# Holywell Spring Farm, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire: An Archaeological Evaluation Report Phase 1

Planning Application Number: Pre-Application

National Grid Reference Number: SK 3490 1748

AOC Project No: 30969

Site Code: X.A140.2011

Date: March 2012

AOC Archaeology Group

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# Holywell Spring Farm, Ashby-de-la-Zouch:
# An Archaeological Evaluation Report. Phase 1

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| **National Grid Reference (NGR):** | **SK 3490 1748** |
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**This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.**

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## Summary

*A programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the site currently occupied by Holywell Spring Farm, Ashby-de-la-Zouch. The farm comprises the farm buildings and eight fields. The farm buildings are probably of mid 19th century date. The phase 1 evaluation was undertaken pre-determiantion of planning consent and followed a programme of archaeological fieldwalking and geophysical survey. Three of the eight fields were evaluated*

*The evaluation recorded the bases of a number of furrows associated with former ridge and furrow, which is likely to have fallen from use following enclosure in the 18th century. Few finds were present in these furrows, indicative of farming with no settlement in the vicinity of Fields C, E and I. One furrow contained fragments of prehistoric pottery, indicating some prehistoric activity in the area, but with no occupation horizons or prehistoric features, this pottery was certainly not in its primary context and could even have been imported with manure.*

*The most significant feature was a clamp kiln identified in Field E; this kiln was some 6m diameter with a flat base showing fuel scars, but little in the way of industrial residue. The kiln is likely to be of post-medieval date as its upper fill is dates broadly to the 18th century The products of the kiln may have been brick, tile or pottery. If this were a charcoal pit or a limekiln, residues suggesting either of these uses would have been expected to be present. The geophysical survey suggested that there are three such features, one of which is respected by a field boundary, suggesting that there is industrial activity of probable post medieval date just 60m from Holywell Spring.*

*A second phase of evaluation will be undertaken as a condition on planning and some further mitigation of identified archaeological features may subsequently be required. The extent of such works will follow advice from the Principal Planning Archaeologist of Leicestershire County Council.*

# 1. Introduction

1.1 This document presents the results of a programme of archaeological evaluation Holywell Spring Farm, Ashby-de-la-Zouch . The archaeological works comprised excavation of thirteen trenches, each measuring 30m length x 1.8m width. These trenches were excavated before determination of planning consent and were targeted on anomalies identified during the previous geophysical survey of the site (AOC 2011c).

1.2 The site is located to the north-west of the historic market town of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire, in an area known as Annswell. The site is situated on the northern side of Burton Road and is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SK 3490 1748 (Figure 2). The site is currently undeveloped apart from the farm buildings and associated eight fields. The fields currently, comprise of two arable fields with the remainder under pasture. The site is bisected by a footpath running east-west; Holywell Spring Farm is located in the south-east of the site; and a spring is situated on the eastern boundary.

1.3 The site is bound to the south-west by Burton Road, to the west by residential properties fronting onto Ingles Hill and by fields adjacent to Ingles Hill Farm. Most of the eastern boundary is formed by the rear of residential properties fronting onto small residential streets and cul-de-sacs, including: Knights Close, Locksley Close, Uppingham Drive, Oakham Close and Highgate and by the property limits of Holywell Spring bungalow; the northern-most stretch of the eastern boundary is formed by the boundary with a factory (Figure 2). The northern limit of the site is bounded by Ivanhoe Industrial Estate and Holywell Farm.

1.4 The current evaluation concentrated on three fields: The western half of Field C, Field E and Field I (Figure 3).

# 2. Development Proposal and Planning Background

2.1 The local planning authority is Leicestershire County Council (LCC). Archaeological advice to the Council is provided by Richard Clark, Principal Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council.

2.2 This report has been prepared prior to, and in support of, the submission of a planning application. The results of all pre-planning archaeological surveys are intended to inform the requirement for further archaeological evaluation and mitigation.

2.3 The site is not located within an area defined as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. There are no Listed Buildings within the site boundary and the site neither contains nor lies within the area of any defined World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or Areas of Historic Woodland.

2.4 The first phase of archaeological investigation was the production of an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (AOC 2011a). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced detailing how the archaeological fieldwalking and geophysical investigation would be undertaken (AOC 2011b); this was approved by the Principal Planning Archaeologist, Richard Clark and undertaken in September 2011. A report on the fieldwalking and geophysical survey was then produced (AOC 2011c). Following the production of the fieldwalking and geophysical report, it was agreed that further evaluation of the site could be undertaken in two phases. Phase 1, comprising thirteen trenches, was to be targeted on geophysical anomalies and excavated prior to determination of planning consent. Phase 2 comprising the remaining thirty-five trenches was to be undertaken as a condition attached to planning consent.

2.5 The Phase 1 evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (AOC 2011b) and briefs issued by Leicestershire County Council (Historic and Natural Environment Team 2008, 2011). This WSI conformed to the requirements of Planning Policy Statement (PPS5): Planning for the Historic Environment, which has since been superseded by the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DCLG 2012):. The WSI was also designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:

- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
- English Heritage – The Archaeology of the East Midlands (2006).
- Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 2010).
- Institute of Archaeologists – Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IfA 2009)

## 3. Geology and Topography

3.1 The market town of Ashby-de-la-Zouch is situated on the banks of the River Gilwiskaw in an extensive carboniferous region, which has been exploited for its coal; particularly in the collieries of Moira (to the south-west of the site), and for minerals and clay in Woodville and Gresley (to the west of the site (Lewis 1848). Riverside locations were attractive areas for settlement due to the utilisation of their natural resources of water and fertile alluvial soils, their use in trade and communication and as sites for settlement, ritual and industrial activity. The site itself has a natural spring just within the eastern boundary.

3.2 The site is surrounded by the National Forest, a government initiative to link the ancient Forests of Charnwood on its Eastern fringe with Needwood Forest to its West and to regenerate the former coalfield in this region (National Forest 2008).

3.3 The current Historic Landscape Characterisation of Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, characterises the site area as 'Planned enclosure', which is defined as '*either small or large enclosures with a predominantly straight boundary morphology giving a geometric, planned appearance. Laid out by surveyors these field patterns are the result of later enclosure during the 18th and 19th centuries. Included in this character type are commons enclosed by Act of Parliament*' (Historic Landscape Characterisation of Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Map 2008).

3.4 The superficial geology is variable across the site with some areas, including the south section and eastern limit of the site, having no superficial geology. A linear section of Head Deposits, comprising clay, silt, sand and gravels is shown in the north of the site, while Glaciofluvial Deposits, comprising sand and gravel, are indicated in the centre of the site. The bedrock geology underlying the site is shown as the Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation, comprising Sandstone and Mudstone lain down between the Anisian - Scythian Ages in the Early-Mid Triassic Period (*c*. 248.2 - 241.7 million years ago) (British Geological Survey 2010).

# 4. Archaeological And Historical Background

The following information is taken from the Desk Based Assessment (AOC 2011a).

## Prehistoric (c.500,000 BC - c.AD 43)

4.1 It is difficult to determine the nature and extent of human activity within the area of modern day Ashby-de-la-Zouch during the prehistoric period. The primary source of information in this area on these periods comes from findspots and ephemeral evidence, which attests to a general presence and utilisation of the wider landscape, rather than specific identified sites or features.

4.2 A flint scraper was recovered during fieldwalking on the line of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Bypass, *c.* 550m to the north of the site. This stone tool is thought to date from sometime between the Early Neolithic period to the Late Bronze Age (4000 BC to 701 BC). Further archaeological fieldwork along the line of the bypass recovered four flint flakes and a core, which have been dated to the Late Prehistoric period (4000 BC - AD 43).

4.3 A number of cropmarks were identified by Richard Clark (LCC Principal Archaeologist) in March 2011 which may relate to possible Prehistoric - Romano/British activity. These cropmarks include:

- Faint linear cropmark running *c.* NE-SW, centred on SK 3471 1768
- Faint linear cropmark running NW-SE, centred on SK 3487 1770

## Roman (c.AD 43 – 410)

4.4 Nineteenth century documentary sources recall that 'a great number of Roman coins' were found in the parish of Ashby-de-la-Zouch but no further information or more accurate providence were revealed (Lewis 1848). However, such evidence may indicate that there was some level of Roman activity in the wider area.

4.5 Leicester Way/Long Lane is a possible route of a Roman road *c.* 300m to the northeast of the site; this is thought to have led through Coalville into the fields of Coleorton.

4.6 Additional evidence for Roman activity within the study area was recovered in 2001 when a scatter of Roman pottery was recovered, along with material dating to other periods near an undated ditch feature *c.* 400m to the north of the site.

4.7 A number of cropmarks were identified by Richard Clark (LCC Principal Archaeologist) in March 2011 which may relate to Romano/British activity. These cropmarks include:

- Faint linear cropmark running *c.* NE-SW, centred on SK 3471 1768
- Faint linear cropmark running NW-SE, centred on SK 3487 1770

## Early Medieval (c.AD 410 – 1066) and Medieval Periods (AD 1066 – AD 1536)

4.8 The name 'Ashby' is thought to derive from Saxon origins, constructed from the Old English words '*asc*' (an ash) and '*bye*' meaning a habitation (Lewis 1848).

4.9 The settlement of Ashby is recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086 as '*Ascebi*'. By 1160, the manor was owned by Alan la Zouch, who added his family name to distinguish Ashby-de-la-Zouch from other settlements in the Midlands also known as 'Ashby'. A market is recorded from the 13th century and a fair form the 15th century. The market was held in Market Street, *c.* 800m to the southeast of the site.

4.10 Ashby Castle, located 1.12km to the south-east of the site, originated as a collection of 12th century manor house buildings, most likely constructed in timber, but replaced with stone structures *c.* 1150 and was converted into a 'castle in the 1470s. During the Civil War, the castle grounds were fortified,

with the gardens being incorporated into the defences, but the castle was partially destroyed at this time and the 14th / 15th century remains that survive having been designated a Scheduled Monument and Grade I Listed Building. The castle continued to be partly lived in until 1724, when the castle was superseded as a residence by Ashby Place. Remains of the early post-medieval gardens and brick towers survive as earthworks to the south of the castle.

4.11 Other early medieval / medieval sites within the vicinity of the site include:

- A manorial complex at Tournament Field, *c*. 700m to the north of the site (the setting of the tournament within the Sir Walter Scott novel 'Ivanhoe').
- Possible medieval deserted settlement of Woodcote - recorded near Smisby, *c*. 400m to the northeast of the site.
- Possible medieval deer park in the area of Prestop Park, associated with Prestop Park House, *c*. 900m to the west of the site.
- Possible medieval / early post- pottery kilns activity, *c*. 550m to the northeast of the site (based on the field names 'Lane Potter's Close, 'Nether Potter's Close' and 'Potter's Side Furlong').

4.12 Additionally, medieval pottery was recovered during a watching brief in 2001, during the stripping of topsoil for the new Ashby-de-la-Zouch by-pass road, approximately 400m to the north of the site. This has been interpreted as the result of manuring, reflecting the agricultural character of the area.

4.13 In terms of medieval activity within the site boundary, possible ridge and furrow has been identified by Aerial Photograph in the field adjacent Holywell Spring Farm, centred on SK 3482 1798 (Richard Clark, March 2011). Although there is no evidence to indicate any significant exploitation of the potential healing properties of the water from the Holy Well Spring, at the eastern boundary of the site, the place-name evidence could suggest that such beliefs may have been held at some point,. The name 'Holy Well', has since been incorporated within the names of farms and other properties in the vicinity.

### Post-Medieval (c.AD 1485 - 1900) and Modern Periods (AD 1900 – Present)

4.14 The farm buildings at Holywell Farm the nearby Ingleshill Farm are shown on an Ordnance Survey drawing of 1821 – suggesting at least an early 19th century origin for these farms.

4.15 During consultation with the land owner it was stated that, historically, the Holy Well Spring within the site fed taps in the town of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and that two of these taps remain: one at the bath grounds and one in the council yard (19th May 2010, *pers. comm*.). The current farmer, Patrick Betts, is the third generation of his family to have residence at the farm.

4.16 Contemporary documentary evidence comprising a 'Report to the General Board of Health on a preliminary enquiry into the Sewerage, Drainage, and Supply of Water, and the Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of the town of Ashby de la Zouch', written in 1849, confirms that Holy Well Spring was utilised as a water supply to Ashby-de-la-Zouch at this time.

4.17 The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) report identifies the area of the site as 'planned enclosure', which is characterized as "*either small or large enclosures with a predominantly straight boundary morphology giving a geometric, planned appearance. Laid out by surveyors these field patterns are the result of later enclosure during the 18th and 19th centuries. Included in this character type are commons enclosed by Act of Parliament*." (Leicestershire County Council, 2008).

4.18 One of the main industries in the parish of Ashby-de-la-Zouch was coal mining. The principal collieries were located at Moira, some 3.5km to the south-west of the site (Lewis 1848). Possible

evidence of quarrying within the boundary of the site is suggested by the identification of a cropmark of a possible former quarry centred on SK 3479 1765 (Richard Clark, March 2011).

