



**Trial trench evaluation  
on land north of Fleckney Road  
Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire  
August 2016**

Report No. 16/176

Author: Chris Chinnock

Illustrator: James Ladocha



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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>OASIS No: molarnort1 - 265162</b>	
Project name	Trial trench evaluation on land north of Fleckney Road, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire		
Short description (250 words maximum)	MOLA Northampton was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land north of Fleckney Road, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire prior to the proposed development of the site. Sixteen trenches were excavated. Ditches, gullies, large pits and a possible trackway, were tentatively dated to the Roman period. Truncated furrows of former ridge and furrow cultivation were present across the site, though in the eastern field they existed as extant earthworks.		
Project type (eg DBA, evaluation etc)	Evaluation		
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)	None		
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	Geophysical surveys (GSB 1999) and (Richardson 2016) Heritage Assessment (JSAC 1999) and (Dawson 2015)		
Current Land use	Pasture		
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Unknown		
Monument type/ period	Largely undated ditches gullies and pits		
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	Very few sherds of Roman pottery and animal bone		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Leicestershire		
Site address (including postcode)	Land north of Fleckney Road, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire		
Study area (sq.m or ha)	c. 9ha		
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	SP 67304 93919		
Height OD	125m above Ordnance Datum		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Senior Planning Archaeologist Leicestershire County Council		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Chris Chinnock		
Project Manager	Antony Maull		
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
Start date/End date	15/08/2016 - 22/08/2016		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>	
Physical	Leicestershire Museums: X.A91.2016	Pottery animal bone and other finds	
Paper	Leicestershire Museums: X.A91.2016	Site file	
Digital	Leicestershire Museums: X.A91.2016	Mapinfo plans, Word report	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>			
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)			
Title	Trial trench evaluation on land north of Fleckney Road, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire August 2016		
Serial title & volume	16/176		
Author(s)	Chris Chinnock		
Page numbers			
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# **Trial trench evaluation on land north of Fleckney Road Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire August 2016**

## **Abstract**

*MOLA was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land north of Fleckney Road, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire prior to the proposed development of the site. Sixteen trenches were excavated. Ditches, gullies, large pits and a possible trackway, were tentatively dated to the Roman period. Truncated furrows of former ridge and furrow cultivation were present across the site, though in the eastern field they existed as extant earthworks.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

CgMs Consulting commissioned MOLA to undertake archaeological trial trenching on the proposed development site on land north of Fleckney Road, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire (NGR SP 67304 93919, Fig 1). The required works were requested by the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council and all works fell in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF; DCLG 2012).

The Senior 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 Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by MOLA (Simmonds 2016).

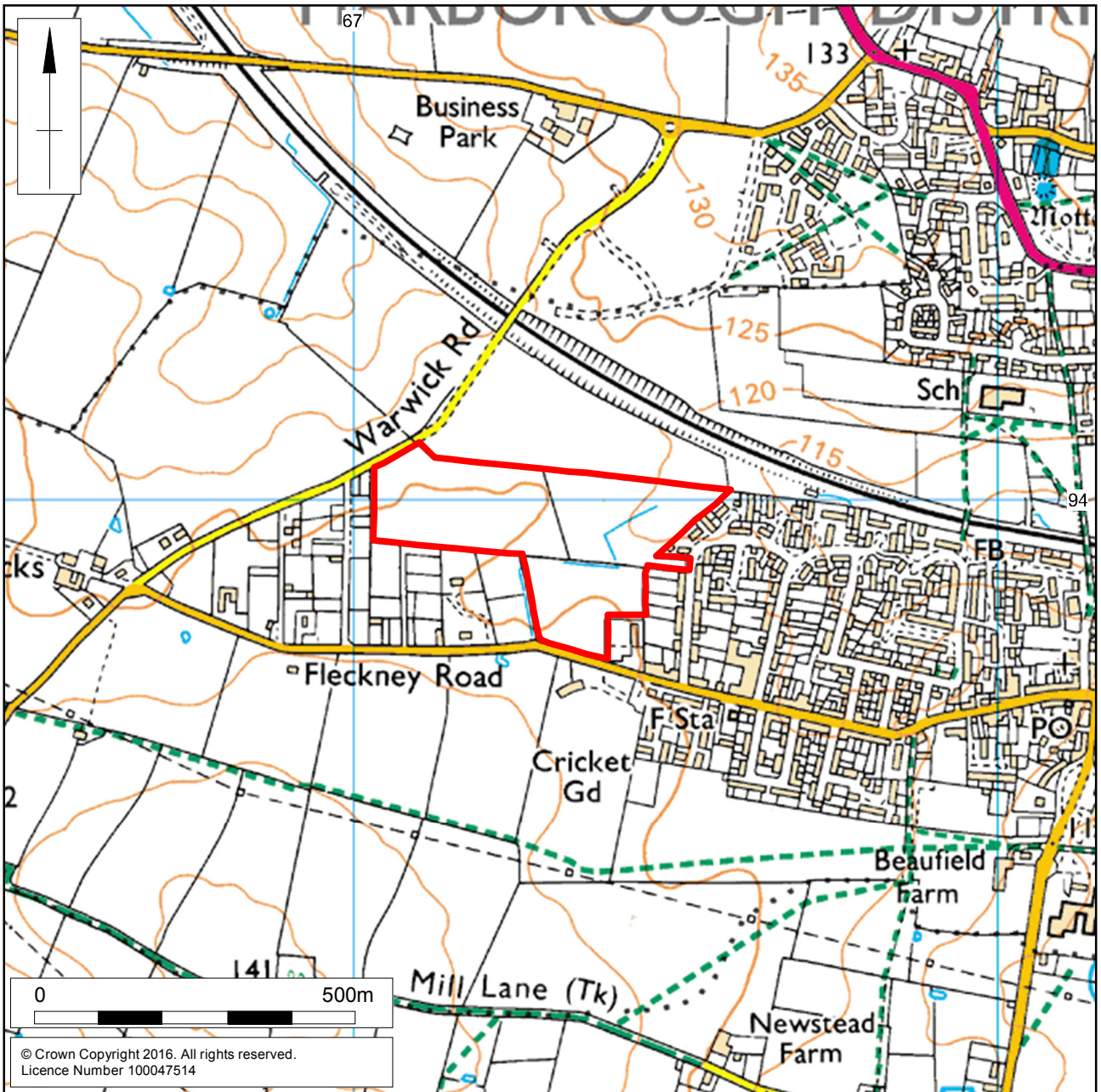
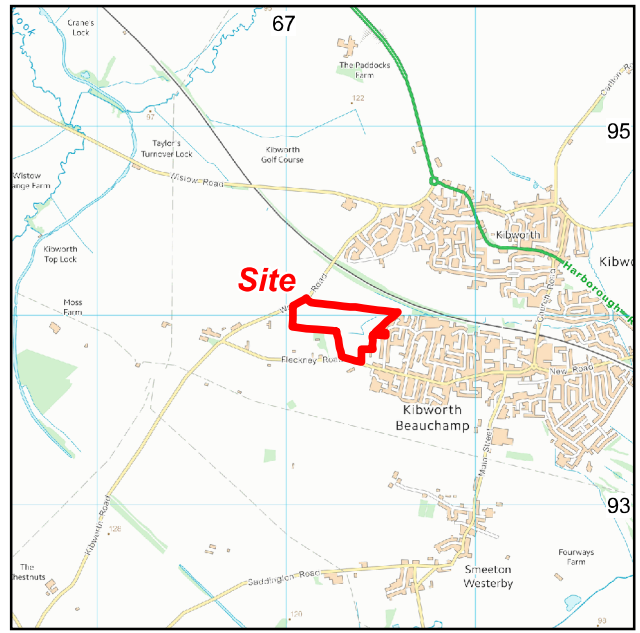
The evaluation conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2014a). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with English Heritage, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (EH 2006).

## **2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The principal aim of the archaeological evaluation work was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The aims of the investigation were to:

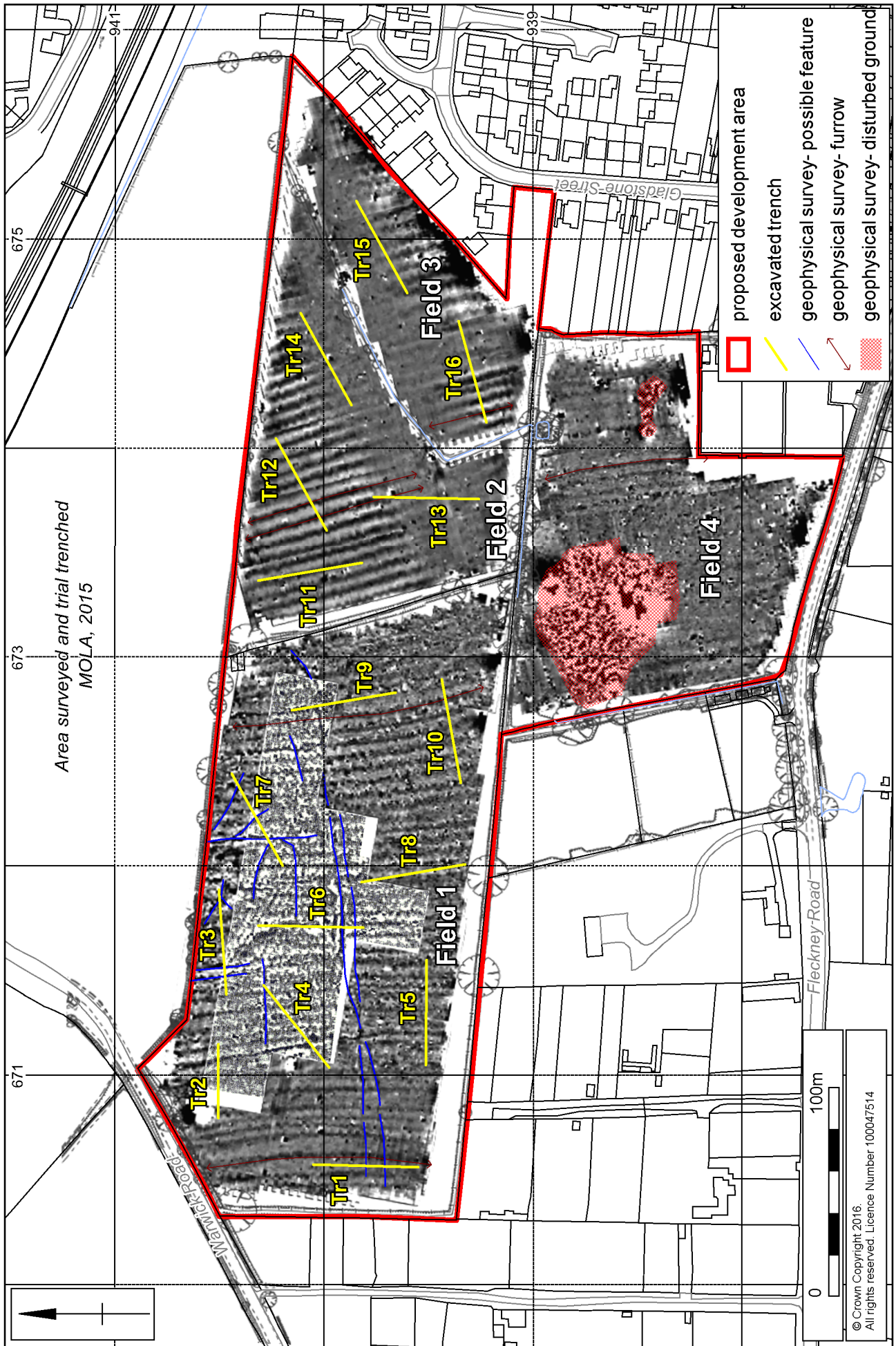
- the date, nature, significance and extent of activity or occupation in the development area;
- the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1





Scale 1:2,500 (A4)

Excavated trenches overlaying geophysical anomalies

Fig 2

- the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- the potential for palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions;
- the impact of the proposed works upon any surviving archaeological remains, and to; inform any future excavation and/or preservation in-situ strategy.

