UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER
Archaeological Services

An Archaeological Evaluation at Ingarsby Lane, Houghton on the Hill, Leicestershire

NGR 467885 304469

Adam Clapton

ULAS Report No 2016-055

Accession Number X.A24.2016

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Houghton on the Hill

Leicestershire

NGR 467885 304469

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Contents

Table of Figures

An Archaeological Evaluation at Ingarsby Lane

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Summary

An archaeological field evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land off Ingarsby Lane, Houghton on the Hill, Leicestershire NG, 467885 304469.

The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting in advance of the development of the site for a 2.1MW solar array and related infrastructure. A geophysical survey has been undertaken (Richardson 2015) which has located anomalies, some of possible archaeological origin but with the majority most likely relating to medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow ploughing, field boundaries and modern underground services.

Sixteen trenches were excavated across the area of proposed development with positive results in five of the 16 trenches. Features included gullies and ditches, along with a single inhumation burial within trench 5 which was extended to the south-west. Diagnostic sherds of pottery indicate a mid-late Iron Age to early Roman date for the features. The archive for this site will be deposited with Leicestershire County Museums with accession number X.A24.2016

Introduction

Planning permission has been granted for the erection of 2.1MW solar array and related infrastructure at land off Ingarsby Lane, Houghton on the Hill, Leicestershire (P.A. 15/00676/FUL; NGR 74111 21026).

This report represents the programme of archaeological trial trenching that was undertaken between17th February to 26th February 2016. It follows an archaeological heritage assessment (CgMs 2015 – ref 19323.01), geophysical survey (Stratascan 2015 - ref J8995) and a strategy of work set out in the Scheme for an Archaeological Trial Trenching Evaluation (Harrison 2016).

The work involved the machine excavation of 16 trial trenches in order to provide a *c2*% of the area where it was proposed to construct the new solar array. The number, size, orientation and distribution of the trenches equated to an area of *c.*1400m² of excavation, positioned in order to target geophysical anomalies and provide consistent coverage of the development area.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG March 2012). All archaeological work was in accordance with the Chartered Institute for

Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).

Site Description, Topography and Geology

The development area is situated approximately 500m to the west of Ingarsby Lane, with the village of Houghton-on-the-Hill 700m to the south and the village of Ingarsby 500m to the north of the site. A southward flowing stream runs along the line of Ingarsby Lane 300m to the east (fig 1).

The site is located on a south-east facing slope, with the north-west edge of the site levelling to a plateau. The site ranges in height from 155m aOD at the north-west corner to 135m aOD at the south-east corner. The site comprises of *c.* 5 hectares of land under arable cultivation and is bounded on all sides by mature hedgerows, beyond which is further agricultural land.

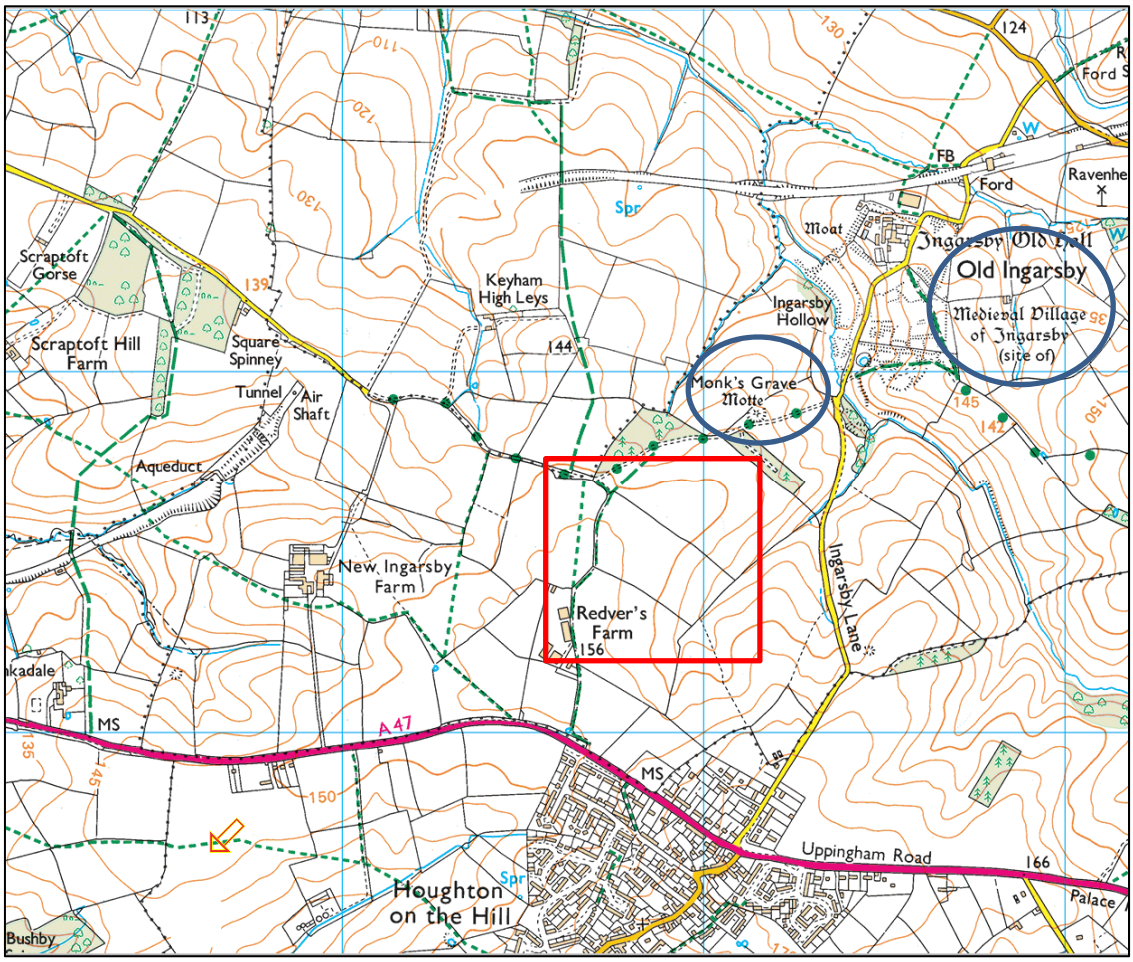

Figure 1: Site location (shown in red) and known archaeological sites of interest (shown in blue)

The natural geology of the site consists of mudstone of the Charmouth Formation. This is overlain by superficial deposits of diamicton (formerly known as boulder clay), belonging to

the Oadby member across most of the site, with a narrow (up to 25m wide band of colluvium at the northern end of the site (mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

Archaeological and Historical background

The historic core settlement of Houghton on the Hill (MLE16325) is mapped by the HER 700-1200m south of the study site, with the medieval settlement of Ingarsby (MLE1667) located 500m to the north of the study area. Consequently the study site area probably lies outside the settled cores of both villages in areas of agriculture, with evidence of ridge and furrow visible in fields surrounding the site.

Information from the Leicestershire and Rutland HER states there are currently no known archaeological monuments or finds from the development area although it lies approximately 350m to the south of a moated site at Ingarsby (AKA 'Monk's Grave'; SM 1010839) and approximately 500m south of Ingarsby Medieval Village (SM 1009236)(Figure 1).

A geophysical survey has been undertaken (Richardson 2015) which has located a small number of anomalies which cannot be attributed to archaeological features with any degree of confidence. The survey has also detected ridge and furrow attributed to agricultural activity from the medieval period onwards as well as natural and modern anomalies such as land drains (figs 2 and 3). A gas pipe also truncates the site from north-east to south-west, which can clearly be seen on the geophysical survey.

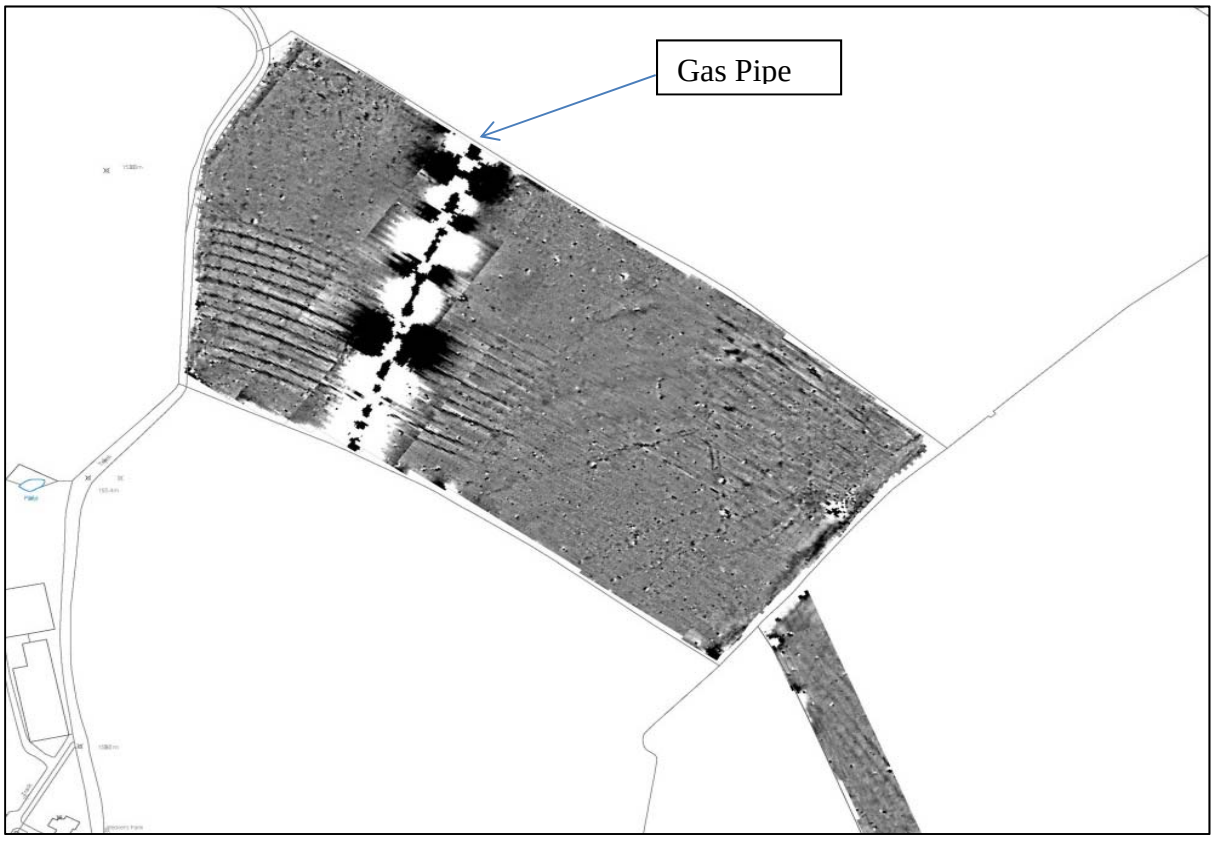

Figure 2: Geophysical survey (from Richardson 2015)

