

Land off Park Lane, Castle Donington, Leicestershire: Report on the Results of an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation



Produced for RPS

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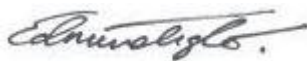
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Summary

- Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by RPS to conduct an archaeological trial trench evaluation ahead of a scheme of works to construct a warehouse facility on land off Park Lane, Castle Donington, Leicestershire. The work was carried out between the 24th and 28th August 2020.
- The evaluation comprised the excavation of five trenches within the site which were placed in order to identify the continuation of Iron Age features previously identified during a trial trench investigation conducted by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2010 (Flavell 2010).
- All trenches excavated demonstrated the presence of archaeology which comprised medieval furrows, 19th/20th century drainage features and several undated features which may relate to the aforementioned Iron Age activity within the site (Flavell 2010).

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by RPS to conduct an archaeological trial trench evaluation ahead of works to construct a warehouse facility on land off Park Lane, Castle Donington, Leicestershire, centred on SK 43620 26684 (*Figure 1*).
- 1.2 The work followed on from previous trenching conducted by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2010, with the principal aim of determining if features identified during the initial evaluation continued into the wider development area.
- 1.3 The evaluation was conducted between the 24th and 28th August 2020, and involved the excavation, monitoring and recording of five trenches. All trenches measured c.40m in length and averaged 300mm in depth.
- 1.4 The evaluation was conducted in line with the methodology prescribed in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and the specification for a programme of archaeological works as set by RPS (Clark & Flitcroft 2017).

2 Site Background

2.1 Geology and Topography

- 2.1.1 The site is located in a single open field south of Park Lane, which lies east of the Castle Donington bypass/relief road, and is centred on the National Grid Reference SK 43620 26684. The works consisted of the machine excavation of five trenches, which were located by GNSS survey and excavated on different orientations. Two trenches encroached upon areas previously evaluated by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Flavell, 2010; Clark & Flitcroft, 2017).
- 2.1.2 The site is situated at an average of 74m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).
- 2.1.3 The underlying geology of the site comprises a Tarporley siltstone formation bedrock consisting of equal portions of interlaminated and interbedded siltstones, mudstones and sandstones which date to the Triassic period (approximately 242-250 million years ago) when the local environment had previously been dominated by lakes (British Geological survey, 2020).
- 2.1.4 There are no superficial deposits recorded for this site and the British Geological Survey does not have any borehole data available for the site (British Geological survey, 2020).
- 2.1.5 The soils within the site consist of freely draining, slightly acidic loamy soils with a loamy texture (Soilscapes, 2020).

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 The archaeological potential of the site was fully evaluated within a Desk Based Assessment (DBA) completed by CgMs Consulting in 2015 (Flitcroft, 2015) as part of the wider residential development at Park Lane, Castle Donington. All of the below information has been summarised from this existing DBA document and was generated by a search of the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) based on a 1km study radius of the wider development area of the Land south of Park Lane. A previous trial trench evaluation, conducted by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Flavell 2010), revealed over one hundred sherds of Iron Age pottery that were recovered from a pit north-west of the site. Five additional sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered from a pair of secondary land division

gullies located on the current development site during the same evaluation. These feature around Northamptonshire Archaeology's Trenches 47 & 49, the location of which formed the basis of the current phase of evaluation works.

Palaeolithic (650, 000BC – 10, 000BC), Mesolithic Period (10, 000BC – 4, 000BC), Neolithic Period (4, 000BC – 2, 400BC), Bronze Age (2, 400BC – 700BC)

2.2.2 There is currently no evidence of Palaeolithic or Mesolithic activity recorded within the search area around the site and wider development area.

2.2.3 Data provided by the HER for prehistoric activity in the area surrounding the development site is relatively low with evidence of Late Neolithic and Early Bronze age activity coming primarily from two areas. At Cessna Court, approximately 700m north of site, late Neolithic flintwork and early Bronze Age pottery, including a coil-built beaker, were uncovered in association with a series of gullies, ditches, post holes and pits during a 2003 evaluation (Coward 2003). South of site Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age features were identified at Gimbro Farm approximately 1.2km away from the site in 1998 (Derrick 1998) with further place-name evidence alluding to a Bronze Age barrow slightly further south than this. Worked stone materials, 11 in total, were recovered during a 2010 evaluation of the land south of Park Lane by Northamptonshire but the majority of these finds were recorded from the topsoil and furrow fills.

Iron Age (700BC – AD43)

2.2.4 The evidence for Iron Age activity within the search area is slightly more plentiful than that of earlier periods. Evidence of an Iron Age field system and enclosure were identified in the southern part of East Midlands Airport at Gimbro Farm with Iron age pottery, querns, fauna and plant remains being recovered (Derrick 1998). Iron Age settlement evidence has also been recorded north of the site on the plateau above the Trent valley (Historic England 2020), as well as the land north of Park Lane with pottery and groundworks recorded in 2003 (Coward 2003). Over one hundred sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered from a pit north-west of the site during Northamptonshire Archaeology's 2010 evaluation, and five sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered from a pair of secondary land division gullies located on the current development site during the same evaluation.

Romano-British Period (AD43 – AD410)

2.2.5 Very little evidence of Romano-British activity has been recorded from the search area around the site. This consists of one Roman boundary ditch, a small assortment of Romano-British pottery and one coin of Constantine I recovered from Bondgate in Castle Donington.

Medieval Period (AD410 – AD1539)

There is low potential for encountering medieval materials in the lands adjacent to the site. Although evidence of an early Saxon settlement has been recorded north of Park Lane towards the river valley edge, no Saxon materials have yet been recovered from the lands south of Park Lane. Likewise, no later medieval remains have been recorded in the vicinity of the site as the land was previously part of Castle Donington's open field agricultural land holdings, located far from the village's historic core and would have been used for agricultural purposes.

Post-Medieval Period (AD1540 – AD1799) and 19th Century (AD1800 – AD1899)

2.2.6 The land south of Park Lane continued to be utilised for agricultural purposes as part of Castle Donington's open field agricultural land holdings late into the post-medieval period, with the open fields being named Park Field, Trent Field and Howhill Field in the seventeenth century by Glebe Terrier.

2.2.7 The open fields, meadows and common pasture were then enclosed by an Act of Parliament of 1778 with a 1779 enclosure map showing the site lying within a block of then newly enclosed land which had been allocated to Thomas Bentley and Thomas Beckworth. The lands south-west of Castle

Donington are shown to have been subdivided further into straight-sided rectangular fields by the late 19th century and the publication of the First Edition of the Ordnance Survey (OS) 'County Series 6" map in 1887 (Old-Maps 2020), reflecting a change from arable to pastoral agriculture.

Modern Period (AD1900 – Present Day)

- 2.2.8 No further changes to the landscape were observed from the OS maps published in 1904 and 1924, however in the latter half of the 20th century the Castle Donington to Ashby de la Zouch road located south of site was realigned to its current location from the more southerly 1750 Tamworth to Sawley Ferry Turnpike road during the development of the East Midlands Airport. In 2018, following on from a series of archaeological investigations by Northamptonshire Archaeology and the University of Leicester Archaeological Services work began on a north to south relief road/bypass west of site which also provided an access route to the site's south-west corner to facilitate future developments.

2.3 Relevant Planning Policy and Guidance

- 2.3.1 The current scope of works is underpinned by Outline Planning Permission (ref: 09/01226/OUTM), which detailed the scope of the project and the archaeological mitigation required. Planning permissions are governed by the following national and local policies:

National Policy

- 2.3.2 *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*

Developments of this nature, and their impact upon the historic environment, are addressed by the revised 2019 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG, 2019), and the NPPF Planning Practice Guide Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG 2014).

