



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
on land at Dingley Road, Great Bowden,  
Leicestershire**

**NGR: SP 74717 88687**

by Dr Gavin Speed



**ULAS Report No 2016-117**

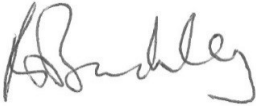
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Dingley Road, Great Bowden, Leicestershire**

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**For: Langton Developments**

<b>Filename/Version</b>	<b>Checked by</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>2016-116v2</b>	 <b>Richard Buckley</b>	<b>25/08/2016</b>

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**ULAS Report Number 2016-117**  
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# An Archaeological Evaluation on land off Dingley Road, Great Bowden, Leicestershire.

**Dr Gavin Speed**

## Summary

*University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological investigation on land of Dingley Road, Great Bowden, Leicestershire (SP 74717 88687).*

*The trial trench evaluation located archaeological finds and deposits in 12 of 17 trenches. Most of the archaeological remains consisted of late Saxon – early medieval (AD 850 - 1250) former field boundaries, along with some associated activity. Ditches orientated NNE-SSW, perhaps a driveway, were seen in Trenches 7, 8, and 16, confirming geophysical anomalies across Fields 2 and 3. They date to the late Saxon-early medieval period. More discrete features in Field 2 relate to medieval activity in the Knights End Road area. A post-medieval cobble surface was located in Field 4, this may be part of a cobble surface seen in earlier excavations found in association with a barn.*

*The site archive will be held by Leicestershire Museums Service, under accession number XA.73.2016.*

## 1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land south of Dingley Road, Great Bowden, Leicestershire (SP 74717 88687). The work was commissioned by Langton Developments from University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in connection with a proposed planning application for residential development of the site (planning application no: 16/00802/FUL).

Langton developments have lodged a planning application with Harborough District Council for the erection of 29 dwellings with associated infrastructure, means of access and open space on land off Dingley Road, Great Bowden (Planning Application 16/00802/FUL).

An archaeological evaluation of the site was requested by the Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council Historic and Natural Environment Team, as archaeological advisors to the planning authority. The trial-trenching includes possible anomalies identified by geophysical survey as well as ‘blank’ areas across the Site. The work was required to assess the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits which might be present in order to determine the potential impact of the proposed development upon them.

A strategy for the work was set out in the Written Scheme for Investigation (Buckley 2016). This document presents the results of a scheme of archaeological work, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* this document forms the report for an archaeological evaluation, with an assessment of the potential impact on buried archaeological remains from groundworks associated with future development.

## 2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

Great Bowden village lies on the south-east border of Leicestershire, about sixteen miles from Leicester. The irregular *c.*3.055 hectare site comprises two large sub-rectangular adjacent fields on the eastern side, another large ‘L-shaped’ field to the immediate south-west and a narrow projection of land westwards towards the village core, neighbouring two smaller rectangular fields to the north. Located on the eastern side of the village core, immediately south-east of and across the road from the church of St Peter and St Paul, the site has Dingley Road as its northern perimeter, and is at a height of approximately 75m OD in the north raising up to 78m OD in the south. The underlying geology is a Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation with Mudstone Sedimentary Bedrock, with no superficial deposits recorded (British Geological Website). The central section of the proposed area is relatively flat, and that the land slopes up to north and south, at a height of *c.*80m.