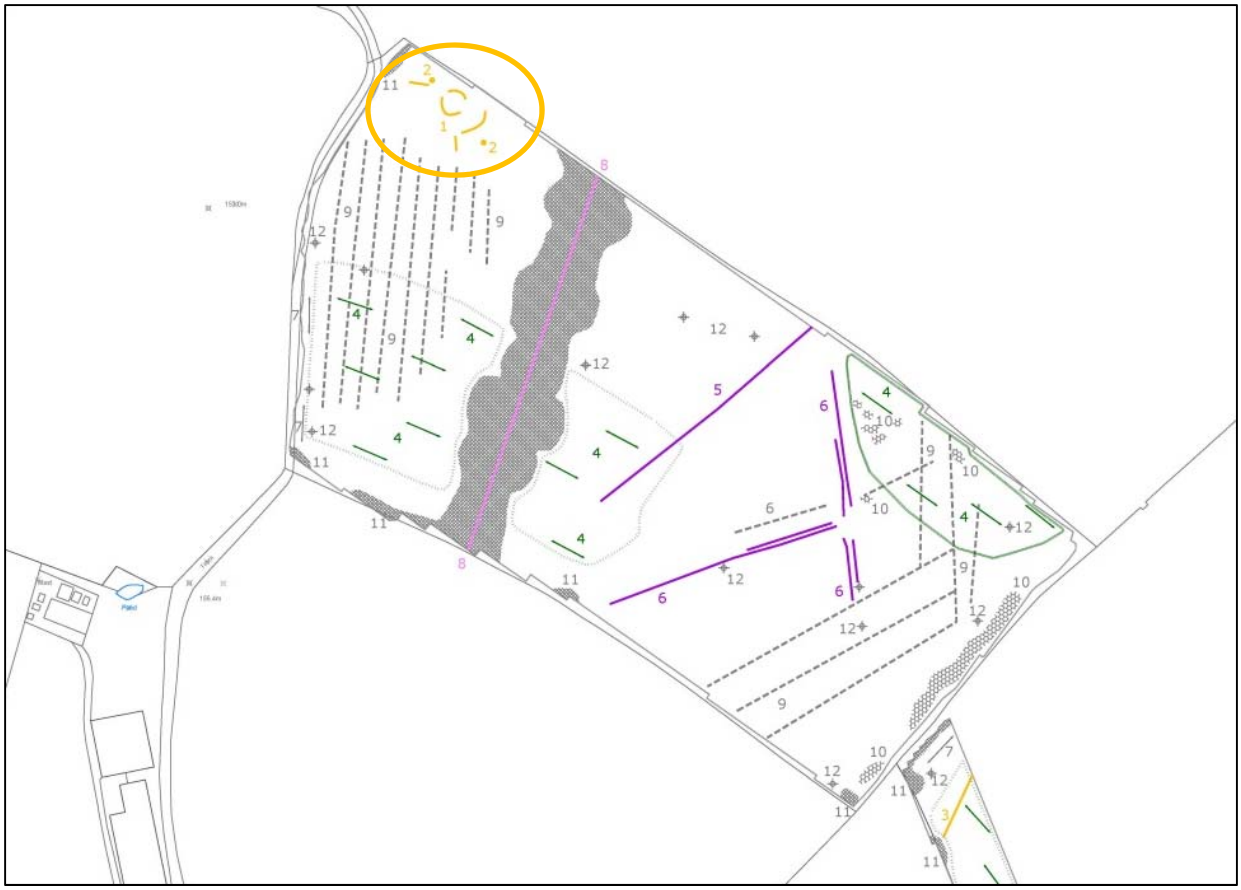

Figure 3: Interpreted features from geophysical survey showing probable ridge and furrow (green) modern features (purple) and archaeology (circled yellow) (from Richardson 2015)

Archaeological Objectives

The general aims of the evaluation were as follows:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site
- To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site
- 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.

The results of the evaluation aimed to provide reasoned and informed recommendations to be made to the local planning authority and, if appropriate, a suitable mitigation strategy for the proposed development to be formulated.

All work conforms to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012). It has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national standards and guidelines including:

- *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991);
- *Model Briefs and Specifications for Archaeological Assessments and Field Evaluations* (Association of County Archaeological Officers, 1994);
- *Code of Conduct* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014);
- *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014);
- *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Association of Local Government Officers, 2003);*

Methodology

Leicestershire County Council, as archaeological advisors to the planning authority requested an archaeological field evaluation to identify and record any archaeological remains of significance and as a consequence a programme of evaluation trenching was undertaken.

Sixteen trenches were proposed, providing a 2% sample of the area. The sixteen trenches were split into two areas either side of a medium pressure gas main, five trenches to the north-west and 11 trenches to the south-east (Fig. 5). Logistical issues preventing machines crossing the gas main meant two separate mechanical excavators were used to excavate the trenches. A 3 ton mechanical JCB was used to the north-west of the gas pipe, whilst a larger 16 ton 360° mechanical excavator was used to the south-east. Trenches 1-15 all measured approximately 2m in width and 50m in length, with trench 16 measuring 2m in width and 20m in length. Trench 5 was subsequently widened and extended at its south-west end to define archaeological features.

Figure 4: The development site under excavation looking north-west

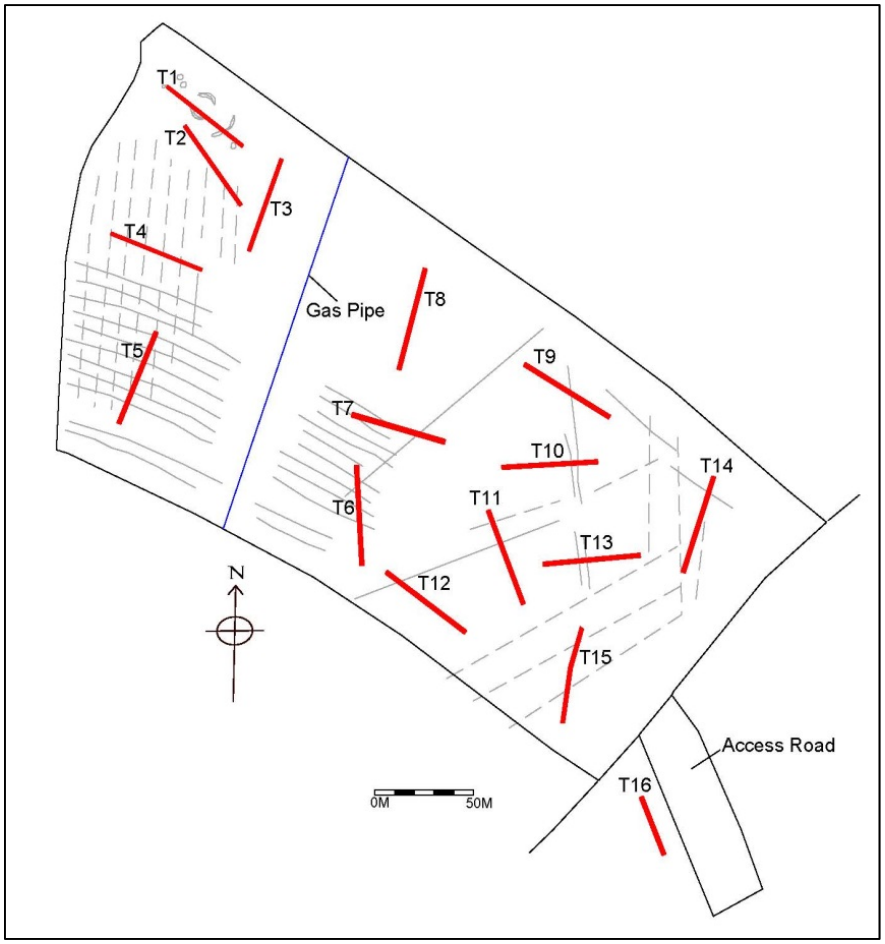

Figure 5: Trench locations

Topsoil and subsoil was removed by both mechanical excavators using toothless ditching buckets (*c*.1.6m wide and *c*2m), under archaeological supervision. The spoil generated during the evaluation was mounded away from the edges of each trench. Topsoil and subsoil was stored separately. Mechanical excavation ceased at undisturbed natural deposits. The trenches were recorded at an appropriate scale by measured drawing and photography and were GPS-located to Ordnance Survey National Grid.

A photographic record, utilising high resolution digital data capture, was maintained during the course of the fieldwork and included:

- the site prior to commencement of fieldwork;
- the site during work, showing specific stages of fieldwork;

Upon completion of the evaluation trenching, the excavated trenches were backfilled and well compacted.

Results

Sixteen trenches were excavated across the area of proposed development (figs 6 and 7). Unless otherwise stated, the topsoil consisted of a well manured loose-friable, dark brown-grey clay loam with very occasional pebbles, below which a mid-yellowish brown silty-clay plastic sterile subsoil was present. The natural substrata varied across site and is therefore noted in each trench description.

All measurements were taken from the top of the trench.

