



**Archaeological trial trench evaluation
on land at Station Road
Ibstock, Leicestershire
May 2016**

Planning Ref: 13/00908/OUTM

Report No. 16/91

Author: Chris Chinnock

Illustrators: Joanne Clawley
Olly Dindol



MOLA Northampton 2016
Project Manager: Anthony Maull
Site Code: X.A37.2014
NGR: SK 402 100

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molarnort1 - 253199	
Project name	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Station Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire		
Short description (250 words maximum)	MOLA Northampton, commissioned by Kier Living, carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Station Road, Ibstock prior to the proposed residential development of the site. Fifteen trenches were excavated, to investigate features identified in the geophysical survey results. Archaeological features were largely limited to the southern and western parts of the development area and comprised linear ditches, broadly dated to the Iron Age/Roman period, and further undated features. Furrows indicative of ridge and furrow cultivation were present in some of the trenches.		
Project type (eg DBA, evaluation etc)	Evaluation		
Site status	None		
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	Geophysical survey (Meadows, Hewitt and Clements 2014), Desk-based Assessment (Chapman 2013)		
Current Land use	Pasture		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type/ period	Iron Age/ Roman ditches and pits and medieval ridge and furrow		
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	Iron Age and Roman pottery		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Leicestershire		
Site address	Land at Station Road, Ibstock		
Study area (sq.m or ha)	6.65ha		
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	SK 402 100		
Height OD	c 130m above Ordnance Datum		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Chris Chinnock (MOLA)		
Project Manager	Anthony Maull (MOLA)		
Sponsor or funding body	Kier Living		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date/End date	25/04/2016 - 16/05/2016		
ARCHIVES		Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums X.A37.2014	Pottery animal bone and other finds	
Paper		Site records	
Digital		Mapinfo plans, Word report	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)			
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Station Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire, May 2016		
Serial title & volume	16/91		
Author(s)	Chris Chinnock		
Page numbers	39		
Date	26/05/16, revised 24/06/2016		

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Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Station Road Ibstock, Leicestershire May 2016

Abstract

MOLA Northampton, commissioned by Kier Living, carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Station Road, Ibstock prior to the proposed residential development of the site. Fifteen trenches were excavated to investigate features identified in the geophysical survey results. Archaeological features were largely limited to the southern and western parts of the development area and comprised linear ditches, broadly dated to the Iron Age/Roman period, and further undated features. Furrows indicative of ridge and furrow cultivation were present in some of the trenches.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA was commissioned by Kier Living to undertake archaeological trial trenching on land at Station Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire (NGR SK 402 100, Fig 1). The works were required in response to a planning application for residential development and associated infrastructure (Planning Ref: 13/00908/OUTM), in line with *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

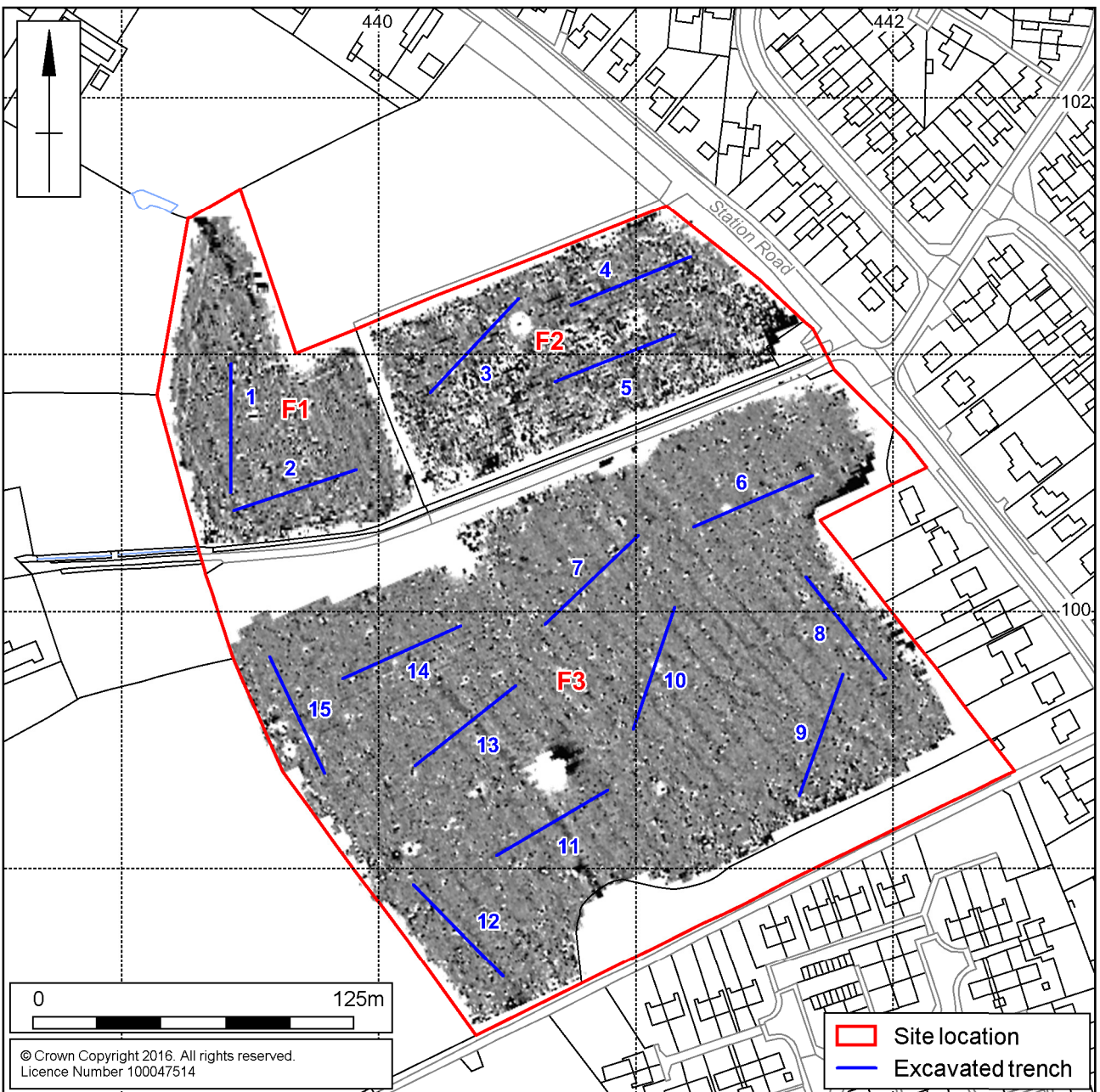
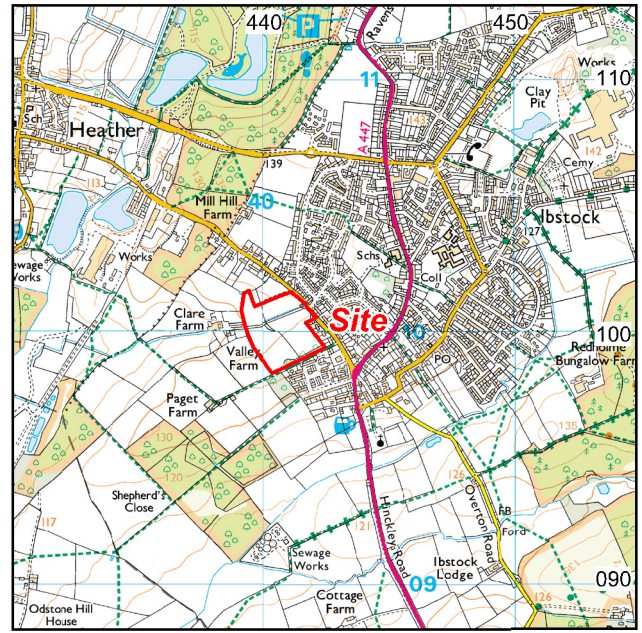
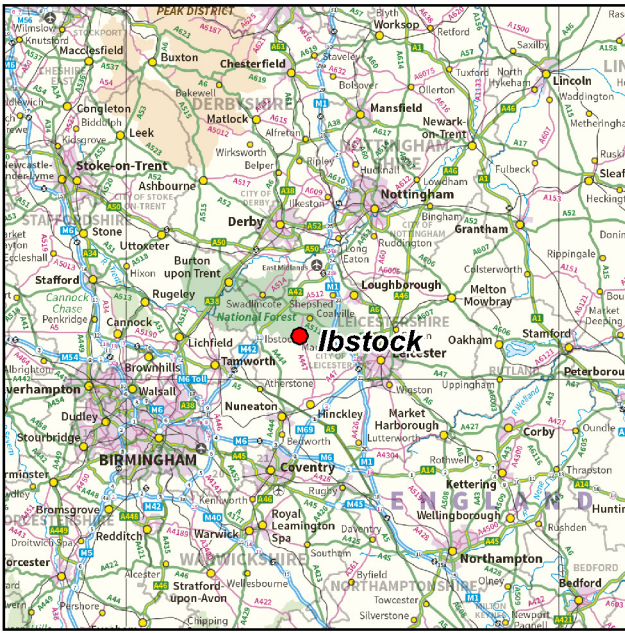
The Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council (LCC) had advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to determine the nature and extent of any archaeological remains within the development area. The requirements were outlined in a Brief prepared by LCC and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by MOLA Northampton (MOLA 2015b).