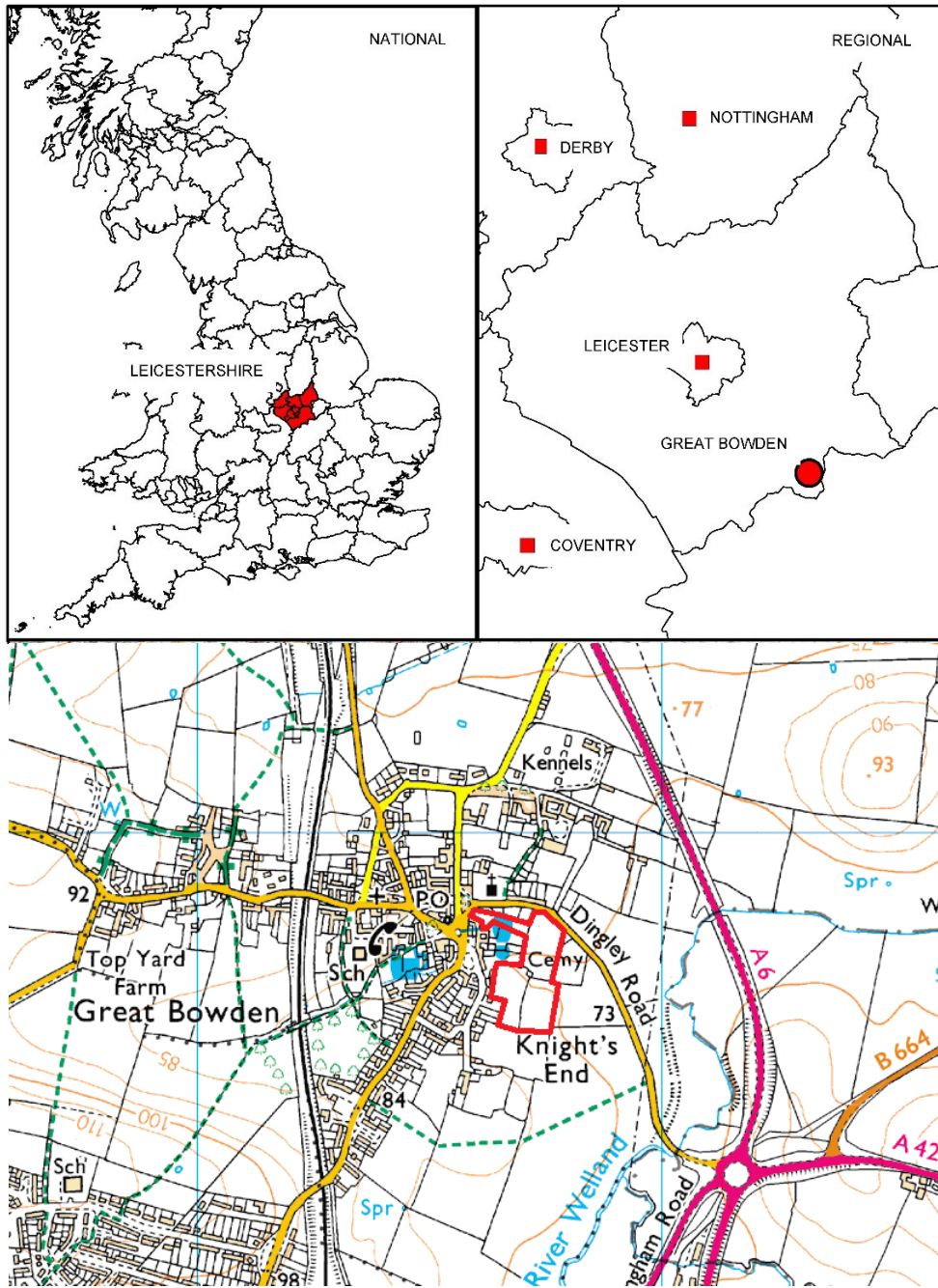


Figure 1: Site location within the UK, county of Leicestershire, and Great Bowden

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### **3. Historical and Archaeological Background**

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates that there are instances of archaeological remains within, and numerous sites in the vicinity of, the assessment area, including records of monuments, archaeological events and historic buildings.

#### ***3.1 Historical Background (from Baker 2016)***

Great Bowden is mentioned in Domesday, as having nine and a half carucates of land belonging to William I. It had previously belonged to Edward the Confessor. William's niece, Countess Judith, also held land in Great Bowden. In 1086 Great Bowden was the centre of a large soke (a subordinate unit to a mother parish), which included lands in twelve other Leicestershire villages. The origin of the soke is unknown, but it seems to have existed under Edward the Confessor. Great Bowden soke is mentioned in 1173, but not subsequently. Nothing is known of its organization, however, part of its territories evolved into a separate entity known as the soke of Stretton.

The ancient parish of Great Bowden was bounded by the River Welland on the south and south-east, which was, and largely remains, the boundary between Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. In shape the parish was compact and approximately rectangular. In addition to Great Bowden, the ancient parish formerly contained two dependent chapelries, St. Mary in Arden and Market Harborough. Market Harborough was a separate township within Great Bowden parish as early as 1254, and was always independent for civil purposes. St. Mary's chapelry never formed a separate civil unit. The part that lay outside Little Bowden was included in Great Bowden township, which formed a separate unit for civil purposes comprising the whole ancient parish, except Harborough and the lands in Northamptonshire attached to St. Mary's. By 1881 Harborough was considered to be a separate civil parish.

In 1895 Market Harborough Urban District was created, to include the whole of Great Bowden ancient parish, including Harborough, and all of Little Bowden that was in Leicestershire. In 1927, Great and Little Bowden were absorbed into Market Harborough civil parish, which thus became co-extensive with the urban district. Parts of each parish were transferred between the villages around Market Harborough throughout the next century (Lee and McKinley 1964).

In the medieval period, Great Bowden had three main open fields, although a smaller field was mentioned in the 15th century. A Glebe Terrier of 1638 names four open fields at Great Bowden, namely Gallow Field, Over Field, Nether Field and South Field, which is likely to indicate the open fields that existed in the 15th century.

The village and Nether Green in particular, have strong associations with the Fernie Hunt, which separated from the Quorn Hunt in the 1850s. The Fernie Hunt Stables moved to Great Bowden in 1923, from Medbourne. However in 1923, the Hunt Committee purchased stables from the Stokes Estate as well as Nether House and outbuildings and various other properties around Nether Green. Nether House itself became the residence for Lord Stallbridge, Master of the Fernie Hunt. A fire in 1950 resulted in the demolition of one wing of the building and the house and outbuildings were subsequently converted into a brush factory. Most recently the site was converted for use as a mushroom factory. The stables remained the property of the Fernie Hunt, as did the kennels which were built to the north of the house in 1923-4.

#### ***3.2 Archaeological Background***

##### *Prehistoric*

There are a number of prehistoric monuments both in the assessment area itself and close to it. In the north-west spur of the site, c. 7m south of its northern perimeter, a Neolithic/Bronze Age flint core and six flakes were found at 10 Dingley Close after test pitting in 2013 (MLE21615) Around 60m to the



south-west of this another of similar date was found from the rear of the Church Hall (MLE21621). Around 150m south from the centre of the site, 50m from its southern perimeter, an early mesolithic/early bronze age flint was recovered in 2012 (MLE20487) and *c.*150 to the north-east an ditch containing Iron Age pottery was revealed during trial trenching in 2015 (MLE22080). Around 220m west of the site and within the historic village core, test pitting in 2013 and 2014 yielded one flint flake from the Shoulder of Mutton pub (MLE21620) and a waste flint (MLE21631) from The Green respectively, both of Neolithic/Bronze Age date. In 2013 further Neolithic/Bronze Age flints was recovered from the rear of 16 (MLE21617) and 36 (MLE21617) Knights end, which runs alongside the south-west of the assessment area and at 38 of the same street, approximately 250m south-west of the area, a core re-used as a hammerhead and 2 flint flakes were found (MLE21623).

### *Roman*

Roman pottery and a 4th-century copper-alloy coin were recovered from test pits in 2014, around 160m south-west of the site, from the rear of 44 The Green (MLE21604). Pottery has also been recovered from test pits just within the western spur of the assessment area behind the Village Hall (MLE21585) and around 260m west of the site, also at The Green (MLE21168).

### *Medieval*

Within the perimeter of the site, south of Dingley Road, test pits examined in 2010 yielded medieval/post-medieval pottery and associated undated stones with animal bone (MLE18150). Also within the site, a large quantity of predominantly medieval pottery was recovered from a 2013 test pit behind the Village Hall (MLE21584) and east of 10 Dingley Road, further medieval finds with a substantial amount of later, Victorian material (MLE2575). Approximately 75m north-west of the site centre, Saxon/Norman pottery was recovered from a test pit with post-medieval material (MLE21603) and from 43 Knights Road, *c.*150m south-east, pottery from a medieval date onwards was recovered in 2009 (MLE20485). Around 190m north of the site, two medieval encaustic floor tile fragments and part of a marble slab with a Latin inscription Chi-Rho cross were found in the garden (MLE9868). In the village core, at The Green, pottery from a 2013 test pit contained some pottery representing early-medieval activity (MLE21613), some abraded pottery with fired clay (MLE21169) and from the Shoulder of Mutton pub, some assorted, including medieval pottery (MLE21583). To the west of Knight's End, to the south-west of the assessment area, test pitting in 2013 recovered 35 sherds of medieval pottery (the only later sherds were 4 Victorian ones), a large number of sandstone roof tiles, thought to be medieval in date, and 2 pieces of 14th-century Chilvers Coton green-glazed roof tile (MLE21577). A significant amount of Saxo-Norman pottery was recovered from further south along Knight's End, *c.*250m south-west of the area (MLE21587) and medieval pottery with post-medieval material at 36 Knight's End (MLE21579).

