



Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Westgate Lane, Lubenham, Leicestershire January 2016

Report No. 16/11

Authors: Gemma Hewitt, Carol Simmonds and Michael Dawson

Illustrators: Oliver Dindol, James Ladocha and Ian Fisher



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Authors: Gemma Hewitt, Carol Simmonds and Michael Dawson

Illustrations: Oliver Dindol, James Ladocha and Ian Fisher

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MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN
01604 809800
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk

STAFF

Project Manager: Anthony Maull Cert Arch

Text: Gemma Hewitt BA and Carol
Simmonds BA PCIfA

Text: Statement of Significance Michael Dawson PhD FSA MCIfA

Fieldwork: Gemma Hewitt
Chloe Cronogue-Freeman BA
Paul Sharrock MA

Illustrations: Oliver Dindol BSc, James Ladocha BA
and Ian Fisher BSc

Pottery: Paul Blinkhorn BTech

Animal bone: Adam Reid MSc

Other finds: Tora Hylton

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No. molanort-239370	
Project title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Westgate Lane, Lubenham, January 2016		
Short description	MOLA Northampton was commissioned to carry out an evaluation on land at Westgate Lane, Lubenham. The evaluation identified ditches which, are likely to, define medieval tenement plot boundaries or other land divisions. A small quantity of pottery, of 10th to 14th century date was recovered from the fills of the ditches along with animal bone. Subsequent to the evaluation LiDAR data and historic map evidence was considered and clearly showed that there had been tenements on the eastern side of the site, fronting onto Westgate Lane until the mid 19th century.		
Project type	Trial trench evaluation		
Site Status	-		
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Davies & Reeves 2015) DBA (Dawson 2015)		
Current land use	Pasture		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	Medieval and post-medieval		
Significant finds	10th-14th century pottery		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Leicestershire		
Site address	Land at Westgate Lane, Lubenham		
Post code	N/A		
OS co-ordinates	NGR SP 70319 87206		
Area (sq m/ha)	1.8ha		
Height aOD	90m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Sophie Clarke, Leicestershire County Council		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Gemma Hewitt, MOLA Northampton		
Project Manager	Anthony Mall, MOLA Northampton		
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	05/01/2016		
End date	07/01/2016		
ARCHIVES	Location	Contents	
Physical	MOLA Northampton store X.A141.2015		
Paper		Site records	
Digital		Survey data, report, photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)		
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Abstract

MOLA Northampton was commissioned to carry out an evaluation on land at Westgate Lane, Lubenham. The evaluation identified ditches which, are likely to, define medieval tenement plot boundaries or other land divisions. A small quantity of pottery, of 10th to 14th century date was recovered from the fills of the ditches along with animal bone. Subsequent to the evaluation LiDAR data and historic map evidence was considered and clearly showed that there had been tenements on the eastern side of the site, fronting onto Westgate Lane until the mid-19th century.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA Northampton was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Westgate Lane, Lubenham, Leicestershire (NGR SP 70913 87206, Fig 1).

All works were undertaken in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012), Leicestershire County Council's Guidelines and procedures for archaeological work in Leicestershire and Rutland (LCC 1997), and within the research parameters and objectives sent out by: East Midlands Heritage: a Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment (Knight *et al* 2012). A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by MOLA Northampton prior to the start of works (MOLA 2015) in accordance with a Brief issued by Leicestershire County Council (LCC 2015).

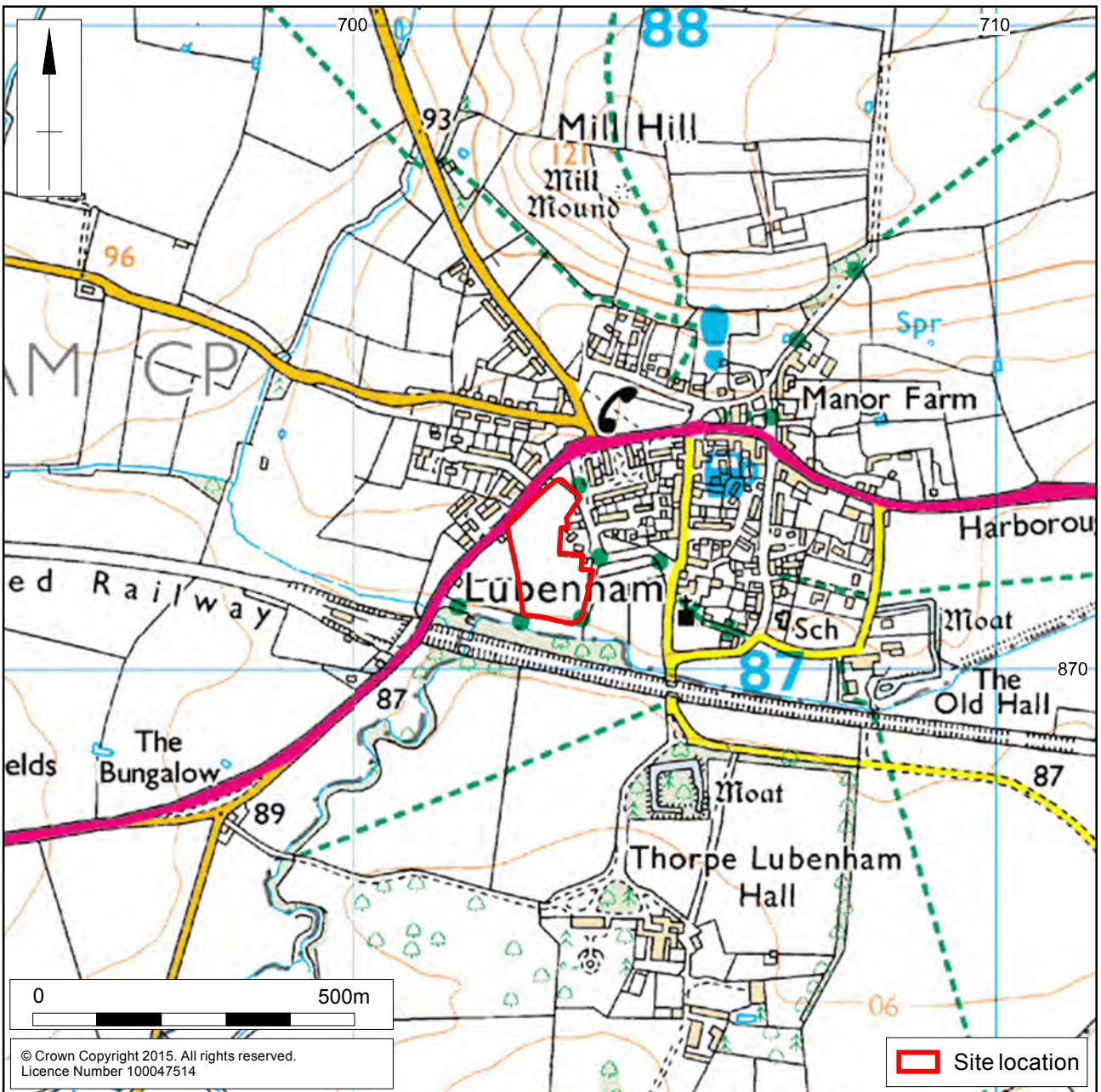
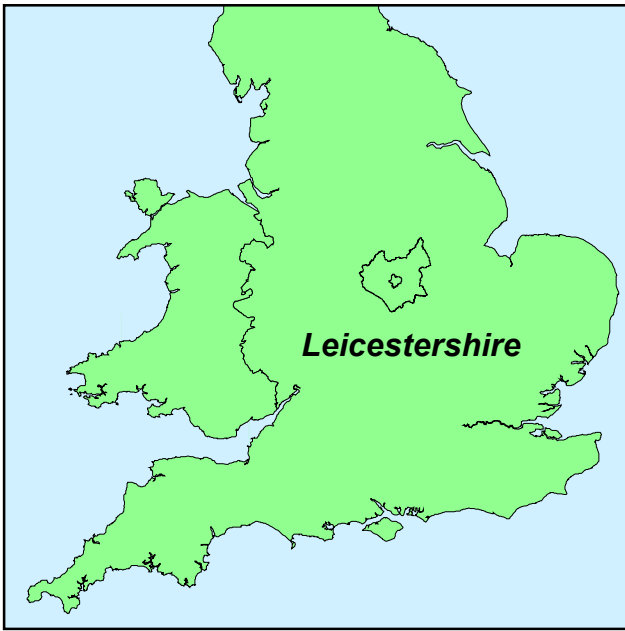
2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the investigation was to determine if archaeological remains were 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.