The evaluation conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with Historic England, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (HE 2015).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

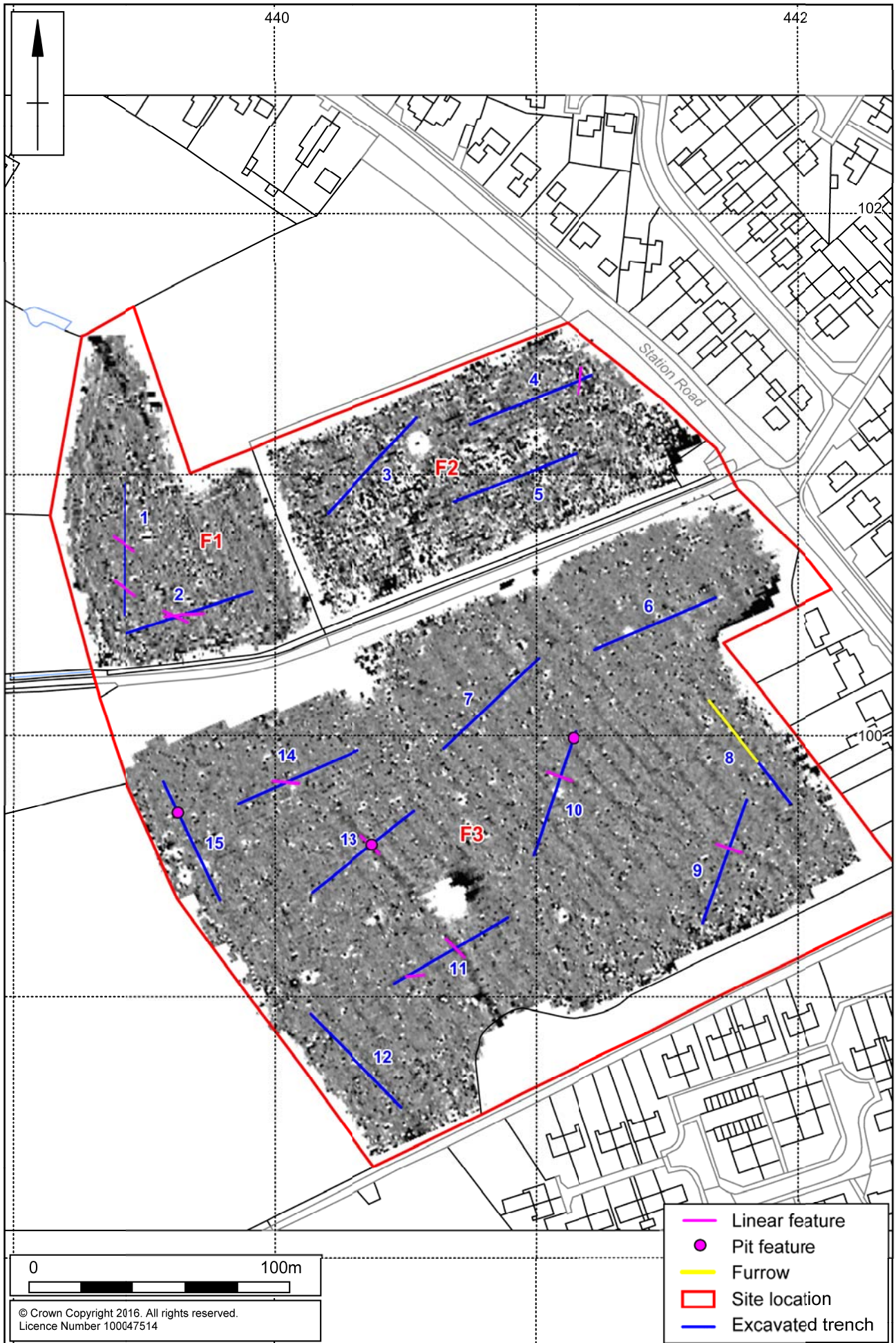
The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be impacted upon by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially at risk were studied. The trenching specifically aimed to examine:

- the date, nature, significance and extent of activity or occupation in the development site;



Scale 1:2500

Site location and excavated trenches Fig 1



Scale 1:2000

Excavated trenches with archaeological features shown Fig 2

- the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- the impact of the proposed works upon any surviving archaeological remains;
- and to inform any future excavation, mitigation and/or preservation *in-situ* strategy.

Specific research objectives were drawn from national and regional research frameworks documents (EH 1991; Knight *et al* 2012) as relevant depending upon the results of the evaluation.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Topography and geology

The proposed development site comprises three agricultural fields totalling 6.65ha in size on the south-western edge of Ibstock, c.800m from the town centre (Fig 1). The development area is bounded to the east by Station Road, residential housing to the south and pasture fields to the north and west. The site slopes westwards from Station Road and rises to the south towards the copse at the southern boundary. The site also rises at the northern boundary towards the allotment gardens, at a height of c.130m aOD. There is a small fenced-off sewage pumping station just north of the entrance to the fields.

The bedrock geology of the site comprises undifferentiated Triassic rocks of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone. The drift geology is on the border between glacial sands and gravels and Diamicton Till (BGS 2016). The soils are identified as freely draining slightly acid loamy soils (Landis 2014).

3.2 Historical and archaeological background

A desk-based assessment was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2013 (Chapman 2013). This concluded that the archaeological potential of the site was limited. The following historical background is summarised from that document.

No intrusive archaeological work has been undertaken within or in the immediate vicinity of the development area. A magnetometer survey was conducted in 2010 by Northamptonshire Archaeology, 900m north-east of the site, which detected a single pit and some very slight traces of ridge and furrow cultivation (Butler 2010). Subsequent trial trenching by ULAS (University of Leicester Archaeological Services) in the same area revealed a series of linear features and gullies, which were probably modern since brick/tile and earthenware were recovered, as well as undated pits (Jarvis 2010).

Evidence of prehistoric activity has been identified north-east and c.1km south-east of the development area by fieldwalking surveys which recovered a few worked flints. A desk-based assessment of land north of Ashby Road, c.900m north-east, noted the potential for further prehistoric activity. It also indicated the potential for Roman activity in the area. The Portable Antiquities Scheme holds the records for three metal finds found in the area of the excavation. These include two Iron Age stater coins of the Corieltavi tribe, one copper alloy (CCI-20503) and one gold (CCI-971057) found in 1997 within Field 3, as well as a lead weight, possibly Roman, found to the north (LEIC-FBE1A6).

The development area is outside the medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Ibstock. Other evidence of medieval activity has been identified by fieldwalking surveys south-east and north-east of the development area, during which several sherds of medieval pottery were recovered.

A geophysical survey was undertaken in 2014 by MOLA Northampton (Meadows, Hewitt and Clements 2014). The survey identified two anomalies of possible archaeological origin. An anomaly aligned west-north-west possibly represents a ditch segment. Remnant furrows of medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, on a north-west to south-east alignment, have been detected in the south and western fields. One of the furrows appears magnetically stronger than the surrounding furrows which may indicate a ditch on a similar alignment. A dense spread of magnetic anomalies across the north-east field are caused by ferrous debris within the topsoil. These are likely to be debris from the allotments in the field. A negative anomaly along the north-west edge is likely a modern feature indicating the edge of ploughing when the field was under arable use. Other scattered, isolated magnetic anomalies across the survey area indicate ferrous objects within the topsoil.