### *Post-medieval*

To the north-west of the site, within the village core, is located a post-medieval water pump over a brick-lined well (MLE22168), probably dating from the 18th century at the earliest and at 26 The Green (MLE16907), another well of similar construction and date. Around 170m south of the site an excavation and metal detecting survey in 2012 recovered 4 sherds of post-medieval pottery and 5 pieces of ceramic building material, together with 5 Georgian halfpennies and a 19th-century livery button (MLE20486).

## **3.3 Previous Archaeological Investigations**

The Site has been subject to a desk-based assessment (Baker 2016), geophysical survey (Richardson 2016), and LiDAR survey (Beamish 2016).

### 3.3.1 Desk-based assessment

A desk-based assessment for the Site was carried out in February 2016 (Baker 2016), it identified that there are several archaeological events recorded within the site, immediately nearby and within a 250m radius of the assessment area. These include a geophysical survey undertaken in 2006 at Buckminster Close approximately 240m north of the site was tentatively interpreted as revealing a circular Anglo-Saxon ditch, or a possible feature associated with a previous equine parade ground (ELE4704). Test pits dug to investigate these anomalies (ELE4705) identified some possible floor surfaces, a ditch and an explanatory layer of burnt brick, clinker and slate. Pottery spanning Anglo-Saxon to modern times was recovered. In 2008, around 115m west of the centre of the assessment area, a building survey took place on an 18th-century ancillary building within the grounds of an existing listed building at 45 The Green (ELE5642) and probably built upon the footprint of an earlier structure. Within the northern area of the site itself two excavations undertaken by the local fieldwork group took place in 2010. The first of these, at Christchurch Paddock, Dingley Road (ELE7217), consisted of 5 test pits and revealed medieval pottery with associated cobbled surfaces, perhaps representing evidence of a barn and medieval/post-medieval activity in the vicinity. Further north-west, a grid excavation at The Strip (ELE7218) targeted barns varyingly positioned on known 19th-century maps and confirmed the presence and date of these. A watching brief at the Church of St Peter and St Paul (ELE9051), around 190m north-west of the site, took place in 2012 during underpinning work on the north wall, revealing structural features and burials that pre-date the present form of the building, including stone foundations interpreted as a former buttress. An archaeological intervention (ELE8360) took place c.170m directly south of the site, also in 2012 including a topographical survey, metal detecting, a probe survey and the excavation of a series of trial trenches. Two medieval rubbish pits or trenches were noted, suggesting the site was within the medieval village boundary. There was, however, a complete lack of finds in the area of earthworks in the south-east corner of the field. In 2013, trial trenching took place at Genevieve, The Green (ELE8919) and although absent of archaeological deposits, finds from the subsoil ranging from pre-historic to medieval probably reflect human activity in the area. A topographical survey and desk-based assessment (ELE9300) took place in 2015 around 170m north-east of the site and Dingley Road in advance of a proposed residential development. Well-preserved and characteristic ridge and furrow, a ditch and headland along with other prominent parallel earthworks further west, some probably associated with waste disposal or animal husbandry, and others oval mounds, possibly related to a domestic function, were identified. Trial trenching in this latter area (ELE9431), revealed these parallel features and interpreted them as post-medieval rectilinear enclosure or paddocks, with associated residual earlier Saxon and medieval pottery.

Evidence from aerial photographs, confirmed on the ground, show surviving ridge and furrow earthworks orientated north-south in the southern two fields and the south-west corner of a rectangular earthwork in the north-east corner of the assessment area. Ridge and furrow is the product of ploughing strip-shaped plots using a non-reversible plough in a clockwise manner. The mould board turned the soil into the centre creating a self-draining ridge. This form of topography seems to be normally associated with common fields systems although such systems didn't invariably have ridge and furrow in all regions. Common fields seem to have originated by the late Saxon period. They comprised strips of land scattered throughout the furlongs and fields giving equal shares of good and bad land. Such fields in the East Midlands normally had a three or four field system by which part of the land was left fallow on a rotating basis. They reached their maximum extent with the population rise of the 13th century. The East Midlands was a classic common field landscape in the Middle Ages and has particularly good survival of ridge and furrow. This reflects the move to sheep farming in the century after the Black Death followed by a concentration on livestock production in many parishes, particularly on poorer soils, which continued to the present day. Ploughing, for instance, to improve grassland has contributed to widespread destruction since WWII (Hall 1982; 1988; Roberts and Wrathmell 2000).

### 3.3.2 Geophysical Survey

A geophysical survey was undertaken for ULAS by Stratascan Ltd (Richardson 2016). The survey identified a number of potential archaeological features including ditch and pit features in the north, central and southern parts of the study area. Areas of ridge and furrow were also identified.