Specific research objectives were drawn from national and regional research frameworks documents (Cooper 2006, Knight *et al* 2012).

### **3 BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 Topography and geology**

Kibworth Harcourt and Kibworth Beauchamp are two historic civil parishes which fall within the area of Kibworth, in the district of Harborough. Kibworth Harcourt is less than one third the size of the larger Kibworth Beauchamp, and lies to the north. The proposed development area, which comprises four oblong shaped fields totalling 9ha in size, is situated c1km to the west of the historic core of Kibworth Harcourt (Fig 1). It is bounded to the west by Warwick Road, and to the north by fields and to the south by Fleckney Road.

The proposed development area is largely flat at an average height of 125m aOD. The superficial geology of the site is classed as mid-Pleistocene Diamicton till, which overlies Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation mudstones (BGS 2016).

#### **3.2 Historical and archaeological background**

The following sites, findspots and monuments are drawn from the desk-based heritage assessment undertaken on the development area in 2015 by CgMs (Dawson 2015) and also a desk-based assessment (Crothers 2015) for a proposed development in the field to the north of the site. Both documents utilise Leicester Historic Environment Record (HER) and available cartographic sources.

##### ***Iron Age***

Geophysical survey revealed a probable Iron Age site (MLE17675, ELE7262) consisting of a series of enclosures, underlying a Roman villa (MLE1767) to the north of the village. The survey also revealed a second possible sub-rectangular Iron Age enclosure immediately to the south-west (MLE17674).

Geophysical survey (Walford and Clements 2015) and subsequent trial trenching (Hewitt 2015) in a triangular field located to the north-west of the site was undertaken in 2015 by MOLA. A palimpsest of enclosures and ditches was recorded suggesting occupation of a farmstead from the mid Iron Age through to the 4th century AD.

##### ***Roman***

A Roman site was excavated to the north-east of the site between 1967 and 1969. A ditch and an L-shaped area of pebbles were recorded. During excavation of a windmill mound in the 1960s, a number of large pebbles were found with a much-worn Castor ware pottery base and a late Roman belt plate with a 'mythical dragon type beast' (MLE7857). In 1837 and 1863 a possible Roman site was excavated at

The Munt, Hall Close. A stone pavement was found with several Roman artefacts, including pottery, a candlestick and a penannular brooch (MLE7858). It is possible that this site is linked with the remains found at the windmill mound (MLE1768).

### ***Saxon and medieval***

The Domesday Survey of 1086 records Kibworth Harcourt as Chiborne or Cliborne. Twelve carucates in Kibworth Harcourt were held by Robert de Vescy. In 1235-36 Richard de Harcourt held land in Kibworth from the Earl of Warwick. In 1270 Walter de Merton bought a large part of the parish of Kibworth Harcourt from Saer de Harcourt, who had been forced to sell the estate following his support for the Barons' Rebellion (VCH 1964). A large part of the parish has remained property of Merton College in Oxford to the present day (Crothers 2015).

The historic medieval core of Kibworth Harcourt lies to the east of the site. It is focussed on a motte known locally as The Munt (DLE291 and MLE1772) and the manor house (MLE10794) in Main Street. A medieval cross once stood opposite the manor house in the village but was taken down in 1825 (MLE1771).

During the medieval period, the site and much of the western side of Kibworth Harcourt was under plough. Ridge and furrow earthworks are known to be well preserved in areas and geophysical surveys in the field to the north (Walford 2015) have also recorded ridge and furrow.

### ***Post-medieval***

The parish was enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1779 creating small rectangular and trapezoid fields, and by the close of the 18th century most of the fields had been given over to pasture (Dawson 2015).

### ***Previous fieldwork***

The western side of Kibworth has been subject to extensive archaeological evaluation over the past two decades. In 1999 GSB Prospection surveyed two blocks, one situated in the field immediately to north of the site and the second encompassing c1.3ha in the western field of the development area. The field to the north was later subject to a full geophysical survey in 2015 by MOLA Northampton (Walford 2015). This survey together with the subsequent trial trenching (Clements 2015) identified the remains of a track or driveway flanked by parallel linear ditches, spaced c20m apart. This trackway corresponds with a curving feature seen on aerial photographs and on the site as extant earthworks. The anomalies are all crossed by other sets of parallel linear anomalies representing traces of medieval to early post-medieval ridge and furrow. The line of the driveway appeared to have influenced the layout of the medieval fields, being fossilized as a boundary between two furlongs of ridge and furrow.

Prior to the commissioning of trial trench evaluation, the area was subject to geophysical surveys. The surveys undertaken in 1999 GSB Prospection (ELE6531) and by Stratascan (Richardson 2016) identified linear responses suggesting a continuation of the trackway and enclosure system recorded in the field to the north by MOLA (Walford 2015). A composite interpretation of both the GSB and Stratascan surveys for the proposed development area are shown in Fig 2.

## 4 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

The c9ha area of the proposed property development was subject to archaeological evaluation through trial trench excavation. A sample of 2% was required by the Senior Planning Archaeologist. Eighteen trenches, 50m long and 2m wide, were positioned to target the enclosures, driveway and other features identified in the geophysical data, and to examine a full and varied sample of the area (Fig 2). Trenches 17 and 18 in Field 4 were not excavated at this time, at the request of the senior Planning Archaeologist, due to ecological considerations.

All archaeological deposits encountered during the course of the excavation were fully recorded, following standard MOLA procedures (MOLA 2014). All deposits were given a separate context number in a sequence assigned to each trench. They were described on *pro-forma* context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships and interpretation.

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  $\pm 0.05\text{m}$ . A full digital photographic record was maintained. The field data from the evaluation has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

The evaluation conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2014a). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with English Heritage, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (EH 2006). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by MOLA (Simmonds 2016).

All trenches were backfilled with their up-cast material and compacted by the mechanical excavator. Those trenches cut through extant ridge and furrow earthworks were reinstated as best as was practicable.

## 5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

### 5.1 General Stratigraphy

The general stratigraphic sequence remained broadly similar across the proposed development area, though there were slight variation between Field 1 and Fields 2 and 3 (Fig 3).



Trench 5, representative section, looking north Fig 3

The natural substrate largely comprised mid yellow-brown sandy clay with patches of mid red-orange sandy clay. In Fields 2 and 3 the natural substrate remained similar, though more clayey. Trench 13, which lay in the lowest part of Field 2, was the exception as the natural substrate was characterised as compacted, almost plastic mid yellow-brown clay.

Subsoil was present in all of the excavated trenches to varying depths and was characterised as mid grey-brown sandy clay with occasional small stones throughout. The topsoil was described as friable dark grey-brown sandy clay with rare small stones and frequent root disturbance throughout. Full details of the depth of each soil horizon can be found in Appendix A. Where no features of archaeological interest were encountered within the trench, the topsoil, subsoil and natural material are described in the context inventory.

## **5.2 The archaeological features**

Archaeological features were identified in most of the excavated trenches (1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9) in Field 1. In Fields 2 and 3, only Trench 11 contained buried archaeological remains.

### ***Trench 1***

Ditch [106], in the southern half of the trench, aligned south-east to north-west, was 1.15m wide and 0.49m deep with a U-shaped profile and concave base (Figs 15 and 18: Section 1). The lower fill of the ditch, (105), comprised compact dark brown-grey sandy clay with occasional medium sized sub-rounded stones throughout. The upper fill of the ditch, (104), was described as loosely compacted mid brown-grey sandy clay with occasional small-medium sub-rounded stones throughout. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Gully [108], aligned west-north-west to east-south-east, was 0.25m wide and 0.07m deep with a shallow bowl-shaped profile and concave base (Figs 15 and 18: Section 2). The fill, (107), comprised firm mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal throughout.

### ***Trench 3***

Ditches [305] and [307], aligned north to south, were present at the western end of the trench (Figs 4 and 15). The two ditches could be seen, in section, to inter-relate, though the intervention of a modern field drain meant that the stratigraphic relationship between the two ditches could not be determined (Figs 4 and 18: Section 4). Ditch [305] was 0.78m wide and 0.55m deep with a U-shaped profile and flat base. The fill, (304), comprised firm dark grey-brown sandy clay with moderate amounts of small sub-rounded stones throughout. Ditch [307], was 0.87m wide and 0.36m deep with a wide U-shaped profile and concave base. The fill, (306), was described as firm dark grey-brown sandy clay with occasional small-medium sub-rounded stones throughout. Fragments of pottery, dated to the 1st/2nd century AD and animal bone were recovered from this fill.



Trench 3, ditches [307] and [305], looking north Fig 4

Ditch [309] aligned north to south, was parallel to ditches [305]/[307], and lay immediately to the east of them (Figs 5 and 15). The ditch was 0.82m wide and 0.51m deep with a U-shaped profile and narrow concave base (Figs 5 and 18: Section 6). The fill, (308), comprised firm dark grey-brown sandy clay with occasional small-medium sub-rounded stones throughout. No finds were recovered from this feature.



Trench 3, ditch [309], looking north Fig 5

#### **Trench 4**

Ditch [405], aligned east to west, was 1.10m wide and 0.18m deep with a shallow dish-shaped profile and flat base (Figs 6, 15 and 18: Section 3). The fill, (404), comprised compact dark grey-brown sandy clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones throughout. Fragments of animal bone were recovered from this fill. Additionally, one piece of animal bone, worked into a point, was recovered which has been described as an implement of uncertain date, though likely used in a craft activity such as leatherworking or weaving (SF1).



Trench 4, ditch [405], looking east Fig 6

A large feature, [408], was identified at the south-western end of the trench (Fig 15). When compared to the geophysical data (JSAC 1999), the feature appeared to correlate with a large discrete positive anomaly which may relate to a large pit or group of pits. A partial section was excavated at the south-western edge, in an attempt to characterise the feature and determine its depth (Fig 18: Section 5). The feature had a steep sided profile with eroded upper edges and was approximately 3.2m wide. At a depth of 0.7m the water table was struck which hampered excavation of the feature. A hand held auger was used to ascertain the full depth of the feature and to characterise the lower fills. The full depth of the feature was 1.68m.

The soil sample recovered in the auger identified that the natural material at the base of the feature comprised very compacted dark blue clay, which accords well with the geological description for the area (Blue Lias Formation). A primary deposit, (410), comprised compact mid grey-brown sandy-silty clay and was 0.16m thick. This was overlain by a 0.57m thick deposit, (409), of very wet dark grey silty clay with small fragments of charcoal throughout. The soil from this fill, recovered with the auger, was wet sieved for environmental evidence.