4 METHODOLOGY

Fifteen trenches were excavated, across three fields, using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket (Fig 2). Trenches were positioned in order to give a representative distribution across the development area whilst also investigating anomalies identified in the geophysical survey (Fig 2, Meadows, Hewitt and Clements 2014). Trenches were 50m long and 1.8m wide. Trench 1 was shortened and shifted slightly to the south to accommodate a new access road to the farm (Fig 2). The topsoil and subsoil were removed under archaeological direction to reveal natural substrate or the archaeological horizon, whichever appeared first, and were stacked separately at the side of the trench. All procedures complied with *MOLA Health and Safety provisions* and *MOLA Health and Safety at Work Guidelines* (MOLA 2015a).

All trench locations were recorded using Leica Viva Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of $\pm 0.05\text{m}$. The field data from the evaluation has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing. This will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums, following county guidelines (LCC 2013) under accession number X.A37.2014.

All archaeological deposits and artefacts encountered during the course of evaluation were fully recorded. Recording followed standard fieldwork procedures (MOLA 2014). All archaeological features were given a separate context number. Deposits were described on pro-forma context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds.

Archaeological features were plotted on trench plans at a scale of 1:50. Sections or profiles through features and areas of complex stratigraphy were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. All levels were related to Ordnance Datum.

A photographic record was maintained by high resolution digital photography exceeding 12 megapixels, and monochrome negatives. Overall shots of the site were taken prior to excavation and after backfilling. Overall shots of each trench were taken together with detailed shots of individual features and feature groups as

appropriate. All photographs, except general site shots or specific shots for publication include a suitable photographic scale.

The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

Following approval trenches were backfilled with their up-cast material and compacted by the mechanical excavator.

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

5.1 General stratigraphy

The varied topography across the three fields within the development area meant that the general stratigraphic sequence across the site differed between the higher ground to the north and south and the lower ground in the central part of the area. A summary of the depths of overburden is given in Table 1 (p19) below, and a full description of the soil horizons and depths in each trench is given in Appendix 1.

The natural substrate remained largely consistent across the development area. The natural was described as mid-light orange-yellow sand with frequent patches and linear bands of mid yellow-brown silty sand and gravels. Mottled red-brown sand was also noted throughout most all of the trenches. Those trenches at the northern edge of Field 3 were much sandier with less gravel present.

At the southern end of Trench 1 and the south-western end of Trench 2 and area of light grey sandy clay was present (Fig 4). Machine sondages were excavated in both trenches and the layer was found to merge with natural material described elsewhere across the site. It has therefore been described as geological rather than archaeological in origin.

Further sondages were excavated in a number of other trenches in order to test the level of the natural substrate and identify areas which needed to be investigated further (see trench plans in Figs 13, 14 and 15).



Trench 1, looking north and Trench 2, looking north-east Fig 3

Subsoil was recorded as mid grey-brown to mid red-brown sandy loam with frequent small to medium sub-rounded stones throughout and was between 0.07m and 0.45m thick.

A secondary subsoil deposit was recorded in Field 1 in the southern half of Trench 1 and the south-western end of Trench 2; Field 2 at the south-western end of Trench 5;

and Field 3 throughout trenches 7, 10 and 13-15. This comprised mid red-brown to mid brown sandy loam with frequent small sub-rounded stones throughout. This subsoil ranged between 0.25 - 0.80m thick. The medieval furrows were thought to cut this subsoil, but they were not clearly observed in the trenches.



Trench 14, topsoil and subsoils, looking north-west Fig 4

Topsoil was recorded as dark grey-brown sandy loam with frequent sub-rounded stones throughout and was between 0.10m and 0.50m thick. The topsoil in Field 2 had fragments of brick and other modern material throughout, which likely relate to the allotments adjacent to the northern edge of the area.

5.2 The archaeological features

A number of undated features were identified during the course of the evaluation. Upon excavation some resolved to be of geological origin or likely animal/vegetative disturbance, others are of clear archaeological interest.

Trench 1

Two narrow linear gullies, aligned north-west to south-east, were present in the northern half of the trench (Fig 13). Gully [105] was 0.50m wide and 0.38m deep with an irregular V-shaped profile (Fig 11: Section 8). The fill, (104), comprised friable mid-light grey-orange sand with occasional small rounded stone inclusions and rooting throughout. Gully [107] was 1.00m wide and 0.35m deep with a broad U-shaped profile and concave base (Fig 11: Section 9). The fill, (106), comprised friable mid grey-brown sandy clay with frequent small rounded stone inclusions and rooting throughout. The two gullies cut the lower subsoil in this trench and were sealed by the secondary subsoil. This stratigraphy, combined with the mixed and rooty fill, may indicate that these two gullies were not contemporary with the prehistoric features identified in Field 3, but instead may be later agricultural drainage post-dating the ridge and furrow cultivation of the area.

Trench 2

Gully [205], aligned north-west to south-east in the central part of the trench, was 0.45m wide and 0.12m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile and concave base (Figs 5, 11: Section 5, and 13). The fill, (204), comprised friable light grey-brown sandy clay with frequent small sub-rounded stones throughout. The gully was on a similar alignment to those present in Trench 1 and may be contemporary. No dating evidence was recovered from the fill.



Trench 2, gully [205], looking north-west Fig 5

Ditch [209], aligned north-west to south-east, was 1.00m wide and 0.38m deep with a V-shaped profile and asymmetrical uneven base (Figs 11: Section 7, and 13). The fill, (208), comprised friable mid-light grey-brown sandy clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones throughout. No finds were recovered from the fill.

Gully [207], aligned west-north-west to east-south-east, cut across the top of ditch [209] and appeared to terminate just beyond the eastern edge of the earlier ditch (Fig 13). The gully was 0.60m wide and 0.19m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile and concave base (Fig 11: Section 6). The fill, (206), comprised friable mid-dark grey-brown sandy clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones throughout. No finds were recovered from the fill.

Trenches 3, 4 and 5

Trenches 3 and 5 contained no archaeological features. A description of the soil horizons and depths can be found in Appendix 1. Trench 4 contained a single linear feature, 1.05m wide by 0.10m deep, aligned north-east by south-west [405]. The very shallow U-shaped profile with flattened base is reminiscent of a cultivation furrow, but given the absence of other furrow-like features being in Field 2, it is more likely to have been a shallow drainage or boundary ditch. It cut through the subsoil, so was of relatively modern date (Figs 6 and 13).



Trench 4, shallow ditch [405], looking north-east Fig 6

Trenches 9 and 10

Large ditch [905], aligned south-east to north-west, was 2.5m wide and 0.9m deep with a U-shaped profile (Figs 7; 11: Section 10; and 14). The ditch was also present in Trench 10, [1008], though it was not excavated in that trench. Fills (907) and (908) comprised mid orange-brown/red-brown sand with frequent small sub-rounded stones throughout and represent the rapid consolidation of the loose edges of the ditch immediately after excavation. Two upper fills, (904) and (906), reflect the more gradual accumulation of soil through natural processes during the period of use and disuse of the ditch. A small abraded fragment of pottery recovered from the upper fill has been broadly dated to the Iron Age period.



Trench 9, ditch [905], looking north-west Fig 7

An irregularly-shaped patch of mid brown silty sand and gravel was investigated immediately to the south-east of ditch [905] in Trench 9 (Fig 14). Upon excavation it became clear, on account of the irregularity of the feature and homogeneity of the fill, that it was not of archaeological origin. No finds were recovered from the feature. It is likely that it is a result of animal or vegetative disturbance along the edge of the boundary ditch.

Two further features were investigated in Trench 10, a possible small pit at the north-eastern end and a possible linear feature at the south-western end (Fig 14). Upon excavation the linear feature had an extremely irregular profile and was found to be geological banding similar to that noted throughout several of the other trenches. The possible pit, [1006], was sub-circular in plan, 0.60m in diameter and 0.23m deep with steep sloping sides to a flat base (Fig 11: Section 13). The fills, (1004) and (1006) comprised mid-dark yellow-brown sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones throughout. The feature has been described as of possible archaeological origin due to its regularity in plan though the irregularity of the profile and ephemeral edges suggest it may be geological or attributed to root disturbance. No finds were recovered from the fill.

Trenches 11, 12, 13 and 14

Trench 12 was blank, containing no archaeological features.

