



**Trial trench evaluation on land at
Westgate Lane
Lubenham, Leicestershire
January 2017**

Report No. 17/07

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Illustrators: Joanne Clawley
Olly Dindol



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Report No. 17/07
Accession code: X.A141.2015

Quality control and sign off:

Issue No.	Date approved:	Checked by:	Verified by:	Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	31/01/2017	A Maull	R Atkins	M Holmes	Draft for client review

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: molanort1-274755	
Project name	Trial trench evaluation on land at Westgate Lane, Lubenham, Leicestershire, January 2017		
MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) carried out an evaluation on land at Westgate Lane, Lubenham. The evaluation identified a number of ditches which are likely to relate to tenement plots or other land divisions, as well as other ditches and pits. A quantity of pottery dating to the 10th to 15th centuries was recovered from these features. Two ditches and the backfill of a dried up stream bed dating to the post-medieval to modern periods were also identified.			
Project type	Evaluation		
Site status	None		
Previous work	Trial Trenching – Phase 1 (Hewitt <i>et al</i> 2016); earthwork survey (Simmonds 2016); geophysical survey (Davies and Reeves 2015); desk-based heritage assessment (Dawson 2015)		
Current Land use	Arable farmland and grassland		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type/ period	Medieval ditches, pits; post-medieval ditches		
Significant finds	Medieval pottery		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Leicestershire		
Site address (including postcode)	Westgate Lane, Lubenham		
Study area (sq.m or ha)	c1.8 ha		
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq. letter code)	SP 70319 87206		
Height OD	90m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology)		
Project brief originator	Leicestershire County Council Archaeological Advisor (LCCAA)		
Project Design originator	MOLA		
Director/Supervisor	B Kidd		
Project Manager	A Maull		
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs consulting		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date/End date	10-13/01/2017		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content	
Physical	X.A141.2015	Pottery, animal bone	
Paper		Site documents – context sheets et al	
Digital		Mapinfo plans, Word report, dxf data, digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)			
Title	Trial trench evaluation on land at Westgate Lane, Lubenham, Leicestershire, January 2016		
Serial title & volume	17/07		
Author(s)	Ben Kidd		
Page numbers	21		
Date	08/02/2017		

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Trial trench evaluation on land at Westgate Lane Lubenham, Leicestershire Phase 2 January 2017

Abstract

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) carried out an evaluation on land at Westgate Lane, Lubenham. The evaluation identified a number of ditches which are likely to relate to tenement plots or other land divisions, as well as other ditches and pits. A quantity of pottery dating to the 10th to 15th centuries was recovered from these features. Two ditches and the backfill of a dried up stream bed dating to the post-medieval to modern periods were also identified.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) were commissioned by CgMs consulting to conduct an archaeological evaluation on land at Westgate Lane, Lubenham, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 70913 87206) (Fig 1). This followed on from desk-based assessment, geophysical survey, earthwork survey and the phase 1 evaluation.

The Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council (LCC) has requested additional 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 (WSI) prepared by MOLA (2016).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The evaluation of the site was designed to assess the archaeological potential of the site.

The general aims of the investigation of the site were to:

- establish the date, nature and extent of the activity or occupation on the development site;
- recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine past local environmental conditions.

Upon investigation it was found that the results of the evaluation could contribute to the east midlands regional research agenda (Cooper 2006, updated by Knight *et al* 2012) in the following areas:

High medieval

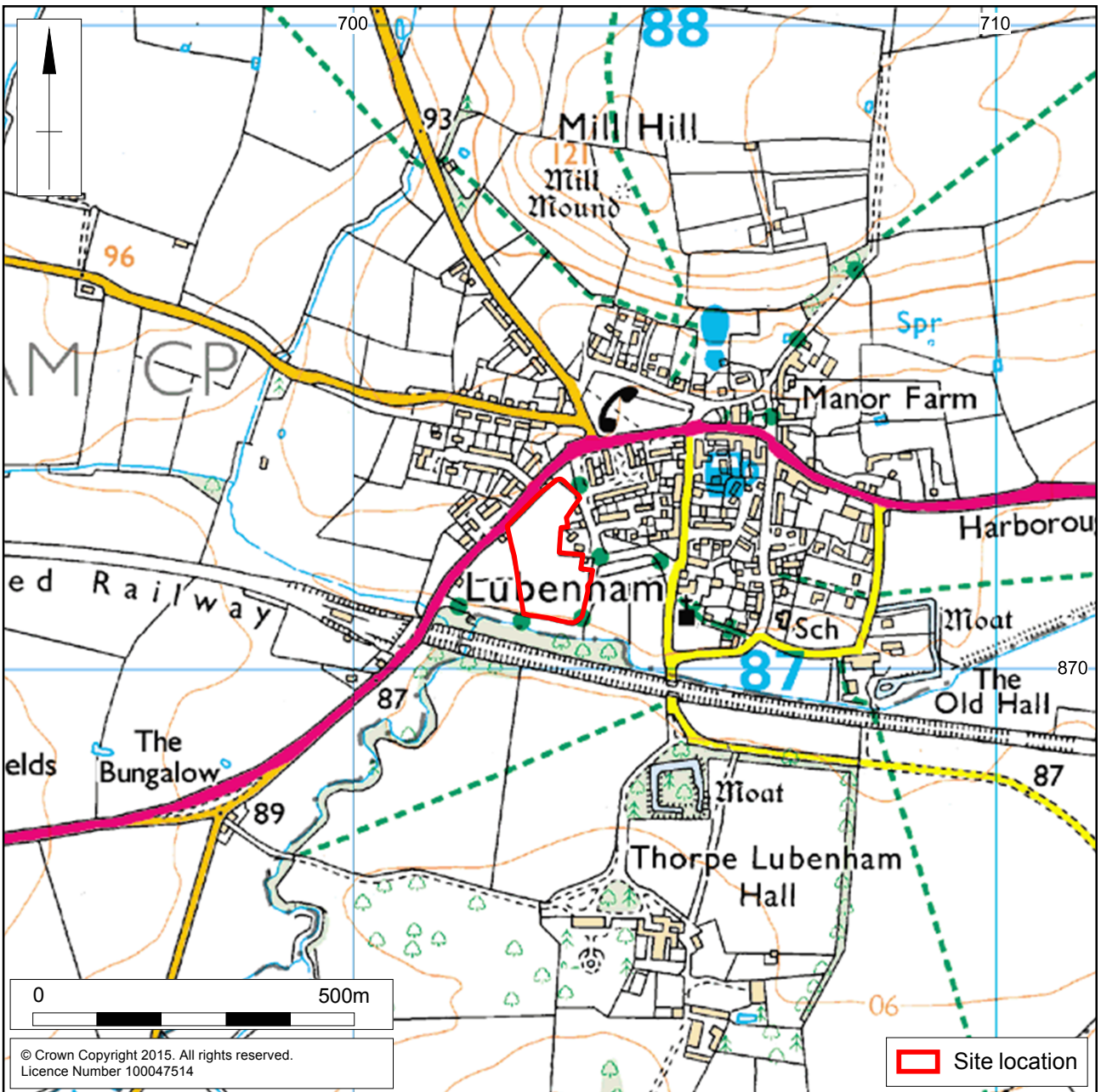
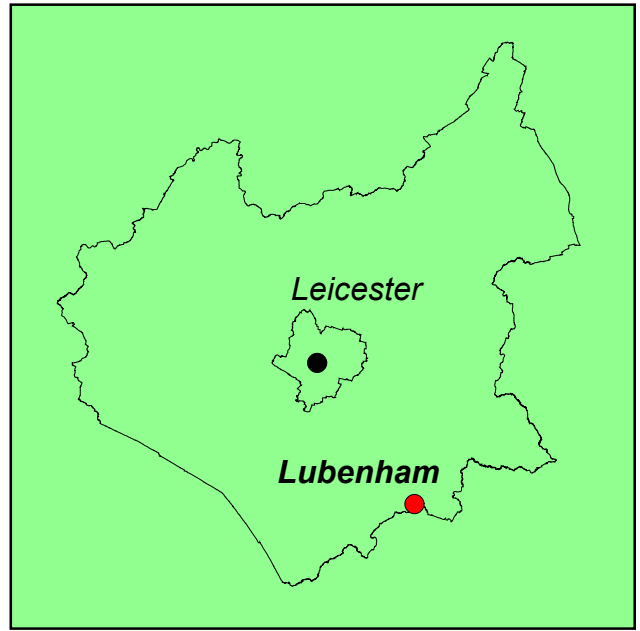
7.2 Rural settlement

7.7 The agrarian landscape and food producing economy

Post-medieval

8.4 Rural settlement pattern and building traditions

The evaluation was carried out following the guidelines suggested by the CfA's *Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluations* (CfA 2014), the MOLA Fieldwork Manual (2014) and the East Midlands regional framework (Cooper 2006; Knight *et al* 2012).



