



University of
Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Trial Trench
Evaluation on land off Main Road,
Barleythorpe, Parcels 3,7 and 8,
Oakham, Rutland.**

NGR: SK 8492 1024 (centre)

Andrew Hyam



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Main Road, Barleythorpe, Parcels 3, 7 and 8,
Oakham, Rutland**

NGR: SK 8492 1024 (centre)

A Hyam

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CONTENTS

Summary	1
Introduction	1
Background	1
Objectives	4
Methodology	5
Results	5
Trench A	6
Trench B	8
Trench C	11
Trench D	14
Trench E	15
Trench F	17
Trench G	17
Trench H	19
Trench I	20
Trench J	20
Discussion	22
Archive	22
Publication	22
Bibliography	23
Appendix 1. The pottery report	24
Appendix 2. The flint report	26
Appendix 3. OASIS information	27
Appendix 4. Trench information	27

FIGURES

Figure 1 Barleythorpe location	3
Figure 2 Site location and proposed development area	3
Figure 3 Site before start of evaluation	4
Figure 4 Proposed trench layout and earlier APS trenches	4
Figure 5 Trench A	7
Figure 6 Partially enlarged western end of Trench B	8
Figure 7 Trench B. Features	9
Figure 8 Trench B, ditch [18]	10
Figure 9 Trench B, features [06] and [08]	11
Figure 10 Trench C	12
Figure 11 Trench C. Features	13
Figure 12 Trench C, intersection of gullies	13
Figure 13 Trench D. Features	14
Figure 14 Trench D. Gully [03]	15
Figure 15 Trench E. Features	16
Figure 16 Trench E. Ditch [22]	17
Figure 17 Trench G. Features	18
Figure 18 Trench G. Gully [26]	19
Figure 19 APS and ULAS trenches and features	20
Figure 20 Transverse chisel-shaped arrowhead from (5) [6]	21

An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation on land off Main Road, Barleythorpe, Parcels 3, 7 and 8, Oakham, Rutland.

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land off Main Road, Barleythorpe, Oakham, Rutland (SK 8492 1024) between the 14th of February and the 20th of February 2013. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting in advance of a residential development. The work followed on from an evaluation by trial trenching carried out by Archaeological Project Services (APS) in 2008 and was intended to satisfy a number of conditions attached to the outline planning permission.

This phase of trial trenching has confirmed the initial APS results indicating the presence of a prehistoric field system. Grooved Ware and Late Neolithic flint was also recovered from a number of shallow features located in the north-west corner of the site.

Introduction

In accordance with NPPF (Section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment) this document forms the report for an archaeological field investigation (trial trench evaluation) on land off Main Road, Barleythorpe, Rutland NGR: SK8492 1024. It was intended that this programme of archaeological fieldwork would provide a further phase of work following on from an earlier evaluation carried out by Archaeological Project Services (APS) in 2008. Following discussions with the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council, it was agreed that this further phase of trenching should help clarify the 'form of the putative trackway and field system' identified during the APS work within this area and also indicated by the results of a geophysical survey carried out to the north-east of the development site. This phase of work took place between February 14th and 20th 2013.

The work has been commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited and followed that specified in the CgMs *Specification for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation: Land off Main Road, Barleythorpe, Parcels 3, 7 and 8, Oakham North* (2012; hereinafter the WSI).

Background

As noted in the CgMs WSI Barleythorpe lies approximately 1.5km to the north-west of Oakham and 14km to the south-east of Melton Mowbray (Fig. 1). The development site is located immediately to the south of the Oakham bypass near to its junction with the B640. The site is centred on grid reference SK 8492 1024 and covers an approximate area of 5.47 hectares. The whole area to the south of the bypass is being developed and has recently had the main estate spine road installed along with all

services which are now in place. This new road now forms the southern boundary to the development area presently under evaluation (Fig. 2). The proposed development area was, at the time of this evaluation, still under pasture with ridge and furrow running from north-east to south-west across the site. A large hedge and ditch running along a similar alignment to the ridge and furrow divided off a small portion of the north-western edge of the site and another hedge and ditch ran from north-west to south-east (Figs. 3 and 4). The British Geological Survey records that the bedrock below the site consists of Jurassic Middle and Upper Lias clays and Marlstones which are overlain by the stoneless clayey soils of the Denworth Association.

In 2008 the area was evaluated by APS (APS Report 161/07 accession number OAKRM: 2007.67) with ten trenches being excavated in and around the immediate vicinity of the present evaluation. At least four undated pits and around ten ditches or gullies were identified during this earlier phase of fieldwork. A geophysical survey to the north of the bypass revealed a sub-rectangular enclosure with a boundary ditch running from south-west to north-east, while a double-ditched trackway was also identified running from east to west. It was thought possible that some of these features may relate to a putative trackway running into the area from the east. Other features were thought to form part of a possible late Iron Age field system, but without any evidence of settlement or occupation. Discussions between the Senior Planning Archaeologist and CgMs resulted in the requirement for a further small-scale evaluation in order to clarify the results of the earlier trial trenching and geophysical survey within the development area and to further investigate the north-western area of the site. This additional trial trenching was specified to consist of nine 50m trenches with a contingency for a further 300m² should the need arise. The layout of the trenches is shown in Figure 4. As discussed below, due to site constraints the number of trenches was increased to ten followed by a further two trenches due to the presence of archaeological features.

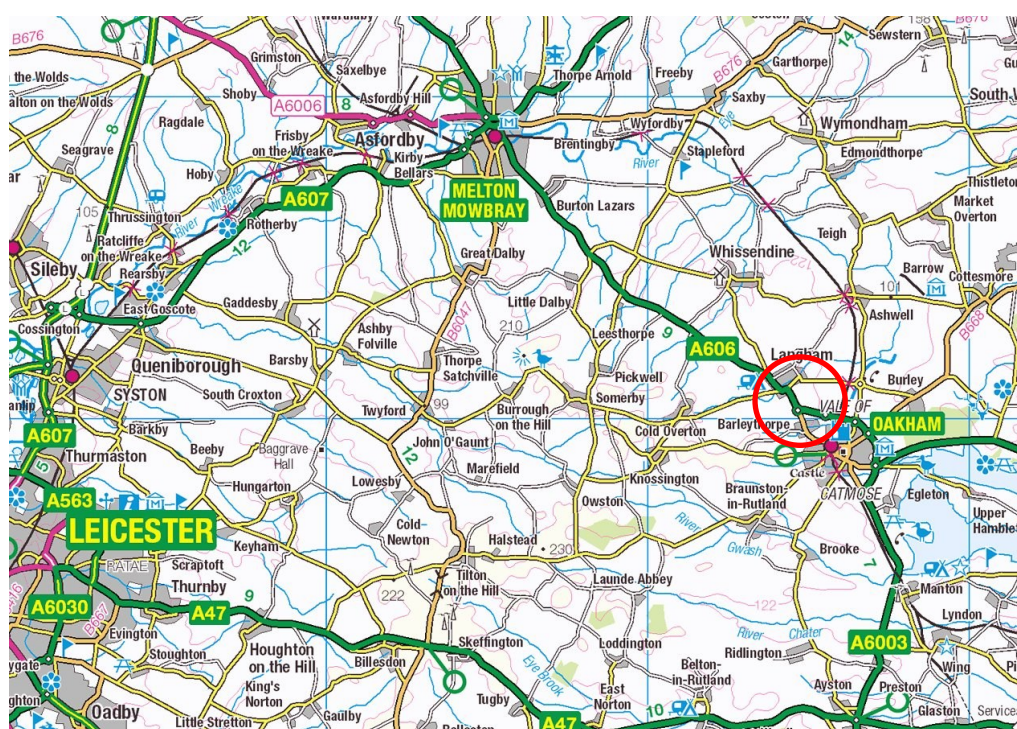


Figure 1 Barleythorpe location

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Figure 2 Site location and proposed development area
Source: CgMs Specification