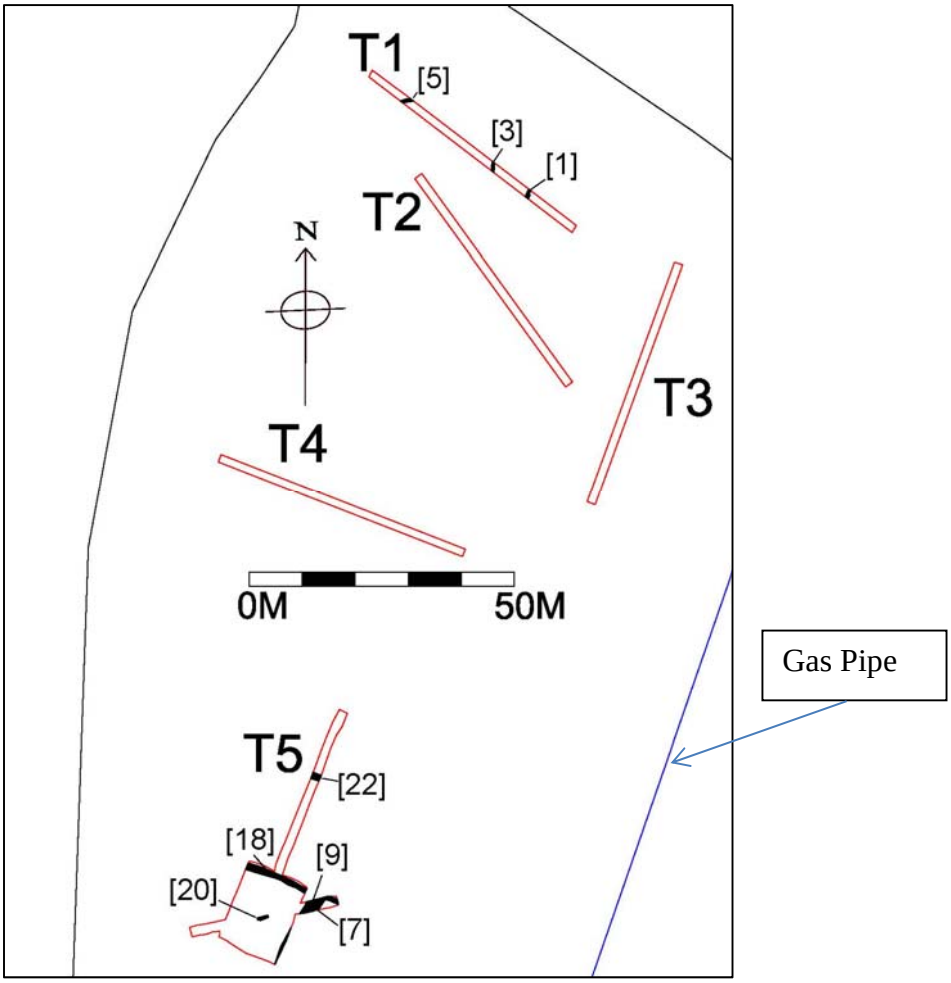

Figure 6: Trench plan showing features to north-west of gas pipe

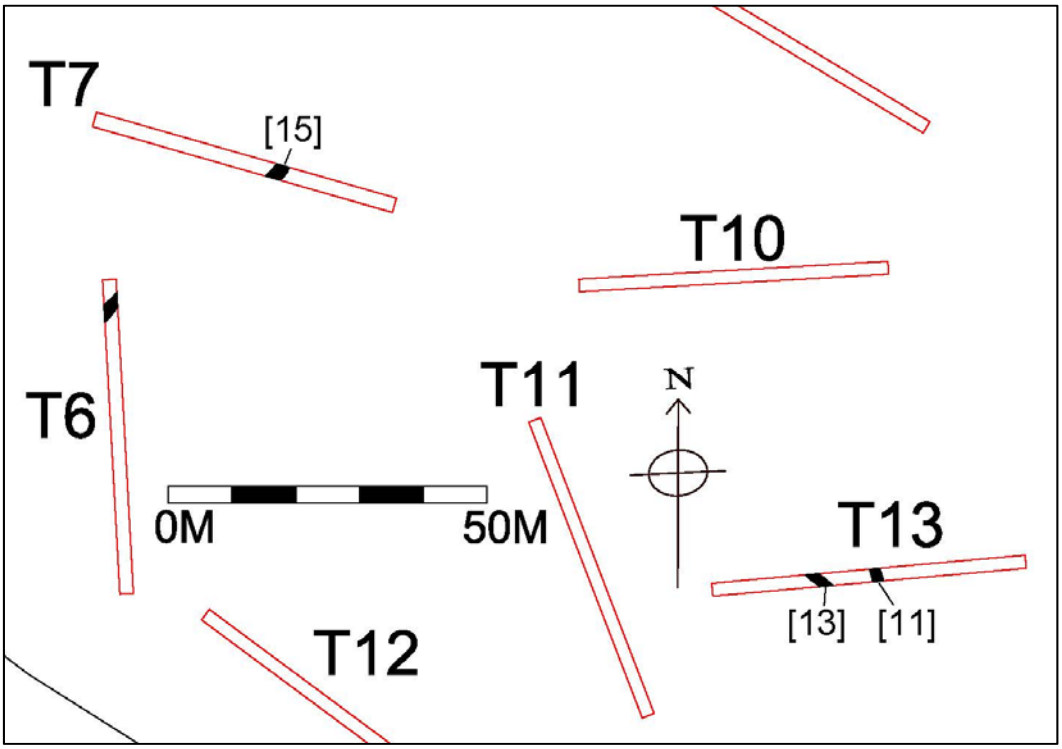

Figure 7: Trench plan showing features to south-west of gas pipe

Trench 1

Along with 3 ceramic land drains running north-east to south-west and another running east to west, 3 archaeological features were observed in the base of trench 1 (fig 9)

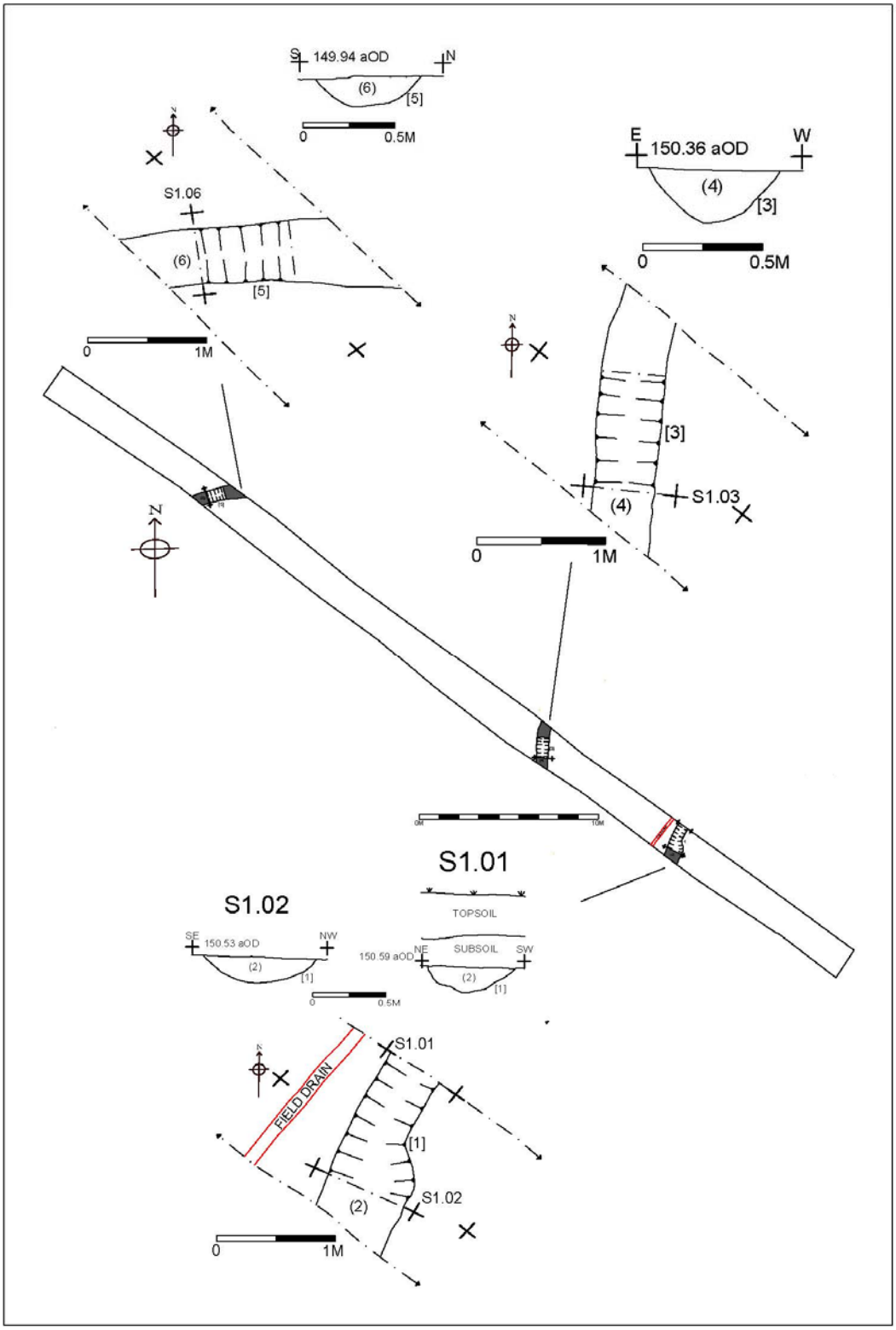

Figure 8: Trench 1 plans and sections

A relatively small shallow linear feature [1] probably a gully measuring 0.6m-0.77m in width and 0.18m in depth was observed at the south-east end of trench 1 (fig 10). It contained a single fill (2) consisting of a mid-orangey brown silty-clay with occasional stones and chalk flecks. Animal bone was recovered from the fill. 8m to the north-west of [1] another small shallow linear gully [3] (fig 11) was observed in the base of trench 1. It consisted of a smooth concave cut measuring 0.55m in width and 0.21m in depth. It contained a single fill (4) consisting of a dark orange brown silty-clay with very few stone inclusions and charcoal flecks. A single small sherd of pottery was recovered from this fill dating to the middle to late Iron Age. Environmental samples taken from (2) and (4) yielded little information. At 11m from the north-west end of trench 1 another small shallow gully [5] was observed in the base of the trench on an east to west orientation (fig 11). It measured 0.57m in width and 0.15m and consisted of smooth concave cut. It contained a single fill (6) consisting of a mid-orangey brown silty-clay with very occasional small pebble and chalk inclusions. Animal bone was recovered from this fill. Environmental samples were also taken from this fill but no charred plant remains other than charcoal flecks were present.