The upper fills of the feature, (407) and (406), were hand excavated. Fill (407) was approximately 0.38m thick and comprised firm mid yellow-brown-grey silty sand with patches of clay, fragments of charcoal and small stones throughout. Fill (406) was 0.75m thick and was described as firm mid-dark grey-brown silty clay with frequent charcoal fragments and small stones throughout. A single abraded sherd of pottery was recovered from the upper fill, (406), and has been broadly dated to the 1st/2nd century AD.

### **Trench 5**

A posthole [505], partially visible against the northern edge of the trench, was approximately 0.5m in diameter. The fill, (504), comprised loose dark brown sandy-silty clay with frequent medium sized sub-rounded stones throughout.

An irregularly shaped feature, [507], at the eastern end of the trench, was approximately 1m long and 0.40m at its widest point. The fill, (506), comprised compact dark grey brown with mottled yellow clay.

Both of these features were observed to cut through the subsoil and were visible high in the stratigraphic sequence during machine excavation of the trench. Following consultation with the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council, neither feature was excavated.

### **Trench 6**

Two parallel ditches, [618]/[612] and [614]/[616], each of which had been re-cut on at least one occasion, were present in the southern half of the trench, aligned east to west (Fig 16). The ditches correlate well with parallel linear anomalies identified in the geophysical data.

Ditch [618] was approximately 2.13m wide and 0.40m deep with a broad but shallow U-shaped profile and concave base (Figs 7 and 19: Section 9). The fill, (617), comprised compact mid yellow-brown silty clay with occasional small stones and flecks of charcoal throughout. A small iron knife-blade of uncertain date was recovered from this fill (SF2). This feature was later re-cut, [612], this ditch was 1.14m wide and 0.62m deep with a U-shaped profile and concave base (Figs 7 and 19: Section 9). The lower fill of the ditch, (611), comprised compact mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional small stones and flecks of charcoal throughout. The upper fill, (610), was described as compact dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional small stones and flecks of charcoal throughout.



Trench 6, ditches [618] and [612], looking east Fig 7

Ditch [614], aligned east to west, was 1.35m wide and 0.64m deep with a broad U-shaped profile and a concave base (Fig 18: Section 8). The fill comprised compacted dark brown-grey silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones and charcoal flecks throughout. No finds were recovered from this feature. This feature was later re-cut by ditch [616] which was 0.80m wide and 0.49m deep with a U-shaped profile and concave base (Fig 18: Section 8). The fill was described as compact dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional small stones throughout. Fragments of animal bone were recovered from this feature.

A large linear ditch, [628], aligned roughly north-north-west to south-south-east, was present in the central part of the trench (Fig 16). Prior to excavation it was not clear if the ditch terminated within the trench and after discussion with the Senior Planning Archaeologist (LCC) it was decided that a section should be excavated slightly removed from the possible terminus in order to better understand the direction of the



feature. Upon excavation it became clear that the ditch was turning in a westerly direction, not terminating as previously suggested. The full extent of the corner was not present within the trench and so the section was not extended. The ditch, [628], was excavated to a width of 1.40m and was 0.95m deep with a broad U-shaped profile and slightly concave base (Figs 8 and 19: Section 12). The lower fill, (627), comprised compact mid brown-grey silty-sandy clay, a small group of large glacial cobbles were present at the base of the fill (Fig 8). This was overlain by fill (626), which comprised a thin layer of compact dark grey silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional fragments of animal bone throughout. This in turn was overlain by fill (625), which was described as compact mid brown-grey silty-sandy clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks throughout, this fill also contained small fragments of animal bone. The upper fill, (624), comprised a thick deposit of firm dark grey-brown sandy clay with occasional small stones, frequent charcoal flecks and small fragments of animal bone throughout.



Trench 6, ditch [628], looking north Fig 8

A series of three shallow gullies, [605], [607] and [609], aligned east to west, were present in the northern half of the trench (Fig 16). Two of the gullies, [607] and [609] terminated within the ditch (Fig 16). Gully [605] was 0.60m wide and 0.10m deep with a shallow bowl-shaped profile and flat base (Fig 18: Section 7). This gully was cut by gully [607], which was 0.53m wide and 0.18m deep with a U-shaped profile and concave base (Fig 18: Section 8). Gully [609] was 0.45m wide and 0.17m deep with a U-shaped profile and concave base (Fig 18: Section 8). The fill of each ditch, (604), (606) and (608) respectively, was described similarly as compact mid-dark grey-brown sandy-silty clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks throughout. Only fill (606) of gully [607] contained any finds, which were limited to a few small fragments of animal bone.

Two small possible postholes, [620] and [623], were present in the central part of the trench (Fig 16). Feature [620] was 0.27m by 0.37m and 0.11m deep with a shallow bowl-shaped profile and concave base (Fig 19: Section 10). The fill, (619), comprised

compact mid grey silty clay flecked with mid orange-brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks throughout. Feature [623] measured 0.33m by 0.36m and was 0.15m deep with an irregular U-shaped profile and concave base (Fig 19: Section 11). The lower fill, (622), comprised compact mid yellow-brown silty clay with occasional small stones and flecks of charcoal. The upper fill, (621), comprised very compact mid grey silty clay with occasional small stones and charcoal throughout. Neither feature produced any finds.

### **Trench 7**

Two linear gullies, [713] and [715], aligned approximately east to west, were present at the north-eastern end of the trench (Fig 16). Gully [715] appeared to terminate within the trench, though the end of the gully was largely obscured by a modern land drain which cut across the feature (Fig 16). Gully [713] was also thought to terminate within the trench, though pit [720] had removed the end of the feature (Fig 16).

Gully [713] was 0.35m wide and 0.06m deep with a very shallow bowl-shaped profile and concave base (Figs 9 and 20: Section 18). The fill comprised friable dark brown-grey silty clay with occasional fragments of angular flint throughout. Gully [715] was 0.32m wide and 0.09m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile and narrow concave base (Figs 9 and 20: Section 18). The fill comprised dark brown-grey silty clay with occasional large heat-affected glacial cobbles throughout. This fill also contained large fragments of animal bone.



Trench 7, gullies [715] and [713], looking east Fig 9

Ditch [709], aligned east to west, was 0.93m wide and 0.30m deep with a wide U-shaped profile and flat base (Fig 19: Section 15). The fill, (708), comprised firm mid brown silty clay with occasional small fragments of chalk and occasional charcoal flecks throughout. No finds were recovered from this feature.

A small pit/posthole, [707], at the south-western end of the trench, was 0.35m in diameter and 0.12m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile and a narrow concave base Fig 19: Section 14). The fill, (706), comprised friable light brown-grey silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal throughout. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Pit [720], located toward the north-eastern end of the trench, was approximately 2.00m wide and 0.94m deep with a steep sided U-shaped profile and a concave base (Figs 12 and 20: Section 21). The shape in plan appeared to be broadly sub-rectangular, though only part of the feature was visible within the trench (Fig 16). The lower fill, (719), comprised friable mottled light grey and mid orange-brown silty-sandy clay with occasional chalk and flint throughout. Several fragments of animal bone and one piece of worked flint were recovered from this fill. The upper fill, (718), was described as friable mid grey silty-sandy clay with a slight green hue and occasional small fragments of chalk throughout. A group of large heat-affected glacial cobbles were present at the bottom of this fill (Fig 12). Fragments of animal bone and a further piece of worked flint were also recovered from this fill.



Trench 7, pit [720], looking north-west Fig 11

Ditch [711], aligned north-north-west to south-south-east, was 1.10m wide and 0.38m deep with U-shaped profile and concave base (Figs 10 and 20: Section 17). The fill, (710), comprised friable mid-dark grey silty clay with occasional small-medium rounded stones throughout and occasional charcoal flecks. A single sherd of ceramic tile was recovered from the fill of this ditch and has been tentatively dated to the Roman period.



Trench 7, ditch [711], looking south Fig 10

**Trench 8**

Two possible postholes, [805] and [808], were identified in the central part of the trench (Fig 17). A feature thought to be a possible linear ditch, aligned approximately east to west, was found to be a natural band in the natural substrate (Fig 17).

Feature [805] was 0.35m in diameter and 0.12m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile and flat base (Fig 20: Section 19). The fill, (804), comprised firm mid-dark grey silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones throughout. Feature (808) was 0.80m in diameter and 0.31m deep with an asymmetrical U-shaped profile and concave base (Fig 20: Section 20). The lower fill, (807), comprised compact mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional small stones and rare flecks of charcoal throughout. The upper fill, (806), was described as compact mid brown-grey silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones throughout. Neither feature produced any finds.

**Trench 9**

Two ditches, [905] and [907], were observed within this trench, aligned east to west (Fig 17). After consultation with the Senior Planning Archaeologist (LCC) it was agreed that these features need not be excavated as they had been investigated in both Trench 6 and Trench 11.

Ditch [905] was approximately 0.80m wide and ditch [907] was approximately 1.20m wide, though both features were extremely ephemeral in plan (Fig 17). The fills, (904) and (906) respectively, were described as mid brown-grey silty clay.

**Trench 11**

Ditch [1107], aligned north-east the south west, survived to a width of 0.88m and was 0.46m deep with a broad U-shaped profile and concave base (Figs 12, 17 and 20: Section 16). The fill comprised compact mid brown-grey silty clay with occasional small angular pieces of flint throughout. No finds were recovered from this feature. This ditch was later re-cut, [1105], on the same alignment and was 1.46m wide and 0.34m deep with a broad, shallow U-shaped profile and irregular base (Figs 12, 17 and 20: Section 16). The fill was described as compact dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional small angular flint and rare sub-rounded stones throughout. One worked piece of flint, described as a thumb nail scraper was recovered from this feature along with several small fragments of animal bone.



Trench 11, ditches [1107] and [1105], looking east Fig 12

### ***The ridge and furrow***

Parallel linear positive anomalies, indicative of ridge and furrow cultivation, were present in the geophysical data across the proposed development area (Fig 2). The results of the trial trench evaluation confirmed the presence of remnant furrows in Field 1. Additionally, extant earthworks indicative of ridge and furrow cultivation were present across Fields 2 and 3 (Figs 13 and 14).

In Field 1, where only the remnant furrows survived, attempts were made to remove as much of the furrow material as possible so as to minimise the risk of missing any archaeological features that may have been masked by the later furrows. In some cases this was not possible due to the ephemeral and sometimes very shallow features that existed, such as those at the north-eastern end of Trench 7. Furrows were excavated where it was not clear whether they may have actually been ditches (Figs 16 and 17: Trench 7 and 8). No dating evidence was recovered from any of the excavated furrows.