Figure 3 Site before start of evaluation
Looking north

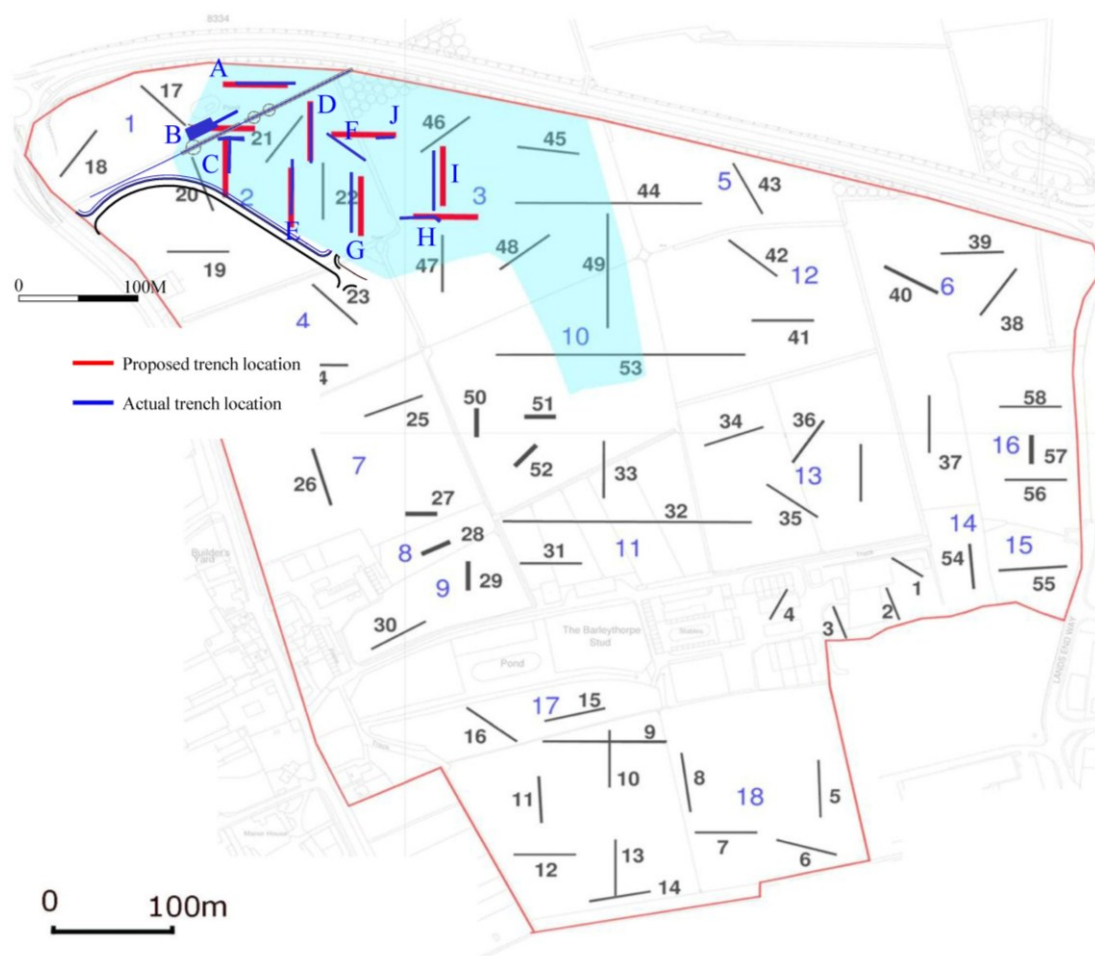


Figure 4 Proposed trench layout and earlier APS trenches

Objectives

As identified in the CgMs Specification for archaeological work the main objectives of the evaluation were:

- To elucidate the results of the initial phase of trenching, (notably APS trenches 17, 20, 21, 22 and 47) in the light of information from geophysical survey to the north
- To further investigate the north-western extent of the site to obtain further information about what is likely to be an Iron Age field system with some associated pits
- To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicestershire HER

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of any

archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that can demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

Methodology

The detailed methodology for the evaluation is laid out in the CgMs specification.

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008).

Nine 50m long trenches were proposed with a contingency for a further 300m² should the need arise. Topsoil and subsoil was removed in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision, down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All spoil heaps were inspected for unstratified archaeological material. All trenches were excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits or down to the natural substratum in the absence of any archaeological deposits.

Trenches were examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located would be planned at an appropriate scale and sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establishing the stratigraphic and chronological sequence. All plans were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Spot heights were taken as appropriate.

Each trench was recorded on a standard ULAS pro-forma trench recording sheet noting soil depths and descriptions. One longitudinal face and the base of each trench was recorded in this way. Sections of any excavated archaeological features would be drawn at an appropriate scale. Any drawn sections of archaeological features would also be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed bench mark. Trench locations were recorded and tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

A photographic record of the investigations was prepared illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. Colour digital and black and white 35mm photographs were taken throughout the evaluation. The photographic record also included 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

Results

To avoid confusion with the APS trench references the trenches in this evaluation were designated from A to J (Fig. 4).

Trench A

Trench A was located in the north-eastern part of the site on an east to west alignment. Between 0.24m and 0.31m of mid greyish brown clay silt topsoil was removed to reveal between 0.22m and 0.32m of light yellowish brown silty clay subsoil. The topsoil and subsoil were the same across the whole of the evaluation area and are not described in the following trench descriptions. Removal of the subsoil exposed a clean yellowish brown silty clay natural substratum with large areas of fractured limestone brash along the length of the trench (Fig. 5). A single modern land drain running from the south-east to north-west was noted at the interface between the subsoil and natural but no archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.



Figure 5 Trench A
Looking east. 1m scale

Trench B

Trench B was located in the same north-eastern area of the site as Trench A and was originally intended to run from east to west across a large ditch and hedge. Because the ditch was still in use draining the site it was decided to move the trench to follow a north-east to south-west alignment parallel to the hedge and ditch. As already noted the topsoil and subsoil was of the same description as seen in Trench A and had a combined depth of between 0.36m and 0.47m. The earlier APS Trench 17, to the north-west of Trench B, had identified an undated pit but no other features (Fig.19)

Initially a single 38m long evaluation trench was excavated but, after features were identified at the south-western end the trench was enlarged to cover a total area of 318m² (Fig. 5). A small cluster of three pits and a possible post hole were identified during the initial excavation along with a wide north to south ditch to the west of these. Further enlargement of the trench revealed another two pits to the north of the cluster (Fig. 7). After discussions with CgMs and the Senior Planning Archaeologist the trench was again enlarged to provide a buffer between features of at least 5m of undisturbed natural substratum and the edge of excavation.