Figure 9: Gully [1] looking north-east and south-west (1m scale)

Figure 10: Gully [3] and [5] looking south and west (1m and 0.3m scale)

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located in the north-west corner of the development area on a south-east to north-west alignment. The natural substratum consisted of orange brown clay with regular chalk and occasional natural flint inclusions (fig 12).

Figure 11: Trench 2 looking south-east

Length 49m

Width -1.8m

Interval	NW 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	49m SE
Topsoil Depth	0.29m	0.25m	0.36m	0.3m	0.55m	0.3m
Subsoil Depth	0.19m	0.23m	0.24m	0.2m	0.16m	0.21m
Top of natural substratum	0.47m	0.48m	0.6m	0.5m	0.51m	0.51m
Base of trench	0.57m	0.51m	0.66m	0.58m	0.6m	0.6m

Two ceramic drains were observed in the base of the trench along with slight plough scaring at the north-west end of the trench. No archaeological features were present in this trench.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located approximately 10m to the east of trenches 1 and 3 aligned north-east to south-west (fig 13). The natural substrata varied across the length of the trench. The north-east end consisted of mottled orange and yellowy brown clays with regular orange sand veins moving to orangey brown clays with regular chalk inclusions and minimal sand veins at the south-west end of the trench.

Figure 12: Trench 3 looking south-east

Length 49.6m

Width -1.8m

Interval	NE 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	49.6m SW
Topsoil Depth	0.32m	0.28m	0.25m	0.24m	0.2m	0.28m
Subsoil Depth	0.15m	0.16m	0.13m	0.13m	0.13m	0.16m
Top of natural substratum	0.47m	0.44m	0.38m	0.37m	0.33m	0.44m
Base of trench	0.55m	0.50m	0.4m	0.4m	0.38m	0.5m

Faint plough scars were noted running north-west to south-east along the trench. No archaeological features were observed in the base of this trench.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was located on the west edge of the development area running south-east to north-west (fig 14). The natural substratum consisted of yellowy brown clay with some red mottling, containing common white chalk inclusions.

Figure 13: Trench 4 looking north-west

Length 51m

Width -1.8m

Interval	SE 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	51m NW
Topsoil Depth	0.29m	0.34m	0.33m	0.32m	0.37m	0.3m
Subsoil Depth	0.2m	0.24m	0.17m	0.15m	0.14m	0.08m
Top of natural substratum	0.49m	0.58m	0.5m	0.47m	0.51m	0.38m
Base of trench	0.54m	0.62m	0.56m	0.58m	0.6m	0.43m

A single plough furrow was recorded at the south-east end of the trench running east to west. It measured 0.5m in width and 0.15m deep. Ridge and furrow was visible running on a similar alignment to the south of this on the geophysical survey. A single field drain running the entire length of the trench was also recorded, along with patches of grey clay at the north-west end of the trench, interpreted as varying natural substrata. No archaeological features were present in this trench.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was located to the west of the gas pipe in the south-west of the development area, positioned on a north-east to south-west alignment (fig 15). The geophysical survey suggested that this trench lay in an area heavily truncated by east to west ridge and furrow ploughing. The natural substratum consisted of yellowy brown clay with frequent sand lenses and some light grey mottling. Frequent small chalk fragments were also present within the clay.

Figure 14: Trench 5 looking south-west

Length 50m

Width -1.8m

Interval	NE 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m SW
Topsoil Depth	0.32m	0.36m	0.35m	0.39m	0.3m	0.25m
Subsoil Depth	0.14m	0.12m	0.19m	0.19m	0.18m	0.16m
Top of natural substratum	0.46m	0.48m	0.54m	0.48m	0.48m	0.41m
Base of trench	0.53m	0.54m	0.6m	0.51m	0.51m	0.48m

Initially 3 archaeological features were observed in the base of trench 5 (fig 17). Two separate linear features both running south-east to north-west were observed at 13m [22] and 33.5m [18] from the north-east of the trench. Also a poorly preserved human inhumation burial [20] [SK1] was observed at 6.5m from the north-west end of the trench. Consequently a *c*. 10m square area was machine excavated around the burial to identify any other possible graves in the immediate area. The extension revealed no further burials but did reveal the continuation of a previously observed linear feature [18]. Two further 5m extensions were excavated to the east and west of the burial to further determine the presence of any possible burials. No more burials were present although a further linear feature [7] running north-east to south-west was observed in the eastern extension.

Linear feature [22] appeared to be a ditch running east to west at 13m from the north-east end of the trench (fig 16-17). It measured 1.1m width and 0.46m in depth consisting of an irregular 'V' shaped cut with moderately sloping edges. Its primary fill (23) consisted of plastic grey silty-clay with occasional grit inclusions and some charcoal flecking. Animal bone recovered suggests the presence of large unidentified mammals. Overlaying this was firm brownish orange clay with minimal silting and no inclusions (24). No finds were recovered from this fill. Although no dating was recovered from [22], its proximity to [18] would reasonably indicate a similarity in date to this feature.

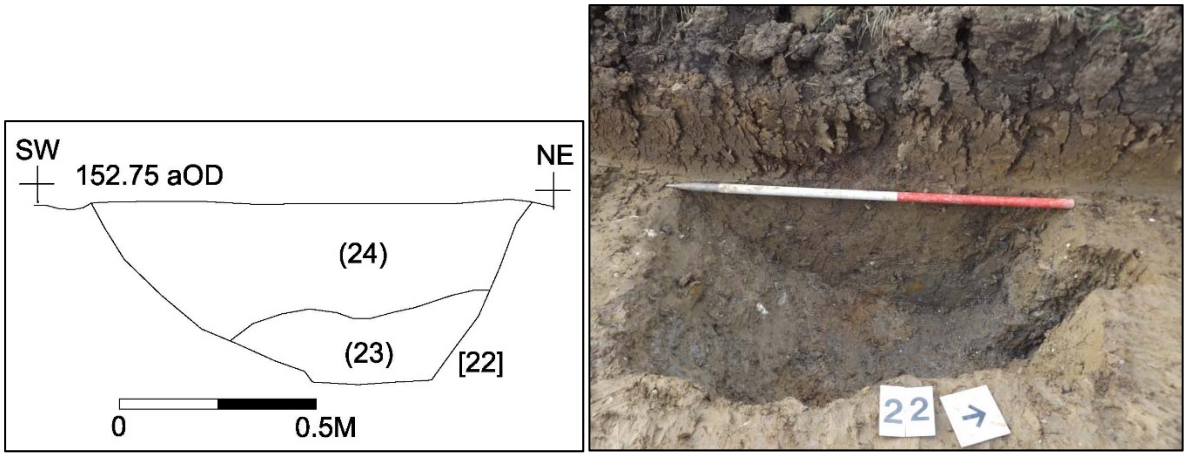

Figure 15: Section and photo of [22] looking north-west (1m scale)

Linear feature [18] was a ditch running south-east to north-west across the trench at 33.5m from the north-east end of the trench (fig 18). It continued south-east and north-west in the trench extension areas. It measured 0.85m in width and 0.51m in depth consisting of a 'V' shaped cut with moderate-steep sloping edges and contained a single fill (19) consisting of orangey grey silty-clays with occasional stone and small grit inclusions. A single sherd of grey ware pottery was recovered from this fill probably dating to the later 1st or 2nd century along with a small amount of animal bone showing evidence of cattle. To the south-east it can be seen truncating linear feature [7] (fig 21).