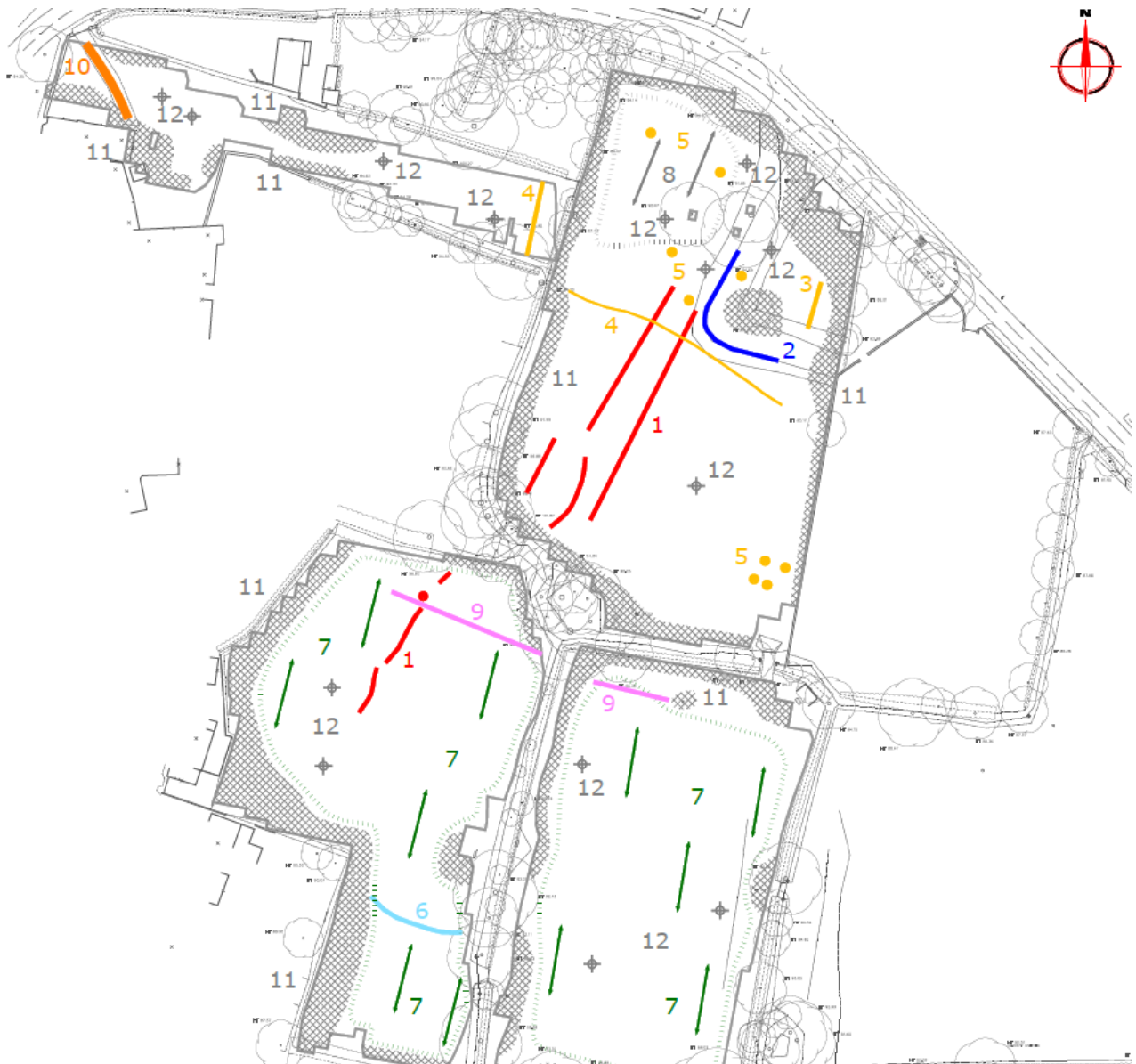


Figure 2: Interpretation of gradiometer anomalies from geophysical survey (Richardson 2016, fig.5)

### 3.3.3 Lidar Evidence

The evidence for earthworks across the assessment area is supported by Lidar imagery. A full analysis of the Lidar evidence was undertaken in spring 2016 (Beamish 2016). In summary it identified earthwork features across the proposed area. In the north and the south of the area, relatively strong indications of features can be interpreted. In the central section of the area, survival is very weak, and interpreted features are unlikely to be visible to the naked eye.

A small enclosure in the north-east is well preserved (Field 3). Other enclosures to the north of the Dingley Road can be detected in the LiDAR and probably relate to the same broad phase of activity. The enclosure within the proposed area is clearly incomplete as it has been truncated by the Dingley Road and the cemetery.

It is suggested that a stream course passed through the centre of the site in the medieval period which then flowed into the Welland some 250m to the east. It is suggested that areas of ridge and furrow cultivation located near to the stream course have become less visible through localised truncation and making up of ground, or possibly erosion prior to the culverting of the stream to another outflow at some stage before the 19th Century.