Scale 1:10,000

Site Location Fig 1

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Topography and geology

The proposed development area comprises c1.8ha of pasture, located to the west of Market Harborough in the southern part of Leicestershire (Fig 1). The site is bounded to the north-west by Theddingworth Road, to the west by Westgate Lane, small arable fields and a track way known as Washpit Lane to the east and to the south by the River Welland and the former Stamford to Rugby railway line.

The site is located on the first terrace of the River Welland valley and is generally flat at an elevation of c90m aOD (above Ordnance Datum). The underlying geology has been mapped as comprising undifferentiated Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone formation (BGS 2017).

3.2 Archaeological and historical background

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

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

Neolithic/Iron Age enclosures and settlements have been identified at Lubenham Hill (MLE 7197 20198/9) over 1.2km to the east of the site. Evidence for Roman occupation is defined by possible settlement remains on the southern side of the river (NHER 222). Roman pottery has been recovered close to the parish church of All Saints (MLE 7866).

The village of Lubenham appears in the Domesday Book as Lubanham (Lubba's farm) with a population of at least 45. The development area is to the west of the Anglo-Saxon core of occupation (Ekwall 1980, 306). There is the suggestion that the village may have once been larger as earthworks to the east of the village indicate the village may have contracted at some point in the past. Medieval pottery has been recovered throughout the village (MLE 1892, 1893, 9316). There are two moated sites within the area, Thorpe Lubenham Manor House (HER 4206) to the south of the river and the 16th century Old Hall (HER 1896) to the east of the site. Evidence of ridge and furrow within the development area suggests it may have been a part of the open field system for the village during this period.

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

Previous archaeological work

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

An initial phase of trial trench evaluation was undertaken by MOLA in January 2016 (Hewitt *et al* 2016). Observation of the site during the trenching and subsequent analysis of the LiDAR data (Fig 2) indicated that remains of the medieval village, including platforms and tenements extended across the eastern side of the proposed development. The western and northern parts had the remains of medieval and post-medieval cultivation strips (ridge and furrow).

An archaeological earthwork survey was also undertaken by MOLA in October 2016 (Simmonds 2016) to investigate the earthworks on site. This survey identified four rectangular or sub-square raised platforms which are likely to define medieval and post-medieval tenement plots and yard areas. Remains of ridge and furrow cultivation, a post enclosure field boundary, drainage ditches and the former course of a stream bed visible as an 'Oxbow' were also identified to the north and west of these earthworks (Fig 2).

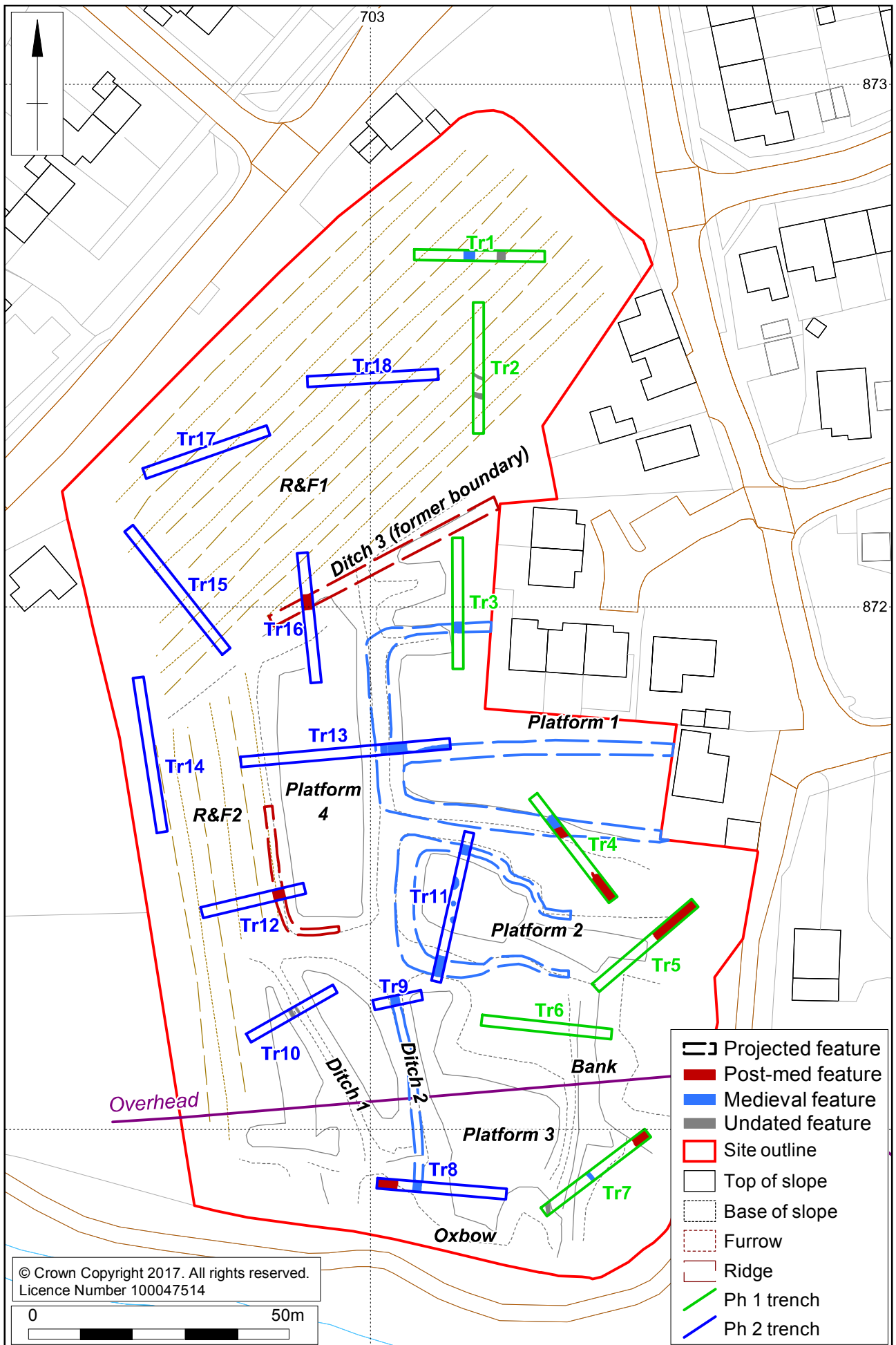
4 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

Eleven trenches of variable lengths were excavated; all trenches were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Trenches 10, 12, 16-18 were 20m in length, Trenches 8, 14 and 15 were 25m in length, Trenches 11 and 13 were 40m in length and Trench 9 was 9m in length (Fig 2). The topsoil and subsoil were removed under archaeological direction to reveal natural substrate. The trenches were located to sample the earthwork features identified through the LiDAR and earthwork surveys and to examine blank areas.

