



**Archaeological earthwork survey
and trial trench evaluation
of land at Brownsover Lane
Old Brownsover
Warwickshire
January 2017**

Report No. 17/10

Authors: Chloe Cronogue-Freeman, James Ladocha and Carol Simmonds

Illustrator: Joanne Clawley



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Worked bone: Tora Hylton

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No. Molanort1-275593	
Project title	Archaeological earthwork survey and trial trench evaluation of land at Brownsover Lane, Old Brownsover, Warwickshire.		
Short description	<i>MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) carried out an earthwork survey and trial trench evaluation of land at Brownsover Lane, Old Brownsover. The earthwork survey identified house platforms and ridge and furrow earthworks. The archaeological remains found by the trial trenching comprised medieval ditches where the earthwork survey had suggested there had been plot boundaries. A single posthole was located within a suggested house platform. Residual late Saxon pottery indicates the settlement had started in the 10th century in this area. After abandonment in the 14th century the site reverted to fields, with arable farming over most of the site. A single post-medieval ditch was also found.</i>		
Project type	Earthwork survey and trial trench evaluation		
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Davies 2015); desk- based heritage assessment and LiDAR survey (Dawson 2016)		
Current land use	Arable land		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	Ditches c14th century. Pit, posthole and ditches (undated), ridge and furrow earthworks		
Significant finds	Spindle whorl and quern fragment		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Warwickshire		
Site address	Land at Brownsover Lane		
Post code	CV21 1HY		
OS co-ordinates	SP 510 775		
Area (sq m/ha)	c1.7ha		
Height aOD	107m-111m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting		
Project Design originator	CgMs Consulting		
Director/Supervisor	Chloe Cronogue-Freeman, MOLA		
Project Managers	Ant Maull, MOLA		
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	16 January 2017		
End date	19 January 2017		
ARCHIVES	Location	Contents	
Physical	OBBL17	-	
Paper		Site records	
Digital		Survey data, report, photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)		
Title	Archaeological earthwork survey and trial trench evaluation of land at Brownsover Lane, Old Brownsover, Warwickshire.		
Serial title & volume	MOLA Northampton report 17/10		
Author(s)	Chloe Cronogue-Freeman, James Ladocha and Carol Simmonds		
Page numbers	30		
Date	February 2017		

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Archaeological earthwork survey and trial trench evaluation of land at Brownsover Lane, Old Brownsover Warwickshire

Abstract

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) carried out an earthwork survey and trial trench evaluation of land at Brownsover Lane, Old Brownsover. The earthwork survey identified house platforms and ridge and furrow earthworks. The archaeological remains found by the trial trenching comprised medieval ditches where the earthwork survey had suggested there had been plot boundaries. A single posthole was located within a suggested house platform. Residual late Saxon pottery indicates the settlement had started in the 10th century in this area. After abandonment in the 14th century the site reverted to fields, with arable farming over most of the site. A single post-medieval ditch was also found.

1 INTRODUCTION

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out archaeological earthwork survey and trial trench evaluation of c 1.7ha of land at Brownsover Lane, Old Brownsover, Warwickshire (Fig 1, NGR SP 510 775).

Warwickshire County Council Archaeological Service required that a programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Kidd 2016) which was submitted to and approved by the planning authority. This work was undertaken in two phases with the initial being the earthwork survey and the subsequent trial trench evaluation. These works conformed to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012). Only the northern part of the area was trial trenched due to the rest of the area being within a conservation area (Fig 1).

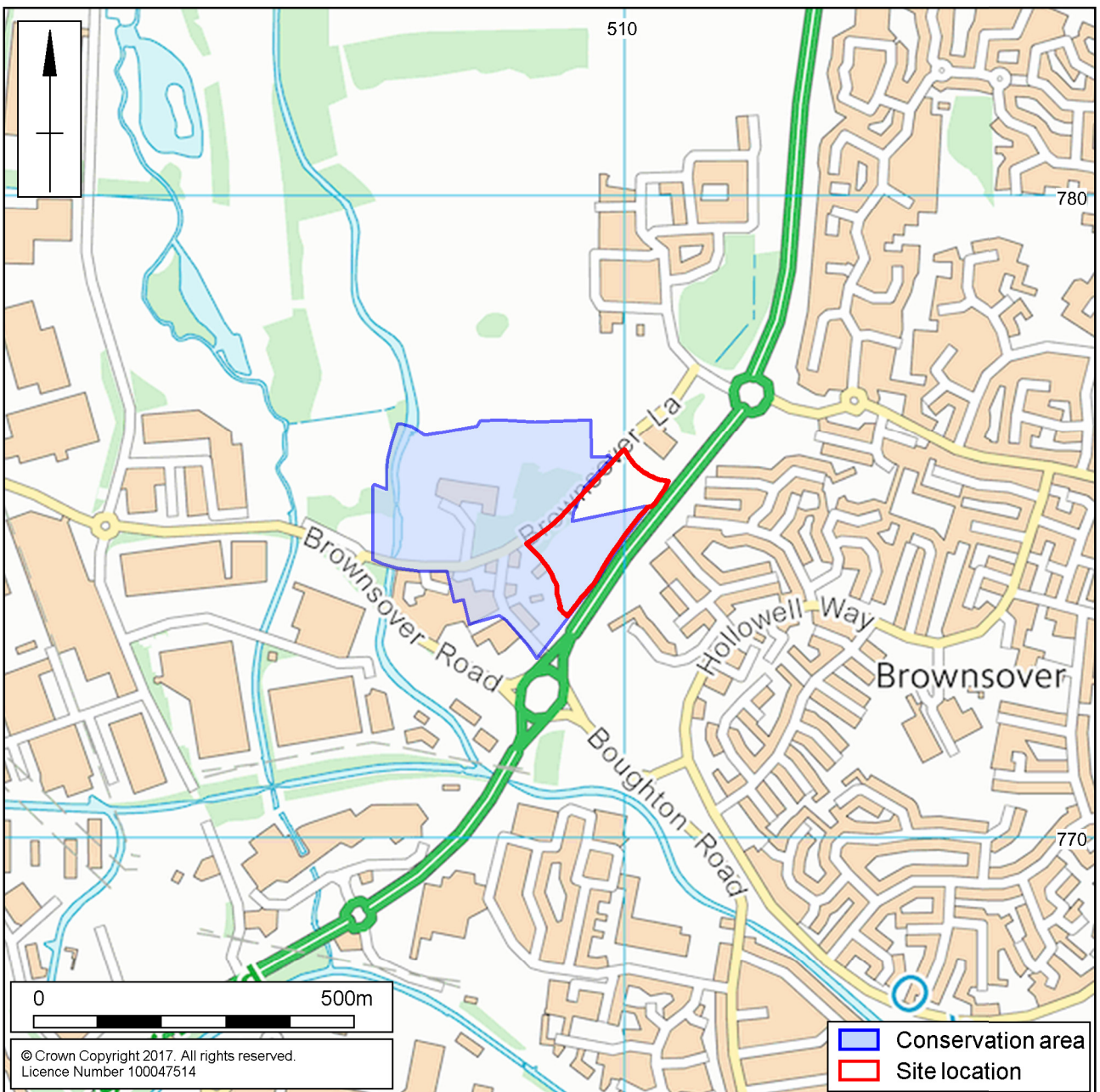
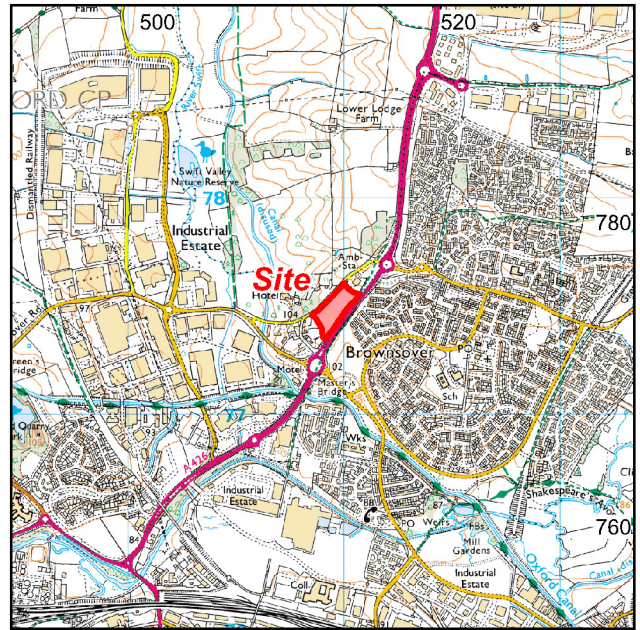
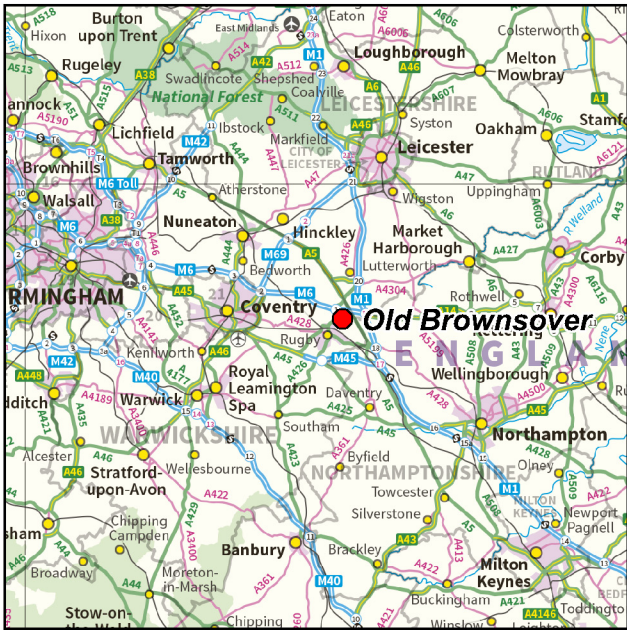
2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The proposed development area comprises c1.7ha of former agricultural fields, to the north of Rugby. The site is bounded to the north and north-west by Brownsover Lane, to the north-east by residential development, to the east and south by the A426, and to the west by residential properties of Old Brownsover with associated gardens and the church of St Michael and All Angels.

