



Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Welford Road, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire February 2015

Report No. 15/50

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Illustrator: James Ladocha



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Accession number: X.A14.2015

Report No. 15/50

Quality control and sign off:

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	20/03/15	Liz Muldowney	Adam Yates	Steve Parry	Initial draft
2	08/04/2015	Liz Muldowney	Adam Yates	Steve Parry	Draft for client review

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No. molanort1-205390	
Project title	Archaeological evaluation at Welford Road, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire, February 2015		
Short description	MOLA Northampton carried out a trial evaluation across arable land south of Husbands Bosworth, to the east of Welford Road. Eleven trenches were excavated and undated archaeological remains were recorded in six. For the most part the remains coincided with the anomalies identified on the previous geophysical survey carried out by Stratascan. These anomalies were believed to represent an enclosure and an unrelated field system. Evidence of ridge and furrow was also present along the east side of the site. One sherd of pottery was recovered from a stratified context, and a fragment of saddle quern or grinding stone was found as part of layer of stone in the upper fill of a ditch.		
Project type	Trial trench evaluation		
Previous work	DBA (CgMs), Geophysical survey (Stratascan)		
Current land use	Arable land		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	Ditch enclosure, field system, pits/postholes		
Significant finds	Spindle whorl, saddle quern		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Leicestershire		
Site address	Welford Road, Husbands Bosworth		
Post code	N/A		
OS co-ordinates	SK 6422 8389		
Area (sq m/ha)	2.3ha		
Height aOD	c158m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Teresa Hawtin Senior Planning Archaeologist Leicestershire County Council		
Project Design originator	Liz Muldowney (MOLA)		
Director/Supervisor	James Fairclough, MOLA		
Project Managers	Liz Muldowney, MOLA, Simon Mortimer CgMs		
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	9 February 2015		
End date	16 February 2015		
ARCHIVES		Location (Accession no.)	Contents
Physical	MOLA Northampton store X.A14.2015	Stone, metalwork, slag and pottery	
Paper		Site records	
Digital		Survey data, report, photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)		
Title	Archaeological evaluation at Welford Road, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire, February 2015		
Serial title & volume	15/50		
Author(s)	James Fairclough		
Page numbers	28		
Date	April 2015		

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Archaeological evaluation at Welford Road, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire February 2015

Abstract

MOLA Northampton carried out a trial trench evaluation across arable land south of Husbands Bosworth, to the east of Welford Road. Eleven trenches were excavated and undated archaeological remains were recorded in six. For the most part the remains coincided with the anomalies identified on the previous geophysical survey carried out by Stratascan. These anomalies were believed to represent an enclosure and an unrelated field system. Evidence of ridge and furrow was also present along the east side of the site. One sherd of pottery was recovered from a stratified context, and a fragment of saddle quern or grinding stone was found as part of layer of stone in the upper fill of a ditch.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out archaeological trial trenching on land at Welford Road, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire (Fig 1).

All works were undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by CgMs Consulting (2015).

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The proposed development area covers approximately 2.3 hectares and lies to the south of the village of Husbands Bosworth, with Welford Road (A5199) running along the west of the site.

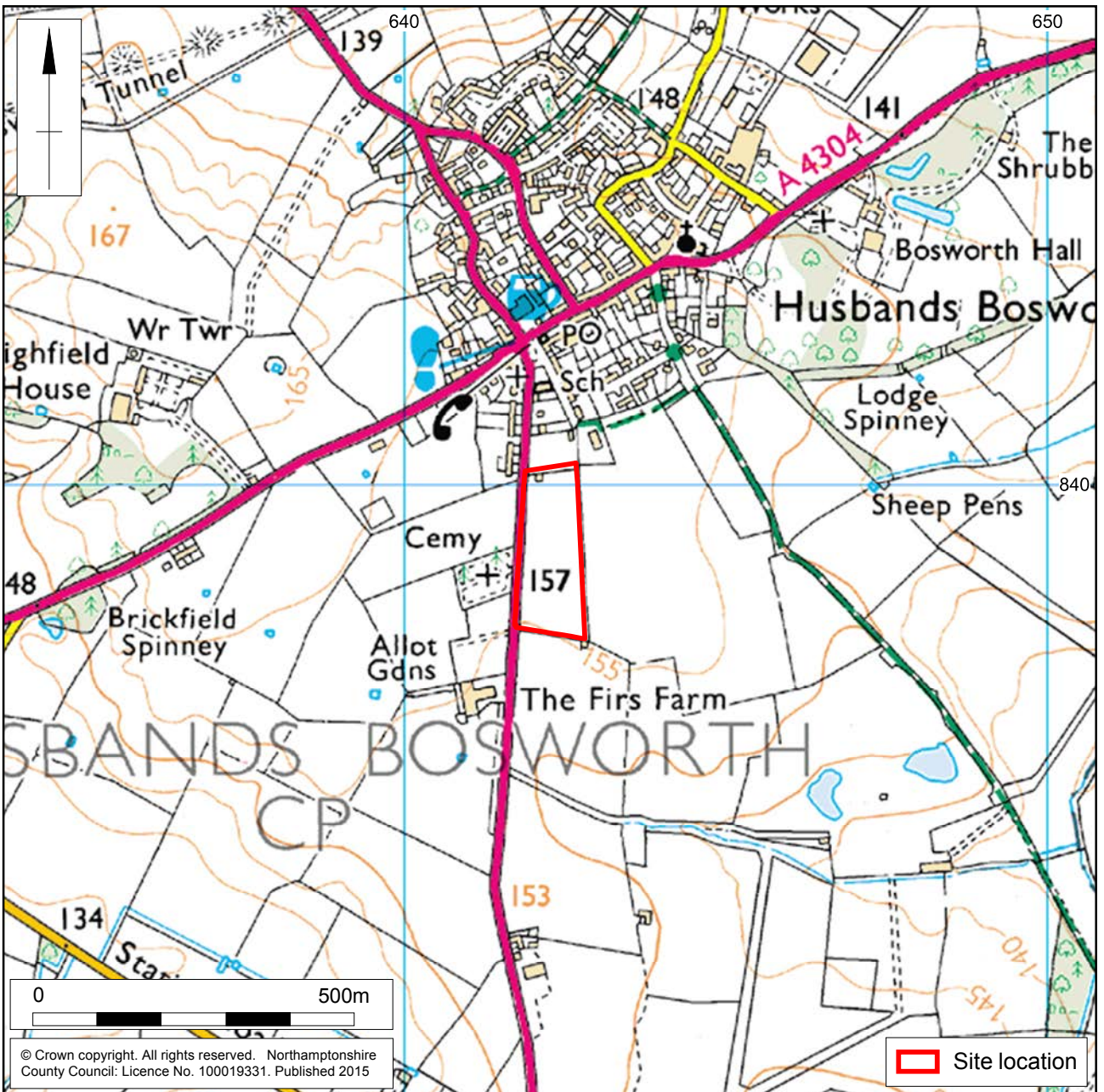
The solid geology is Dyrham Formation, comprising siltstone and mudstone. The superficial deposits are diamiction from the Till Mid Pleistocene Formation. The overlying slowly permeable clay soils being to the Beccles 3 Association (SSEW 1983). The proposed development area is situated at approximately 155m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the investigation was to determine if archaeological remains are present within the application area.

The specific objectives of the project were to provide further information on the following:

- The location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present at the proposed development site;
- The integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present at the proposed development site.



Scale 1:10,000

Site Location Fig 1

4 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological background for the site was set out in a desk-based assessment produced by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2014). Below is a summary of this information.

Prehistoric/Roman

To the south of the study area lithic material dating from the Early Mesolithic through to the Early Bronze Age was recovered during field walking. However no concentrated area of activity was seen. A hoard of Late Bronze Age metalwork consisting of four socketed axes, three socketed gouges, four socketed chisels and a flanged socketed mount was discovered in 1801, to the south-east (c570m) of the study area.

No Roman activity has been recorded within the development area, or its immediate vicinity.

Saxon/Medieval

The settlement of Husbands Bosworth is likely to have originated in the Late Saxon period having been recorded in the Domesday Survey as 'Bareswerde'. However no archaeological evidence of Saxon activity is recorded within the area.

During the Medieval period the site lay within the open fields to the south of the village, with surviving ridge and furrow visible in the fields to the south and west. The extent of the medieval settlement is focused around the Church of All Saints 100m north of the study site.

Evidence of the settlement was recovered during trial trenching and a watching brief in the village. Sherds of 12th century pottery were recovered from two pits, and one sherd of 16th century pottery from a natural pond. An evaluation in 2006 also revealed features containing animal bone, and are presumed to be medieval in date, but no dating evidence was recovered. A cobbled road surface was also recorded c520m to the north-east of the site, beneath the current road along Honey-pit Lane.