The locations of the trenches were surveyed and related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid using Leica Viva GPS survey equipment using SMARTNET real-time corrections, operating to a 3D tolerance of $\pm 0.05\text{m}$. A full photographic record comprising both 35mm black and white negatives and digital images was maintained. The field data from the evaluation has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

The excavated area was cleaned sufficiently to define any features. The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval. 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. They were described on *pro-forma* context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. On completion all trenches were backfilled with their up-cast, lightly compacted by the mechanical excavator.

The evaluation conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). All stages of the project were undertaken in accordance with Historic England's, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (HE 2015). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by MOLA (2016).



Scale 1:1000

Excavated trenches showing archaeological features Fig 2

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

5.1 Overview

Archaeology was identified in Trenches 8 – 13 and 16, with the majority of archaeological features corresponding with the earthwork survey and LiDAR results (Fig 2). Remains of ridge and furrow cultivation were also identified in Trenches 15 – 18, no archaeological remains were identified in Trench 14.

5.2 General stratigraphy

The natural substratum remained broadly consistent across the site with it generally consisting of light brown/grey-orange/yellow clay with rare patches of limestone at between 0.30-0.60m below the present ground surface.

A layer of possible hill wash or bank material was identified in Trench 9, (903) was mid-dark brown silty clay and was between 0.14-0.22m thick.

Subsoil was identified across the site and comprised mid brown silty clay and was between 0.08m to 0.45m thick.

The topsoil remained the same across the entire evaluation area and consisted of dark grey-brown soil and was between 0.10m to 0.25m thick.

5.3 The archaeology

Trench 8

One ditch and possible backfill of a dried up stream bed were identified within this trench (Figs 2 and 4).

Ditch [807] was 1.50m wide and 0.30m deep with an irregular U-shaped profile and flat base, its single fill consisted of a mid-yellow-brown silty clay with rare small stones, pottery dating to the modern period was recovered (Figs 3, 4 and 5, Section 15).

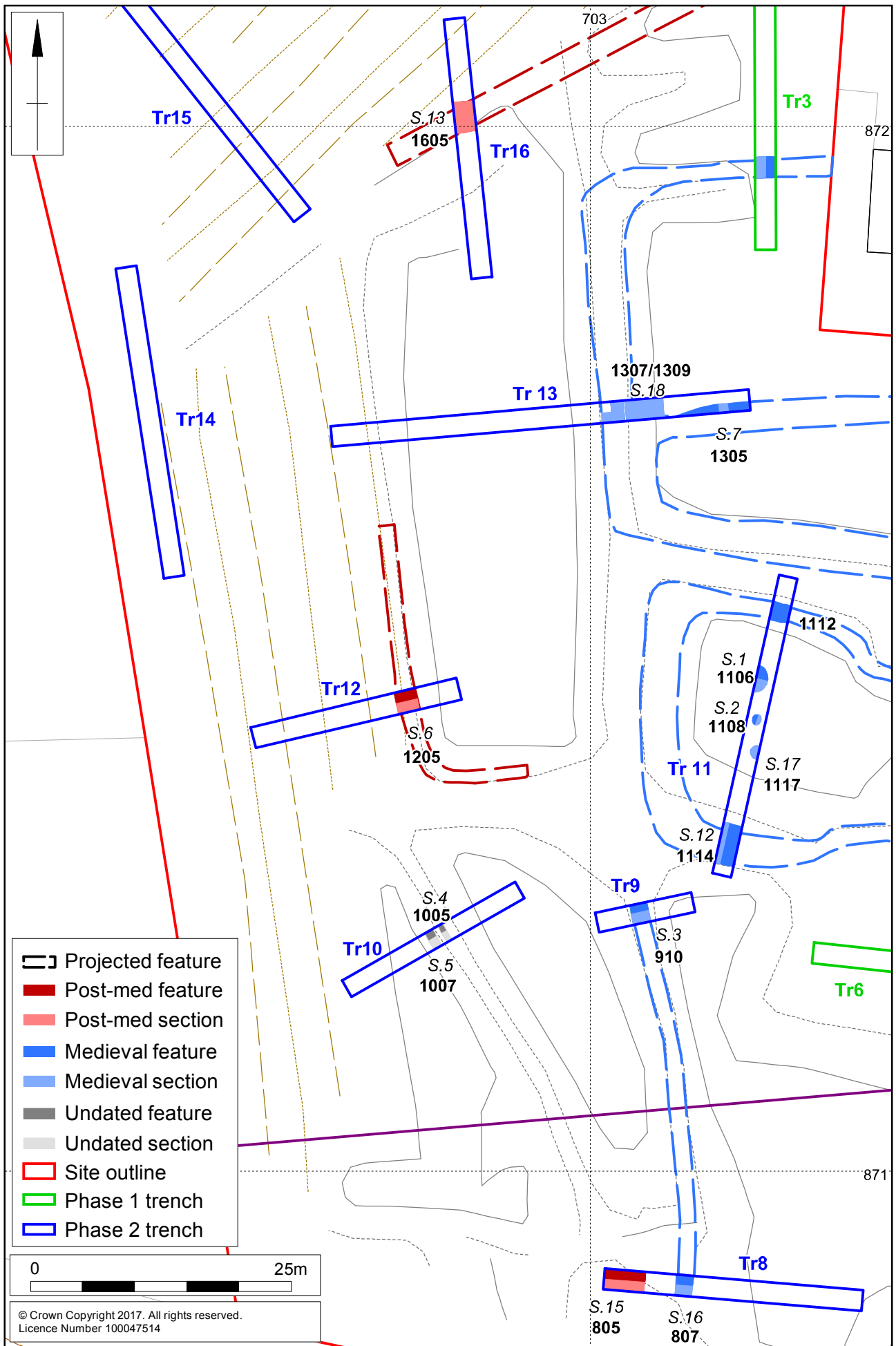


Ditch [807], looking south

Fig 3

Feature [805] which was located c1.5m to the west of [807] was part visible within the trench, it was at least 3.5m wide and 0.30m deep, the single fill comprised mid yellow brown silty clay. Pottery recovered suggests a modern date, with its location broadly corresponding with the 'oxbow' dried stream bed identified in the earthwork survey

(Simmonds 2016). This could indicate that it is modern backfill of a dried stream bed, rather than an archaeological feature (Figs 4 and 5, Section 16).

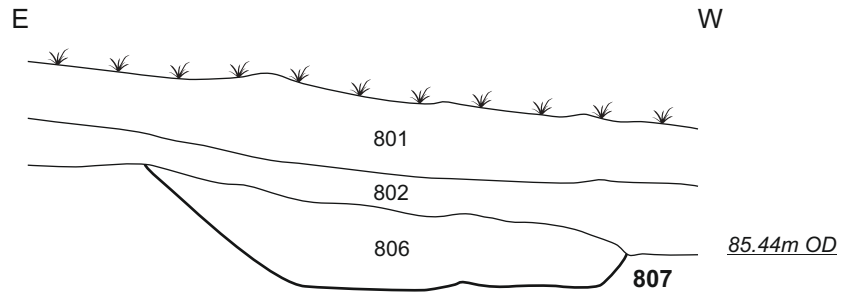


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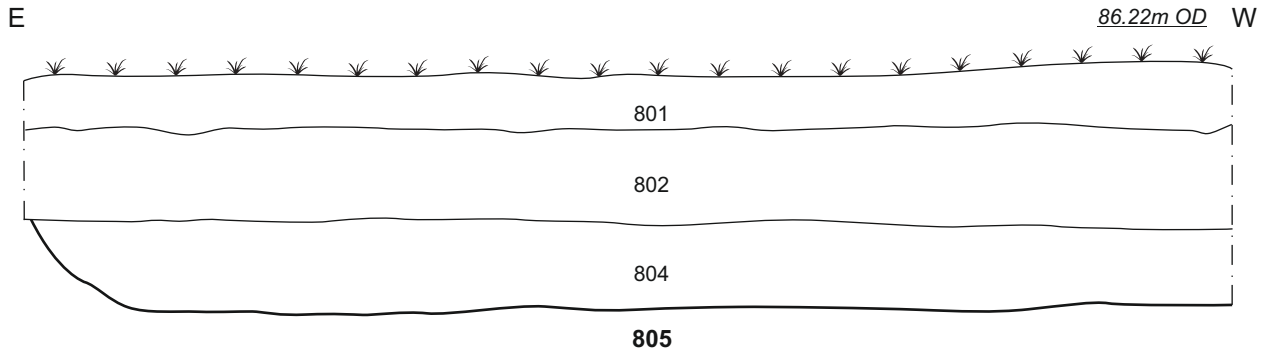
Detailed plan of trenches 8-16 Fig 4