The development area lies within a hollow at approximately 107-111m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), the land slopes upwards to the north towards residential development, with the land to the south and west gently rising to the A426 and Old Brownsover respectively.

The underlying superficial geology for the site has been mapped as comprising Oadby member Diamicton with bedrock of Charmouth mudstone formation (BGS 2017).

The water table was reached in some areas of the site, for example Trench 3 pit [306] and Trench 4 ditch [405].



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

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3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The WSI (Kidd 2016) stated that the principal aim of the archaeological evaluation was to quantify the quality and extent of the archaeological resource. This will be achieved through initial earthwork survey and subsequent targeted trial trench evaluation.

The WSI noted that the programme of archaeological work is designed to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the location, extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of important archaeological remains within the application area. Specifically this will be through the listed aims and objectives, which are as follows:

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

The archaeological works at Brownsover Lane are able to address a number of regional research agendas, as outlined in frameworks documents for the West Midlands (Watt 2011). For the medieval period, this includes questions on:

- The origin of villages
- The fluidity of settlement
- The desertion/shrinkage of rural settlement (Hunt, in Watt 2011).

4 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

This archaeological and historical background has been drawn from the data discussed in the desk-based heritage assessment, which utilised the Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (HER) (Dawson 2016).

Prehistoric

There is no evidence of known prehistoric activity within the site, though there is known activity nearby including a single flint flake of prehistoric date was recovered c0.40km to the north-west (HER 8140). Possible prehistoric cropmarks (HER 8191, 8196) and Bronze Age activity (HER 10268, 10312, 10313, 13417) lies c0.95km to the north-east in Coton Park, where palstave fragments were also recovered (HER 7138, 7500). A possible round barrow is also located c.1.14km to the north-east.

Iron Age settlement was identified c0.95km to the north-east in Cotton Park (HER 8221, 10314). Undated rectangular enclosures identified through aerial photos (HER 8191, 8196) could also represent Iron Age activity.

Roman

The site lies within the hinterland of the Roman road of Watling Street, and lies c1.91km to the south-west of the small Roman town of *Tripontium*. Roman activity has been recorded c0.55km to the north-west (HER 8139) and at Coton Park (HER 10314) c0.95km to the north-east. A Roman cremation was uncovered within the grounds of St Michael's church, adjacent to the site to the west (HER 3348). Roman coins have also been found c0.31km to the west of site (HER 5670).

Saxon and Medieval

Brownsgrave is recorded in the Domesday book as *Brunesgavre* an amalgamation of *Gavre*, the ancient name for the River Swift and *Brunes*, an individual who held lands in the area (Dawson 2016), the entry of Brownsover in the Domesday survey perhaps indicates the establishment of a settlement in the 8th century (Ekwall 1980); by the 13th century the settlement was named *Bruneswavere*.

The church of St Michael and All Angels which lies adjacent to the site to the west was originally built in the medieval period (HER 3346) before being almost entirely rebuilt in 1877 (Salzman 1951).

The medieval village of Brownsover may be represented with earthworks to the north-east of the church of St Michael (HER 3391) with earthworks, including fishponds, and finds to the south-east (HER 5403, 5404, 5405, 5969). The fishponds are separated from St Michael and All Angels by the A426 Leicester Road, and the earthworks are on the high ground to the east of the church (Dawson 2016).

Geophysical survey undertaken on the site (Davies 2015) indicates that the medieval village may have extended into the western half of the development and possibly includes back plots (crofts) and house platforms (tofts).

The remains of ridge and furrow cultivation were identified in the eastern half of the site (Davies 2015).

The common fields within the parish which amounted to about 700 acres, were enclosed under an Act of Parliament in 1756, which indicates that the majority of Clifton on Dunsmore had been enclosed prior to the 18th century (Dawson 2016).

Post-medieval to modern

The medieval village of Brownsover declined significantly and by the 17th century was a small hamlet, from this period a much restored late 16th century timber framed house of L-shaped plan, Lawrence Sheriff Cottage, survives along with a converted barn of similar date and the church of St Michael and All Angels (Dawson 2016).

The late 18th to 20th centuries saw much of the surrounding landscape, including the site, being used as agricultural land. To the west of Brownsover a branch of the Oxford Canal was constructed in the 1780s (HER 6483).

Local defences, including concrete tank traps, were constructed just to the north of the site during the Second World War (HER 8878). The early half of the 20th century saw continuing decline, though during the latter half of the 20th century the village expanded significantly, coinciding somewhat with the expansion and growing importance of nearby Rugby.

Previous archaeological work

A desk-based Heritage Assessment was undertaken by Mike Dawson of CgMs Consulting (Dawson 2016). This also included LiDAR data (Fig 2).

A geophysical survey was undertaken by Stratascan in 2015 (Davies 2015). The survey identified anomalies of archaeological origin within the western half of the site, likely to be medieval 'crofts' and 'tofts'. Ridge and furrow cultivation was identified within the eastern half of the site (Fig 3).



LiDAR with sky-view factor processing Fig 2

5 EARTHWORK SURVEY

5.2 Methodology

A detailed measured earthwork survey was undertaken in December 2016; surveying conditions were good over the survey zone. The works were undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Kidd 2016) and national guidelines (HE 2016).

The measured survey was carried out using a Leica Viva Global Positioning System (GPS) to a 3D accuracy of +/- 0.05m (using SMARTNET real-time corrections).

The features were surveyed relative to Ordnance Survey National Grid; levels were related to Ordnance Survey datum. The tops of the ridges and bases of the furrows were surveyed, alongside the tops and bottoms of slopes (for all other earthworks) in order to generate a series of line (Fig 3) and hachure plans (Fig 4). These were supplemented by a series of profiles (Fig 5). GPS survey data was exported and processed in AutoCAD and in MapInfo. General photographs of the survey area and surveyed features were taken from a variety of directions using a digital camera. A record of photographs taken was entered on a cross-referenced index sheet.

Prior to the works MOLA Northampton obtained LiDAR (Light Detecting and Ranging) data. This earthwork survey was requested to 'ground truth' the LiDAR results and provide contextual interpretation for the proposed development (Fig 2).

