

Land north of White House Farm, Burbage, Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

**Central England
Co-operative**

August 2022


Ecus Ltd


Report to: Central England Co-operative


Report Title: Land north of White House Farm, Burbage, Leicestershire –
Archaeological Evaluation Report

Version: V.2.0
Issue Date: August 2022
Report Ref: 18954

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Version	Author	Description	Date
0.1	CP	First Draft	June 2022
0.2	APN	First QA	July 2022
1.0	DWF	For issue	July 2022
2.0	APN	LCC comments	August 2022

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Executive Summary

In June 2022, Ecus Ltd was commissioned by Mather Jamie Ltd on behalf of the Central England Co-operative to perform an Archaeological Evaluation in advance of a residential development on land north of White Farm House, Burbage, Leicestershire. Previous excavations to the north of the site by University of Leicester Archaeological Services identified evidence of prehistoric and Romano-British activity, and geophysical survey conduct by SUMO Geophysics identified two features of potential archaeological interest.

Following the production of an archaeological desk based assessment, the Leicestershire County Council archaeological advisor requested an evaluation of 3% of the site, consisting of ten 30 m by 1.8 m machine excavated trenches.

Several previously unrecorded features were identified during the evaluation; significantly, three pits with degraded waterlogged fills and a group of partially waterlogged wooden poles within Trenches 5 and 6. The poles and pits, and a ditch were located in the area of concentric geophysical anomalies, which may represent the edge of a low lying area or former pond.

There is no clear interpretation for the wooden poles; they were all straight, of a similar circumference and either carefully laid down or deposited in a tied bundle. The overlying clay deposit probably accumulated in waterlogged conditions, and the pole may therefore represent an attempt to maintain or make use of a wetland environment. Based on the nature of the surrounding archaeological landscape, the poles are feasibly prehistoric or Romano-British in date, and may represent material for an incomplete area of fencing at the edge of a low lying area or other woodworking activity in the area. Alternatively, they may have performed a ceremonial or funerary function in association with a spring to the south or feasibly the Bronze Age cremation cemetery to the north. Further excavation would be required to establish the presence, extent and form of any similar deposits beyond the excavated trench.

Two ditches identified in Trenches 2 and 3 may have formed field boundaries associated with Iron Age or Romano-British activity recorded to the north of the proposed development site. A worked flint was recovered from the topsoil within Trench 3.

The archive is currently stored at Ecus's Sheffield and Barnard Castle offices under project number 18954, and will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service in due course under accession number X.A109.2022. An OASIS form (OASIS ID: ecusltd1-508219) has been uploaded to the Archaeological Data Service.

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Ecus Ltd was commissioned by Mather Jamie Ltd on behalf of the Central England Co-operative to perform an Archaeological Evaluation in advance of a residential development on land north of White Farm House, Burbage, Leicestershire (hereafter 'the Site'; planning application ref.: 20/01012/OUT). The Site is centred at National Grid Co-ordinates SP 44245 91867 (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 An area of prehistoric and Romano-British archaeological activity was recently excavated to the north of the Site (ULAS 2014). Subsequent geophysical survey (SUMO 2019) and an archaeological desk based assessment (ADBA; Ecus 2020) determined that the extensive activity observed to the north is unlikely to extend into the Site, and no anomalies of definite archaeological interest were identified.
- 1.1.3 Due to the Site's proximity to significant archaeological remains, the Leicestershire County Council archaeological advisor (LCC) requested a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Ecus 2022) for a 3% trenched evaluation of the site (ten 30 m by 1.8 m trenches).
- 1.1.4 This Report presents the results of the archaeological trial trenching.

1.2 Site Description

- 1.2.1 The Site is situated to the west of Workhouse Lane on the south eastern periphery of the village of Burbage and occupies an area of approximately 2 ha. The Site comprises an agricultural field currently under pasture and enclosed by vegetation. The Site is bounded to the north and north west by modern residential development, beyond which lies the historic settlement core.
- 1.2.2 Whitehouse Farm lies immediately adjacent to the southern boundary of the Site, and agricultural fields lie to the south and west of the Site. The Site slopes relatively gently from approximately 110 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south west to approximately 117 m aOD in the north east.
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology of the Site is recorded as mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group, a sedimentary bedrock formed in the Triassic period, approximately 252 to 201 million years ago. Most of the Site contains superficial deposits of sand and gravel, with diamicton in the north and south west (BGS 2020).

1.3 Acknowledgements

- 1.3.1 The fieldwork was carried out by Craig Parkinson and Harry Mixer, and project managed by Andrew Norton. The report was written by Craig Parkinson with finds assessed and reported by Julie Shoemark, animal bone by Chrystal Antink and charred plant remains by Mai Walker. Illustrations

were produced by Dawn Knowles.

1.3.2 Thanks are extended to Simon Hawley and Hamish Byers for their assistance during the works and to William Kelly Senior Planning Archaeologist (Heritage) for LCC.

2. Archaeological and Historical Background

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following summary is based upon an ADPA of the Site undertaken by Ecus Ltd (Ecus 2020).

2.2 Baseline

2.2.1 No archaeological remains were known within the Site although archaeological investigations have shown evidence of prehistoric occupation close to the Site. In the fields immediately north of the Site a cluster of Bronze Age pits, including urned cremations, suggested the presence of a Bronze Age cremation cemetery, and there was also a curvilinear enclosure of possible Iron Age date. Romano-British evidence has also been discovered in the form of linear boundary ditches, potential stock enclosures, as well as finds including pottery, fired clay and animal bones.

2.2.2 Although the potential for any stray finds to be encountered could not be discounted, based on the results of the geophysical survey (SUMO 2019), the potential for unidentified remains of prehistoric or Roman date to be present within the proposed development area was considered limited as no evidence of any substantial or significant features (i.e. funerary features or settlement remains) was clearly identifiable.

2.2.3 During the medieval period the Site formed part of the agricultural landscape, which was corroborated by evidence recorded during the geophysical survey and on LiDAR imagery available for the Site.

2.3 Previous Archaeological Works

Geophysical Survey

2.3.1 Geophysical survey (SUMO 2019) identified no anomalies of definite archaeological interest, although two curving linear features, which could be of archaeological, agricultural or natural origin, were identified. Evidence of previous agricultural activity was also recorded, with the remains of ridge and furrow present in the east and land drains possibly associated with the pond to the north and spring to the south. Several areas of magnetic disturbance were recorded throughout the Site, although these are often characteristic of building material debris (brick/tile) in the topsoil, which is commonly assigned a modern origin.