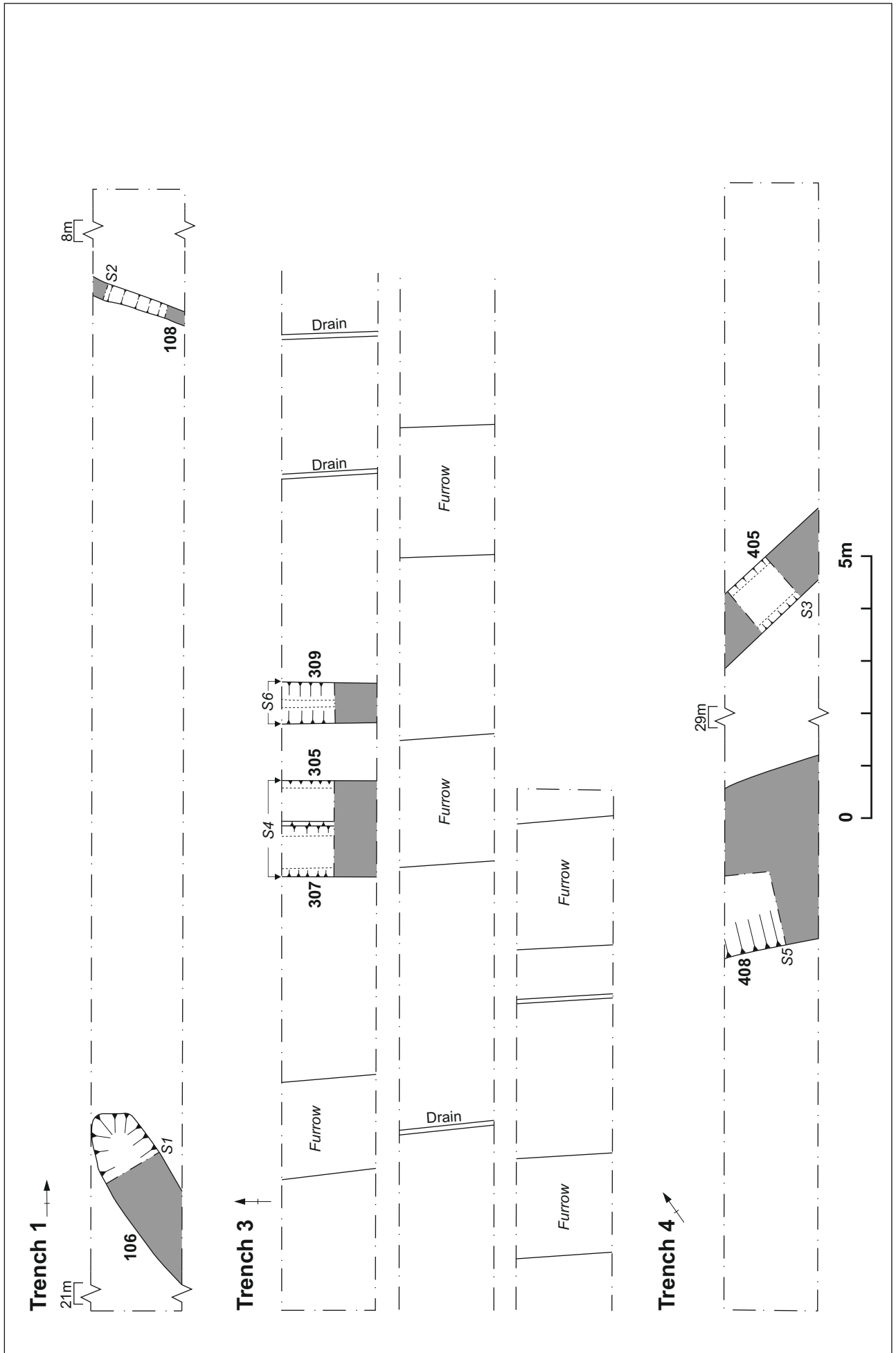
Trench 12, extant ridge and furrow, looking west Fig 13

In Fields 2 and 3, the preservation of the ridge and furrow earthworks was variable ranging from slight to substantial (Figs 13 and 14). The extant earthworks matched the results of the geophysical survey which showed a field system aligned roughly north to south (Fig 2). The surviving ridges varied in height and comprised very compacted mid brown-orange sandy clay with very few inclusions.

The ridge and furrow earthworks were removed under archaeological direction until the natural substrate was encountered, again, to ensure that no earlier archaeological features were present. In Trench 11, where the trench was positioned along the length of a ridge, the possible continuation of a ditch [1105/1107], identified in Trench 6 and 9, was present beneath the later earthworks.