5.2 The earthwork survey

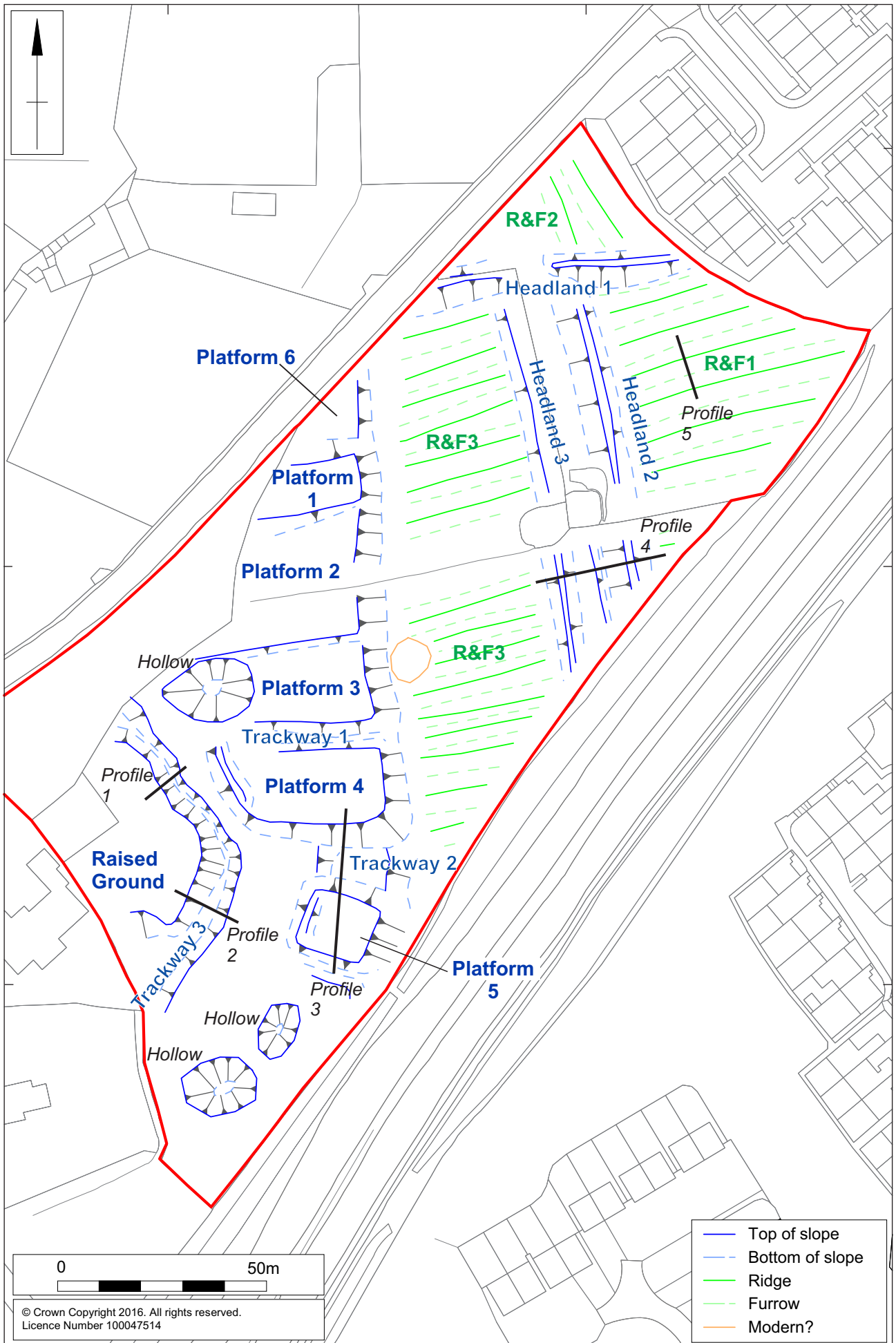
In general, the survey was undertaken in sunny to overcast conditions with good surface visibility.

The survey identified earthworks (Figs 3-5) which form the remnants of at least five possible building platforms or yard areas (Platforms 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) and associated features, three possible hollow/trackways (Trackway 1, 2 and 3), ridge and furrow field cultivation (R&F1, R&F2 and R&F3) and associated headland (Headland 1, 2 and 3), and possible borrow pits (Pits 1, 2 and 3). The earthworks are generally clearly defined and of fair to good condition.

Platforms

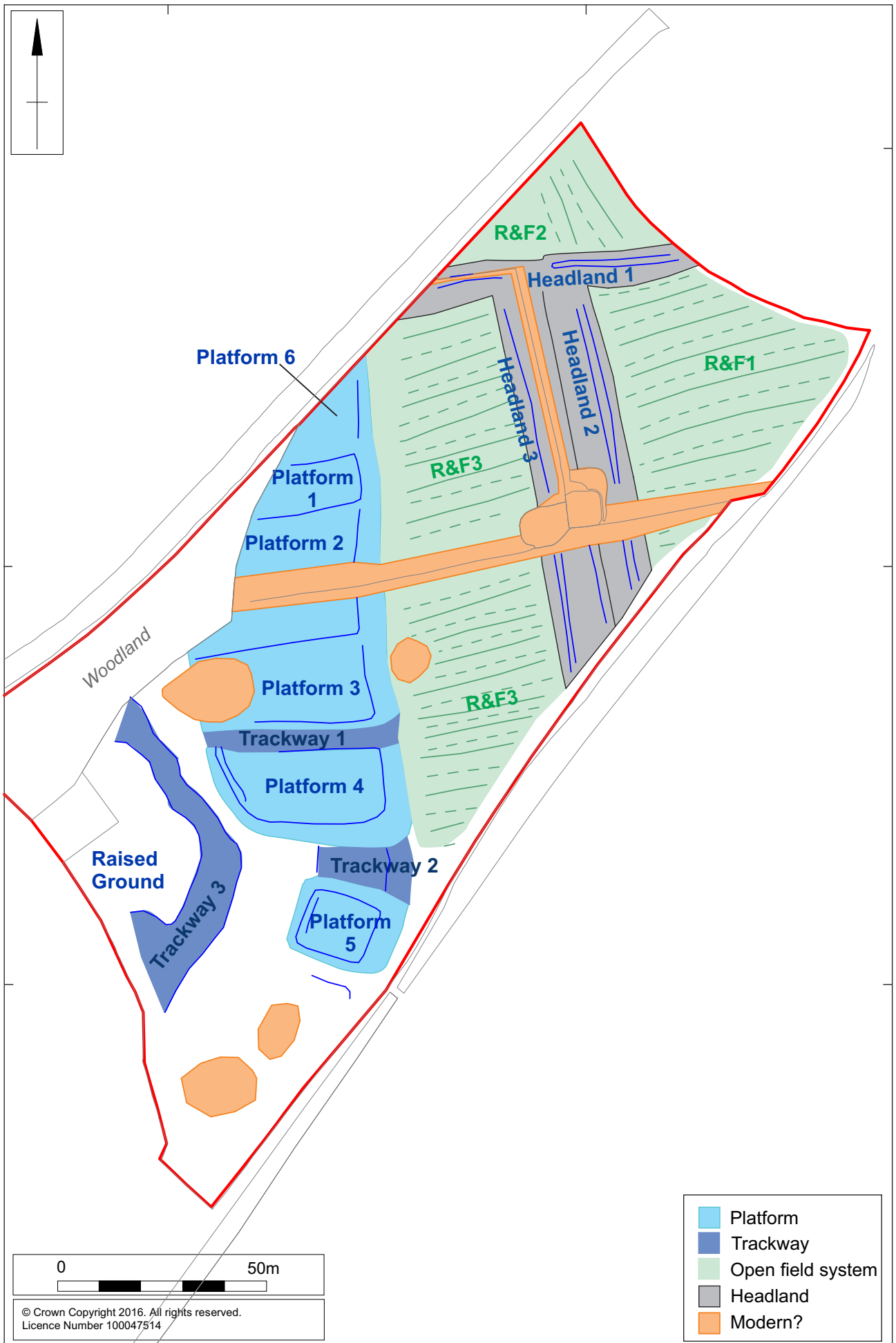
Four rectangular earthwork platforms (Platforms 1, 2, 3 and 4) , and one square platform (Platform 5) are present in the western part of the survey area. There is also a possible sixth platform (Platform 6) to the north of Platform 1 but this is heavily truncated by Brownsover Lane.

Platforms 1 to 4, and 6 are aligned east to west whereas Platform 5 is on a slightly different alignment of west-north-west to east-south-east. In general these platforms are characterised as areas of raised flat ground with the edges defined by shallow to gradual breaks of slope. The eastern edge of the platforms is pronounced (Fig 3) and marks a definite boundary between settlement, and ridge and furrow cultivation.