Figure 6 Partially enlarged western end of Trench B
Looking west. The trench was later enlarged northwards beneath the spoil heap

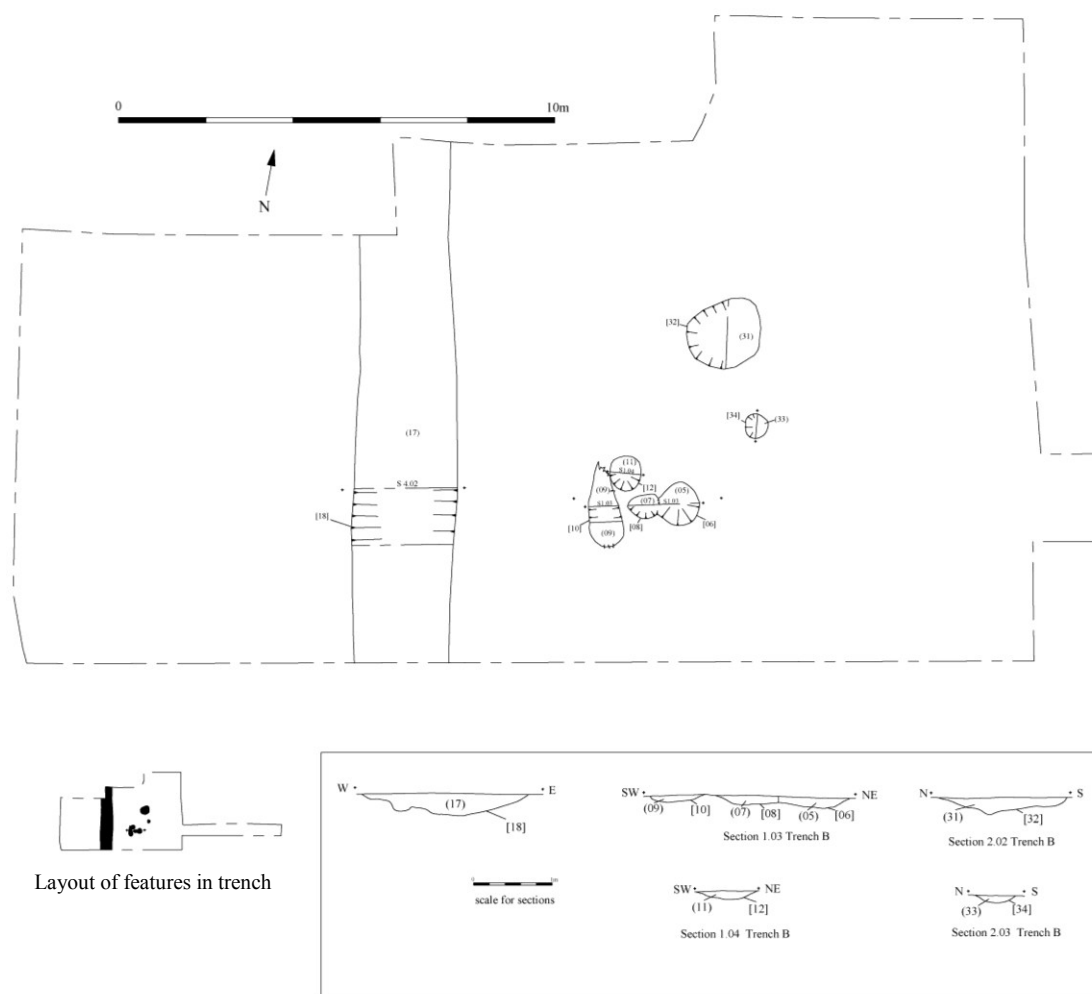


Figure 7 Trench B. Features

The north to south ditch (17) [18] ran to the north of the cluster of pits and consisted of a 1m wide by 0.3m deep feature running for 11.5m across the full width of exposed trench. The single fill (17) consisted of a mid yellow-brown silty- clay containing a small quantity of sub-angular stones. A single sherd of shell-tempered S1 fabric Grooved Ware was recovered from the fill. The sherd was part of a base and is likely to belong from the Late Neolithic Grooved Ware tradition but could possibly be from the Early Bronze Age. The base of the ditch was quite irregular and appeared to have been disturbed by later root activity (Fig.8). Environmental samples were taken from the ditch but, after examination by the ULAS Environmental Officer, were found to be of zero potential (pers. comm. A Radini).

The pit cluster to the east of ditch [18] consisted of a pit (05)[06], pit or post-hole (07)[08], elongated pit (09)[10] and pit (11)[12]. Pit (05)[06] was a 1m diameter sub-circular shallow feature with a maximum depth of 0.13m. It had a friable mid grey-brown silty clay fill with a base sherd of shell-tempered S1 fabric Grooved Ware recovered from it (Fig. 9). The sherd was similar in type and form to that recovered from ditch [18] but had fingernail decoration on it. In addition to the pottery, two secondary flint flakes were recovered along with a transverse chisel-shaped

arrowhead (Fig. 20). The arrowhead was made of a good quality dark brown translucent flint with grey mottling, possibly exotic to the region. Such arrowheads are typically Late Neolithic in date and are often associated with Grooved Ware (L. Cooper pers. comm.).



Figure 8 Trench B, ditch [18]
Looking north. 1m scale

Post-hole or pit (07)[08] was a similar feature to [06] and contained the same fill as (05) so that the relationship between the two features could not be ascertained (section 1.03). No finds were recovered from this feature.

To the west of [06] and [08] was an elongated pit (09)[10] which was initially interpreted as a gully running across the evaluation trench. Later stripping revealed this to be an elongated pit 0.75m wide, 1.9m long and 0.3m deep. The fill consisted of a friable mid grey-brown silty-clay very similar to that seen in the adjacent pits. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Close to the north-eastern edge of [10] was another small pit (11)[12]. The relationship between the two features, if there was any, was unclear. Pit [12] contained a mid-grey brown silty clay fill (11) similar to all of the fills elsewhere in this trench.

The later stripping of the larger area exposed a small pit (33)[34]. The 0.5m diameter, 90mm deep pit also contained the same friable mid grey-brown silty clay fill as the other pits in this trench. No finds were recovered from this feature. Environmental

samples were taken from pits [6] and [34] but following examination by the ULAS Environmental Officer were found to have no potential (A Radini pers.comm.).

To the north-west of pit [34] was a large shallow pit (31)[32] with a diameter of 1.62m and 0.22m deep. The base appeared to have been partially disturbed by root activity in a similar way to ditch [18]. Two flint chips, a secondary flake, a concave scraper and an end scraper with additional retouch were recovered from the friable mid grey-brown silty-clay fill. The two tools are of an unusual flint type although similar flint has been found at the Middle Mesolithic site at Asfordby approximately 10km to the north-west of Barleythorpe. The scraper however, resembles an invasively flaked knife and is likely to date to the Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. Two joining sherds of grog-tempered G2 fabric were also recovered from the fill and are likely to be Beaker rather than Grooved Ware.