- 2.3.3 Section 16 of NPPF, paragraph 187 states:

Local planning authorities should maintain or have access to a historic environment record. This should contain up-to-date evidence about the historic environment in their area and be used to:

a) assess the significance of heritage assets and the contribution they make to their environment; and

b) predict the likelihood that currently unidentified heritage assets, particularly sites of historic and archaeological interest, will be discovered in the future.

Local Policy

- 2.3.4 The North West Leicestershire District Council are governed by their Local Plan, which was adopted November 2017 (North West Leicestershire District Council 2017). The Core Policies within this Local Plan guide the decisions of the Local Planning Authority (LPA) in matters regarding the historic environment.

- 2.3.5 Policy He1 states that:

(1) To ensure the conservation and enhancement of North West Leicestershire's historic environment, proposals for development, including those designed to improve the environmental performance of a heritage asset, should:

a) Conserve or enhance the significance of heritage assets within the district, their setting, for instance significant views within and in and out of Conservation Areas;

b) Retain buildings, settlement patterns, features and spaces, which form part of the significance of the heritage asset and its setting;

c) Contribute to the local distinctiveness, built form and scale of heritage assets through the use of appropriate design, materials and workmanship;

d) Demonstrate a clear understanding of the significance of the heritage asset and of the wider context in which the heritage asset sits.

(2) There will be a presumption against development that will lead to substantial harm to, or total loss of significance of a designated heritage asset. Proposals will be refused consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh the harm or loss or all of the following apply:

- The nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and*
- no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and*
- conservation by grant-funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and*
- The harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.*

Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use.

(3) Where permission is granted, where relevant the Council will secure appropriate conditions and / or seek to negotiate a Section 106 Obligation to ensure that all heritage assets are appropriately managed and conserved.

(4) The District Council will support development that conserves the significance of non-designated heritage assets including archaeological remains.

3 Aims and Objectives

3.1 Aims

- To identify the presence of any archaeological remains to be affected by any intrusive aspects of the proposed scheme of works.
- To attempt to quantify any such archaeological remains which are encountered by identifying their character, date, significance and preservation.
- To identify whether any of the previous recorded features identified in the previous evaluation continued into the wider development area.
- To inform North West Leicestershire District Council as to the need for further archaeological mitigation works prior to the proposed development.

3.2 Objectives

- To excavate five archaeological trial trenches within the site; trenches were positioned to rapidly assess the archaeological potential of the site giving the broadest possible coverage.
- To accurately record any and all archaeological features revealed to an appropriate level in order to ensure their 'preservation by record'.
- To recover artefacts and ecofacts in order to help determine the date of any archaeological features which were identified.
- To ascertain whether any features or monuments of archaeological significance survived in the immediate vicinity of the gullies identified by Northamptonshire Archaeology during their 2010 trial trenching.

4 Methodology

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 Five trial trenches were excavated within the site: Trenches 01, 02, 03, and 05 measured approximately 40m x 1.6m and Trench 04 measured approximately 45m x 1.6m.

4.1.2 Trench 01 was oriented east to west in the southwest corner of site. Trenches 02 and 05 were oriented north to south on the western and eastern sides of site respectively. Trench 03 was oriented north-east to south-west, and Trench 04 was oriented north-west to south-east. Both were located in the northern portion of the site.

4.2 Trench Excavation

4.2.1 All machining was undertaken with a 1.6m wide ditching bucket under archaeological supervision by an experienced archaeologist.

4.2.2 Prior to excavation the trenches were scanned with a CAT Scanner in order to ensure that any unknown below ground services would not be impacted upon by the evaluation. No services were identified.

4.2.3 The topsoil and subsoil were kept separately at a safe distance from the trench edge and checked for artefacts.

4.2.4 The trenches were located by GNSS prior to excavation. The position of each trench was located with reference to the Ordnance Survey (OS) grid.

4.2.5 On completion of the fieldwork and with the agreement of Leicestershire County Council's Principal Planning Archaeologist the trenches were backfilled by machine; this did not include full reinstatement.

4.3 Cleaning/Hand Excavation

4.3.1 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with CifA Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation (CifA 2014b) and Code of Conduct (CifA 2014a).

4.3.2 Features were hand-cleaned and were excavated in such a way as to determine the stratigraphic sequence within each trench.

- 4.3.3 Trenches were hand cleaned where appropriate, and two representative sections of each trench were photographed and drawn at 1:20.
- 4.3.4 Sections of all contexts were drawn on Permatrace drafting film in pencil at a scale of 1:20, and show at least: context numbers; all colour and textural changes; principal slopes represented as hachures; levelling information is given in the form of a datum line with OD/arbitrary value; the locations of all sections have been shown on the plan.
- 4.3.5 Digital images of each context were taken along with general views illustrating the principal features of the excavations.
- 4.3.6 Written records were maintained as laid down in the TPA recording manual (Trent & Peak Archaeology 2015).

5 Results

5.1 Overview

- 5.1.1 A total of fourteen features were investigated during this phase of trial trenching. Six of the features were provisionally dated as being post-medieval and modern. The eight remaining features were left provisionally undated although the alignment of certain features, such as two east to west oriented features recorded in Trench 02, could relate to similarly aligned features recorded by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2010 which yielded a small quantity of Iron Age pottery (Flavell, 2010 11-12).

5.2 **Trench 01 (40m x 1.6m) (Plates: 1-2; Figures: 02)**

- 5.2.1 Trench 01 was a linear trench aligned east to west. It was located along the southern boundary of site, towards the south west corner. The trench was excavated by machine to a maximum depth of 0.34m.
- 5.2.2 The natural substratum (1001) consisted of a hard-friable mid brownish-red mudstone clay.
- 5.2.3 Four evenly spaced plough furrows aligned north to south were observed truncating (1001) in this trench. One of the furrows, [1002], located towards the middle of the trench appeared wider than the rest and was excavated to determine whether or not it coincided with an earlier feature. The excavation instead revealed [1002] to be a plough furrow with a modern land drain located towards its base. A post-medieval clay tobacco pipe bowl and two brick fragments were recorded from [1002]'s redeposited silty clay fill (1003).
- 5.2.4 At the eastern end of the trench a north-west to south-east aligned gully 0.44m wide by 0.12m deep, [1004], can be observed truncating one of the plough furrows recorded in plan (*fig.2*), the function and purpose of which cannot be determined. [1004] has been identified as being a 19th/20th century feature due to its position within the stratigraphic sequence and the recorded change in field use discussed below. [1004]'s fill, (1005) shared a similar composition to that of (1003), with both contexts comprising of firm redeposited silty-clay soils of mixed reddish and orangey brown colourations, but unlike (1003) no datable finds were recovered from (1005).
- 5.2.1 The overlying topsoil (1000) consisted of a loose layer of dark brown medium clayey-silt. No subsoil was observed between this and the natural substratum.

5.3 **Trench 02 (40m x 1.6m) (Plates: 3-5; Figures: 02-04)**

- 5.3.1 Trench 02 was aligned north to south and was located along the western boundary of site. The trench was excavated by machine to a maximum depth of 0.46m.