A narrow linear gully [1107], aligned east to west, was present at the south-western end of Trench 11 where it appeared to terminate (Fig 15). The gully was 0.53m wide and 0.20m deep with an asymmetric U-shaped profile (Fig 11: Section 4). The fill, (806), comprised friable mid-dark brown silty sand with frequent small sub-rounded stones throughout. No finds were recovered from the fill.

A large boundary ditch, aligned north-north-east to south-south-west, was present in Trenches 11, 13 and 14 (Figs 9 and 15). Where the ditch appeared in Trench 14, the south-western edge was irregular and may reflect another feature or a diversion of the course of the ditch. Unfortunately, the depth of the trench precluded any further investigation at this time. The ditch was excavated in Trench 11 [1105] where it was 3.80m wide and 1.00m deep with a broad U-shaped profile, eroded upper edges and a concave base (Figs 9 and 11: Section 3). The fills comprised a primary consolidation deposit, (1109), of mid red-brown sand and gravel; gradually accumulated material, (1108), described as mid brown silty sand with frequent small stone inclusions throughout; and an upper sag fill, (1104), which comprised dark brown silty sand with frequent small stone inclusions throughout. A single abraded sherd of pottery was recovered from fill (1108) and has been tentatively dated to the Roman period.



Trench 11, ditch [1105], looking north-west Fig 8

Pit [1305], partially visible at the north-western edge of Trench 13, was approximately 2m in diameter and 0.40m deep with sloping sides and concave base (Figs 9; 12 Section 13; and 15). The fill comprised friable dark brown silty sand with frequent small sub-rounded stones throughout. Three fist-sized heat-affected cobbles were present in the fill though no other finds were recovered. Whilst the relationship was not clear, following excavation the pit was interpreted as cutting the eastern edge of the large boundary ditch present in Trenches 11, 13 and 14 (Fig 15).



Trench 13, pit [1305] and ditch [1308], looking south Fig 9

Trench 15

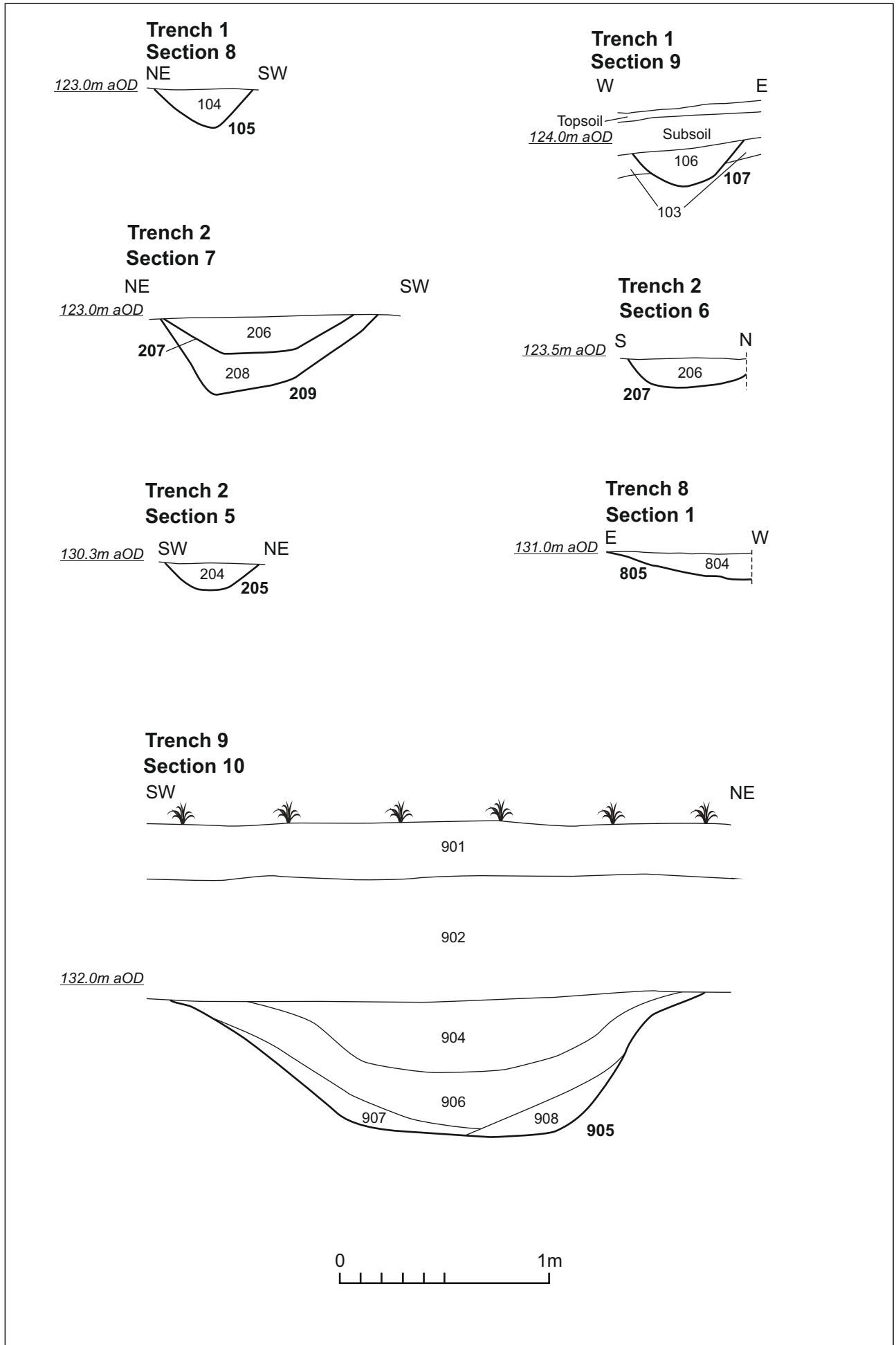
Two features were investigated at the north-western end of Trench 15 (Fig 15). Feature [1507] was determined to be root disturbance on account of its irregularity in profile. Circular feature [1505] was described as a possible pit and was 0.55m in diameter and 0.10m deep with sloping sides to a flat base (Fig 10 and 11). The fill comprised friable mid-light orange-brown sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones throughout. No finds were recovered from either of the features in this trench.