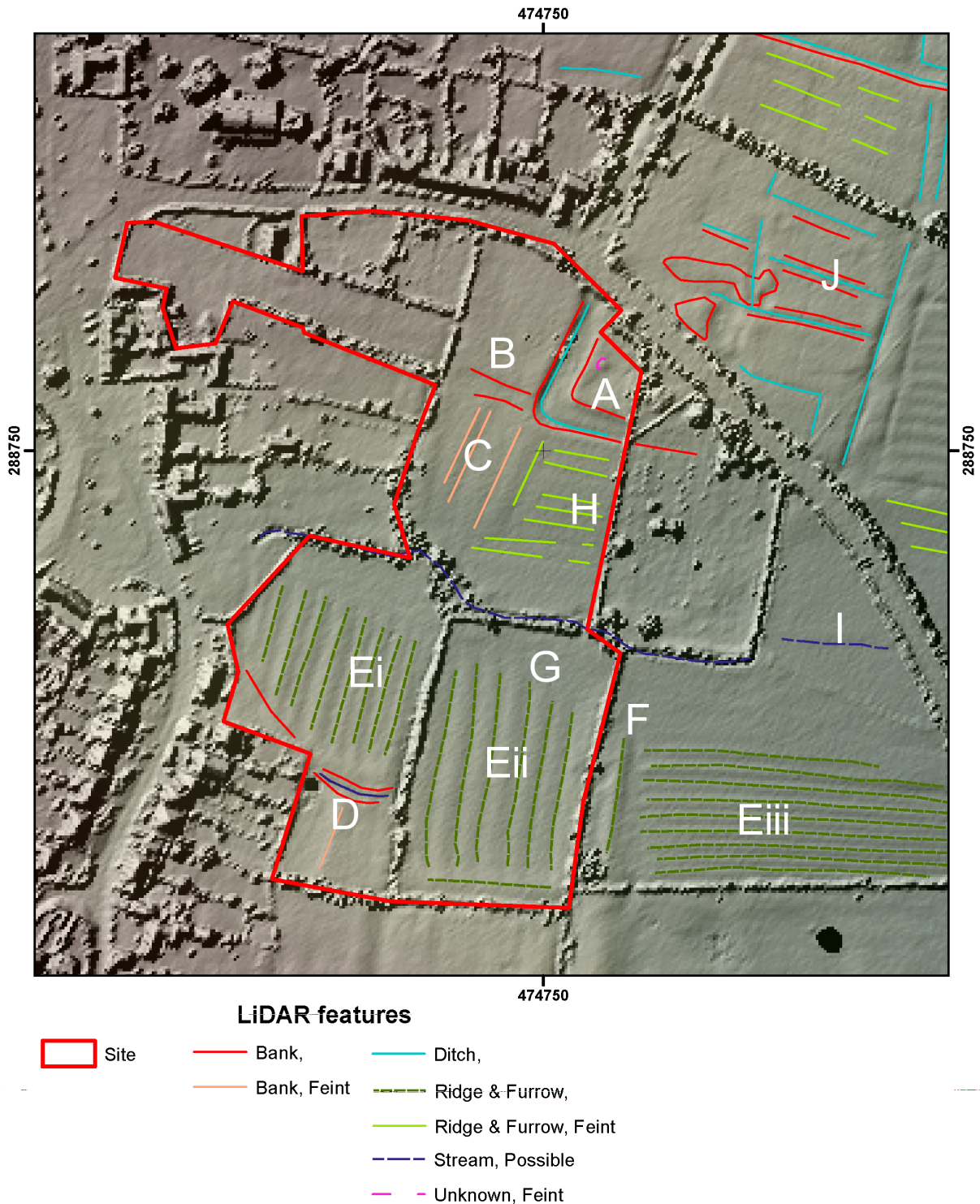


Figure 3: Results of LiDAR assessment above multiple hillshade plot of 1m DSM data (from Beamish 2016).

## 4. Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the archaeological work may be summarised as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

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

It was possible to determine some initial objectives derived from East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands (Knight et al. 2012) and The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda (Cooper 2006).

The Roman Period (Taylor 2006; Knight et al. 2012; English Heritage 2012).

There are Roman sites within the vicinity; therefore the evaluation may contribute to knowledge on Iron Age – Roman and Roman-Saxon transitions in rural settlement, landscape and society. Artefacts may identify trade links and economy.

The Medieval period (Lewis 2006, Knight et al 2012; English Heritage 2012

The evaluation may contribute towards research into the origins and development of medieval settlement, landscape and society. Environmental evidence could provide information on local environmental conditions as well as settlement activity, craft, industry and land use. Artefacts can assist in the development of a type series within the region and provide evidence for evidence for craft, industry and exchange across broad landscape areas. The evaluation has the potential to contribute to Research Agenda topics 7.1.2, 7.1.4, 7.2.1-7.2.4, 7.3.1-7.3.5, 7.5.4, 7.6.1-2, 7.7.1-7.7.5 and Research Objective 7E - Investigate the morphology of rural settlements.

## 5. Methodology

Prior to any machining of trial trenches, general photographs of the site areas were taken.

The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.8m-wide ditching bucket. The topsoil and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeological deposits or the natural undisturbed substratum was reached. Trenches were examined for archaeological deposits or finds by hand cleaning. The trenches were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and then were backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

The work followed the approved design specification (Buckley 2016) and adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2014).

Trenches were examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located were planned at an appropriate scale. Archaeological deposits were sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention was paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

Internal monitoring procedures were undertaken including visits to the site from the project manager. These ensured that professional standards were being maintained. Provision was made for monitoring visits with representatives of the Client, Historic England and the County Archaeologist.

Archaeological deposits were hand cleaned and planned as appropriate. Measured drawings of all archaeological features were prepared at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20, and tied into an overall site plan. All plans were tied into the National Grid using a Differential Global Positioning System (dGPS). Archaeological deposits were excavated and recorded as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence of deposits, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence.

The ULAS recording manual was used as a guide for all recording. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed were entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. A photographic record of the investigations was prepared illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. Digital photographs were used during the recording. The photographic record also includes 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation. The Site has been given the accession number: XA73.2016.

## 6. Results

Eighteen trenches were excavated spread across the development site in five fields (Fig. 3). Some trenches were located to target geophysical anomalies, while others were placed to test apparently blank areas and the extent of any archaeological remains. The results of each trench are now discussed in turn. Archaeological contexts are assigned as a cut number [\*\*\*] and fill numbers (\*\*\*)

In all trenches there was a thin topsoil (*c.* 0.20-0.35m deep), Table 1 lists each trench with its dimensions and description.