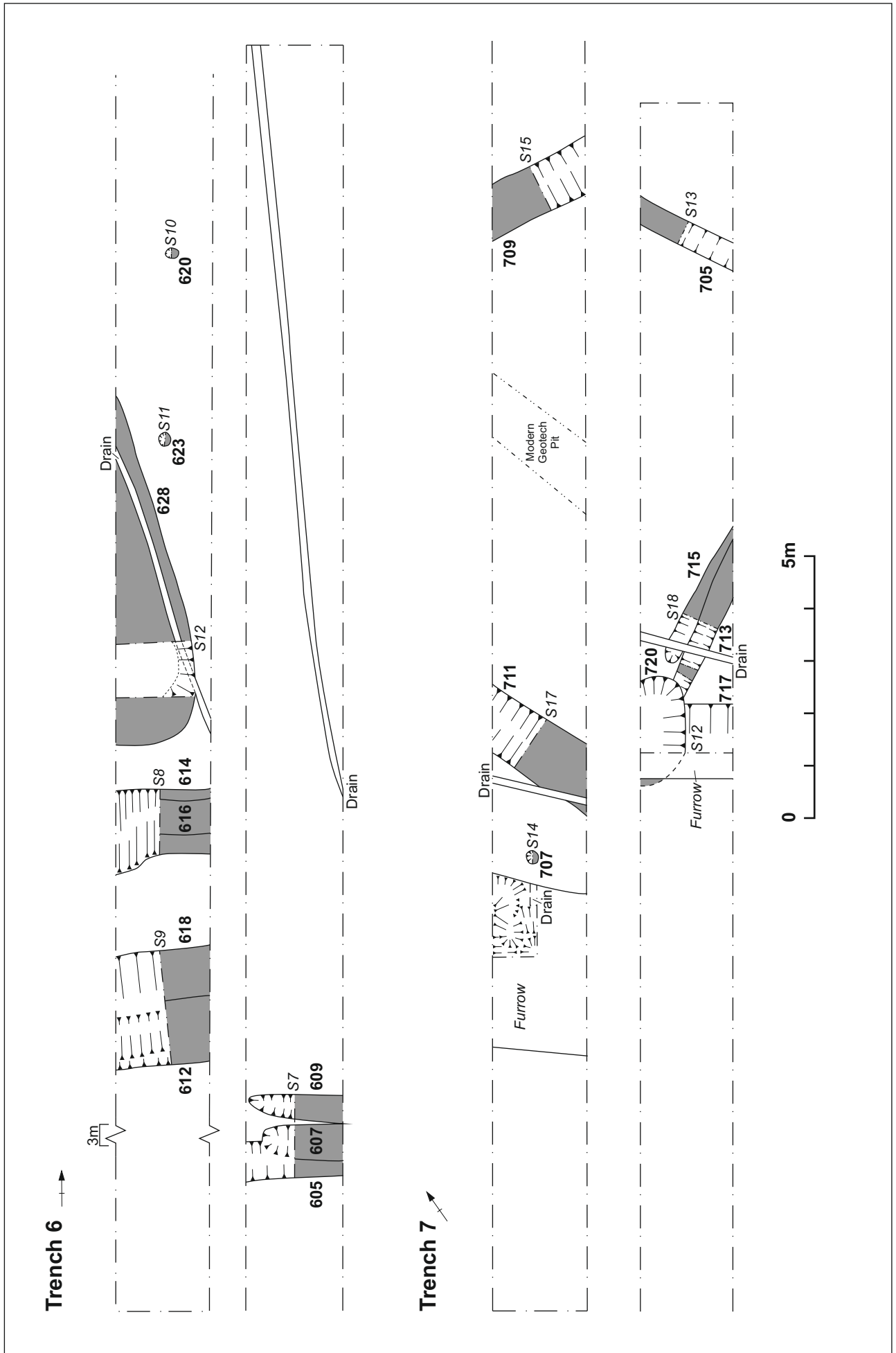


Trench 16, extant ridge and furrow, looking west Fig 14



Scale 1:100

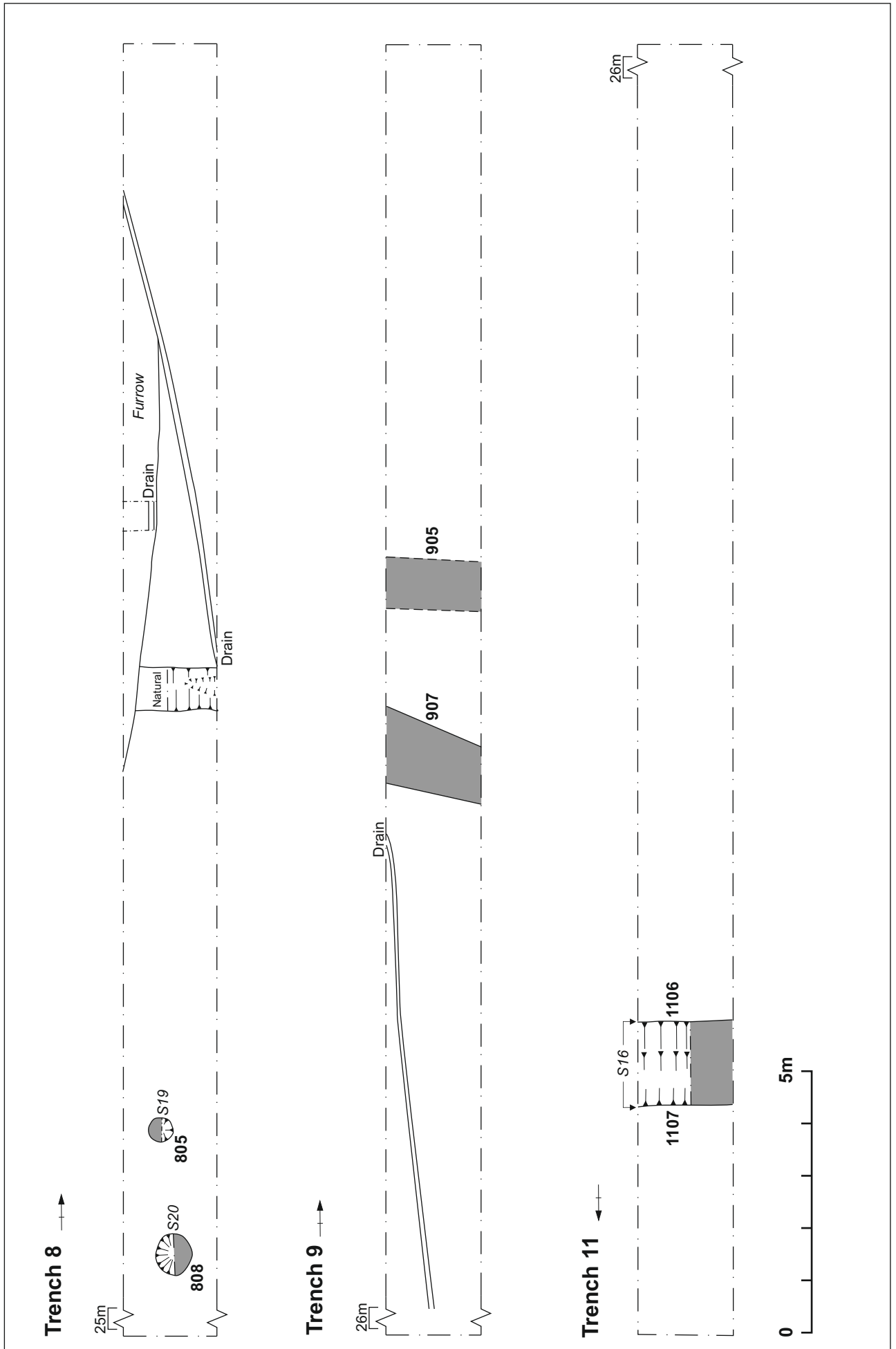
Trenches 1-4 Fig 15



Scale 1:100

Trenches 6 and 7 Fig 16

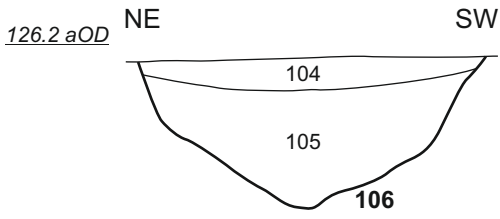




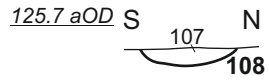
Scale 1:100

Trenches 8-11 Fig 17

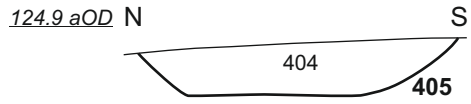
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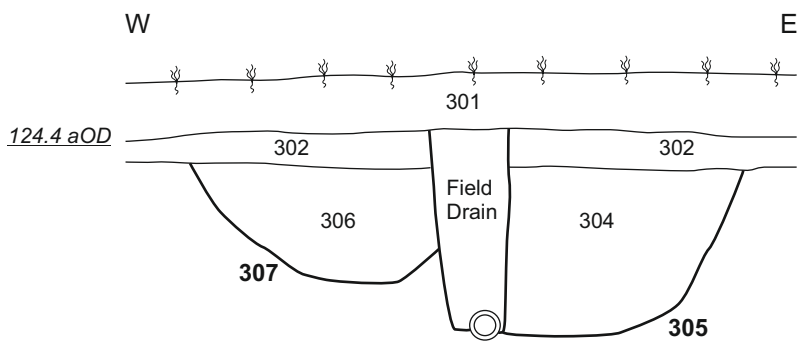
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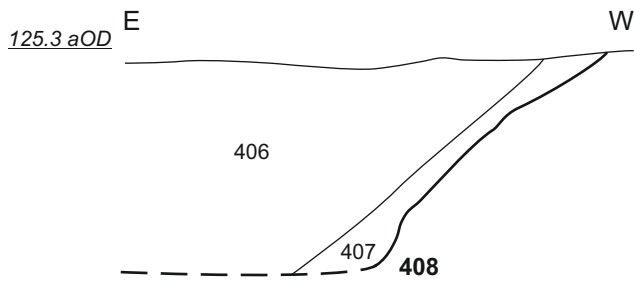
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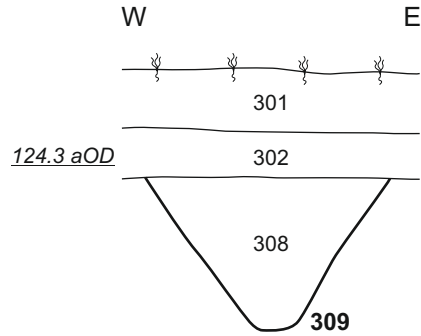
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**Section 5**



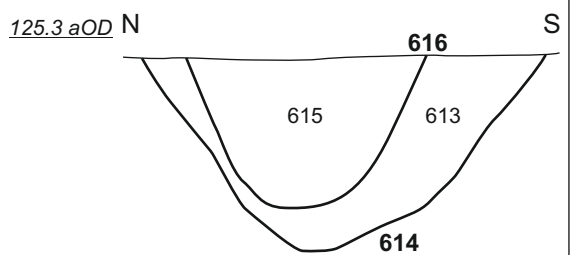
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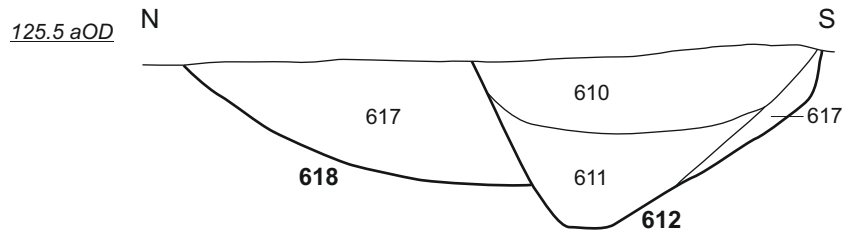
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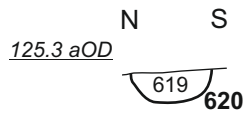
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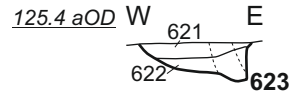
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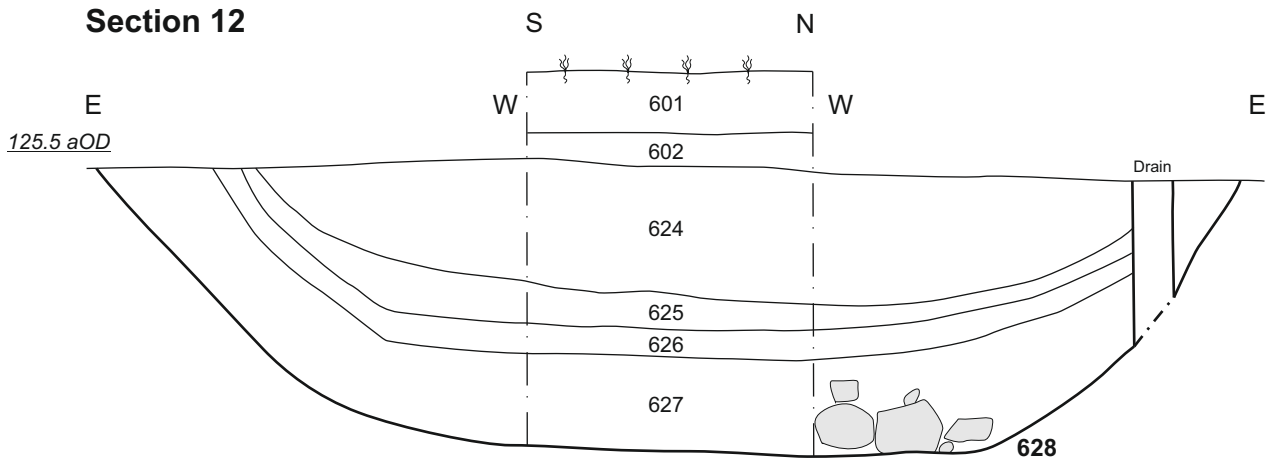
### Section 10



### Section 11



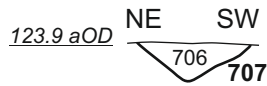
### Section 12



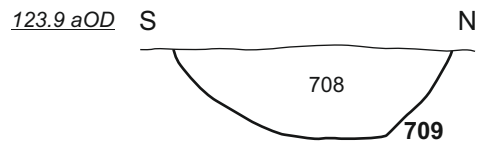
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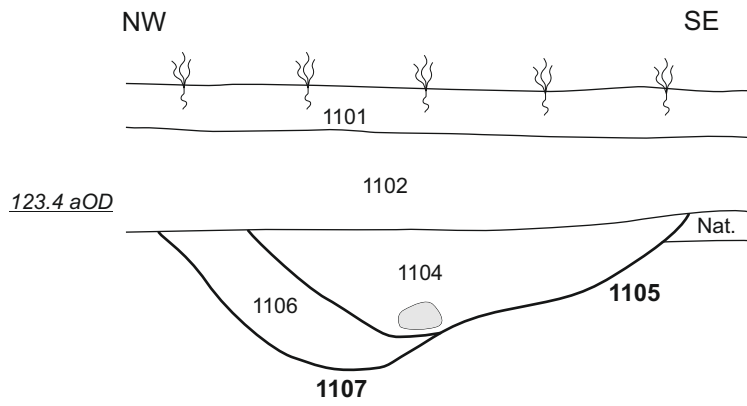
### Section 14



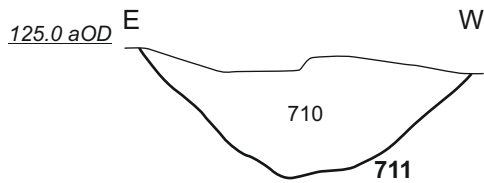
### Section 15



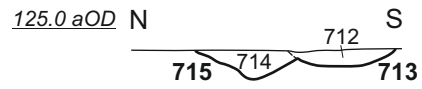
**Section 16**



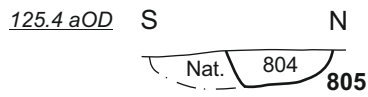
**Section 17**



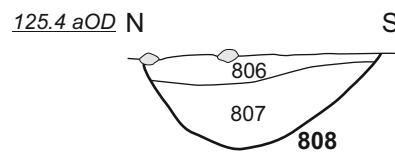
**Section 18**



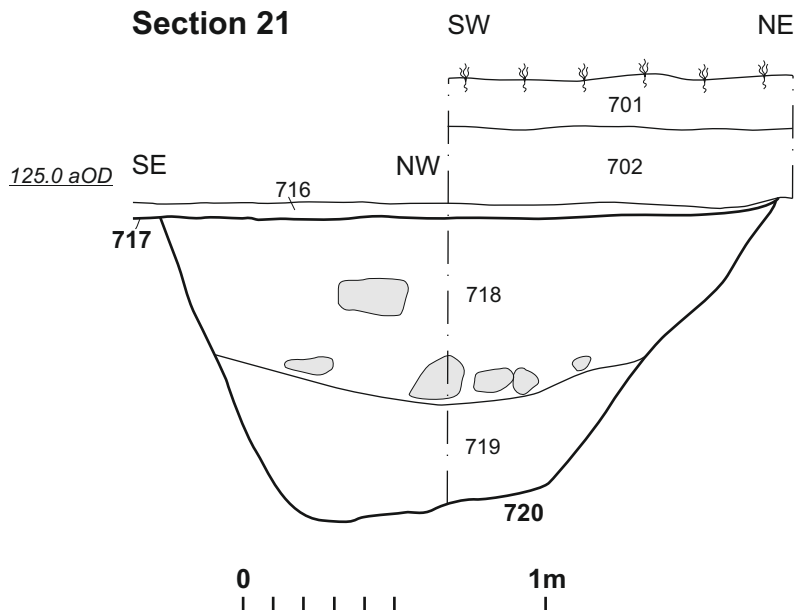
**Section 19**



**Section 20**



**Section 21**



## 6 THE FINDS

### 6.1 The pottery by Tora Hylton

In total three sherds of Roman pottery with a combined weight of 99.3g were recovered from features located in Trenches 3, 4 and 6. The overall condition of the pottery is good and the sherds display signs of minimal abrasion. The pottery was recorded by context and broad fabric group and quantified by sherd count and weight (Table 1). Where possible the fabric types have been classified with reference to the Leicester and Leicestershire Pottery Fabric Reference Collection (Pollard 1994).

This small assemblage is represented by locally produced coarseswares in grog-tempered and greyware fabrics. A single undiagnostic bodysherd in a hard fired grog-tempered fabric was recovered from a ditch in in Trench 3 [307]. In addition, there are two sherds in a locally produced/unsourced greyware fabric (Fabric GW 5); they include a base sherd and an everted rim sherd, both originating from large jars. The former was recovered from a pit in Trench 4 [408] and the latter, a ditch in Trench 6 [612]. This small group dates to the late 1st/2nd century.