3. Methodology

3.1 Standards

3.1.1 The project conformed to the current national guidance as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (ClfA 2020a); *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA, 2020b); and *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA, 2020c).

3.2 Aims and Objectives

3.2.1 The specific aims of the evaluation were:

- to identify and record any archaeological deposits, structures or built fabric within the identified areas of interest;
- to determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any encountered or exposed archaeological remains;
- to recover artefacts disturbed by the site works;
- to prepare a comprehensive record of, and report on, archaeological observations made during the site work; and
- to identify mitigation strategies to ensure the recording, preservation or management of archaeological remains within the Site.

3.2.2 The objectives of the project are:

- to establish whether adjacent prehistoric remains extend into the Site, and to further understand two curvilinear geophysical anomalies; and
- in turn provide evidence to address relevant regional research topics, i.e The Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (LCC 2010) and *An archaeological resource assessment Roman Leicestershire and Rutland. East Midlands Archaeological Research Framework: Resource Assessment of Roman Leicestershire* (Liddle 2006).

3.3 Methodology

3.3.1 All work was undertaken by experienced Ecus staff who are corporate members of the ClfA or who demonstrably work to an equivalent standard for fieldwork.

- 3.3.2 A trenching plan was devised and agreed with LCC to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information and to ensure that the significance of the archaeological resource is understood to a level of detail proportionate to its importance (Fig. 2).
- 3.3.3 A total of 10 trenches measuring 30 m long and 1.8 m wide were excavated across site.
- within the north east area, Trenches 9 and 10 targeted the extant ridge and furrow earthworks;
 - in the central part of site, Trenches 5 and 6 targeted the curvilinear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey; and
 - the remaining six trenches (1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8) were spread across the site, targeting areas that have appeared blank on the LIDAR and geophysical survey.
- 3.3.4 The centre end point of each trench was located on the ground using differential Global Positioning System (dGPS) technology or hand-measured to an accuracy of ± 0.1 m.
- 3.3.5 The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket of suitable width under continuous archaeological direction and monitoring.
- 3.3.6 Soil overburdens were removed in layers of up to 300 mm thickness to the top of the first archaeological horizon or the level of natural geology, whichever was reached first. The depth of each layer was determined by the supervising archaeologist.
- 3.3.7 Each layer was examined sufficiently to determine whether archaeological remains were present or not, thereby also determining whether machine excavation would recommence or cease.
- 3.3.8 The finished stripped surface was machined to a condition which was suitably 'clean' for archaeological recording to commence, and subsequently hand cleaned where necessary.

3.4 Excavation and Recording Methodology

- 3.4.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded using a continuous numbered context system on a digital pro-forma recording system in accordance with industry standards. The written record is hierarchically based and centred on the context record. Each context record fully describes the location, extent, composition and relationship of the subject and is cross-referenced to all other assigned records.
- 3.4.2 All archaeological features were sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them.
- 3.4.3 Excavated features were planned using dGPS and sections drawn at 1:10, and co-ordinated on to an overall site plan. Drawings were made in pencil on permanent drafting film.

3.4.4 A full photographic record was maintained, using a digital camera equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set. Output will be in TIFF/JPEG format. Digital records created as part of the project comply with specific data standards (Historic England 2015).

3.5 Finds

3.5.1 Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance presented in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* and *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2020a and b).

3.5.2 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained and recorded by context, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date.

3.5.3 All finds and samples were exposed, lifted, processed, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the requirements of Leicestershire Museums Service.

3.5.4 Artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions were dealt with immediately in accordance with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

3.6 Environmental Sampling

3.6.1 Appropriate sampling strategies were determined by the survival and condition of the deposits identified.

3.6.2 Bulk environmental soil samples for plant macro-fossils, small animal and fish bones and other small artefacts were taken from appropriate well-sealed and dated/datable archaeological deposits. The collection and processing of environmental samples was undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidelines (Historic England 2011).

3.6.3 The residues and sieved fractions of the bulk environmental soil samples were recorded and are retained with the project archive.

4. Trench Results

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following section presents the results of the archaeological evaluation. The context descriptions for recorded archaeological deposits are reproduced in Appendix 1.

4.1.2 Excavations consisted of ten trenches mechanically excavated across the site. The locations of these trenches are shown in Figure 2.

4.2 Trenches 1, 4, 7 and 8

4.2.1 The overburden within Trenches 1, 4, 7 and 8 comprised clayey silt topsoil 0.2 – 0.4 m deep overlying clayey silt subsoil (most likely a relict plough-soil) up to 0.4 m deep and overlying glacial tills consisting of orange and grey clays with pebbly stones. All were devoid of archaeological artefacts and features. A modern land drain extended from north to south across Trench 7.

4.3 Trenches 9 and 10

4.3.1 Trenches 9 and 10 were located in the north of the site where the overburden comprised a clayey silt topsoil 0.3 – 0.4 m deep above a silty clay subsoil 0.2 – 0.3 m deep, overlying natural clay. Both deposits contained remnants of a ridge and furrow field system which remains clearly visible on the ground surface. No further archaeological deposits were seen below the ridge and furrow.

4.4 Trench 2

4.4.1 Trench 2 was located in the south of the site. It contained a silt topsoil layer 0.2 m deep and a clayey silt subsoil layer 0.2 m deep, overlying glacial till. Towards the east end of the trench, ditch 204 extended from south east to north west (Figure 3, Section A; Plate 1). It contained no evidence for dating or function.

4.5 Trench 3

4.5.1 Trench 3 was located in the west of the site. It contained a silt topsoil layer 0.2 m deep and a clayey silt subsoil layer 0.3 m deep, overlying glacial till. To the west of the centre of the trench, ditch 304 extended from north to south (Figure 3, Section B; Plate 2). It contained no evidence for dating or function. A flint blade was recovered from the machined topsoil (301; Plate 7).