- 5.3.2 The natural substratum (2001) consisted of a hard-friable mid brownish-red mudstone clay.
- 5.3.3 A north to south aligned curvilinear furrow, [2006], was observed running along half the length of Trench 02 starting at its southernmost end and dissipating by the time it reached the middle of the trench. No finds were recovered from the firm homogenous clayey-silt fill of this furrow, (2007). The alignment of the feature changed from north-west to south-east to north to south at the southernmost end of the trench, indicating a possible plough headland.
- 5.3.4 Two east to west aligned features were located towards the northern end of this trench: [2002] and [2004]. [2002] was a 1.6m wide by 0.48m deep ditch terminus which filled by (2003), a firm mid-to-light mid greyish brown fill containing frequent small to middling sized angular rocks, possibly limestone, derived from the natural substratum (2001). Evidence of bioturbation (root disturbance causing leeching of colour and mixed composition of fill and natural) was also observed in (2003), a process which was also observed in other fills on site. No finds were recovered from this context.
- 5.3.5 [2004] was a much shallower ditch (0.18m depth compared to [2002]'s 0.48m) which ran east to west through Trench 02. [2004]'s fill (2005) was a firm deposit comprising dark yellowish-brown clayey-silt which yielded a large amount of stones at its base, possibly derived from the natural substratum (2001). No finds were recovered from (2005) and, similarly to (2003), it appears to have formed under natural silting with some leaching of natural substrata present within its composition.
- 5.3.6 As [2002] and [2004] share a parallel east-west alignment with one another, and are less than 0.2m from one another it is likely that they are associated. From the different colourations of their fills it is possible that one ditch represents a later phase of land use than the other, but from what can be observed of them in Trench 02 it is not possible to determine which feature came first. Additionally, both features share a similar alignment to ditches excavated by Northamptonshire Archaeology in their trial trenches which yielded Iron Age pottery. No dating evidence was recovered from (2003) or (2005) but both contexts appear to show evidence of leaching.
- 5.3.7 The overlying topsoil (2000) consisted of a loose layer of dark brown clayey-silt. No subsoil was observed between this and the natural substratum.
- 5.4 **Trench 03 (40m x 1.6m) (plates: 6-7; Figures 02)**
- 5.4.1 Trench 03 was aligned north-east to south-west. It was located along the northern boundary of the site, towards its north-west corner. The trench was excavated by machine to a maximum depth of 0.4m.
- 5.4.2 The natural substratum (3001) consisted of a hard-friable mid brownish-red mudstone clay.
- 5.4.3 Only one feature, [3002], was observed in this trench. This was investigated and identified as a probable plough furrow based on its shallow profile and north-south alignment which coincided with the other furrows identified on the site. No finds were recovered from the clayey-silt fill, (3003), although small sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks were occasionally observed within it.
- 5.4.4 The overlying topsoil (3000) consisted of a loose layer of dark brown clayey-silt. No subsoil was observed between this and the natural substratum.
- 5.5 **Trench 04 (45m x 1.6m) (plates: 8-11; Figures 02, 05-06)**
- 5.5.1 Trench 04 was aligned north-east to south-west. It was located along the northern boundary of site, towards the centre. The trench was excavated by machine to a maximum depth of 0.4m.
- 5.5.2 The natural substratum (4001) consisted of a hard-friable mid brownish-red mudstone clay.
- 5.5.3 A total of eleven features, all aligned north to south, were observed in this trench. These comprised: eight furrows, two gullies, a 19th/20th century ditch, and one undated ditch. Only six of these eleven features were excavated.

- 5.5.4 Furrows were spaced out fairly evenly throughout the length of this trench but they yielded no datable materials. Furrows [4004] and [4006] located at the western end of Trench 04 were investigated in greater detail as they were both observed truncating an earlier feature, [4002]. Their fills (4005) and (4007) displayed similar compositional characteristics as (3003) in Trench 03, with both contexts comprising orangey-brown clayey-silts with occasional inclusions of small rounded stones and charcoal flecks.
- 5.5.5 [4002] was a north to south aligned ditch, 2.6m wide by 0.2-0.4m deep, which had been truncated by both [4004] and [4006] to the east and west (*fig.6*). Ditch [4002] contained a single fill of dark brown clayey-silt, with a deposit of stone and mudstone identified towards the base of the feature. Additionally, animal bone and fire cracked pebbles averaging 40mm in diameter were recorded from this context but no datable materials were recovered. Ditch [4004] shares a north to south alignment with ditch [2002] identified within Trench 02, which also contained a deposit of stone towards the base. These similarities may suggest a possible relationship, however a lack of datable material identified within either fill make this impossible to determine.
- 5.5.6 Two parallel south-east to north-west aligned gullies, [4008] and [4010], were recorded less than 2m east of [4006]. Excavation revealed shallow, rounded gully bases, with a depth of 0.2m and 0.18m respectively. Both features run parallel with one and other, and in section [4010] can be seen truncating [4008]. No finds or datable features were recorded from either fill, but sub-angular and mudstone inclusions were noted from both. (4009), the fill of [4008], comprised a soft clayey-silt soil of mid-to-light orangey-brown colouration while (4011), the fill of [4010], consists of a soft/friable clayey sand of mottled dark and light orangey brown colouration which allowed for both contexts to be distinguished from one and other in profile, and for a stratigraphic relationship to be established between the two gullies. The purpose of these features is not clear, but their alignment does parallel that of [1004] in Trench 01 which could indicate a similar function and provisional date, although neither [4008] nor [4010] have been observed truncating any of the plough furrows recorded in Trench 04.
- 5.5.7 At the eastern end of the trench a 0.6m deep north to south aligned service trench, [4012], was identified. It contained a circular ceramic drain pipe at the base, which was sealed by a single deposit of mottled dark brown and red clayey silt (4013) which yielded a redeposited sherd of post-medieval coarse earthenware, and two sherds of modern white-bodied earthenware.
- 5.5.8 The overlying topsoil (4000) consisted of a loose layer of dark brown medium clayey-silt. No subsoil contexts were observed between this and the natural substratum.
- 5.6 **Trench 05 (40m x 1.6m) (Plates 12-14; figures 02, 07-08)**
- 5.6.1 Trench 05 was aligned north to south and was located towards the centre of site. The trench was excavated by machine to a maximum depth of 0.32m.
- 5.6.2 The natural substratum (5001) consisted of a hard-friable mid brownish-red mudstone clay.
- 5.6.3 Two features were identified within the trench, both located towards the southern end: [5002] and [5004], both truncating the natural substratum (5001).
- 5.6.4 [5002] was a large north-east to south-west aligned ditch, 1.94m wide by 0.4m deep. The fill of [5002], (5003), appears to have formed through natural siltation processes, containing only a moderate inclusion of small to middling sized sub-rounded stone and occasional charcoal flecks. No datable materials were recorded from this feature. In a similar manner to (2003), (2005), and (4003) the fill of [5002] appears leached, which could signify a shared function and/or date.
- 5.6.5 [5004] is a shallow, 0.1m deep, east to west aligned ditch located less than 1m north of [5002]. Its fill, (5005), is a sterile context of soft/friable light orangey-brown clayey-silt, formed by natural silting, which yielded no finds or datable material. The alignment of [5004] matches that of features recorded in Trench 02 ([2002] and [2004]), as well as features recorded by Northamptonshire Archaeology,

although [5004]'s dimensions do not align with those of [2002] and [2004] nor does the composition of (5005) match those of (2003) and (2005).

- 5.6.6 The topsoil (5000) which consisted of a loose layer of dark brown medium clayey-silt. No subsoil was observed between this and the natural substratum.

6 Finds

By Alison Wilson

Material	Description	Period	Quantity	Weight
Pottery	Coarse Earthenware	Post-Medieval	1	2g
Pottery	White bodied Earthenware	Modern	2	2g
CB,	Fragments	Post-medieval/modern	2	8g
Clay tobacco pipe	Bowl fragment	Post-medieval	1	1g
Bone	Animal tooth	Unknown	1	32g

- 6.1.1 A small assemblage of pottery, ceramic building material, clay pipe and bone was recovered during archaeological investigations at Park Lane, Castle Donington.