Trench 15, possible pit [1505], looking east Fig 10

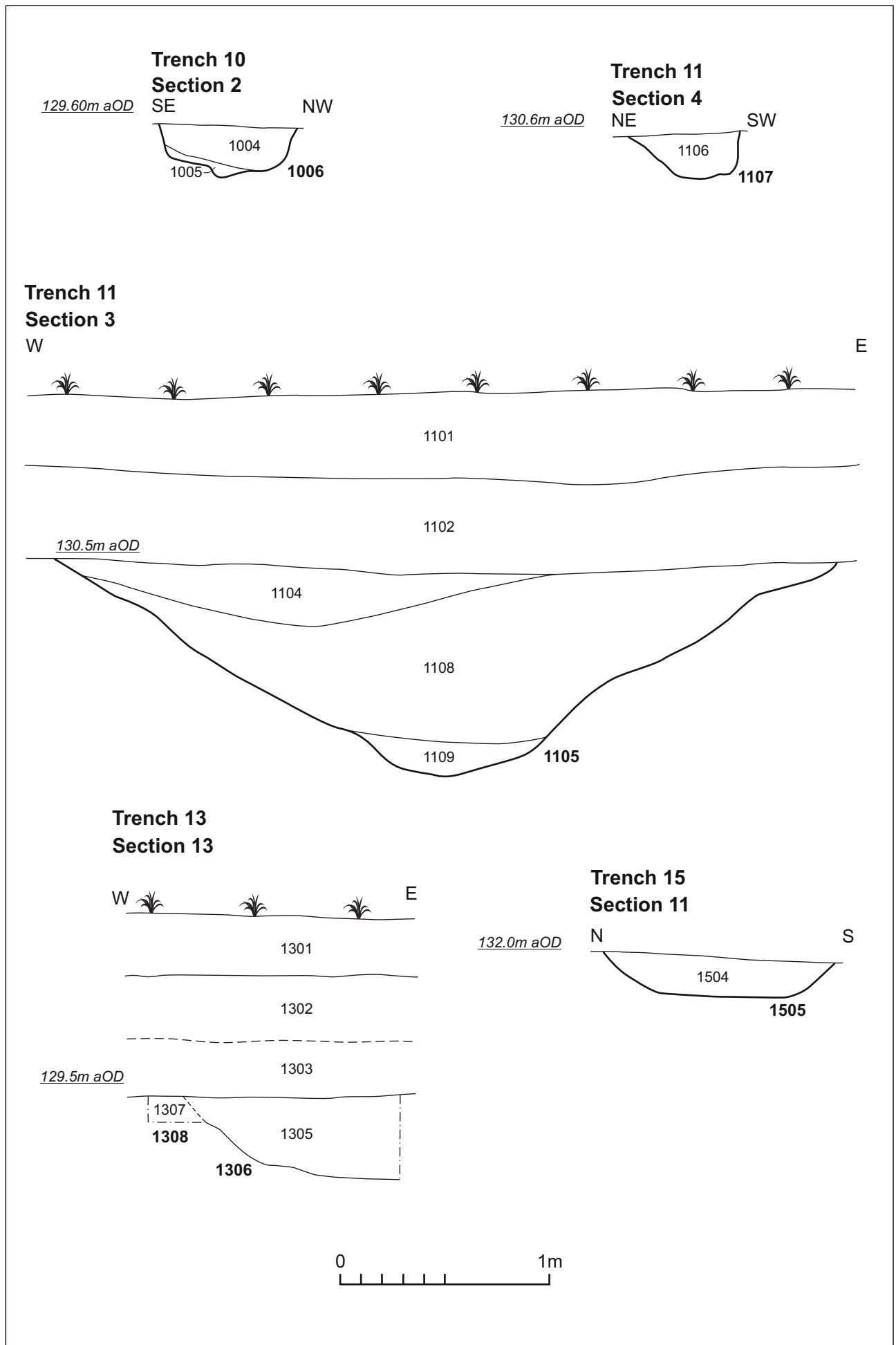
Other features

Whilst ridge and furrow cultivation was evident in the geophysical data across much of Field 3, remnant furrows were present in only a few of the excavated trenches. Furrows were only observed to cut the natural substrate in trenches 4, 8 and 11, examples were excavated in Trench 4 and 8 and were described as irregular shallow linear features with flat bases (Fig 11: Section 1). The fills were described as firm dark yellow-brown sandy loam with frequent small rounded stones throughout. The depth of the subsoil material recorded across much of the area may account for the absence of remnant furrows in the majority of the trenches.



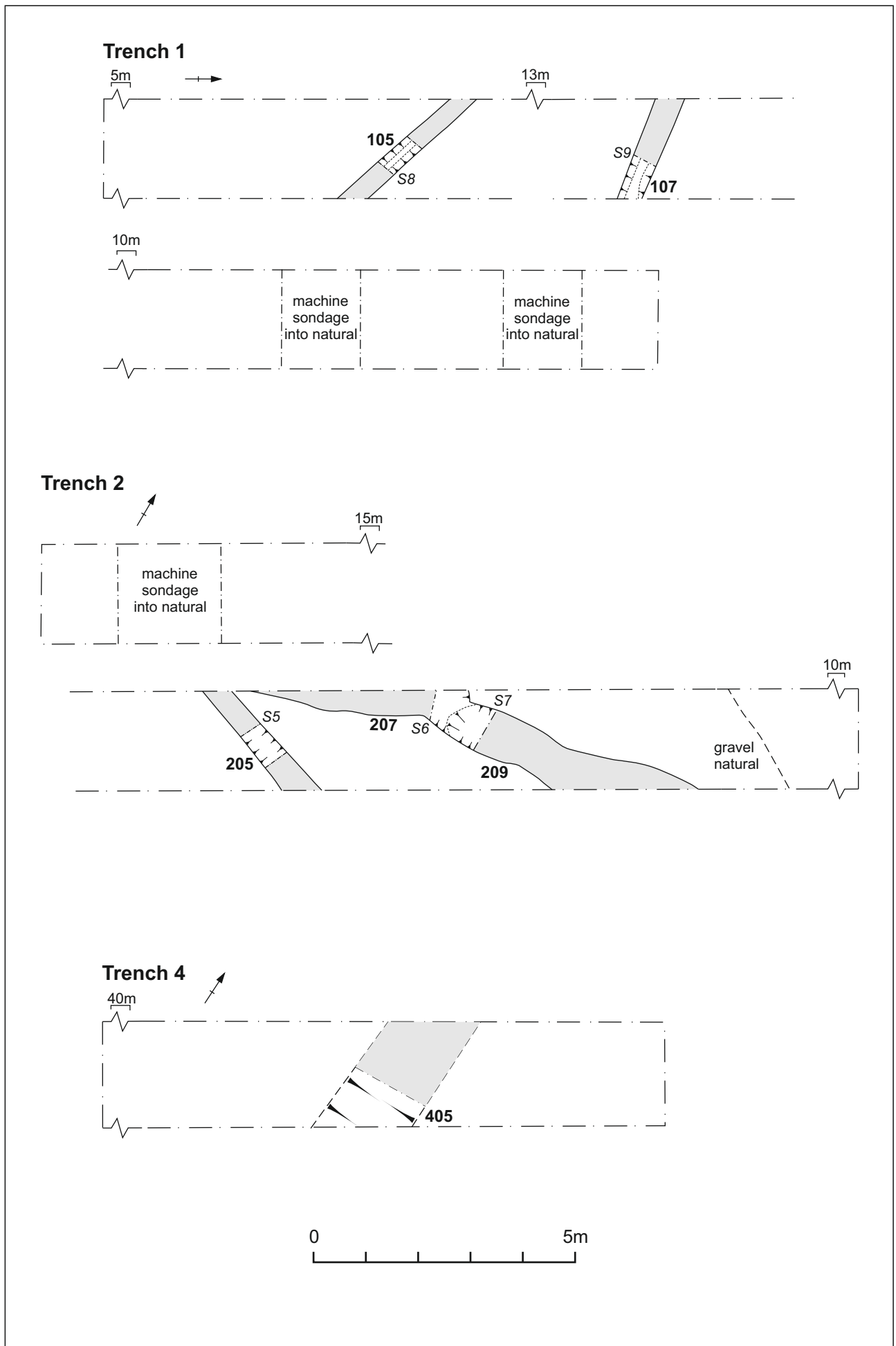
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Sections of features in trenches 1, 2, 8 and 9 Fig 11



Scale 1:25

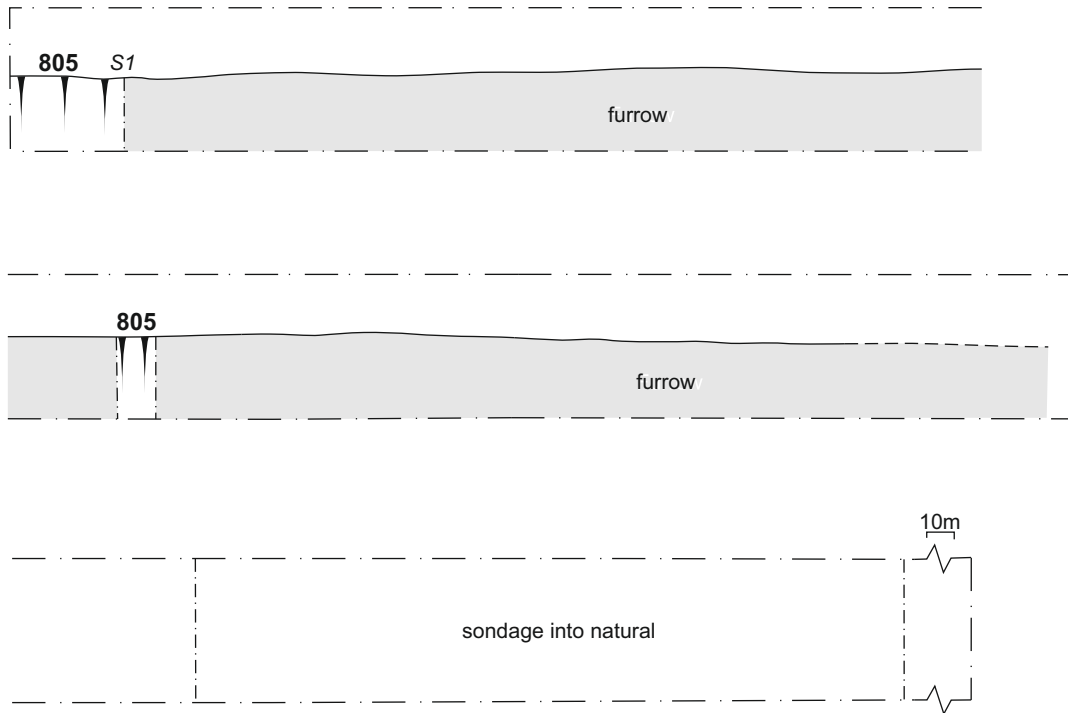
Sections of features in trenches 10, 11, 13 and 15 Fig 12