4.6 Trench 5

4.6.1 Trench 5 was located in the south of the centre of the site, targeting the inner of the two curvilinear anomalies identified in the geophysical survey. It contained a clayey silt topsoil layer up to 0.5 m deep and a silty clay subsoil layer up to 0.1 m deep, overlying glacial till. In the west of the trench,

ditch 506 extended from south west to north east (Figure 3, Section C; Plate 3). The ditch contained a decayed organic fill, but no additional dating evidence. Pit 504 was found towards the eastern end of the trench (Figure 3, Section D; Plate 4). The pit contained a decayed organic clayey silt fill with fragments of preserved wood, similar in composition to deposits found in Trench 6 (see below). A single large fragment of horse bone was recovered from the fill. No additional evidence for dating or function was identified.

4.7 Trench 6

4.7.1 Trench 6 was located at the centre of the site, targeting the outer of the two curvilinear anomalies identified in the geophysical survey. It contained a silty clay topsoil up to 0.4 m deep and a layer of clay subsoil up to 0.5 m deep, overlying natural clay. Overlying pit 603 (Figure 3, Section E), the clay subsoil may have been fluvial and appeared to be deposited under waterlogged conditions. A group of preserved wooden poles (605, Plate 6), which extended beyond the limit of excavation on each side of the trench, and the fill of an unexcavated possible pit (606) to the north of the trench, were also overlain by the clay subsoil. Pit 606 extended beyond the trench limits and its true form could not be established. Because of the likelihood of further waterlogged deposits within a partially revealed feature, an onsite decision was made to leave its fills in situ to preserve their archaeological integrity. Pit 603 contained a dark silty clay deposit (604), which included numerous chunks of preserved wood. The poles (605) were all straight, approximately 80 -100 mm in diameter, closely packed and laid in a north west to south east alignment, immediately on top of natural clay 602, with no evidence of a cut feature containing them.

5. Artefacts

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A single struck lithic was recovered via hand collection from topsoil 301 within Trench 3 (Plate 7).
- 5.1.2 A wooden pole (605) was recovered from a group of similar parallel poles discovered in Trench 6. Only one of the poles was recovered; the rest were retained in situ in anticipation of subsequent phases of archaeological work.

5.2 Discussion

- 5.2.1 The blade from context 301 comprises a piece of debitage struck from a secondary flake in the form of a blade and retains approximately 20% cortex on the ventral surface. The striking platform is narrow. There is no retouch or signs of use-wear. Un-retouched debitage such as this are difficult to date, as the fragment is a waste product and does not display any distinctive characteristics; however, a broad date range of Early Mesolithic to Early Neolithic is suggested.
- 5.2.2 The wooden pole (605) appears to be the trunk or branch of a tree. It is 1.36 m in length and tapers slightly along its length from a maximum diameter of 89 mm to a minimum diameter of 65 mm. The pole terminates in a fresh break, sustained during its extraction. This consequence, however, enabled the interior of the pole to be examined. The wood does not appear to be fully waterlogged and retains a relatively firm structure internally. The wider end has one probable cut surface and one surface which appears to be natural. The pole exhibits burn-marks along its length; however, it would appear that these are limited to the surface and the core remains intact. The pole does not exhibit any intrinsically dateable features.

5.3 Statement of potential

- 5.3.1 The single piece of struck flint is not closely dateable and, in isolation, has limited potential to inform the nature or extent of activity at the study area. It probably represents evidence of a single isolated episode of opportunistic flint working.
- 5.3.2 The wooden pole is only partially waterlogged and is likely to deteriorate quickly. A small section should be retained for further analysis by an appropriate specialist and for providing a radiocarbon dating sample should subsequent archaeological works be undertaken as part of the development.
- 5.3.3 The struck flint and wooden pole (following sample removal), and the unworked flint should be discarded. If the wood sample is not required to inform further stages of work, it should also be discarded at project archiving.

6. Environmental remains

6.1 Animal bone

6.1.1 One fragment of animal bone was recovered pit fill 505, Trench 5. The bone consisted of a single fragment of a distal horse tibia shaft weighing 77.7g. The preservation of the bone was generally poor and the periosteum (outer layer) was delaminating badly. No evidence of butchery, animal gnawing, or burning was present.

6.1.2 Bone fragments of British domesticates are inherently undatable, and as such this example does not aid interpretation of the chronology or function of the site. The bone fragment is not recommended for retention and may be discarded.

6.2 Charred plant remains

Introduction

6.2.1 Bulk environmental soil samples were taken from four archaeological deposits that were considered appropriate, well-sealed and potentially dateable. The objective was to collect plant macro-fossils, small animal and fish bones, and other small artefacts. The collection and processing of environmental samples were undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidelines (Dobney 1992; Historic England 2011).

6.2.2 Samples were processed in-house using a 'Siraf' style flotation tank (Williams 1973). All samples were floated using a 250 mm mesh and the heavy residues washed over a 0.5 mm mesh. The heavy residues were scanned with a magnet in the attempt to recover micro-slugs. The residues and sieved fractions of the bulk environmental soil samples were recorded and are currently stored at Ecus Ltd Barnard Castle office in the short term.

6.2.3 The charcoal recovered from the sample residues was quantified (weights were recorded in grams). During recording, a particular consideration was the identification of suitable remains for possible submission for radiocarbon dating by standard radiometric technique or accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS).

Results

6.2.4 The results of the examination of the submitted material are presented below in context number order.

Pit fill 505

19 litres sieved to 500 microns with flot; no unprocessed sediment remains

6.2.5 Context 505 contained thirty-eight fragments of charcoal. All of the charcoal was sub-rectilinear

and moderately sediment encrusted. Ten fragments were found to be above 2 mm in size, which have the potential to be identified to species level and twenty-eight fragments that were below 2 mm that could not be identified to species. No charred plant remains were present. A large amount of bioturbation was evident within the context, which contained frequent inclusions of modern roots and organic material, as well as occasional uncharred seeds, insect faeces, worm egg shells and Mycorrhizal fungal sclerota (using comparative references from Delorit 1970; Hather 1993).

Ditch fill 5067

17 litres sieved to 500 microns with flot; no unprocessed sediment remains

- 6.2.6 No charred plant remains were found within the sampled material recovered from this context. This deposit included evidence for substantial bioturbation including frequent inclusions of modern roots and organic material.

Alluvial/fluvial deposit 601

16 litres sieved to 500 microns with flot; no unprocessed sediment remains

- 6.2.7 No charred plant remains were found within this context. Large quantities of bioturbation were present including frequent inclusions of modern roots and organic material.