Previous archaeological works

A geophysical survey of the development area was carried out by Stratascan which identified two distinct alignments of linear anomalies indicative of overlapping enclosure or field systems.

5 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The programme of evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CgMs Consulting. This required the excavation of eleven trenches, planned to investigate the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains within the development area. The trench plan was designed to target those anomalies identified in the geophysical survey as potential archaeological features and to test areas that appeared not to contain archaeological remains.

The trenches were set out using differential GPS (Leica Viva) operating to an accuracy of +/- 0.05m.

All trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, operated under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were excavated to 1.8m wide and 50m long.

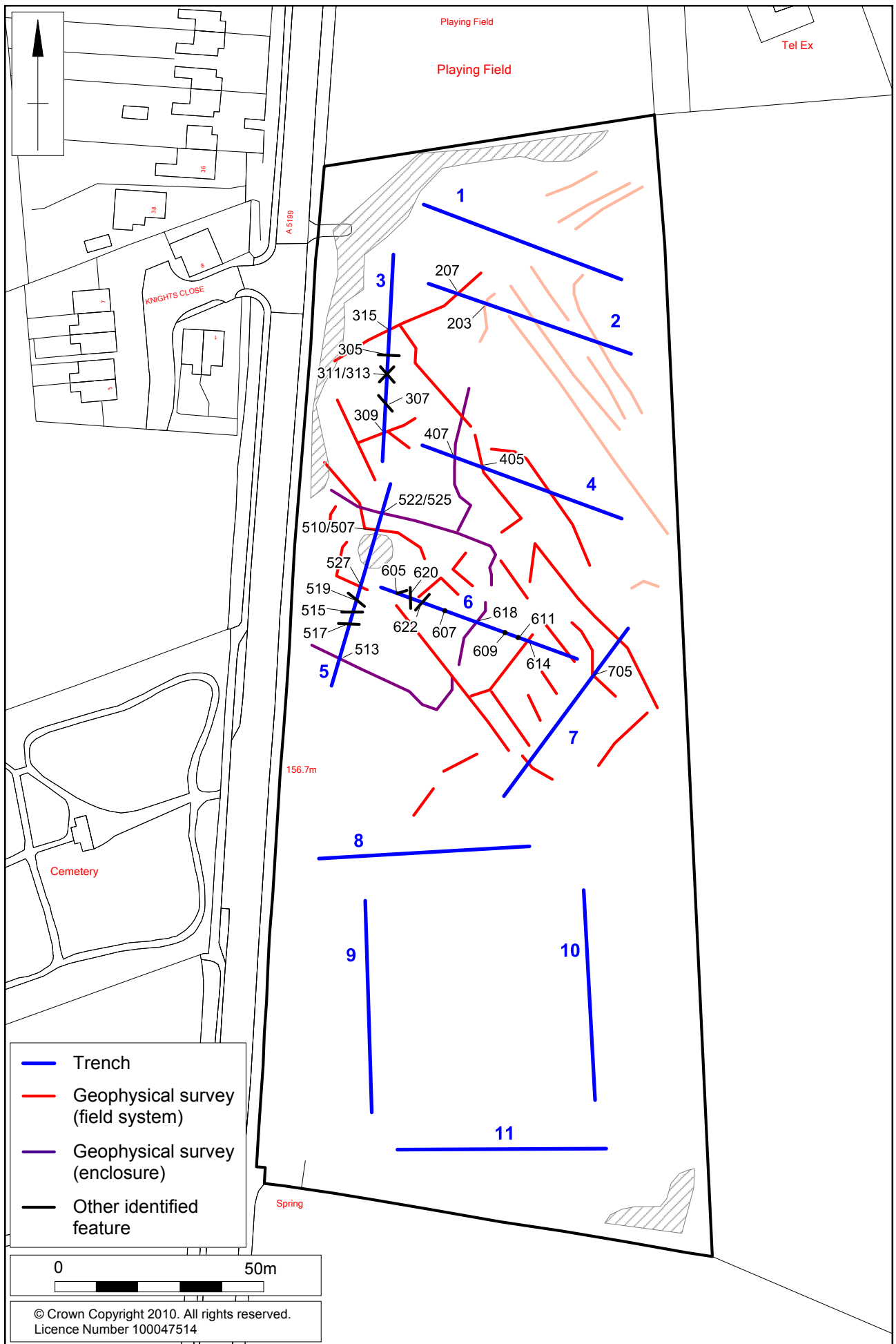
The excavation and recording were carried out in accordance with MOLA guidelines and all records were created using MOLA pro-forma sheets (MOLA 2014). Photographs were taken of all trenches and all relevant deposits on 35mm monochrome print film, and high resolution digital images. Work was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014).

The trenches were excavated to the top of the natural geological horizon or the upper archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first.

Levels in metres above Ordnance Datum were established for all trenches using GPS and for all excavated features using a dumpy level from temporary bench marks (TBMs) established using GPS.

Artefacts recovered from individual contexts were stored and packed according to type.

All records and materials have been compiled in a structured archive in accordance with the guidelines of Appendix 3 in the English Heritage procedural document, *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991).



Scale 1:1,250

Excavated trenches, showing geophysical interpretation and excavated features (numbered)

Fig 2

6 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

6.1 General Stratigraphy

Archaeological features were recorded in six of the excavated trenches, with the remaining trenches (1, 8, 9, 10 and 11) containing no archaeological remains. The natural horizon across the site was primarily grey-yellow clay, although variation in colour was seen. This was overlain by grey-brown clayey silt subsoil around 0.10m thick, although this was not present in trench 1. Topsoil across the site was dark brown-grey clayey silt around 0.2 to 0.3m thick. Very little dating evidence was recovered from the features excavated. Some features were created by ploughing or were remnant furrows of ridge and furrow field systems. For descriptions of these see the appendix. The furrows were particularly concentrated along the east side of site, being seen in trench 2, 4 and 7, and appear to correspond with the furrows on the geophysical survey.

6.2 Evaluation Trenches

Trench 2

This trench was located c30m from the north end of the development area, aligned north-west to south-east, and was positioned to target a linear anomaly, aligned north-east to south west, and a series of linear anomalies to the east (Fig 2). The first linear feature was identified as a ditch, and the series of parallel linear features to the east were identified as furrows that had been distorted by extensive ploughing. Linear feature [203] was investigated and also identified as a remnant furrow on a perpendicular alignment to the others in the trench. This feature was similar to a series parallel anomalies identified on the geophysical survey to the north-east and is likely to be part of a ridge and furrow cultivation system in the northern part of the development area.

Ditch [207], aligned north-east to south-west, was 1.8m wide and over 0.7m deep, with steep sloping sides (Fig 4, section 4). The full depth was not reached due to the water level on site. The fill (208) was a firm mid blue-grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. No finds were present.

Ditch terminus [212] truncated linear ditch [207] on its eastern edge. Aligned north-east to south-west, was 0.70m wide and 0.30m deep, with moderately sloping sides, and a concave base (Fig 4, section 4). The fill (211) was firm light grey-brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks. It had been truncated by furrow [210].

Trench 3

This trench was located c27m from the north-west corner of the site, aligned north to south, and was positioned to target two linear anomalies (Fig 2). Four more linear features, which had not appeared on the geophysical survey, were also identified (Figs 2 and 4).

Linear ditch [315], aligned east to west, was 2.17m wide and 0.76m deep, with a moderately sloping southern edge and a steep sloping north edge, leading to a concave base (Fig 3 and Fig 4, section 16). The fill (314) was firm dark grey-brown silty clay. This ditch appears to be a continuation of ditch [207], and matches with the results of the geophysical survey.



Ditch [315], looking east. Fig 3

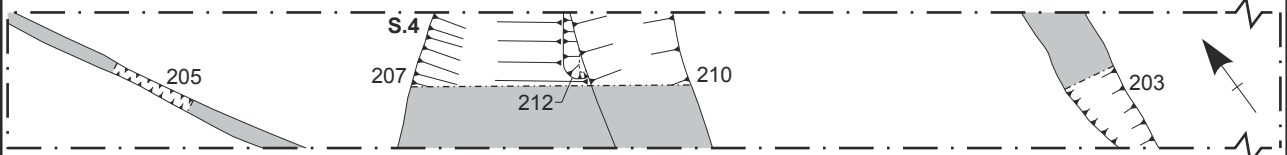
Linear ditch [305], towards the centre of the trench, was aligned east to west, and had steep sloping sides and a concave base (Fig 4, section 10). The fill (304) was a firm mid grey-brown silty clay.