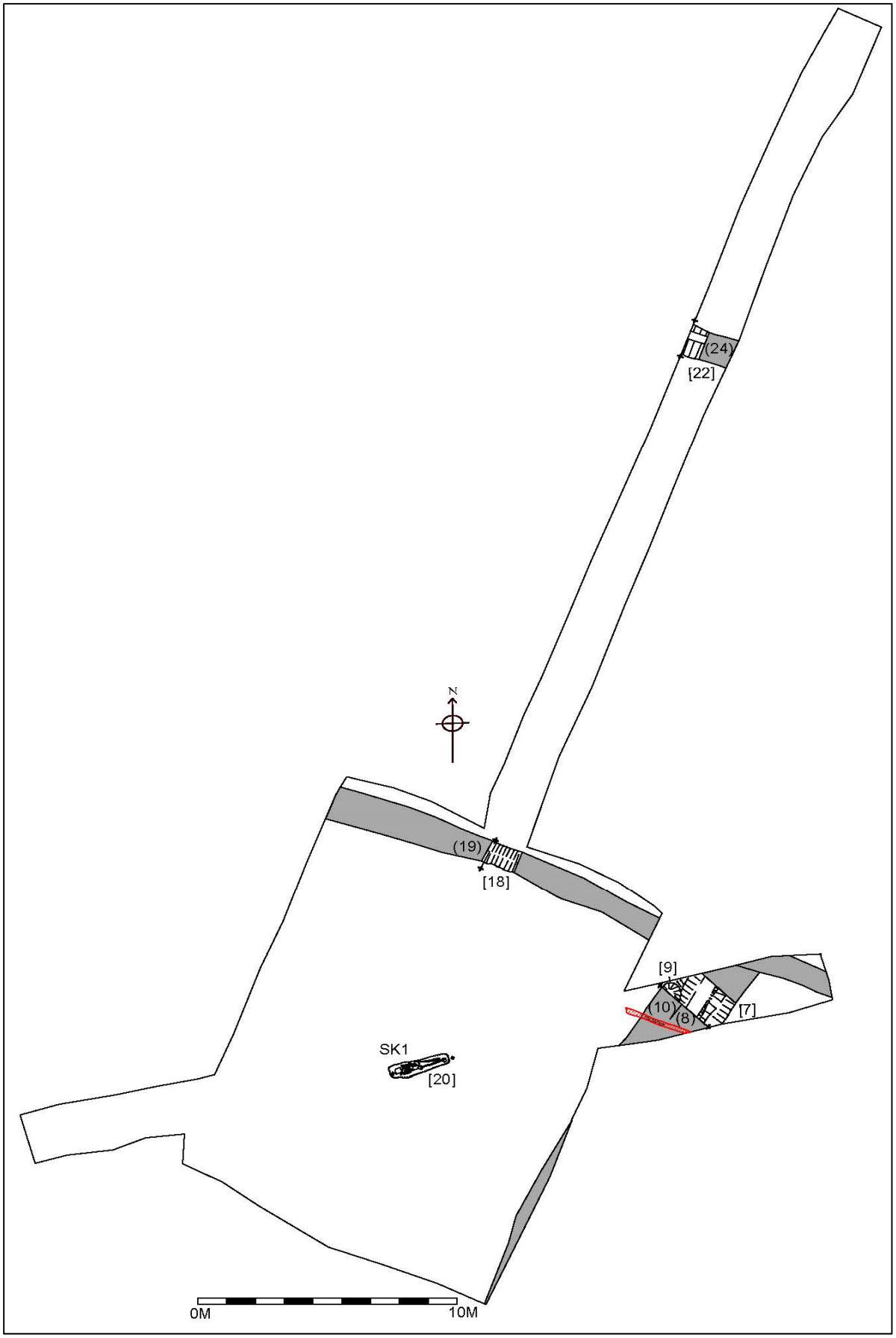

Figure 16: Final excavated plan of trench 5 showing features

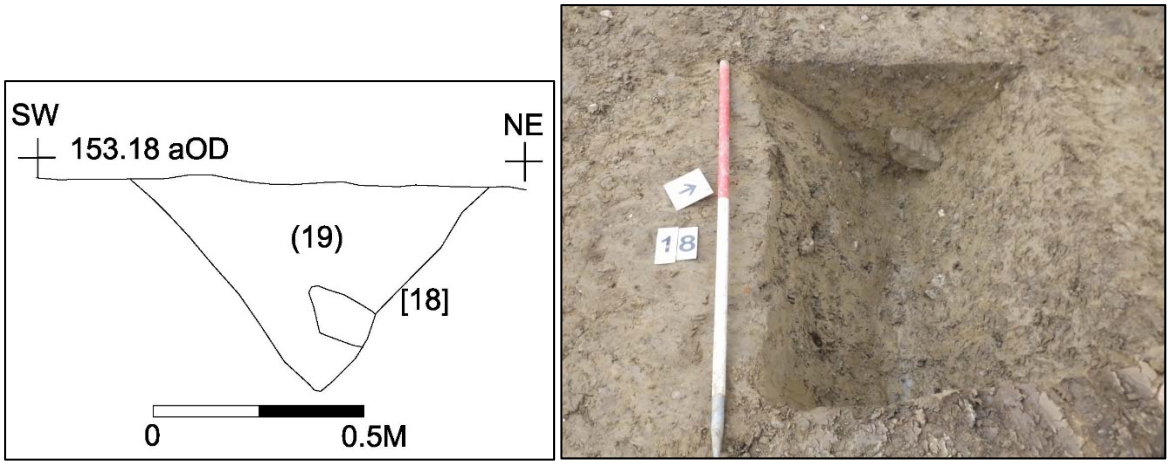

Figure 17: Section and photo of [18] looking north-west (1m scale)

Linear feature [7] was observed in the 5m eastern section of the trench extension area (figs 19 and 20). It appeared to run on a north-east to south-west alignment. It measured 1.4m> in width and 0.7m in depth consisting of a concave cut with moderately sloping sides to a smooth concave base. It contained a single fill (8) consisting of mid grey brown friable-plastic silty-clay with occasional large cobbles, occasional charcoal flecks, occasional chalk fragments and some small pebbles. Seven sherds of pottery were recovered from this fill dating to the 1st or 2nd century. An assemblage of animal bone (fig 20) was recovered from this fill representing medium/large mammals such as sheep/goat and cattle. Environmental samples taken from this fill appeared to be sterile. On its north-west edge a smaller feature [9] was possibly a later recut of [7]. It measured 0.95m in width and 0.32m in depth consisting of a moderately sloping concave cut. It contained a single fill (10) consisting of a mid-orangey brown silty-sand with occasional re-deposited clay patches. No finds were recovered from this fill.

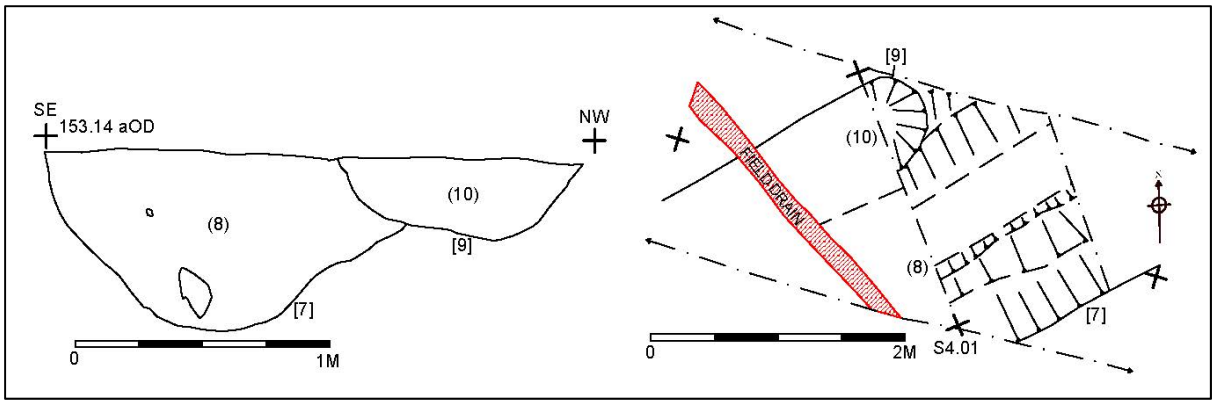

Figure 18: Section and plan showing features [7] and [9]

Figure 19: Ditch [7] and feature [9] looking south-west with animal bone in fill (8) (2m and 0.3m scale)

At 1m to the east the continuation of ditch [18] was located truncating ditch [7] indicating at least two phases of enclosure ditch activity within the immediate area (fig 21). Ditch [18] appears to continue south-east but it is not known if ditch [7] continues to the north-east past the truncation of [7].

Figure 20: Ditch [18] truncating ditch [7] looking north (1m scale)

A human burial (SK1) [20] was located 6.4m from the south-west end of trench 5, orientated roughly east to west (fig 22).The condition of the bone appeared extremely degraded with poor bone preservation and some evidence of plough damage. Consequently the sex of the

individual could not be ascertained although its size does suggest it was an adult. The burial appeared supine with the head facing west positioned on its right. The left arm appeared slightly flexed towards the pelvis with the hand missing, as was the right hand and lower arm below the humorous. Both legs appeared extended with the feet together, one resting on top of the other. The burial has the appearance of being held together possible indicating the body was wrapped in a shroud (fig 24). No dateable finds were recovered from the burial or associated fill (21) which appeared to be re-deposited natural substratum, though the poor preservation of the bone and associated ditches [18] and [7] suggest it was probably of a Roman date. Extensions of trench 5 around the burial revealed no more evidence of graves, suggesting it was an isolated burial. The burial was recorded but left in situ.

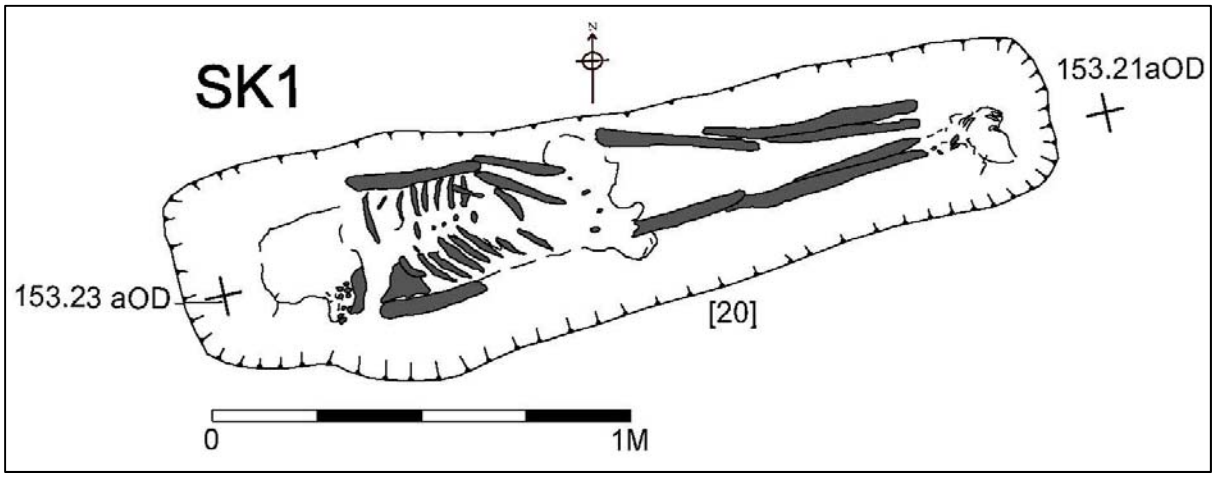

Figure 21: Plan of SK1

Figure 22: SK1 under excavation in trench 5 looking west and north-east

Figure 23: Vertical view of SK1 (1m scale)

Within trench 5 immediately to the south of SK1, five fragments of fired clay (burnt daub) were recovered from the backfill of a modern ceramic land drain, suggesting some disturbance of archaeological features within the immediate vicinity. Similarly a single sherd of 1st or 2nd century pottery was recovered from the subsoil at the southern end of trench 5.
All archaeological features in trench 5 indicated anomalies not seen on the geophysical survey, suggesting the clear post medieval ridge and furrow seen on the survey is masking any archaeological features in the south-west corner of the development area.
Along with four archaeological features several ceramic field drains were also observed in the base of trench 5, all running south-east to north-west at regular intervals.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was located to the east of the gas main in the south west of the development area on a north to south alignment. The natural substrata consisted of yellowy brown clays with common chalk inclusions up to 30m from the north end of the trench, changing to orangey brown sandy-clay with common gravel inclusions to the end of the trench (fig 25).

Length 50.2m

Width -2m

Interval	**N 0m**	**10m**	**20m**	**30m**	**40m**	**50.2m S**
Topsoil Depth	0.3m	0.3m	0.29m	0.29m	0.28m	0.26m
Subsoil Depth	0.28m	0.23m	0.13m	0.11m	0.1m	0.09m
Top of natural substratum	0.58m	0.53m	0.42m	0.4m	0.38m	0.35m
Base of trench	0.7m	0.65m	0.5m	0.46m	0.41m	0.38m

Figure 24: Trench 6 looking south

A single linear feature was observed in the base of the trench at the north end running north-east to south-west, confirming the linear anomaly identified on the geophysical survey (fig 26). Due to the waterlogged nature of trench 6 it was not possible to excavate the linear feature in this trench, but the feature was investigated in trench 7.