4.19 The market continued to be an important feature of the town throughout the post-medieval period and it has been suggested that the post-medieval infilling in Market Street may be on the site of medieval booths. In the 19th century, the town became a famous spa town, with the construction of the Ivanhoe baths in 1822. By the later 19th century, the baths went into decline and were closed in the 1870s. Despite renovation in the late 1880's the baths declined in importance and were finally demolished in 1962.

4.20 A tramline ran past the southern boundary of the site, along what is now Burton Road, shown as 'Burton and Ashby Light Railway Line' on the Ordnance Survey map of 1925. By 1918, the line was losing money due to competition from buses and the line closed in February 1927.

# 5. Strategy

## 5.1 Aims of the Investigation

5.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation were as follows:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, significance, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
- To enable the archaeology advisor to Leicestershire County Council to make an informed decision on the status of the planning application in relation to the archaeological potential of the site, and the possible requirement for further work either prior to the granting of planning permission or as a condition of planning consent.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.

5.1.2 The specific objectives of the archaeological evaluation are to:

- Determine the presence of any archaeology on the site and its significance
- Determine the presence of archaeology associated with the cropmarks identified during the production of the Desk Based Assessment.
- Determine the presence of any archaeology associated with geophysical anomalies identified on the site.

5.1.3 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

## 5.2 Methodology

5.2.1 Site procedures were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2011b). All work was carried out in accordance with local and national guidelines (see Section 2.8).

5.2.2 Thirteen trenches were excavated in Phase 1 (Figure 3) in Fields C, E and I and targeted on geophysical anomalies previouisly identified on the site. Prior to commencing work, a unique site code was obtained from the Leicestershire County Museums Service (**X.A140.2011**) and was used as the unique site identifier for all records and finds. All trenches measured 30m by 2m in plan.

5.2.4 The Phase 1 evaluation was carried out over five days between 12th-16th March 2012.

5.2.5 Levels for each context were established from a temporary benchmark provided on a survey from the client; this was confirmed with use of a GPS.

5.2.6 The site work was supervised by Les Capon under the overall management of Alan Ford. The site was monitored by Richard Clark, Principal Planning Archaeologist on behalf of Leicestershire County Council.

# 6. Results of Archaeological Evaluation

## 6.1 Trench 17

| Context | Description | Depth | OD Height of deposit |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1700 | Topsoil | 0.35m | 156.11m to 156.99m |
| 1701 | Subsoil | 0.05m | 155.76m to 156.68m |
| 1702 | Reddish clay silt natural | NFE | 155.75m to 156.64m |

6.1.1 Trench 17 was located in the western part of Field C, some 300m north of the farmhouse. The trench was oriented roughly northeast-southwest and targeted a probable thermoremnant feature identified during geophysical survey.

6.1.2 The lowest deposit in the trench was reddish brown clayey silt (1702), a naturally lain deposit lying at 156.64m at the southern end of the trench, dropping northwards to 155.75m at the northern end of the trench. This drop of 1 in 30 is consistent with the current surface of the field. A single feature was present in the trench, the base of a furrow running north-south. The furrow had a gently rounded base, and was 1.00m wide, but only 0.06m deep [1704]. The furrow was filled with soft mid brown clayey silt.

6.1.3 The fill of the furrow was sealed by a thin layer of mid reddish brown clayey silt subsoil (1701), with few inclusions other than infrequent charcoal and flecks of the naturally-occurring coal. There were also suggestions of plough-scarring within the subsoil oriented north-south. The topsoil of the trench was 0.35m deep, consisting of soft dark greyish brown sandy silt (1700) containing small fragments of ceramic building materials of undiagnostic form and occasional rounded stones.

6.1.4 There was no evidence within the trench for what may have caused the probable thermoremnant feature identified by geophysics.

## 6.2 Trench 18

| Context | Description | Depth | OD Height of deposit |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1800 | Topsoil | 0.31m | 156.05m to 156.86m |
| 1801 | Subsoil | 0.05m | 155.74m to 156.55m |
| 1802 | Varied clay silt natural | NFE | 155.65m to 156.54m |

6.2.1 Trench 18 was located in the western part of Field C, some 300m northwest of the farmhouse. The trench was oriented northeast-southwest, near the highest point of the field. The trench was located to examine a row of geophysical anomalies thought to be of archaeological origin.

6.2.2 Naturally-lain reddish brown clay was identified at 156.64mOD in the south of the trench, fading to yellowish brown sandy clay with sandstone inclusions as it dropped to 155.65mOD in the northern end of the trench (1802); a fall of almost a metre. These natural sands were sealed by a layer of subsoil, comprising of a reddish brown silty clay (1801). The subsoil was cut by a narrow, straight trench that appeared to be the base of a boundary ditch [1806]. This feature was just 0.10m deep,

and was 0.32m wide, with a flat base. It is probable that the upper levels of the feature have been truncated by later ploughing. The fill of this feature was a soft dark greyish brown silty clay (1805) containing fragments of brick and post-medieval pottery. The fill of the ditch was cut by a sub-circular pit [1804] with root impressions characteristic of a tree-pit. The pit was 1.20m wide and continued east beyond the limit of excavation. At its deepest point, the pit was 0.31m deep. The fill of this pit was a mottled mix of dark greyish brown sandy clay silt (1803). This feature appears to be one of the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey in this location and it seems likely that the other anomalies could also be the former locations of trees. It is thus possible that a meeting of two former field boundaries, formerly containing mature trees lies within the trench.

6.2.3 The northern end of the trench had a narrow slot, with brick fragments and wire protruding from it (1807). This was a modern feature, which was not further examined in case it was a live service. The features in the trench were all sealed by 0.3m depth of dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (1800), lying at 156.86m to the south, dropping away northwards to 156.05mOD.

## 6.3 Trench 19

| Context | Description | Depth | OD Height of deposit |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1900 | Topsoil | 0.40m | 153.77m to 155.01m |
| 1901 | Subsoil | 0.10m | 153.37m to 154.61m |
| 1902 | Reddish clay silt natural | NFE | 153.31m to 154.55m |

6.3.1 Trench 19 was located in the western half of Field C, some 350m northwest of the farmhouse. The trench was oriented northeast-southwest, in the location of a proposed access road. A possible feature was identified in this location by the geophysical survey.

6.3.2 Naturally-lain purplish-red clayey sand (1902) was the lowest-deposit in the trench, 154.55mOD in the southern end of the trench, dropping away northwards to 153.31mOD. This was sealed by 0.10m depth of firm reddish brown clay with occasional stone inclusions (1901). Above this was 0.4m depth of greyish brown clayey silt topsoil (1900) with occasional brick fragments, natural coal and infrequent stones being the only inclusions. The surface of the topsoil was consistent with the underlying natural topography, lying at 155.01m in the southern end of the trench, dropping northwards to 153.77mOD, a fall of 1 in 20.

6.3.3 No features were present to explain the possible feature identified by the geophysical survey.

## 6.4 Trench 23

| Context | Description | Depth | OD Height of deposit |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2300 | Topsoil | 0.35m | 156.00m to 156.27m |
| 2301 | Subsoil | 0.05m | 155.80m to 156.10m |
| 2302 | Reddish clay silt natural | NFE | 155.75m to 156.05m |

6.4.1 Trench 23 was located in the western half of Field C, some 300m northwest of the farmhouse. The trench was orientated northeast to southwest and was located to target four linear anomalies likely to represent ridge and furrow.

6.4.2 Naturally lain brownish reddish yellowish brown clay (2302) was the lowest deposit revealed, sloping down northwards from 156.05mOD to 155.75mOD. The bases of five furrows were present in the trench, all oriented east-west. Each furrow was excavated [2304, 2306, 2308, 2310 and 2312], and proved to be of the same character: The furrows at the northern end of the trench survived deeper and wider than those at the southern end: closer to 2m as opposed to 1m wide. This is most likely to be the result of differential ploughing above as much as any deliberate deep furrowing in softer

natural deposits. Each of the fills (2303, 2305, 2307, 2309 and 2311) was soft mid brown silt with charcoal flecks. Ceramic building materials and clay pipe stem from the fills prove their final post-medieval date, although they may have been initially established earlier. Four furrows lay at regular intervals centred at around 5m and can be associated with the features identified by the geophysical survey. The northernmost [2312] was slightly further apart.

6.4.3 The furrows had no associated ridges surviving: it is presumed that these have been ploughed in after enclosure by more recent deep ploughing.. The fills of the furrows were all sealed by a reddish brown clayey silt subsoil of 0.05m depth (2301), in turn sealed by dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil (2300). This lay at 156.27mOD, falling away north to 156.00m, conforming with the local topography.

Plate 1: Overview of Furrows in Trench 23, Looking South.

## 6.5 Trench 33

| Context | Description | Depth | OD Height of deposit |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3300 | Topsoil | 0.35m | 150.60m to 152.03m |
| 3301 | Subsoil | 0.10m | 150.30m to 151.70m |
| 3310 | Reddish brown natural | NFE | 150.29m to 151.59m |

6.5.1 Trench 33 was located near the northern edge of Field E and was oriented east-west. Geophysical survey had indicated that four linear features, probably furrows, running north-south were present.

6.5.2 Laminated natural deposits of mudstone, sand and clay [3310] formed the natural geology in the trench; this lay at 151.59m in the western end of the trench, dropping to 150.29m in the east. Four shallow furrows, oriented north-south, were present, in the locations suggested by the geophysical

survey [3303, 3305, 3307 and 3309]. None were deeper than 0.06m and varied in width from 0.8m to 1.2m; the associated ridges appear to have been lost to more recent ploughing. The fills were soft mid brown sandy silt (3302, 3304, 3306 and 3308).

6.5.3 The filled furrows were sealed by subsoil, which was a soft, mid brown silty sand, up to 0.10m deep (3301), but absent at the western end of the trench. The topsoil of the trench was soft, dark brown sandy silt, up to 0.35m deep. This lay at 152.03mOD in the west, dropping to 150.60mOD at the eastern end.

## 6.6 Trench 34

| Context | Description | Depth | OD Height of deposit |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3400 | Topsoil | 0.30m | 147.12m to 149.68m |
| 3401 | Subsoil | 0.10m | 146.83m to 149.38m |
| 3404 | Reddish brown natural | NFE | 146.73m to 149.28m |

6.6.1 Trench 34 was located in the middle of Field E and was oriented northeast-southwest. The trench was located to investigate two anomalies shown up by the geophysical survey.

6.6.2 Naturally lain stony reddish brown clayey sand [3404] lay at 149.68mOD at the northern end of the trench, dropping to 146.73mOD at the southern end. This shows a quite notable drop of 1 in 10. Only one of the features suggested by the geophysical survey was present, the very base of a furrow 1.2m wide and 0.04m deep [3403]. This ran north south with the trench cutting obliquely across it, revealing a length of 5.2m. The fill of this furrow was a firm mid brown silty sand (3402). Subsoil, comprising soft mid brown silty sand (3401) 0.1m in depth sealed the furrow.. Topsoil finished the sequence (3400), was up to 0.30m deep and comprised of dark brown sandy silt. The slope of the topsoil corresponded with the local topography, dropping from 149.68m in the north down to 146.73m in the south of the trench.

## 6.7 Trench 35

| Context | Description | Depth | OD Height of deposit |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3500 | Topsoil | 0.40m | 145.31m to 146.82 |
| 3501 | Subsoil | 0.25m | 146.02m to 146.42m |
| 3504 | Reddish clay silt natural | NFE | 144.66m 146.37m |
| 3505 | Kiln | 0.65m | 144.69m to 145.17m |

6.7.1 Trench 35 was located towards the south of Field E, and was oriented northeast-southwest. This trench was located to determine the character of a possible thermoremnant feature identified by the geophysical survey. Evidence for furrows was also expected

6.7.2 Naturally-lain reddish brown clayey sand (3504) was the lowest deposit revealed, sloping down southwestwards from 146.37mOD to 144.66mOD. Two features were present. One was a shallow furrow [3503] just 0.03m deep and 1.5m wide, running north-south across the middle of the trench. The fill (3502) was mid brown clayey silt.

6.7.3 The second feature appears to be the remains of a kiln, possibly a clamp kiln [3505]. An arc of heat-affected natural clay was present at the southern end of the trench, suggesting a circular structure with a diameter of around 6.6m. Sectioning the feature revealed a flat based pit with near-vertical sides 0.60m deep. The edge and base of the cut [3506] were baked pink with occasional bluish grey patches. This is typical of heat in an oxidising atmosphere. Behind the pink surface, the clay had turned black, typical of reduction. The base of the kiln was flattish, with a suggestion of a low ridge

1m within the cut. There were four rounded linear scars containing charcoal suggesting that narrow logs or wide sticks had been used as the fuel for the kiln.

6.7.4 A sondage measuring 1m by 1.80m was excavated, to sample and determine the presence of fuel or industrial residue and to determine the function of the kiln. The base of the kiln lay at 144.66mOD, its surviving highest point at 145.17mOD. The lowest fill was a spread of silty clay (3510) just 0.05m deep, directly filling the fuel scars and covering the base of the baked clay. The next event apparent was the collapse and tumble of part of the northern edge of the kiln (3511), shown in section by the tumble of heat-affected clay and natural, unbaked clay (3512) slumping in. This collapse was sealed by a widespread fill of greyish red silty clay (3508) 0.12m deep and containing charcoal flecks.. Overlying this was a thicker deposit of reddish brown silty sandy clay with notable proportions of what appear to be soot (3508); this may represent a bank around the kiln of upcast material, backfilled into the disused kiln.