The project addressed the research aims as highlighted in Knight *et al* (2012) East Midlands Heritage: a Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment, and the national framework for research, as set out by Historic England (HE 2015).



Scale 1:10,000

Site Location Fig 1

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Topography and geology

The proposed development area comprises c1.8ha of pasture, to the west of Market Harborough in the south of Leicestershire. The north-west boundary is formed by Theddingworth Road, to the west by Westgate Lane and a trackway known as Washpit Lane. To the south lies the River Welland and the former Stamford to Rugby railway line. Small arable lands form the border to the west.

The development area is on the first terrace of the River Welland valley and is mainly flat at an elevation of c90m (aOD). The underlying geology for the site is mapped as undifferentiated Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone formation (BGS 2015)

3.2 Historical and archaeological background

The summary of the historical and archaeological background is drawn from the data discussed in the desk-based heritage assessment, which utilised the Leicester Historic Environment Record (LHER) (Dawson 2015).

Within the boundaries of the site there are recorded remains of ridge and furrow cultivation, however, no undesignated or designated heritage assets were shown to be present within the development area.

Neolithic and Iron Age enclosures and settlements have been identified at Lubenham Hill (MLE 7197 20198/9) over 1.2km to the east of the site. Evidence for Roman occupation is defined by possible settlement remains on the southern side of the river (NHER222). Roman pottery has been recovered close to the parish church of All Saints (MLE7866).

The village of Lubenham appears in the Domesday Book as *Lubanham* (Lubba's farm) with a population of at least 45. The development area is to the west of the Anglo-Saxon (Ekwall 1980, 306) core of occupation. There is the suggestion that the village may have once been larger as earthworks to the east of the village suggest the village may have contracted at some point in the past. Medieval pottery has been recovered throughout the village, (MLE 1892, 1893, 9316). There are two moated sites within the area Thorpe Lubenham Manor House (HER4206) to the south of the river and the 16th-century Old Hall (HER1896) to the east of the site. Evidence of ridge and furrow within the development area suggests it may have been a part of the open field system for the village during this period.

Parts of the parish were enclosed in 1604 and subsequently in 1776. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map dated 1886 shows that the development area was once part of the farmland to the west of Lubenham.

A geophysical survey was undertaken by Stratascan in 2015 (Davies and Reeves 2015) the survey tentatively identified anomalies of archaeological origin along the eastern boundary of the site. The western and northern parts had remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation as well as a former field boundary.

4 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

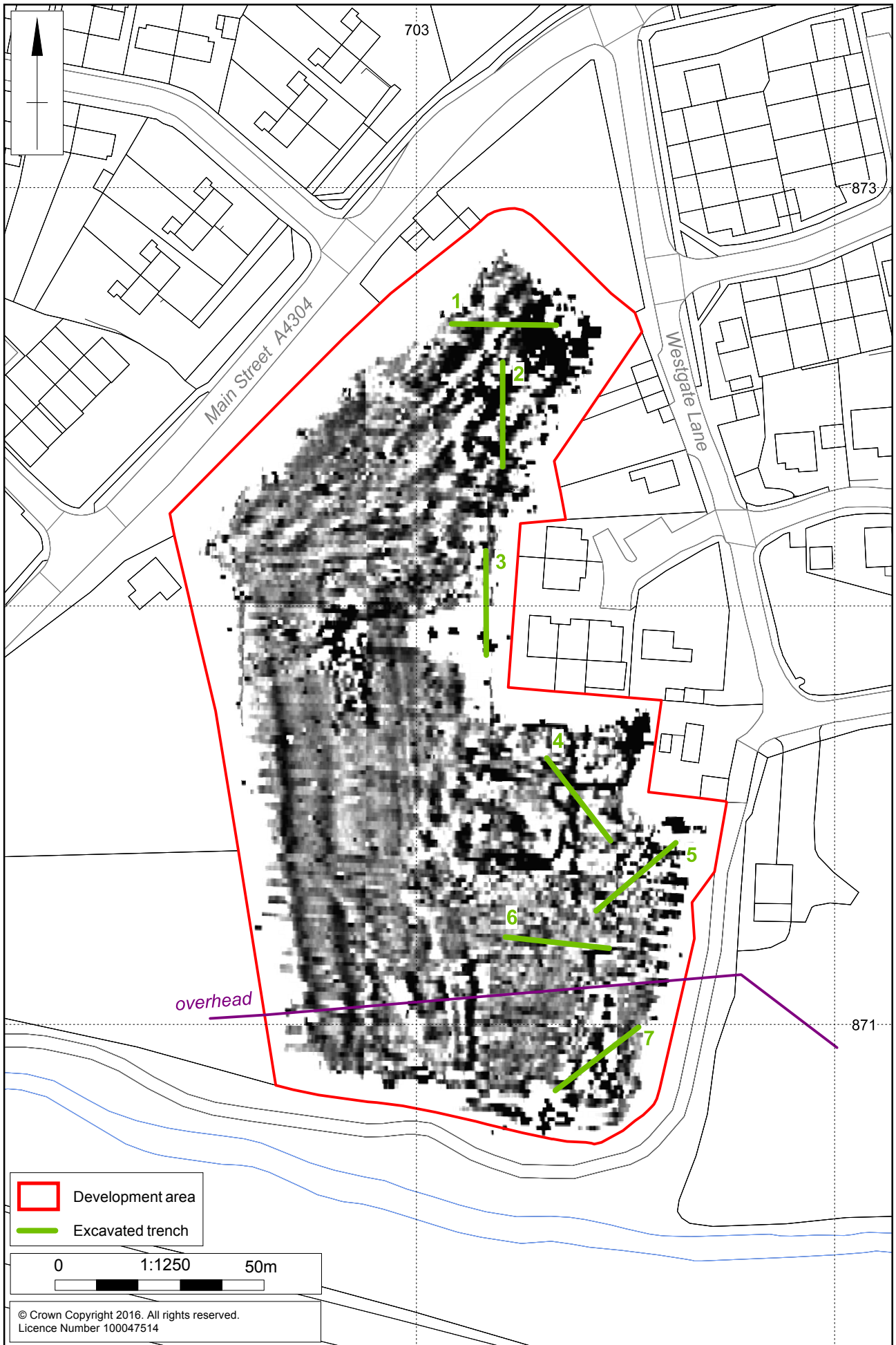
A programme of evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by MOLA Northampton (Finn 2015) in response to a request by Richard Clark the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council. The documentation required the excavation of seven trenches to investigate the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains within the development area and were positioned to target the areas of geophysical anomalies across the site, Trenches 1 and 2 lay in the northern part of the site, trenches 3 and 4 towards the centre of the area and trenches 5 to 7 were in the southern part of the site along the eastern side. All trial trenches were 25m long and 1.8m wide.

All trenches were set out using differential Leica Viva Global Positioning system (GPS) operating to an accuracy of +/- 0.05m. The topsoil, subsoil and non-structural post-medieval and later deposits were removed by mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, to reveal significant archaeological remains or where these were absent, the natural substrates. All work was carried out under archaeological supervision by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

The excavation and recording were carried out in accordance with MOLA guidelines and all records were created using MOLA Northampton pro-forma (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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014b).

Artefacts were recovered from individual contexts and stored and packed according to type. All excavated areas and spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

All records and materials will be compiled in a structured archive in accordance with relevant county guidelines (LCC 2013), as well as guidelines published by Walker (1990), Brown (2011), CIfA (2014c) and the MGC (1992). The completed archive will be deposited with Leicestershire Council Museums Service (Accession No: X.A78.2015).