Pit fill 604

16 litres sieved to 500 microns with flot; no unprocessed sediment remains

- 6.2.8 No charred plant remains were found within this context. The remains of ten terrestrial snail shells were recovered from the flot, which are likely to have become included within the deposit from bioturbation. Large quantities of bioturbation were present within the context including frequent inclusions of modern roots and organic material.

Discussion

- 6.2.9 Only thirty-eight fragments of charcoal were recovered from sample 505, six of which may be suitable for possible radiocarbon dating (via AMS). Preservation of the charcoal fragments was rather poor, most likely due to degradation in moderately wet conditions, as well as having some degree of sediment encrusting. Ten small possible terrestrial snail shells were also recovered from flot. The samples contained frequent evidence of substantial bioturbation, with flots consisting of mostly modern roots and organic matter.
- 6.2.10 No further study of the charcoal or snail shells is warranted. The trace levels of smaller charcoal fragments recovered from 505, as well as the snail shells from 604 may be discarded, as they are of no further interpretative value.

6.2.11 The larger fragments of charcoal recovered from context 505 will be retained with the archive and has the potential to provide material for radiocarbon dating, once identified to species. Should radiocarbon dating not be required as part of the current project, the charcoal can be discarded during project archiving.

7. Conclusion

7.1 Discussion

- 7.1.1 Several previously unrecorded features were identified during the evaluation; significantly three pits with degraded waterlogged fills and a group of partially waterlogged wooden poles within Trenches 5 and 6. The poles and pits, and a ditch were located in the area of concentric geophysical anomalies, which may represent the edge of a low lying area or former pond.
- 7.1.2 There is no clear interpretation for the wooden poles (605) found in Trench 6; they were all straight, of a similar circumference and either carefully laid down or deposited in a tied bundle. The overlying clay deposit probably accumulated in waterlogged conditions, and they may represent an attempt to maintain or make use of a wetland environment. Based on the nature of the surrounding archaeological landscape, the poles are feasibly prehistoric or Romano-British in date, and may represent material for an incomplete area of fencing at the edge of a low lying area or other woodworking activity in the area. Alternatively, they may have been associated with a spring to the south or feasibly the Bronze Age cremation cemetery to the north, with a ceremonial or funerary purpose. Further excavation would be required to establish the presence, extent and form of any similar deposits beyond the excavated trench.
- 7.1.3 The pits in Trenches 5 and 6 (504, 603 and fill 606) produced no clear evidence of their function, but contained significant amounts of preserved fragments of wood, which may be associated with the cutting and working of the poles 605 or other woodworking activity in the area.
- 7.1.4 Two possible field boundary ditches identified in Trenches 2 and 3 may have formed field boundaries associated with Iron Age or Romano-British activity identified to the north of the site. A worked flint of uncertain date was recovered from the topsoil within Trench 3.

8. Archiving

8.1 General

- 8.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared and arrangements for the deposition of the archive on completion of the project will be made in accordance with guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (ClfA 2020c).
- 8.1.2 The archive is currently held at Ecus's office in Sheffield under the project code 18954, and will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service in due course under accession number X.A109.2022. An OASIS form (OASIS ID: ecusltd1-508219) has been uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

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Appendix 1: Context descriptions

Context no.	Trench	Type	Fill of	Description	Interpretation	Finds	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
101	1	Layer		Topsoil of trench 1. Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition: silt. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: occasional small sub-rounded mixed stones, evenly distributed. Reliability: good.	Topsoil	-	-	-	0.20 (avg.)
102	1	Layer		Subsoil of trench 1. Colour: mid orangey brown. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: moist, firm. Inclusions: moderate small sub-rounded mixed stone, evenly distributed. Reliability: good.	Subsoil	-	-	-	0.40 (avg.)
103	1	Layer		Natural of trench 1. Colour: mid orange. Composition: pebbly clay. Compaction: moist, firm. Inclusions: none. Reliability: good.	Glacial till	-	-	-	-
201	2	Layer		Topsoil of trench 2. Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition: silt. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: occasional small sub-rounded mixed stones, evenly distributed. Reliability: good.	Topsoil	-	-	-	0.20 (avg.)
202	2	Layer		Subsoil of trench 2. Colour: mid orangey brown. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: moist, firm. Inclusions: moderate small sub-rounded mixed stone, evenly distributed. Reliability: good.	Subsoil	-	-	-	0.20 (avg.)
203	2	Layer		Natural of trench 2. Colour: mid orangey brown. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: moist, firm. Inclusions: moderate small sub-rounded mixed stone, evenly distributed. Reliability: good.	Natural	-	-	-	-

204	2	Cut		Cut of NE-SW ditch. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Break at top: sharp. Sides: stepped, concave. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded.	Ditch cut	-	1.00 (exc.)	0.7	0.25
205	2	Fill	204	Fill of ditch. Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition: pebbly silt. Compaction: moist, firm. Inclusions: none.	Ditch fill	-	1.00 (exc.)	0.7	0.25
301	3	Layer		Topsoil of trench 3. Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition: silt. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: occasional small sub-rounded mixed stones, evenly distributed. Reliability: good.	Topsoil	Flint (1)	-	-	0.20 (avg.)
302	3	Layer		Subsoil of trench 3. Colour: mid orangey brown. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: moist, firm. Inclusions: moderate small sub-rounded mixed stone, evenly distributed. Reliability: good.	Subsoil	-	-	-	0.30 (avg.)
303	3	Layer		Natural of trench 3. Colour: mid orange. Composition: pebbly clay. Compaction: moist, firm. Inclusions: none. Reliability: good.	Natural	-	-	-	-
304	3	Cut		Cut of N-S ditch. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Break at top: sharp. Sides: shallow, straight. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded.	Ditch cut	-	0.50 (exc.)	0.8	0.4
305	3	Fill	304	Fill of ditch. Colour: light grey. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: moist, firm. Inclusions: frequent small rounded gravel, evenly distributed. Reliability: fair.	Ditch fill	-	0.50 (exc.)	0.8	0.4
401	4	Layer		Topsoil of trench 4. Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition: silt. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: occasional small sub-rounded mixed stones, evenly distributed. Reliability: good.	Topsoil	-	-	-	0.30 (avg.)