6.7.5 The top fill of the kiln (3507) was very similar to the natural sandy silty clay, and may be a product of colluviation or be a deliberate filling of the disused kiln with local material. Post medieval finds, including sherds of North Midlands Pancheon earthenware, broadly datable between the 17th and 20th centuries, were present in this upper fill.

6.7.6 The kiln was sampled but the results were relatively inconclusive; indicating only through the presence of magnetised particles that extreme heating had taken place. There was no evidence for charcoal or carbonised seeds to indicate a domestic function.

Plate 2: Curve of Kiln 3505, Looking North


Plate 3: Base and Wall of Kiln 3505

Plate 4: Detail of Fill and Slumped Edge of Kiln 3505

6.7.7 Both features were sealed by reddish brown silty clay subsoil (3501), and have no direct relationship with one another. This subsoil was up to 0.25m deep. Above this was up to 0.45m depth of topsoil, deepest at the southwest end of the trench; this topsoil was dark brown clayey silt, and lay at 146.82m at the northeast end of the trench, dropping to 144.66mOD at the southwest end.

## 6.8 Trench 36

| Context | Description | Depth | OD Height of deposit |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3600 | Topsoil | 0.35m | 146.47m to 147.89m |
| 3601 | Subsoil | 0.05m | 164.17m to 147.55m |
| 3602 | Reddish clay silt natural | NFE | 146.11m to 147.41m |

6.8.1 Trench 36 was located at the eastern end of Field E, and was oriented northwest-southeast. The trench was expected to cross 4 or 5 furrows, identified by the geophysical survey.

6.8.2 Naturally-lain purplish red clay silt and mudstone was the lowest deposit encountered (3602), lying at 147.41mOD at the northern end of the trench and at 146.11mOD at the southeastern end. The base of four furrows previously identified by the geophysical survey and oriented north-south were identified in the trench, none any deeper than 0.07m. Three of the furrows [3604, 3606 and 3608] measured 1.2m across, whilst the fourth was 2.6m wide [3610], yet no deeper. The fills were all dark brown clayey silt (3603, 3605, 3607 and 3609). The furrows were sealed by 0.05m depth of dark reddish brown stony clayey silt (3601), with dark brown topsoil above. The topsoil lay at 147.89mOD in the northwest, dropping to 146.47mOD at the southeast of the trench.

## 6.9 Trench 38

| Context | Description | Depth | OD Height of deposit |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3800 | Imported topsoil | 0.40m | 144.18m to 145.79m |
| 3801 | Made Ground | 0.30m | 143.78m to 145.40m |
| 3809 | Subsoil | 0.20m | 143.31m to 145.00m |
| 3818 | Reddish brown natural | NFE | 143.25m to 144.81m |

6.9.1 Trench 38 was located in the north of Field I and was oriented northwest-southeast. No features were recorded by geophysical survey due to the presence of made ground over earlier horizons.

6.9.2 Naturally-lain reddish brown sand (3818) was the lowest deposit revealed, sloping down southeastwards from 144.81mOD to 143.25mOD. This was cut by four parallel furrows no deeper than 0.12m, and each around 1.5m wide [3811, 3813, 3815 and 3817]. The furrows were all filled with mid brown sandy silt (3810, 3812, 3814 and 3816). All were sealed by a layer of soft mid brown silty subsoil (3809) that was up to 0.20m deep.

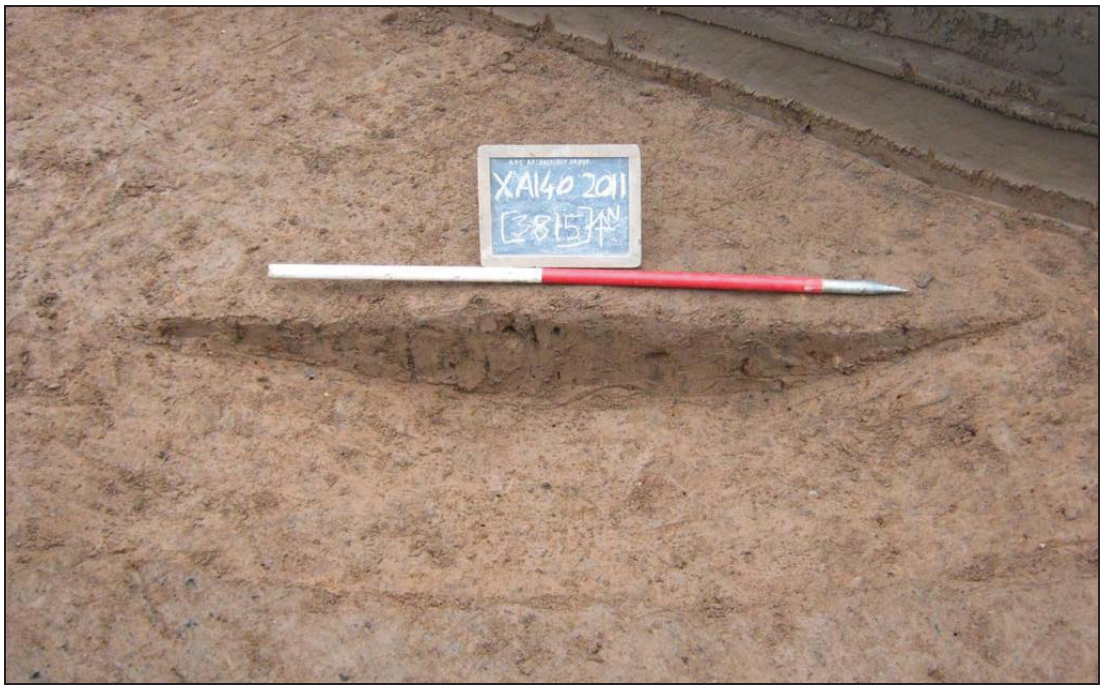


Plate 5: Furrow 3815, Looking North

6.9.3 A series of land drains cut the subsoil and probably broadly contemporary. The western most land drain cut across a filled furrow [3804] was 0.30m deep, 0.28m wide and filled with mid brown sandy silt with un-compacted small blocks of limestone (3803). The second drain [3806] lay parallel to a filled furrow and had a similar fill to the first (3805). The third land drain was on the same north-south alignment [3808] and also had small stone blocks filling its channel (3807). These land drains were all sealed by a layer of dark brown silty clayburied topsoil (3802), lying at 145.20m in the northwest, dropping to 143.48mOD in the southeast.

6.9.4 The buried topsoil was buried by 0.30m depth of pinkish red sandy clay (3801) and a second topsoil (3800) that was 0.40m deep. Both were probably imported as levelling deposits to raise the ground level in this field. The newer ground level lay at 145.79m in the northeast end of the trench, dropping to 144.18mOD in the southeast.

## 6.10 Trench 45

| Context | Description | Depth | OD Height of deposit |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4500 | Imported topsoil | 0.30m | 142.93m to 144.30m |
| 4501 | Buried topsoil | 0.35m | 142.63m to 144.00m |
| 4502 | Subsoil | 0.20m | 142.50m to 143.80m |
| 4503 | Reddish brown natural | NFE | 142.30m to 143.60m |

6.10.1 Trench 45 was located in the west of Field I and was oriented northwest-southeast. No features were recorded by geophysical survey due to the presence of made ground over earlier horizons.

6.10.2 Naturally-lain reddish brown clayey sand (4503) was the lowest deposit revealed, sloping down southeastwards from 143.60mOD to 142.30mOD. There was a hint of a furrow cutting this deposit at the southern end of the trench, but no definite edges could be determined indicating this may have been little more than root disturbance. The naturally lain deposits were sealed by 0.20m depth of soft reddish brown sandy clay subsoil (4502), with dark brown buried topsoil above (4501). This buried topsoil lay at 144.00mOD in the northwest, dropping to 142.63mOD in the southeast. The buried

topsoil was sealed by a second layer of imported topsoil, that appears to have maintained the local topography, but simply raised the ground level by 0.30m (4500).

## 6.11 Trench 46

| Context | Description | Depth | OD Height of deposit |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4601 | Imported topsoil | 0.35m | 142.28m to 142.69m |
| 4602 | Made Ground | 0.15m | 141.93m to 142.34m |
| 4605 | Buried topsoil | 0.10m | 141.78m to 142.19m |
| 4606 | Subsoil | 0.38m | 141.68m to 141.82m |
| 4607 | Reddish brown sand | NFE | 141.47m to 141.64m |

6.11.1 Trench 46 was located in the northeast of Field I and was oriented roughly east-west. The results of the geophysical survey indicated the presence of made ground.

Plate 6: Overview of Trench 46

6.11.2 The naturally lain deposit in this trench was a firm reddish brown clayey sand, which lay quite level across the trench, dropping only slightly from 141.64m in the eastern end of the trench to 141.47mOD in the east. This natural sand was sealed by up to 0.38m of dark reddish brown clayey sand subsoil. Above this subsoil was a layer of dark brown silty clay (4605) topsoil, 0.1m deep, lying at 142.19mOD in the east of the trench, dropping to 141.78mOD in the west.

6.11.3 This topsoil was cut by a ditch [4604] running north-south, with sides of around 45° dropping to a rounded base. The top of the ditch was around 2.00m wide and 0.68m deep. The fill of this ditch was un-compacted dark brown clayey silt (4603), very similar to the topsoil. This was clearly a modern feature, though there is no boundary illustrated on the modern Ordnance Survey maps at this location. The ditch was sealed by a layer of reddish brown clay made ground deposit up to 0.15m deep (4602), which was sealed by soft dark brown silty clay topsoil (4601). This topsoil was up to 0.35m deep and lay at 142.69mOD in the west of the trench, dropping to 142.28mOD in the east.

## 6.12 Trench 47

| Context | Description | Depth | OD Height of deposit |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4701 | Imported topsoil | 0.45m | 140.60m to 141.54m |
| 4702 | Made Ground | 0.55m | 140.15m to 141.05m |
| 4703 | Dumped consolidation deposit | 0.35m | 140.15m to 140.68m |
| 4704 | Buried topsoil | 0.20m | 140.15m to 140.68m |
| 4705 | Subsoil | 0.15m | 139.98m to 140.50m |
| 4706 | Topographical hollow | 0.70m | 139.25m to 140.68m |
| 4707 | Reddish brown silty clay | NFE | 139.83m to 140.36m |

6.12.1 Trench 47 was located in the east of Field I, roughly parallel with, and 30m west of, Holywell Spring. The trench was oriented north-south.

6.12.2 Naturally-lain reddish brown clayey sand (4607) was the lowest deposit revealed, dropping gently southwards, from 140.36mOD at the northern end of the trench to 139.83mOD at the southern end. The natural was sealed by reddish brown silty clay subsoil (4705) up to 0.15m deep.

6.12.3 In the centre of the trench was a hollow in the natural, which appeared to be a natural topographical feature [4706]. This feature was c.16m wide and c 0.7m deep with its base at 139.25mOD; the subsoil followed the slope into the hollow. The subsoil and hollow were both sealed by 0.20m depth of dark brown silty clay, topsoil (4704). The hollow was thus filled to 139.53mOD, the general topsoil horizon around it lying at 140. 70m in the north of the trench, and 140.17m at the southern end. This hollow was clearly still a landscape feature when the made ground that typifies the upper levels of the trenches in this field was added. Firstly, the hollow was filled with an individual dump of sticky yellowish grey clay and stone (4703), raising the level of the hollow to the topography of the topsoil horizon. Atop this was a deposit of reddish brown silty clay (4702) that was up to 0.55m thick, deepest in the north; dark brown silty clay topsoil (4701) sealed this, up to 0.45m deep, establishing the new horizon of the field at 141.54mOD in the north of the trench, dropping to 140.60mOD at the southern end. This dumping had raised the ground level of the field close to Holywell Spring by almost a metre.

Plate 7: Hollow with Made Ground Above, Looking East

## 6.13 Trench 48

| Context | Description | Depth | OD Height of deposit |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4800 | Topsoil | 0.35m | 157.12m to 157.38m |
| 4801 | Subsoil | 0.05m | 156.60m to 157.00m |
| 4802 | Reddish clay silt natural | NFE | 156.55m to 156.90m |

6.13.1 Trench 48 was located in the very western part of Field C, some 350m northwest of the farmhouse and was oriented northwest-southeast, at the highest point of the field. The trench was located to examine a series of geophysical anomalies thought to be of archaeological origin.

6.13.2 Naturally-lain dark brown clayey silt [4802] was the lowest deposit encountered, lying at 156.90mOD at the northwest end of the trench, dropping to 156.55mOD at the southeastern end. The natural was sealed by a thin layer of reddish brown clayey silt subsoil (4801), which was cut by a series of features. Four of the features were the bases of ploughed out furrows [4804, 4806, 4808 and 4814] running roughly north south, parallel with the western edge of the field. None of these were deeper than 0.05m, and all were filled with dark reddish brown clayey silt (4803, 4804, 4805 and 4813) The easternmost of the furrows had a plough-scar in the base, and the fill contained a residual piece of pottery or daub of possible prehistoric date.