Scale 1: 1250

Excavated trenches with geophysical survey results Fig 2

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

The natural horizon across the site generally comprised a yellow-blue clay with bands of orange sands and gravels towards the south. This was overlain by a subsoil of light grey-brown silty sand between 0.20m-0.40m thick. The topsoil across the site was silty clay between 0.10m and 0.56m thick. Unless otherwise stated all features cut the natural horizon and full context information is included in Appendix 1.

Archaeological features were recorded in six of the seven excavated trenches (Trenches 1 to 5 and Trench 7). In general the archaeological features identified comprised ditches, along with the remnants of furrows in Trenches 1 and 2, and a layer in Trenches 4 and 5. In the eastern part of the site there was a build up of material with fragments of post-medieval brick and other debris identified.

Artefacts comprised pottery, animal bone, clay tobacco pipe and other post-medieval material (brick and glass) and were recovered from features or layers. Where artefacts were found they are noted in the text.

5.1 The ditches in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7

Trench 1

In Trench 1 there were two sets of parallel ditches [106]/ [109] and [111] (Figs 2 and 3), aligned north to south and spaced 4m apart. The easternmost ditch, [109], was at least 0.20m wide and 0.35m deep with a steep side with a flat base. The primary fill (108) was a light yellow-blue silty-clay, and the upper fill (107) was light yellow-blue clay. The western side of ditch [109] was cut by ditch [106] (Figs 3 and 4, Section 1). Ditch [106] had a U-shaped profile, 1.3m wide and 0.55m deep. The lower fill (104) was firm, yellow-blue clay with 1% iron panning; a small amount of animal bone was recovered from this fill. The upper fill (105) was very compacted light clay with 1% iron panning.

Ditch [111] was 1.7m wide and 0.55m deep with gentle sloping sides and an irregular base (Figs 3 and 4, Section 3). The fill was firm medium-dark grey-brown silty clay and contained pottery dating to the 14th century. Its eastern edge had been truncated by a furrow [113] (see below).

Trench 2

Towards the southern end of the trench were two ditches [206] and [208] (Figs 3 and 4). Ditch [206] was aligned south-east to north-west; 0.60m wide and 0.12m deep, with a U-shaped profile (Fig 4, Section 2). The primary fill (205) was a firm, mid brownish grey clay. The upper fill (204) was light orange sandy clay.

Three metres to the south of ditch [206], aligned east to west, was ditch [208] (Figs 3 and 4, Section 5). It was 0.95m wide and 0.38m deep, with an asymmetrical U-shaped profile and eroded upper edges. The fill (207) was mid-brownish grey sandy clay. Four sherds of medieval pottery, dating to the 12th century were recovered from (207).

Trench 3

At the southern end of the trench was ditch [304] (Fig 3), aligned east to west, 3.5m wide by 0.75m deep, with a broad U-shaped profile with gradual sloping sides and rounded base (Fig 4, Section 6). It had a fill (303) of firm, yellow-grey clay. Two sherds of pottery recovered from the ditch are of the 12th century date.

Trench 4

At the northern end of Trench 4 was a series of intercutting ditches [406], [408] and [413] (Figs 3 & 5, Section 4).

The first ditch in the sequence was ditch [408] (Fig 5, Section 4), aligned south-east to north-west, 0.70m wide by 0.40m deep with a asymmetrical V-shaped profile. The fill (407) was a firm mid-light grey-brown silty clay with 2% small stones and 5% iron panning. Animal bone comprising cow, horse and dog were recovered from (407). The ditch was sealed by subsoil (402) which although visible at this point was not present at the south-eastern end of the trench.

Approximately 0.4m to the south-east of ditch [408] was ditch [413] (Fig 5, Section 4), aligned west to east, 2.4m wide by 0.65m deep with a V-shaped profile. The primary fill (412) was very compact light blue-grey clay with 10% iron panning overlain with (411) a compact light grey-brown sandy clay with 5% iron panning; one sherd of 13th-century pottery was recovered. Fill (410) was firm light yellow-brown clay with 1% small stones. The upper fill (409) was friable dark grey brown silty clay with 5% small stones and charcoal flecks.

The final ditch in the sequence [406] cut the subsoil sealing (407)/ [408] and also the upper fill (409) of ditch [413]. It had a broad asymmetrical U shaped profile, 1.40m wide and 0.6m deep (Fig 5, Section 4). The primary fill (415) was compacted; dark grey brown silty clay with 10% iron panning overlain with a firm light yellow brown clay (414). Both fills (415) and (414) had silted in from the north-western edge. The upper fill of the ditch (405) is friable dark grey brown silty clay. It was sealed with topsoil (401).

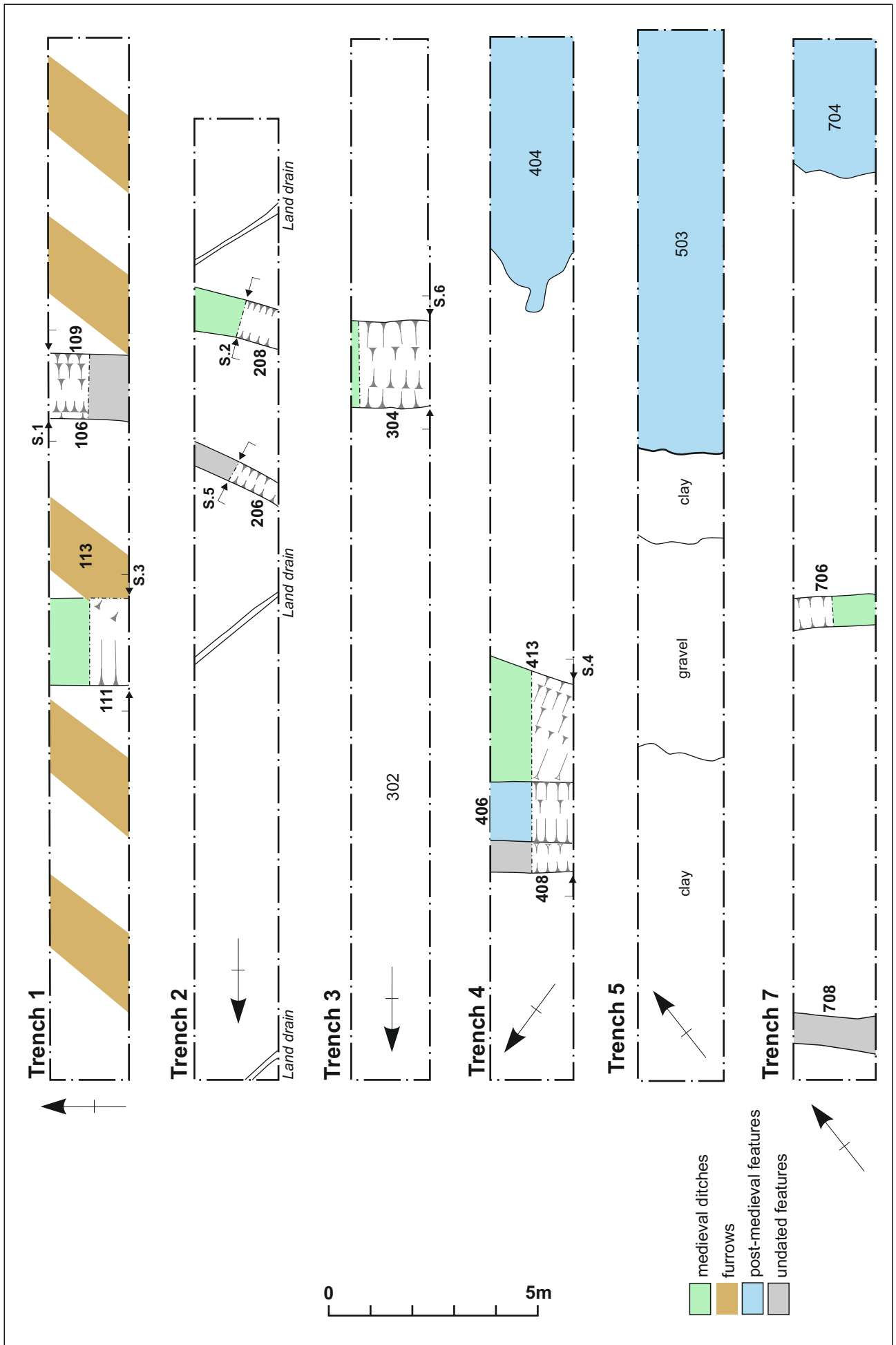
Trench 7

Two ditches, aligned south-east to north-west were present in Trench 7 [706] and [708] (Fig 3); however the water level at the far south-western end meant that ditch [708] could not be excavated although it was recorded in plan.