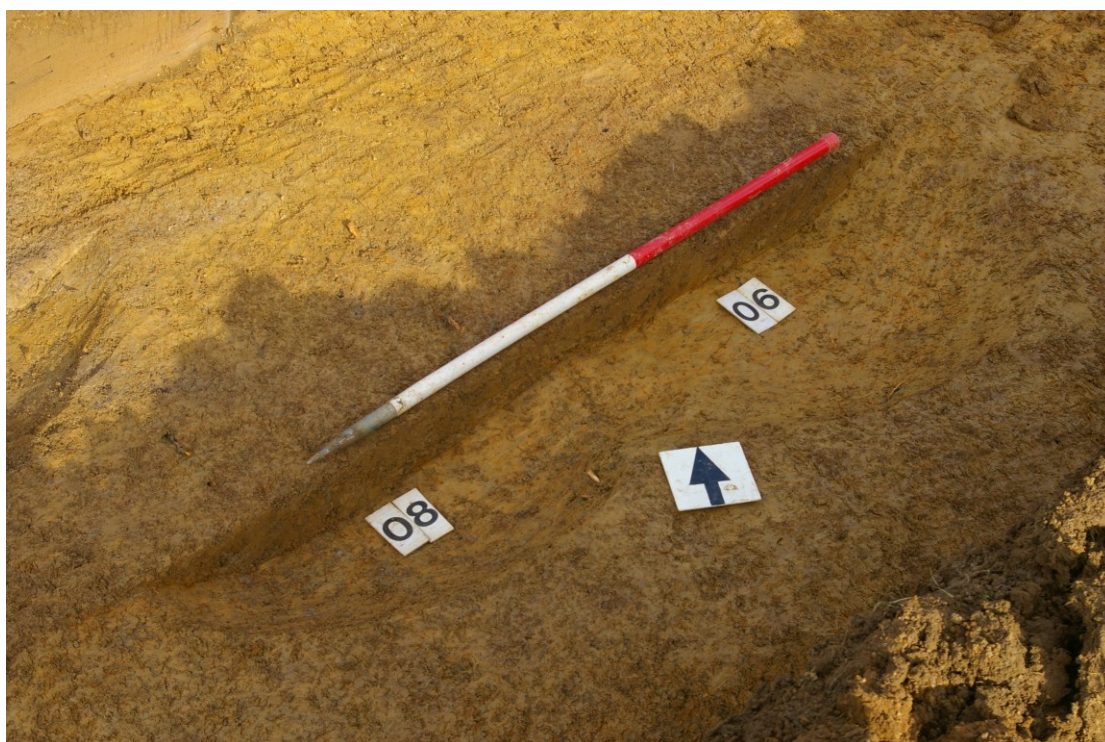


Figure 9 Trench B, features [06] and [08]
Looking north. 1m scale

Trench C

Trench C was located to the south-east of Trench B on the southern side of the hedge and ditch. It was initially excavated on a north to south alignment but a later east to west enlargement in the form of a T-shape was added to the northern end (Figs. 10 and 11). The enlargement was carried out in two stages in a similar manner to that followed in Trench B after an east to west and north to south gullies were located leading to a total trench area of approximately 180m². The overall depth of the natural substratum below present ground level was between 0.31m and 0.40m.

The two gullies ([14] and [16]) ran at right angles to each other and followed an approximate north to south [14] alignment with gully [16] running across the top of

[14] and running from east to west (Figs. 11 and 12). Gully [14] ran across, and was cut, by two north-east to south-west plough furrows. It ran for a total length of 15m before leaving the south-western side of the trench. The gully had a shallow profile measuring only 0.14m in depth and was 0.4m wide. The fill of gully [14], (13) consisted of a mid-grey brown silty clay fill from which no finds were recovered.

East to west gully (15)[16] was of similar dimensions to [14] and contained the same mid-grey brown silty clay fill but a single body sherd of shell-tempered S1 fabric Grooved Ware with fingernail decoration was recovered from this feature. No distinction between the fills of each gully could be seen at their point of intersection (Section 1.06). This gully was obscured at each end by later ploughing activity, but might possibly be the same ditch identified in the APS Trench 21 as ditch (420) (Fig. 19). This suggestion however is highly speculative as the two trenches are at least 25m apart.



Figure 10 Trench C.

Looking south-west after initial enlargement. The tape represents the line of gully [16]. Subsequent enlargement increased the size of the trench in the foreground and the middle distance on the left

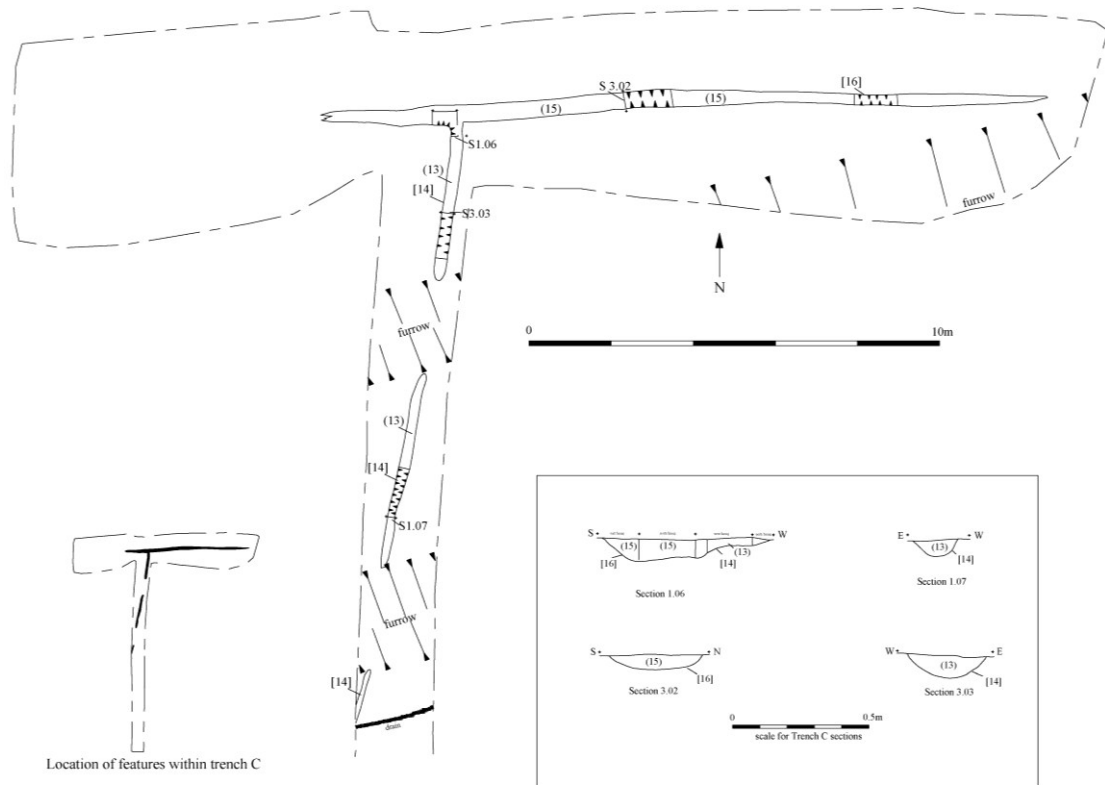


Figure 11 Trench C. Features

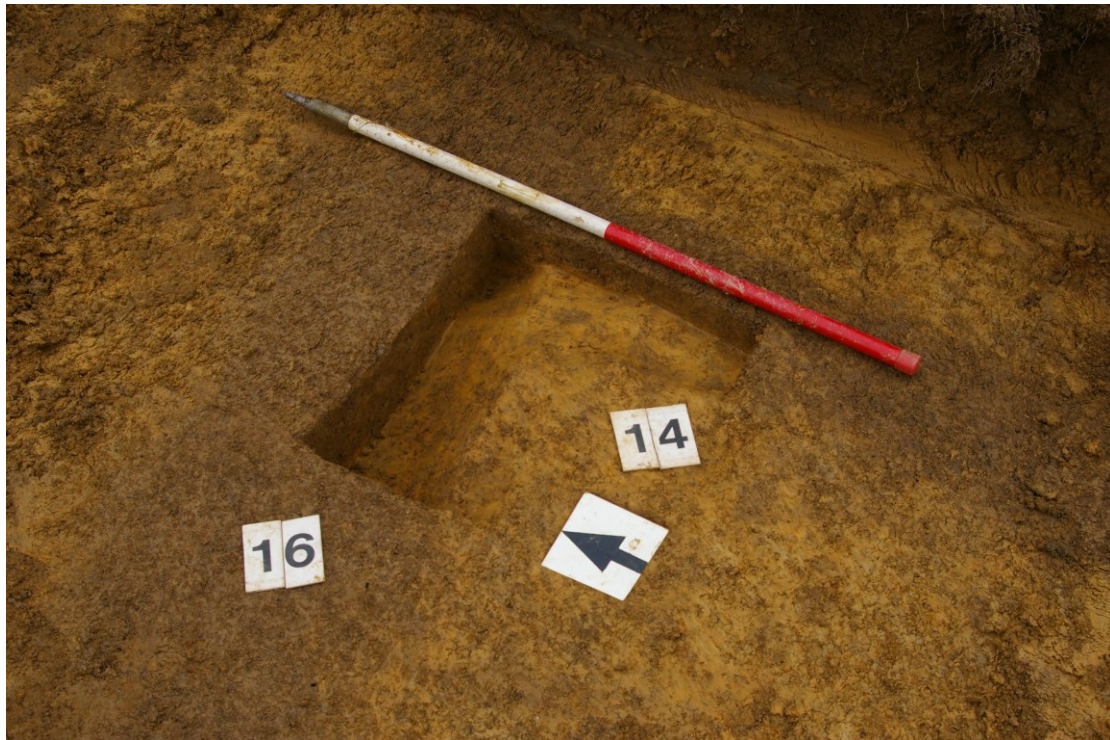


Figure 12 Trench C, intersection of gullies
Looking north-east. 1m scale. Photograph taken before trench enlargement