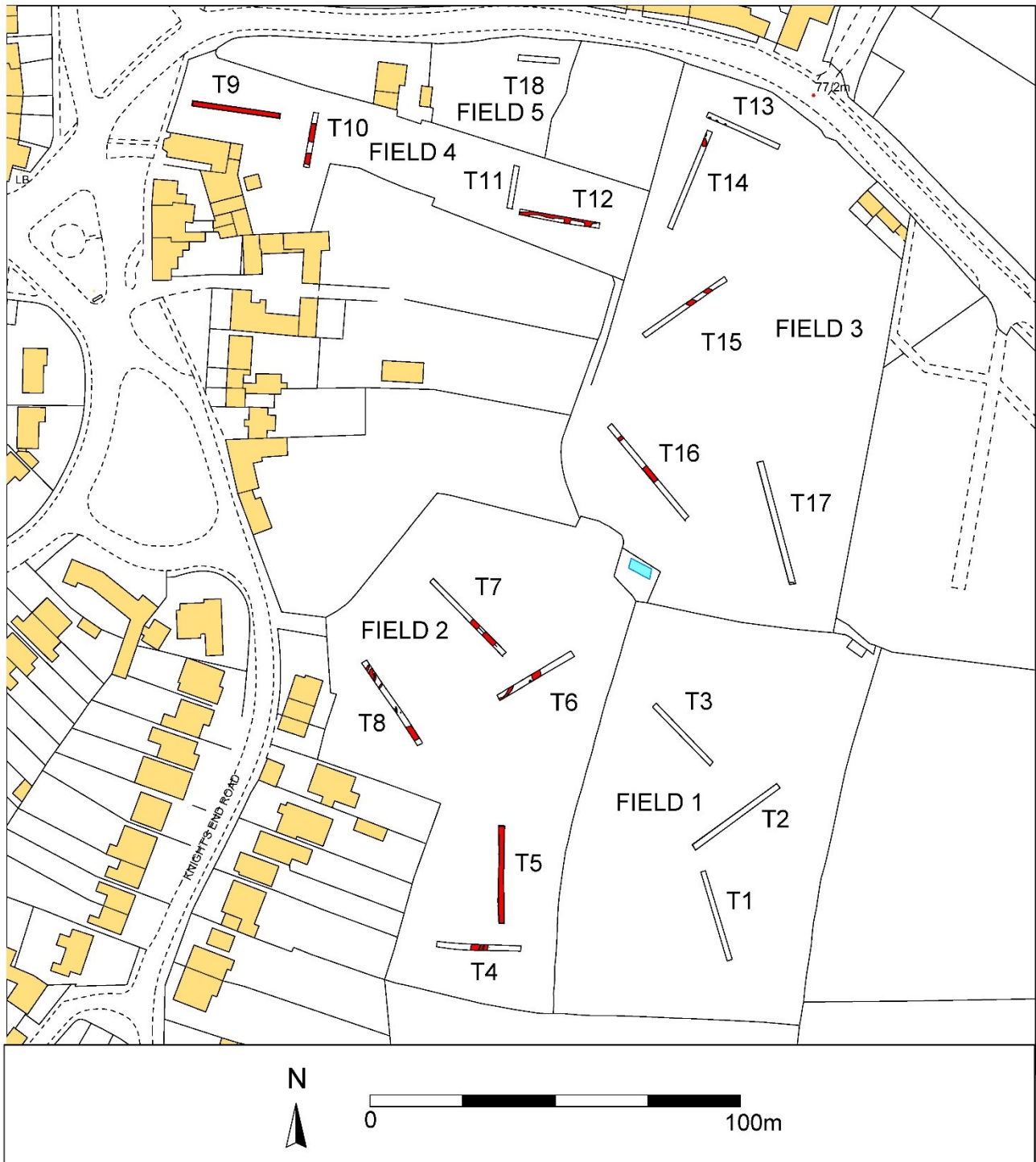


Figure 4: Trench plan, archaeological features shaded red

Table 1: Trench details

TRENCH	LENGTH (m)	WIDTH (m)	DESCRIPTION	DEPTH OF ARCHAEOLOGY (BELOW MODERN GROUND LEVEL (m))
1	30	1.8	No archaeological finds or deposits were identified.	NONE
2	30	1.8	No archaeological finds or deposits were identified.	NONE
3	30	1.8	No archaeological finds or deposits were identified.	NONE
4	30	1.8	Four ditches, ditch [2], fill (101). Recut [3] of ditch [2] (102). Ditch [4], filled with (104). Ditch [5], filled with (105).	0.4-0.48
5	30	1.8	Three layers: (142), over layer (143), and layer (145).	0.5
6	30	1.8	Ditch [1], filled with (100). Posthole [7], filled with (107).	0.3-0.4
7	30	1.8	Ditch [16], fill (127). Ditch [17], fill (127). Ditch [18], fill (127). Layer (135) over ditches [17 and [18].	0.3
8	30	1.8	Gully [11], fill (127). Posthole [12], fill (129). Posthole [13], fill (129). Gully [14], fill (130). Ditch [15], fill (131). Gully [19], fill (136). Pit [20], fill (137). Pit [21], primary fill (139), secondary fill (138). Gully [22], fill (140). Pit [23], fill (144). Gully [24], fill (144).	0.5
9	30	1.8	Gully [9], fill (111). Posthole [10], fill (123). Lens of silt and charcoal (112). Clay and pebble layer (113). Compact ironstone layer (114). Mid grey-brown silty clay layer (115), possibly subsoil. Clay and pebble layer (116). Crushed ironstone layer (117). Reddish-brown clay and ironstone, some charcoal (118). Large compact pebbles in a yellow-grey matrix (119). Mixed stony layer, mid grey-brown clay (120). Mid to dark grey-brown silty-clay and ironstone (121). Compact mixed stony layer (122).	0.4-0.6
10	16	1.8	Cobble surface (109). Layer (110), lay over cobble surface (109). Ditch [8], fill (108). Pit [42], fill (162).	0.2
11	12	1.8	No archaeological finds or deposits were identified.	NONE
12	30	1.8	Ditch [37], fill (155). Ditch [38], fill (156). Ditch [39], fill (157). Feature [41], primary fill (160), secondary fill (161).	0.5-0.6
13	30	1.8	Pit [25], fill (124). Pit [26], fill (125). Pit [27], fill (146)	0.45-0.5
14	30	1.8	Pit [29], fill (147). Pit [30], fill (148).	0.35-0.52
15	30	1.8	Ditch [31], (fill 149), land drain in base. Ditch [32], (fill 150). Ditch [33], (fill 151).	0.4-0.55
16	30	1.8	Ditch [28], (fill 126). Ditch [34], (fill 152). Ditch [35], (fill 153)	0.4-0.6
17	30	1.8	No archaeological finds or deposits were identified.	NONE
18	12	1.8	No archaeological finds or deposits were identified.	NONE



### 6.1 Field 1

Field 1 contained three trenches. No archaeological deposits were identified in any of the trenches. Ridge and furrows were visible across the field in a NNE-SSW direction, as shown in the geophysical and LiDAR surveys (see Section 3). One sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the subsoil in Trench 1.

### 6.2 Field 2

Field 2 contained five trenches (4-8). Archaeological finds and deposits were identified in all trenches. Ridge and furrow was visible across the field, orientated NNE-SSW. It was not present at the north-end, an area believed to be a former stream (Beamish 2016, 11).