Perpendicular ditches [311] and [313] were located just to the south of ditch [305], ditch [311] being the later of the two. Ditch [311], aligned north-west to south-east, was 0.8m wide and 0.22m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. The fill (310) was a firm mid blue-grey silty clay. Ditch [313], aligned north-east to south-west was 0.86m wide and 0.17m deep, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. The fill (312) was a firm light brown-grey silty clay.

Ditch [307], aligned south-east to north-west, was 0.53m wide and 0.17m deep, with a U-shaped profile. The fill (306) was a firm mid yellow-grey silty clay, and contained a number of fragments of cattle tooth.

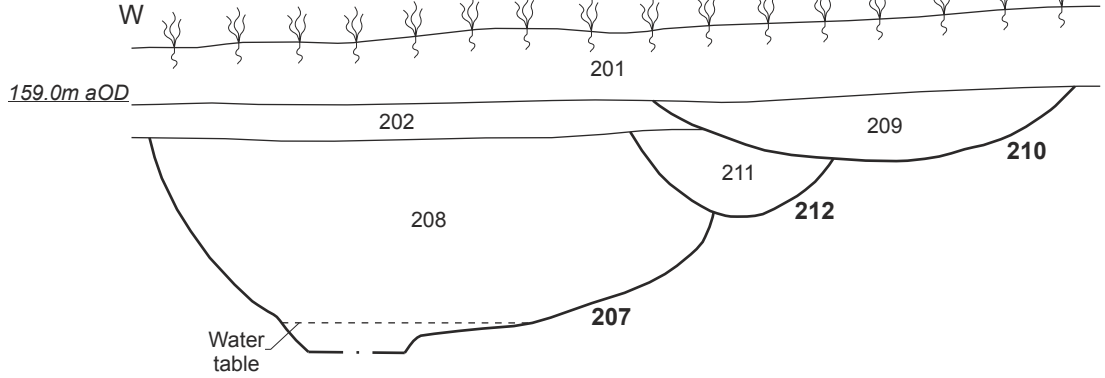
Ditch [309], aligned north-east to south-west was 0.7m wide by 0.14m deep, with gradually sloping sides and a flat base. The fill (308) was a firm mid yellow-grey (patches of blue-grey) silty clay. Bioturbation and plough damage was visible along the south-east edge. This feature corresponded with a geophysical anomaly, no trace of the perpendicular anomaly was found though.

Trench 2

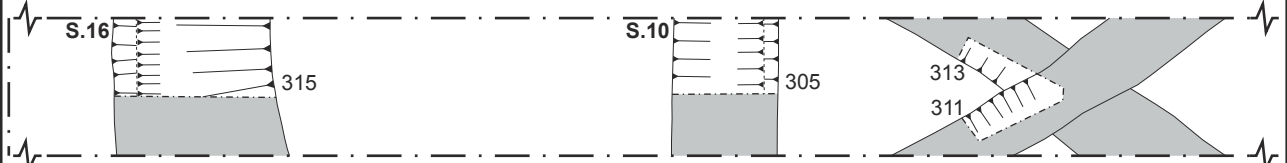


34m

Section 4



Trench 3



15m

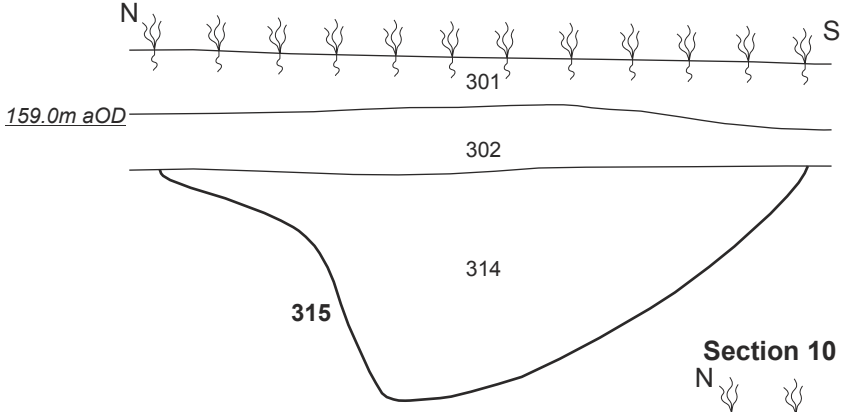
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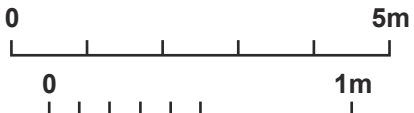
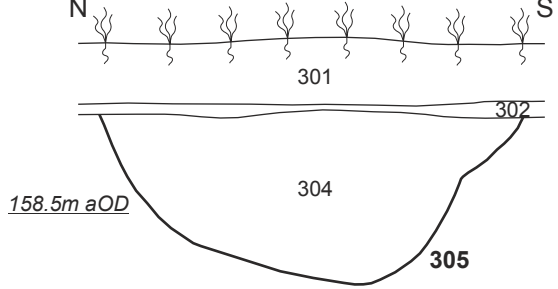
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6m

Section 16



Section 10



Scale 1:100 (plans) & 1:25 (sections)

Trenches 2 and 3 Fig 4

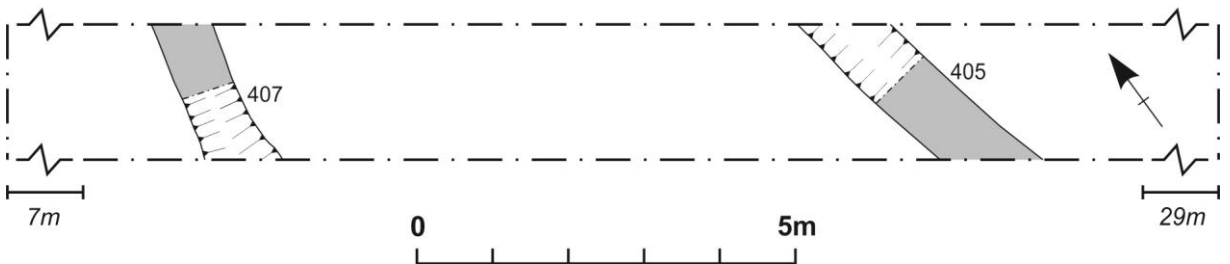
Trench 4

This trench was located c40m south of trench 2, aligned north-west to south-east, and was positioned to target three linear anomalies. The two western anomalies were identified as ditches; the third, to the east, was identified as a furrow.

Ditch [405], aligned north to south, was 0.91m wide by 0.33m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. The fill (404) was a firm dark brown-grey silty clay containing animal bone.

Ditch [407] ran parallel to ditch [405], was 0.71m wide and 0.34m deep, with moderately sloping U-shaped profile. The fill (406), a firm dark grey-orange sandy silt, contained no finds.

Trench 4



Trench 4. Fig 5

Trench 5

This trench was located c4m south of trench 3, aligned north-north-east to south-south-west, and was positioned to target four linear anomalies (Fig 2), two forming part of the possible enclosure. All were identified as ditches with three more linear features being found towards the south of the trench (Fig 6).

Ditch [525], aligned west-north-west to east-south-east, was more than 0.8m wide and more than 1.12m deep, with steep sloping sides (Fig 6, section 18). The base was not reached due to the water level, so an auger was used to assess its full depth. The lower fill (524) was firm mid brown-grey silty clay and the upper fill (523) mid yellow-grey silty clay.

Ditch [522] was a later version of ditch [525]. It was 1.7m wide and 0.4m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base (Fig 6, section 18). The lower fill (521) was a light blue-grey silty clay and the upper fill (520), a dark grey-brown silty clay. The upper fill contained a concentration of medium sized sub-round stones, packed together at the northern side of the ditch (Fig 6, section 18), possibly in an attempt to stabilise the upper fill. One of the fragments used was part of a saddle quern or grinding stone.

Ditch [513], aligned north-west to south-east, was 3.65m wide and more than 0.70m deep, with a gently sloping north-east edge and a steep south-west edge (Fig 2, Fig 6 section 18). The lower fill (512) was friable light-grey clayey silt and the upper fill (511), a firm mid grey-brown clayey silt.