Trench D

Trench D was excavated on a north to south alignment running across an area of pronounced ridge and furrow. Due to the presence of the ridge and furrow the combined depth of topsoil and subsoil in this trench was between 0.45m and 0.69m below current ground level. An earlier APS trench (Trench 21) to the west of this trench had identified two undated ditches or gullies which might be expected to run into this trench (Fig. 19). Once excavated, it could be seen that neither feature was visible in Trench D as their projected lines fell where a furrow occurred in this trench. However, just to the north of another furrow, a small gully [03](04) was located near to the northern end of the trench (Figs. 13 and 14). Gully [03] was a 0.08m deep 0.44m wide east to west feature running across the entire width of the trench. Its fill (04) consisted of a friable mid-brown yellow silty-clay from which a single secondary flake of flint was recovered and which is likely to date from the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. No other features were observed within this trench.

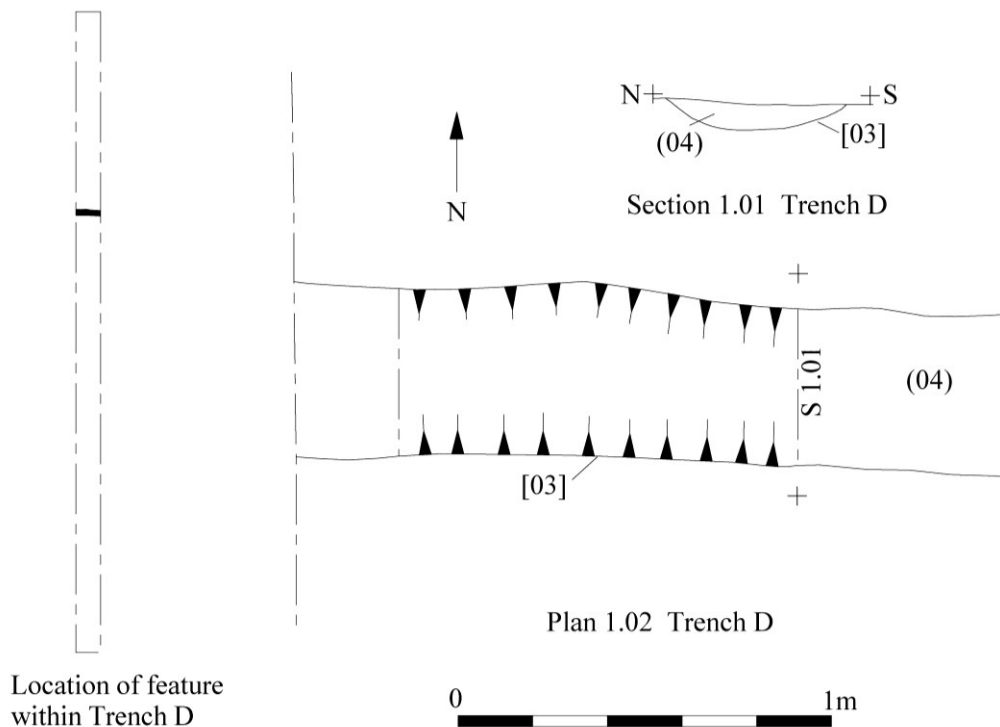


Figure 13 Trench D. Features

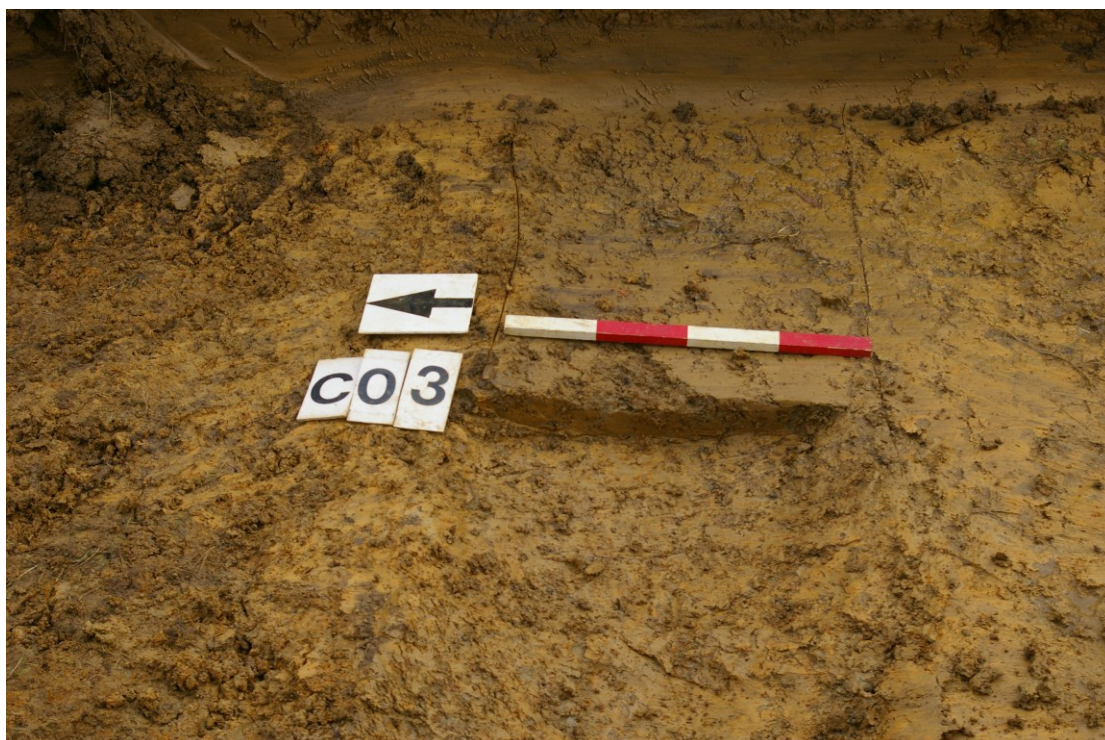


Figure 14 Trench D. Gully [03]
Looking east. Scale 0.4m

Trench E

Trench E was placed to the south-west of Trench D and approximately 20m to the west of APS Trench number 22 (Fig. 19). Trench 22 identified two linear features running across it near to the centre of the trench. When excavated the combined depth below current ground level to the natural substratum was between 0.32m and 0.58m depending on the height of the prominent ridge and furrow.

Three linear features were identified within Trench E and were located towards the centre of the trench (Fig. 15). East to west ditch (21) [22] was the most northerly of these features. It measured 1.2m at its widest point and was 0.58m in depth. Whilst the sides were quite steep the base was relatively flat (Fig. 16). The single fill (21) consisted of a mid-grey brown silty-clay from which no finds were recovered. Although speculative, it is possible that this ditch may be a continuation of the most northerly of the ditches [401] found in APS Trench 22 and which had a similar flat-bottomed profile. No finds were recovered from the APS feature either.