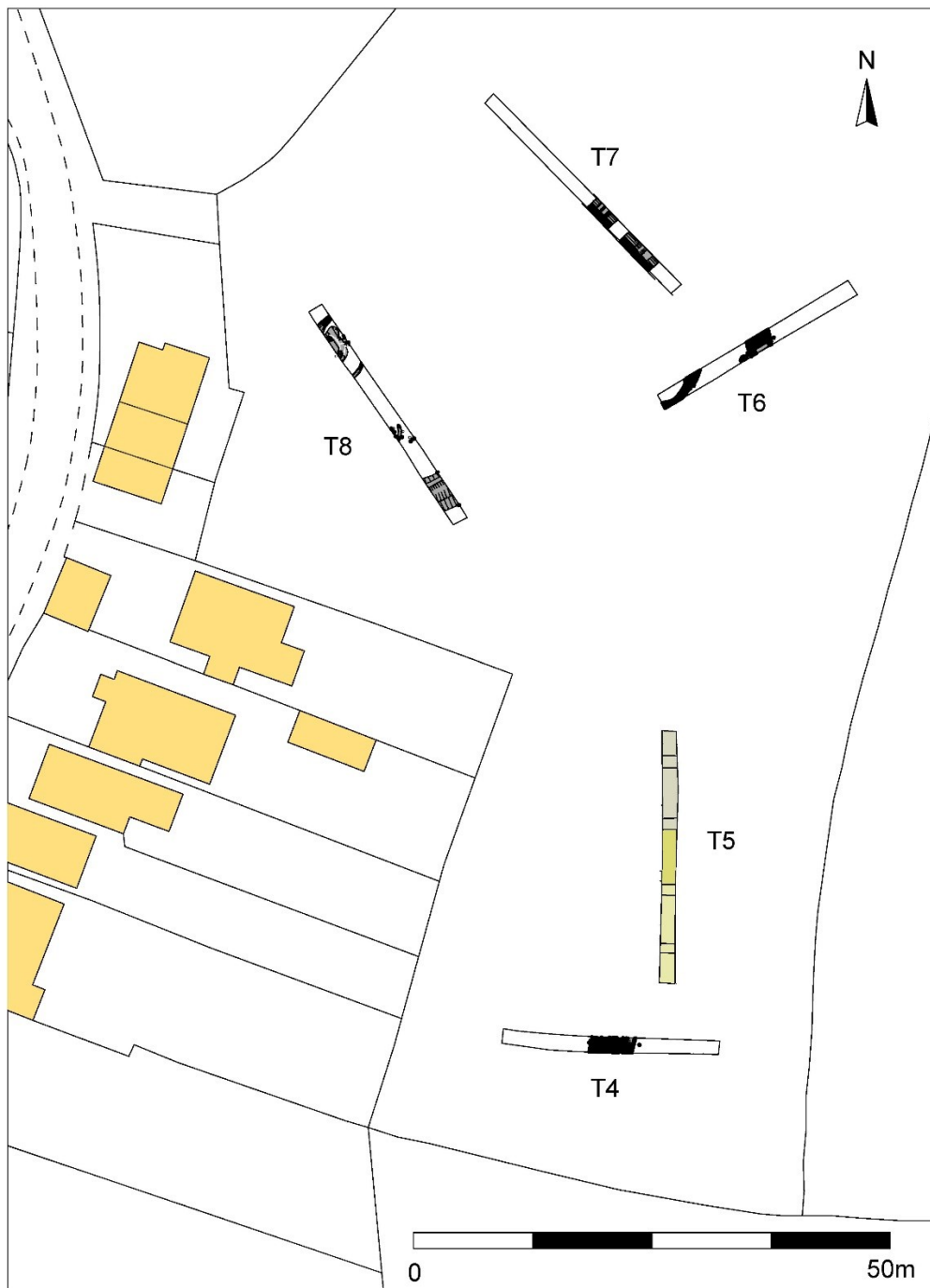


Figure 5: Field 2

*Trench 4*

Four ditches were centrally located in the trench. All were orientated N-S. Ditch [2] was 2.4m wide and 0.38m deep. It had gently sloping sides and rounded base. It contained a single fill (101). This consisted of a mid red-brown grey silty-clay, it contained no finds. The ditch was recut [3]. This was only 1m wide and 0.4m deep. It contained a mid grey-brown silt-clay (102). Within this were 9 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery. Ditch [4], cut into ditch [2]. It was 0.97m wide and 0.24m deep. It contained a mid grey-brown silt-clay (104). Within this were 2 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, and animal bones fragments (horse, large mammal). Adjacent to this was a further ditch [5]. This was 1m wide and 0.4m deep. It contained a mid-light grey-brown silt-clay (105). Within this were 7 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery. The ditches correspond to a linear seen in the geophysical greyscale plot (Figure 2).