Ditch [706], in the centre of the trench, was 1.25m wide and 0.47m deep (Fig 5), with an asymmetrical profile. The fill (707) was friable dark grey silty clay with 1% small stones and was sealed by topsoil (701). A single sherd of pottery of 10th century date was recovered, however, this is likely to be residual, as the ditch [706] cuts the subsoil (702).

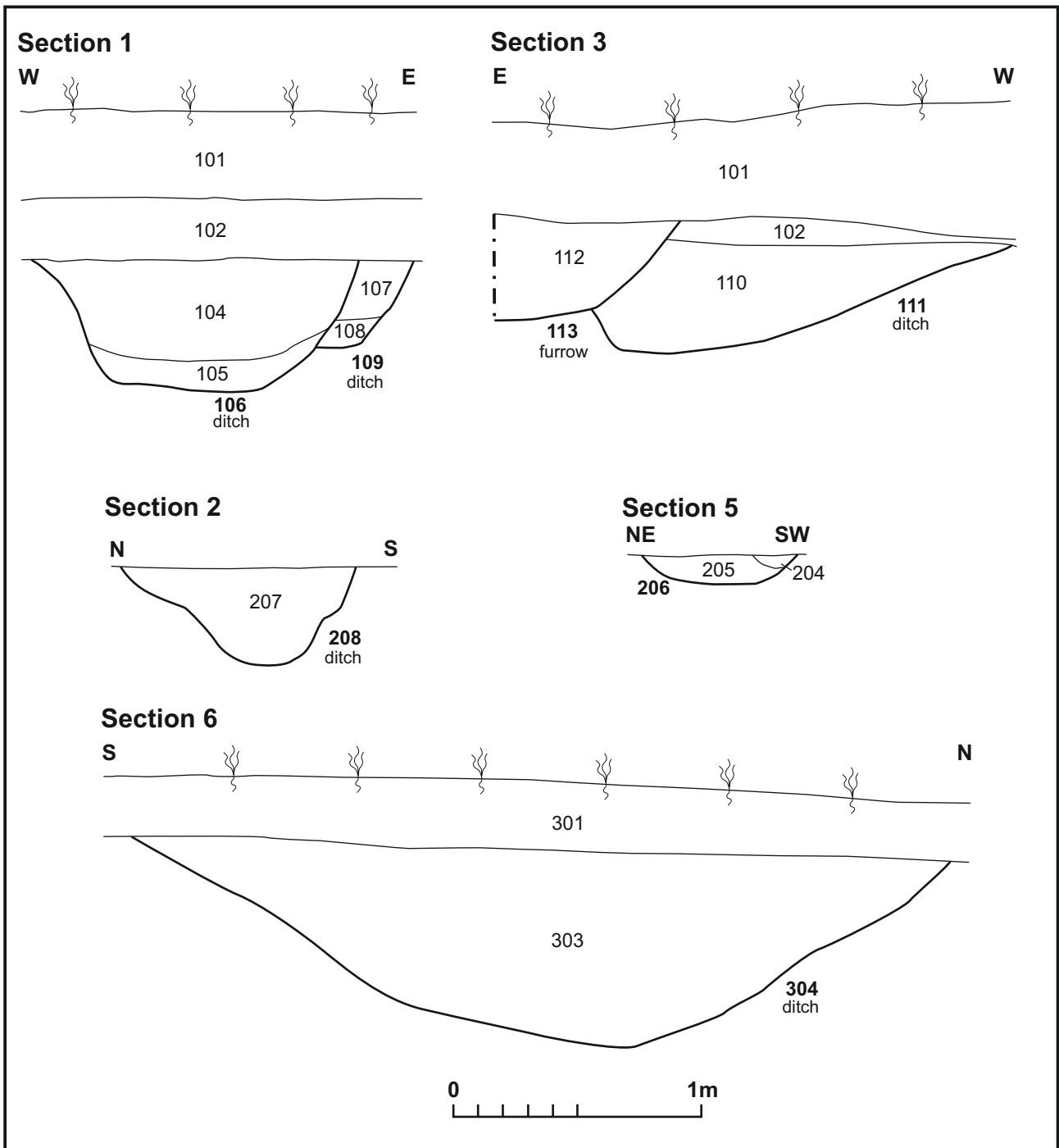
5.2 Furrows

In Trench 1 there were the remnants of five furrows, aligned north-east to south-west (Fig 3), spaced between 2m and 3m apart and averaging 2m wide. Furrow [113] which cut the subsoil (102) overlying ditch (110)/ [111] (Fig 4, Section 3) was 0.40m deep. The fill (112) was med-light yellow brown clay.



Scale 1:125

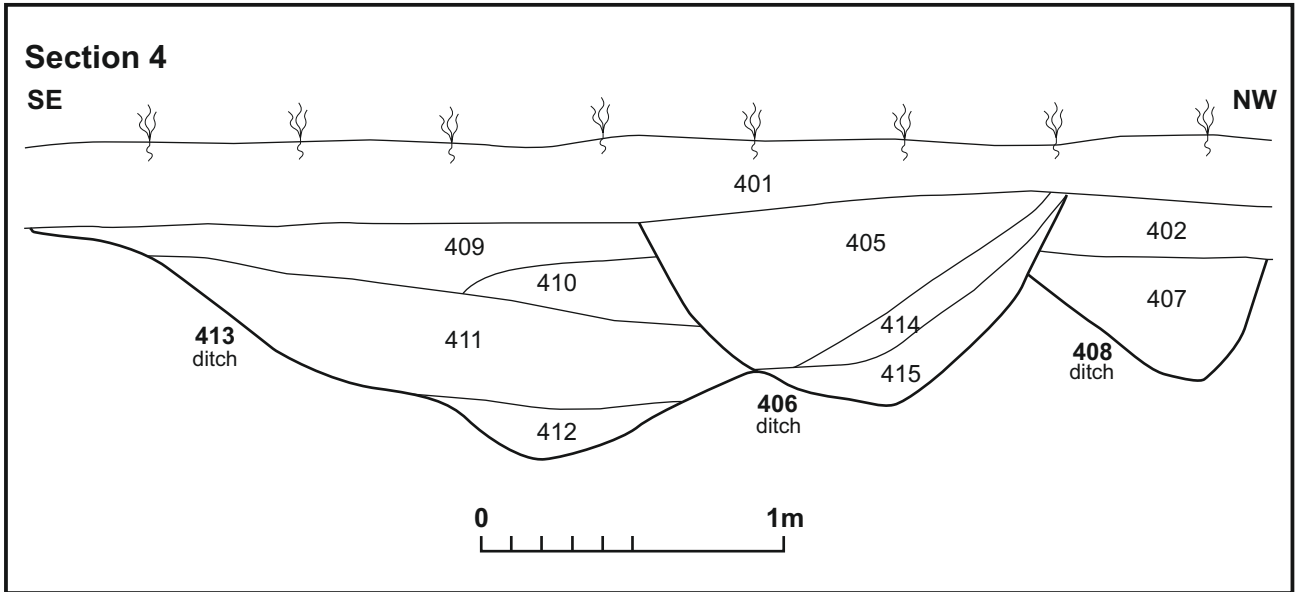
Trenches 1-5 and 7, plans Fig 3



Scale 1:25



Ditches in Trenches 1, 2 and 3 Fig 4



Scale 1:25



5.3 Post-medieval layers

In the south-eastern part of the field (Trenches 4, 5 and 7; Fig 3) localised deposits generally comprising dark grey black silty clay were recorded. The layer was present at the south-eastern end of Trench 4 (404), the north-eastern end of Trench 5 (503) (Fig 6) and at the north-eastern end of Trench 7 (704). In Trench 4 the layer (404) was investigated and found to be up to 0.70m thick. Fragments of brick, glass and 19th century pottery were noted but not retained.