To the south of ditch [22] was a second ditch [24] running on a north-east to south-west alignment with a smaller gully [28] running into it from the south-west. Although of similar width to ditch [22], ditch [24] was only 0.2m in depth and appeared to have been heavily truncated, possibly by ploughing activity. It had the same mid-grey brown silty-clay fill (23) as the other two features within this trench. No finds were recovered from the fill.

The south-west to north-east gully [28] ran into the southern side of [24] but, as the fills of both features were identical, it was not possible to state which feature was the

earliest. From the excavated profile, the gully appeared to terminate within the ditch rather than extending beyond it to the north. No finds were recovered from this feature.

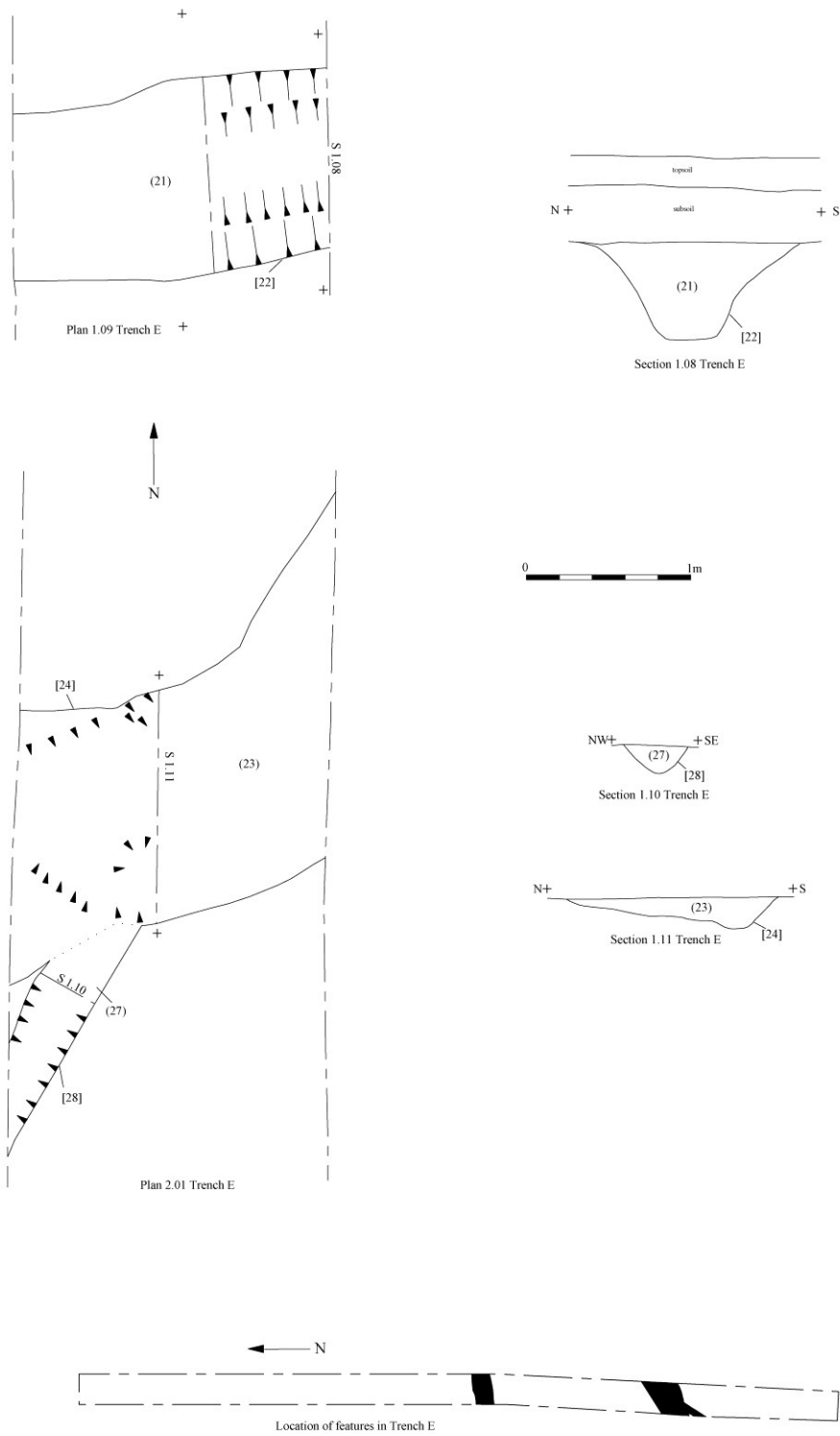


Figure 15 Trench E. Features



Figure 16 Trench E. Ditch [22]
Looking east. 1m scale

Trench F

Trench F was originally specified to run from east to west across a large ditch, hedge and newly planted area of trees. To avoid this, the western end of the trench remained in its originally specified location but the rest of the trench was angled from north-west to south east and shortened to 37m. A further 15m long trench was placed on the eastern side of the trees and designated as Trench J (see below).

Two east to west land drains were exposed at the interface of the subsoil and natural substratum but no archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

Trench G

Trench G was placed on a north to south alignment to the east of APS Trench 22. The total combined topsoil and subsoil depth from current ground level to top of natural substratum varied between 0.52m and 0.76m depending upon the height of the north-east to south-west ridge and furrow running across the site. A geotechnical pit at the southern end of the trench meant that it was shortened to 48.3m in length. Two features were identified within this trench, none of which could be matched with anything seen in the APS trench (Figs. 17 and 19).

At the southern end of Trench G was a shallow gully [20] following a north-west to south-east alignment. It had a maximum width of 0.3m and a depth of 60mm at its deepest point before fading away to nothing at its south-eastern end. The terminus of

the feature appeared to be due to truncation rather than a deliberate ending as a furrow ran across its south-east end. The fill (19) consisted of a mid-orange brown silty-clay from which a small tertiary flint flake was recovered. The flint is likely to date from the Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age.

Near to the northern end of Trench G was a small north-east to south-west gully [26] (Fig. 18). This feature ran across the width of the trench but could not be positively identified with any features seen in the APS trenches. At its widest point the gully measured 0.75m and was 0.3m deep and had a curved U-shaped profile. It had a friable mid grey brown silty clay fill (25) with occasional orange brown sandy flecks. No finds were recovered from this feature.