Scale 1: 1,250

Detailed hachure plan Fig 3



Scale 1: 1,250

Interpretive plan of the earthworks Fig 4

Scale 1:200

Profile 1

SW

NE

110.96m aOD

109.95m aOD

Profile 2

NW

SE

109.56m aOD

108.62m aOD

Profile 3

S

N

109.17m aOD

107.85m aOD

Profile 4

WSW

ENE

107.73m aOD

106.85m aOD

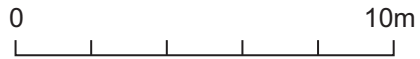
Profile 5

NNW

SSE

111.33m aOD

110.30m aOD



Earthwork profiles

Fig 5



The eastern edge of Platforms 2 and 1, looking north (1m scales) Fig 6

Platform 1 measures 25m east to west and 12m north to south, however the western end is truncated by a wooded slope down to Brownsover Lane, which is outside the survey area. It is defined on its southern and northern edges by a gradual slope down to Platforms 4 and 6 respectively, and is 0.30m higher than these platforms. The eastern edge of Platform 1 drops down 0.85m towards R&F3.

Platform 2 is 40m long and 28m wide (north to south) with its western end truncated by the wooded slope. This is by far the widest of the recorded platforms and may in fact be two separate platforms. However, a current east west field boundary runs through the centre of Platform 2 masking any separation. The southern edge of Platform 2 slopes down 0.15m to Platform 3, and its eastern edge slopes down 0.90m -1.10m (Fig 6).

Platform 3 is 28m long and 18m wide with its western end disturbed by a hollow. Its eastern edge slopes down 1.0m to R&F3 and it is separated from Platform 4 to the south by a shallow east west linear hollow, 6.5m wide and 0.05m-0.30m deep. This hollow may represent a trackway between the two platforms (Trackway 1).

Platform 4 (Fig 5, Profile 3) measures 37m east to west and 18m north to south. Its eastern edge slopes down 0.7-1.0m towards R&F3. Platform 4 is bound to the south by a wide (16m- 20m) linear hollow. This hollow is aligned east-west and slopes down towards the east. Platform 4 slopes down into the hollow between 0.5m in the west and 0.90m in the east. The linear hollow may represent a possible hollow or trackway between Platforms 4 and 5 (Trackway 2).

Platform 5 (Fig 5, Profile 3) measures 25m north-west to south-east by 20.75m north-east to south-west and is 0.40m high. The platform is defined on all sides by a gradual to steep slope. The interior of the platform, 16.4m long by 14.8m wide, is generally flat, although the western edge has a low earthwork bank, 3.3m wide and 0.12m high.

The south-eastern corner of Platform 6 is present to the north of Platform 1 and is only defined on its eastern side by a gradual slope. Its surviving portion measures

16m north to south by 14m east to west and is c.0.25m high. The western side has been cut away by the modern road.

The area of raised ground and Trackway 3

The area of raised ground, encompassing c. 1000 square metres in the western part of the site, is defined by Trackway 3. The top of this area is generally flat and is at a higher level (c.0.4m difference) than the platforms to the east.

Trackway 3 is a deeply incised linear hollow (Figs 4, Profiles 1 and 2 and Fig 7) which enters the site at the western boundary, heads north-east towards Platform 4 and then turns to head north-west. It is then truncated by the wooded slope down to Brownsover Lane. Trackway 3 has pronounced edges, with the western slope been particularly steep (0.7m- 1.4m).



Trackway 3, looking north-west (1m scales) Fig 7

Ridge and furrow

There are three distinct areas of ridge and furrow (R&F1, R&F2 and R&F3; Figs 5, 6, 7 and 8) surviving as low earthworks.

R&F1 (Fig 5, Profile 5) comprises a series of cultivation earthworks aligned ENE-WSW located in the eastern part of the proposed development area. There are the remnants of up to seven broad, slightly rounded ridges and flattened furrows which are clearly visible on the ground and on the LiDAR imagery (Fig 2). Within the survey area the surviving length is 54m. The average width of ridges is 3.5m, height is c.0.15m and ridges are 8.0m apart. The eastern edge of R&F1 has been cut away by the modern bounds of the roads.

R&F2 (Fig 3) lies to the north of R&F1 and comprises the remnants of cultivation earthworks aligned north to south. The surveyed earthworks comprise up to two lines of ridges and furrows with broad flattened profiles. The surviving length within the survey area is 25m. The ridges have an average width of 4.5m, are 0.4m high and are spaced 7.0m apart.

R&F3 (Fig 8) comprises a series of cultivation earthworks aligned ENE- WSW located to the west of R&F1. There are the remnants of up to sixteen broad, slightly rounded ridges and flattened furrows. Within the survey area the surviving length is 35m. The average width of ridges is 3.0m, height is c 0.20m and ridges are 6.0m apart.



R&F3, looking west towards Platform 6 (1m scales) Fig 8

Headlands

Three headlands defined by raised earthwork banks separated the fields of the open field system (Headland 1, Headland 2 and Headland 3). Although Headlands 2 and 3 have been recorded as headlands it is more likely that they are much later than the ridge and furrow, and were perhaps remnants of the post enclosure field system.

Headland 1, aligned roughly east to west, separated R&F2 from R&F1/ R&F3. It is 6m wide for much of its length but splays out to c.10m at its surviving eastern end and is between 0.40m and 0.80m high. It has been disturbed by later hedged boundaries and its eastern end has also been flattened by the modern access point into the survey area.

Headlands 2 and 3 (Fig 5, Profile 4) were on the same north to south alignment, measuring c.84m long, and divided R&F1 from R&F3. The easternmost headland (Headland 2) comprises a bank, c.9m wide with a denuded rounded top. The eastern slope of Headland 3 is situated c.1.6m to the west of Headland 2. Headland 3 is a broad earthwork bank, 13.5m wide and 0.50m high, with a rounded top, a steep clearly defined western slope and a more gradual, stepped eastern slope.



The southern end of Headland 3, looking north (1m scales) Fig 9

The hollows

There are three large roughly circular hollows (Fig 10) in the western part of the site. The northernmost hollow truncates the western edge of Platform 3. The hollows are between 11m and 16m diameter and up to 1.6m deep. The surface of the southernmost hollow was disturbed by a spread of modern debris including bricks, concrete and other debris.



The southernmost hollows, looking south-west Fig 10

Post-medieval field boundaries

The survey area was sub-divided into three portions by fencelines and by trees and hedgerows. These are the post-medieval boundaries which also coincide with the position of the parts of the 'headlands' and truncate the earlier earthworks where they occur.

6 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The programme of survey and evaluation was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Kidd 2016), after a LiDAR and geophysical survey (Figs 2 and 11). The next stage after the earthwork survey was trial trenching. This required the excavation of five trenches to investigate the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains within the development area. The trenches were set out using Leica Viva Survey Grade RTK GPS operating to an accuracy of +/- 0.05m.

All trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, operated under constant archaeological supervision. These trenches varied in length and width, two at 50.0m by 1.8m wide, one each at 25.0m and at 22.0m by 1.8m wide and one at 22.0m by 3.6m wide (Fig 12). Trenches 4 and 5 were both extended by 2.0m to expose the extent of a feature uncovered partly in the trench baulk.