General view of Trench 5, looking south-west Fig 6

At the eastern end of Trench 6 was a layer (603) of compact yellow clay with coarse gravel of varying sizes. Overlying this at the extreme eastern end of the trench was a layer (604) of medium to large rounded cobbles. It is likely that this represents a cobbled surface.

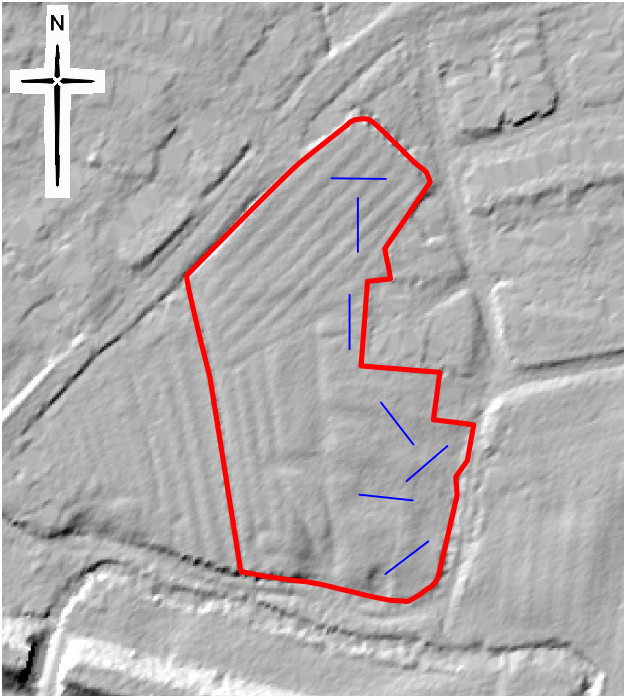
5.4 LiDAR data

Following the recommendation of Richard Clark (LCC) MOLA Northampton obtained the LiDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) data for the area (Fig 7) and also a reference to the Ordnance Surveyors map dated 1835 (Fig 8; British Library). In light of the trial trench data John Walford, Geophysical Survey Officer at MOLA Northampton also reviewed the geophysical survey data (Davies and Reeves 2015).

Re-analysis of the geophysical survey data (Appendix 3) concluded that the original interpretation had been cautious; nevertheless there was good correlation between anomalies identified by the geophysics together with several features which were not visible in the geophysical survey data.

The LiDAR data (Fig 7) has been processed in four different ways to maximise interpretation. It clearly shows upstanding and clearly defined earthworks in the development area which were interpreted as rectangular blocks defined by raised platforms in the southern part of the field. The south-western part of the development site has ridge and furrow, aligned north to south, whilst the northern part has ridge and furrow aligned north-east to south-west.

The historic maps dating between 1770 and present day, which were available during the production of the desk-based assessment (Dawson 2015), did not identify any landscape features in the development area. However, the 1835 Ordnance Surveyors map (Fig 8) clearly shows buildings extending southwards along Westgate Lane which had been demolished by the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1886 (Fig 9). No extant remains of the cottages were observed above ground during the trial trench evaluation (Fig 10).



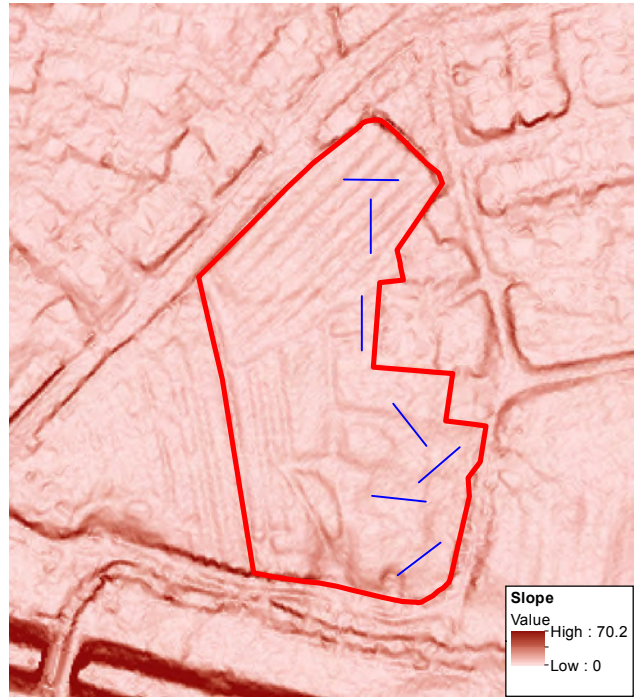
Hill shade (azimuth 315 degrees, elevation 35 degrees)



Sky-view factor (16 search directions, radius 10m)



Openness Positive (16 search directions, radius 10m)



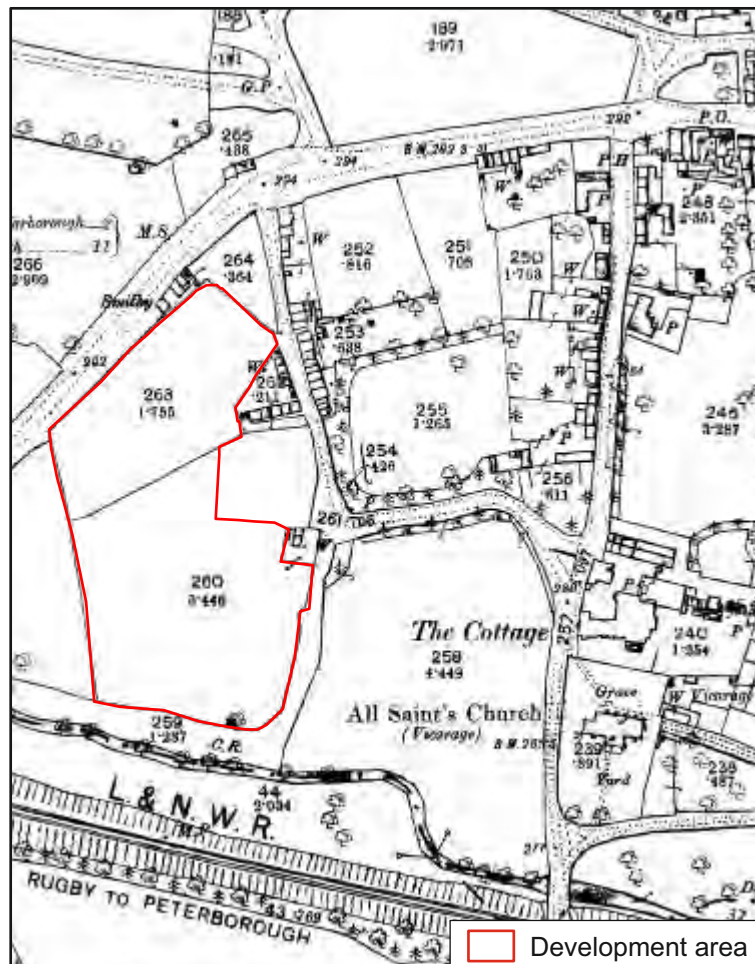
Slope, degrees

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0 scale 1:3,500 100m



Excerpt from the 1835 Ordnance Surveyors map (British Library) Fig 8



Excerpt from the First Edition Ordnance Survey, 1886 Fig 9



View of the existing cottages, looking north-east Fig 10

6 THE FINDS

6.1 The medieval and post-medieval pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 43 sherds with a total weight of 586g. It was all medieval and later. It was recorded using the conventions of the Leicestershire County type-series (Sawday 1994), as follows

SN: St Neots Ware, 900 – 1150. 3 sherds, 16g
 ST: Stamford Ware, 900 - 1150. 1 sherd, 4g
 PM: Potter's Marston Ware, 1100-1300. 1 sherd, 1g
 CC1: Nuneaton 'A' Ware, AD1200-1400. 1 sherd, 19g
 CC2: Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware, 1200-1475. 2 sherds, 32g
 EA6: Post-medieval Blackwares, late 17th century +. 1 sherd, 11g
 EA10: Modern Earthenwares, 1800+. 19 sherds, 215g
 LY1: Lyveden/Stanion 'B' Ware, 1200-1400. 6 sherds, 142g
 LY4: Shelly Wares, 1100-1400. 8 sherds, 89g
 MP1: Midland Purple Ware, 1370-1550. 1 sherd, 57g

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1 and additional fabric data is recorded in Appendix 2. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of contemporary sites in the region. The medieval material comprises unglazed jars and bowls and glazed jugs and appears to be of an entirely domestic nature. The single sherd of Stamford Ware is unglazed and appears to be late Saxon or Saxon. Most of the pottery is in good condition, and appears reliably stratified, albeit as the product of secondary deposition.