Trench 8

Section 15

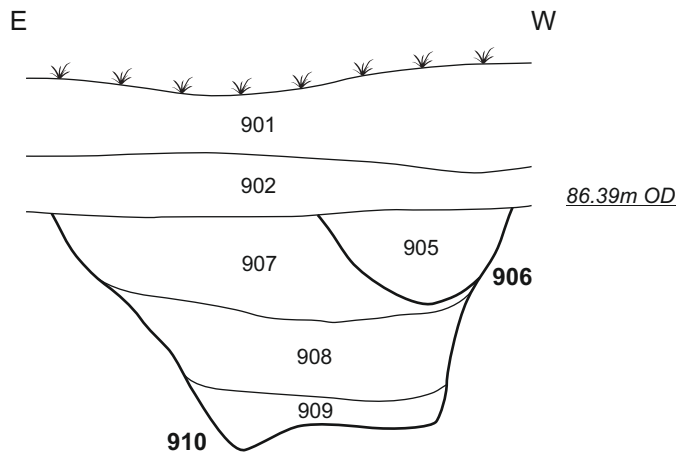


Section 16



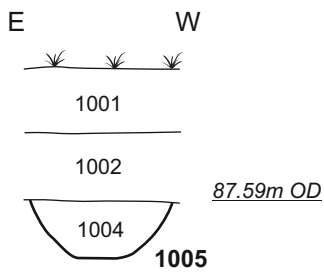
Trench 9

Section 3

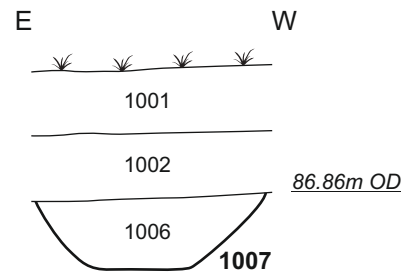


Trench 10

Section 4



Section 5



Trench 9

Trench 9 was located to investigate Ditch 2 which was identified in the earthwork survey as a drainage ditch (Simmonds 2016). On the location of the visible earthwork, a single ditch with a smaller re-cut was identified on a north-south alignment (Figs 2 and 4). Ditch [910] was a fairly large ditch, measuring 1.52m wide and 0.77m deep with a steep sided U-shaped profile and flat base and contained three fills (Fig 5, Section 3). The lower fill comprised dark blue-grey silty clay. The middle fill comprised mid-brown-grey silty clay, with animal bone also being recovered. Sealed by the upper fill which comprised mid-grey brown silty clay and contained pottery dating to the medieval period. Ditch [910] is likely to be a continuation of ditch [807] identified in Trench 8 (Figs 2 and 4).

A substantially smaller ditch, [906] was cut into the upper fill of [910] and followed the same alignment. Ditch [906] was 0.65m wide and 0.31m deep with a U-shaped profile and concave base (Fig 5, Section 3), its single fill comprised mid orange-brown sandy silty clay with occasional small stones, no dating evidence was recovered however it stratigraphically post-dated medieval Ditch [910].

Trench 10

Two furrows on an approximate north-south alignment were observed within the trench as well as two ditches on an approximate north-west to south-east alignment. Ditch [1007] was the larger of the two and was located towards the western end of the trench (Figs 2, 4 and 8, Section 9). It was 0.76m wide and 0.24m deep with a U-shaped profile and flat base (Fig 5, Section 5) and contained a single fill, comprising of mid-dark grey-brown silty clay.

The smaller of the two ditches, [1005] was 0.47m wide and 0.19m deep with a U-shaped profile and flat base (Fig 5, Section 4) and was located c1.5m to the north-east of [1007]. Its single fill was similar to that of [1007], comprising of mid-dark grey-brown silty clay, no dating evidence was recovered from either ditch.

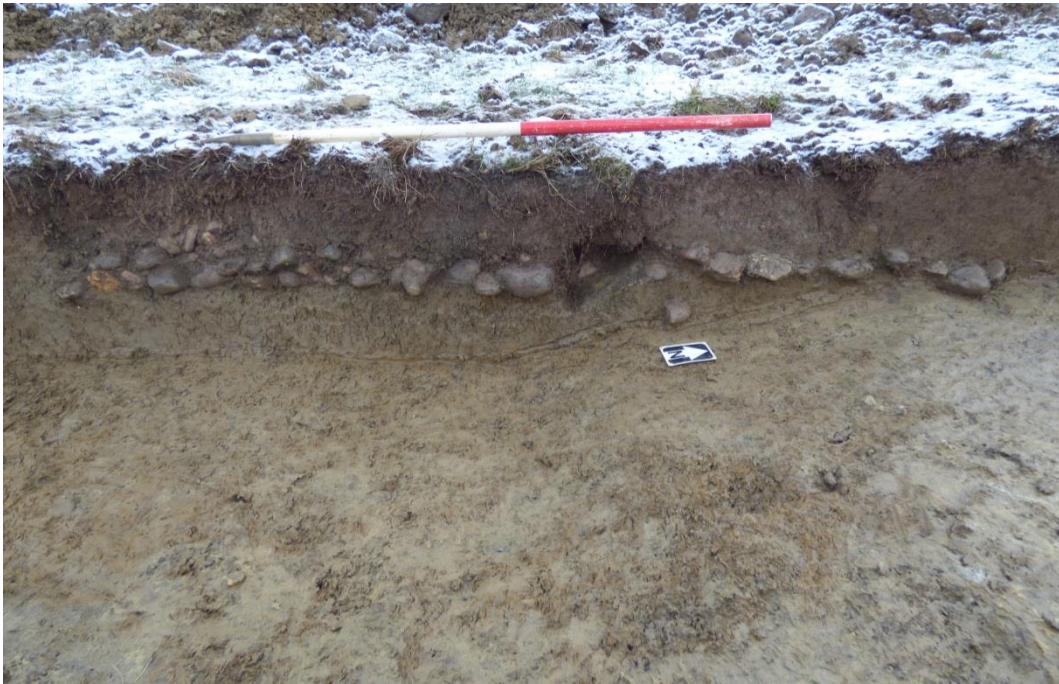
Trench 11

This trench was located to investigate a rectangular platform visible as a surviving earthwork. Platform 2, which is 0.30m high, was identified through the earthwork survey and LiDAR interpretation where it has been interpreted as a possible building platform (Simmonds 2016). Upon investigation, two east-west aligned ditches were identified at opposite ends of the trench, along with a shallow recut within the northern ditch. A pit and two possible pits or ditch terminals were also identified (Figs 4 and 8, Section 14).

Ditch [1114] was located at the southern end of the trench and corresponded with the southern edge of Platform 2. It was 4.0m wide and 0.22m deep with a U-shaped profile and flat base, its single fill comprised mid-dark brown silty clay with frequent small-large stones/boulders with this likely representing purposeful backfill and consolidation to support the platform (Fig 9, Section 12). No dating evidence was recovered; however it is likely to date to the medieval period.