Pottery

- 6.1.2 There were 3 pottery sherds in total, all of which were recovered from context (4013). These comprised a small fragment of a brown glazed coarse earthenware, a body sherd of white-bodied earthenware and a tiny fragment of blue and white transfer decorated white bodied earthenware. All the sherds can be dated to the 18th-20th century.

Ceramic building material

- 6.1.3 Two small fragments of ceramic building material were found in context (1003). The pieces are too small for confident identification but are likely to belong to the post-medieval to modern period.

Clay tobacco pipe

- 6.1.4 A single small fragment of clay tobacco pipe bowl was also recovered from context [1002] (1003). The fragment is very worn and not enough of the pipe remains to give an accurate date, but traces of milling and bottering can be seen on what remains of the rim, which would suggest a manufacturing date somewhere in the 17th – 18th century.

Bone

- 6.1.5 A fragment of a horse's upper molar was found in context (4003).
- 6.1.6 The finds assemblage is small and likely to be residual. Discard is recommended.

7 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 The majority of features identified by the evaluation of the land off Park Lane were related to the land's agricultural use, consisting mostly of north-south aligned ridge and furrow and north-west to south-east aligned gullies that were found to truncate the ridge and furrow. The fairly even spacing observed between certain furrows, coupled with the curving observed in [2006] in Trench 02, indicate a probable medieval date for this ridge and furrow system, despite the absence of datable materials. As the fields south of Park lane were divided into rectilinear fields between 1836 and 1887 due to a change from arable to pastoral agriculture (Flavell, 2010, 3), gullies such as [4008], [4010], and [1004] are likely to be late 19th/ early 20th century features, with [1004]'s truncation of a plough furrow reflecting how the maintenance of the ridge and furrow was no longer a priority after this due to the field's change in use. Modern service trenches such as those recorded in Trenches 01 and 04, as well as those seen by Northamptonshire Archaeology, were later installed on the site with [1004] re-cutting an earlier furrow alignment.
- 7.2 The evaluation revealed potentially significant, though as yet undated, archaeological features within Trenches 02, 04 and 05. Features identified in Trenches 02 and 05 ([2002], [2004], and [5004]) share an east-west alignment similar to the twin Iron age gullies identified by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2010 (Flavell 2010), and it is possible that the presently undated features form part of this same phase of site use. The different alignments of ditched features identified within Trench 04 and 05 ([4002] and [5002] respectively), may suggest further subdivisions of land not identified during the previous phase of trial trenching, though their relationship to ditches [2002], [2004], and [5004] is as yet unknown.
- 7.3 The investigation of these features further suggests that the ditches identified during this current phase of works are representative of the truncated remnants of secondary land divisions which are internal to larger field systems. This supports the earlier interpretation of nearby features identified by Northamptonshire Archaeology as part of the earlier evaluation works (Flavell 2010).
- 7.4 No datable finds earlier than the post-medieval period were observed during the work.
- 7.5 The evaluation has been successful in identifying and characterising the archaeological remains present within the site, and has determined that the archaeological features identified during the previous phase of trial trenching by Northamptonshire Archaeology (2010) appear to continue into the wider development area. This is based on the presence of the features [2002] and [2004] in Trench 02, [4002] in Trench 04, and features [5002] and [5004] in Trench 05.

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Appendix 1: Trench Logs

Trench 01					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	40m x 1.6m	Trench Alignment	E-W	Trench Depth	0.34m
Context	Type	Description			Thickness
(1000)	Layer	Topsoil: Loose, dark browns, medium clayey-silt.			0.3m
(1001)	Layer	Natural: hard-friable, mid brownish red mudstone clay.			Unknown
[1002]	Cut	Cut of furrow. North to south aligned furrow with shallow sloping sides and a flat base. Dimensions >1.6m L x 2.86m W x 0.7m D.			0.7m
(1003)	Fill	Redeposited fill of furrow [1002]. Firm mixed mid orange-brown and mottled dark reddish-brown clayey silt. Dimensions >1.6m L x 2.86m W x 0.7m D.			0.7m
[1004]	Cut	Cut of a northwest to southeast aligned rectilinear gully with steep-straight sides and a flat-to-shallow concave base. Dimensions >1.6m L x 0.44m W x 0.12m D			0.12m
(1005)	Fill	Fill of [1004]. Firm mixed dark reddish-brown. Silty clay. Dimensions >1.6m L x 0.44m W x 0.12m D			0.12m

Trench 02					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	40m x 1.6m	Trench Alignment	N-S	Trench Depth	0.46m
Context	Type	Description			Thickness
(2000)	Layer	Topsoil: Loose, dark browns, medium clayey-silt			0.46m
(2001)	Layer	Natural: hard-friable, mid brownish red mudstone clay.			Unknown
[2002]	Cut	Cut of ditch terminus. East to west aligned with steeply sloping sides and concave base giving it a asymmetrical profile. Dimensions: >1.6m L x 1.6m W x 0.48m D			0.48m
(2003)	Fill	Fill of ditch terminus [2002]. Firm mid greyish-brown / Light grey clayey-silt. Frequent angular rocks and possible limestone derived from the natural substratum. Dimensions: >1.6m L x 1.6m W x 0.48m D			0.48m
[2004]	Cut	Cut of ditch. East to west aligned with steep come shallow sides and a flat base forming a symmetrical profile. Dimension >1.6m L x 2m W x 0.18m D.			0.18m
(2005)	Fill	Fill of ditch [2004]. Firm dark yellowish-brown clayey-silt. Large stone inclusions towards the base, possible derived from the natural substratum. Dimension >1.6m L x 2m W x 0.18m D.			0.18m
[2006]	Cut	Cut of an agricultural furrow which curves from a southeast to northwest alignment to a north to south alignment. It as an asymmetrical profile comprising of shallow come steep sides and a flat base. Dimensions: >10m L x >1.1m W x 0.12m D.			0.12m

(2007)	Fill	Fill of furrow [2006]. Soft-firm mid dark yellowish brown clayey-silt and sand. Occasional inclusions of small to large sized sub-rounded stones. Dimensions: >10m L x >1.1m W x 0.12m D.	0.12m
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Trench 03					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	40m x 1.6m	Trench Alignment	NW-SE	Trench Depth	0.4m
Context	Type	Description			Thickness
(3000)	Layer	Topsoil: Loose, dark browns, medium clayey-silt			0.35m
(3001)	Layer	Natural: hard-friable, mid brownish red mudstone clay.			Unknown
(3002)	Cut	Cut of furrow. North to south aligned furrow with shallow come shallow sides and a flat come concave base forming a symmetrical profile. Dimensions >1.6m L x 2.9m W x 0.1-0.2m D.			0.1 – 0.2m
(3003)	Fill	Fill of furrow [3002]. Soft medium orangey-brown fine-to-mid clayey silt. Occasional inclusions of small sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks. Dimensions >1.6m L x 2.9m W x 0.1-0.2m D.			0.1-0.2m