6.13.3 The westernmost furrow fill was cut by a narrow ditch [4812] with steep sides and a flattish base 0.45m wide and 0.17m deep. This ditch was oriented east-west, and follows the line of a similarly-profiled ditch in Trench 18. The fill of this ditch was a dark greyish brown clayey silt (4811). Next to the westernmost furrow, but of unproven relationship, was the base of a rectangular posthole [4816]. This measured 0.30m by 0.20m and was just 0.10m deep with an irregular base. It seems probable that this posthole was cut from higher in the sequence, possibly through the topsoil, since the fill was a very lose dark brown clayey silt (4815).


Plate 8: Furrow 4814 and Posthole 4816, Trench 48 Looking South

6.13.4 The biggest intrusion into the trench was a 4.5m wide cut [4810] running between two concrete posts outside the field marked 'WATER'. This was clearly the cut for a deep, modern, water main, and was not investigated further. The fill was a compact mix of upcast natural deposits and topsoil (4809). The entire sequence in the trench was sealed by dark brown clayey silt (4800) topsoil, lying at 157.38mOD at the northwest end of the trench, dropping to 157.12mOD at the southeast end.

# 7 Finds

7.1 The finds assemblage comprises pottery and building materials. All objects have been assessed and reported on, giving an understanding of the material culture of the site in the post-medieval period. One piece of possible prehistoric pottery was recovered but is almost certainly residual as it was contained within a later agricultural furrow. The majority of the post medieval ceramics identified can be broadly dated to the 16th to 18th centuries and include examples of Midlands Purple Ware (c. 1480 – 1750), Midlands Yellow Ware (16th – 18th century) and North Midlands Pancheon Style earthenware (17th to 20th century), A single sherd of possible Cistercian Ware (c 1480 – 1600) was also recovered from the topsoil.

# 8 Conclusions and Interpretation

8.1 During the course of the archaeological evaluation, a full sequence of deposits from natural geology through to the modern ground surface was recorded.

## Field C

8.2 Naturally lain deposits were identified in every trench, proving it to consist of layers of silty clay and sandy clay with patches of mudstone, all typical of the local Triassic geology. The dominant features were the bases of furrows, all that remain of ridge and furrow farming practices, formed by repeated

ploughing in the same direction, and typical of the strip field system used from the medieval period until the 17th or 18th century. The finds from what is left of the furrows suggest a post-medieval date. The lack of porcelain or 19th century wares indicate that ridge and furrow may have been abandoned in this field before the 1780s. This is consistent with the known date of enclosure in this part of Leicestershire (Leicestershire County Council, 2008). The pattern of ridge and furrow is oriented in two distinct directions. Most are oriented east-west, but Trenches 17 and 48 are on a north-south orientation, indicating the former presence of at least two fields, which may have been separated by a field boundary.

8.3 Apart from the surviving evidence of ridge and furrow, the five trenches excavated in the western half of Field C revealed more modern features. These include an east-west boundary, seen in Trenches 18 and 48, a tree pit on that boundary, and a large intrusive cut for a modern water main. These features are of low significance.

8.4 Two pieces of pottery retrieved from one of the furrows are possibly of prehistoric date, but are residual in the fill of a medieval or later feature. These could have come from anywhere within the field or even have been imported with manure.

### Field E

8.5 Field E is characterised by two types of archaeological feature: agricultural and industrial. The agricultural features again comprise the remains of ridge and furrow oriented north-south, which fell from use, probably in the 18th century.

8.6 The industrial feature gave a strong signal in the geophysical survey, and Trench 35 revealed that this was the base of a circular kiln. Only part of the outer edge was present in the trench, but sufficient to indicate a total diameter of c. 6m. The kiln remnant was 0.60m deep and was characterised by a baked clay edge and base, caused by heating of the surrounding natural silty clay by the activities carried out within. The heat was sufficiently strong to bake the edge of the cut bright pinkish orange, whereas the base of the feature was generally bluer. Also within the base were thin linear hollows, probably the result of fuel such as branches or logs being impressed into the underlying clay during the firing process.

8.7 The base of the kiln was remarkably clean. There were no large pieces of charcoal that may be considered fuel residue, and no clinker or ash. Similarly, there was no staining or remnants of the products from the kiln. The form of the kiln, with a flat base, suggests that it may have been a clamp kiln. The lack of limestone or lime-rich residue may indicate that this kiln was for the production of local bricks, tiles or pottery. The lack of significant residues may indicate that the feature was cleaned out, possibly for re-use. Further examination of the remains of this kiln is merited.

8.8 The infill of the kiln was the result of several processes. Silting over the clean base was followed by collapse of the northern edge, followed by general filling with reddish brown sooty clay, which may derive in part from a bank around or superstructure of the kiln. The topmost fill is probably more related to gradual silting. The final fill appears to date from the 18th century. Given the location of the kiln towards the base of the slope, the final fill may have been fairly rapidly deposited through colluvial wash and levelling by the plough.

8.9 The geophysical survey indicated the presence of two similar features, which might suggest a group of industrial features, likely to be broadly contemporary. The southern boundary of the field curves around one of the anomalies, indicating that the boundary was most probably established when the kilns were active.

### Field I

8.10 Filed I has had its topography altered by the addition of up to a metre of made ground, filling up a natural slope on the eastern side of the field as it drops away to the channel with the Holywell Spring running along it. This raising of the level may have been to prevent flooding of the previously lower lying ground. The lowest features were the bases of ploughed-out ridge and furrow, oriented north-south: parallel with the spring. After these fell from use, stone-lined drains were established, providing drainage to the field, also oriented north south. These suggest again that the field had suffered drainage problems as a consequence of proximity to the Holywell spring.

8.11 The easternmost trench revealed a hollow in the natural horizon, dropping towards the spring line. This may be a natural hollow formed in association with the action of the spring. No dating evidence was present for this feature, but it was clearly visible present as a surface feature when the ground was made up in the mid 20th century.

## 9 Further Work

9.1 Given the presence of an industrial archaeological feature in Field E, and the probable existence of at least two other kilns, as suggested by the geophysical survey, further work could be undertaken to determine the full extent of the industrial zone, its date and character. Depending on the exact nature of the products of the kilns, it may be expected that clay pits may exist in the vicinity, and given the presence of a spring, there may be water management features which have left subtle traces in association with the operation of the kilns. The irregular course of the southern boundary of Field E suggests that this was established either during, or immediately after, the active life of the kilns.

9.2 Deep ploughing of the site since the 18th century has truncated the potential archaeological horizon, with the surviving furrows of the ridge and furrow fields just 0.05m deep. Such past agricultural activity is likely to have disturbed all earlier occupation horizons, leaving only the base of cut features.

9.3 The geophysical Survey has proved to be accurate in its location of some archaeological features, whilst overstating the potential of other signals. However, given the scale of proposed development, and the presence of residual archaeological material, a second phase of evaluation will be required as a condition on planning. Further mitigation may also be required subsequent to this and should be planned for. The final decision on any necessity for further works lies with Richard Clark, the Principal Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council.

9.4 A short summary of the results will be submitted to the local archaeological round-up.

9.5 This report will be added to the grey literature available on the online ADS OASIS project (Appendix C).

## 10 Archive Deposition

10.1 Following completion of the full extent of the fieldwork (as appropriate) the site archive will be prepared in the format agreed with the receiving local museum. The excavation archive will be security copied and a copy deposited with the National Archaeological Record (NAR) before post-excavation analysis begins or as soon after as can be arranged.

10.2 The site archive will comprise all artefacts, environmental samples and written and drawn records and will be consolidated after completion of the whole project, with records and finds collated and ordered as a permanent record. The archive will be prepared in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990).* On completion of the project

the Developer/Landowner will discuss arrangements for the archive to be deposited with the Leicestershire County Museums Service.

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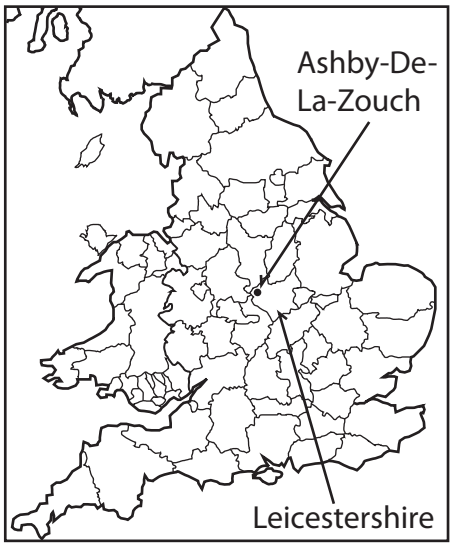
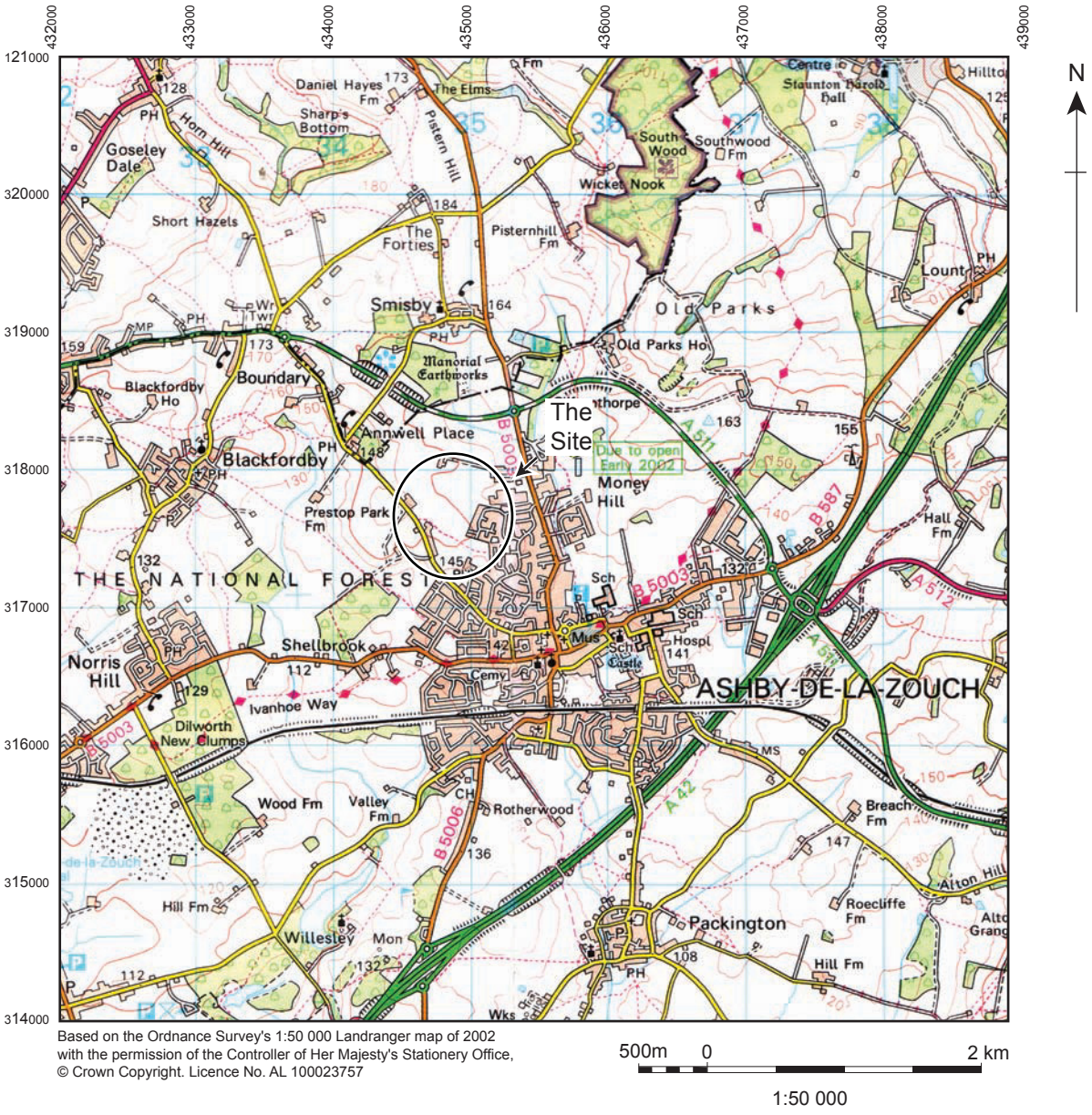



Approximate Site Location
Within England & Wales




Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 2002
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**Figure 1:** Site Location