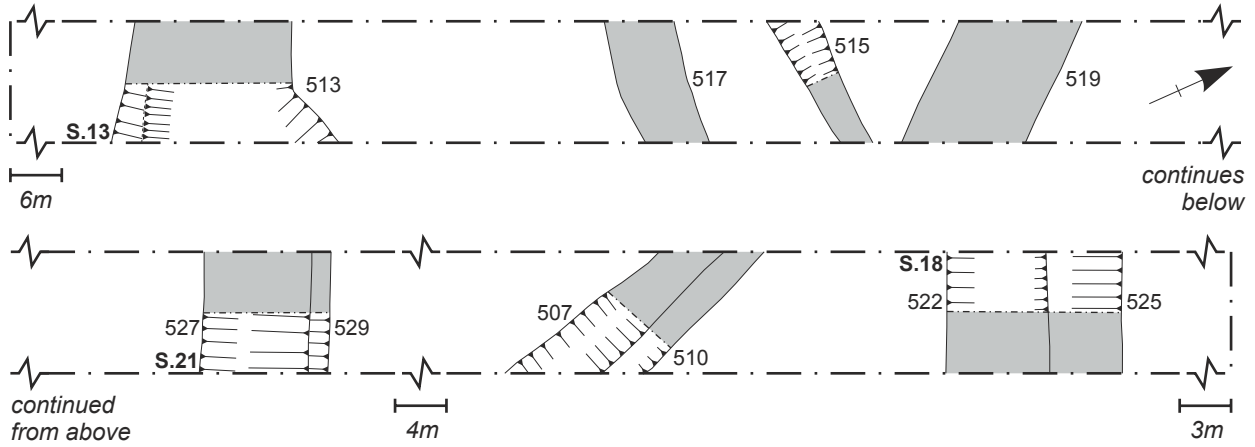
Ditch [510] was 0.47m wide and 0.22m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile. The lower fill (509) was a firm mid grey-yellow silty clay containing charcoal, and was sealed by (508) a firm mid grey-yellow silty clay. It was recut as ditch [507].

Ditch [507] replaced ditch [510] cutting across its south-west edge, it was 0.87m wide and 0.35m deep with gradually sloping sides and a flat base. It contained three fills, the lower fill (506) was a firm mid yellow-grey silty clay, this was then covered by (505) a firm mid grey-yellow silty clay. The top fill [504] was a friable light grey-brown clayey silt and contained a sherd of 18th century pot.

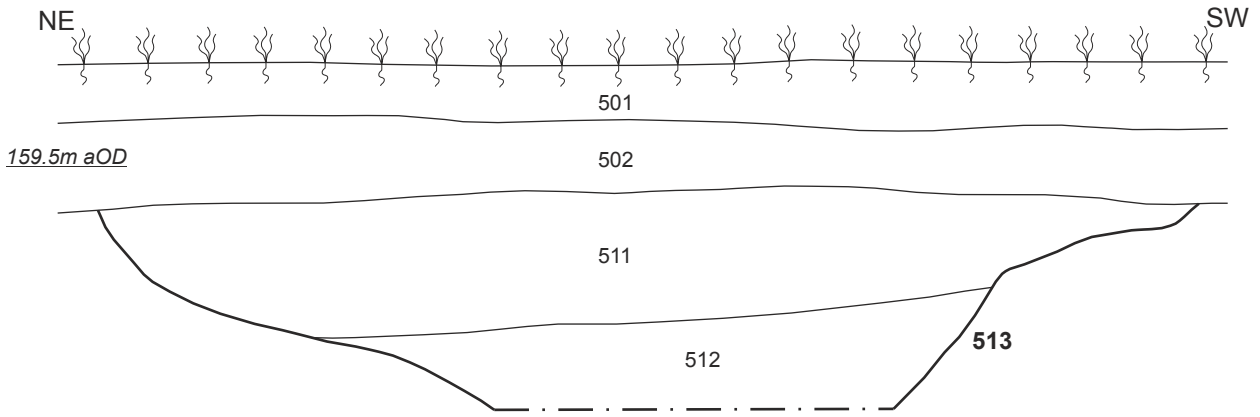
Ditch [529] and its recut ditch [527] were located towards the centre of the trench and corresponded well with a geophysical anomaly (Fig 2). The ditch sequence was aligned west-north-west and east-south-east. Ditch [529] was over 0.42m wide and 0.52m deep with a moderately sloping northern edge and a concave base. The fill (528) was a friable dark red-brown silty clay. Ditch [527] was 1.82m wide and 0.74m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. The fill (526) was a friable mid grey-brown silty clay. (Fig 6, section 21).

Three features, not identified in the geophysical survey were recorded in the southern half of the trench (ditches 515, 517 and 519), these features were similar in appearance and ditch [515] was excavated as representative of the three. Ditch [515], aligned east to west, was 0.47m wide and 0.17m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. The fill (514) was a firm mid grey-brown silty clay.

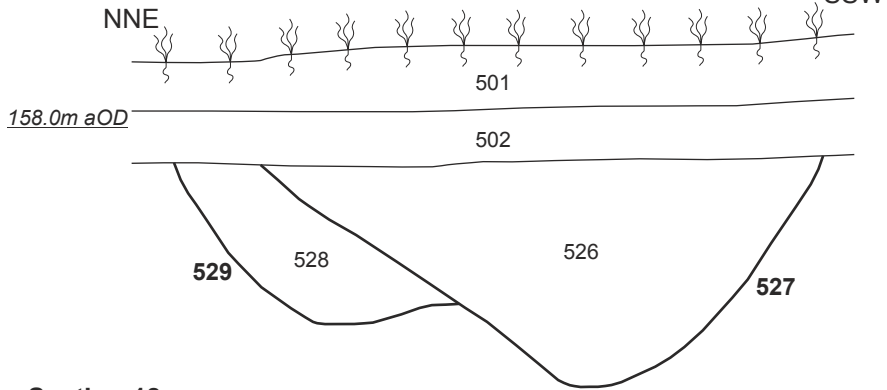
Trench 5



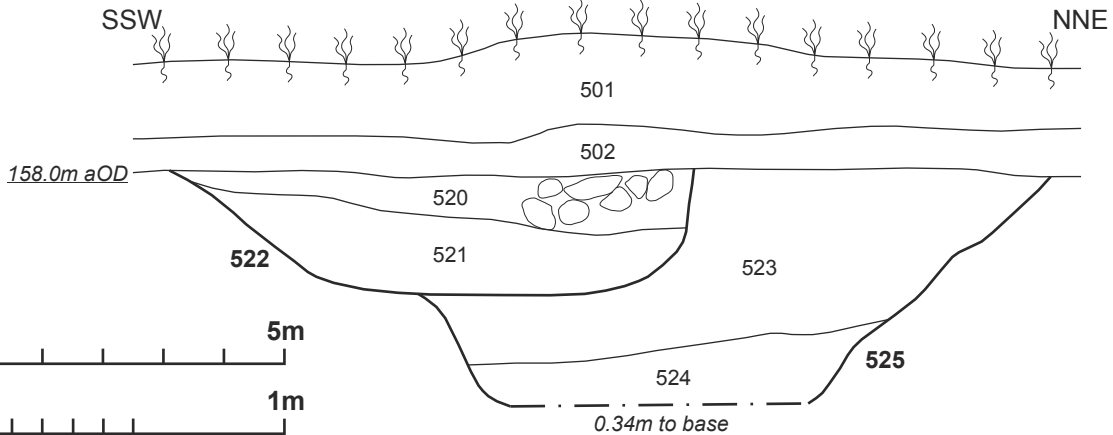
Section 13



Section 21



Section 18



Scale 1:125 (plan) & 1:25 (sections)

Trench 5 Fig 6

Trench 6

This trench was located c37m south of trench 2, aligned north-west to south-east, and was positioned to target three linear anomalies. Two were identified as ditches, the eastern most anomaly was not discovered. Six more features were also identified, including three ditches and three pits/postholes.

Ditch [614] aligned east-north-east to west-south-west, was 0.98m wide and 0.68m deep, with steep to vertical sides and a flat base (Fig 10, section 14). It contained two fills (613) and (612). The lowest (613) was a firm mid blue-grey, silty clay and was fully sealed by (612), a firm mid brown-grey silty clay containing a broken flint blade. This feature matches an anomaly, marked in red, towards the eastern end of the trench (Fig 2).

Ditch [618], aligned north-east to south-west, was 2.2m wide by 1.06m deep with steep sloping sides and a concave base (Fig 7) within the central part of the trench. The basal fill (617) was a light orange/blue clay with occasional charcoal flecks, this had then been covered by (616), a mid brown-orange silty clay. Finally this was sealed by (615), a dark grey-brown silty clay. The upper fill contained a flint flake and a fragment of fired clay. The ditch corresponded well with an anomaly, marked in purple, in the centre of the trench (Fig 2, Fig 9 section 20.)



Ditch [618], looking north-east. Fig 7

Three linear features were identified in a cluster towards the northwestern end of the trench (Fig 2). Ditches [620] and [622] were not excavated, ditch terminus [605], aligned east-north-east to west-south-west, was over 1.6m long, 0.5m wide and 0.17m deep, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. The fill (604) was a firm mid brown-grey silty clay.