Ditch [1112] was located at the northern end of the trench and corresponded with the northern edge of Platform 2 (Figs 4, 6, 7 and 9, Section 8). Ditch [1112] was 2.10m wide and 0.20m deep with a U-shaped profile and flat base, its single fill comprised mid-greyish-brown silty clay, no finds were recovered. A shallow re-cut, [1110] was observed within the upper part of [1112], which had presumably silted up. The recut was 2.0m wide and 0.14m deep with an irregular profile and base. Its single fill comprised a compact layer of mixed stone, similar to [1114], from which animal bone and pottery dating to the medieval period was recovered. The layer of stone is likely to

have been deposited shortly after the construction of [1110] in order to consolidate the former ditch, with it now possibly being used as a trackway.



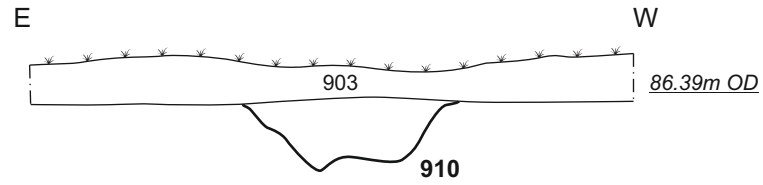
Ditches [1112], [1110] and layer of stone, looking west Fig 6



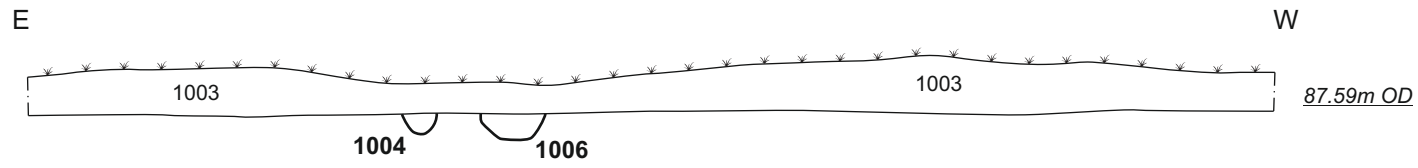
Stone layer in [1112], looking west (pre-excitation) Fig 7

Scale 1:100

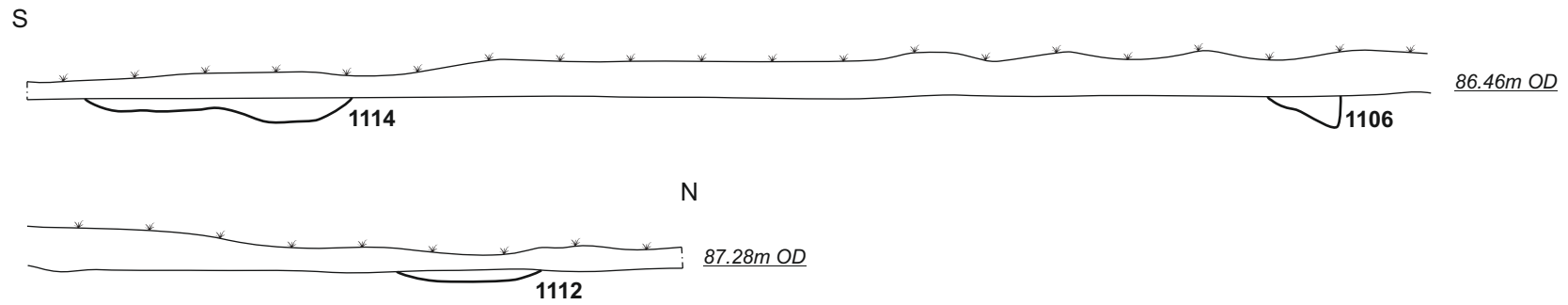
Section 10
Trench 9



Section 9
Trench 10



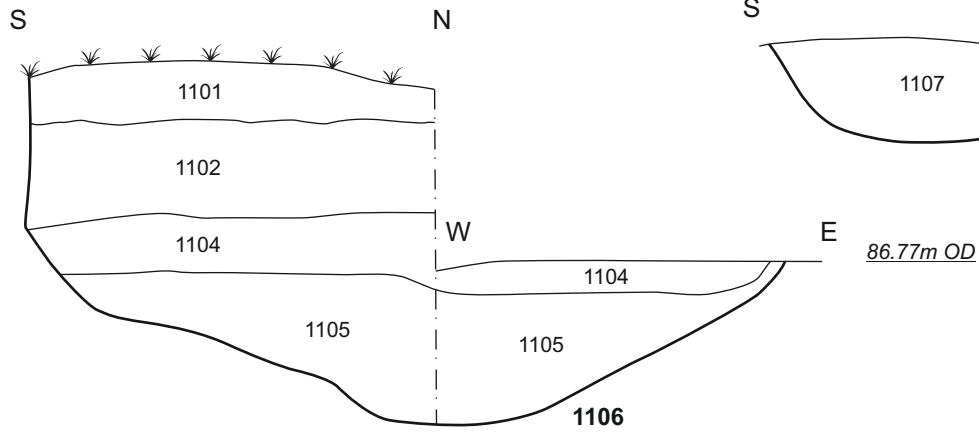
Section 14
Trench 11



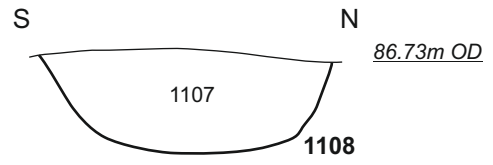
Profile sections through trenches 9, 10 and 11 Fig 8

Trench 11

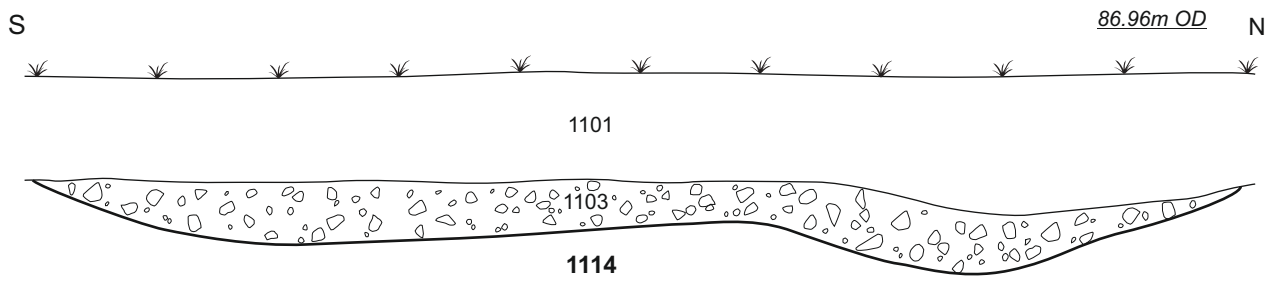
Section 1



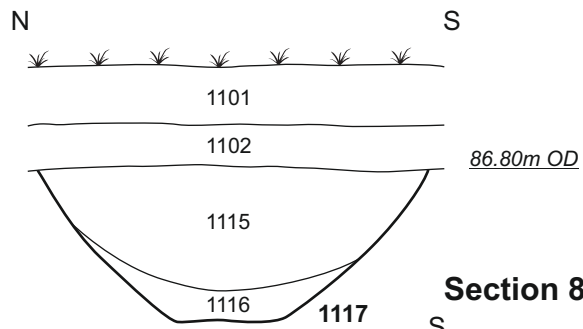
Section 2



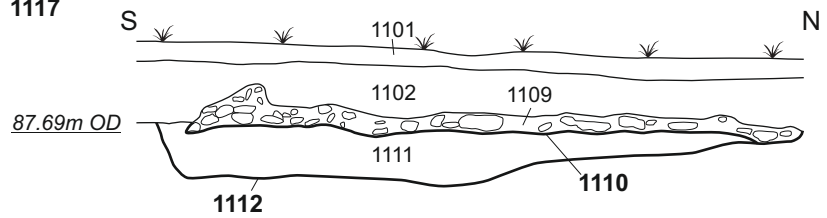
Section 12



Section 17



Section 8



Towards the centre of the trench three pits/possible pits were investigated, all three were located on the 'plateau' of Platform 2 (Fig 4). Pit [1106] was 2.85m wide and 0.65m deep with a U-shaped profile and concave base and contained two fills (Figs 4, 8, Sections 14 and 9, Section 1). The lower fill comprised mid yellow-brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal, animal bone with pottery dating to the medieval period being recovered, and was the more substantial of the two at 0.55m thick. The upper fill was 0.10m deep and comprised mid-yellow-brown silty clay with moderate small sandstone fragments. It contained pottery dating to the medieval period.