AOC Archaeology Group

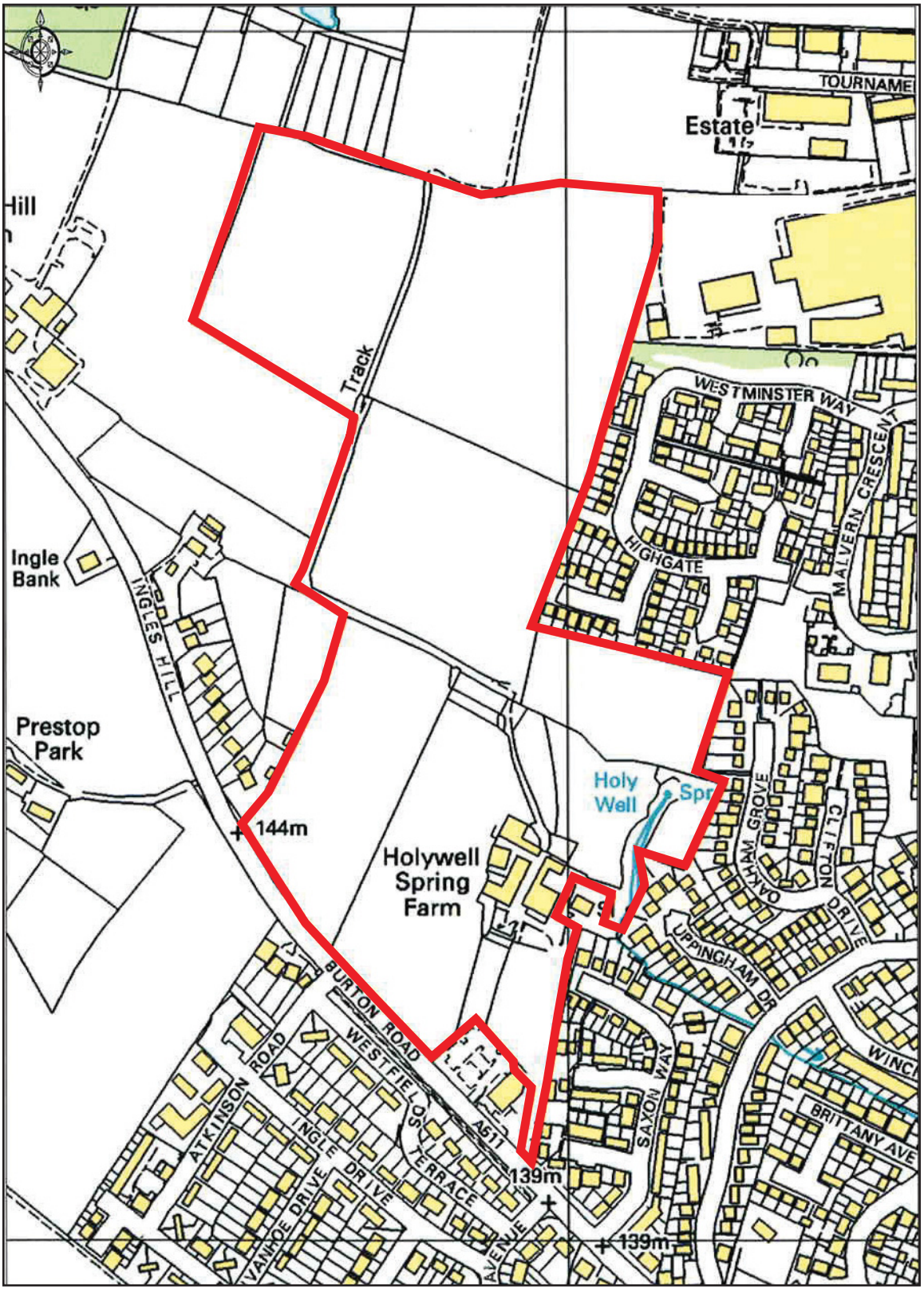




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**Figure 2:** Detailed Site Location

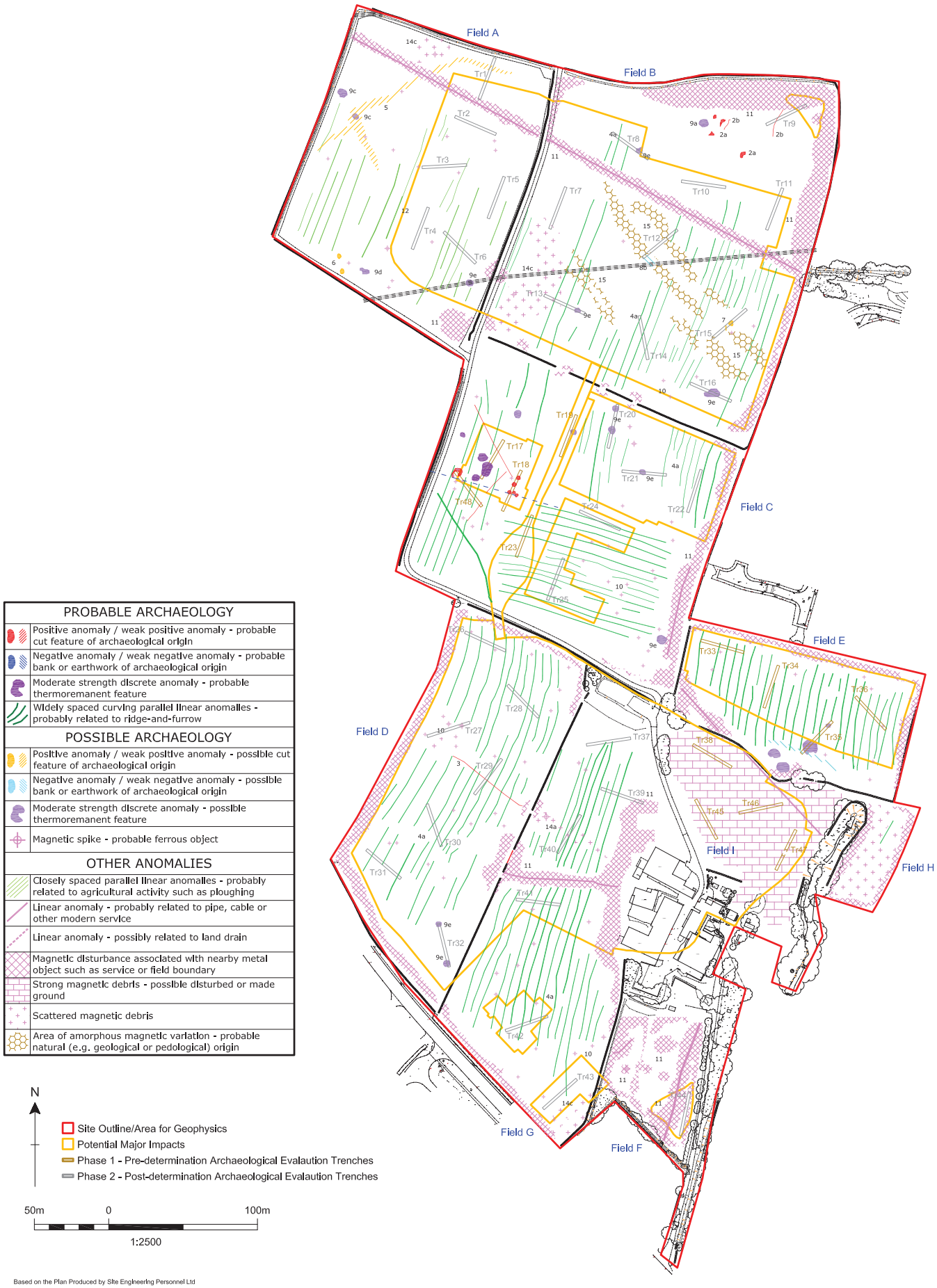
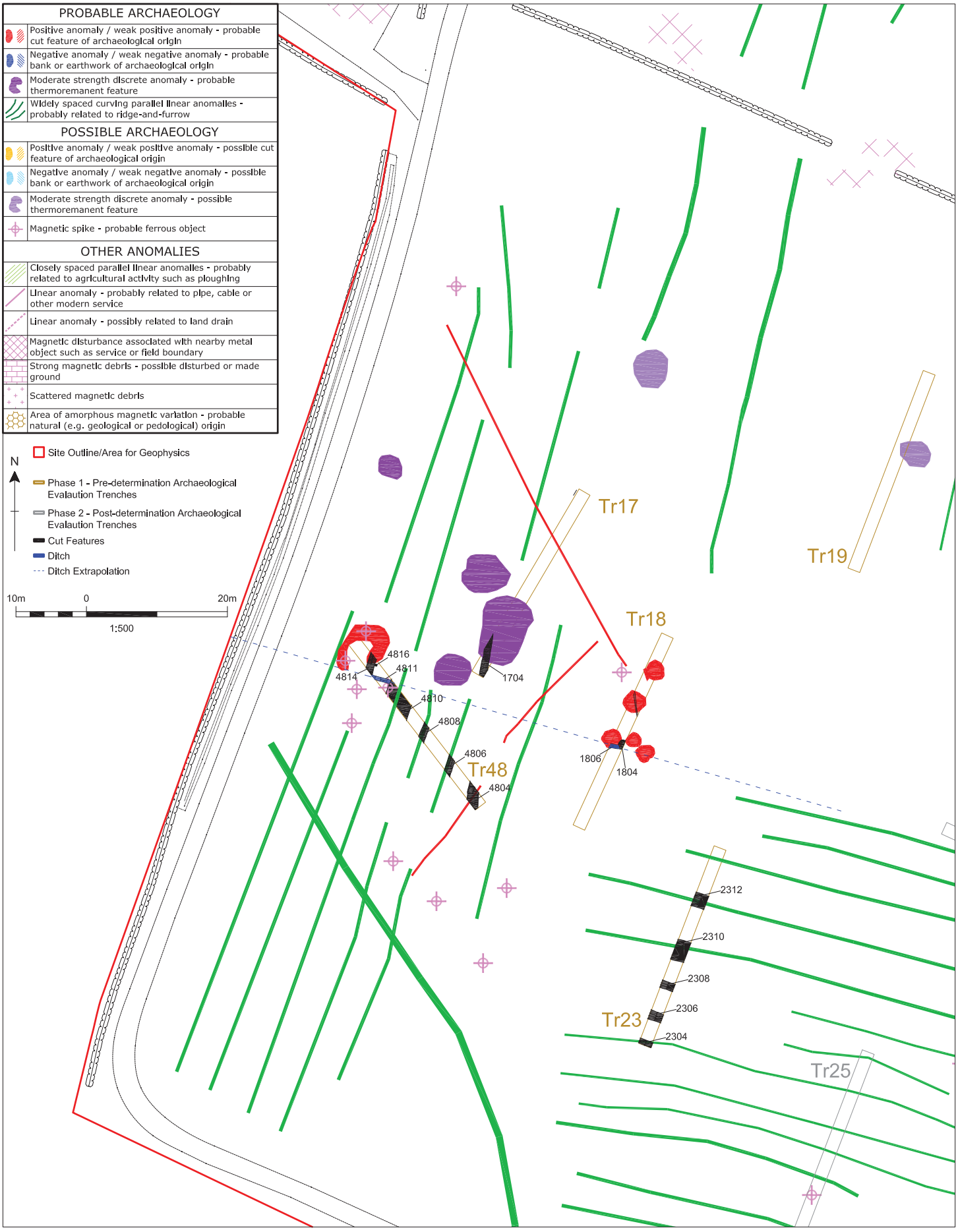