402	4	Layer		Subsoil of trench 4. Colour: mid orangey brown. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: moist, firm. Inclusions: moderate small sub-rounded mixed stone, evenly distributed. Reliability: good.	Subsoil	-	-	-	0.20 (avg.)
403	4	Layer		Natural of trench 4. Colour: mid orange. Composition: pebbly clay. Compaction: moist, firm. Inclusions: none. Reliability: good.	Glacial till and sand natural	-	-	-	-
501	5	Layer		Topsoil of trench 5. Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition: silt. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: occasional small sub-rounded mixed stones, evenly distributed. Reliability: good.	Topsoil	-	-	-	0.50 (avg.)
502	5	Layer		Subsoil of trench 5. Colour: mid orangey brown. Composition: clayey silt. Compaction: moist, firm. Inclusions: moderate small sub-rounded mixed stone, evenly distributed. Reliability: good.	Subsoil	-	-	-	0.10 (avg.)
503	5	Layer		Natural of trench 5. Colour: mid orange. Composition: pebbly clay. Compaction: moist, firm. Inclusions: none. Reliability: good.	Natural	-	-	-	-
504	5	Cut		Cut of NW-SE pit. Shape in plan: regular, oval.	Cut of pit	-	1.00 (exc.)	1.4	0.5
505	5	Fill	504	Fill of pit. Colour: dark brownish grey. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: moist. Inclusions: occasional small rounded stone, evenly distributed. Reliability: good.	Pit fill containing preserved organic material similar to that found in T6	Bone (1)	1.00 (exc.)	1.4	0.5
506	5	Cut		Cut of NE-SW ditch. Shape in plan: regular, linear.	Ditch cut	-	1.00 (exc.)	0.7	0.15

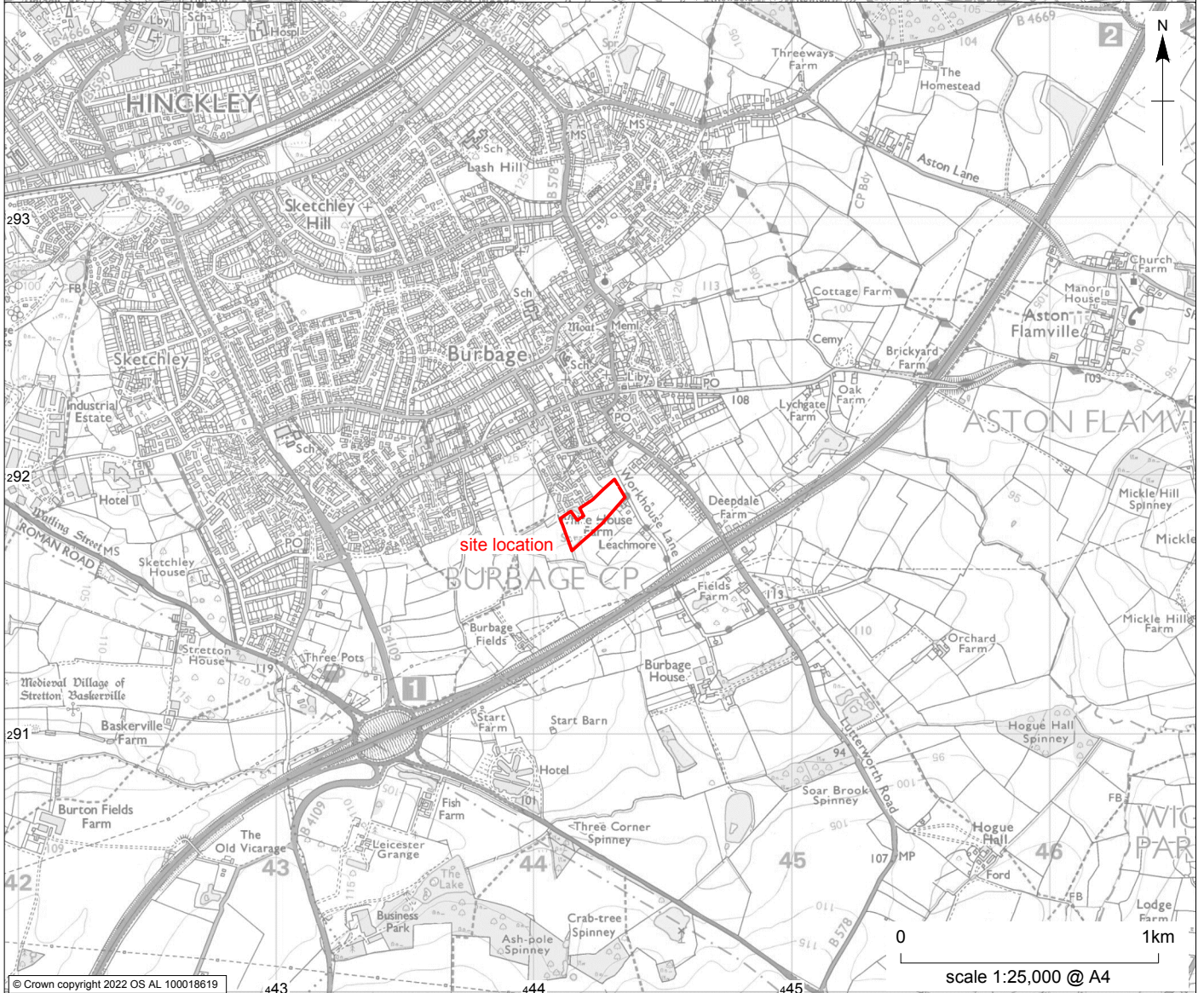
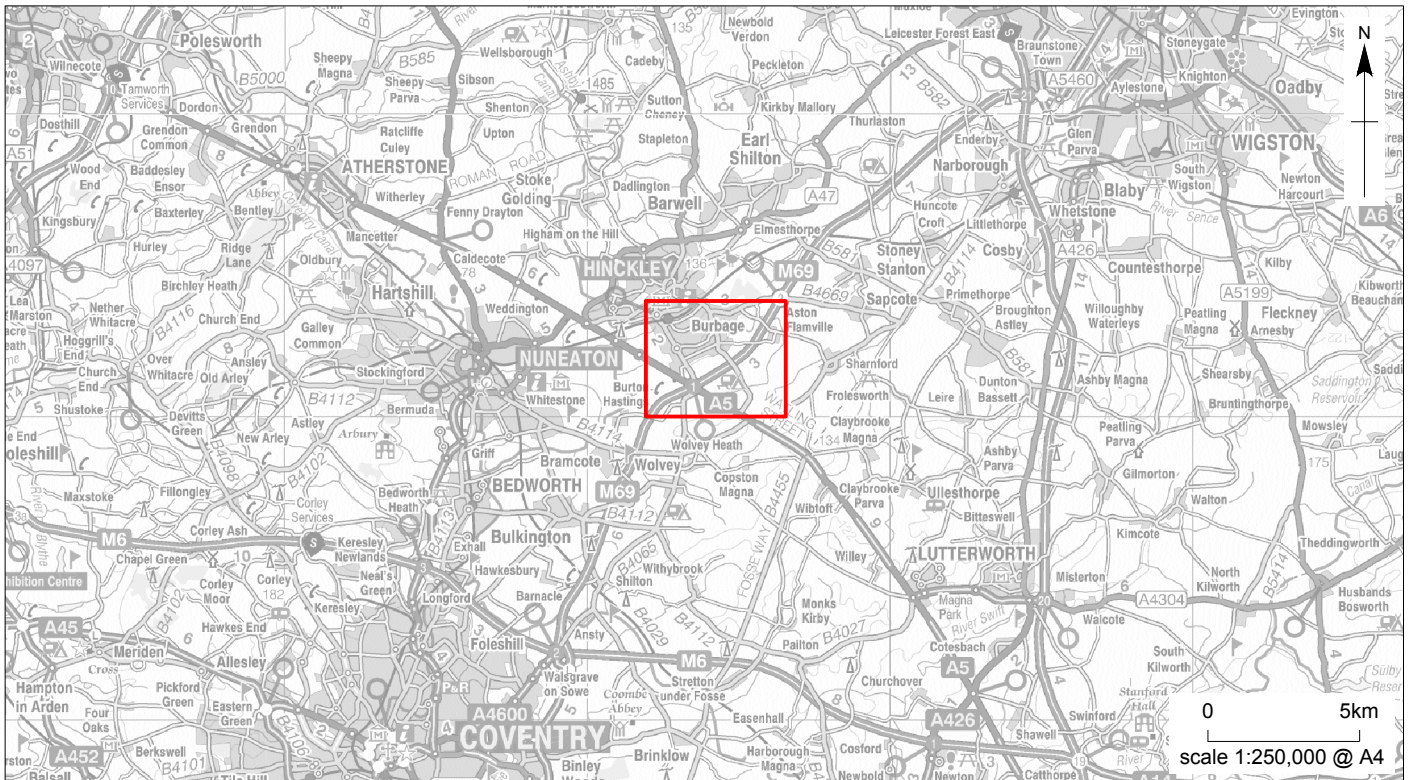
507	5	Fill	506	Fill of ditch. Colour: black. Composition: peat. Compaction: moist, friable. Inclusions: none. Reliability: good.	Ditch fill	-	1.00 (exc.)	0.7	0.15
600	6	Layer		Topsoil of trench 6. Colour: mid greyish brown. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: dry, firm. Inclusions: none. Reliability: good.	Topsoil - naturally formed	-	-	-	0.36 (avg.)
601	6	Layer		Other context of trench 6. Colour: dark greyish black. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: none. Reliability: fair.	Seems to be a layer of alluvial deposit	-	-	-	0.45 (avg.)
602	6	Layer		Natural of trench 6. Colour: light whitish grey. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: wet, spongy. Inclusions: none. Reliability: fair.	Natural	-	-	-	-
603	6	Cut		Cut of N-inclined pit. Shape in plan: irregular, sub-circular. Break at top: gradual. Sides: shallow, concave. Break at base: gradual. Base: flat.	Pit which has single fill (604) and cuts layer (601). Purpose of pit unclear, likely to be contemporary with timber (605), as fill (604) is littered with chunks of wood and timber.	-	2.43	1.2	0.33 (exc.)