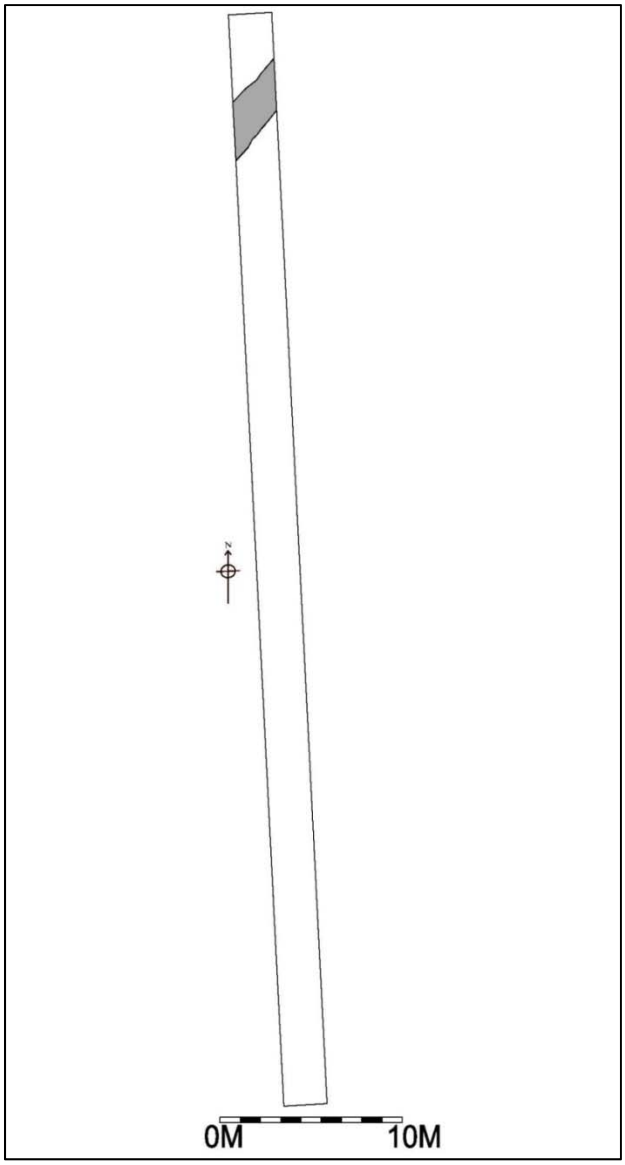

Figure 25: Trench 6 plan

Two ceramic land drains were also recorded in this trench at 8m from the north end and 23m from the north end. Both were running east to west.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was located to the east of the gas pipe 30m to the north of trench 6. It was aligned south-east to north-west. The natural substratum consisted of orangey brown clay with occasional orange sand veins with abundant small gravel and chalk inclusions (fig 27).

Figure 26: Trench 7 looking south-east

Length 50.2m

Width -2m

Interval	NW 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50.2m SE
Topsoil Depth	0.28m	0.26m	0.32m	0.32m	0.37m	0.4m
Subsoil Depth	0.12m	0.14m	0.14m	0.33m	0.34m	0.21m
Top of natural substratum	0.4m	0.4m	0.46m	0.65m	0.71m	0.61m
Base of trench	0.42m	0.46m	0.52m	0.7m	0.75m	0.63m

A single linear feature [15] was observed in the base of trench 7, 27.8m from the north-western end of the trench (figs 28 and 29). This was the same feature as that located in trench 6, comparable to an anomaly identified on the geophysical survey. It measured 2.32m in width and 0.62m in depth running on a north-east to south-west orientation. The primary fill (16) consisted of greyish brown silty-clay with very occasional charcoal flecks and chalk fragments. The fill appeared to represent natural silting/wash after the initial digging of the ditch. Overlaying this was a brown grey fill (17) consisting of silty-clays with occasional medium-large angular-rounded stone inclusions and occasional charcoal and chalk fleck inclusions. A single sherd of pottery dating to the the middle to late Iron Age was recovered from this fill along with a single fragment of animal bone. Environmental samples were also taken from this fill but with no charred plant remains present.

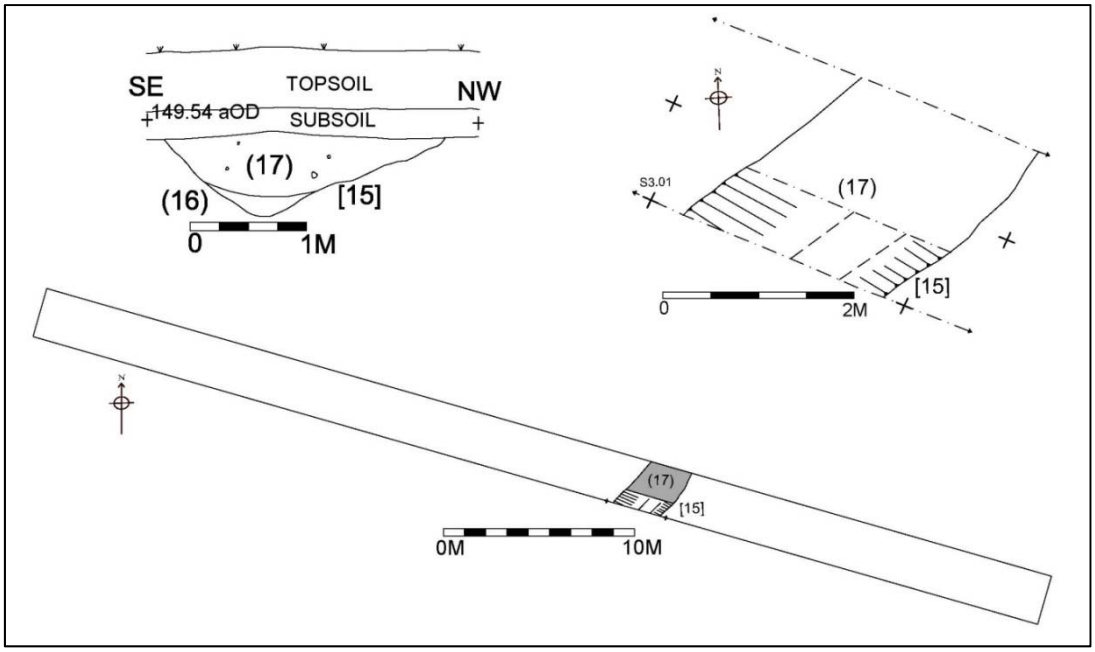

Figure 27: Plan of trench 7 with features

Figure 28: Ditch [15] looking south-west (2m scale)

Trench 8

Trench 8 was located to the east of the gas pipe in the north-west corner of the development area, on a slight slope from north-east to south-west. The natural substratum consisted of mid yellowy brown clay with common chalk flecks, occasionally interspersed with red clay mottling and thin sand seams (fig 30).

Figure 29: Trench 8 looking south-west

Length 50.5m

Width -2m

Interval	NE 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50.5m SW
Topsoil Depth	0.3m	0.26m	0.24m	0.23m	0.25m	0.2m
Subsoil Depth	0.11m	0.17m	0.16m	0.1m	0.11m	0.13m
Top of natural substratum	0.41m	0.43m	0.4m	0.33m	0.36m	0.33m
Base of trench	0.44m	0.48m	0.41m	0.37m	0.38m	0.4m

No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

Trench 9

Trench 9 was located to the east of the gas main in the north-eastern part of the development area. The trench was aligned south-east to north-west and sloped from the north-west to south-east (fig 31). It was noted that the natural substrata varied greatly across the length of the trench. From the north-west end to 21m the natural substratum consisted of reddish brown clay with yellow mottling and common chalk inclusions. From 21m to 25m, the substratum changed to more orangey sandy-gravels and from 25m to 40m the substratum changed to orangey brown sandy-clays with red clay mottling. From 40m to the south-east end of the trench the substratum was the same as that present in the north-west end of the trench.

Figure 30: Trench 9 looking south-east

Length 50.5m

Width -2m

Interval	NW 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50.5m SE
Topsoil Depth	0.29m	0.22m	0.25m	0.33m	0.34m	0.3m
Subsoil Depth	0.14m	0.2m	0.3m	0.44m	0.18m	0.26m
Top of natural substratum	0.43m	0.42m	0.55m	0.77m	0.52m	0.56m
Base of trench	0.48m	0.45m	0.65m	0.81m	0.54m	0.65m

Along with variable natural substratum two ceramic field drains were recorded in this trench. Both were aligned roughly north-north-east to south-south-west at the south-east end of the trench. These appeared to match anomalies interpreted as modern features on the geophysical survey. No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

Trench 10

Trench 10 was positioned to the east of the gas pipe within the central area of the development and was aligned east to west. The trench sloped from west to east (fig 32). The natural substratum in the eastern half of the trench consisted of mottled yellowy brown and

red clays with chalk inclusions, whilst the western half of the trench the substratum consisted of orangey brown sandy-clays.

Figure 31: Trench 10 looking east

Length 50.1m

Width -2m

Interval	W 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50.1m E
Topsoil Depth	0.24m	0.3m	0.34m	0.4m	0.36m	0.25m
Subsoil Depth	0.16m	0.14m	0.18m	0.2m	0.18m	0.16m
Top of natural substratum	0.4m	0.44m	0.52m	0.6m	0.56m	0.41m
Base of trench	0.46m	0. 5m	0.55m	0.65m	0.58m	0.5m

A ceramic field drain running north to south was recorded 7m from the east end of the trench. This intersected with a similar field drain running north-east to south-west entering the southern side of the trench 9m from the east end. No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

Trench 11

Trench 11 was positioned to the east of the gas pipe in the central part of the development area. The trench was aligned south-south-east to north-north-west (fig 33). The natural substratum consisted of yellowy brown clay with mottled red clay patches with common chalk inclusions.