**Figure 3:** Archaeological Evaluation Trenching Plan Superimposed on Geophysics Results




Based on the Plan Produced by Site Engineering Personnel Ltd

**Figure 4:** Field C: Plan of Cut Features

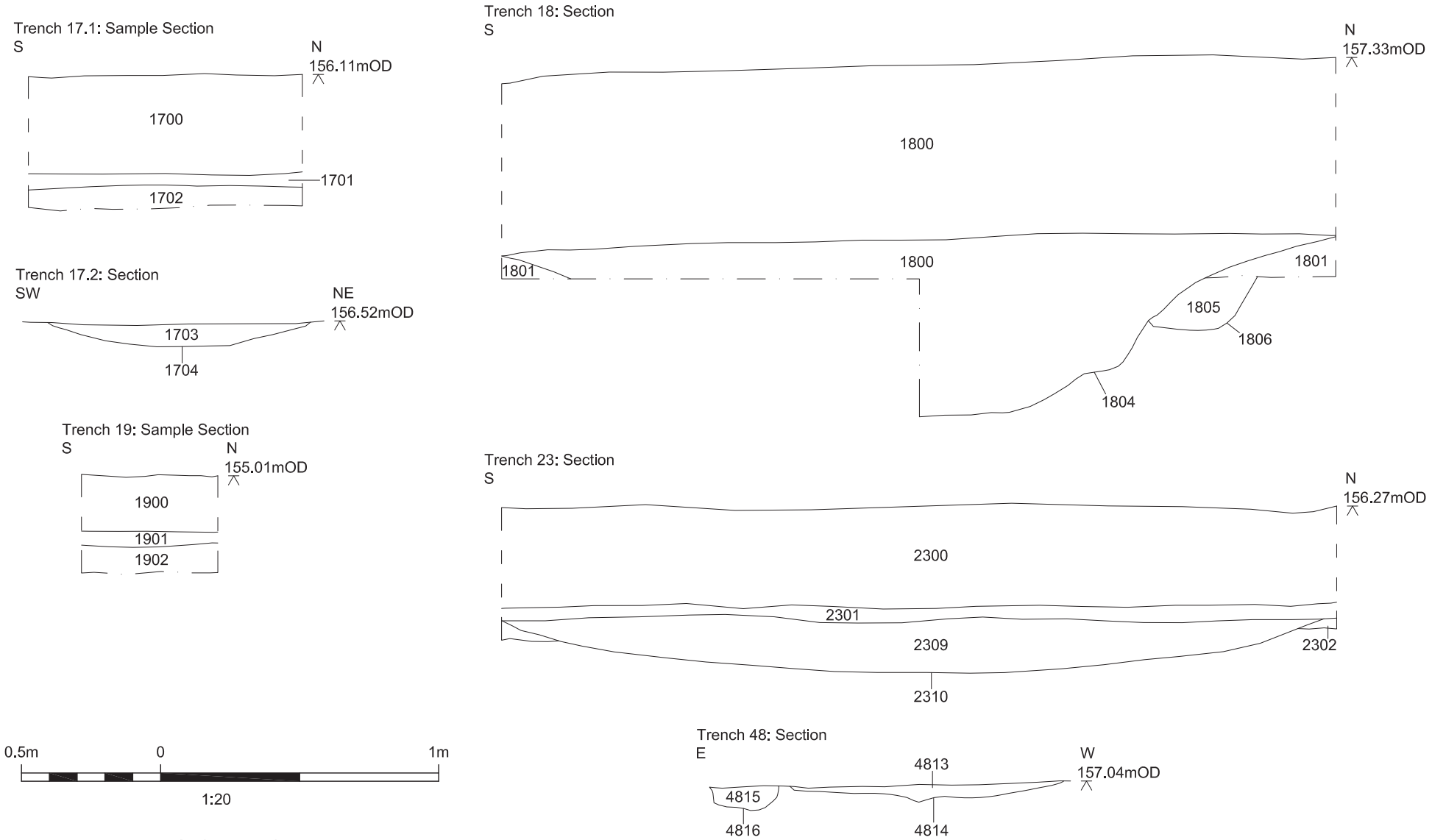
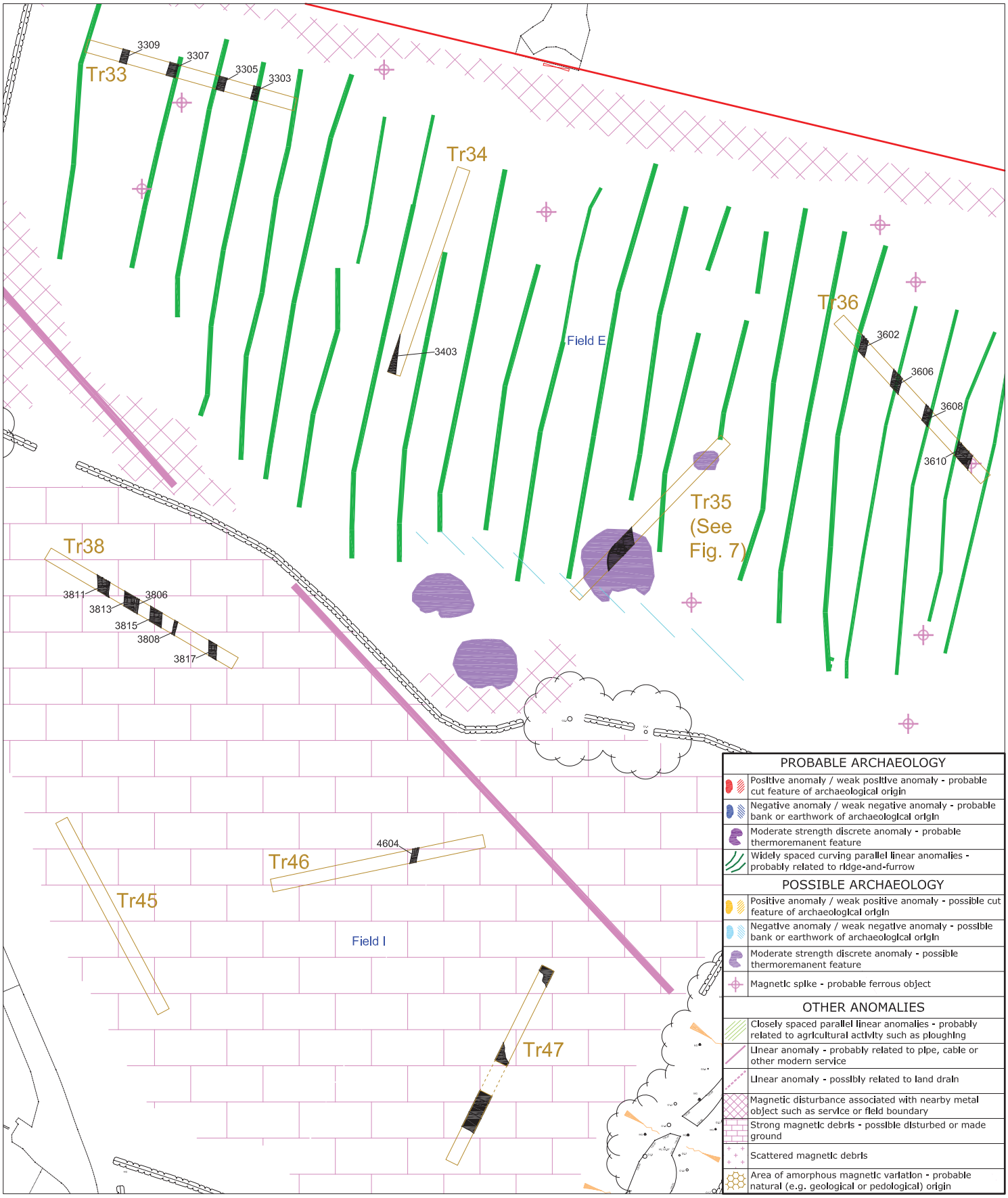



**Figure 5:** Field C: Sample Sections




Based on the Plan Produced by Site Engineering Personnel Ltd

**Figure 6:** Fields E and I: Plan of Cut Features

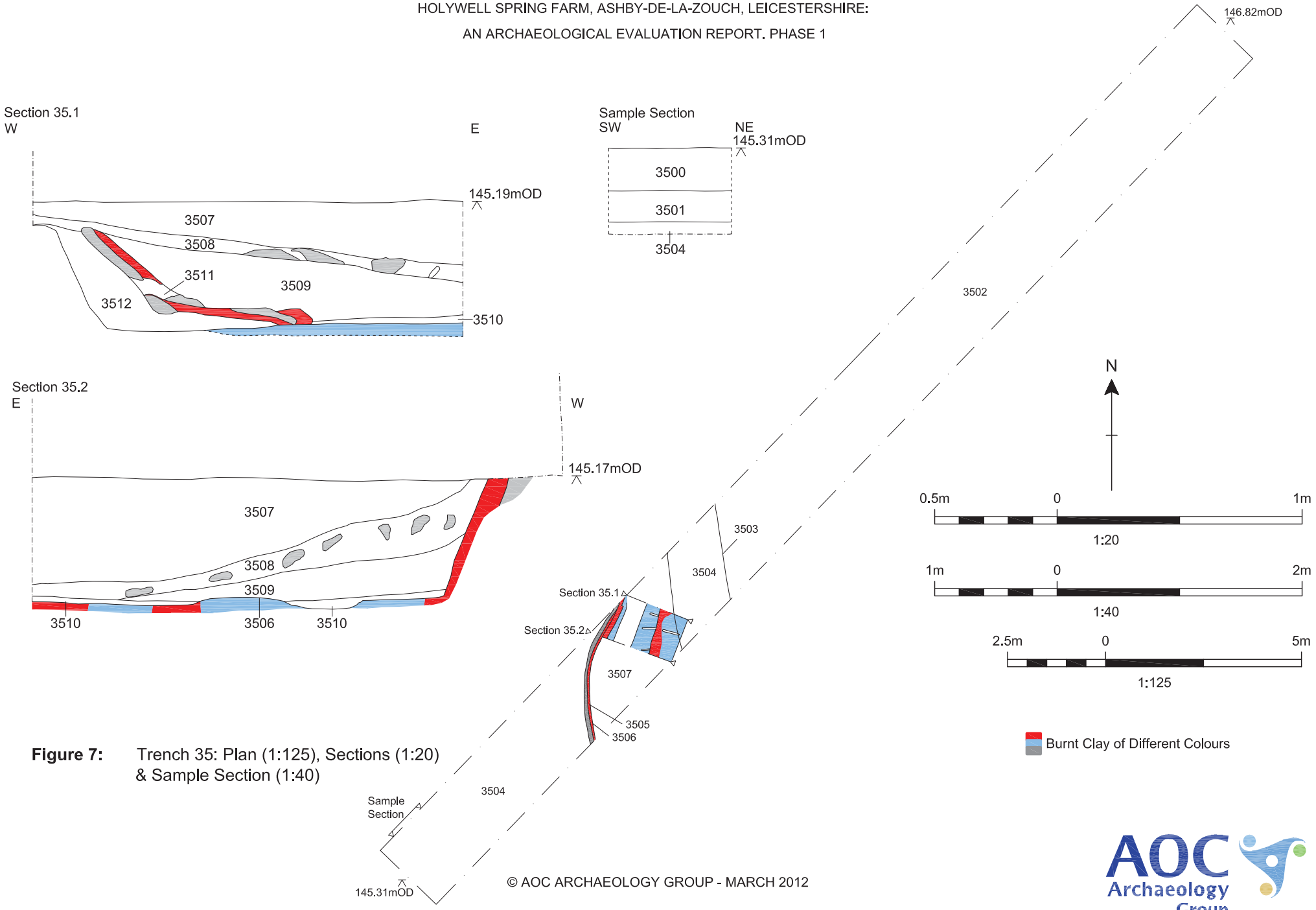



**Figure 7:** Trench 35: Plan (1:125), Sections (1:20) & Sample Section (1:40)



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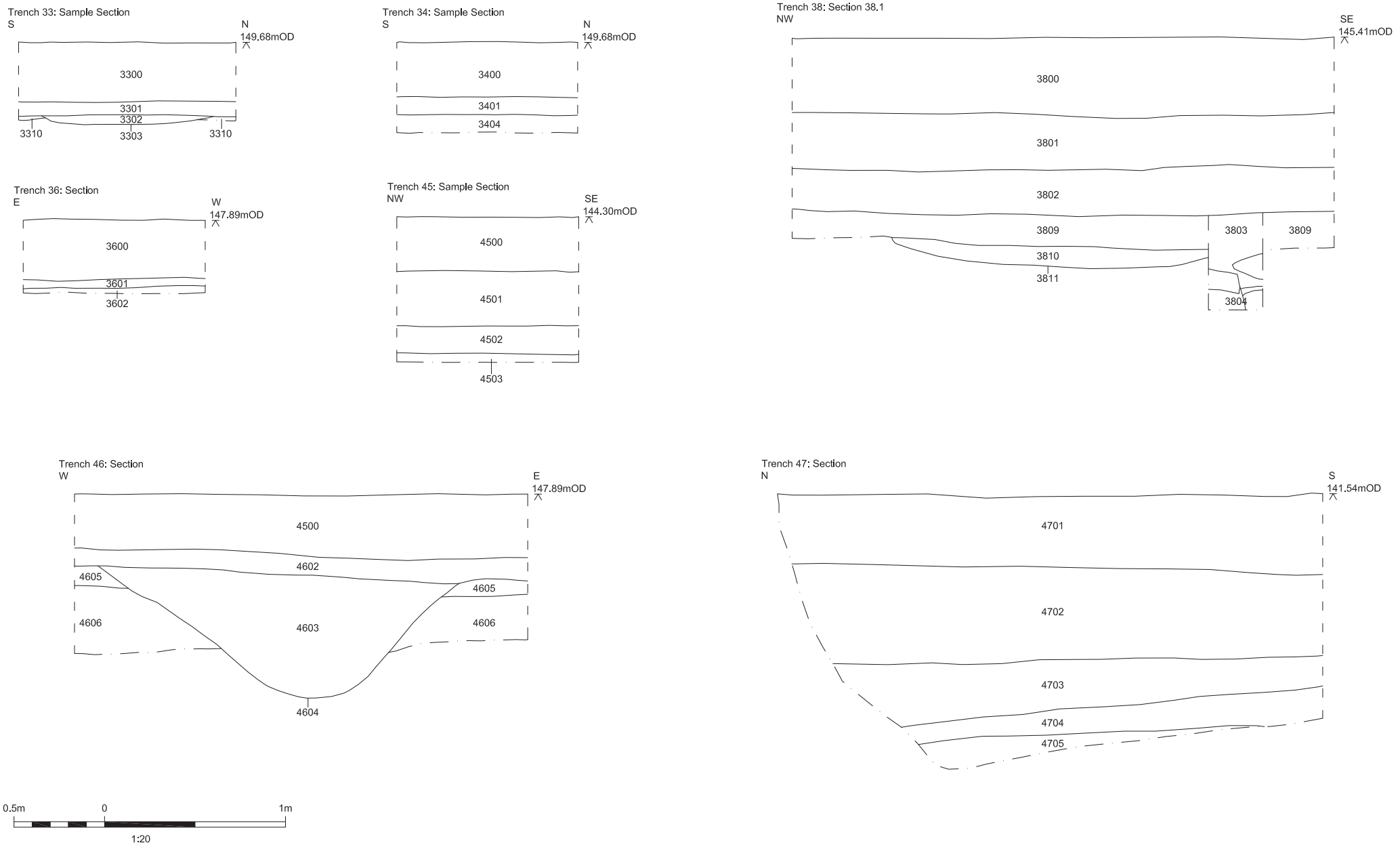