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by context

fill	110/	207/	303/	401	411/	6	705/	Totals
cut	111	208	304		413		706	
	ditch	ditch	ditch	topsoil	ditch	u/s	ditch	
fabrics	(No)	(No)	(No)	(No)	(No)	(No)	(No)	(No)
	wt(g)	wt(g)	wt(g)	wt(g)	wt(g)	wt(g)	wt(g)	wt(g)
ST	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1)	(1)
							4	4g
SN	(3)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(3)
	16							16g
LY4	(2)	(4)	(1)	(1)	-	-	-	(8)
	35	44	7	3				89g
PM	-	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	(1)
			1					1g
LY1	(6)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(6)
	142							142g
CC1	-	-	-	-	(1)	-	-	(1)
					19			19g
CC2	(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2)
	32							32g
MP1	-	-	-	-	-	(1)	-	(1)
						57		57g
EA6	-	-	-	(1)	-	-	-	(1)
				11				11g
EA10	-	-	-	-	-	(19)	-	(19)
						215		215g
Totals	(13)	(4)	(2)	(2)	(1)	(20)	(1)	(43)
	225g	44g	8g	14g	19g	272g	4g	586g
Date	14th	12th	12th	L17th	13th	18th+	10th	
(century)								

6.2 The animal bone by Adam Reid

A total of 0.57 kg of animal bone was hand collected from five different contexts during the evaluation work. This material was assessed to determine the level of preservation, the taxa present and to inform on the potential for further work.

All material was washed prior to analysis. Identifiable bones were noted, and were examined for signs of butchery and the state of epiphyseal fusion. Identifications took place with the aid of the MOLA Northampton reference collection and Hillson (1992) and France (2009) were also consulted. Specimens that could not be positively identified were attributed, where possible, to categories including Large Mammal (Cattle, Horse), Medium Mammal (Sheep/Goat, Pig, Large Dog), and Small Mammal (Small Dog, Cat, Rabbit). The English Heritage Guidelines for Best Practice for Animal Bones and Archaeology (2014) were followed, where possible.

Identification and quantification

Positive identification to genus level was possible for nine (60%) of the specimens, the results of the identifications are presented below (Table 2).

All but one of the specimens was mammalian; one fragment of bird bone was recovered from the fill of furrow [113]. No microfaunal remains were recovered.

Preservation and taphonomy

The general state of preservation of the material was moderate to good, although nearly all of the specimens were fragmented. No evidence of carnivore gnawing was noted but much of the material demonstrated evidence of weathering and surface abrasion, which would suggest that the specimens may have remained, exposed, or partially exposed, for some time prior to burial.

Only one instance of butchery was noted, which comprised a lateral chop mark near to the proximal end of a cattle radius that was recovered from the fill of ditch [208], which has been dated to the 12th century. Mild to moderate exostosis was noted at the proximal end of a horse metacarpal recovered from the fill of ditch [408], which is currently undated. This pathology has previously been linked with osteoarthritis, which has been noted in draught animals (Groot 2005).

Table 2: The identified animal taxa

Fill/ cut type	Cattle <i>Bos</i>	Sheep/ goat <i>Ovicaprid</i>	Horse <i>Equus</i>	Dog <i>Canis</i>	Med Bird	Large Mam	Indet.	Total
104/106 ditch	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
112/113 furrow	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
207/208 ditch	1	1	-	-	-	1	2	5
303/304 ditch	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	3
407/408 ditch	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	3
Total	4	3	1	1	1	2	3	15

The small assemblage is dominated by domestic taxa and provides no indication of specialised activity. The relatively good quality of preservation and the presence of identifiable material from several of the excavated features indicate the possibility for future faunal analysis, should further work take place.

6.3 Other finds by Tora Hylton

A clay tobacco-pipe bowl and a stem fragment were recovered from unstratified soil deposits overlying Trench 6. The pipe bowl is complete and furnished with a moulded motif; the whole bowl represents an acorn and the front of the bowl is decorated with a line of well executed leaves. Stylistically bowls of this type date to the mid/late 19th century. The pipe stem measures 37mm in length and the bore measures 5/64's of an inch, also suggesting a 19th century date.

In addition a base sherd from a modern bottle in green glass was also recovered. This has been discarded.

7 DISCUSSION

The archaeological remains identified by the trial trenching comprise medieval ditches as well as later features such as furrows, ditches and post-medieval deposits. The below ground features, when correlated with the above ground earthworks, suggest possibly three phases of activity within the development area.

The earliest phase is represented by four linear ditches, three oriented east to west [208], [304], [413] and one north to south [111] located on the eastern margin of the site. These appear to indicate the location of a series of parallel close boundaries which predate furrows oriented north-east to south-west. No evidence of settlement structures has been found associated with these boundaries, although it is likely that they form the rear of plots fronting the upper (northern) part of Westgate Lane, with tofts located beneath modern housing. Pottery recovered from these ditches suggests a date between the 10th century (St Neots Ware) and 15th century (Chivers Coton 'C' Ware).

The second phase of activity is represented by the ridge and furrow, which overlays, and has cut into the upper fills of these ditches, a relationship which is evident in Trench 1.

The third phase of activity was represented by the earthwork remains, below ground evidence of post-medieval date and 19th century map data. The below ground evidence comprised three areas of localised deposits of dark grey silty black clay, containing fragments of brick, glass and 19th century pottery. The earthwork and LiDAR evidence suggest a series of rectangular blocks or enclosures occupying the south eastern part of the development site and continuing the frontage plots now occupied by modern housing along the west side of Westgate Lane. The dating evidence from the trial trenching and the rectangular character of the earthworks correlates with the 1835 Ordnance Survey surveyors map (see above) and suggest, possibly, up to two cottages once occupying plots fronting the lane in the lower south eastern part of the development site.

The historic context of the three phases may be informed by the population figures reproduced by Lee and McKinley. *"In 1086 Lubenham was a fairly large village, with a recorded population of 45. In the poll tax returns of 1381 138 persons were listed. In 1563 the village contained 60 households, and in 1603 261 communicants were returned. A plague in 1604 is supposed to have killed 100 people. There were 89 households in 1670, 193 communicants in 1676, and about 80 families in the early 18th century. In 1801 the population was 504. It increased to 680 in 1891, but had fallen to 597 by 1921"* (1964). Although speculative it is possible to correlate the expansion of the village between Domesday and the 14th century with the medieval close boundaries of the first phase noted above. The second phase when the village contracted and furrows encroached on former closes is supported by the reduction in population in the 16th and 17th centuries. Increasing population from the late 17th

century may have led to settlement outside the village core in a ribbon development along Westgate Lane.

Demolition of cottages

No dating or structural evidence, beyond demolition debris, has been recovered from the proposed location of the post-medieval cottages. However, the material recovered from trenches 4, 5 and 7, suggests their character may have been similar to the brick built late 18th - early 19th century cottage still occupied on Westgate Lane. The cottages appear to have been demolished between the publication of the 1835 Ordnance Surveyors map (Fig 8) and the production of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map in 1886 (Fig 9). The layer recorded in Trenches 4, 5 and 7 likely represents the rubble and debris from the demolition of the cottages the remains of a possible gravel/cobbled surface. The pottery, brick and glass from this deposit support a mid-19th century date for the disuse of the tenement.