604	6	Layer		<p>Other context of trench 6. Colour: very dark brownish black. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: wet, malleable. Inclusions: moderate small sub-angular platy wood, evenly distributed. Reliability: fair.</p>	<p>Fill of pit with wood/timber inclusions. Appears to be deliberate - no inclusions like this anywhere else, only in the pit. Maybe related to timber a few meters NE, [605].</p>	-	-	-	0.40 (avg.)
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605	6	Timber	Timber of timber. Inclusions: none.	Timber closely packed together and all facing the same direction running N-S. Sample taken for study. Purpose as of yet is unclear, but could be related to pit [603].	-	1.20 (exc.)	0.25	0.18
606	6	Fill	Fill of pit. Colour: very dark brownish black. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: wet, malleable. Inclusions: moderate small sub-angular platy wood, evenly distributed. Reliability: fair.	Not fully excavated but very similar to fill 604).	-	1	1	0.5
700	7	Layer	Topsoil of trench 7. Colour: mid greyish brown. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: dry, firm. Inclusions: none. Reliability: good.	Topsoil	-	-	-	0.41 (avg.)
701	7	Layer	Other context of trench 7. Colour: dark greyish black. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: none. Reliability: fair.	Layer of dark clay	-	-	-	0.19 (avg.)
702	7	Layer	Natural of trench 7. Colour: orangey brown. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: moist, firm. Inclusions: occasional small rounded spheroidal stone, evenly distributed. Reliability: fair.	Natural	-	-	-	-

703	7	Cut		Cut of NW-SE ditch. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Break at top: sharp. Sides: steep, straight. Break at base: gradual. Base: rounded.	Cut of modern field drain	-	0.50 (exc.)	0.3	0.25
704	7	Fill	703	Fill of ditch. Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: frequent medium sub-rounded mixed stone, evenly distributed. Reliability: good.	Field drain containing modern CBM	CBM (1)	0.50 (exc.)	0.3	0.25
800	8	Layer		Topsoil of trench 8. Colour: mid greyish brown. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: dry, firm. Inclusions: none. Reliability: good.	Topsoil	-	-	-	0.36 (avg.)
801	8	Layer		Subsoil of trench 8. Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: rare flecks of sub-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed. Reliability: fair.	Subsoil	-	-	-	0.26 (avg.)
802	8	Layer		Natural of trench 8. Colour: dark yellowish brown. Composition: clay. Compaction: dry, firm. Inclusions: none. Reliability: fair.	Natural	-	-	-	-
900	9	Layer		Topsoil of trench 9. Colour: mid greyish brown. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: dry, firm. Inclusions: none. Reliability: good.	Natural topsoil, formed naturally over time.	-	-	-	0.36 (avg.)
901	9	Layer		Subsoil of trench 9. Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: rare flecks of sub-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed. Reliability: fair.	Naturally former subsoil.	-	-	-	0.24 (avg.)
902	9	Layer		Natural of trench 9. Colour: dark yellowish brown. Composition: clay. Compaction: dry, firm.	Natural.	-	-	-	-