Trench 04					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	45m x 1.6m	Trench Alignment	E-W	Trench Depth	0.3m
Context	Type	Description			Thickness
(4000)	Layer	Topsoil: Loose, dark browns, medium clayey-silt.			0.3m
(4001)	Layer	Natural: hard-friable, mid brownish red mudstone clay.			Unknown
[4002]	Cut	Cut of Ditch. North to south aligned features with shallow sides, concave base, and two truncations on either side forming an asymmetrical profile. Dimensions: .1.6m L x 2.6m W x 0.2-0.4m D			0.2-0.4m
(4003)	Fill	Fill of [4002]. Soft mid-to-dark orangey-brown mid clayey-silt fill with occasional small sub-angular stones, mudstone and charcoal fleck inclusions. Dimensions: .1.6m L x 2.6m W x 0.2-0.4m D			0.2-0.4m
[4004]	Cut	Cut of furrow. North to south aligned furrow with shallow sloping sides and an irregularly flat base forming a symmetrical profile. Dimensions: >1.6m L x 1.5m W x 0.14m D.			0.14m
(4005)	Fill	Fill of furrow [4004]. Soft mid-to-light orangey-brown clayey-silt with occasional charcoal fleck and small rounded stone inclusions. Dimensions: >1.6m L x 1.5m W x 0.14m D.			0.14m
[4006]	Cut	Cut of Furrow. North to south aligned furrow with shallow sloping sides and an irregular come flat base forming an asymmetrical profile. Dimensions: >1.6m L x			0.2m

		1.64m W x 0.2m D.	
(4007)	Fill	Fill of furrow [4006]. Soft mid-to-light orangey-brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal fleck and small stone inclusions. Dimensions: >1.6m L x 1.64m W x 0.2m D.	0.2m
[4008]	Cut	Cut of gully. Northwest to southeast aligned feature with steeply-sloping sides and a flat come shallow-concave base forming an asymmetrical profile. Dimensions: >1.6m L x 1.4m W x 0.1-0.2m D	0.1-0.2m
(4009)	Fill	Fill of gully [4008]. Soft, mid-to-light orangey-brown clayey-silt with occasional small mudstone fragment inclusions. Dimensions: >1.6m L x 1.4m W x 0.1-0.2m D	0.1-0.2m
[4010]	Cut	Cut of Gully. Northwest to southeast aligned feature with steeply-sloping sides and an irregular shallow concave base forming an asymmetrical profile. Dimensions: >1.6m L x 1.2m W x 0.18m D.	0.18m
(4011)	Fill	Fill of Gully [4010]. Soft-friable mottled orangey-brown clayey-sand with occasional inclusions of small sub-angular stones. Dimensions: >1.6m L x 1.2m W x 0.18m D.	0.18m
[4012]	Cut	Cut of service ditch. North to south aligned feature with steep sides forming a symmetrical profile with a service pipe situated at its base. Dimensions: >1.6m L x 1.56m W x 0.6m D.	0.6m
(4013)	Fill	Fill of service trench [4012]. Firm mottled dark brownish-red clayey-silt with frequent mudstone inclusions. Dimensions: >1.6m L x 1.56m W x 0.6m D.	0.6m

Trench 05					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	40m x 1.6m	Trench Alignment	N-S	Trench Depth	0.32m
Context	Type	Description			Thickness
(5000)	Layer	Topsoil: Loose, dark browns, medium clayey-silt.			0.3m
(5001)	Layer	Natural: hard-friable, mid brownish red mudstone clay.			Unknown
[5002]	Cut	Cut of ditch. Northeast to southwest aligned feature with gradual to steeply sloping sides and a flat, irregular base forming an asymmetrical profile. Dimensions: >1.6m L x 1.94m W x 0.4m D.			0.4m
(5003)	Fill	Fill of ditch [5002]. Soft come firm medium greyish-brown clayey-silt with sand, containing a moderate amount of small to middling sized sub-rounded stones and occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. Dimensions: >1.6m L x 1.94m W x 0.4m D.			0.4m
[5004]	Cut	Cut of ditch. East to west aligned feature with steep sides and a concaved, shallow base forming a symmetrical profile. Dimensions >1.6m L x 0.54m W x 0.1m D.			0.1m
(5005)	Fill	Fill of ditch [5004]. Soft come friable light orangey-brown clayey silt with no inclusions. Dimensions: >1.6m L x 0.54m W x 0.1m D.			0.1m

Appendix 2: Plates



Plate 1: Oblique Plan view of Trench 01. Scale: 1x1m & 1x0.2m.



Plate 2: Trench 01 - South facing section of [1002], oblique. Scale: 1x1m.



Plate 3: Oblique plan view Trench 02. Scale: 1x1m & 1x0.3m.



Plate 4: Trench 02 - West facing section of [2002]. Scale: 1x1m.



Plate 5: Trench 02 – West Facing Section of [2004]. Scale: 1x1m.



Plate 6: Oblique plan view Trench 03. Scale: 1x1m & 1x0.3m.



Plate 7: Trench 03 – North facing section of [3002], Oblique. Scale: 1x1m



Plate 8: Oblique plan view Trench 04. Scale: 1x1m & 1x0.3m



Plate 9: Trench 04 – [4012] North facing Section. Scale: 1x1m



Plate 10: Trench 04 – [4002] North facing section, Oblique. Scale: 1x1m



Plate 11: Trench 04 – North facing sections [4008] & [4010], oblique. Scale 1x1m.

Plate 12: Oblique plan view Trench 05. Scale 1x1m & 1x0.3m.



Plate 13: Trench 05 – Northeast facing section [5002]. Scale 1x1m



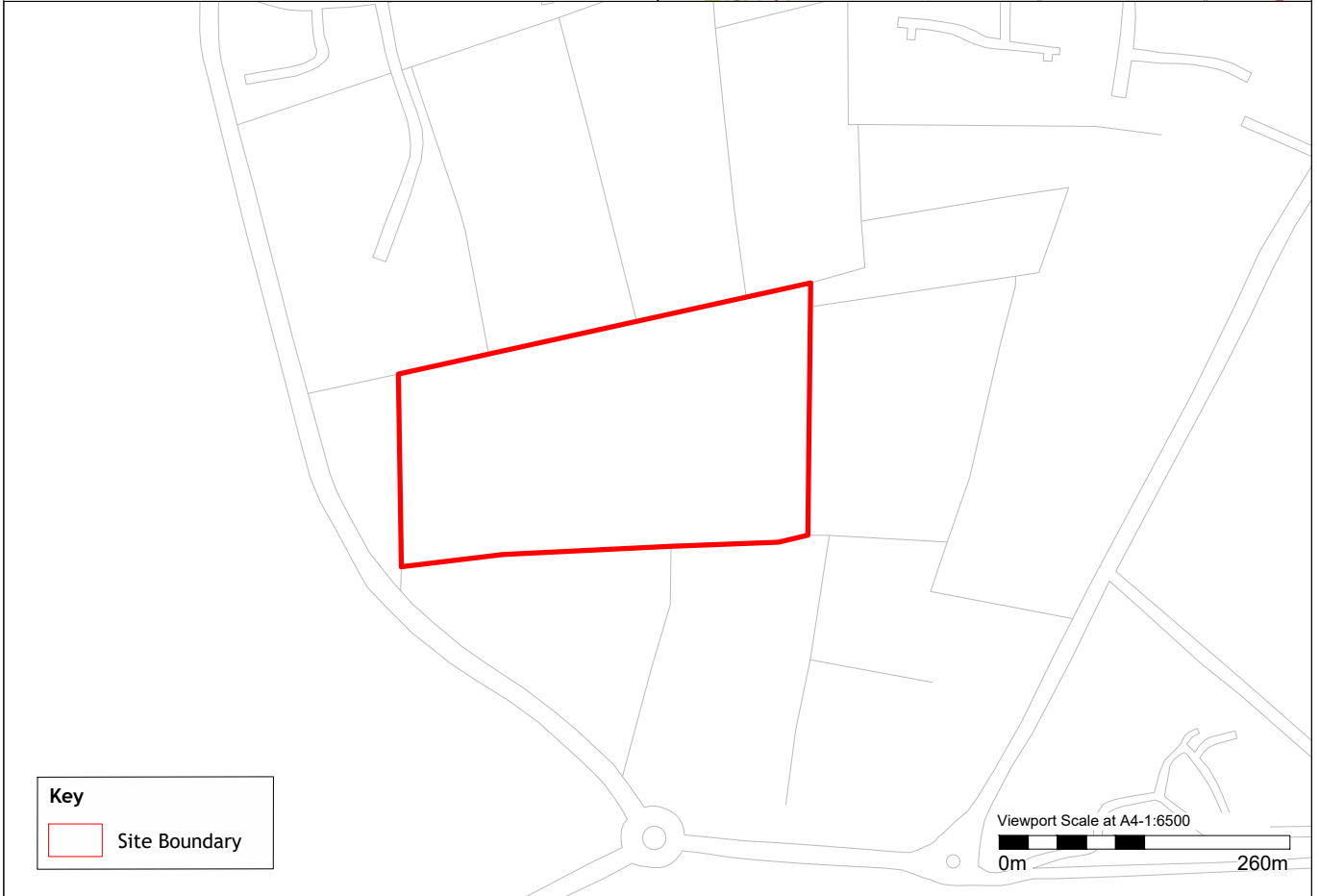
Plate 14: Trench 05 – East facing section [5004]. Scale 1x1m.