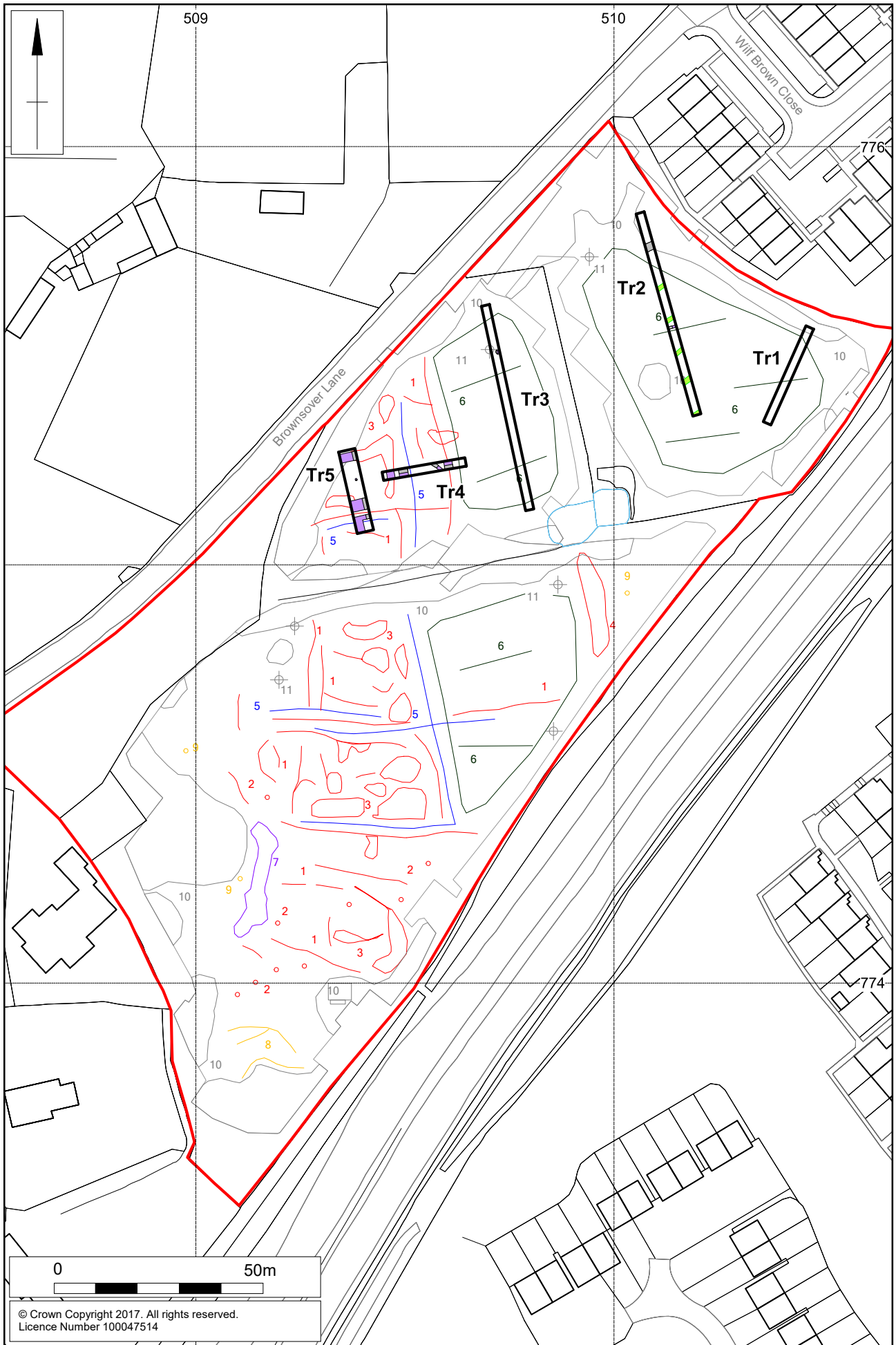
Excavation and recording were carried out in accordance with MOLA guidelines and all records were created using MOLA pro-forma sheets (MOLA 2014). Photographs were taken of all trenches and all relevant deposits as high resolution digital images and 35mm monochrome negatives. Work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

The topsoil and subsoil were removed under archaeological direction to reveal natural substrate and were stacked separately at the side of the trench. The machined surface was cleaned by hand to sufficiently identify and establish the extent of any archaeological features. All procedures complied with MOLA Health and Safety provisions and MOLA *Health and Safety at Work Guidelines* (MOLA 2016).

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

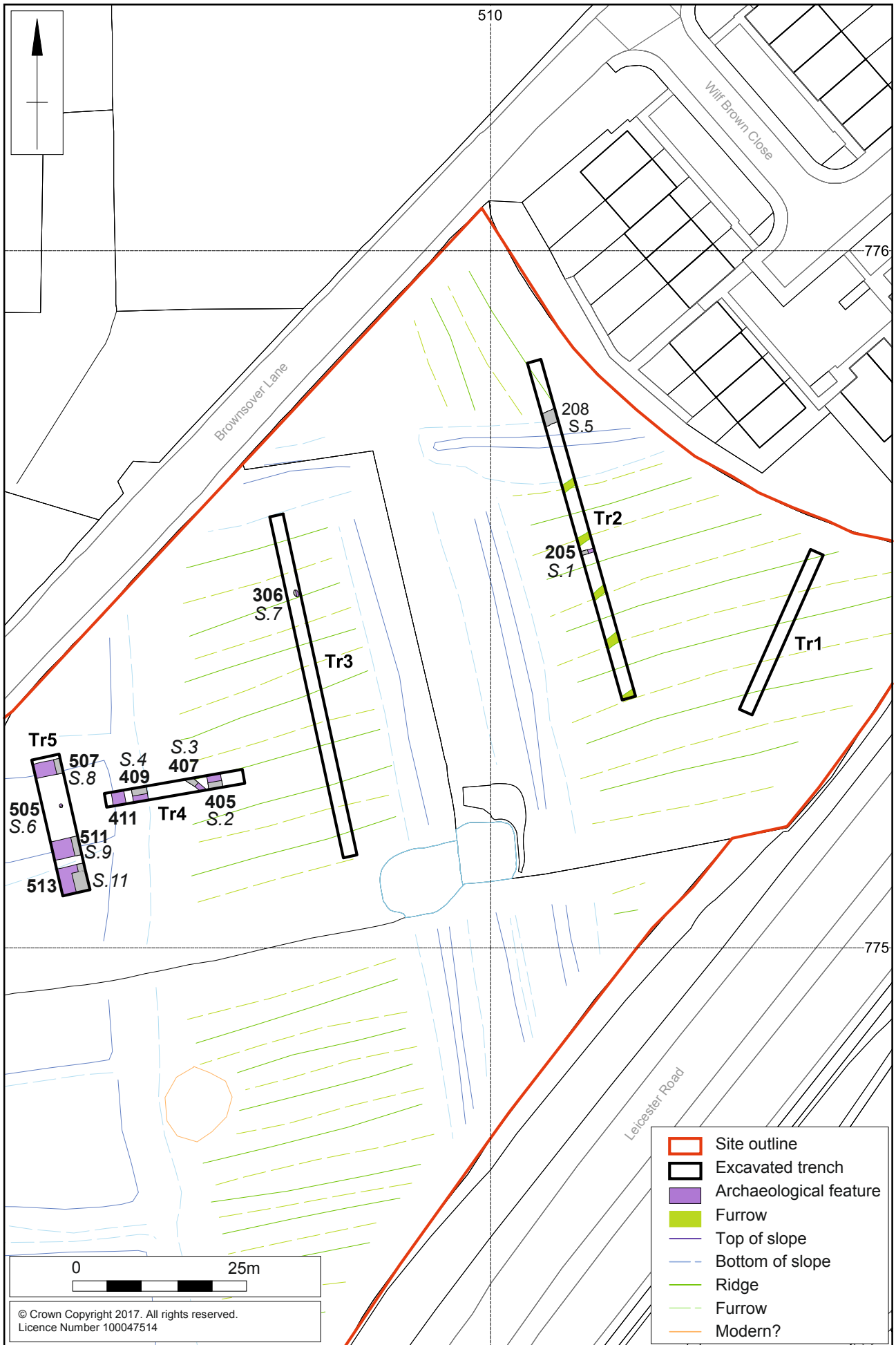
All records and materials have been compiled in a structured archive in accordance with the guidelines of *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011) and Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (HE 2015).

All groundwork and associated spoil heaps were scanned with a metal-detector, but no metal artefacts were found.



