)**, lay at a depth of 550mm below the present ground surface. No archaeology was present within this trench
- 5.6 **Trench 6:** The topsoil, **(6000)**, comprised a loose mid to dark grey black silt, 100mm thick. This sealed a compact mid light brown sandy clay subsoil **(6001)**, 400mm thick. The natural compacted reddish blue clay **(6002)**, lay at a depth of 500 mm below the present ground surface. No archaeology was present within this trench.



Fig 5 The typical stratigraphic sequence. Trench 6 looking south

- 5.7 **Trench 7:** The topsoil, **(7000)** comprised a loose dark grey black silt, 150mm thick. This sealed a compact mid light brown sandy clay subsoil **(7001)**, 700mm thick. The natural substrate, which lay 850mm below the present ground surface, varied from compact light brown clay, **(7002)**, to mid dark brown decayed Mercia mudstone **(7003)** and dark brown clay **(7004)**. This trench was positioned across extant ridge and furrow aligned north-east to south-west. The furrows did not cut the natural substrate and ridges were only perceptible as slight undulations in the topsoil. No archaeology was present in this trench.
- 5.8 **Trench 8:** The topsoil, **(8000)**, comprised a dark grey black silt, 300mm thick. This sealed a compacted mid light brown sandy clay subsoil **(8001)**, 200mm thick. The natural compact reddish dark blue clay **(8002)**, and mid to dark brown decayed Mercia mudstone **(8003)**, lay at a depth of 500m below the present ground surface. As the trench was aligned parallel to extant ridge and furrow, these were not detected. No archaeology was present in this trench.



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- 5.9 **Trench 9:** The topsoil, **(9000)**, comprised a loose dark grey black silt, 150mm thick. This sealed a compact mid light brown sandy clay subsoil **(9001)**, 400mm thick. The natural compact reddish dark blue clay **(9002)** and mid dark brown decayed Mercia mudstone **(9003)**, lay at a depth of 550mm below the present ground surface. This trench was positioned across extant ridge and furrow aligned north-east to south-west. The furrows did not cut the natural substrate and ridges were only perceptible as slight undulations in the topsoil. No archaeology was present in this trench. No archaeology was present in this trench.
- 5.10 **Trench10:** The topsoil, **(10000)**, comprised a loose dark grey black silt, 300mm thick. This sealed a compact mid light brown sandy clay subsoil **(10001)**, 200mm thick. The natural compact reddish dark blue clay **(10002)** and mid dark brown decayed Mercia mudstone **(10003)**, lay at a depth of 500mm below the present ground surface. As the trench was aligned parallel to extant ridge and furrow these were not detected. No archaeology was present in this trench

## **6 CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 No archaeological remains or artefacts were encountered during the course of the evaluation. The furrows identified by the geophysical survey did not cut the natural substrate and were not detected by the trial trenches. Earthwork ridge and furrow present in the southern field were only perceptible as slight undulations in the topsoil in trenches 7 and 9.
- 6.2 The evaluation has shown that there no archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

## 7 REFERENCES

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