Pit [1106], looking west Fig 10

Feature [1117] was a pit or ditch terminal. It was located 6m to the south of [1106] and was 1.30m wide and 0.51m deep with a U-shaped profile and flat base and contained two deposits (Figs 4 and 9, Section 17). The lower fill was 0.10m deep and comprised mid brown silty clay with occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks, no finds were recovered. The upper fill comprised mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks; pottery dating to the medieval period was recovered.

Equidistant between [1117] and [1106] was circular pit [1108] which was 0.97m wide and 0.36m deep with a U-shaped profile and flattish base, its single fill consisted of a mid-greyish-brown silty clay with pottery dating to the medieval period being recovered (Figs 4 and 9, Section 2).

All pottery recovered from the archaeological features within this trench dated to the 10th – 12th centuries.

Trench 12

This trench was located to investigate the earthworks of Platform 4, identified through the earthwork survey (Simmonds 2016). A single ditch [1205] was identified and corresponded with the western edge of Platform 4 (Figs 2 and 4), it was 2.0m wide and 0.85m deep with a U-shaped profile and concave base (Figs 4,11 and 12, Section 6). Its single fill comprised mid yellow-brown silty clay, animal bone and contained pottery dating to the modern period.



Ditch [1205], looking south

Fig 11

Trench 13

This trench investigated the earthworks of Platforms 1 and 4, with three ditches being identified. Ditch [1305] was approximately aligned east-west in the eastern end of the trench, although it was only partly visible. [1305] was at least 0.88m wide and 0.40m deep (Figs 4 and 12, Section 7), the single fill consisted of dark brown-grey sandy clay, with animal bone and pottery being recovered.

Two north-south aligned ditches lay just to the west of [1305] (Fig 4). Ditch [1307] was 0.55m wide and 0.30m deep with a U-shaped profile and flat base (Fig 12, Section 18) and had been cut by [1309] on its eastern edge. Ditch [1309] was 1.60m wide and 0.40m deep with a U-shaped profile and flat base (Fig 12, Section 18), both ditches had fairly sterile single fills comprising of mid yellow-brown silty clay.

Pottery dating to the medieval period was recovered from all three ditches indicating a date between the 12th to 15th centuries.

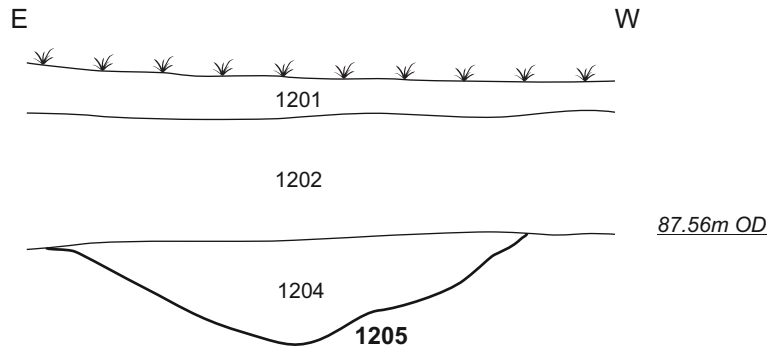
Trench 16

A single ditch was observed towards the centre of the trench on an east-west alignment, its position broadly corresponded with the projected alignment of Ditch 3, a post-medieval boundary ditch identified in the earthwork survey (Simmonds 2016).

Ditch [1605] was 1.85m wide and 0.45m deep with a U-shaped profile and flat base (Figs 4 and 12, Section 13), its single fill comprised mid grey sandy clay with frequent small stones and charcoal, no finds were recovered from the fill.

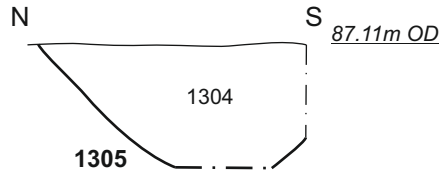
Trench 12

Section 6

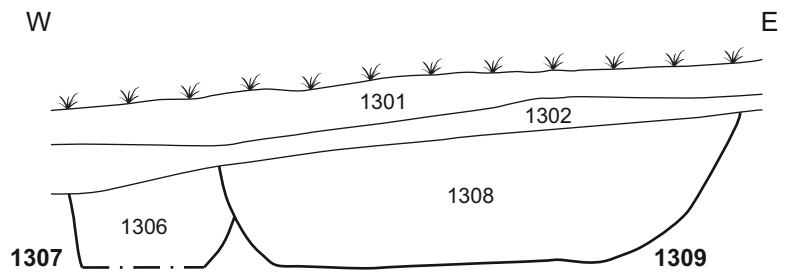


Trench 13

Section 7

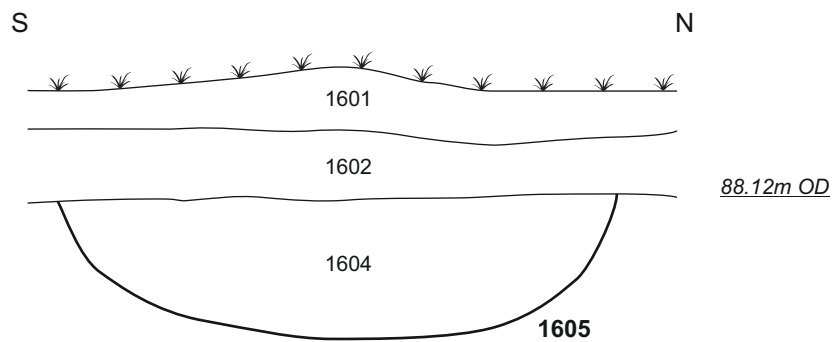


Section 18



Trench 16

Section 13



Scale 1:25

Trenches 12, 13 and 16 sections Fig 12

6 THE FINDS

6.1 The pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 46 sherds with a total weight of 922g. It consisted of a mixture of late Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval wares, and was recorded using the conventions of the Leicestershire County type-series (Sawday 1994), as follows

- EA3: Staffordshire Slipware**, 1650-1780. 1 sherd, 12g.
- EA6: Post-medieval Blackwares**, late 17th century +. 8 sherds, 322g.
- EA10: Modern Earthenwares**, 1800+. 7 sherds, 32g.
- LY4: Shelly Wares**, 1100-1400. 7 sherds, 106g.
- MP1: Midland Purple Ware**, 1370-1550. 1 sherd, 100g.
- OL: Oolitic Ware**, 975 – 1300. 6 sherds, 34g.
- PM: Potter's Marston Ware**, 1100-1300. 1 sherd, 1g.
- SN: St Neots Ware**, 900 – 1150. 10 sherds, 58g.
- ST: Stamford Ware**, 900-1150. 2 sherds, 6g.
- SW5: English Brown Salt-glazed Stoneware**, 1700+. 1 sherd, 3g.

The following, not included in the Leicestershire type-series, was also noted:

- LMO: Late Medieval Oxidized Ware**, 1450-1550 (Johnston 1997). 2 sherds, 248g

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of contemporary sites in the region. The assemblage is generally in good condition, and appears reliably stratified.