Small pit or posthole [607] was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base (Fig 9, section 6). It had a diameter of 0.28m and a depth of 0.12m. The fill (606) was a firm mix of the natural clay and grey-brown silty clay.

Pit [609] was sub-circular, diameter of 0.40m and a depth of 0.08m, with gradually sloping sides and a flat base (Fig 9, section 7). The fill (608) was a firm mid grey-brown silty clay.

Posthole [611] was sub-circular, diameter of 0.25m and a depth of 0.09m, with steep sides and a concave base. The fill (610) was a firm dark blue grey mix or charcoal and silty clay. A stone had been placed at the base of the posthole, and had then been covered by (610) (Fig 8).

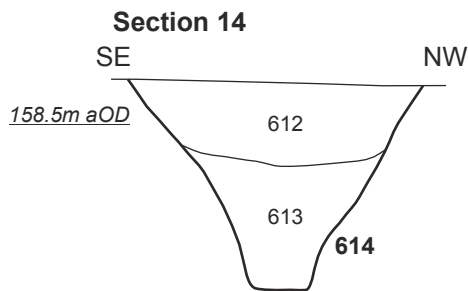
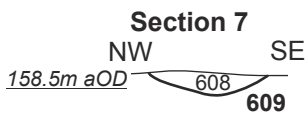
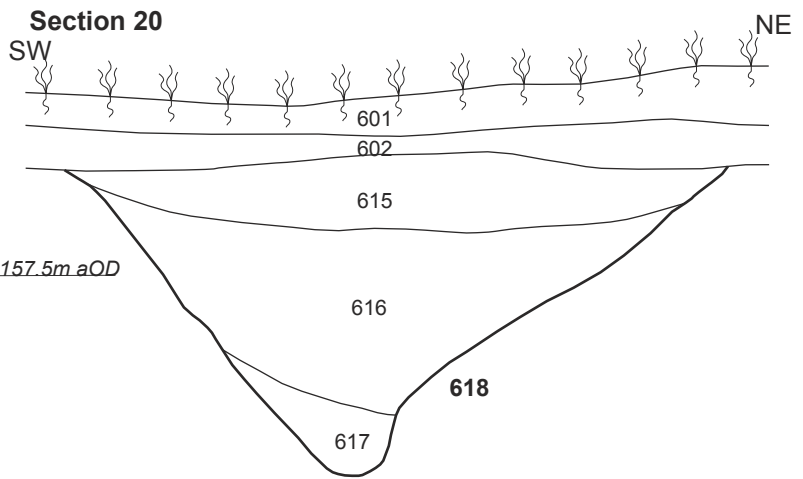
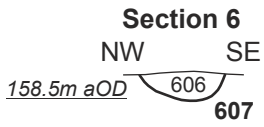
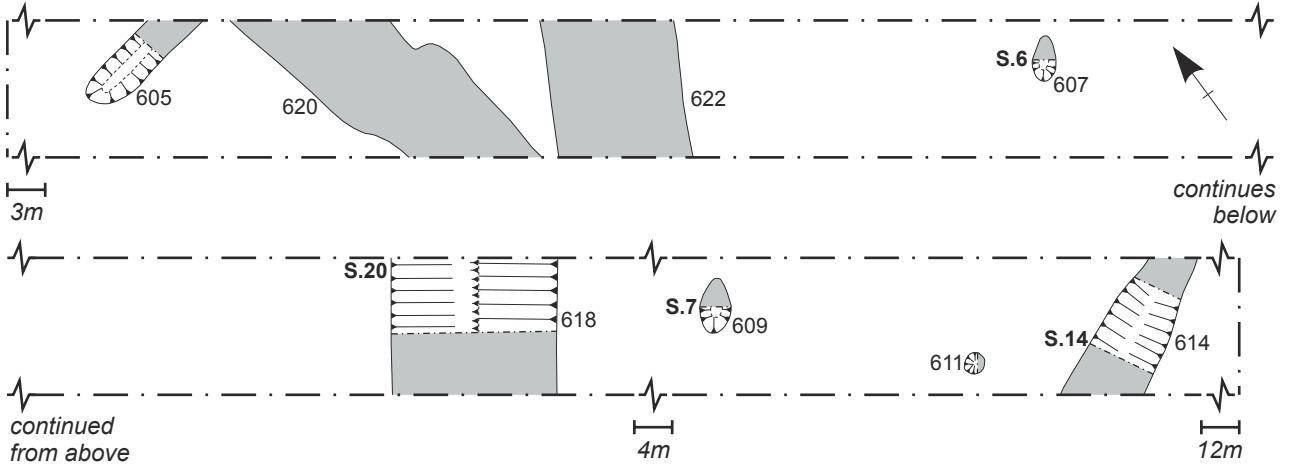


Post hole [611], looking south-east. Fig 8

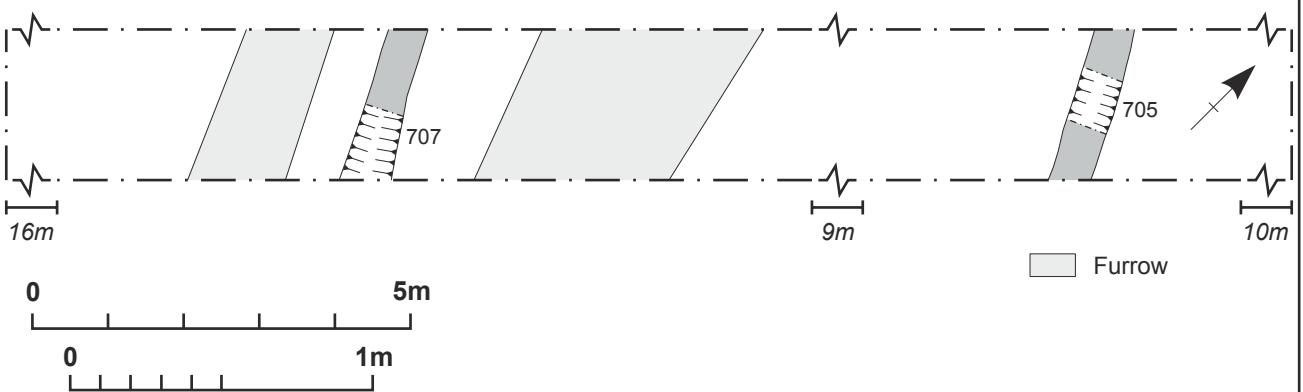
Trench 7

Trench 7 located c5m to the east of trench 6, aligned north-east to south-west, contained a series of linear, generally regularly spaced features measuring between 0.7m and 2m wide (Fig 9). Two of these features ([705] and [707]) were excavated and had shallow, gradual profiles measuring 0.05m deep. They were identified as remnant furrows similar to those identified in the geophysical along the eastern side of the site (Fig 2).

Trench 6



Trench 7



Scale 1:100 (plans) & 1:25 (sections)

Trenches 6 and 7 Fig 9

7 FINDS

7.1 Pottery by Tora Hylton

Two sherds of post-medieval pottery with a combined weight of 25.7g were recovered from Trench 5. A body sherd from a press moulded slipware ?dish was recovered from topsoil deposits overlying Trench 5. It has a dark brown/yellow glaze and combed/feathered slip and it dates to the late 17th and early 18th century. Finally a small undiagnostic sherd of 18th/19th century iron glazed red earthenware was recovered from fill (504) the uppermost fill of ditch [507].

Table 1: Pottery quantification

Fill/feature type	501/topsoil		504/ditch 507	
L.A.U. fabric type*	Sherds	Weight (g)	Sherds	Weight (g)
Grog/shell tempered wares	1	22	--	--
Feathered Slipware (Staffs) - EA7 (17 th /18 th C.)	--	--	1	4
Total	1	22	1	4

*Leicester Archaeology Unit fabric type series

7.2 Flint by Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

Two piece of worked flint were recovered as residual finds from the fills of two ditches in Trench 6. The assemblage comprised one flake, 36mm long and 25mm wide, and one blade, 25mm long and 11mm wide.

The condition of the flakes and blade are good with the flint showing slight post-depositional edge damage in the shape of occasional nicks on the edges. The raw material is mid brown and grey vitreous flints. The flake had light brown coloured cortex on the dorsal surface. The raw material was likely to have originated from local gravel deposits.

The technological characteristics are not directly dateable.

7.3 Slag by Andy Chapman

From the fill (306) of ditch [307] there are two small fragments, 9mm and 14mm diameter, of light and vesicular fuel ash slag, and the larger piece has a glassy surface. They are possibly residue from an industrial process such as copper alloy or glass working.