Figure 32: Trench 11 looking south-south-east

Length 51.2m

Width -2m

Interval	NNW 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	51.2m SSE
Topsoil Depth	0.31m	0.25m	0.25m	0.24m	0.25m	0.28m
Subsoil Depth	0.18m	0.18m	0.11m	0.18m	0.15m	0.1m
Top of natural substratum	0.49m	0.43m	0.36m	0.42m	0.4m	0.38m
Base of trench	0.55m	0. 49m	0.39m	0.48m	0.44m	0.42m

Two probable land drains/ furrows were observed in the trench, one 22m from the north-north-west end and the other 32m from the north-north-west end of the trench. These were similar to those seen in trench 13. These features seemed to relate to those interpreted as probable modern features on the geophysical survey. No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

Trench 12

Trench 12 was positioned to the east of the gas pipe at the southern edge of the development area. It was aligned south-east to north-west and sloped from north-west to south-east (fig 34). The natural substratum consisted of predominantly yellowy brown clays with red mottling and orange sand veins with common chalk inclusions. This was broken between 31m-38m from the north-west end by a band of more sandy gravely natural substratum.

Figure 33: Trench 12 looking south-east

Length 50.7m

Width -2m

Interval	NW 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50.7m SE
Topsoil Depth	0.28m	0.25m	0.2m	0.25m	0.2m	0.24m
Subsoil Depth	0.10m	0.11m	0.16m	0.13m	0.19m	0.15m
Top of natural substratum	0.38m	0.36m	0.36m	0.38m	0.39m	0.39m
Base of trench	0.44m	0. 41m	0.42m	0.41m	0.45m	0.44m

A single ceramic field drain was recorded running at 27m from the north-west end to the south-east end of the trench on and east to west alignment. No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

Trench 13

Trench 13 was located 15m to the east of trench 11 in the central area of the development site (fig 35). It was aligned north-east to south-west targeting two linear anomalies on the geophysical survey. The natural substrata consisted of yellowy brown clays with occasional sporadic orange sand veins.

Figure 34: Trench 13 looking south-east

Length 50.1m

Width -2m

Interval	NW 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50.1m SE
Topsoil Depth	0.26m	0.3m	0.19m	0.24m	0.31m	0.37m
Subsoil Depth	0.14m	0.1m	0.12m	0.13m	0.2m	0.2m
Top of natural substratum	0.42m	0.4m	0.31m	0.37m	0.51m	0.57m
Base of trench	0.46m	0. 47m	0.35m	0.43m	0.6m	0.6m

Two linear features were observed truncating the natural substratum in this trench (figs 36, 37 and 38). The first [11] was observed 25m from the east end of the trench and measured 1.2m in width and 0.38m in depth. It contained a single fill (12) consisting of mid yellowy brown silty-clay with very occasional chalk flecks and small stones. The feature was heavily truncated on its north-west edge by a ceramic land drain. No finds were recovered from this fill. A similar feature [13] was located 6m to the north-west of this running north to south. It too was heavily truncated by a ceramic field drain running on the same alignment. The remaining feature measured 0.6m in width and 0.4m in depth. It contained a single fill (14) consisting of mid yellowy brown silty-clays with occasional chalk fragment and small stone inclusions. No finds were recovered from this fill.

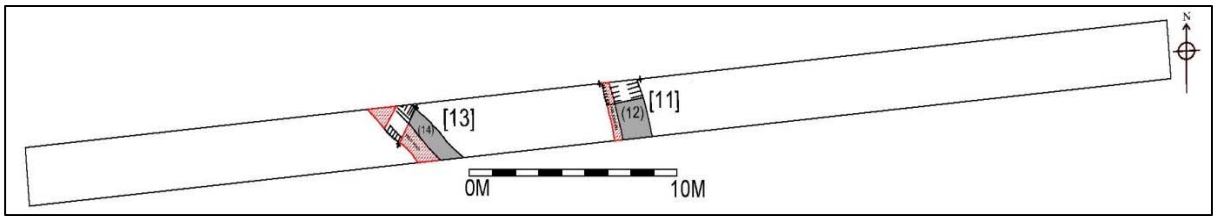

Figure 35: Trench 13 plan showing features

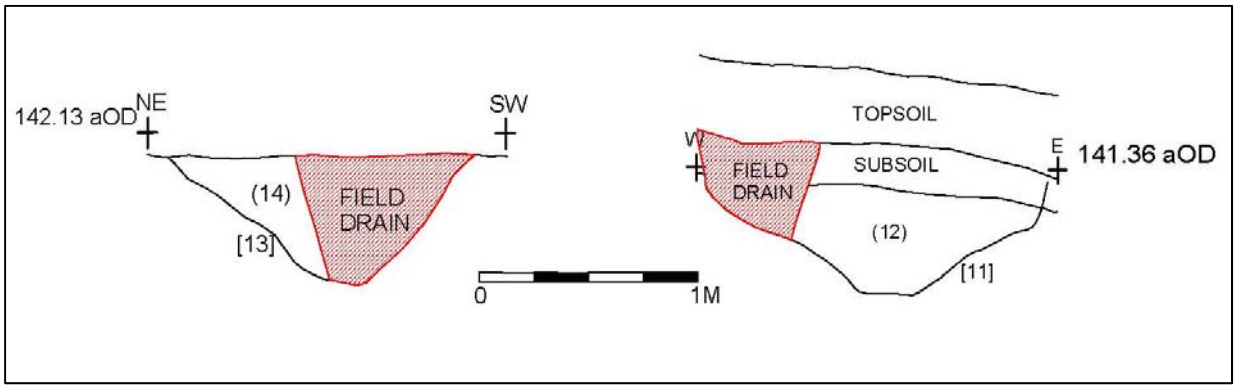

Figure 36: Trench 13 sections

Figure 37: Trench 13 features (1m scale)

Trench 14

Trench 14 was positioned at the north-east corner of the site, at the base of the sloping development area. It was aligned north-east to south-west and also sloped slightly this way (fig 39). The natural substrata varied across the length of the trench. It consisted of yellowy brown clay with common chalk inclusions, interspersed with lenses of orangey brown sandy clays at varying intervals.

Figure 38: Trench 14 looking south-west

Length 51.8m

Width -2m

Interval	SW 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	51.8m NE
Topsoil Depth	0.3m	0.35m	0.34m	0.3m	0.28m	0.32m
Subsoil Depth	0.2m	0.18m	0.22m	0.28m	0.2m	0.24m
Colluvium Depth	0.3m	0.14m	0.12m	0.04m	-	-
Top of natural substratum	0.8m	0.67m	0.68m	0.62m	0.48m	0.56m
Base of trench	0.87m	0. 76m	0.76m	0.7m	0.58m	0.6m

A band of colluvium deposit was evident at the south-west end of the trench underlying the subsoil, probably a result of hill wash at the base of the slope from above. It consisted of silty-clays with some charcoal inclusions.

Two ceramic field drains were recorded at the south-west end of the trench. The first was recorded 6m from the trench end and runs on a south-east to north-west alignment. The second runs from 12.5m from the south-west end of the trench and meets the first field drain, on a north to south alignment. These features go some way to explaining anomalies highlighted on the geophysical survey. No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

Trench 15

Trench 15 was positioned at the south-east corner of the site, on a north-east to south-west alignment. The trench was moved 10m to the north to avoid the newly laid access road (fig 40). The natural substrata consisted of brown-orange sandy clay up to 11m from the north-east end of the trench, changing to yellowy brown clay with common chalk inclusions for the remainder of the trench.

Figure 39: Trench 15 looking south-east

Length 48m

Width -2m

Interval	NE 0m	10m	20m	30m	40m	48m SW
Topsoil Depth	0.32m	0.36m	0.28m	0.24m	0.27m	0.33m

Subsoil Depth	0.20m	0.25m	0.15m	0.16m	0.19m	0.27m
Top of natural substratum	0.52m	0.61m	0.43m	0.4m	0.46m	0.6m
Base of trench	0.6m	0. 67m	0.49m	0.5m	0.52m	0.64m

Two ceramic drains were observed in the base of this trench, the first 1m from the north-east end of the trench and the second 48m from the north-east end of the trench. Both ceramic field drains were running on an east to west alignment. No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

Trench 16

Trench 16 was positioned to the south-east of the development area next to the existing access road on a south-south-east to north-north-west alignment (fig 41). The trench was moved approximately 10m to the south to avoid trees and crop. It was positioned on an area already disturbed by machines when installing the access road to avoid any further damage to the area.

Figure 40: Trench 16 looking north north-west

Length 20m

Width -2m

Interval	SSE 0m	5m	10m	15m	20mNNW
Topsoil Depth	0.28m	0.25m	032m	024m	0.25m
Subsoil Depth	0.26m	0.3m	0.24m	0.26m	0.25m
Top of natural substratum	0.54m	0.55m	0.56m	0.5m	0.5m
Base of trench	0.58m	0. 58m	0.59m	0.56m	0.52m

A single ceramic field drain was observed running east to west at 15m from the south south-east end of the trench. No archaeological features were observed.

The Pottery and Fired Clay *Nicholas J. Cooper*

Iron Age pottery

Three sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered and have been recorded using the Leicestershire Museums prehistoric pottery fabric series (Marsden 2011, 62, Table 1). All three were from vessels manufactured in a sand-free, shell-tempered fabric (Fabric S1), typical of this part of the county. The first is a body sherd (17g) from the lower part of a jar found in the fill (17) of cut [15]. The second is a very small body sherd (1g) from fill (4) [3]. The third sherd (18g) is from the base of a jar and was unstratified. Although no scored decoration was apparent, given their association with early Roman pottery, it is most likely that the vessels belong to the East Midlands scored ware tradition (Elsdon 1992) and date to the middle to late Iron Age, between the 3rd century BC and the Roman Conquest.

Roman pottery

A total of eight sherds of Roman pottery was recovered from stratified deposits, with a further two unstratified. The material was classified using the Leicestershire Roman pottery form and fabric series (Pollard 1994, 110-114) and quantified by sherd count and weight.
Seven of the stratified sherds come from fill (8) of cut [7] and comprise five sherds (21g) in grey ware (Fabric GW5), one the base of a jar, and two (46g) in oxidised ware (Fabric OW2), again from a jar. The other stratified sherd is a grey ware body sherd (5g), again from a jar, in Fabric GW5 from fill (19) [18]. Two other sherds in GW5 (32g) were recovered unstratified from subsoil at the south end of Trench 5 and from the drain in Trench 4. The material cannot be dated very closely within the Roman period, but the poorly prepared nature of the fabrics would probably suggest a later 1st or 2nd-century date.