				Inclusions: none. Reliability: fair.					
1000	10	Layer		Topsoil of trench 10. Colour: mid greyish brown. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: none. Reliability: fair.	Topsoil formed naturally, covering subsoil (1001)	-	-	-	0.36 (avg.)
1001	10	Layer		Subsoil of trench 10. Colour: dark greyish brown. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: dry, friable. Inclusions: rare flecks of sub-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed. Reliability: fair.		-	-	-	0.25 (avg.)
1002	10	Spread		Other context of trench 10. Colour: dark blackish grey. Composition: silty clay. Compaction: moist, malleable. Inclusions: none. Reliability: good.	Thick layer of alluvium? Maybe related to ridge and furrow system clearly visible around trench 9 and 10. No finds from layer/spread.	-	-	-	0.50 (avg.)
1003	10	Layer		Natural of trench 10. Colour: dark yellowish brown. Composition: clay. Compaction: dry, firm. Inclusions: none. Reliability: fair.	Natural	-	-	-	-

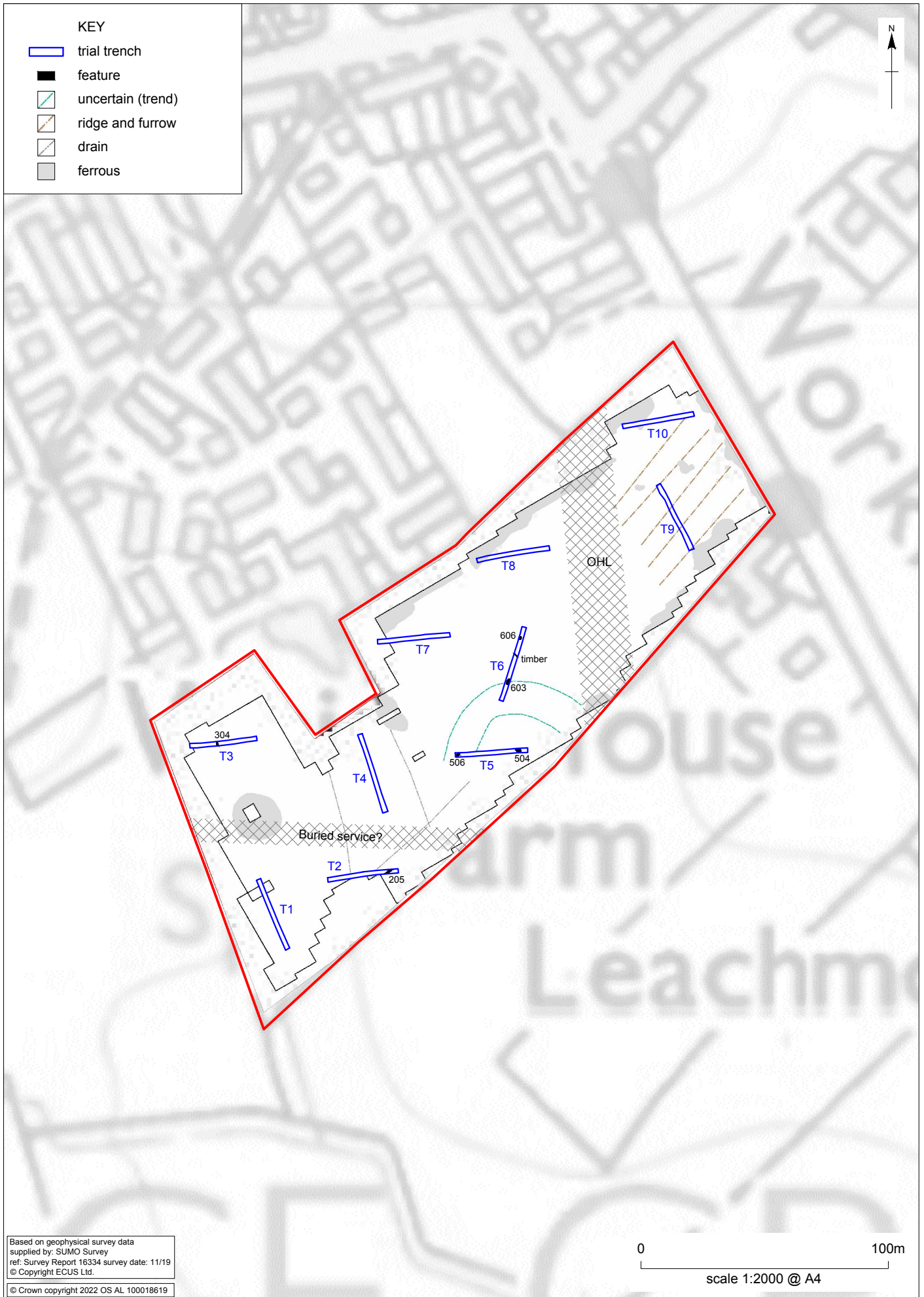


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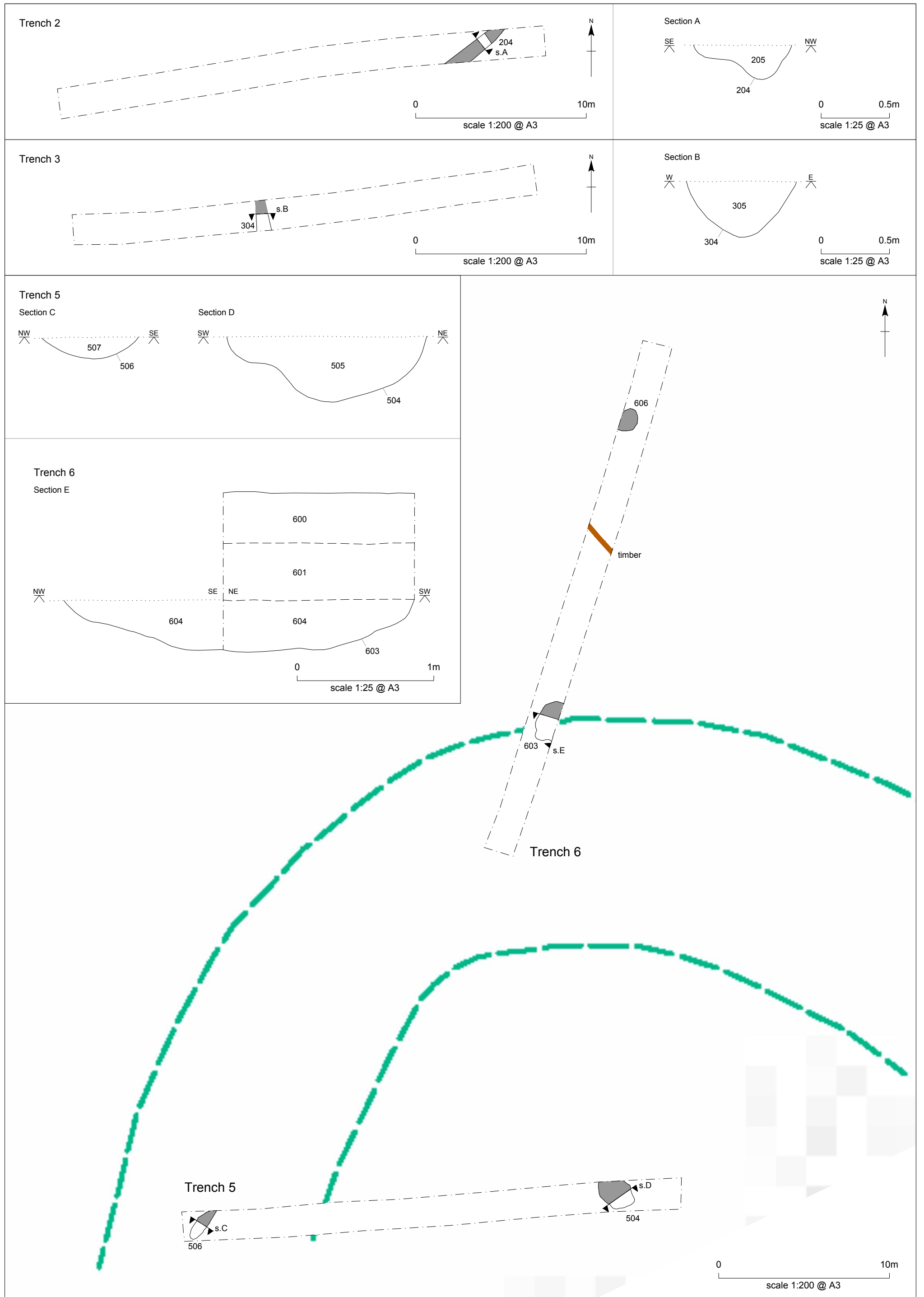
Land North of White House Farm, Burbage: site location