8 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: EARTHWORK REMAINS OF RIDGE AND FURROW AND 18TH/19TH CENTURY TENEMENTS

8.1 Introduction

The earthworks at Westgate Lane comprise two principal elements of historic interest, ridge and furrow, largely on the western side of the site, and a series of earthworks representing post medieval tenements. The land use and resources available to a mediaeval township comprise four main types, arable, meadow, woodland and waste (often referred to as heath or moor, fen). In the Midlands many township were characterised by having some 90% arable land. This was divided into open fields and subject to crop rotation, often referred to as the three field system. Ridge and furrow represents a cultivated ridge of land, a strip field or furlong, flanked by furrows for ease of identification and drainage. In 2001 English Heritage (Hall 2001) undertook a survey of ridge and furrow in 9 counties including Leicestershire. Of 140 sites initially appraised 40 sites were identified as priority townships. In Leicestershire (Rutland) these included Belton, Braunston, Gumley, Hallaton, Hungarton, Mowsley Owston and Newbold, Saddington, Stoke Dry, Thorpe Langton and Welham. Lubenham was not considered to have sufficiently well preserved ridge and furrow to warrant inclusion in the survey. The priority townships were identified based on scheduling criteria: group value, survival (extent), potential, documentation and condition and the omission of Lubenham implies that the earthworks at Lubenham were not considered significant.

Ridge and furrow remains have been the focus of interest as undesignated heritage assets and following the thematic survey by Hall, described above, where earthworks survive of national significance they have been protected. At Clipston, for instance, English Heritage (now Historic England) have for the first time have included a large area of ridge and furrow within the scheduled area which is characterise as the remains of medieval village earthworks.

Post-medieval tenements, in contrast, have not been the subject of detailed thematic research. Search of the Historic Environment website Heritage Gateway recovered 283 entries from 63 resources available through the website. The majority of entries relate to standing buildings or urban locations in cities such as London, York, Oxford, Southampton and Bath or smaller towns such as Bridgenorth, Banbury Shrewsbury, Pershore, Totnes and Dartmouth. Rural tenements, largely earthworks, recorded include Kempston Hardwick, Keysoe, and Dovecote Farm, Bolnhurst (Bedfordshire), St Stephens and Cowbridge (Herts), Spernall (Warks). The recorded examples of tenements is an artefact of data collection rather than an indication of the true numbers and survival of this earthwork type. The paucity of entries for data of this type suggests

that this earthwork type has not been considered of sufficient importance to record consistently.

The examples noted above provide the context in which the significance of the ridge and furrow and post-medieval (18th and 19th century) earthworks, which remain at the site, should be assessed. The criteria for assessing their significance in the NPPF are archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic (DCLG 2012).

8.2 Archaeological

The earthworks which survive at Westgate Lane comprise the remnants of a late 19th century landscape, dated by map and below ground evidence to the period between the drafting of the OS surveyors notes in 1835 and publication of the OS 1st edition in 1886. The evidence of village contraction and expansion which the earthworks and below ground data attest addresses in part one of the overarching themes of the East Midlands Research frameworks: the development of agriculturally based settlement patterns (Knight et al 2012). However, in detail the relationship between village expansion and surrounding agriculture has not been identified as a priority for post-Medieval and later research (Objectives 8.1-8.8; 9.1-9.8).

The absence of specific research objectives related to the evidence type represented at Lubenham suggests that the interest of the evidence is local rather than of regional or county significance.

8.3 Historic

The history of Lubenham has been published by the Victoria County History as part of the survey of Gartree hundred. The historic relationship between village and country has been explored in detail and the rise and fall of the village population, which may have influenced the expansion and contraction of the village, has been noted in the conclusions above. Relevant to the earthworks at Westgate Lane the variation in population figures includes both local factors, such as the plague of the 17th century, and the influence of wider changes, in particular enclosure. In the case of Lubenham enclosure occurred in 1601 instigated by Sir Basil Brooke who *“explained the circumstances of the 1600-1 inclosure. His motive was poverty. He had little else to maintain his household except Lubenham manor-house and the rents of 13 farms, which brought him an income of £300 a year. He considered his income insufficient because of his many children and the burdensome offices that he undertook”* (Lee and McInley 1964). In 1766 the remainder of the parish was enclosed by Act of Parliament. The effect of enclosure was to see the majority of the parish converted from arable to pasture. *“After the inclosure there seems to have been extensive conversion to pasture. Only 200 a. of arable were reported in 1801, though 600 a. were arable by 1852. In the absence of the inclosure map it is only possible to guess the boundaries of the open fields. They lay for the most part north of the main road from Market Harborough to Rugby, and it is likely that the roads to Laughton and Foxton, which meet at Lubenham Green, were the boundaries separating the three fields”*. This process can be seen clearly in the survival of the ridge and furrow and the tenements which add local detail to a wider national process. However, the documentary evidence of early enclosure also illustrates the potentially local factors influential in the enclosure of land.

8.4 Artistic

The artistic significance of the earthworks at Lubenham is limited. There are no known representations of the earthworks by artists for whom landscapes at the time of enclosure formed part of their repertoire. Waite's analysis of Common Land in English Painting includes several examples of artistic representation by artists of national standing such as Peter Tillemans whose views of Little Houghton, Kettering and Greatworth in Northamptonshire, might be taken as expressions of a landscapes of national interest. However, there is no record of such representations at Lubenham and the assumption must be that the Westgate Lane area has not attracted more than local artistic interest.

8.5 Architectural

There is no architectural significance, beyond the 19th century demolition material, associated with the proposed development area at Westgate Lane.

8.6 Conclusion

The assessment and evaluation of the archaeological evidence at Lubenham has undoubtedly confirmed the evidence of 19th century mapping. The visible earthworks reflect the expansion and contraction of the village of Lubenham from the medieval period to the present day. The earthwork remains provide a visual and physical reminder of both late medieval farming practice and post medieval tenements. The significance of this survival has been examined in terms of thematic assessments undertaken on behalf of Historic England, representations in art and the contribution the evidence has made and could make to regional research objectives. In each area the significance has been found to be local, the evidence illustrative of local developments affected by local factors. The historic and archaeological evidence has the potential to contribute detail to national and regional narratives, but on current showing will not change or affect present day interpretations of the later medieval, post medieval or modern periods.

In conclusion the evidence of the Lubenham earthworks, their survival and the evidence recovered from the trial trenching amounts to local significance. For the purposes of the NPPF the effects of development can be mitigated by a programme of recording and publication structured as an agreed programme of works and secured by an archaeological condition.