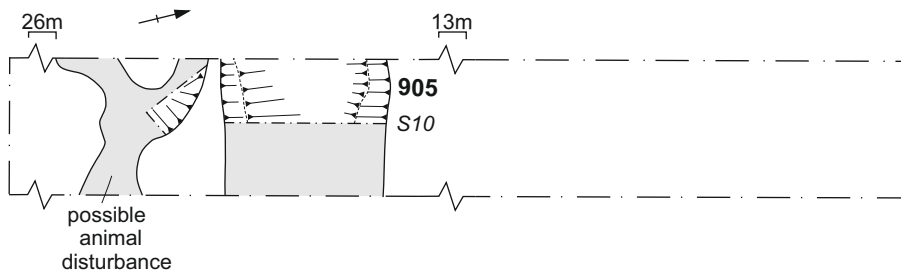
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Plans of trenches 1,2 and 4 Fig 13

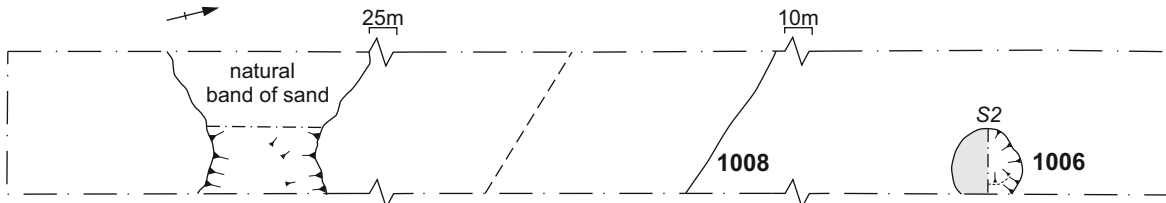
Trench 8

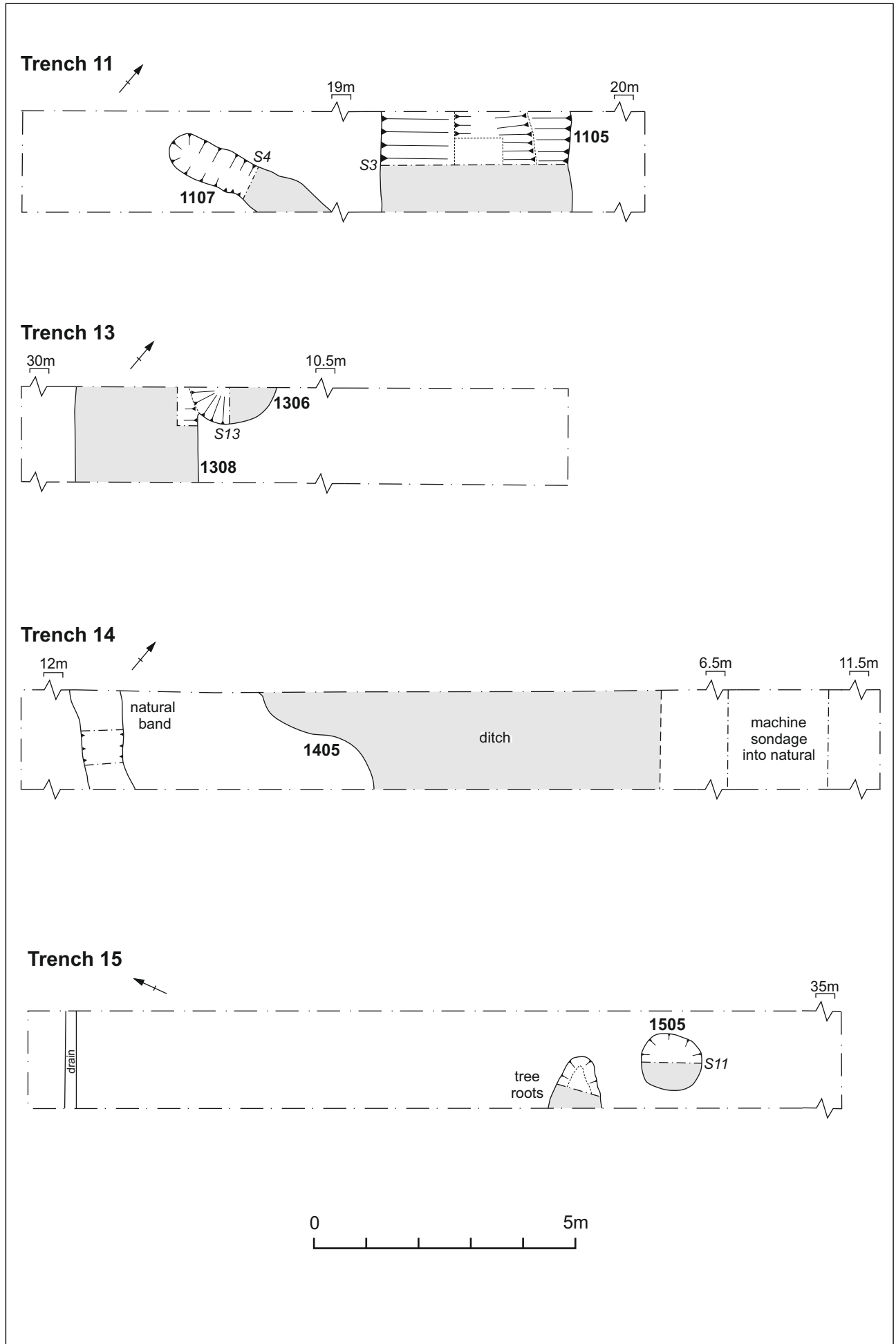


Trench 9



Trench 10





Scale 1:100

Plans of trenches 11 and 13-15 Fig 15

Table 1: Depths of overburden in each trench

Context	Direction	Depths at 10m	Depths at 20m	Depths at 30m	Depths at 40m
101	S – N	0.30	0.20	0.30	0.30
108		0.20	0.30	-	-
102		0.40	0.40	0.30	-
103		0.90	0.80	0.60	0.30
201	SW – NE	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.10
202		0.40	0.40	0.45	0.30
203		0.50	0.45	0.65	0.40
301	SW – NE	0.23	0.27	0.26	-
302		-	0.07	0.13	-
303		0.35	0.38	0.41	-
401	W – E	0.25	0.29	0.27	-
402		0.12	0.15	0.14	-
403		0.39	0.49	0.44	-
501	W – E	0.25	0.25	0.33	-
502		0.30	0.20	0.10	-
503		0.85	0.45	0.43	-
504		0.30	-	-	-
601	W – E	0.35	0.30	0.30	-
602		0.30	0.25	0.29	-
603		0.70	0.60	0.60	-
701	NE - SW	0.10	0.20	0.15	0.20
702		0.20	0.20	0.10	0.20
703		0.30	0.20	0.50	0.50
704		0.60	0.70	0.75	0.90
801	N - S	0.30	0.30	0.40	-
802		0.15	0.35	0.40	-
803		0.50	0.70	0.85	-
901	NE - SW	0.35	0.16	0.40	-
902		0.25	0.54	0.35	-
903		0.65	0.70	0.80	-
1001	NE - SW	0.10	0.20	0.15	0.10
1002		0.20	0.20	0.15	0.10
1003		0.50	0.40	0.30	0.40
1009		0.80	0.80	0.60	0.60
1101	NE - SW	0.30	0.30	0.30	-
1102		0.30	0.40	0.40	-
1103		0.70	0.80	0.80	-
1201	NW - SE	0.35	0.30	0.30	-

Context	Direction	Depths at 10m	Depths at 20m	Depths at 30m	Depths at 40m
1202		0.40	0.25	0.25	-
1203		0.80	0.60	0.60	-
1301	SW - NE	0.15	0.10	0.15	0.10
1302		0.15	0.20	0.10	0.20
1303		0.40	0.40	0.50	0.40
1304		0.70	0.70	0.75	0.70
1401	W - E	-	0.30	-	-
1402		-	0.30	-	-
1403		-	0.80	-	-
1406		-	1.40	1.40	1.00
1501	S - N	-	0.20	0.15	0.20
1502		-	0.20	0.15	0.15
1503		-	0.70	0.60	0.45
1506		-	1.10	0.90	0.80

6 POTTERY by Andy Chapman

Two contexts produced two abraded small sherds of pottery.