Medieval pottery

Four abraded sherds (25g) of medieval pottery were recovered, unstratified, from Trench 1 and are typical of material from the manuring of the open fields between the 12th and 14th century, prior to the desertion of the village and the laying down of sheep pasture.

Fired clay

Five amorphous fragments of fired clay (burnt daub) weighing 100g were recovered from (28) [27]. They probably represent debris from Iron Age or Roman period wattle and daub buildings or structures in the vicinity, destroyed by fire.

The Animal Bone *Rachel Small*

Introduction

A small animal bone assemblage (105 specimens) collected by hand came from seven contexts; all of which were ditch fills and are thought to date to the Roman period. Animal bones provide evidence for past diet and animal husbandry practises.

Method

Identification to element and species was attempted on all specimens using the University of Leicester's bone laboratory reference collection. Recording of tooth eruption and wear followed Grant's (1982) system and Hambleton's (1999) tables were used to suggest age at death. Measurements largely followed von den Driesch (1976). Harland et al's (2003) four point scale was used to consider preservation. A catalogue is given in table 1, detailing context, element, species, and any additional notes.

Results

The bones were generally of a 'poor' preservation: fragments had flaking or powdering on over 50% of the surface. Pitting was seen on a number of the bones and it is thought that this represented surface deterioration rather than canine gnawing. Root etching had also damaged the specimens. There was no evidence for burning. Due to the poor preservation and high level of fragmentation it was only possible to identify thirteen specimens to element and species and this represents 12.4% of the assemblage. Cattle bones were most numerous; teeth and mandible fragments were present in context (8) and these are likely to have been associated and to have once articulated. Based on tooth eruption and wear patterns, it can be deduced that the animal died at a senile age. Also present in this context were a cattle calcaneus and a metacarpal, the latter had been split longitudinally and this would have allowed for the extraction of marrow. Two fragments of cattle axis vertebra were found in context (9). Other species included the distal end of an equid radius (23), and a sheep/goat maxillary third molar (8). Specimens that could not be identified to species were mostly from large mammals, and included long bone shaft fragments, pieces of vertebra and fragments of skull.

Table 1: Catalogue of bone

Context	No. specimens	Element	Species	Notes
2	1	Long bone shaft	Large mammal	
2	1	Indeterminate	Large mammal	
4	2	Long bone shaft	Large mammal	
6	3	Long bone shaft	Large mammal	
8	1	Third molar,	Cattle	Stage K, width 17.07mm

		mandibular		
8	2	First/second molars, mandibular	Cattle	Both stage L, width 16.03mm and 14.84mm
8	2	Premolars, mandibular	Cattle	
8	2	Mandible	Cattle	
8	1	Calcaneus	Cattle	
8	1	Metacarpal	Cattle	Spilt
8	5	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	
8	10	Mandible	Large mammal	
8	42	Indeterminate	Large mammal	
8	1	Lumbar vertebra	Large mammal	Unfused epiphysis
8	1	Lumbar vertebra	Large mammal	Tooth puncture?
8	12	Long bone shaft	Large mammal	
8	1	Root of an incisor	Medium/large mammal	
8	4	cf. skull	Medium/large mammal	
8	1	Third molar, maxillary	Sheep/goat	Stage G
17	1	Indeterminate	Medium/large mammal	
19	2	Axis	Cattle	
19	4	Indeterminate	Large mammal	
23	1	Radius	Equid	Distal epiphysis and shaft
23	4	Indeterminate	Large mammal	
TOTAL	**105**			

Discussion

The assemblage was too small in size to permit statistical analysis of age and skeletal representation, for example, and therefore only general comments can be made. The assemblage most probably represents domestic consumption refuse from nearby occupation. The species represented: cattle, sheep/goat and equid are typical of Roman deposits of this nature. The presence of a senile cow/bull suggests animals were used for secondary products, milk, leather, for example, before death rather than being solely raised for meat. The poor preservation of the assemblage would suggest the refuse was left exposed for a period of time before burial and possibly suggests day to day deposition.

The Charred Plant Remains *Rachel Small*

Introduction

Four samples were taken, all of which dated to the Roman period; samples 1 (2) and 2 (4) were taken from a small gully, whilst samples 3 (12) and 4 (8) were from ditch fills. The flots were sorted for plant remains, including cereal grains, chaff, and weed seeds, which provide evidence for past food production, consumption, agricultural practice and environment.

Method

One part of each sample, approximately ten litres, was processed in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The flotation fractions (flots) were transferred into plastic boxes and left to air dry and they were then sorted for plant remains using a x10-40 stereo microscope. The residues were also air dried and the fractions over 4mm (coarse fraction) sorted for all finds. The fractions below 4mm (fine fraction) were examined for plant remains and small bones. Plant remains were identified by comparison to modern reference material available at ULAS and names follow Stace (1991).

Results

Modern rootlets and weed seeds including knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare* L.) and goosefoots (*Chenopodium* spp.) were found in the flots. Small snail shells were also present in sample 3 and 4. Together these factors suggest a level of disturbance to the contexts. The only charred remains present were small flecks of charcoal (under 2mm). No artefacts were present in the coarse and fine fractions.

Discussion

No charred plant remains were found in these samples; however, the presence of charcoal flecks does suggest that there is the potential for their survival at the site.

Conclusion

University of Leicester Archaeological Services carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Ingarsby Lane, Houghton on the Hill, Leicestershire. The work involved the machine excavation of 16 trial trenches in order to provide a *c.2*% of the area following potential archaeological anomalies highlighted in the geophysical survey (Richardson 2015).

The topsoil and subsoil appeared relatively consistent across the site with topsoil consisting of a well manured loose-friable, dark brown grey clay-loam with very occasional pebbles, below which mid-yellowish brown silty-clay plastic sterile subsoil was present. Slight variations in the amount of subsoil were evident across the 16 trenches, probably due to truncation from agricultural ploughing and farming of the land from the medieval period to the present day. A network of field drains was present across the site, evident in the majority of trenches excavated confirming anomalies interpreted as modern features on the geophysical survey. It was also evident across the entire development area that the natural substratum was consistently variable, perhaps contributing to some geophysical anomalies.

Whilst trenches 2-4, 8-12 and 14-16 appeared void of archaeological features, archaeological features were observed in trenches 1, 5, 6, 7 and perhaps 13. The majority of the features represented gullies and ditches, with the exception of a single inhumation burial in trench 5. The small curving gullies within trench 1 in the north-west corner of the development area seem to confirm the presence of archaeological deposits indicated on the geophysical survey. The nature of the features combined with the presence of Iron Age pottery in fill (4) suggests the presence of Iron Age settlement in the area with curving features perhaps representing gullies surrounding circular buildings. To the south-east ditch [15] also contained Iron Age pottery, suggesting a field or enclosure boundary associated with features in trench 1. Ditches within trench 5 may also indicate the presence of an enclosure system on the western periphery of the development site where the land levels on higher ground. Pottery recovered

from these features suggests an early Roman date for this enclosure system. This perhaps indicates settlement activity in fields to the west outside of the development area, where the land levels further, also suggesting the shifting of settlement from the north of the site further south in the late Iron Age to early Roman period. The presence of ceramic field drains within the bases of ditches [11] and [13] together with the lack of dating evidence could suggest a more modern date for these features, perhaps being associated with post medieval ridge and furrow ploughing or field boundaries.

The burial (SK1) in trench 5 appeared to be an isolated burial, perhaps respecting the enclosure ditches [18] [7] observed close by to the west. Some comparisons can be made to similar inhumation burials found at Leicester Lane, St Johns, Enderby, some 19km to the south-west of the site (Harvey 2009). Here burials of Roman date respected and were specifically aligned to follow an enclosure ditch, although in this instance SK1 is not aligned parallel to either enclosure ditch. It is suggested that the burial may date to the early Roman period due to its proximity to [7] and [18].

In conjunction with this the evaluation also identified features not visible on the geophysical survey, possibly hidden under strong ridge and furrow anomalies such as those seen in the southwest corner of the development area.

The animal bone assemblage suggests domestic use of animals such as cattle and sheep/goat associated with the features, typical of the Iron Age and Roman periods. Environmental samples taken from several contexts yielded little in the way of information, although some small charcoal flecks were recorded in the samples.

Archive and Publications

The site archive (X.A24.2016), consisting of paper and photographic records in addition to ceramic, bone and flint finds, will be deposited with Leicestershire Museum Service.

The paper archive consists of:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report
- 1 CD containing report and digital photographs
- Trench records sheets
- Photographic record indices
- Digital photographs
- Drawing sheets and indices
- Context indices
- Context sheets

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work to the *Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) at the University of York.

PROJECT DETAILS	**Oasis No**	universi1-245808		
	Project Name	Ingarsby Lane, Houghton on the Hill		
	Start/end dates of field work	17/02/2016-26/02/2016		
	Previous/Future Work	Desk-based assessment; geophysical survey. No future work required		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Cultivated Land		
	Monument Type/Period	Ditch/burial; Iron Age; Roman		
	Significant Finds/Period	Pottery / Roman Pottery / PM		
	Development Type	Solar Array		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
	Planning Ref.	15/00676/FUL		
PROJECT LOCATION	**Site Address/Postcode**	Ingarsby Lane Houghton on the Hill		
	Study Area	5ha		
	Site Coordinates	NGR 467885 304469		
	Height OD	155aOD-135aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	**Organisation**	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (LCC)		
	Project Design Originator	CgMs		
	Project Manager	Dr Patrick Clay		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Adam Clapton		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Developer / MJ Coates &Compamy, Bradbury Project Management Ltd		
PROJECT		**Physical**	**Digital**	**Paper**

ARCHIVE	**Recipient**	LCC MusService	LCC MusService	LCCMusService
	ID (Acc. No.)	XA242016	XA242016	XA242016
	Contents	Pottery Flint Bone	Photos Survey data Report	Record Sheets, Drawing Sheet Context indices and sheets Photos
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	**Type**	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	An Archaeological Evaluation at Ingarsby Lane, Houghton on the Hill, Leicestershire		
	Author	Clapton, A		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2016-055		
	Date	2016		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		

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