The sherds of St Neots Ware from context 1104 are all Denham's T1(2) type (Denham 1985), and thus can date no earlier than the 11th century. One of the sherds is from a large jar, a typical later product of the tradition. The sherds of Stamford Ware are both in the early fabric type, with the one from 1105 having an early glaze (Kilmurry 1980)

The sherd of LMO from context 1308 is from a large bowl, a typical product of the tradition.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Context/feature	ST		SN		OL		PM		LY4		MP1		LMO		EA3		EA6		SW5		EA10		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
804/805	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	121	1	3	1	16	MOD
907/910	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12thC
1104/1106	-	-	7	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11thC
1105/1106	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10thC
1107/1108	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10thC
1109/1110	-	-	-	-	6	34	1	1	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12thC
1115/1117	1	2	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10thC
1204/1205	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	100	-	-	-	-	7	201	-	-	6	16	MOD
1301	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	M17thC
1304/1305	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12thC
1306/1307	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M15thC
1308/1309	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	180	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M15thC
Total	2	6	10	58	6	34	1	1	7	106	1	100	2	248	1	12	8	322	1	3	7	32	

6.2 The animal bone by Adam Reid

A total of 47 animal bone fragments were hand collected from eight contexts during the evaluation work. This material was assessed to determine the level of preservation, the taxa present and to inform on the potential for further work.

All material was washed prior to analysis. Identifiable bones were noted, and were examined for signs of butchery and the state of epiphyseal fusion. Identifications took place with the aid of the MOLA Northampton reference collection. Specimens that could not be positively identified were attributed, where possible, to categories including large mammal (cattle, horse), medium mammal (sheep/goat, pig, large dog), and small mammal (small dog, cat, rabbit). The English Heritage Guidelines for Best Practice for Animal Bones and Archaeology (2014) were followed, where possible.

Thirteen of the bone fragments (28% of total) could be identified to species (Table 2). With the exception of three fragments of goose bone, all identified fragments derived from domestic mammalian taxa, with no fish or reptiles present.

Table 2: the identified taxa

Context/feature	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Goose	M Mam	L Mam	Indet	Total
908/ Ditch [910]	2	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	5
1105/ Pit [1106] 1109/ Trackway [1110]	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	5
1204/ Ditch [1205]	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	3
1304/ Ditch [1305]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	15
1306/ Ditch [1307]	2	-	1	1	1	1	5	-	-	11
1308/ Ditch [1309]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	4
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	4
Total	5	1	1	1	2	3	11	21	2	47

Preservation and taphonomy

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

No bone fragments showed signs of butchery or burning.

It was not possible to derive any metrical or aging data from any of the fragments.

Discussion

The small assemblage provides little interpretative value, other than to suggest the three main domestic taxa were utilised at the site. However, the presence of identifiable bone fragments may indicate the potential for the recovery of further faunal remains, should any mitigation work take place at the site in the future.

6.3 The environmental remains by Rebecca Gordon

Three samples were taken during the evaluation at Westgate Lane, Lubenham for the recovery of plant macrofossils. The sample was processed by flotation at MOLA Northampton using a siraf tank fitted with a 250 micron mesh and 500 micron flot sieve. The flots and residues were dried and sorted for archaeobotanical remains. Residues were sorted by eye using a 10mm, 4mm and 2mm sieve and flots were sorted under a binocular microscope (10x magnification). Plant remains were identified with the aid of Jacomet (2006) and Cappers et al.

Results

The plant remains are preserved by charring and modern fibrous roots are present. The assemblage largely comprises charred cereal grains. Preservation is poor with severely puffed and distorted grains. Charcoal/charred wood fragments are sparse and no weed seeds were noted during the assessment. There are wheat grains in each sample. A few specimens are more rounded and may represent bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*), which suggests the processing and/or consumption of different cereals.

Significance and recommendations

Plant remains were recovered in low density from the samples and the preservation was poor. Due to the small number of the samples taken during the evaluation should further mitigation works take place, 40 litre samples should be taken from a range of archaeological features to better understand the agricultural practices in the area.

Table 3: Charred plant remains

Cut/fill	1105	1304	804
Sample	1	2	3
Feature type	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch
Volume(litres)	40	40	40
Wheat (<i>Triticum</i> sp.)	xx	x	x

Abundance key: x = 1–10 specimens, xx= 11–50 specimens

7 DISCUSSION

The archaeological remains identified medieval ditches and a small number of medieval pits along with some post-medieval to modern ditches/features. Most of the ditches broadly corresponded with visible earthwork remains, which had been identified previously in the phase 1 trial trench evaluation (Hewitt *et al* 2016) and the subsequent earthwork and LiDAR survey (Simmonds 2016). Three phases of activity was uncovered (with this being the same for the earlier Phase 1 evaluation).

The first phase comprised a number of ditches which may have formed east-west aligned tenement plots and a possible house platform. Platform 1, identified in the earthwork survey, was defined by east-west aligned Ditch [304] of the first phase evaluation, on its northern edge and by north-south aligned ditches [1307/1309] on its eastern edge. This would have created a tenement plot of more than 50m in length (east-west) and c40m in width (north-south). A further ditch, [1305], on an apparent east-west alignment appears to further sub-divide this plot (Figs 2 and 4). Pottery recovered from these features suggests a 12th – 15th century date. A single north-south ditch, [910] and [805], likely represents a drainage ditch, which allowed water to drain off the site towards the River Welland to the south of the site.

Just to the south of Platform 1 was much smaller, rectangular platform with bulbous eastern end which was identified as Platform 2 in the earthwork survey, with this measuring c22m long (east-west) and 20m wide (north-south). Two ditches, [1112/1110] and [1114] were identified during this phase of the evaluation as defining the northern and southern edges of the platform, these two ditches appeared to have been deliberately backfilled with a compact layer of stone after silting up, presumably either to consolidate the ditch or create a trackway (Figs 4, 6 and 7). Within the centre of Platform 2 several pits were identified indicating at possible domestic activity within this area. Pottery recovered from these features dated to the 10th to 12th centuries, indicating that it could have been earlier than Platform 1.

The second phase of activity which was observed in the phase 1 evaluation (Hewitt *et al* 2016) is represented by ridge and furrow which overlaid medieval features and was present in the north and western parts of the site.

The third phase of activity was represented by two post-medieval to modern ditches; both correspond with above ground earthworks. Ditch [1605] matched the alignment of Ditch 3, identified in the earthwork survey (Simmonds 2016) and identifiable on the LiDAR survey and Ordnance Survey map of 1886 as a north-east to south-west aligned ditch which bisected the northern part of site. Ditch [1205] respected the western edge of Platform 4 and contained pottery dating to the post-medieval to modern period. However due to the limitations of the evaluation it is impossible to say whether Platform 4 dated to this period or pre-dated it. A single large feature, [807], which was only half exposed in the trench is likely to represent modern backfilling of a dried up stream bed on the southern edge of site, with it presumably having fed into the River Welland.