Table 1: Pottery by fabric type and context

Fabric Type	Trench/Context Number					
	306		406		611	
	No	Weight (g)	No	Weight (g)	No	Weight (g)
Greyware – (GW5)	-	-	1	48.1	1	33.0
Grog-tempered ware	1	18.2	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>48.1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>33.0</b>

### 6.2 The animal bone by Adam Reid

A total of 222 fragments of animal bone were hand collected from 12 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. Bone fragments with clear post-depositional breaks were put back together and counted as a single fragment. Identifications took place with the aid of the MOLA Northampton reference collection and Hillson (1992).

The state of preservation of each bone fragment was rated on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is equivalent to excellent preservation and 5 very poor (Lyman 1994). Identifications took place with the aid of the MOLA Northampton reference collection and Hillson (1992). Toothwear data was collected using a revised version of Grant's (1982) methodology (Greenfield and Arnold 2008) and the state of epiphyseal fusion was used to estimate age at death following guidelines set out by Silver (1969). Measurements of specimens with complete epiphyses were recorded using the criteria set out by von den Driesch (1976).

Due to the anatomical similarities between the two species, all ovicaprid specimens were grouped as sheep/goat, unless possible to differentiate between the two using Boessneck *et al.* (1964) and Payne's (1985) criteria. Specimens that could not be positively identified were attributed, where possible, to categories including large mammal (cattle, horse) and Medium Mammal (sheep/goat, pig, dog). The English

Heritage Guidelines for Best Practice for Animal Bones and Archaeology (2014) were followed, where possible.

### ***Identification and quantification***

Due to the highly fragmented nature of the assemblage, positive identification to genus level was possible for only 32 (16%) of the specimens, the results of the identifications are presented below (Table 1).

All of the identified were mammalian or bird and no microfaunal remains were recovered. The majority of identified specimens derived from domestic taxa, although a small quantity of dog and horse remains were recovered.

*Table 1: The identified taxa*

	Fill/Cut	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Bird	Medium mammal	Large mammal	Indet	Total
304/[305]		2	1	-	-	-	-	-	14	8	25
306/[307]		2	2	-	1	-	-	7	7	21	40
404/[405]		2	1	-	-	-	-	4	3	3	13
406/[408]		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	8
606/[607]		2	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	5	11
611/[612]		-	-	-	-	1	1	-	3	1	6
624/[628]		1	2	-	-	1	-	13	7	25	49
627/[628]		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
710/[711]		1	4	-	-	-	-	6	8	-	19
712/[713]		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
718/[720]		2	1	1	1	-	-	1	10	13	29
719/[720]		7	-	1	-	-	-	-	6	4	18
1104/[1105]		-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>222</b>

### ***Preservation and taphonomy***

The general state of preservation of the material was poor (Table 2), although some fragments were graded as well preserved, or moderately well preserved, most of which were recovered from the fills of ditch [720]. Carnivore gnawing was noted on one cattle calcaneum from fill of [711] and there was minimal evidence of weathering or surface abrasion, which would suggest that most of the specimens did not remain exposed after deposition.

Ten instances of butchery were noted, the majority of which took the form of heavy chop marks on long bone fragments. A notable exception was identified on a cattle astragalus from pit [408] (dated to the first to second century AD) on which several small knife cuts could be seen on its ventral surface, presumably a result of the disarticulation process.

A total of five fragments of burnt bone were identified, which suggests that animals may have been consumed on site. One unidentified long bone fragment from ditch [607] was calcined, indicating that it had been heated to a high temperature.

Table 2: Preservation rating for all specimens

State of preservation	Excellent	Good	Moderate	Poor	Very Poor
Number of fragments	-	8	17	171	5

**Ageing and metric data**

Two sheep or goat mandibles contained intact rows of cheek teeth, one from ditch [307] and one from pit [720], enabling an estimation of age at death. Both specimens were fully mature, falling within an estimated age range of four to six years old. Unfused cattle bone fragments were recovered from ditch [607] and pit [720], possibly indicating that some animals were selectively culled at a young age.

It was not possible to obtain any metrical data due to the fragmented nature of the material.

**Discussion**

The animal bone assemblage is not of sufficient size to provide much interpretive value, other to suggest that the material appears to derive primarily from domestic waste, with few clear indications of any specialised activity such as textile manufacture. Although the small assemblage holds limited research value, the relatively good quality of preservation of some specimens and the presence of identifiable material indicates the possibility for future faunal analysis, should further work take place at the site.

**6.3 Ceramic building material** by Pat Chapman

A tile sherd, weighing 5g, comes from fill (710) in ditch [711]. It is 11mm thick and made with slightly soft, fine, slightly silty, sandy orange clay with a few tiny shell 2mm long and tiny flint and black inclusions less than 1mm long. This could be Roman in date, although it is very thin for tile of that period.

Two small fragments of irregularly-shaped fired clay, weighing 5g, come from fill (606) in ditch [607]. They are dull red-brown to brown in colour and very hard, having been heated to a high temperature. This is random debris from a hearth or heating process.

**6.4 Worked flints** by Andy Chapman

Three worked flints were recovered. From the fill (718) of pit [720], there is an irregular small nodule, with cortex partially surviving, which looks like a shattered piece apart from small flake removals on one edge that suggest it may have been a simple single-platform core with minimal usage. From the fill (719) of pit [720] there is small squat secondary flake, 28mm wide and 18mm long, with cortex on the edges. From the fill (1104) of ditch [1105] there is a cortical flake, 30mm diameter, with invasive pressure flaking around 50% of the circumference to form a small discoidal scraper, a thumb-nail scraper characteristic of early Bronze Age flint assemblages.

**6.5 Metalworking debris** by Andy Chapman

From the fill (719) of pit [720] there is a small lump of fired clay, 53 long by 43mm wide and 25mm thick, weighing 40g. One side is fired clay, light brown to orange in colour, while the other side is light grey and highly vesicular where the clay has been raised to melting point. There are two similar fragments, weighing 50g, from the fill (611) of ditch [612]. These fragments may be from the lining of a metalworking

furnace. Also from fill (611) there are three fragments, weighing 150g, of undiagnostic ferrous slag from either a smelting furnace or a smithing hearth.

#### 6.6 The other finds by Tora Hylton

There are two small finds, a pointed terminal from a bone implement and a blade fragment from a knife.

The bone point (SF1) was recovered from a ditch in Trench 4 [405] and it survives to a length of 49mm. It has a D-shaped cross-section and it tapers evenly towards the point which is fine and displays signs of excessive wear. The lateral surfaces just behind the point are worn flat, possibly indicating where the thumb and forefinger would have been positioned while the tool was in use. Implements of this type if found in isolation are difficult to date with certainty, since similar artefacts are recovered from deposits spanning the Iron Age to early medieval period. Tools of this type could have had any number of uses; they may have been used for craft activities like leather working or weaving.

Part of a blade from an iron knife (SF2) was recovered from a ditch in Trench 6 [618]. The back of the blade is horizontal then curves to tip and the cutting edge is horizontal. This blade fragment is difficult to date with any certainty, typologically though, it does not appear to represent a Roman form.

#### 6.7 Charred plant macrofossils and other remains by Val Fryer

The samples were bulk floated and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 3. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). Both charred and waterlogged macrofossils were present, with the latter being denoted within the table by a lower case 'w' suffix. Modern roots, stem fragments and arthropod remains were also recorded within samples 1, 2 and 4.

#### Results

Although the assemblages are small (i.e. 0.1 litres or less in volume), cereal grains, chaff and seeds of common weeds and wetland plants are present throughout. Preservation of the charred cereals is generally poor, with most being puffed and distorted (probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures) as well as fragmented. The waterlogged macrofossils within sample 3 are mostly robust, although some distortion has occurred as a result of the compaction of the deposits.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are recorded along with fragmentary grains which are too poorly preserved for close identification. Of the wheat grains, all appear to be of a rounded hexaploid type form, and bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) type rachis nodes are present within the assemblage from pit [720] (sample 4).

Charred seeds of common segetal weeds occur in all four samples, although mostly as single specimens within an assemblage. Taxa noted include stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), brome (*Bromus* sp.) and small legumes (Fabaceae). Segetal weeds (including orache (*Atriplex* sp.), fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) and knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*)) are also recorded from sample 3, but the assemblage is dominated by seeds of grassland herbs including fool's parsley (*Aethusa cynapium*), musk thistle (*Carduus* sp.), hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), deadnettle (*Lamium*



sp.), buttercup (*Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus*), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and sow thistle (*Sonchus asper*). The abundance of sedge fruits would appear to indicate that this grassland may have been damp or marshy, whilst seeds of stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*) possibly suggest that the land was at least intermittently used as pasture. A single flax (*Linum usitatissimum*) seed is, perhaps, a little unusual, especially if the feature is of Roman date. Birch (*Betula* sp.) and willow (*Salix* sp.) fruits are also recorded.

Charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout, with the highest density occurring within the assemblage from sample 3. It is noted that much of the material is somewhat flaked, possibly suggesting combustion at extremely high temperatures. Other plant macrofossils are generally scarce, although sample 3 does contain a very high density of waterlogged root/stem.

Other remains are also generally scarce. The black porous and tarry fragments are all thought to be residues of the combustion of organic remains (including cereals) at very high temperatures. Small pieces of bone and eggshell are also recorded along with pellets of burnt or fired clay.

Table 3: Catalogue of specimens

Sample No.	1	2	3	4
Context No.	406	627	409	718
Feature No.	408	628	408	720
Feature type	Pit	Ditch	Pit	Pit
<b>Cereals</b>				
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grain)				x
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)		xcf		xcf
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)		x	x	x
(rachis internode)			x	
<i>T. aestivum/compactum</i> type (rachis nodes)				x
Cereal indet. (grains)		xfg		xfg
<b>Herbs</b>				
<i>Aethusa cynapium</i> L.			xw	
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> L.			xw	
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.			x	x
Apiaceae indet.	x		xw	
Asteraceae indet.			xw	
<i>Atriplex</i> sp.			xw	
<i>Bromus</i> sp.		x		x
<i>Carduus</i> sp.			xw	
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.			xw	
<i>Daucus carota</i> L.			xcfw	
Fabaceae indet.		xcf	x	x
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> L.			xw	
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i> L.			xw	
<i>Lamium</i> sp.			xxw	
Lamiaceae indet.			xxw	
<i>Leontodon</i> sp.			xw	
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i> L.			xw	

<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.			XXW	
<i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus</i>			XW	
<i>Rumex</i> sp.			XW	
<i>Sinapis</i> sp.			XW	
<i>Sonchus asper</i> (L.)Hill			XW	
<i>Stellaria media</i> (L.)Vill			XW	
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L.			XXW	
<i>U. urens</i> L.			XW	
<b>Wetland plants</b>				
<i>Carex</i> sp.	x		XXW	
<b>Tree/shrub macrofossils</b>				
<i>Betula</i> sp. (fruit)			XW	
<i>Salix</i> sp. (fruit)			XW	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.			xcffgw	
<b>Other plant macrofossils</b>				
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xxxx	xxxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	x	xx	xxx	x
Charcoal >5mm		x	xxx	xx
Charcoal >10mm	x		x	x
Charred root/stem		x	x	x
Waterlogged root/stem			xxxx	
Indet. leaf frags.			XW	
Indet. seeds			x	
Wood frags. >10mm			XW	
<b>Other remains</b>				
Black porous and tarry material	x	x	x	x
Bone		x	x	x
Burnt/fired clay		x		x
Eggshell		x		
Mineralised soil concretions		xx		xxxx
Small coal/?shale frags	x	x	x	x
Small mammal/amphibian bones		x		x
Waterlogged arthropod remains			xx	
<b>Sample volume (litres)</b>				
<b>Volume of flot (litres)</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>% flot sorted</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>100%</b>

x = 1-10 specimens xx = 11-50 specimens xxx = 51-100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens  
 cf = compare fg = fragment w = waterlogged

### **Conclusions are recommendations for further work**

In summary, it would appear most likely that the few charred remains which are recorded are derived from scattered hearth or midden waste, all of which was probably accidentally incorporated within the feature fills. Assuming that the waterlogged macrofossils from sample 3 are indicative of the local environment, it would appear that (at the time of deposition) this comprised rough, damp, poorly managed grassland which may occasionally have been used as seasonal pasture or for the dumping of animal ordure. It is suggested that some adjacent land may also have been disturbed and/or cultivated, allowing for the occurrence of annual weeds.