7.4 The saddle quern/grinding stone by Andy Chapman

From the fill (520) of ditch [522] there is a fragment from the corner of a rectangular saddle quern or grinding stone in coarse sandstone, probably Millstone Grit (Fig 10). At the squared corner the stone is 95mm thick, with an uneven but worn surface. The grinding surface is deeply concave, so that only 150mm from the corner it is only 45mm thick.

Saddle querns were in use from the Neolithic to the middle Iron Age, when they were replaced by rotary querns, but deeply concave, bowl-shaped, grinding stones occur on Roman domestic settlements. As the stone is incomplete, it is unclear whether this was a saddle quern or a grinding stone, and it is not therefore possible to put even an approximate date on this object without some other associated evidence.



Fragment of quern or grinding stone from ditch [522], scale 10mm Fig 10

7.5 **Small Finds** by Tora Hylton

A small group of finds were recovered from topsoil deposits overlying Trench 1 and 2. The only object of interest is a lead spindle whorl from Trench 2 (201). The whorl measures 26mm in diameter, it has a large centrally placed perforation and weighs 52.9g.

Other finds include a large undiagnostic fragment of iron from Trench 1 and a metal alloy button and two nails from Trench 2. All are modern in date and they have not been retained.

8 **ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS**

8.1 **Animal Bone** by Adam Reid

Forty-six fragments of cattle tooth weighing a total of 9.2g were recovered from fill (306) within ditch [307]. 43 fragments of cattle tooth, were also recovered from ditch fill (404), weighing a total 9.3g. These add little to the interpretation of the site but the lack of faunal remains recovered from the large features that were excavated is notable and is possibly a reflection of unfavourable depositional condition. This may suggest that the potential for future analysis is limited, should any further mitigation work take place.

8.2 **Charred plant macrofossils** by Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Evaluation at Husbands Bosworth recorded a limited number of undated features. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from ditch and posthole fills and five were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by MOLA and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, leaf fragments and fungal sclerotia were also recorded.

Results

Cereal grains and seeds of common weeds are present at a low to moderate density within all five assemblages. Preservation is moderately good, although some grains are puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are recorded along with a single possible specimen of rye (*Secale cereale*). Chaff is scarce, but barley and barley/rye type rachis nodes are recorded along with oat awn fragments. The assemblage from posthole [611] (sample 3) includes what appears to be a large pulse (*Fabaceae*), but preservation is extremely poor.

Weed seeds are present within three assemblages, occurring most frequently within sample 4 from ditch [614]. Taxa noted include stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), orache (*Atriplex* sp.), fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), small legumes (*Fabaceae*), grasses (*Poaceae*), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and cornsalad (*Valerianella dentata*). The assemblage from sample 4 also includes nutlets of sedge (*Carex* sp.) and spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.), both common wetland plants, and a sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) fruit stone. Comminuted charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout, but other plant macrofossils are exceedingly scarce.

Other remains are also relatively uncommon. The black porous and tarry residues are mostly thought to be derived from the high temperature combustion of organic remains, although some fragments may be bi-products of the burning of coal. Small pieces of coal (coal 'dust') are also present, but it is thought most likely that these are intrusive within the feature fills.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

As the current assemblages are generally small (i.e. <0.1 litres in volume) and somewhat limited in composition, it is thought most likely that the few remains which are recorded are derived from scattered refuse, much of which was probably accidentally incorporated within the feature fills. Notwithstanding this, it would appear quite likely that cereal processing was occurring within the near vicinity, albeit on a relatively small scale. Although the samples are from undated features, it is possibly of note that stinking mayweed seeds and small legumes are more often seen as components of assemblages of Roman or post Roman date.

Although these assemblages are limited, they clearly show that moderately well-preserved plant remains are present within the archaeological horizon at Husbands Bosworth. Therefore, if further interventions are planned, it is suggested that additional plant macrofossil samples of 30 – 40 litres in volume are taken from all dated and well-sealed features recorded during excavation.

Table 1: Evaluation of the charred plant macrofossils and other remains

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5
Fill	404	604	610	612	526
Cut	405	605	611	614	527
Feature type	Ditch	Ditch	Posthole	Ditch	Ditch
Cereals and other potential crop plants					
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grains)	xcf			x	
(awn frags.)			x	x	
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)	x	x	xcf	xx	
(rachis nodes)	x			x	
<i>H. vulgare</i> L. (asymmetrical lateral grains)				xcf	
<i>Hordeum/Secale cereale</i> type (rachis nodes)				x	
<i>Secale cereale</i> L. (grains)	xcf				
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)		x	xcf	x	
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	x		xx	x
(detached embryo)	x				
Large Fabaceae indet.			xcf		
Herbs					
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.				x	
<i>Atriplex</i> sp.				x	
<i>Bromus</i> sp.				xcf	
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	x				
Chenopodiaceae indet.				x	
Fabaceae indet.	x	x		x	
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.)A.Love				xtf	
Small Poaceae indet.	xcf			x	
Large Poaceae indet.				x	
<i>Rumex</i> sp.				x	
<i>Valerianella dentata</i> (L.)Pollich				x	
<i>Viola</i> sp.				xcf	
Wetland plants					
<i>Carex</i> sp.				x	
<i>Eleocharis</i> sp.				x	
Tree/shrub macrofossils					
<i>Prunus spinosa</i> L.				x	
Other plant macrofossils					
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	xxx	xxxx	xxxx	x
Charcoal >2mm	x	xxx	xx	xxx	x
Charcoal >5mm		x	x	xx	x
Charcoal >10mm	x	x	x		
Charred root/stem				x	
Indet. seed				x	
Other remains					
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x		x	x
Black tarry material		x			
Bone	x		xb	x	

Burnt/fired clay	x				
Brick/tile	x				
Small coal frags.	x	x			xx
Small mammal/amphibian bone				x	
Sample volume (litres)	40	40	40	40	40
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Key

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens

cf = compare tf = testa fragment b = burnt

9 DISCUSSION

The evaluation, for the most part, confirmed the results of the geophysical survey, with features being concentrated in the northern half of the evaluation area (Fig 2). However, it also identified a significant number of, generally shallow or small, features that were not discernible by the non-intrusive survey. These extra features were located predominantly in the western half of the development area, both within and to the north of the possible enclosure identified in the geophysical survey and highlighted in purple on Figure 2.

The two patterns, identified as red and purple on the geophysical interpretation plot (Fig 2), were investigated and distinctions between their main elements were noted. However, although these broad differences were confirmed the detail of exactly which of the smaller features belonged to which element could not be ascertained with certainty due to the almost total lack of datable material recovered from the site.

9.1 Rectilinear enclosure (purple anomalies, Fig 2)

The possible enclosure comprised ditches [513], [525] and [618], with ditch [407] appearing to extend out from its northern most side. The main enclosure ditches were much larger than the other linear features on site, all being over 2m wide and 1m deep. Due to the lack of finds and dating evidence it is difficult to determine how and when this enclosure was used. The only associated finds were a flint flake recovered from the eastern arm of the enclosure and a fragment of quern or grinding stone recovered from the ditch which truncated the southern edge of its northern arm. This stone had been redeposited in a secondary context and therefore does not provide a firm *terminus ante quem* for the construction or use of the enclosure. Ditch [527], although originally believed to be a part of the field system (described below), shared similar characteristics to these enclosure ditches, in terms of size and form. Also its upper fill contained stone inclusions near its surface, similar to (but not as concentrated as) those found in the upper fill of the recut within the northern arm.

The three small pits/postholes, [607], [609], and [611] all in trench 6 contained no dating evidence but are more likely to be contemporary with the enclosure activity than with the field system.

9.2 Possible field system (red/pink anomalies, Fig 2)

The geophysical anomalies marked in red were believed to form part of a field system associated with the similarly aligned furrows marked in pink. One ditch in trench 5 contained a small sherd of 18th century pot in its uppermost fill, however, this was recovered from the interface between the ditch and the overlying subsoil.

Two ditches [207]/[315] and [614] aligned north-east to south-west, perpendicular to the furrows and other ditches, were much deeper than the others, and therefore likely acted as field head ditches. Drainage ditches would have been required on what remains heavy wet clayland. The ditches and furrows running north-west to south-east, following the natural slope, were much shallower, with clear examples of furrows recorded in trench 7 ([705] and [707]). Shallow ditches that did not appear on the geophysical survey were also discovered in trench 3, following the same alignment ([307] and [311]). Although distorted due to ploughing, furrows were also visible along the east side of the site in trenches 2 and 4, appearing to be a continuation of those marked in pink on the geophysical survey (Fig 2).

The environmental evidence suggests that ditches [405], [605] and [614] were unlikely to predate the Roman period at the earliest because of the presence of legumes and stinking mayweed.