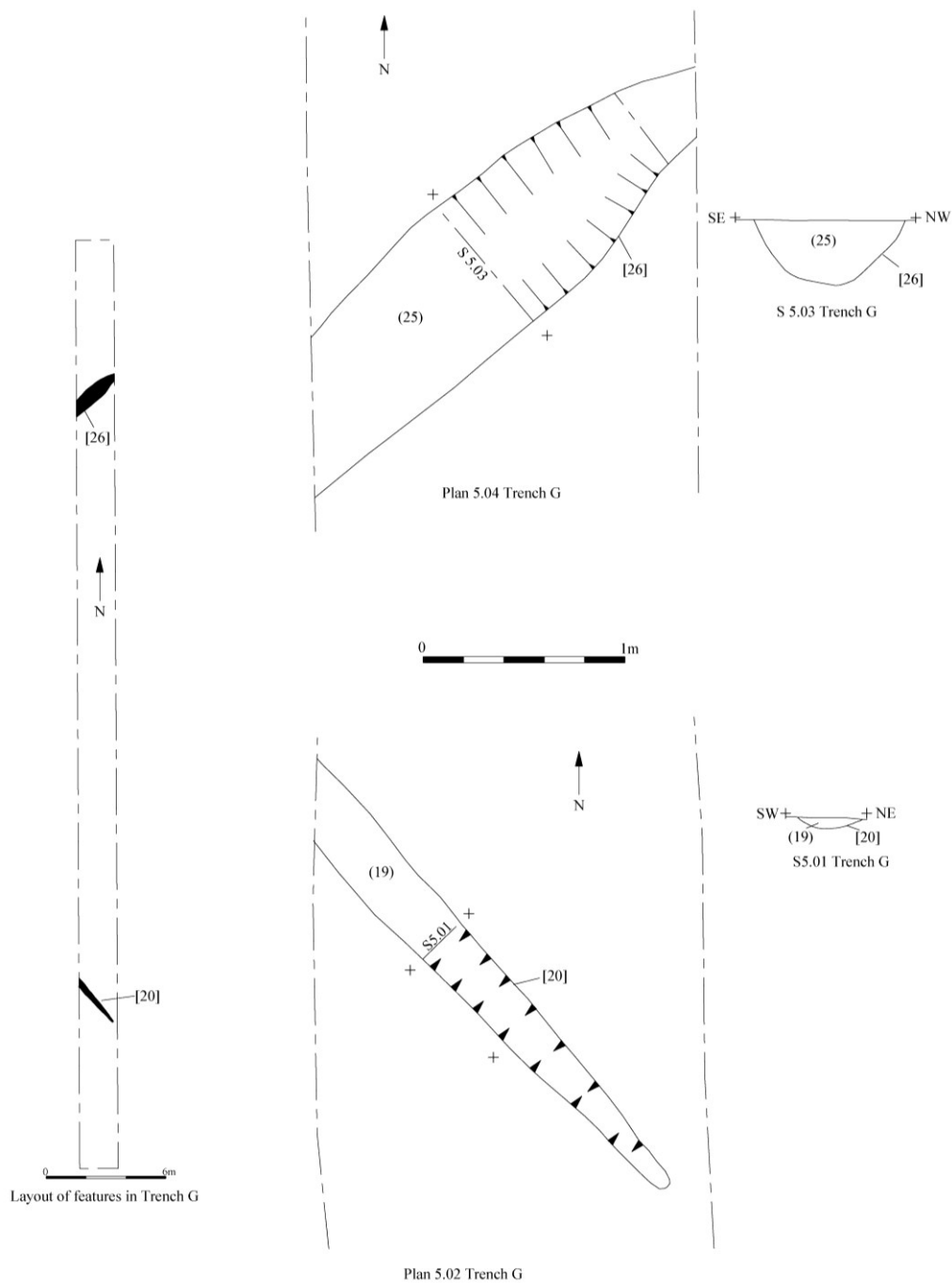


Figure 17 Trench G. Features



Figure 18 Trench G. Gully [26]
Looking south-west. 1m scale

Trench H

At the time of the evaluation the area around Trench H was heavily waterlogged and the pronounced furrows in this part of the field were full of water. To avoid immediate inundation Trench H was angled at its eastern end to follow along the top of a ridge rather than cutting across it. In order to fit into the only available dry space a trench with a total length of only 36m was practical, or possible, at this point.

The top of the natural substratum was between 0.51m and 0.65m below current ground level. No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

Trench I

Trench I was located to the north of Trench H and followed a north to south alignment. To make up for the shortfall in length of Trench H this trench was extended to 52m but could not extend any further northwards as it would have joined up with an earlier APS negative trench (Trench 46). Traces of east to west ridge and furrow could be seen towards the northern end of the trench but remnants of north to south ridge and furrow were seen at the southern end. The natural substratum was observed at between 0.54m and 0.61m below current ground level. No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

Trench J

Trench J formed the remainder of the shortened Trench F on the western side of the field hedgeline. Traces of east to west ridge and furrow could be seen cutting into the natural substratum which was between 0.54m and 0.57m below current ground level. No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

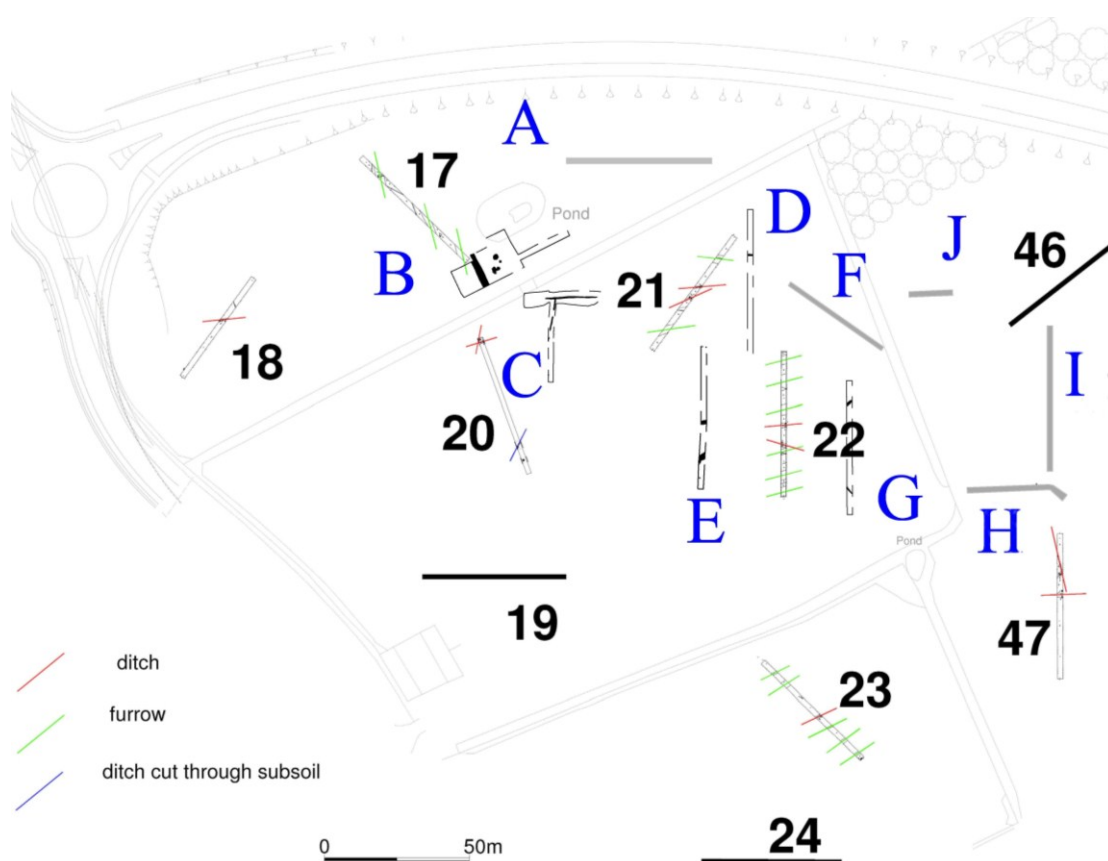


Figure 19 APS and ULAS trenches and features



Figure 20 Transverse chisel-shaped arrowhead from (5) [6]

Discussion

Overall the results of this further stage of evaluation tend to reinforce the idea of a prehistoric field system which lacks any clear evidence of a settlement core. The pottery and all of the flint, with the exception of a single flake in each of Trenches D and G, was found in Trenches B and C suggests that there might be a focus of activity near to this area, possibly to the north-east, beyond the proposed development area. However the finds were of Late Neolithic date and it is unlikely that they are contemporary with ditched field systems which are not known from this period. The field system is likely to be of Middle Bronze Age date or later and any Neolithic finds likely to be residual. Whether this Late Neolithic activity can be attributed to settlement activity is open to debate. No animal bone was recovered from any of the features which may be a result of soil conditions or an indicator that animal processing activities were not taking place here. The quantity of Late Neolithic Grooved Ware which has been recovered so far from Leicestershire and Rutland is, so far, relatively scarce with small assemblages being recovered from across the two counties.