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MOLA Northampton

V1 20 January 2016

V2 21 January 2016

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Length, width & alignment			
1	E-W, 25m x 1.8m			
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
101	Topsoil	Med-light grey brown silty clay	0.30m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Light yellow-brown silty sand, 1% charcoal	0.40m thick	-
103	Natural	Light yellow- blue clay bands of light grey clay	-	-
104	Fill of Ditch 106	Light yellow blue clay with 1% iron panning Sealed by subsoil 102	W:1.30m D:0.40m	Animal bone
105	Fill of Ditch 106	Light yellow clay 1% iron panning	W:0.90m D:0.15m	-
106	Ditch	U-shaped with eroded upper western edge	W:1.30m D:0.55m	-
107	Fill of Ditch 109	Light yellow blue clay Cut by ditch 106	W:0.25m D:0.25m	-
108	Fill of Ditch 109	Light yellow grey silty clay	W:0.20m D:0.10m	-
109	Ditch	Steep eastern side with flat base	W:0.25m D:0.35m	-
110	Fill of Ditch 111	Medium-dark grey-brown silty clay	W:1.70m D:0.55m	Pottery 14th century
111	Ditch	Asymmetrical profile, Gently western sloping side, eastern side truncated. Flat base	W:1.70m D:0.55m	-
112	Fill of Furrow 113	Medium yellow-brown clay	W:0.75m D:0.40m	Animal bone
113	Furrow	Steep side with a broad base	W:0.75m D:0.40m	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment			
2	N-S, 25m x 1.8m			
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
201	Topsoil	Same as 101	0.20m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Light grey-brown silty sand, 5% small stones	0.40m thick	-
203	Natural	Light yellow sandy clay	-	-
204	Fill of Ditch 206	Orange sandy clay	W:0.18m D:0.07m	-
205	Fill of Ditch 206	Mid brown-grey sandy clay	W:0.60m D:0.12m	-
206	Ditch	Linear, SE-NW, U-shaped, with an uneven base	W:0.60m D:0.12m	-
207	Fill of Ditch 208	Mid brown-grey sandy clay	W:0.95m D:0.38m	Pottery 12th century Animal bone
208	Ditch	Linear, E-W, asymmetrical, U- shaped, with eroded upper edges	W:0.95m D:0.38m	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment			
3	N-S, 25m x 1.8m			
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
301	Topsoil	Same as 101	0.56m thick	-
302	Natural	Light yellow orange sandy clay	-	-
303	Fill of Ditch 304	Light yellow grey clay	W:3.50m D:0.75m	Pottery 12th century Animal bone
304	Ditch	Linear, E-W, broad U-shaped profile with gradual sloping sides and an rounded base	W:3.50m D:0.75m	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment			
4	NW-SE, 25m x 1.8m			
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
401	Topsoil	Same as 101	0.20m thick	Pottery 17th century
402	Subsoil	Same as 102	0.30m thick	-
403	Natural	Light yellow-grey clay with bands of orange sand	-	-
404	Layer	Dark grey-black silty clay	W:6.0m D:0.70m	Post-medieval brick, glass etc- not retained
405	Fill of Ditch 406	Medium grey brown silty clay with 10% charcoal flecks 1%stones	W:1.40m D:0.60m	-
406	Ditch	Linear, NW-SE, broad asymmetrical V-shaped profile.	W:1.40m D:0.60m	
407	Fill of Ditch 408	Medium grey-brown silty clay with 2% small stones and 5% iron panning	W:0.80m D:0.40m	Animal bone
408	Ditch	Linear, NW-SE, asymmetrical U-shaped profile, steep near vertical slightly concave northern side, more gradual sloping southern edge	W:0.70m D:0.40m	-
409	Fill of Ditch 413	Dark grey-brown silty clay with 5% charcoal and stones	W:1.85m D:0.20m	-
410	Fill of Ditch 413	Light yellow-brown clay with 1% stone	W:0.70m D:0.20m	-
411	Fill of Ditch 413	Light grey-brown sandy clay with 5% iron panning	W:1.80m D:0.40m	Pottery 13th century
412	Fill of Ditch 413	Light blue-grey clay with 10% iron panning	W:0.60m D:0.10m	-
413	Ditch	Linear, NW-SE, V-shaped profile with steep concave sides and a rounded, uneven base	W:2.40m D:0.65m	-
414	Fill of Ditch 406	Light yellow-brown sandy clay	W:0.85m D:0.10m	-
415	Fill of Ditch 406	Dark grey-brown sandy clay	W:0.60m D:0.18m	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment			
5	SW-NE, 25m x 1.8m			
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
501	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty sand	0.10m thick	-
502	Natural	Bright orange sand with bands of gravels	-	-
503	Layer	Dark grey-black silty clay	W:10.0m D:0.7m	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment			
6	E-W, 25m x 1.8m			
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
601	Topsoil	Med grey-brown silty sand with 50% cobbles	0.60m thick	Pottery, clay tobacco pipe
602	Natural	Light orange-yellow sandy clay with 30% cobbles	-	-
603	Layer	Compact yellow clay with frequent gravel of varying sizes. At eastern end of trench	5m wide	
604	Layer	Compact medium to large cobbles at eastern end of trench	1m wide	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment			
7	SW-NE, 25m x 1.8m			
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
701	Topsoil	Med brown with 1% stones	0.30m thick	-
702	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown silty sand with 10% stones	0.20m thick	-
703	Natural	Light yellow sandy clay with 30% gravels and 5% iron panning	-	-
704	Layer	Light grey brown silty sand with 80% cobbles. At NE end of trench.	0.20m thick	-
705	Fill of Ditch 706	Dark grey silty clay with 1% stones. Sealed by topsoil 701	W:1.25m D:0.47m	Pottery 10th century
706	Ditch	Linear, NW-SE, asymmetrical profile with stepped, irregular sides with a flat base	W:1.25m D:0.47m	-
707	Fill of Ditch 708	Dark grey silty clay Unexcavated	W:1.00	-
708	Ditch	Linear, NW-SE, unexcavated	W:1.00	-

APPENDIX 2: QUANTIFICATION OF POTTERY

Cut/ fill/ feature	Fabric	Rim	Body	Base	No. of sherds	Wt (g)	R%	Form	Date
506 / 504 / Ditch	Grog tempered, brown, reddish-brown, dark grey	-	6	-	6	15	-	-	LIA/C1
	Shell gritted, brown	2	4	-	6	24	8	JUR	C4?
	Dark grey	-	1	-	1	4	-	-	C2/C3
	Reddish-yellow, grey core	-	-	1	1	5	-	-	C2/C3
	Reddish-yellow, grey core, red slip	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	C4?
	LNVC	-	1	-	1	7	-	-	C2/C3
	Ver?	-	1	-	1	7	-	-	MC1/C2
508 / 507 / Ditch	Grog tempered, reddish-brown, grey core	2	-	-	2	300	16	JST	LIA/C1
	Grog tempered, reddish-brown, grey core	1	14	-	15	25	4	JLS	-
	Shell gritted, brown, large shell	-	2	-	2	5	-	-	LIA?
710 / 709 / Ditch	Grog tempered, reddish-brown, grey core	-	3	-	3	15	-	-	LIA/C1
	Shell gritted, reddish-brown, grey core	1	2	1	4	19	8	JTR	C2/C3
	Grey	-	2	-	2	8	-	-	C2/C3
714 / 713 / Ditch	Grog tempered, reddish-yellow, open textured	-	1	-	1	6	-	-	M/LIA?
	Dark grey	-	1	-	1	3	-	-	C2/C3
716 / 715 / Ditch	Dark grey, dark greyish-brown surface	-	1	-	1	5	-	-	C2/C3
804 / 803 / Ditch	Shell gritted, dark brown	2	-	-	2	27	12	JSQ	C2/C3
	Grey	1	2	-	3	56	10	J/BCR	C2/C3
	Reddish-brown, grey core, dark grey surface	-	1	-	1	12	-	-	C2/C3
	LNVC	-	3	1	4	44	-	BKR	LC2/C3
807 / 805 / Ditch	Grog tempered, brown, grey core	1	4	-	5	41	11	JCR	LIA/C1
	Grog tempered, reddish-brown, grey core	-	2	-	2	4	-	-	LIA/C1
905 / 904 / Ditch	Shell gritted, brown, grey core	-	3	-	3	13	-	-	M/LIA?
1004 / 1003 / Ditch	Brownish-grey	-	1	-	1	4	-	-	C2/C3
1010 /	Hard buff grog	-	1	-	1	8	-	-	LC1/C2
1009 /	Grey	-	9	-	9	40	-	-	C2/C3
Ditch	Cream, grey core, ? Ver	-	1	-	1	30	-	-	LC1/C2

APPENDIX 3: GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS by John Walford

The original geophysical survey report was prepared before the trial trenching results became available, and took no account of the distinct archaeological earthworks on the site. Consequently, it has been thought worthwhile to re-consider the survey results in the light of these additional strands of information. This re-consideration has been based on the 'minimally' processed data plots presented in the Stratascan report, as neither the data files themselves nor an image of the fully processed data were available to MOLA. This has limited the scope for re-interpretation in the following ways:

- It is hard to investigate the amplitude of individual anomalies, although some indication is provided by the presentation of the data at different display ranges in the survey report;
- It is difficult to assess whether any east-west aligned linear anomalies have been subdued or removed by the destriping process or processes applied to the data;
- The 'minimally' processed data is disfigured by un-processed stagger, so that some anomalies appear distorted or even fragmented in the available data plots.

Generally speaking, the survey report tends towards caution in its interpretation of the data, but the trenching results and earthworks now show much that had been described as 'possible' archaeology can be regarded as probable or certain. Furthermore, there must now be a suspicion that some of the other anomalies in the centre and east of the field, which were disregarded or attributed to non archaeological causes, should be considered as possible archaeology.



MOLA
Bolton House
Wootton Hall Park
Northampton
NN4 8BN
01604 809 800
www.mola.org.uk
sparry@mola.org.uk