9.3 Sequence of activity

A clear sequence of activity could not be established within the evaluation, although its approximate limits, nature and density were defined. The trenches did not target the position of potential intersection between the two ditch systems and as such no stratigraphic relationship was observable. The artefacts recovered were few in number and were not well stratified which means that it is not possible to confidently assert a date for either system. However, coincidence of alignment between the north-west to south-east field system and the furrows strongly suggests that the majority of the anomalies identified as red on the geophysical survey plot are likely to be medieval or post-medieval in origin.

The form and nature of the west-north-west to east-south-east aligned enclosure might indicate an Iron Age or Romano-British date, and this part of the development area contained the most likely area of significant archaeological remains (Fig 11). The presence of the quern/grinding stone and the lead spindle whorl, although neither was in a primary context, indicates a likely presence of Iron Age and or Romano-British activity in the vicinity.

The extremely low volume of artefacts recovered from both the field system and the enclosure suggests that whatever period they relate to, neither was associated with intensive domestic occupation.

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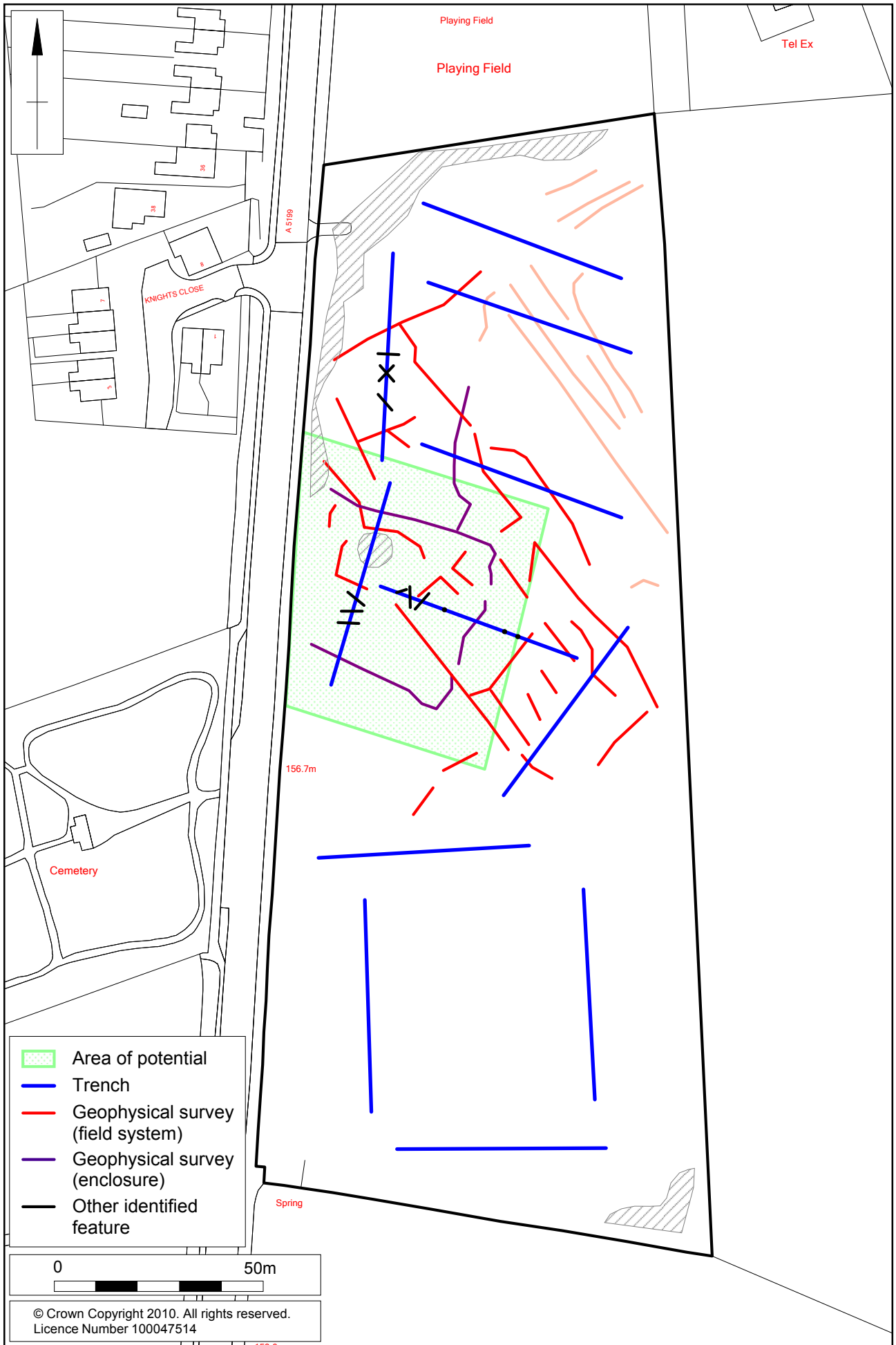
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MOLA
8 April 2015



Scale 1:1,250

Area of archaeological potential Fig 11

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
1	50m x 1.8m NW-SE	464214.61; 284010.92	159.57m aOD	0.25m deep 159.32m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey, clayey silt with occasional small stone fragments.	0.25m thick	
102	Natural	Firm light brown-yellow clay, moderate small to medium flint in areas.	-	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
2	50m x 1.8m NW-SE	464215.77; 283991.98	159.05m aOD	0.4m deep 158.65m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
201	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey, clayey silt with occasional small stone fragments.	0.28m thick	S.F 1 (Spindle whorl)
202	Subsoil	Friable mid grey-brown clayey silt, with moderate charcoal flecks and medium quartz pebbles and flint.	0.12m thick	-
203	Furrow	Linear, aligned north-south, gently sloping sides, flat base.	0.71m wide, 0.09m deep	
204	Fill of [203]	Firm mid mottled grey-orange sandy clay with occasional small sub-angular flint and charcoal flecks.		-
205	Plough-scar	Linear, aligned north-south, V-shaped profile.	0.15m wide, 0.10m deep	
206	Fill of [205]	Firm mid yellow-grey silty clay.		-
207	Ditch	Linear, aligned north-east to south-west, steep sloping sides. Base not reached.	1.8m wide, 0.7m+ deep	
208	Fill of [207]	Firm mid blue-grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks.		-
209	Fill of [210]	Firm mid grey-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks.		-
210	Furrow	Linear, aligned north to south, gently sloping sides, flat base.	1.4m wide, 0.20m deep	
211	Fill of [212]	Firm light grey-brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks.		-
212	Terminus	Linear, aligned north-east to south-west, moderately sloping sides, concave base. Truncates ditch [207]	0.70m wide, 0.30m deep	
213	Natural	Firm light brown-yellow clay, moderate small to medium flint in areas.		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
3	50m x 1.8m N-S	464207.37; 283998.96	159.25m aOD	0.36m deep 158.89m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
301	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey, clayey silt with occasional small stone fragments.	0.27m thick	
302	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clayey silt, with moderate charcoal flecks and medium quartz pebbles and flint.	0.09m thick	
303	Natural	Firm light grey-yellow clay, moderate small to medium flint in areas.		
304	Fill of [305]	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay.		-
305	Ditch	Linear, aligned east-west, steep sloping sides and a concave base.	1.4m wide 0.57m deep	
306	Fill of [307]	Firm mid yellow-grey silty clay with occasional small sub-round flint.		Flint, animal bone
307	Ditch	Linear, aligned south-east to north-west, U-shaped profile.	0.53m wide 0.17m deep	
308	Fill of [309]	Firm mid yellow-grey (patches of blue-grey) silty clay with occasional small sub-round flint.		
309	Ditch	Linear, aligned north-east to south-west, with gradually sloping sides and a flat base.	0.75m wide, 0.16m deep	
310	Fill of [311]	Firm mid blue-grey silty clay with occasional sub-round flint and moderate charcoal flecks.		
311	Ditch	Linear, aligned north-west to south-east, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base.	0.80m wide, 0.22m deep	
312	Fill of [312]	Firm light brown-grey silty clay with occasional sub-round flint.		
313	Ditch	Linear, aligned north-east to south-west, gradually sloping sides and a concave base.	0.86m wide, 0.17m deep	
314	Fill of [315]	Firm dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional large stone		
315	Ditch	Linear, aligned east-west, with steep slope on north edge moderately slope on south edge concave base.	2.17m wide, 0.76m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
4	50m x 1.8m NW-SE	464214.28; 283953.32	158.62m aOD	0.4m deep 158.22m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
401	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey, clayey silt with occasional small stone fragments.	0.30m thick	-
402	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clayey silt, with moderate charcoal flecks and medium quartz pebbles and flint.	0.10m thick	-
403	Natural	Firm light grey-yellow/mid red-orange clay, moderate small to medium flint in areas.		
404	Fill of [405]	Firm dark brown-grey silty clay with occasional large stone and occasional charcoal flecks.		Animal bone Sample 1
405	Ditch	Linear, aligned NNW to SSE, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base.	0.91m wide, 0.33m deep	
406	Fill of [407]	Firm dark grey-orange sandy silt with occasional ironstone.		-
407	Ditch	Linear, aligned NNW to SSE, moderately sloping U-shaped profile.	0.71m wide, 0.34m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
5	50m x 1.8m NNE-SSW	464206.65; 283944.06	158.38m aOD	0.4m deep 157.98m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
501	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey, clayey silt with occasional small stone fragments.	0.19m thick	
502	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clayey silt, with moderate charcoal flecks and medium quartz pebbles and flint.	0.21m thick	
503	Natural	Firm light grey-yellow/mid red-orange clay, moderate small to medium flint in areas.		
504	Fill of [507]	Friable light grey-brown clayey silt with occasional small round stone and flint.	0.08m thick	18 th century pot
505	Fill of [507]	Firm mid grey-yellow silty clay with occasional small ironstone, flint and pebbles.	0.10m thick	-
506	Fill of [507]	Firm mid yellow-grey silty clay with occasional small ironstone, flint and pebbles.	0.21m thick	-