It seems likely that most of the undated features found during the evaluation are also of a prehistoric date which is also in line with the conclusions reached by APS. Lack of clear dating evidence within most of the linear features makes it difficult to give confident date to them, but they are likely to be later than the pit cluster found in Trench B. With the exception of the surviving ridge and furrow no evidence was recovered from any later periods.

Archive

The archive consists of:

This report,

18 context recording sheets,

10 trench recording sheets,

1 context index sheet,

5 A3 drawing sheets,

1 drawing sheet index,

1 drawing index,

1 sample index sheet,

5 photographic index sheets (3 digital, 2 35mm black and white),

1 contact sheet of 88 digital photographs,

2 contact sheets of 35mm black and white photographs + negatives.

Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. OASIS is an online index to archaeological grey literature.

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Appendix 1. The pottery report

Later Neolithic or Beaker Pottery (OAKRM 2013.3)

Nicholas J. Cooper

Introduction

A total of six sherds weighing 50g was recovered from four stratified and one unstratified contexts. The assemblage has been analysed by form and fabric using low power microscopy and with reference to the Leicestershire Prehistoric pottery fabric series (Marsden 2011). All of the material has been quantified by sherd count and weight (g).

Catalogue of Assemblage

The assemblage is detailed in the following table.

Late Neolithic Pottery from Oakham OAKRM 2013.3						
Context	Cut	Fabric	Form/sherd	Decoration	Weight	Date/Comment
5	6	S1	Flat base	Oblique fingernail	15g	Grooved Ware
15	16	S1	body	Oblique fingernail	5g	Grooved Ware
17	18	S1	Flat base		20g	?Grooved Ware
31	32	G2	Body x2join	Incised and stab	5g	?Beaker
US		S1	body	fingernail	5g	Grooved Ware
Total			6		50g	

Note: Fabric Codes:

S1 Moderate to common shell inclusions or plate-like voids 1-5mm;

G2 fine grog inclusions with occasional rounded quartz grains up to 1mm

Analysis and Discussion

This is a rather fragmentary and abraded assemblage with much of the shell-tempering having been leached out of the four sherds of the shell-tempered Fabric S1 coming from context (5), (15), (17) and unstratified. The remaining two joining sherds from (31) were in a fine grog-tempered fabric (G2). All of the sherds are similar in terms of thickness, with patchy oxidised orange/brown surfaces and margins and grey carbonaceous cores, caused by the insufficient combustion of carbon content due to short firing time. The occurrence of two flat bases, one with fingernail decoration, suggests that the material in the shell-tempered fabric could belong to the Late Neolithic flat-based Grooved Ware tradition, although a Beaker attribution is also possible. The Grooved Ware assemblages that have been excavated in recent years, for example from Rothley Temple Grange (see below), have been consistently shell-tempered with some sherds in fine sand and rock fabrics (Cooper forthcoming), whilst Beakers, such as those from Asfordby, Melton, are mostly found in fine grog-tempered fabrics (Cooper 2012, 9-18). The decorated grog-tempered sherds from (31) are perhaps therefore more likely to be Beaker, and the horizontally incised linear decoration with a line of circular stabbed impressions would not necessarily be inconsistent with this.

The decoration on the proposed Grooved Ware base from (5) comprises a horizontal band of three, single fingernail impressions arranged obliquely about 10mm up the profile, whilst the body sherd from (15) has a random arrangement of individual nail

impressions. The small unstratified sherd bears a single nail impression. Fingernail impressions as well as fingertip 'pinches' are one of the characteristic motifs found on Grooved Ware of the Durrington Walls style in Northern England (Manby 1999, 61 Table 6.2) as demonstrated by the vessel from Willington, Derbyshire (Manby 1999 illus.6.4 no.2; also published in Manby 1979, 151 fig.59.28). However, the use of fingernail impressions on Beaker is also known and, indeed, five vessels with rusticated (fingertip pinch) decoration have been excavated in recent years from Leicestershire, three from Asfordby (Cooper 2012, vessels 1-3 with a C14 date of 2210-2030 Cal BC) and two from Rothley Temple Grange (Cooper forthcoming). Examples of Beakers with rows of oblique finger nail impressions are known elsewhere such as Great Clacton, Essex (Clarke 1970, 334 no.434).

The fingernail-decorated base from (5) [6] was found alongside a distinctive British oblique transverse arrowhead of later Neolithic date. These arrowheads are usually associated with Grooved Ware rather than Beakers and are not known to be associated with Neolithic impressed wares (Lynden Cooper pers. comm.). If the two objects are contemporary then a Grooved Ware attribution is therefore more likely.

Very little Grooved Ware has been found in Leicestershire and Rutland; the best group, from Rothley Lodge Farm in Woodlands style, remains unpublished (Hunt 2006) and the other from Rothley Temple Grange, also in Woodlands style, will be published shortly (Cooper forthcoming). Another small group of 11 sherds in Durrington Walls style came from Kirby Muxloe and a single sherd in Clacton style from Thurmaston gravel quarry (Longworth and Cleal 1999, 190).

The dating of Durrington Walls style spans much of the Third Millennium BC from c.2900-2300, and that there is a debatable amount of overlap between the Grooved Ware and Beaker traditions in the second half of the Third Millennium (Manby 1999 Table 6.4 and Garwood 1999, 161 and illus. 15.7). On the basis of the pottery, whether Grooved Ware or Beaker these deposits probably date to the middle or perhaps later centuries of the Third Millennium BC.

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Appendix 2. The flint report

OAKRM.2013.3 Lithics

Lynden Cooper *20.2.2013*

u/s 2ry flake
(4) 2ry flake
(5) 2 x 2ry flake
 Transverse arrowhead (chisel type)
(15) Shatter
(17) Piercer
(19) 3ry flake
(31) 2 x chips
 Concave scraper nb mottled opaque brown flint
 End scraper with additional lateral shallow retouch (cf knife) nb same flint as
 the concave scraper
 2ry flake

Thirteen worked flints. The raw material was varied, much of the debitage on poor quality local flint from till sources. The arrowhead was made of a good quality dark brown translucent flint with grey mottling, possibly exotic to the region. Such arrowheads are typically Late Neolithic in date and are often associated with Grooved Ware. The two tools from context 31 are on an unusual flint type. Similar flint was used occasionally at the Middle Mesolithic site at Asfordby and has been found in the area by Alan Massey as a surface scatter of flakes. The form of the scraper resembles an invasively flaked knife and probably dates to the Late Neolithic – Early Bronze Age. The debitage is likely to be of a similar date.

Appendix 3. OASIS information

Project Name	An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation on land off Main Road, Barleythorpe, Parcels 3, 7 and 8, Oakham, Rutland
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	P Clay
Project Supervisor	A Hyam
Previous/Future work	Earlier trial trench evaluation (OAKRM2007.67)
Current Land Use	Arable
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	As a condition
Position in the Planning Process	
Site Co ordinates	SK 8492 1024 (centre)
Start/end dates of field work	14.2.2013 – 20.2.2013
Archive Recipient	Rutland County Council
Study Area	5.47Ha

Appendix 4. Trench information

Trench	Length (m)	Min Trench Depth (m)	Max Trench Depth (m)	Notes
A	51.0	0.54	0.65	No archaeology
B	44.0	0.36	0.47	Enlarged to a total area 318m ² . Late Neolithic or EBA features.
C	26.5 x 32.0	0.31	0.40	Enlarged to a total area of 180m ² . Late Neolithic or EBA features.
D	49.3	0.45	0.69	Secondary flint flake from gully
E	49.2	0.32	0.58	Undated ditches
F	37.0	0.50	0.66	No archaeology
G	48.3	0.52	0.76	Late Neolithic or EBA flake. Two gullies
H	36.1	0.51	0.65	No archaeology
I	52.0	0.54	0.61	No archaeology
J	15.0	0.54	0.57	No archaeology

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