**Figure 8:** Fields E & I: Sample Sections

# Appendices

## Appendix A - Context Register

| Context | Description | Length | Width | Depth | Finds |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1700 | Topsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.35m | |
| 1701 | Subsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.05m | |
| 1702 | Reddish clay silt natural | 30.00m | 2.00m | NFE | |
| 1703 | Fill of 1704 | 6.00m | 1.00m | 0.05m | |
| 1704 | Agricultural furrow | 6.00m | 1.00m | 0.05m | |
| | | | | | |
| 1800 | Topsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.31m | Pot |
| 1801 | Subsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.05m | |
| 1802 | Reddish clay/ yellowish clay silt natural | 30.00m | 2.00m | NFE | |
| 1803 | Fill of 1804 | 1.20m | 0.60m | 0.31m | Pot, CBM |
| 1804 | Tree pit | 1.20m | 0.60m | 0.31m | |
| 1805 | Fill of 1806 | 2.00m | 0.32m | 0.10m | |
| 1806 | Field boundary | 2.00m | 0.32m | 0.10m | |
| 1807 | Modern service | 2.00m | 0.12m | NFE | |
| | | | | | |
| 1900 | Topsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.40m | |
| 1901 | Subsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.10m | |
| 1902 | Reddish clay silt natural | 30.00m | 2.00m | NFE | |
| | | | | | |
| 2300 | Topsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.35m | |
| 2301 | Subsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.05m | |
| 2302 | Reddish clay silt natural | 30.00m | 2.00m | NFE | |
| 2303 | Fill of 2304 | 2.00m | 0.70m | 0.10m | |
| 2304 | Agricultural furrow | 2.00m | 0.70m | 0.10m | |
| 2305 | Fill of 2306 | 2.00m | 1.40m | 0.08m | |
| 2306 | Agricultural furrow | 2.00m | 1.40m | 0.08m | |
| 2307 | Fill of 2308 | 2.00m | 1.08m | 0.08m | |
| 2308 | Agricultural furrow | 2.00m | 1.08m | 0.08m | |
| 2309 | Fill of 2310 | 2.00m | 3.00m | 0.20m | |
| 2310 | Agricultural furrow | 2.00m | 3.00m | 0.20m | |
| 2311 | Fill of 2312 | 2.00m | 2.00m | 0.20m | |
| 2312 | Agricultural furrow | 2.00m | 2.00m | 0.20m | |
| | | | | | |
| 3300 | Topsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.35m | |
| 3301 | Subsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.10m | |
| 3302 | Fill of 3303 | 2.00m | 0.90m | 0.04m | |
| 3303 | Agricultural furrow | 2.00m | 0.90m | 0.04m | |
| 3304 | Fill of 3305 | 2.00m | 1.05m | 0.06m | |
| 3305 | Agricultural furrow | 2.00m | 1.05m | 0.06m | |
| 3306 | Fill of 3307 | 2.00m | 1.20m | 0.05m | |
| 3307 | Agricultural furrow | 2.00m | 1.20m | 0.05m | |
| 3308 | Fill of 3309 | 2.00m | 0.80m | 0.02m | |
| 3309 | Agricultural furrow | 2.00m | 0.80m | 0.02m | |
| 3310 | Reddish brown sand natural | 30.00m | 2.00m | NFE | |
| | | | | | |
| 3400 | Topsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.30m | |
| 3401 | Subsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.10m | |

| Context | Description | Length | Width | Depth | Finds |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3402 | Fill of 3403 | 5.20m | 1.20m | 0.04m | |
| 3403 | Agricultural furrow | 5.20m | 1.20m | 0.04m | |
| 3404 | Reddish brown sand natural | 30.00m | 2.00m | NFE | |
| | | | | | |
| 3500 | Topsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.40m | |
| 3501 | Subsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.25m | |
| 3502 | Fill of 1704 | 2.00m | 1.50m | 0.03m | |
| 3503 | Agricultural furrow | 2.00m | 1.50m | 0.03m | |
| 3504 | Reddish clay silt natural | 30.00m | 2.00m | NFE | |
| 3505 | Kiln | 4.00m | 2.00m | 0.65m | |
| 3506 | Baked kiln lining | 4.00m | 0.16m | 0.50m | |
| 3507 | Accumulated/ slumped fill of 3505 | 4.00m | 1.80m | 0.45m | |
| 3508 | Soot-rich fill of 3505 | 1.80m | 1.00m | 0.15m | |
| 3509 | Lower fill of 3505 | 1.80m | 1.00m | 0.12m | |
| 3510 | Primary silting of 3505 | 1.80m | 1.00m | 0.04m | |
| 3511 | Collapsed kiln edge | 0.80m | 0.40m | 0.12m | |
| 3512 | Collapsed clayey natural | 0.80m | 0.40m | 0.32m | |
| | | | | | |
| 3600 | Topsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.35m | |
| 3601 | Subsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.05m | |
| 3602 | Reddish clay silt natural | 30.00m | 2.00m | NFE | |
| 3603 | Fill of 3604 | 2.00m | 1.00m | 0.05m | |
| 3604 | Agricultural furrow | 2.00m | 1.00m | 0.05m | |
| 3605 | Fill of 3606 | 2.00m | 1.20m | 0.07m | |
| 3606 | Agricultural furrow | 2.00m | 1.20m | 0.07m | |
| 3607 | Fill of 3608 | 2.00m | 1.20m | 0.07m | |
| 3608 | Agricultural furrow | 2.00m | 1.20m | 0.07m | |
| 3609 | Fill of 3610 | 2.00m | 2.60m | 0.05m | Pot |
| 3610 | Agricultural furrow | 2.00m | 2.60m | 0.05m | |
| | | | | | |
| 3800 | Imported topsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.40m | |
| 3801 | Made Ground | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.30m | |
| 3802 | Buried topsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.28m | |
| 3803 | Fill of 3804 | 2.00m | 0.28m | 0.30m | |
| 3804 | Field drain | 2.00m | 0.28m | 0.30m | |
| 3805 | Fill of 3806 | 2.00m | 0.26m | 0.20m | |
| 3806 | Field drain | 2.00m | 0.26m | 0.20m | |
| 3807 | Fill of 3808 | 2.00m | 0.32m | 0.10m | |
| 3808 | Field drain | 2.00m | 0.32m | 0.10m | |
| 3809 | Subsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.20m | |
| 3810 | Fill of 3811 | 2.00m | 1.40m | 0.12m | |
| 3811 | Agricultural furrow | 2.00m | 1.40m | 0.12m | |
| 3812 | Fill of 3813 | 2.00m | 1.55m | 0.11m | |
| 3813 | Agricultural furrow | 2.00m | 1.55m | 0.11m | |
| 3814 | Fill of 3815 | 2.00m | 1.60m | 0.14m | |
| 3815 | Agricultural furrow | 2.00m | 1.60m | 0.14m | |
| 3816 | Fill of 3817 | 2.00m | 0.08m | 0.08m | |
| 3817 | Agricultural furrow | 2.00m | 0.08m | 0.08m | |

| Context | Description | Length | Width | Depth | Finds |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3818 | Reddish brown sand natural | 30.00m | 2.00m | NFE | |
| | | | | | |
| 4500 | Imported topsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.30m | |
| 4501 | Buried topsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.35m | |
| 4502 | Subsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.20m | |
| 4503 | Reddish brown clayey sand | 30.00m | 2.00m | NFE | |
| | | | | | |
| 4601 | Imported topsoil | 28.50m | 2.00m | 0.35m | |
| 4602 | Made Ground | 28.50m | 2.00m | 0.15m | |
| 4603 | Fill of 4604 | 2.00m | 2.00m | 0.68m | |
| 4604 | Ditch | 2.00m | 2.00m | 0.68m | |
| 4605 | Buried topsoil | 28.50m | 2.00m | 0.10m | |
| 4606 | Subsoil | 28.50m | 2.00m | 0.38m | |
| 4607 | Reddish brown clayey sand | 28.50m | 2.00m | NFE | |
| | | | | | |
| 4701 | Imported topsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.45m | |
| 4702 | Made Ground | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.55m | |
| 4703 | Dumped consolidation deposit | 20.00m | 2.00m | 0.35m | |
| 4704 | Buried topsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.20m | |
| 4705 | Subsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.15m | |
| 4706 | Topographical hollow | 16.00m | 2.00m | 0.70m | |
| 4707 | Reddish brown silty clay natural | 30.00m | 2.00m | NFE | |
| | | | | | |
| 4800 | Topsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.35m | |
| 4801 | Subsoil | 30.00m | 2.00m | 0.05m | |
| 4802 | Reddish clay silt natural | 30.00m | 2.00m | NFE | |
| 4803 | Fill of 4804 | 2.20m | 1.50m | 0.05m | |
| 4804 | Agricultural furrow | 2.20m | 1.50m | 0.05m | |
| 4805 | Fill of 4804 | 2.20m | 1.10m | 0.05m | |
| 4806 | Agricultural furrow | 2.20m | 1.10m | 0.05m | |
| 4807 | Fill of 4804 | 2.20m | 1.10m | 0.05m | |
| 4808 | Agricultural furrow | 2.20m | 1.10m | 0.05m | |
| 4809 | Fill of 4810 | 2.20m | 4.50m | NFE | |
| 4810 | Cut for Water main | 2.20m | 4.50m | NFE | |
| 4811 | Fill of 4812 | 3.00m | 0.50m | 0.17m | |
| 4812 | Ditch | 3.00m | 0.50m | 0.17m | |
| 4813 | Fill of 4804 | 2.20m | 1.10m | 0.05m | |
| 4814 | Agricultural furrow | 2.20m | 1.10m | 0.05m | |
| 4815 | Fill of 4816 | 0.30m | 0.25m | 0.10m | |
| 4816 | Posthole | 0.30m | 0.25m | 0.10m | |

# Appendix B – Finds Report

**An assessment of bulk finds from Phase 1 evaluation trenching at Holywell Spring Farm**

Site accession: **X.A140.2011**

Paul Fitz
AOC Archaeology
(March 2012)

**Summary**

A predominately ceramic finds assemblage was collected from the Phase 1 evaluation trenching at Holywell Spring Farm, Ashby-De-Le-Zouch and is briefly summarised by material type below.

**Pottery;**

Topsoil (**1700**) has a large rim from a Midlands purple ware<1480-1750> vessel, highly vitrified with an internal black glaze(106g). It is possibly residual within the context, although it looks very fresh.

Topsoil (**1800**) has three sherds (from the same vessel) of midlands yellow ware <16th-18th century> and a small sherd from a north midlands 'pancheon type' earthenware vessel<17th-20th century >, weighing 5g.

Pit fill (**1803**) has ten mixed sherds. Six are North Midlands 'pancheon' style earthenwares (17th-20th century), all with black glaze and weighing 30g. Also present are a small blue & white transfer printed plate rim (3g), a white glazed earthenware paste/cream pot(17g), a neck and collar of a stoneware 'ginger beer' bottle (60g) and a small, residual, shatter fragment of a midlands purple ware vessel (3g . The context is almost certainly 19th-20th century in date.

Topsoil (**2300**) has a piece of possible Cistercian ware<1480-1600> cup rim (14g).

Plough furrow (**3309**) has two sherds from the same vessel of a presumed post medieval midlands internal/external yellow glaze<1550-1700>, weighing 11g. The sherds are fresh and probably later rather than earlier. They could also be from a Staffordshire slipware or mocha vessel, placing the date well into the eighteenth century.

Plough furrow (**3402**) has a highly fired sherd with internal/external pale olive green glaze (6g). It is too small to identify.

Uppermost kiln backfill (**3507)** has three sherds. Two are north midlands 'pancheon' earthenwares, weighing 26g. <17th-20th Century>), and a piece of abraded midlands yellow ware (?) <1550-1700>, weighing 11g.

Plough furrow (**3803**) has a single sherd (17g) of north midlands pancheon (or similar) earthenware with internal black glaze<17th-20th Century>.

Plough furrow (**3810)** has a single sherd (22g) of north midlands pancheon (or similar) earthenware <17th-20th Century>.

Plough furrow (**3814**) has a single sherd (15g) of north midlands pancheon (or similar) earthenware with black glaze and red slip <17th-20th Century> and a sherd of possible late medieval midlands purple ware with internal lead green glaze and gritting (59g).

Linear fill (**4811**) has a single sherd from a Staffordshire white salt glazed plate <1720-1780>, weighing 6g.

**Building Materials**;

Furrow fill (**1703**) has a tiny orange ceramic fragment (1g) likely to be a tile fragment

Tree bowl fill? (**1803**) has five peg tiles(11-13mm thick) weighing 556g, a red, unglazed floor/quarry tile piece (26mm thick,) weighing 308g and another six brick or tile fragments weighing 458g.