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507	Ditch	Linear, aligned north to south, gradually sloping sides, flat base. Truncates [510].	0.87m wide, 0.35m deep	
508	Fill of [510]	Firm mid grey-yellow silty clay with medium sub-round flint and small ironstone fragments.	0.14m thick	-
509	Fill of [510]	Firm mid grey-yellow silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and ironstone fragments.	0.08m thick	-
510	Ditch	Linear, aligned north to south, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base.	0.47m wide, 0.22m deep	
511	Fill of [513]	Firm mid grey-brown clayey silt with frequent small-medium round stones.		-
512	Fill of [513]	Friable light grey clayey silt with frequent large round stones and gravel.		-
513	Ditch	Linear, aligned north-west to south-east, with gently sloping north-east edge and a stepped south-west edge. Base not reached	3.65m wide, 0.70m+ deep	
514	Fill of [515]	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional small sub-round flint.		-
515	Gully	Linear, aligned east to west. Moderately sloping sides and a concave base.	0.47m wide, 0.17m deep	
516	Fill of [517]	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with moderate sub-round stone and flint.		-
517	Ditch	Linear, aligned east to west. Not excavated	1.1m wide	
518	Fill of [519]	Firm light grey-brown silty clay with occasional small sub-round flint.		-
519	Ditch	Linear, aligned north-west to south-east. Not excavated.	1.85m wide	
520	Fill of [522]	Firm dark grey-brown silty clay with moderate medium sub-round stone.	0.20m thick	
521	Fill of [522]	Firm light blue-grey silty clay occasional small sub-round stone.	0.20m thick	
522	Ditch	Linear, aligned west-north-west to east-south-east, moderately sloping sides and a flat base.	1.7m wide, 0.40m deep	
523	Fill of [525]	Firm mid yellow-grey silty clay with occasional small sub-round flint.	0.58m thick	
524	Fill of [525]	Firm mid brown-grey silty clay with moderate small to medium sub-round flint.	0.20m thick	
525	Ditch	Linear, aligned west-north-west to east-south-east, steep sloping sides, base not reached but depth found with auger.	0.80m+ wide, 1.12m deep	
526	Fill of [527]	Friable mid grey-brown silty clay with moderate small to large stones.		Sample 5
527	Ditch	Linear, aligned east to west, moderately sloping sides and a concave base.	1.82m wide, 0.74m deep	
528	Fill of [529]	Friable dark red-brown silty clay with moderate small to medium stones and frequent flint gravel.		

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529	Ditch	Linear, aligned east to west, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base.	0.42m+ wide, 0.52m deep	
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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
6	50m x 1.8m NW-SE	464204.38; 283919.33	158.09m aOD	0.32m deep 157.77m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
601	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey, clayey silt with occasional small stone fragments.	0.22m thick	
602	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clayey silt, with moderate charcoal flecks and medium quartz pebbles and flint.	0.10m thick	
603	Natural	Firm light grey-yellow/mid red-orange clay, moderate small to medium flint in areas.		
604	Fill of [605]	Firm mid brown-grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks.		Sample 2
605	Terminus	Linear with round terminus, aligned east to west, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base.	1.6m long, 0.5m wide, 0.17m deep	
606	Fill of [607]	Firm mix of natural clay and grey-brown silty clay with occasional small sub-round flint and charcoal flecks.		-
607	Pit / P/H	Sub-circular with steep sloping sides and a concave base.	0.28m wide, 0.12m deep	
608	Fill of [609]	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks.		-
609	Pit	Sub-circular with gradually sloping sides and a flat base.	0.40m wide, 0.08m deep.	
610	Fill of [611]	Friable dark blue-grey mix of charcoal and silty clay.		Sample 3
611	P/H	Circular with steep sides and a concave base.	0.25m wide, 0.09m deep	
612	Fill of [614]	Firm mid brown-grey silty clay with occasional sub-round flint and stone.	0.27m thick	Sample 4
613	Fill of [615]	Firm mid blue-grey silty clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional sub-round flint and stone.	0.41m thick	-
614	Ditch	Linear, aligned east-north-east to west-south-west, with steep to vertical sides and a flat base.	0.98m wide, 0.68m deep	
615	Fill of [618]	Firm dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional medium pebbles.	0.24m thick	-
616	Fill of [618]	Firm mid brown-orange silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and medium to large pebbles, sub-angular flint and stone.	0.60m thick	Flint
617	Fill of [618]	Firm light brown-orange/blue grey clay with occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.22m thick	-

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618	Ditch	Linear aligned north-east to south-west, with steep sloping sides and a concave base.	2.2m wide, 1.06m deep	
619	Fill of [620]	Firm dark brown-grey silty clay with occasional sub-round flint.		-
620	Ditch	Linear, aligned north-south. Not excavated.	1.55m wide	
621	Fill of [622]	Firm mid grey-brown, silty clay with moderate sub-round flint.		-
622	Ditch	Linear, aligned north-east to south-west. Not excavated.	1.75m wide	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
7	50m x 1.8m NE-SW	464263.55; 283909.49	157.76m aOD	0.42m deep 157.34m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
701	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey, clayey silt with occasional small stone fragments.	0.31m thick	
702	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clayey silt, with moderate charcoal flecks and medium quartz pebbles and flint.	0.11m thick	
703	Natural	Firm light grey-yellow/mid red-orange clay, moderate small to medium flint in areas.		
704	Fill of [705]	Friable mid grey brown sandy clay with occasional small pebbles and flint.		-
705	Furrow	Linear, aligned north-west to south-east, with gently sloping sides and a flat base.	0.45m wide, 0.12m deep	
706	Fill of [707]	Friable mid yellow-brown silty clay with moderate small flint.		-
707	Furrow	Linear, aligned north-west to south-east with gently sloping sides and a concave base.	0.64m wide, 0.05m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
8	50m x 1.8m E-W	464189.55; 283854.44	156.61m aOD	0.33m deep 156.28m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
801	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey, clayey silt with occasional small stone fragments.	0.23m thick	
802	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clayey silt, with moderate charcoal flecks and medium quartz pebbles and flint.	0.10m thick	
803	Natural	Firm mid brown-yellow clay, moderate small to medium sub-round flint.		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
9	50m x 1.8m N-S	464200.62; 283844.35	156.49m aOD	0.34m deep 156.15m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
901	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey, clayey silt with occasional small stone fragments.	0.25m thick	
902	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clayey silt, with moderate charcoal flecks and medium quartz pebbles and flint.	0.09m thick	
903	Natural	Firm mid brown-yellow clay, moderate small to medium sub-round flint.		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
10	50m x 1.9m N-S	464252.91; 283846.90	156.58m aOD	0.33m deep 156.25m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1001	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey, clayey silt with occasional small stone fragments.	0.22m thick	
1002	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clayey silt, with moderate charcoal flecks and medium quartz pebbles and flint.	0.11m thick	
1003	Natural	Firm mid brown-yellow clay, moderate small to medium sub-round flint.		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
11	50m x 1.8m E-W	464208.31; 283784.80	155.42m aOD	0.36m deep 155.06m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1101	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey, clayey silt with occasional small stone fragments.	0.23m thick	
1102	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clayey silt, with moderate charcoal flecks and medium quartz pebbles and flint.	0.13m thick	
1103	Natural	Firm mid brown-yellow clay, moderate small to medium sub-round flint.		



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