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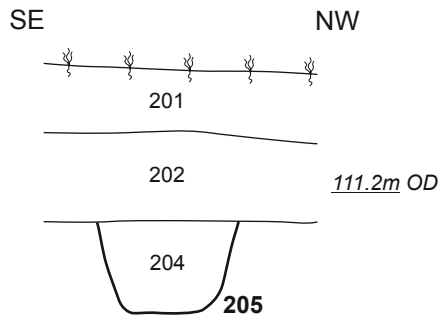
Trial trenches overlying geophysical survey Fig 11



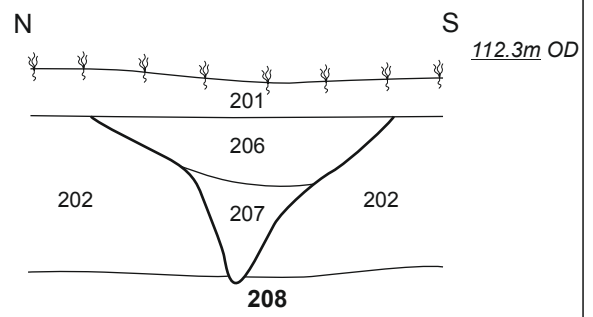
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Trial trenches overlying earthwork survey in northern extent of the site Fig 12

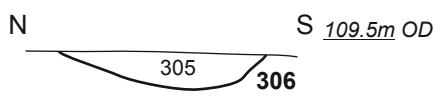
Section 1



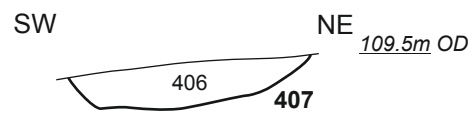
Section 5



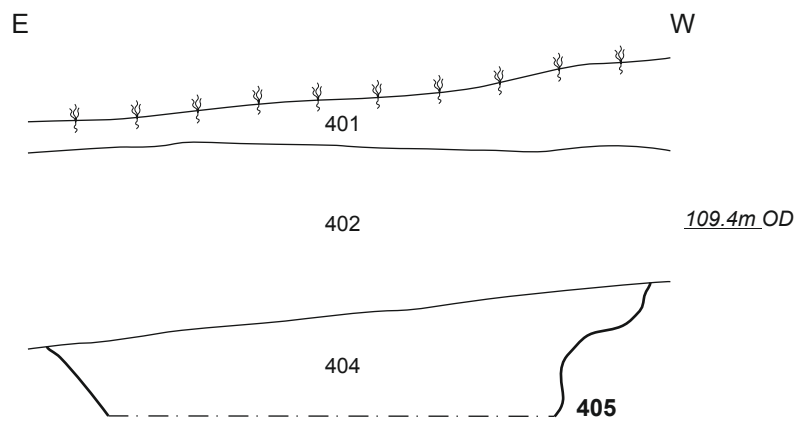
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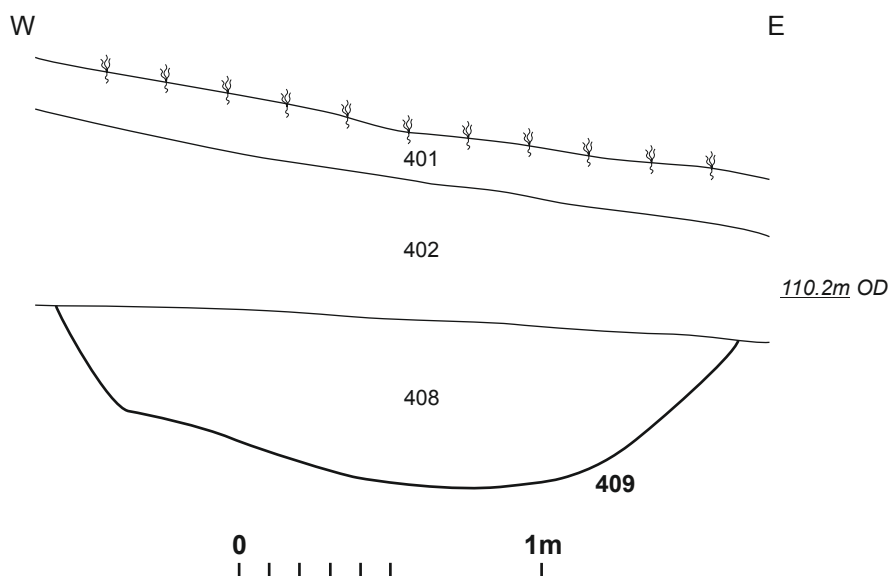
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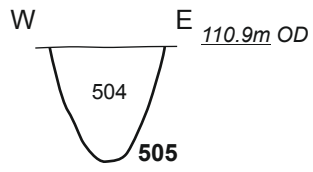
Section 2



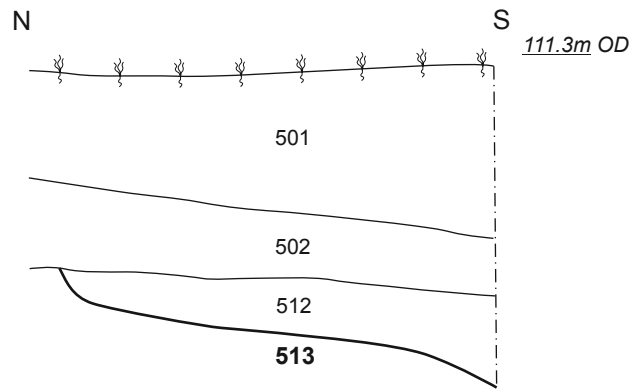
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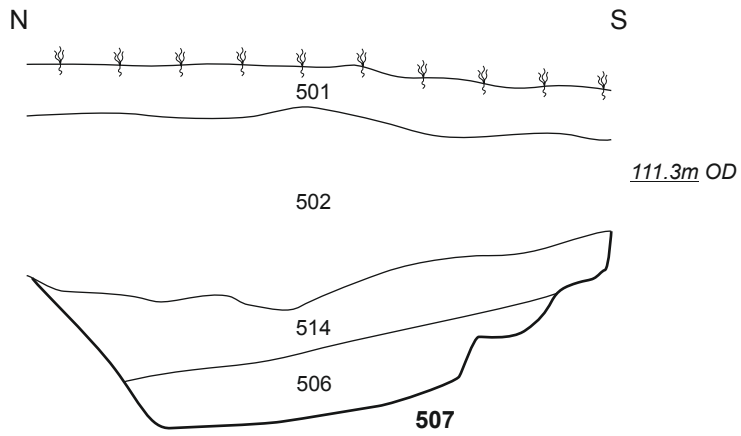
Section 6



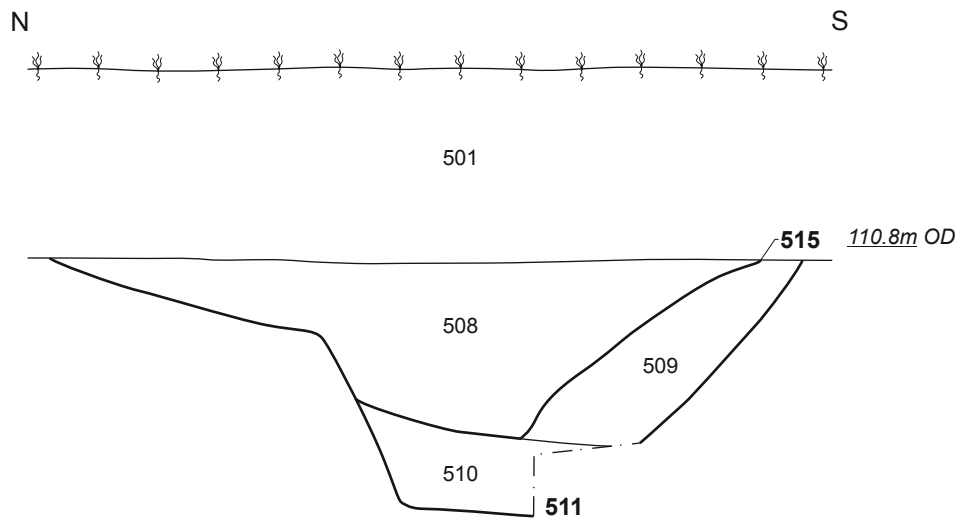
Section 11



Section 8



Section 9



7 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

7.1 General Stratigraphy

The geological substrate across the site varied between mid yellowish brown and mid greyish orange silty sandy clay. Overlaying the natural in Trench 3 was a layer of colluvium varying between 0.10m and 0.30m in thickness with the deepest part being at the south-east end. In the other trenches the natural was overlain in places by a mid brown sandy clay subsoil varying in thickness from 0.25m to 0.50m. The topsoil across the site was mid greyish brown silty clay and was 0.20m in thickness.



Trench 2: soil sequence, looking south-west Fig 15

7.2 Evaluation trenches

All five trenches contained archaeological evidence. Trench 1 contained only furrows. Trench 2 had five furrows and two ditches, one undated and one dating to 19th and 20th centuries. Trench 3 had a single undated pit. Trench 4 contained four undated ditches and Trench 5 had three ditches and a post-hole. These contained pottery dating to between the 10th to 14th centuries. Full context descriptions can be seen in the Appendix.

Trench 2

Ditch [205] was located in the middle of the trench and was orientated east to west. It measured 0.44m wide and 0.30m deep and was described as U-shaped with steep sloping sides and a concave base (Figs 12 and 13, Section 1 and Fig 16). The sterile fill (204) was light yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small flecks of chalk.