In Trench 9, the fill (904) of ditch [905] contained a small sherd, weighing 3g, grey-black throughout, 8mm thick, in a fine sandy fabric with inclusions of small rounded quartz. This sherd may date to the Iron Age.

In Trench 11, the fill (1108) of ditch [1105] contained a single sherd weighing 10g, in a hard-fired light grey coarse sandy fabric containing dense shell inclusions and the occasion piece of rounded quartz measuring 1-8mm. This sherd may be of Roman or later date.

7 DISCUSSION

The results of the evaluation have confirmed the presence of archaeological features first identified in the geophysical data (Meadows, Hewitt and Clements 2014). In addition to the two boundary ditches in Field 3 several other features were investigated across the development area, which had not been identified in the geophysical data.

Field 1 contained a number of narrow gullies which cut through the lower subsoil and are likely to post-date the other archaeological remains, although no dating evidence was recovered to confirm this. These gullies may form part of an agricultural drainage system. A ditch and gully in Trench 2 may be of more interest as they are not on the same alignment as the identified ridge and furrow or the aforementioned gullies though, again, no dating evidence was recovered from the fill of these features.

Field 2 was largely devoid of any archaeological remains. A single furrow was identified in the north-east corner of the field and the edge of the b secondary subsoil was identified in the lowest part of the field in the south-west corner.

Field 3 contained the majority of the archaeological features. Two large boundary ditches, identified in the geophysical data, were present on two very different alignments. Two sherds of abraded pottery were recovered from the upper fill of both ditches and has been broadly dated to the Iron Age and Roman period. The poor condition of the pottery and the small number of sherds preclude any confident dating of the relevant features on the basis of the pottery alone. Overall the composition of the ditch fills and the dearth of material culture suggests that settlement activity was not present in the immediate vicinity and these features reflect linear boundaries associated with land division during the Iron Age period. The gradually accumulated fills present in both of the boundary ditches as well as the eroded upper edges suggest that the ditches were open for an extended period of time and left to fall into disrepair until later re-purposing of the land levelled the ground surface and backfilled what remained of the boundaries.

A single pit excavated at the edge of one of the boundary ditches contained some heat affected stones though no other evidence for burnt material was found in the pit or the ditch and they are clearly a secondary deposit. The relationship between the pit and the ditch was not clear due to the similarity of the fills though it was tentatively suggested by the excavator that the pit was the later feature. A number of other features were excavated throughout the field and recorded as possible archaeological features, others were investigated and determined to largely reflect geological variation

Furrows associated with medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were only observed to cut the natural substrate at the highest points of the landscape and were otherwise assumed to have not penetrated the thick layer of subsoil present across much of the site, particularly in Field 3.

The only pertinent research objective from the updated research agenda for the East Midlands, for the Iron Age period, addressed by the evaluation is Research Objective 4F: *Investigate intra-regional variations in the development of fields and linear boundary systems* (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012). Application of the evidence from the evaluation to this objective is hampered by the paucity of dating evidence from the features and the lack of intrusive archaeological work in the immediate vicinity. Nevertheless, these results add to the corpus of data for the period and may be useful for further research of the regional Iron Age landscape.

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APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
1	50m x 1.8m N-S		N = 125.29m	0.70m 124.59m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
(101)	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown sandy clay with occasional small-medium rounded gravel and charcoal flecks throughout.	0.20 - 0.30m thick	-
(102)	Subsoil	Mid-light red-brown sand with frequent small sub-rounded pebbles throughout.	0.20m thick	-
(103)	Natural	Light orange sand with bands of red brown sand and gravels throughout.	-	-
(104)	Fill of [105]	Friable mid-light mixed grey-orange sand with occasional small rounded stones and rooting throughout.	W = 0.50m D = 0.38m	-
[105]	Ditch	Linear feature with irregular profile and concave base.	W = 0.50m D = 0.38m	-
(106)	Fill of [107]	Friable mid-dark grey-brown sandy clay with occasional rooting and small rounded stones throughout.	W = 1.00m D = 0.35m	-
[107]	Ditch	Linear ditch with U-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 1.00m D = 0.35m	-
(108)	Secondary subsoil	Mid-light grey-brown silty sandy clay.	0.30 - 0.40m thick	-



Trench 1 overview, looking north Fig 16

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
2	50m x 1.8m SW-NE		SW = 122.40m	0.40-0.65m 122-121.75m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
(201)	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey sandy clay with occasional small rounded stones throughout.	0.10 - 0.20m thick	-
(202)	Secondary subsoil	Mid-light red-brown sand with frequent sub-rounded pebbles.	0.30 - 0.45m thick	-
(203)	Natural	Mid-light orange sand and gravel.	-	-
(204)	Fill of [205]	Friable light grey-brown sandy clay with frequent small rounded stones throughout.	W = 0.45m D = 0.12m	-

[205]	Gully	Linear narrow gully with U-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 0.45m D = 0.12m	-
(206)	Fill of [209]	Friable mid-dark grey sandy clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones throughout.	W = 0.60m D = 0.19m	-
[207]	Gully	Shallow linear gully with wide U-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 0.60m D = 0.19m	-
(208)	Fill of [209]	Friable light-mid grey brown sandy clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones throughout.	W = 1.00m D = 0.18m	-
[209]	Ditch	Ditch terminal or partially visible pit with V-shaped profile.	W = 1.00m D = 0.18m	-



Trench 2 overview, looking east Fig 17

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
3	50m x 1.8m SW-NE		SW = 127.74m	0.30-0.40m 127.44-127.34m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
(301)	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey sandy loam with frequent small rounded stones throughout.	0.23 - 0.27m thick	-
(302)	Subsoil	Mid brown-red sandy clay with very frequent small sub-rounded stones throughout.	0.07 - 0.13m thick	-
(303)	Natural	Mid-light orange-red sandy clay and gravel with patches/bands of yellow silty sand.	0.04 - 0.12m visible	-



Trench 3 overview, looking north-east Fig 18

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
4	50m x 1.8m SW-NE		NE = 129.41m	0.37 - 0.44m 129.04-128.97m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
(401)	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey sandy loam with frequent small rounded stones throughout.	0.25 - 0.29m thick	-
(402)	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with frequent small-med rounded stones throughout.	0.12 - 0.15m thick	-
(403)	Natural	Mid orange-red sandy clay gravel with occasional patches of yellow-grey sand	0.02 - 0.05m visible	-
(404)	Fill of [409]	Friable mid-dark brown sandy clay with frequent small-medium rounded stones throughout.	W = 1.50m D = 0.10m	-
[405]	Ditch	Linear ditch with irregular wide U-shaped profile and flat base.	W = 1.50m D = 0.10m	-



Trench 4 overview, looking east Fig 19

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
5	50m x 1.8m E-W		SW = 126.76m	0.35-0.93m 126.41-125.83m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
(501)	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey sandy loam with frequent small rounded stones throughout.	0.25 - 0.33m thick	-
(502)	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with frequent small-med rounded stones throughout.	0.10 - 0.30m thick	-
(503)	Natural	Mid orange-red sandy clay gravel with occasional patches of yellow-grey sand	-	-
(504)	Secondary subsoil	Light grey-brown sandy loam with frequent sub-rounded stones throughout. Only present at the western end of the trench.	0.30m thick	-



Trench 5 overview, looking east Fig 20

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
6	50m x 1.8m W-E		E = 129.87m	0.55-0.65m 129.32-129.22m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
(601)	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy loam with frequent small rounded stones throughout.	0.30 - 0.35m thick	-
(602)	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy loam with frequent rounded stones throughout.	0.25 - 0.30m thick	-
(603)	Natural	Mid-light orange-brown sand with frequent patches of gravel.	0.00 - 0.05m visible	-



Trench 6 overview, looking east Fig 21

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
7	50m x 1.8m NE-SW		SW = 128.29m	0.50-0.90m 127.79-127.39m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
(701)	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown sandy loam with occasional small rounded stones throughout.	0.10 - 0.20m thick	-
(702)	Subsoil	Light brown-grey sandy loam with frequent rounded stones throughout.	0.10 - 0.20m thick	-
(703)	Secondary subsoil	Mid light brown-red sand with frequent small rounded stones.	0.30 - 0.50m visible	-
(704)	Natural	Mid orange sand with bands of gravel.	-	-