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MOLA Northampton

8th February 2017

APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Length, width & alignment		Surface height	Depth & height of natural
8	25m x 1.9m W-E		85.78m aOD	0.65m 85.13m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
801	Topsoil	Friable-firm, dark grey-brown soil	0.12-0.25m thick	-
802	Subsoil	Friable-firm, mid brown silty clay	0.08-0.40m thick	-
803	Natural	Friable-firm mid-light brown-yellow sandy clay (E) and orange sand gravels (W)	-	-
804	Fill of [805]	Firm mid yellow-brown silty clay with rare small stones	3.50m+ wide 0.30m deep	Pottery, sample 3
805	Ditch	N-S linear with U-shaped profile and flat base	3.50m+ wide 0.30m deep	-
806	Fill of [807]	Firm mid yellow-brown silty clay	1.5m wide 0.30m deep	-
807	Ditch	N-S linear with U-shaped profile and flat base	1.5m wide 0.30m deep	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment		Surface height	Depth & height of natural
9	9m x 1.9m W-E		86.68m aOD	0.55m 86.13m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
901	Topsoil	Friable-firm, dark grey-brown soil	0.20-0.35m thick	-
902	Subsoil	Firm mid brown silty clay	0.14-0.22m thick	-
903	Layer	Firm mid-dark brown silty clay, possible bank material or hill wash/silting	0.16-0.26m thick	-
904	Natural	Firm light brown-yellow clay with limestone	-	-
905	Fill of [906]	Friable-firm mid orange-brown sandy silty clay with occasional to moderate small stones	0.65m wide 0.31m deep	-
906	Gully/ditch	N-S linear with U-shaped profile and concave base	0.65m wide 0.31m deep	-
907	Fill of [910]	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks	1.39m wide 0.34m deep	Pottery

908	Fill of [910]	Firm mid brown-grey silty clay with occasional mid-size stones and charcoal flecks	1.20m wide 0.27m deep	Animal bone
909	Fill of [910]	Firm dark blue-grey silty clay with rare small stones and charcoal flecks	0.86m wide 0.19m deep	-
910	Ditch	N-S linear with U-shaped profile and flat base	1.52m wide 0.77m deep	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment		Surface height	Depth & height of natural
10	20m x 1.9m SW-NE		87.12m aOD	0.60m 86.52m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1001	Topsoil	Friable-firm, dark grey-brown soil	0.15-0.21m thick	-
1002	Subsoil	Firm mid-dark brown-grey silty clay	0.34-0.37m thick	-
1003	Natural	Firm light orange-yellow clay	-	-
1004	Fill of [1005]	Firm mid dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks	0.47m wide 0.19m deep	-
1005	Ditch	N-S linear with U-shaped profile and flat base	0.47m wide 0.19m deep	-
1006	Fill of [1007]	Firm mid dark grey-brown silty clay with moderate small-large stones and rare charcoal flecks	0.76m wide 0.24m deep	-
1007	Ditch	N-S linear with U-shaped profile and flat base	0.76m wide 0.24m deep	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment		Surface height	Depth & height of natural
11	40m x 1.9m NNE-SSW		87.19m aOD	0.60m 86.69m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1101	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey sandy clay silt	0.10m thick	-
1102	Subsoil	Friable-firm dark blue-grey silty clay	0.20-0.40m thick	-
1103	Natural	Firm light grey-yellow silty clay	-	-
1104	Fill of [1106]	Firm mid yellow-brown silty clay with moderate small-medium stones	2.85m long 1.10m wide	Pottery

			0.15m deep	
1105	Fill of [1106]	Firm mid yellow-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks	2.85m long 1.10m wide 0.55m deep	Pottery, bone, sample 1
1106	Pit/Ditch terminal	U-shaped profile with eroded upper edges and concave base	2.85m long 1.10m 0.65m deep	-
1107	Fill of [1108]	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with rare small stones	0.97m long 0.97m wide 0.36m deep	Pottery
1108	Pit	Circular with U-shaped profile and flattish base	0.97m long 0.97m wide 0.36m deep	-
1109	Fill of [1110]	Layer of stones on shallow ditch [1112]	2.0m wide 0.14m deep	Pottery, bone
1110	Footpath?	W-E linear with irregular profile and base – filled with layer of stone (1109)	2.0m wide 0.14m deep	-
1111	Fill of [1112]	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay	2.10m wide 0.20m deep	-
1112	Ditch/gully	E-W linear with gentle U-shaped profile and flat base	2.10m wide 0.20m deep	-
1113	Fill of [1114]	Firm mid-dark brown silty clay with frequent small-large stones/cobbles	4.00m wide 0.22m deep	-
1114	Ditch/depression	E-W linear with U-shaped profile and flat base	4.00m wide 0.22m deep	-
1115	Fill of [1117]	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks	1.30m wide 0.41m deep	Pottery
1116	Fill of [1117]	Firm mid brown silty clay with occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks	0.91m wide 0.10m deep	-
1117	Pit/ditch terminal	U-shaped profile and flat base	1.30m wide 0.51m deep	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment		Surface height	Depth & height of natural
12	20m x 1.9m E-W		87.39m aOD	0.61m 86.68m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1201	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey sandy clay	0.05-0.16m thick	-
1202	Subsoil	Friable-firm mid yellow-grey silty clay	0.30-0.45m thick	-
1203	Natural	Firm light-mid yellow-grey silty clay	-	-
1204	Fill of [1205]	Firm mid yellow-brown silty clay	2.0m wide 0.85m deep	Pottery, bone, glass
1205	Ditch	N-S linear with U-shaped profile and concave base	2.0m wide 0.85m deep	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment		Surface height	Depth & height of natural
13	40m x 1.9m W-E		87.70m aOD	0.50m 87.20m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1301	Topsoil	Friable dark grey-brown sandy clay	0.10-0.15m thick	-
1302	Subsoil	Friable-firm dark brown silty clay	0.25-0.35m thick	-
1303	Natural	Firm light yellow-orange silty clay	-	-
1304	Fill of [1305]	Firm dark brown-grey sandy clay	0.88m wide 0.40m deep	Pottery, bone, sample 2
1305	Ditch	E-W linear with V-shaped profile and flattish base	0.88m wide 0.40m deep	-
1306	Fill of [1307]	Firm mid yellow-brown silty clay	0.55m wide 0.30m deep	Pottery
1307	Ditch	N-S linear with U-shaped profile and flat base	0.55m wide 0.30m deep	-
1308	Fill of [1309]	Firm mid yellow-brown silty clay	1.60m wide 0.40m deep	Pottery
1309	Ditch	N-S linear with U-shaped profile and flat base	1.60m wide 0.40m deep	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment		Surface height	Depth & height of natural
14	25m x 1.9m N-S		87.45m aOD	0.55m 86.90m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1401	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey sandy clay	0.10-0.15m thick	-
1402	Subsoil	Friable-firm dark grey-brown silty clay	0.20-0.40m thick	-
1403	Natural	Firm light blue-grey and yellow silty clay	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment		Surface height	Depth & height of natural
15	25m x 1.9m NW-SE		88.07m aOD	0.45m 87.62m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1501	Topsoil	Friable dark grey-brown sandy clay	0.15m thick	-
1502	Subsoil	Firm mid grey-brown silty clay	0.20-0.30m thick	-
1503	Natural	Firm light orange-yellow silty clay	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment		Surface height	Depth & height of natural
16	20m x 1.9m		88.17m aOD	0.55m 87.62m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1601	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey sandy clay	0.15-0.25m thick	-
1602	Subsoil	Firm mid brown-grey silty clay	0.25-0.30m	-
1603	Natural	Firm light blue-grey and grey-yellow silty clay	-	-
1604	Fill of [1605]	Firm mid grey sandy clay with frequent small stones and charcoal	1.85m wide 0.45m deep	-
1605	Ditch	E-W linear with U-shaped profile and flat base	1.85m wide 0.45m deep	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment		Surface height	Depth & height of natural
17	20m x 1.9m		88.65m aOD	0.55m 88.10m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1701	Topsoil	Friable dark grey-brown sandy clay	0.20-0.25m thick	-
1702	Subsoil	Friable-firm mid brown-grey clay silt	0.25-0.30m thick	-
1703	Natural	Firm light blue-grey silty clay	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment		Surface height	Depth & height of natural
18	20m x 1.9m		88.71m aOD	0.65m 88.06m aOD
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1801	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey sandy clay	0.15-0.20m thick	-
1802	Subsoil	Firm mid brown-grey silty clay	0.15-0.45m thick	-
1803	Natural	Firm mid yellow-orange silty clay	-	-



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