As none of the current assemblages contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended. However, it should be noted that these samples do show that moderately well-preserved plant remains are present within the archaeological horizon in this area of Kibworth. Therefore, if any future interventions are planned, it is suggested that additional plant macrofossil samples should be taken from all dated and well-sealed contexts recorded during excavation. A summary of this current assessment should be included within any publication of data from the site.

## 7 DISCUSSION

The results of the trial trench evaluation confirmed the presence of archaeological features identified in the geophysical data (GSB 1999; Richardson 2016). However, a number of additional features were found to be present. Some difficulty was encountered when comparing the two sets of geophysical data which may account for a slight, but not significant, underestimation of the number of archaeological features within the area of proposed development.

During the evaluation worked flint artefacts, comprising residual material, were present in a number of features and have been dated to the early Bronze Age. No contemporary features were identified within the proposed development area, though it remains clear that people were present in the landscape during that period.

The dominant feature within the site was the parallel linear ditches, aligned south-west to north-east, which stretched across Fields 1 and 2 (Fig 2). These ditches were clearly visible in a number of trenches and appeared to form a length of trackway. Where excavated these ditches had been re-cut on at least one occasion. The pottery assemblage for the whole site was extremely limited though a sherd of pottery recovered from the re-cut of one of the trackway ditches has been dated to the 1st/2nd centuries AD. Similar stretches of trackway were identified following geophysical survey and trial evaluation of land immediately to the north of the site (Walford 2015; Clements 2015).

The trial trench evaluation also identified several other linear ditches, which when compared to the geophysical data appeared to relate to enclosures and field boundaries to the north of the trackway. Once again, whilst dateable material was scarce, one sherd recovered from one of these ditches has been dated to the 1st/2nd centuries AD. Furthermore, a number of the ditches show a similar pattern of re-cutting on at least one occasion. A curvilinear gully close to the northern edge of Field 1 (Trench 7), may form part of a ring gully associated with a roundhouse. Large pits located nearby may bolster the notion of some limited occupational activity in this area. A large feature excavated in Trench 4 appears to relate to large discrete anomalies present in the geophysical data. The form and function of the feature is not yet clear though excavation and subsequent augering has proven that it was very deep and contained waterlogged material in its basal fills. The dimensions of the feature suggest that it may be a clay extraction pit designed to access the underlying Blue Lias Formation present across much of the site. Pottery recovered from the upper fill of this feature has been dated to the 1st/2nd centuries AD.

Overall, the pottery, animal bone and small find assemblages from the site were very limited and may indicate a more agricultural landscape, set apart from any significant centre of settlement activity. Environmental samples taken from a selection features have identified that the local environment may be described as poorly managed grassland used for seasonal pasture. The analysis of the environmental remains concluded that should further work take place, additional samples should be taken from well-dated and sealed contexts. This is particularly true should further waterlogged deposits be encountered as they have been shown to contain well preserved plant macrofossils.

Evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation was present across the whole of the evaluated area. In Field 1 the ground, though presently under pasture, has been extensively ploughed. In this field, the remnant furrows were only visible as buried features. However, in Field 2 extant earthworks indicative of ridge and furrow

cultivation were well preserved across much of the field. A number of field systems were present, partly delineated by an extant boundary drainage ditch, though in the south-western part of the field, two alignments of ridge and furrow appeared to meet.

The site has the potential to inform research questions outlined in the regional research agenda (Knight *et al* 2012). Of particular interest may be the aspects of regional agricultural economy and intensification/expansion of field systems during the Romano-British period.

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10 October 2016

## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, S end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
1	50m x 1.8m N-S		127.04m	0.25-0.35m 126.79-126.69m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Dark brown friable snady clay with occasional small gravel throughout.	0.20m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Mid-dark brown compacted sandy clay with small gravel stones throughout.	0.05 - 0.15m thick	-
103	Natural	Mid brown-orange sandy clay with small rounded stones throughout.	-	-
104	Fill of [106]	Compact dark brown-grey sandy clay with moderate amount of small to medium sub-rounded stones throughout.	W = 1.15m D = 0.10m	-
105	Fill of [106]	Friable mid brown-grey sandy clay with occasional small to large sub-rounded stones throughout.	W = 1.10 D = 0.39m	-
106	Ditch	Linear ditch terminus with broad U-shaped profile and uneven base.	1.15m wide 0.49m deep	-
107	Fill of [108]	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks throughout.	W = 0.25m D = 0.07m	-
108	Gully	Narrow linear gully with very shallow bowl-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 0.25m D = 0.07m	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, E end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
2	35m x 1.8m E-W		124.11m	0.25-0.28m 123.86-123.83m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
201	Topsoil	Dark brown friable snady clay with occasional small gravel throughout.	0.20m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Mid-dark brown compacted sandy clay with small gravel stones throughout.	0.05-0.08m thick	-
203	Natural	Mid brown-orange sandy clay with small rounded stones throughout.	-	-



Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, W end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
3	50m x 1.8m E-W		124.5m	0.32-0.37m 124.18-124.13m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
301	Topsoil	Dark brown friable sandy clay with occasional small gravel throughout.	0.20m thick	-
302	Subsoil	Mid-dark brown compacted sandy clay with small gravel stones throughout.	0.12-0.17m thick	-
303	Natural	Mid brown-orange sandy clay with small rounded stones throughout.	0.40m thick	-
304	Fill of [305]	Firm dark grey-brown sandy clay with occasional sub-rounded stones throughout.	W = 0.78 D = 0.55	Animal bone
305	Ditch	Linear ditch with U-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 0.78 D = 0.55	-
306	Fill of [307]	Firm dark grey-brown sandy clay with occasional sub-rounded stones throughout.	W = 0.81 D = 0.36	Pottery, animal bone
307	Ditch	Linear ditch with U-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 0.81 D = 0.36	-
308	Fill of [309]	Firm dark grey-brown sandy-silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stones throughout.	W = 0.82 D = 0.51	-
309	Ditch	Linear ditch with V-shaped profile and narrow concave base.	W = 0.82 D = 0.51	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, SW end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
4	50m x 1.8m NE-SW		125.80m	0.27-0.40m 125.53-125.40m
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/Samples
401	Topsoil	Dark brown friable sandy clay with occasional small gravel throughout.	0.20m thick	SF6
402	Subsoil	Mid-dark brown compacted sandy clay with small gravel stones throughout.	0.07-0.20m thick	-
403	Natural	Mid brown-orange sandy clay with small rounded stones throughout.	-	-
404	Fill of [405]	Firm dark grey sandy-silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stones throughout.	W = 1.16m D = 0.18m	SF1, animal bone
405	Ditch	Linear ditch with broad U-shaped profile and flat base.	W = 1.16m D = 0.18m	-
406	Fill of [408]	Firm mid-dark grey silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and small sub-rounded stones throughout.	W = D = 0.75m	Sample 1, Pottery, animal bone

407	Fill of [408]	Firm mid yellow-brown silty-sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small sub-rounded stones throughout.	W = D = 0.20m	-
408	Pit	Large pit, only partially visible in trench, steep sides. Not fully excavated.	W = 3.20m D = 0.75m	-
409	Fill of [408]	Soft, very wet dark grey silty clay with frequent small fragments of charcoal throughout.	W = N/A D = c0.57m	Sample 3, wood
410	Fill of [408]	Compact mid grey-brown sandy-silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones throughout.	W = N/A D = c0.16m	-

<b>Trench No.</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>		<b>Surface height, E end (aOD)</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>50m x 1.8m E-W</b>		<b>126.56m</b>	<b>0.30-0.54m 126.26- 126.02m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
501	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with root disturbance throughout.	0.28 - 0.30m thick	-
502	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown compact sandy clay with occasional small rounded stones throughout.	0.12 - 0.24m thick	-
503	Natural	Mid brown-yellow sandy clay with occasional angular fragments of limestone. Changes to mid red-orange sandy clay at the western end of the trench.	0.02 - 0.09m visible	-
504	Fill of [505]	Mid grey brown silty clay with frequent medium rounded cobbles.	W = 0.50m D = N/A	-
505	Post hole	Sub-circular possible post-hole. Not excavated.	W = 0.50m D = N/A	-
506	Fill of [507]	Compact dark grey brown with mottled yellow clay.	L = 1.00m W = 0.40m D = N/A	-
507	Natural feature	Irregularly shaped feature, visible in subsoil. Not excavated.	L = 1.00m W = 0.40m D = N/A	-

<b>Trench No.</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>		<b>Surface height, S end (aOD)</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>50m x 1.8m N-S</b>		<b>125.96m</b>	<b>0.42m 48.97m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
601	Topsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with root disturbance throughout.	0.19 - 0.28m thick	-
602	Subsoil	Compact mid grey-brown sandy clay with small sub-rounded stones throughout.	0.10 - 0.28m thick	-
603	Natural	Compact mid yellow-brown sandy clay with chalk/limestone fragments and occasional flint nodules throughout.	0.01 - 0.02 thick	-
604	Fill of [605]	Firm dark brown-grey sandy clay with occasional small-medium sub-rounded stones throughout.	W = 0.60m D = 0.10	-
605	Ditch	Linear ditch with U-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 0.60m D = 0.10	-
606	Fill of [607]	Firm dark grey sandy-silty clay with occasional small-medium sub-rounded stones and charcoal flecks throughout.	W = 0.53m D = 0.18m	Animal bone
607	Ditch	Linear ditch with U-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 0.53m D = 0.18m	-
608	Fill of [609]	Firm dark grey-brown sandy clay with occasional small to medium sub-rounded stones throughout.	W = 0.45m D = 0.17m	-
609	Ditch	Linear ditch with U-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 0.45m D = 0.17m	-
610	Fill of [612]	Firm mid-dark brown-grey silty clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks throughout.	W = 1.14m D = 0.28m	-
611	Fill of [612]	Compact mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks throughout.	W = 1.10m D = 0.35m	Pottery, animal bone
612	Ditch	Linear ditch with asymmetrical U-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 1.14m D = 0.62m	-
613	Fill of [614]	Firm dark brown-grey sandy clay with occasional small-medium sub-rounded stones and frequent charcoal flecks throughout.	W = 1.35m D = 0.64	Pottery, animal bone
614	Ditch	Linear ditch with U-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 1.35m D = 0.64	-
615	Fill of [616]	Firm dark grey-brown sandy clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones throughout.	W = 0.80m D = 0.49m	Animal bone
616	Ditch	Linear ditch with U-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 0.80m D = 0.49m	-
617	Fill of [618]	Firm mid yellow-brown-grey silty clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks throughout.	W = 0.97m D = 0.40m	SF2
618	Ditch	Linear ditch with broad U-shaped profile and flat base.	W = 0.97m D = 0.40m	-