Trench 2 contained five furrows orientated north-east to south-west. These survived as earthworks and can be seen on the earthwork survey (Fig 12).

A post-medieval ditch [208] was located in the north-west end of the trench and was aligned east to west. It measured 1m wide and 0.55m deep and was V-shaped with upper eroded edges and a short flat base (Fig 13, Section 5). Its basal fill (207) was mid greyish-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, measuring 0.30m thick. It was overlain by fill (206) which was dark greyish black silty clay with frequent

charcoal flecks and lumps (95%). The pottery recovered from this ditch dates to the 19th and 20th centuries.



Trench 2: Section of ditch [205], looking south-west Fig 16

Trench 3

Pit [306] was located in the north-west end of the trench (Fig 12). It was circular in plan, U-shaped with gradual sloping sides and a flat base (Fig 13, Section 7 and Fig 17). Its fill (305) was sterile and comprised mid greyish-brown sandy clay with rare charcoal flecks.



Trench 3: Section of pit [305], looking north-east Fig 17

Trench 4

Ditch [405] was located at the east end of the Trench 4 (Fig 12). It was linear, aligned north to south, and was 2.0m wide and more than 0.40m deep with steep sides (Fig 13, Section 2). It was not fully excavated due to it being beneath the water table. Its fill (404) was mid brown silty clay with occasional small natural flints pieces.

Around 1m to the west of [405] was another linear ditch [407], orientated north-west to south-east. It measured 0.80m wide and 0.16m deep, and was U-shaped with shallow sloping sides and a flat base (Fig 13, Section 3). Its fill (406) was mid to dark greyish-brown silty clay with occasional small gravel. It contained no archaeological material.

Ditch [409] was located 2.5m east of the western trench edge and 2.0m east of [411]. It was 2.24m wide and 0.54m deep and had curved sides and a concave base (Fig 13, Section 4 and Fig 18). Its fill was mid to dark grey silty clay with occasional pebbles and gravels and contained no archaeological material.

Ditch [411] was at the very limit of the trench. The earthworks suggest it is likely to be same ditch as [507] and [511]. One metre to the east is ditch [409], which is 2.24m wide and 0.54m deep (Figs 12 and 13, Section 9). It is U-shaped with curving sides and a concave base. Its fill (408) was mid to dark grey silty clay with occasional small pebbles and gravels.



Trench 4: Section of ditch [409], looking north Fig 18

Trench 5

Ditch [507] was located at the northern end of the trench. The earthwork survey shows it is likely to be the same ditch as [511] and [411] (Fig 12). It was orientated east to west and measured 1.90m wide and 0.40m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Fig 14, Section 8). Its basal fill (506) was dark orangish grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. It was overlain by (514), which was mid greyish-brown

silty clay with moderate root disturbance. The pottery found in (506) was dated *Terminus Post Quem* (TPQ) to the 10th century.

Ditch [511] was located on the southern end of the trench and approximately 9m south of ditch [507]. It measured 2.50m wide and 0.84m deep (Fig 14, Section 9). It was aligned east to west with near vertical sides and with a flat base. Its basal fill (510) was dark greenish-grey silty clay with moderate small pebbles. This was overlain by (509) which was mid to dark brown silty clay with occasional pebbles. There was a possible re-cut [515] which measured 1.40m wide and 0.58m deep in the upper north end of the ditch (Fig 14, Section 9). It was U-shaped with sharp sloping sides, with the northern upper edge eroded. Its base sloped towards the south. It was overlain by (508) which was dark brownish-grey silty clay with occasional pebbles with pottery dating TPQ to 14th century.

Ditch [513] was located at the very southern extent of the trench. It measured 3.85m wide and 0.23m deep (Fig 14, Section 11). It was aligned east to west and its northern edge is sloping shallowly; the base was not established. It was overlain by (312) which was mid greyish brown silty clay with rare charcoal flecks. It had no archaeological material.

Posthole [505] was located in the centre of the trench. It measured 0.38m wide and 0.38m deep (Fig 14, Section 6). It was elliptical in plan, U-shaped in section with near vertical sides and a concave base. It was filled by (504) dark greyish-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks. No archaeological material was recovered.



Trench 5, looking north Fig 19

8 THE FINDS

8.1 Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn and Tora Hylton

The pottery assemblage comprised 16 sherds with a total weight of 242g. It comprised a mixture of Romano-British, late Anglo-Saxon and medieval material, and was recorded using the codes and chronology of the Warwickshire Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery Type-Series (Ratkai and Soden, in archive), as follows:

CS01: St Neots type Ware, 10th – mid 12th century. 6 sherds, 53g,

CS05: Northants Shelly Ware, 1100-1400. 1 sherd, 26g.

RS02: Warwickshire Grey Ware, 13th–14th century. 1 sherd, 4g.

Sq30: Chilvers Coton ‘C’ Ware, 1300-1500. 7 sherds, 151g.

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 sites in the region. All the pottery is in good condition and the contemporary material appears reliably stratified.

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

Context	Romano British		St Neots type Ware		Northants Shelly Ware		Warks Grey Ware		Chilvers Coton ‘C’ Ware		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
U/S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	72	U/S
506	-	-	5	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	10thC
508	1	8	1	4	1	26	1	4	6	79	14thC
Total	1	8	6	53	1	26	1	4	7	151	

Four sherds of post-medieval pottery with a combined weight of 104g were recovered from the fill of a ditch in Trench 2 [208]. The assemblage has been classified according to the *Warwickshire Medieval and Post-medieval Pottery Type Series* (Ratkai and Soden 1998).

The sherds are represented by tablewares in modern glazed ware fabrics (MGW*) which date to the 19th and 20th century. The fabric/forms represented include a white porcelain bowl with a vestige of a painted silver motif on the internal surface of the base, and rim fragments from two underglazed transfer printed bowls.

Table 2: Post-medieval pottery

Context	Fabric/CTS Code	Sherd count	Weight (g)	Comments
206	Modern glazed wares (MGW) including: Porcelain (white)	1	22	Small bowl, complete profile
	Underglaze transfer printed	3	82	Bowl, rim sherds from 2 different vessels
Total	-	4	104	-

* Warwickshire Medieval and Post-Medieval Ceramic Type Series

8.2 Quern and slag by Andy Chapman

From the fill (506) of ditch [507] there is a fragment (SF2), with no original edges, from a rotary quern upper stone in lava. It was imported from the Eifel region on the modern German-Belgium border. The stone is 40-50mm thick, with the thicker portion lying towards the outer edge, where it probably formed part of a thicker raised rim on the upper surface. This surface is undulating with scattered broad chisel marks from shaping. The grinding surface is flat and lightly worn.

Rotary querns and millstones in lava were imported throughout the 1st millennium AD, during both the Roman and early to late Saxon periods. Following the Norman Conquest a wider range of stone geologies was utilised and the use of lava stones became less common. It is, therefore, not possible to provide a precise date for such a small fragment lacking diagnostic features.

The fill (404) of ditch [405] contained four small fragments, weighing 15g, of pale grey-white vesicular fuel ash slag. The fill (506) of ditch [507] contained a single small fragment, weighing 5g, of fuel ash slag. Fuel ash slag is a product of high temperature burning, but it does not necessarily have an industrial origin such as iron smelting.

8.3 Worked bone by Tora Hylton

A small spindle whorl manufactured from the head of an unfused femur from a medium sized mammal (pers. comm. Rebecca Gordon) was recovered from the fill of a ditch in Trench 5 [507]. The whorl is plano-convex with centrally-placed drilled perforation (Diameter: 29mm, Weight: 3.1g). The exterior surface displays signs of damage in the form of a small sliver missing from the top of the femur head and a V-shaped notch on one side; the flat face appears worn in places and there is a recess where the epiphysis has not fused.

Examples of small whorls made from pig femurs have been recorded from York (Walton Rogers 1997, 1741) and Winchester (Woodland 1990, fig 46, 154). Two examples from Winchester were recovered from deposits dating to the 11th and 14th century, they are slightly smaller in size than the Old Brownsover example, measuring up to 27mm in diameter and weighing up to 3.6g. Walton Rogers has suggested that these small whorls may be practise whorls for children (Walton Rogers 1997, 1741).