Figure 1



Land North of White House Farm, Burbage: trial trench locations overlain on geophysical survey interpretation

Figure 2

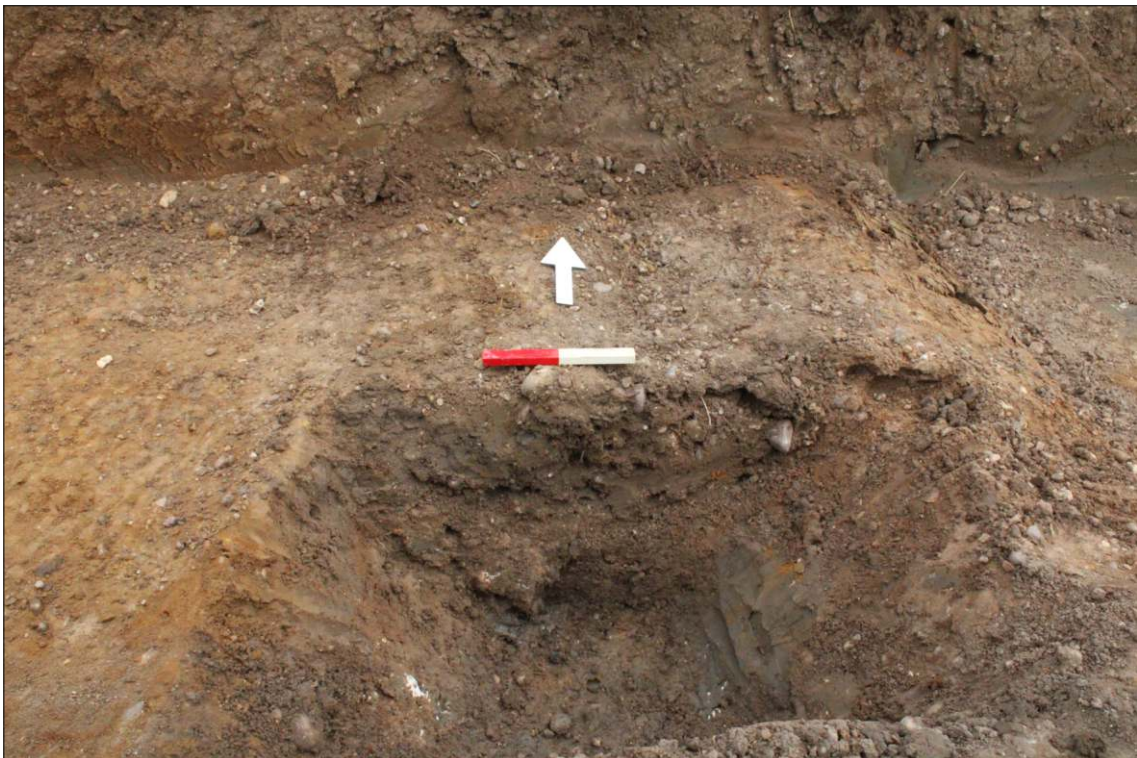




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*Land North of White House Farm, Burbage: north-east facing
section of ditch **204***

Plate 1



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*Land North of White House Farm, Burbage: south facing
section of ditch **304***

Plate 2



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*Land North of White House Farm, Burbage: south-west facing
section of ditch **506***

Plate 3



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*Land North of White House Farm, Burbage: south-east facing
section of pit **504***

Plate 4



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Land North of White House Farm, Burbage: south-west facing section of pit 603

Plate 5



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Land North of White House Farm, Burbage: poles 605 in Trench 6

Plate 6



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*Land North of White House Farm, Burbage: struck flint
from topsoil 301*

Plate 7