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619	Fill of [620]	Compact mid grey silty clay with occasional charcoal throughout.	W = 0.27m D = 0.11m	-
620	Small pit/post hole	Sub-oval shallow feature with bowl-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 0.27m D = 0.11m	-
621	Fill of [623]	Compact mid grey silty clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks throughout.	W = 0.36m D = 0.06m	-
622	Fill of [623]	Firm mid yellow-brown silty clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks throughout.	W = 0.31m D = 0.09m	-
623	Small pit/post hole	Sub-oval feature with asymmetrical profile and concave base.	W = 0.36m D = 0.15m	-
624	Fill of [628]	Firm dark grey-brown sandy clay with occasional small-medium sub-rounded stones throughout and frequent charcoal flecks.	W = 1.06m D = 0.45m	Animal bone
625	Fill of [628]	Firm mid brown-grey silty-sandy clay with occasional small-medium stones and charcoal throughout.	W = 0.92m D = 0.15m	Animal bone
626	Fill of [628]	Compact dark grey sandy clay with frequent flecks of charcoal throughout.	W = 1.02m D = 0.10m	-
627	Fill of [628]	Compact/friable mid brown-grey silty-sandy clay with occasional large rounded cobbles grouped at the base.	W = 1.40m D = 0.30m	Sample 2, animal bone
628	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep-sided U-shaped profile and slightly concave base.	W = 1.40m D = 0.95m	-

<b>Trench No.</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>		<b>Surface height, SW end (aOD)</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b>
7	50m x 1.8m NE-SW		125.26m	0.40-0.47m 124.86-124.79m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
701	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy clay with frequent root disturbance throughout.	0.19 - 0.22m thick	-
702	Subsoil	Compact mid grey-brown sandy clay with occasional small fragments of limestone throughout.	0.21 - 0.25m thick	-
703	Natural	Mottled grey sandy clay with limestone throughout and patches of red-orange sandy clay.	-	-
704	Fill of [705]	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional small chalk fragments and charcoal flecks throughout.	W = 0.54m D = 0.17m	-
705	Gully	Narrow linear gully with bowl-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 0.54m D = 0.17m	-
706	Fill of [707]	Friable light brown-grey silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and small rounded stones.	W = 0.38m D = 0.12m	-
707	Small pit/post hole	Sub-oval pit or base of post hole with shallow U-shaped profile and uneven base.	W = 0.38m D = 0.12m	-
708	Fill of [709]	Firm mid brown silty clay with occasional fragments of chalk and charcoal flecks throughout.	W = 0.93m D = 0.30m	-
709	Ditch	Linear ditch with broad U-shaped profile and flat base.	W = 0.93m D = 0.30m	-
710	Fill of [711]	Friable light grey silty clay with occasional small-medium rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks throughout.	W = 1.10m D = 0.38m	Pottery, animal bone
711	Ditch	Linear ditch with U-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 1.10m D = 0.38m	-
712	Fill of [713]	Friable dark brown-grey silty clay with occasional angular fragments of flint throughout.	W = 0.35m D = 0.06m	Animal bone
713	Gully	Slightly curvilinear gully with narrow bowl-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 0.35m D = 0.06m	-
714	Fill of [715]	Friable dark brown-grey silty clay with occasional medium rounded heat affected cobbles.	W = 0.32m D = 0.09m	-
715	Gully	Slightly curvilinear gully with narrow bowl-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 0.32m D = 0.09m	-
716	Fill of [717]	Friable mid brown silty-sandy clay	W = 1.80m D = 0.05m	-
717	Furrow	Linear furrow with shallow and broad profile with flat base.	W = 1.80m D = 0.05m	-

718	Fill of [720]	Friable mid grey-green silty sandy clay with occasional small fragments of chalk and large-very large heat affected cobbles/boulders throughout.	W = 1.08m D = 0.62m	SF4, Sample 4, animal bone
719	Fill of [720]	Friable mottled light grey and mid orange-brown silty-sandy clay with occasional chalk and flint throughout.	W = 0.65 D = 0.32m	SF5, animal bone
720	Pit	Large sub-rectangular pit, only partially visible within the trench. Steep sided U-shaped profile and flat base.	W = 1.08m D = 0.94m	-

<b>Trench No.</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>		<b>Surface height, SE end (aOD)</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>50m x 1.8m NW-SE</b>		<b>125.65m</b>	<b>0.38-0.63m 125.27-125.02m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
801	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy clay with frequent root disturbance throughout.	0.19 - 0.28m thick	-
802	Subsoil	Compact mid grey-brown-yellow sandy clay with rare small angular stones throughout.	0.19 - 0.35m thick	-
803	Natural	Compact mid grey-brown-yellow sandy clay.	0.01 - 0.02m visible	-
804	Fill of [805]	Firm mid-dark grey silty clay with occasional small stones.	W = 0.35m D = 0.12m	-
805	Post hole	Sub-circular small pit or truncated post hole with U-shaped profile and flat base.	W = 0.35m D = 0.12m	-
806	Fill of [808]	Firm mid brown-grey silty clay with occasional small-medium stones throughout.	W = 0.80m D = 0.09m	-
807	Fill of [808]	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with small stones and occasional flecks of charcoal throughout.	W = 0.75m D = 0.22m	-
808	Post hole	Sub-circular small pit or post hole with asymmetrical profile and concave base.	W = 0.80m D = 0.31m	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, N end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
9	50m x 1.8m N-S		124.94m	0.44-0.48m 124.50-125.46m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
901	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy clay loam with frequent root disturbance throughout.	0.27 - 0.30m thick	-
902	Subsoil	Compact mid grey-brown sandy clay with occasional flecks of chalk throughout.	0.17 - 0.18m thick	-
903	Natural	Sandy gravel and mid red-orange sandy clay at the northern end. Mid brown-yellow clay throughout the rest of the trench.	0.08 - 0.37m visible	-
904	Fill of [805]	Mid brown silty clay.	W = 0.20m D = N/A	-
905	Ditch	Linear ditch. Not excavated.	W = 0.20m D = N/A	-
906	Fill of [808]	Mid brown silty clay.	W = 0.27m D = N/A	-
907	Ditch	Linear ditch. Not excavated.	W = 0.27m D = N/A	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, E end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
10	50m x 1.8m E-W		123.57m	0.38-0.45m 123.19-123.12m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1001	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy clay loam with frequent root disturbance throughout.	0.24 - 0.27m thick	-
1002	Subsoil	Compact mid grey-brown sandy clay with occasional flecks of chalk throughout.	0.14 - 0.18m thick	-
1003	Natural	Mid brown-yellow with occasional patches of red-orange sandy gravel.	0.01 - 0.02m visible	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, N end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
11	50m x 1.8m N-S		123.66m	0.43-0.58m 123.23-123.08m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1101	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy clay loam with frequent root disturbance throughout.	0.18 - 0.28m thick	-
1102	Subsoil	Compact mid grey-brown sandy clay with occasional flecks of chalk throughout.	0.25 - 0.30m thick	-
1103	Natural	Mixed grey clay with chalk flecks and sub-rounded/sub-angular stones throughout.	0.01 - 0.02m visible	-
1104	Fill of [1105]	Compact dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional angular flint and small rounded stones throughout.	W = 1.46m D = 0.34m	SF3, animal bone
1105	Ditch	Linear ditch with U-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 1.46m D = 0.34m	-
1106	Fill of [1107]	Compact mid brown-grey silty clay with occasional angular flint.	W = 0.88m D = 0.46m	-
1107	Ditch	Linear ditch with U-shaped profile and concave base.	W = 0.88m D = 0.46m	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, NE end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
12	50m x 1.8m NE-SW		121.32m	0.36-0.56m 120.96-120.76m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1201	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy clay loam with frequent root disturbance throughout.	0.16 - 0.21m thick	-
1202	Subsoil	Compact mid grey-brown sandy clay.	0.20 - 0.35m thick	-
1203	Natural	Mixed mid yellow-brown clay with patches of gravel and mid red-orange sandy clay.	0.07 - 0.11m visible	-



<b>Trench No.</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>		<b>Surface height, S end (aOD)</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b>
13	50m x 1.8m N-S		121.61m	0.43-0.58m 123.23-123.08m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
1301	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy clay loam with frequent root disturbance throughout.	0.15 - 0.18m thick	-
1302	Headland	Compact mid orange-brown sandy clay with rare small stones throughout.	0.28m thick	-
1303	Natural	Mid yellow-brown clay, very compact.	0.10 - 0.11m visible	-
1304	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown clay.	0.15 - 0.25m thick	-

<b>Trench No.</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>		<b>Surface height, NE end (aOD)</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b>
14	50m x 1.8m NE-SW		119.38m	0.80-1.09m 118.58-118.29m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
1401	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy clay loam with frequent root disturbance throughout.	0.18 - 0.22m thick	-
1402	Subsoil	Compact mid grey-brown sandy clay with occasional flecks of chalk throughout.	0.22 - 0.35m thick	-
1403	Natural	Mid brown-red sandy clay with occasional large flint nodules.	0.01 - 0.02m visible	-
1404	Layer	Firm mid-dark grey-brown silty clay with no inclusions.	0.40 - 0.52m thick	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, NE end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
15	50m x 1.8m NE-SW		118.64m	1.13-1.54m 117.51-117.10m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1501	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy clay loam with frequent root disturbance throughout.	0.23 - 0.30m thick	-
1502	Subsoil	Compact mid grey-brown sandy clay with occasional flecks of chalk throughout.	0.32 - 0.44m thick	-
1503	Layer	Mid grey-brown silty clay.	0.58 - 0.80m visible	-
1504	Natural	Mixed mid brown-yellow silty clay with pockets of gravels and patches of mid red-brown silty clay.	0.05 - 0.08m visible	-

Trench No.	Length, width & alignment		Surface height, NE end (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
16	50m x 1.8m NE-SW		120.69m	0.63-1.06m 120.06-119.63m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1601	Topsoil	Friable mid grey-brown sandy clay loam with frequent root disturbance throughout.	0.20m thick	-
1602	Subsoil	Compact mid grey-brown sandy clay with occasional flecks of chalk throughout.	0.20 - 0.40m thick	-
1603	Layer	Mid grey-brown silty clay.	0.23 - 0.46m thick	-
1604	Natural	Mixed mid brown-yellow silty clay with pockets of gravels and patches of mid red-brown silty clay.	0.05 - 0.10m visible	-

## **APPENDIX B: SMALL FINDS CATALOGUE**

- SF 1 Point, bone. Incomplete, one terminal and tip of point missing. D-shaped cross-section, surfaces display signs of wear, but particularly the extreme terminal which has been worn to a fine D-sectioned point. L (incomplete): 49mm W: 8mm D: 6mm
- SF 2 Knife, iron. Incomplete, tip of blade only. Back of blade horizontal then curves to tip and cutting edge horizontal. L (incomplete): 68mm W:18mm T: 2mm



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