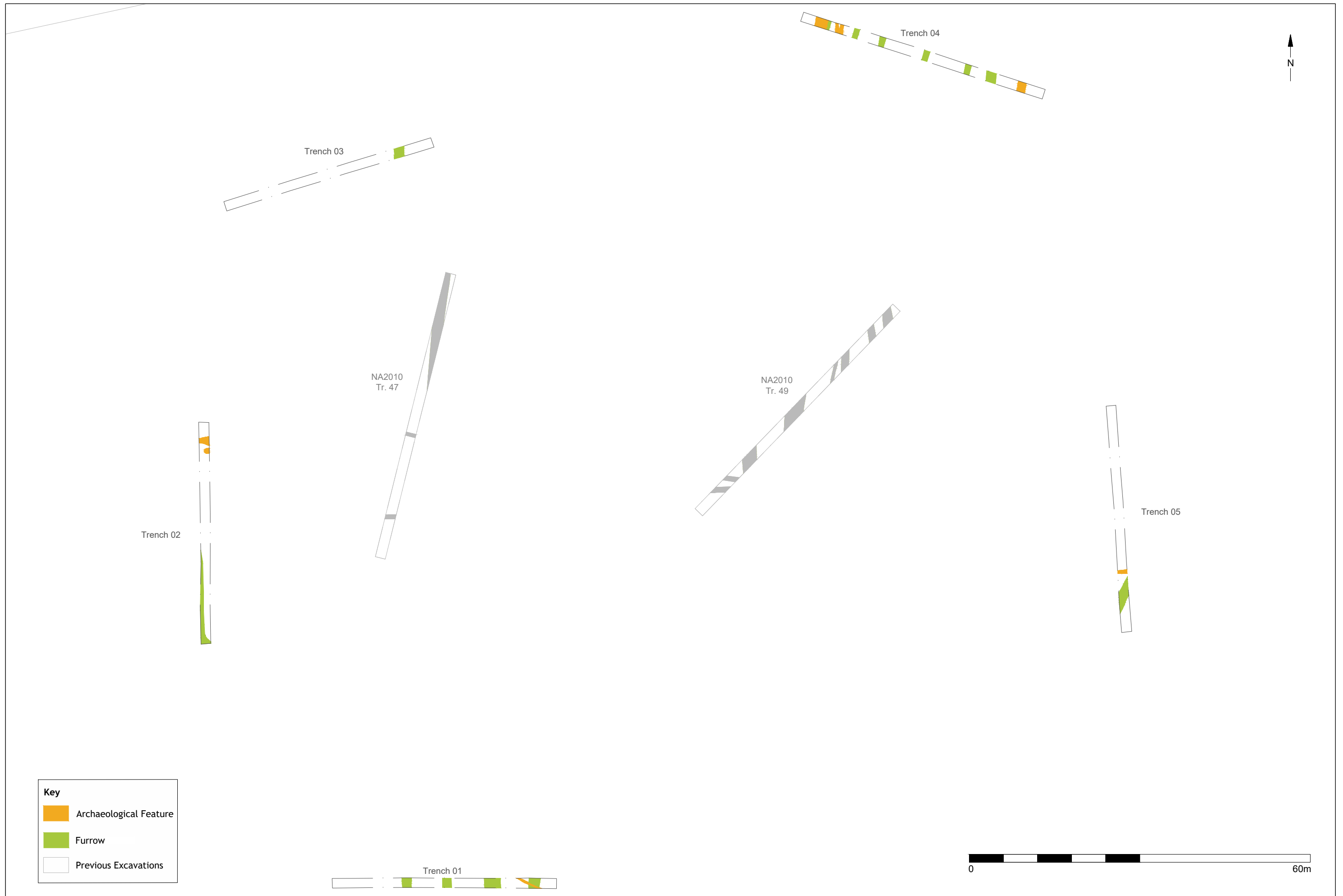
Appendix 3: Index of Archive and Arrangements for Deposition


<i>Field Records</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Trench record sheets	Register of context numbers and descriptions	5
Context sheets	Record of features and deposits	38
Photo record sheet	Record of photographs taken	1
Digital photographs	All views	86
Site drawings	Section drawings	9
<i>Documents</i>		
<i>Documents</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Written scheme of investigation	Statement of the aims, objectives and methodology for the project.	1
Health & Safety	Safe working statement & risk assessment.	1
Report to client	Report of findings of the evaluation and watching brief.	1
<i>Find</i>		
<i>Find</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Artefact	Clay pipe, animal bone, CBM, & pottery	7

The site archive is currently held at the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology, Unit 1, Holly Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AB. It will be deposited with the relevant repository upon completion of the project.

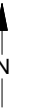
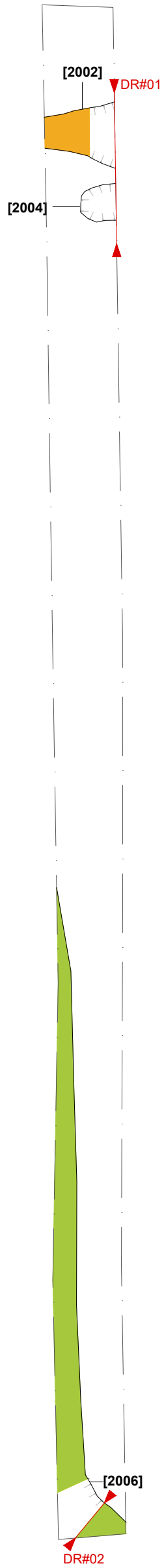
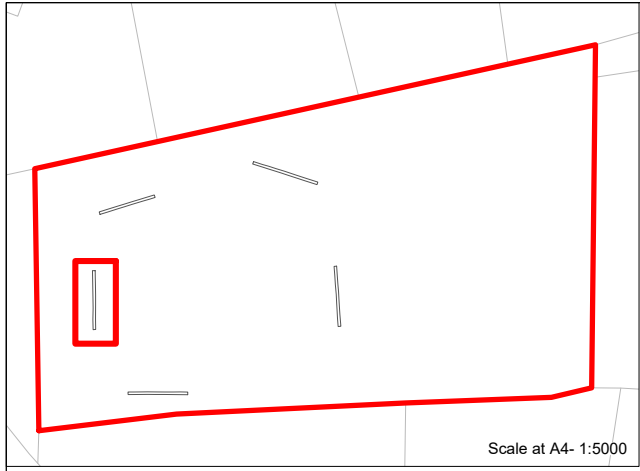
Appendix 4: Figures