Trench 7 overview, looking north-east Fig 22

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
8	50m x 1.8m NW-SE		SE = 133.22m	0.45-0.70m 132.77-132.52m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
(801)	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy loam with frequent sub-rounded stones inclusions.	0.30 - 0.40m thick	-
(802)	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy loam with frequent pebble inclusions.	0.15 - 0.30m thick	-
(803)	Natural	Mid orange-brown sand with frequent sub-rounded stone throughout and patches of mid red-brown silty sandy gravels.	0.05m visible	-
(804)	Fill of [805]	Firm dark yellow-brown sandy loam with frequent small rounded stones throughout.	W = 0.70m D = 0.12m	-
[805]	Furrow	Linear furrow with wide shallow U-shaped profile and flat base. Appeared intermittently throughout the length of the trench.	W = 0.70m D = 0.12m	-



Trench 8 overview, looking north Fig 23

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
9	50m x 1.8m NE-SW		SW = 132.53m	0.60-0.85m 131.93-131.68m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
(901)	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy loam with frequent sub-rounded stones inclusions.	0.16 - 0.50m thick	-
(902)	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy loam with frequent pebble inclusions.	0.25 - 0.54m thick	-
(903)	Natural	Mid orange brown sand with frequent sub-rounded stone throughout and patches of mid red-brown silty sandy gravels.	0.00 - 0.05m visible	-
(904)	Fill of [905]	Firm dark yellow-brown sandy loam with frequent small rounded stones throughout.	W = 1.60m D = 0.35m	Pottery, Sample#2
[905]	Ditch	Linear ditch with U-shaped profile.	W = 2.50m D = 0.90m	-
(906)	Fill of [905]	Firm dark yellow-brown sandy loam with frequent small-med rounded stones throughout.	W = 2.50m D = 0.30m	-
(907)	Fill of [905]	Firm mid orange-brown sand with rare small stones throughout.	W = 1.24m D = 0.18m	-
(908)	Fill of [905]	Firm red-brown sand with high percentage of small rounded stones throughout.	W = 0.50m D = 0.20m	-



Trench 9 overview, north-east Fig 24

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
10	50m x 1.8m SW-NE		SW = 131.44m	0.50-0.90m 130.94-130.54m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
(1001)	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown sandy loam with frequent small rounded stones throughout.	0.10 - 0.20m thick	-
(1002)	Subsoil	Mid-light grey-brown sandy loam with occasional small rounded stones throughout.	0.10 - 0.20m thick	-
(1003)	Secondary subsoil	Mid-light red-brown sand with occasional small rounded stones throughout.	0.30 - 0.50m visible	-
(1004)	Fill of [1005]	Firm dark yellow-brown sand with occasional small rounded stones throughout.	L = 0.65m W = 0.60m D = 0.20m	-
[1005]	Possible pit	Sub-oval possible pit, edges and base very irregular.	L = 0.65m W = 0.60m D = 0.23m	-
(1006)	Fill of [1005]	Firm mid-light yellow-brown sand.	L = 0.65m W = 0.60m D = 0.23m	-
(1007)	Fill of [1008]	Firm mid yellow-brown sandy loam with frequent small sub-rounded stones throughout.	W = 2.35m	-
[1008]	Ditch	Linear ditch, unexcavated	W = 2.35m	-
(1009)	Natural	Mid-light red-brown sand and yellow-orange sand with bands and patches of gravels throughout.	-	-



Trench 10 overview, looking south-west Fig 25

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
11	50m x 1.8m SW-NE		SW = 131.03m	0.60-0.70m 130.43-130.33m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
(1101)	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy loam with frequent small sub-rounded stones throughout.	0.30m thick	-
(1102)	Subsoil	Dark brown sandy loam with frequent small-med stone inclusions.	0.30 - 0.40m thick	-
(1103)	Natural	Mid-light orange-brown sand with frequent bands and patches of gravel and mottled areas of red-orange sand.	0.10m visible	-
(1104)	Fill of [1105]	Friable dark brown silty sand with frequent small-med sub-rounded stones throughout.	W = 2.40m D = 0.28m	-
[1105]	Ditch	Large linear ditch with U-shaped profile, eroded upper edges and concave base	W = 3.80m D = 1.00m	-
(1106)	Fill of [1107]	Friable mid-dark brown silty sand with frequent small sub-rounded stones throughout.	W = 0.53m D = 0.20m	-
[1107]	Gully	Possible linear gully with irregular profile and base.	W = 0.53m D = 0.20m	-
(1108)	Fill of [1105]	Friable mid brown silty sand with frequent small sub-rounded stones throughout.	W = 3.65m D = 0.80m	Pottery, Sample#1
(1109)	Fill of [1105]	Friable mid brown-yellow silty sand with very high percentage of sub-rounded stone inclusions.	W = 0.82m D = 0.16m	-



Trench 11 overview, looking north-east Fig 26

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
12	50m x 1.8m NW-SE		SE = 131.05m	0.55-0.75m 130.50-130.30m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
(1201)	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy loam with frequent small sub-rounded stones throughout.	0.30 - 0.35m thick	-
(1202)	Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown sandy loam with frequent small-med stone inclusions.	0.25 - 0.40m thick	-
(1203)	Natural	Mixed orange/red-brown sand with frequent stone inclusions.	0.05m visible	-



Trench 12 overview, looking north-west Fig 27

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
13	50m x 1.8m NE-SW		SW = 129.06m	0.60-0.85m 128.46-128.21m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
(1301)	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown sandy loam with frequent small sub-rounded stones throughout.	0.10 - 0.15m thick	-
(1302)	Subsoil	Mid-light grey-brown sandy loam with frequent small-med sub-rounded stones throughout.	0.10 - 0.20m thick	-
(1303)	Secondary subsoil	Mid red-brown sand with frequent sub-rounded stones throughout.	0.40 - 0.50m thick	-
(1304)	Natural	Mixed orange-yellow and red sand with frequent patches/bands of gravel throughout.	-	-
(1305)	Fill of [1306]	Friable dark brown silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions.	W = 1.05m D = 0.40	-
[1306]	Pit	Part of possibly sub-circular pit visible within trench. Wide U-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 1.05m D = 0.40	-
(1307)	Fill of [1308]	Friable dark brown silty sand with frequent small-med sub-rounded stones throughout.	W = 2.40m D = N/A	-
[1308]	Ditch	Large linear ditch. Not excavated	W = 2.40m D = N/A	-



Trench 13 overview, looking west Fig 28

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
14	50m x 1.8m NE-SW		NE = 126.93m	1.40m 125.53m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
(1401)	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown sandy loam with frequent small rounded stones throughout.	0.30m thick	-
(1402)	Subsoil	Mid-light grey sandy loam with occasional small rounded stone inclusions.	0.30m thick	-
(1403)	Secondary subsoil	Mid-light grey-brown sandy loam with occasional small rounded stone inclusions.	0.80m thick	-
(1404)	Fill of [1405]	Friable dark brown silty sand with frequent small-med sub-rounded stones throughout.	W = N/A D = N/A	-
[1405]	Ditch	Large linear ditch. Not excavated	W = N/A D = N/A	-
(1406)	Natural			



Trench 14 overview, looking west Fig 29

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
15	50m x 1.8m NW-SE		NW = 124.27m	0.55-1.10m 123.72-123.17m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
(1501)	Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown sandy loam with frequent small rounded stones throughout.	0.15 - 0.20m thick	-
(1502)	Subsoil	Mid-light grey sandy loam with occasional small rounded stone inclusions.	0.15 - 0.20m thick	-
(1503)	Secondary subsoil	Mid-light grey-brown sandy loam with occasional small rounded stone inclusions.	0.25 - 0.70m thick	-
(1504)	Fill of [1505]	Friable mid-light orange-brown sand with occasional small rounded stones throughout.	W = 0.55m D = 0.10m	-
[1505]	Possible pit	Circular feature with broadly U-shaped profile and concave base	W = 0.55m D = 0.10m	-
(1506)	Natural	Light orange-yellow sand with frequent patches/bands of gravel and red-brown sand.	-	-



Trench 15 overview, looking south-east Fig 30



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