9 FAUNAL EVIDENCE

9.1 Animal Bone by Adam Reid

A total of 11 animal bone fragments were hand collected from the fill of ditch [507]. The remains comprised: a cattle proximal phalanx, a cattle metacarpal, a fragment of sheep/goat ulna, two sheep/goat molars, a cattle incisor, two long bone fragments from a medium sized mammal (Sheep, goat or pig) and three long bone fragments from a large sized mammal (cattle or horse).

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 very little interpretative value, other than to suggest that 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.

10 CONCLUSION

The evaluation found remains of a medieval settlement. The presence of residual late Saxon pottery in features may indicate Saxon activity, however, no middle Saxon remains or other artefacts were found in the site, suggesting that any settlement of this date indicated by its place name (recorded by Ekwall 1980) occurred elsewhere.

The archaeological earthwork survey of the site found surviving remains of the medieval and post-medieval village as well as later intrusion. The features represent the final use of the site after clearance of any structures, and the trial trench results suggest this occurred in the 14th century. All the features are visible on the LiDAR survey but were better defined on the ground as earthworks (Figs 2, 3 and 4).

This part of the former medieval village appears to have had an informal grid system roughly perpendicular to the modern road (Brownsover Lane), with up to six occupation areas or yards defined by platforms, and separated by linear hollows which may have been tracks. To the rear of the plots were the remnants of earthworks of the open field system. It is probable that R&F1 and R&F3 were the same field and that the earthworks forming Headland 2 and Headland 3 are a later imposition, perhaps the result of post-enclosure. Later intrusion comprising three hollows also affected the integrity of the earthworks.

The trial trenching examined some of the earthworks in the northern part of the site outside the Conservation Area (Fig 1) (Platforms 1 and 2, R&F2 and 3 and Headland 1). Platforms 1 and 2 were sampled in Trench 5 and the medieval ditches uncovered corresponded with the earthworks. The 10th- to 14th-century pottery recovered, as well as a spindle whorl and a quern stone fragment, all support that this was part of a domestic settlement. The ditch had a recut [515] and together with the date range of pottery provides evidence for the longevity of the occupation in this area. Between the ditches within Platform 1 there was one posthole [505], which may have been part of a house structure.

The results from Trial Trench 4 show that the original medieval settlement may have extended at least 25m to the east of Platform 2, underneath the late medieval/post-medieval R&F3. Here a concentration of four undated ditches was found and these may relate to domestic occupation or they may have been field enclosures. These features did not extend eastwards as only sparse non furrow features were found in Trenches 2-3 and only furrows in Trench 1. The area around Trenches 1-3 had probably always been farmed in the late Saxon and medieval periods whereas Trench 4 became part of the arable field(s) after the abandonment of the settlement in this area in c.14th century.

The post-medieval ditch [208] was orientated east to west and was likely to have been a field boundary. It is also orientated on a similar alignment to an existing field boundary which now marks the current Conservation Area. Undated ditch [205] is orientated east-west and could possibly have demarcated smaller plots or boundaries within the field. It is on a similar alignment as the post-medieval ditch [208] and the existing field boundary.

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APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
1	30m x 1.8m NE - SW	451046.82; 277556.76	112.28m aOD	0.50m deep 111.78m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
101	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent roots.	0.20m deep	-
102	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay with moderate small pebbles.	0.30m deep	-
103	Natural	Light yellowish brown clay with frequent chalk and occasional red patches.		-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
2	50m x 1.8m NE - SW	451006.24; 277584.14	112.58m aOD	0.45m deep 112.13m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
201	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent roots.	0.20m deep	-
202	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay with moderate small pebbles.	0.25m deep	-
203	Natural	Light yellowish brown clay with frequent chalk.		-
204	Fill of 204	Compact, light yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small chalk flecks and sharp boundaries.	0.44m wide 0.30m deep	-
205	Ditch	East to west orientated linear. North side 58° and south 60° slope and rounded base.	0.44m wide 0.30. deep	-
206	Fill of 208	Friable dark greyish black silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and lumps (95%) and sharp boundary.	0.98m wide 0.22m deep	Pottery
207	Fill of 208	Firm mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and sharp boundary.	0.35m wide 0.30m deep	Glass
208	Ditch	Linear orientated approximately north to south, V-shaped with upper eroded edges and a short flat base.	1m wide 0.55m deep	-

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
3	50m x 1.8m NE - SW	450969.27; 277562.03	111.26m aOD	1.05m deep 110.21m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
301	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent roots.	0.25m deep	-
302	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional small to medium pebbles.	0.50m deep	-
303	Colluvium	Mid orangish grey sandy clay with occasional small to large pebbles.	0.30m deep	-
304	Natural	Mid greyish orange sandy clay.	-	-
305	Fill of 306	Firm mid greyish brown sandy clay with rare charcoal flecks (2%) and sharp boundaries.	0.78m long 0.66m wide 0.12m deep	-
306	Pit	Circular in plan, U-shaped with gradual sloping sides and flat base.	0.78m long 0.66m wide 0.12m deep	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
4	25m x 1.8m NE - SW	450944.73; 277521.17	111.45m aOD	0.60m deep 110.85m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
401	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent roots.	0.20m deep	-
402	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with moderate small pebbles.	0.40m deep	-
403	Natural	Mid orangish brown sandy clay occasional manganese flecks.		-
404	Fill of 405	Compact, mid dark to light brown clayey silt with rare flint (3%) and moderate root disturbance.	0.2m wide	Slag
405	Ditch	Linear, orientated north to south with steep slopes (70° to 72°) Not fully excavated to base.	2m wide	-
406	Fill of 407	Friable mid to dark grey brown, silty clay with occasional small angular gravel and sharp boundary.	0.80m wide 0.16m deep	-

BROWNSOVER LANE, OLD BROWNSOVER

407	Ditch	Linear, orientated north west to south east, with sharp sides (35°-45°) flat base.	0.80m wide 0.16m deep	-
408	Fill of 409	Friable mid to dark grey silty clay with occasional small rounded gravel and pebbles, clear boundary.	2.24m wide 0.54m deep	-
409	Ditch	Linear, north to south orientated with curved sides approximately 40° to 50° and concave base.	2.24m wide 0.54m deep	-
410	Fill of 411	Friable mid brown silty clay. Unexcavated.	1.85m wide	-
411	Ditch	Unexcavated ditch	1.85m wide	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
5	20m x 3.6m NE - SW	450938.60; 277507.46	111.85m aOD	0.50m deep 111.35m aOD
Context	Context type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
501	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent roots.	0.20m deep	-
502	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay with moderate small pebbles.	0.30m deep	-
503	Natural	Mid orangish brown sandy clay occasional manganese flecks.		-
504	Fill of 505	Firm dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small rounded pebbles and sharp boundary.	0.38m wide 0.38m deep	-
505	Posthole	Elliptical with near vertical sides (75° to 85°) and a concave base.	0.38m wide 0.38m deep	-
506	Fill of 507	Compact mid dark orangish grey with yellow flecks silty clay with occasional charcoal (6%) and moderate root disturbance and sharp boundary.	1.90m wide 0.20m deep	Pottery, bone, slag, Small find 1 - Spindle whorl Small find 2 - Quern
507	Ditch	Linear orientated east to west with steep slope (40° to 48°) and a flat base.	1.90m wide 0.44m deep	-
508	Fill of 515	Firm dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional small round pebbles and sharp boundaries.	2.12m wide 0.58m deep	Pottery
509	Fill of 511	Firm mid to dark brown silty clay with occasional small rounded pebbles and clear boundary.	0.38m wide 0.61m deep	-

BROWNSOVER LANE, OLD BROWNSOVER

510	Fill of 511	Firm dark silty greenish grey silt clay with moderate small rounded pebbles and clear boundary.	0.95m wide 0.28m deep	-
511	Ditch	Linear, orientated east to west with near vertical edges, with the north side stepped (approximately 45° to 55°) and a flat base.	2.50m wide 0.84m deep	-
512	Fill of 513	Firm mid greyish brown silty clay with rare flecks of charcoal (2%).	1.40m wide 0.23m deep	-
513	Ditch	Linear orientated east to west with sloping north edge. Not fully excavated.	1.40m wide 0.23m deep	-
514	Fill of 507	Friable mid greyish brown silty clay with moderate roots disturbance.	1.90m wide 0.24m deep	-
515	Re-cut ditch	U-shaped, with base sloping to the south, sloping sides and upper eroded edge on the North side.	1.40m wide 0.58m deep	-