Figure 02 - Site Plan
 PLC - Land Off Park Lane, Castle Donington, Leicestershire

Scale at A3 - 1:600
 Drawn by MI



Key	
	Archaeological Feature
	Furrow



DR#01

West Facing Section Of [2002] and [2004]

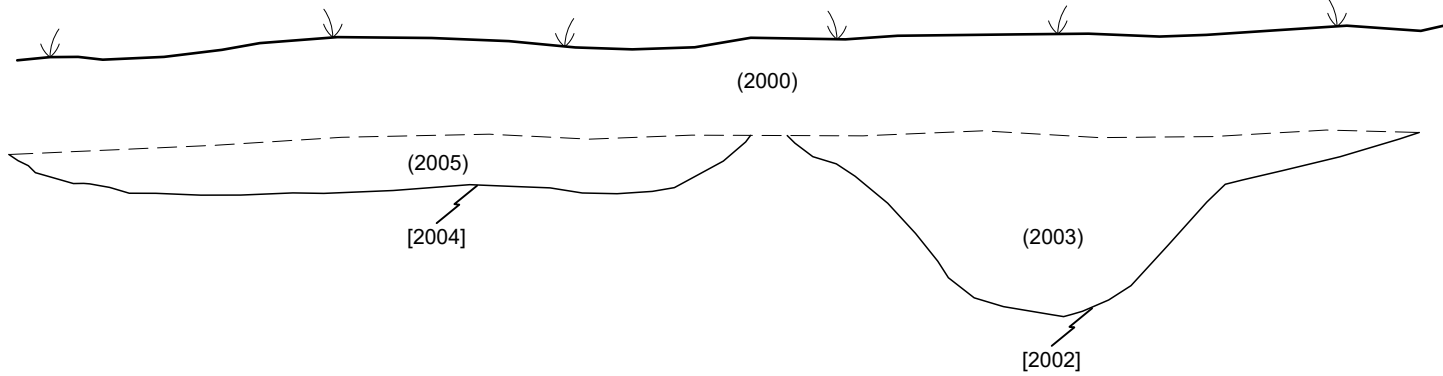
N



S



87.75



DR#02

North West Facing Section Of [2006]

NE

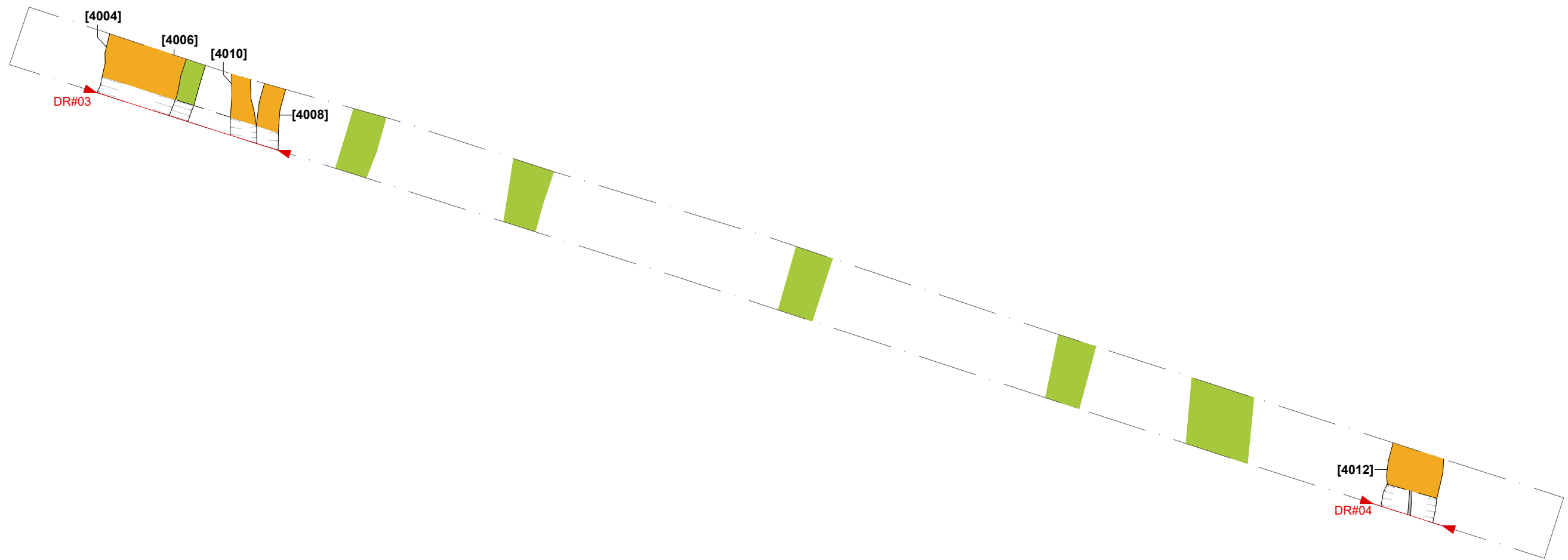
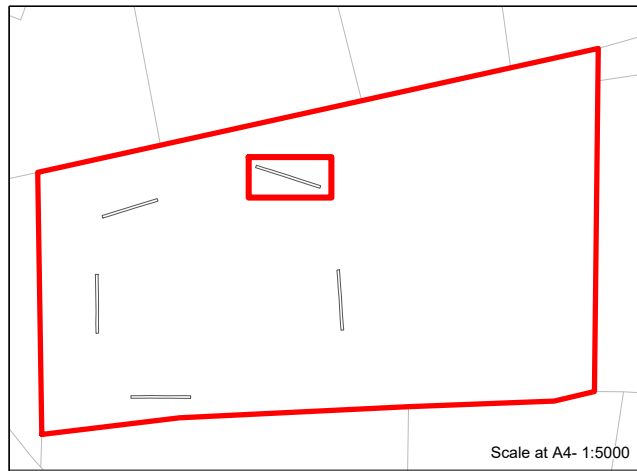