Plough soil (**2300**) contained a single peg tile piece (11mm thick) weighing 125 g.

Furrow fill (**2309**) has a 6g fragment of ceramic. Pale orange in colour it is probably a tile fragment

Furrow fill (**2311**) has three peg tile pieces (11-13mm thick) weighing 135g.

Furrow fill (**3307**) has a single pale orange ceramic fragment, believed to be tile, weighing 7 g.

Furrow fill (**3402**) has a small abraded pinkish-orange ceramic fragment (2g). it is unidentified

Kiln backfilling (**3507**) has a peg tile piece weighing 231g. It is 13mm thick and has been subject to burning.

Kiln backfilling (**3508**) has fragments of burnt clay

Furrow fill (**3810**) has an uncertain tile piece weighing 9g.

Furrow fill (**3812**) has a roofing tile piece, 15mm thick and weighing 54g.

Furrow fill (**3814**) has two peg tile pieces, 11-13mm thick, weighing 71g.

Furrow (**4805**) has two fragments of burnt clay that may be sourced from a nearby kiln.

Linear fill (**4811**) has a brick fragment and an unidentified piece, weighing 33g.

**Other Materials;**

Two undiagnostic tobacco pipe stems from furrow fill (**2307**) weighing 6g, and linear fill (**4603**) weighing 2g.
A green bottle sherd, weighing 6g, was recovered from furrow fill (**3810**).
A lump of possible ceramic slag from linear fill (**4603**) weighs 37g.

**Discussion/Recommendations**

The finds assemblage is relatively small in size but does have limited significance on a local area level. It helps to spot date most contexts,

The finds will be catalogued and amalgamated with other finds from this project.

***Material for illustration***
None

***Analysis of potential***
The ceramic provides broad dating evidence for the features in which they occur.

**Significance of the data**
*International and national*
The assemblage is not of international or national significance.

*Regional and local*
The assemblage is of limited local significance.

***Further work required***
None recommended

***Preparation for deposition in the archive and conservation***
Will be bagged and boxed according to Leicestershire museum guidelines

# Appendix C – Environmental Report

**Processing of three environmental samples from Holywell Spring Farm, Leicestershire. Evaluation Phase 1**

Site Identifier: **X.A140.2011**

Paul Fitz
AOC Archaeology
(March 2012)

**Summary**
Samples were taken from three distinct fills within a disused (backfilled) kiln base from evaluation trench 35.With little dating evidence except from the upper fill it was hoped that any artefact/environmental evidence would indicate the date and function of said kiln.

All were processed through a flotation tank with residue collected in a 1mm mesh and flot collected in a 300 micron sieve.

**Results**

***Sample <1>*** Context 3507. a ten litre sample broke down to 0.5 litre of residue. This was baked clay peds and gravels with c 5% small stone fragments. The residue was a rich red- brown colour as expected from a heat affected deposit.

The collected flot when dried weighed 3g and was mostly charcoal fragments no larger than 2mm.
From this residue a fragment of peg tile (15g), two tiny sherds of Midlands purple ware pot (1g) and occasional small fragments of burnt clay and charcoal (1g) were recovered. 2g of magnetised granules were picked up with a magnet (though this is hardly surprising given the extreme heat that the deposit was exposed to). No slag was visible.

***Sample <2>*** Context 3508. A twenty litres sample broke down to 1.1 litres of residue. This was baked clay peds and gravels with c 15% small natural stone fragments. The residue was a rich red- brown colour as expected from a heat affected deposit.

The collected flot when dried weighed 3g and was mostly charcoal fragments no larger than 2mm.
From the residue 68g of fired/burnt clay fragments were recovered (between 5mm-60mm). This is likely to have been from the kiln structure lining. 2g of very small coal /charcoal fragments and 9 grams of magnetised particles were also collected. There does appear to be a couple of small slag pieces within the magnetised particles but this is not so unexpected.

***Sample <3>*** Context 3509. A ten litre sample broke down to 0.5 litres of residue. This was baked clay peds and gravels with c 5% small stone fragments. The residue was a rich red- brown colour, as expected from a heat affected deposit. The collected flot when dried weighed 13g and was mostly charcoal fragments no larger than 2mm.

From the residue 53 grams of burnt/ baked clay lumps (between 10mm-40mm in size) were collected. 5 grams of magnetised granules were picked up with a magnet). No slag was visible.

**Conclusion/Recommendations**

The residues did not yield any really useful data. Context 3507 <Sample 1> already had dating evidence manually retrieved during the excavation so the tiny sherds of ubiquitous midlands purple ware can be seen as residual when compared to the other sherds manually retrieved.

Magnetised particles from the residues are to be expected from deposits subjected to extreme heat.

The flots had no evidence at all of carbonised seeds or plant remains. Food baking or drying is therefore unlikely. The small fragmentary nature of the charcoal may suggest any wood used as fuel for firing the kiln has burnt well at very high temperatures.

# Appendix D - OASIS Form

## *OASIS ID: aocarcha1-111060*

### Project details

| | |
|---|---|
| Project name | Holywell Spring Farm |
| Short description of the project | A programme of pre-determination works which include fieldwalking, geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation The fieldwalking concentrated on two fields adjacent to the northern boundary of site, and collected a range of post medieval finds, probably brought in with manure. Phase 1 of the evalkuation comprise a thirtten excavated trenches. These revealed the bases of ridge and furrow, and a probable 18th century clamp kiln. At least two other clamp kilns are suggested by the geophysics results. |
| Project dates | Start: 10-10-2011 End: 15-03-2012 |
| Previous/future work | No / Yes |
| Any associated project reference codes | 30969 - Contracting Unit No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | X.A140.2011 - Museum accession ID |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined |
| Monument type | KILN Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | CBM Post Medieval |
| Methods & | 'Fieldwalking','Geophysical Survey','Sample Trenches','Targeted Trenches' |

| | |
|---|---|
| techniques | |
| Development type | Rural residential |
| Prompt | Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS |
| Position in the planning process | Pre-application |
| Solid geology (other) | Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation |
| Drift geology (other) | Head and Glaciofluvial Deposits |
| Techniques | Magnetometry |

**Project location**

| | |
|---|---|
| Country | England |
| Site location | Leicestershire North West Leicestershire Ashby De La Zouch Holywell Spring Farm, Ashby-de-la-Zouch |
| Postcode | LE65 2LP |
| Study area | 20.00 Hectares |
| Site coordinates | SK 34901 17484 52.7535034543 -1.482834859990 52 45 12 N 001 28 58 W Point |

**Project creators**

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Organisation | AOC Archaeology Group |
| Project brief originator | Historic and Natural Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council |
| Project design originator | AOC Archaeology Group |
| Project director/manager | Alan Ford |

| | |
|---|---|
| Project supervisor | Chris Clarke, Les Capon |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Developer |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | Capita Symonds |

**Project archives**

| | |
|---|---|
| Physical Archive recipient | Leicestershire Museum |
| Physical Archive ID | X.A140.2011 |
| Physical Contents | 'Animal Bones', 'Ceramics', 'Glass', 'Metal', 'Worked stone/lithics' |
| Physical Archive notes | held at AOC until transfer |
| Digital Archive recipient | Leicestershire Museum |
| Digital Archive ID | X.A140.2011 |
| Digital Contents | 'Animal Bones', 'Ceramics', 'Stratigraphic' |
| Digital Media available | 'Geophysics', 'Images raster / digital photography', 'Images vector', 'Text' |
| Digital Archive notes | held at AOC until transfer |
| Paper Archive recipient | Leicestershire Museum |
| Paper Archive ID | X.A140.2011 |
| Paper Media available | 'Context sheet', 'Matrices', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Survey ', 'Unpublished Text' |

| | |
|---|---|
| Paper Archive notes | held at AOC transfer |

**Project bibliography 1**

| | |
|---|---|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Holywell Spring Farm, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Smith, C. |
| Date | 2011 |
| Issuer or publisher | AOC Archaeology Group |
| Place of issue or publication | AOC Archaeology London |

**Project bibliography 2**

| | |
|---|---|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Holywell Spring Farm, Ashby-De-La-Zouch, Leicestershire: A Written Scheme Of Investigation For A Programme Of Archaeological Fieldwalking, Geophysics, Evaluation And Historic Building Recording |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | MacQuarrie, H. |
| Date | 2011 |
| Issuer or publisher | AOC Archaeology |
| Place of issue or publication | London |
| Description | A4 text, 27 pages, 3 illustrations, bound between plastic covers |

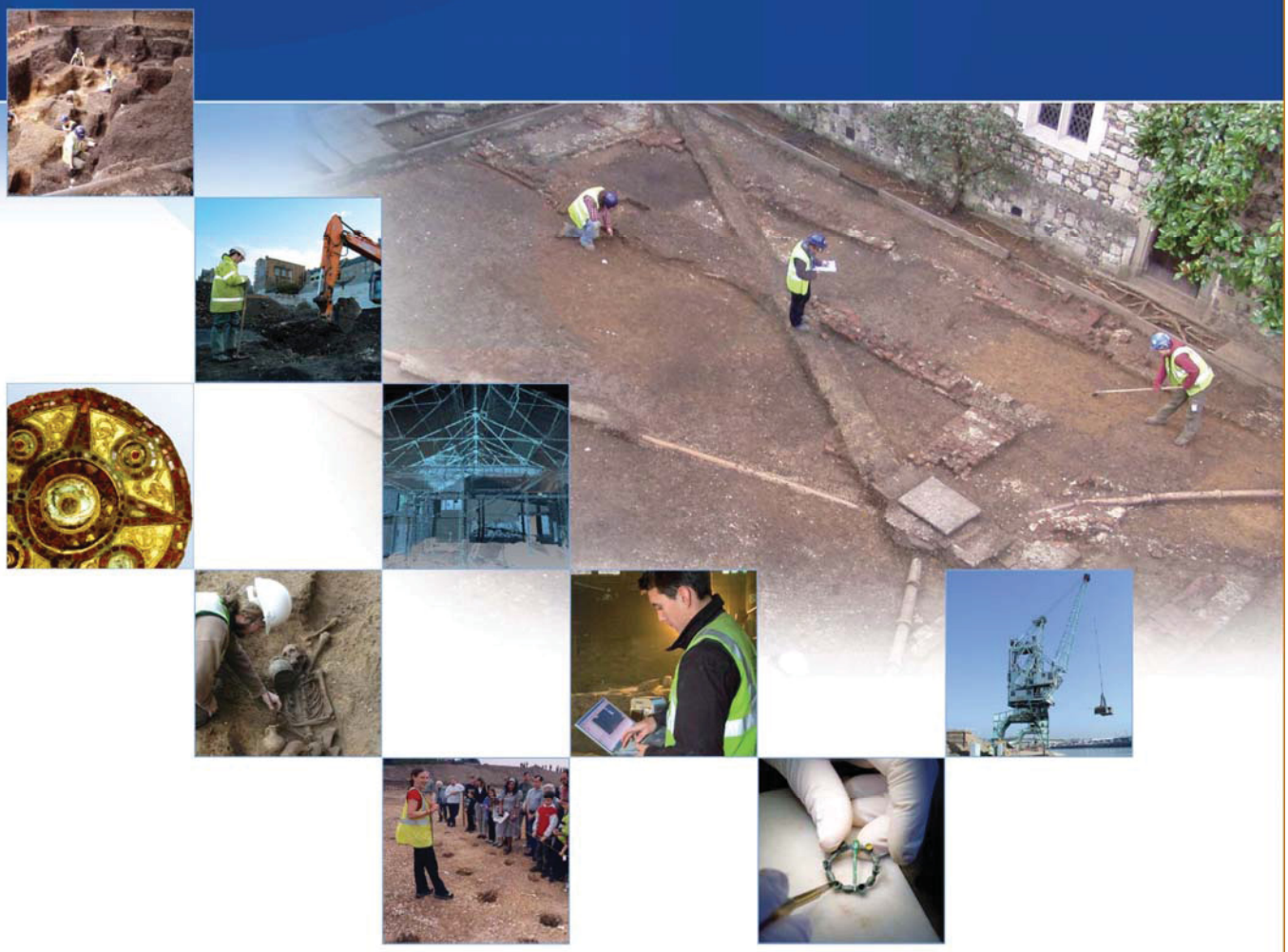
**Project bibliography 3**

| | |
|---|---|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |

| | |
|---|---|
| Title | Holywell Spring Farm, Ashby-De-La-Zouch, Leicestershire. :Archaeological Fieldwalking And Geophysical Survey Report |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Clarke, C. |
| Date | 2011 |
| Issuer or publisher | AOC Archaeology |
| Place of issue or publication | London |
| Description | A4 text, 7 illustrations, 49 pages bound between plastic covers |

**Project bibliography 4**

| | |
|---|---|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Holywell Spring Farm, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire: An Archaeological Evaluation Report. Phase 1 |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Capon, L. |
| Date | 2012 |
| Issuer or publisher | AOC Archaeology |
| Place of issue or publication | London |
| Description | 40 pages, 9 figures, 8 plates. A4. |
| Entered by | les capon (les.capon@aocarchaeology.com) |
| Entered on | 22 March 2012 |



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