SW



88.75



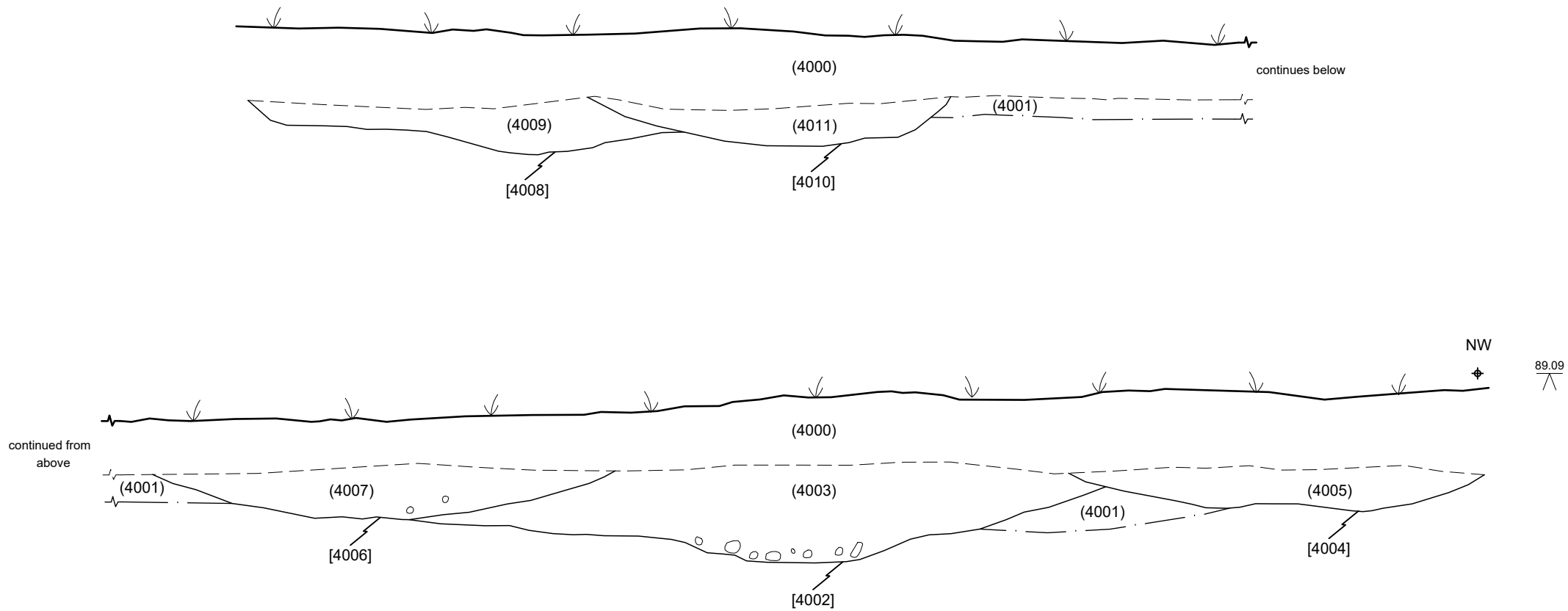


Key	
	Archaeological Feature
	Furrow
	Field Drain



DR#03
North East Facing Section Of [4002], [4004], [4006],[4008] and [4010]

SE



DR#04
North East Facing Section Of [4012]

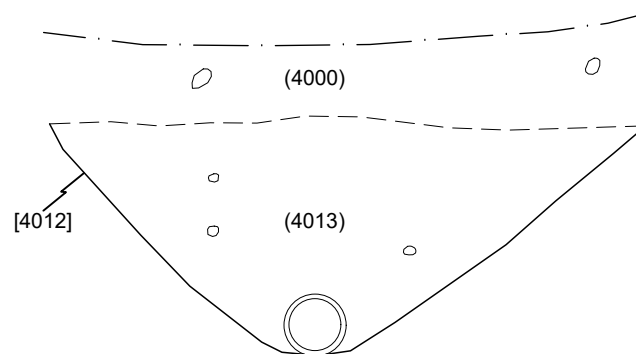
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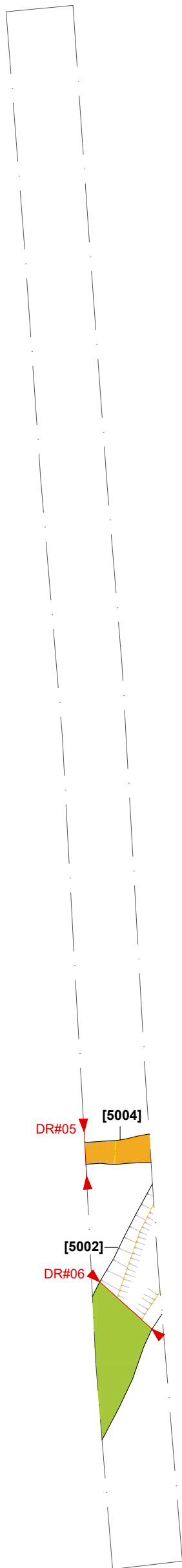
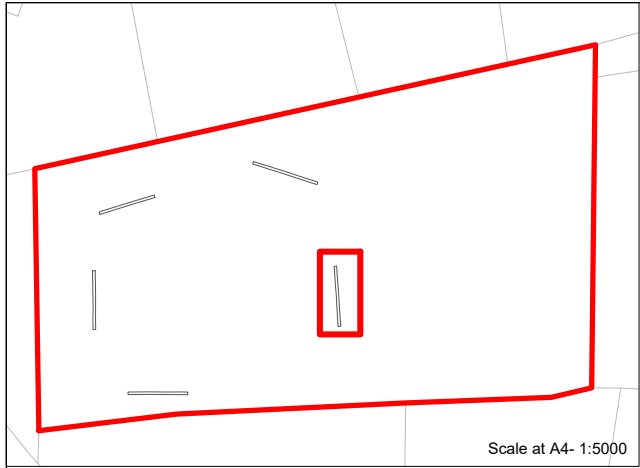




NW



89.26

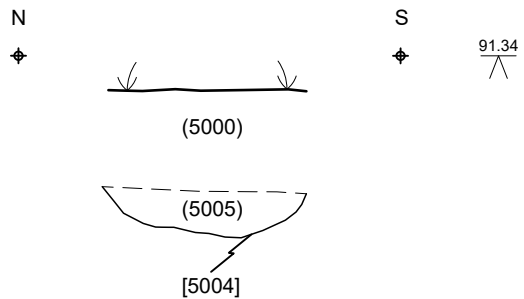




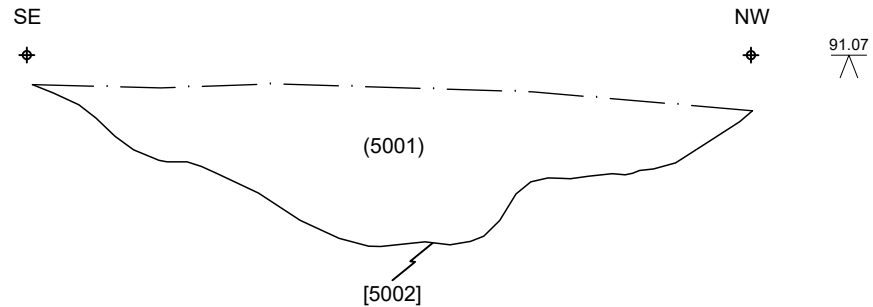
Key	
	Archaeological Feature
	Furrow



DR#05
West Facing Section Of [5004]



DR#06
North East Facing Section Of [5002]



Appendix 5: OASIS Data Collection Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: trentpea1-405045

Project details

Project name	Land off Park Lane, Caste Donington, Leicestershire
Short description of the project	Trent and Peak Archaeology was commissioned by RPS to conduct an archaeological trial trench evaluation ahead of a scheme works to construct a warehouse facility on Land off Park Lane, Castle Donington, Leicestershire. The work was carried out between the 24th and 28th August 2020. The evaluation comprised the excavation of five trenches within the site which were placed in order to identify the continuation of Iron Age features previously identified during a trial trench investigation conducted by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2010. All trenches excavated demonstrated the presence of archaeology which comprised medieval furrows, 19th/20th century drainage features and several undated features which may relate to the aforementioned Iron Age activity within the site (Flavell 2010).
Project dates	Start: 24-08-2020 End: 28-08-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	PLC - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	088/2020 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	FURROW Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE CASTLE DONINGTON Land off Park Lane, Castle Donington

Study area 75000 Square metres
 Site coordinates SK 43620 26684 52.83557734196 -1.352417076388 52 50 08 N 001 21 08 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Trent and Peak Archaeology

Project brief originator Consultant

Project design originator Edmund Taylor

Project director/manager Edmund Taylor

Project supervisor Richard Parker

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Clowes Developments Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums Service

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums Service

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Land off Park Lane, Castle Donington, Leicestershire: Report on the Results of an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Parker, R.

Author(s)/Editor(s) Espley, I. H.

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