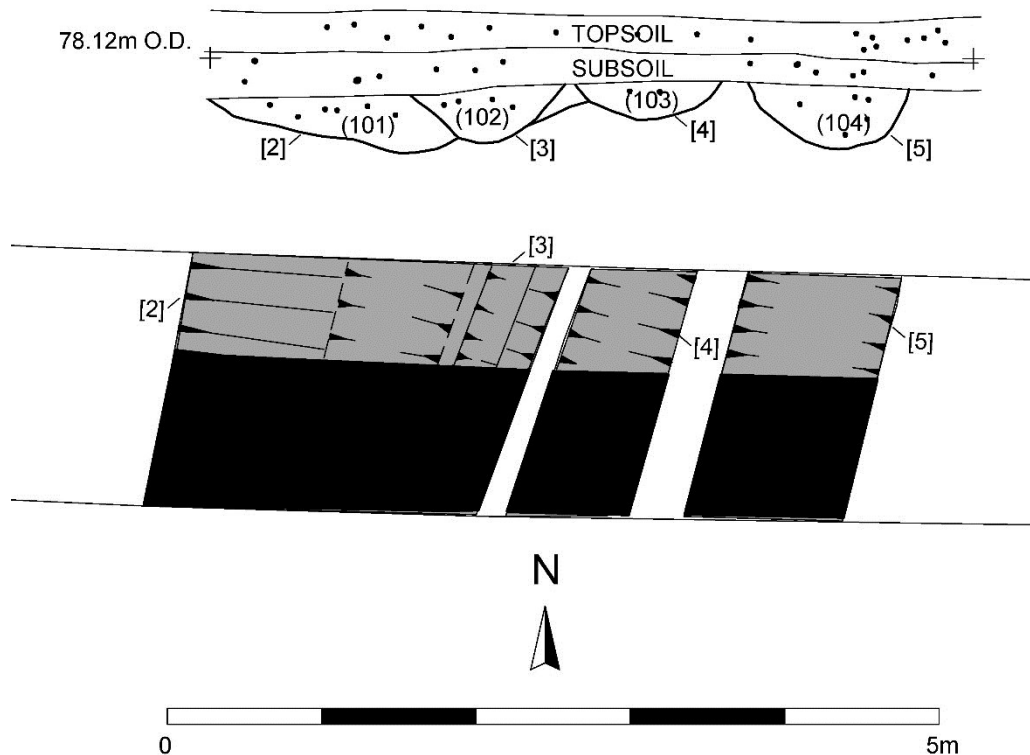


Figure 6: Plan and section of features in Trench 4

*Trench 5*

The trench contained a series of three layers forming an earth bank. The trench was located over an earthwork bank, seen in the both the geophysical and LiDAR surveys (see Section 3). Four 1m sondages were excavated at regular intervals along the trench to understand the archaeological layers present. The uppermost layer (142) consisted of a yellow-brown silt-clay, it contained no finds. Below this was layer (143), consisting of mid grey-brown silt-clay. Within this were six sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery and animal bone fragments (cattle, large mammal). Layer (145) consisted of light yellow-brown silt-clay. Within this were eight sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, and animal bones (sheep/goat). These layers may relate to upcast during construction for a pond, the location of which is visible on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (see Baker 2016, 17). The bank is visible as an earthwork, and highlighted in the LiDAR survey ('D' on Figure 3).

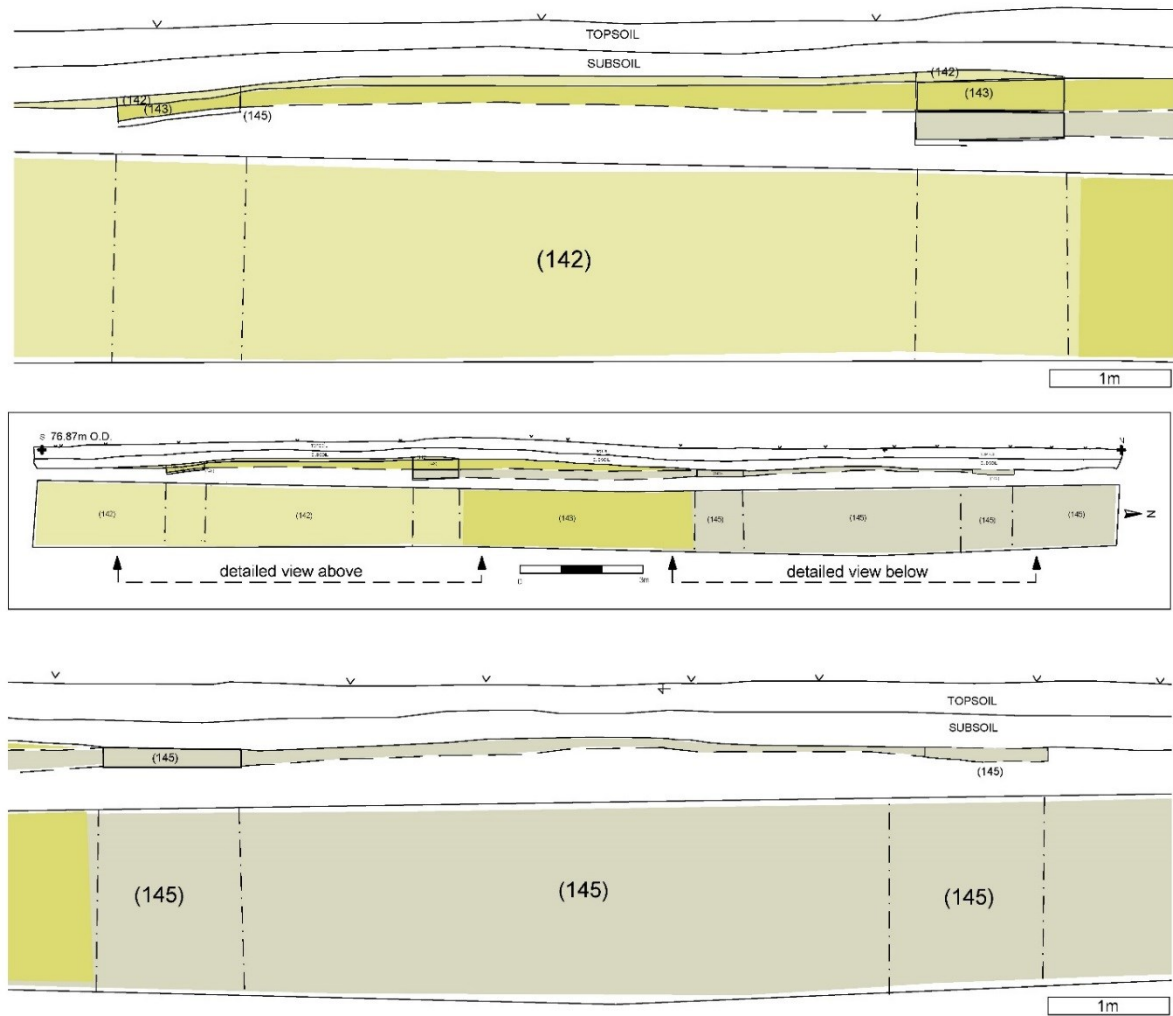


Figure 7: Plan and profile of trench 5



Figure 8: View of layers in Trench 5

### Trench 6

Trench 6 contained three archaeological features, these consisted of a two ditches ([1] and [6]), and a posthole [7]. Ditch [1] was roughly centrally located within the trench, it was orientated NNW-SSE, it had very gradually sloping sides. It was 1.68m wide and 0.2m deep. It was filled with a mid grey-brown clay-silt (100). Within this were 24 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery. Adjacent to this was a oval-shaped posthole [7], this measured 0.69m by 0.4m, and 0.14m deep. Within this was a mid to light grey-brown clay-silt (107). Some large limestone and cobbles present indicative of post-packing. Within this was one sherd of late Saxon-early medieval pottery. At the west-end of the trench was ditch [6], this was 0.85m wide, and 0.35m deep, it had steep concave sides. It was filled with a primary deposit of light yellow-brown clay (106), overlying this was a mid grey-brown clay-silt (105). The ditch section contained 16 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery.

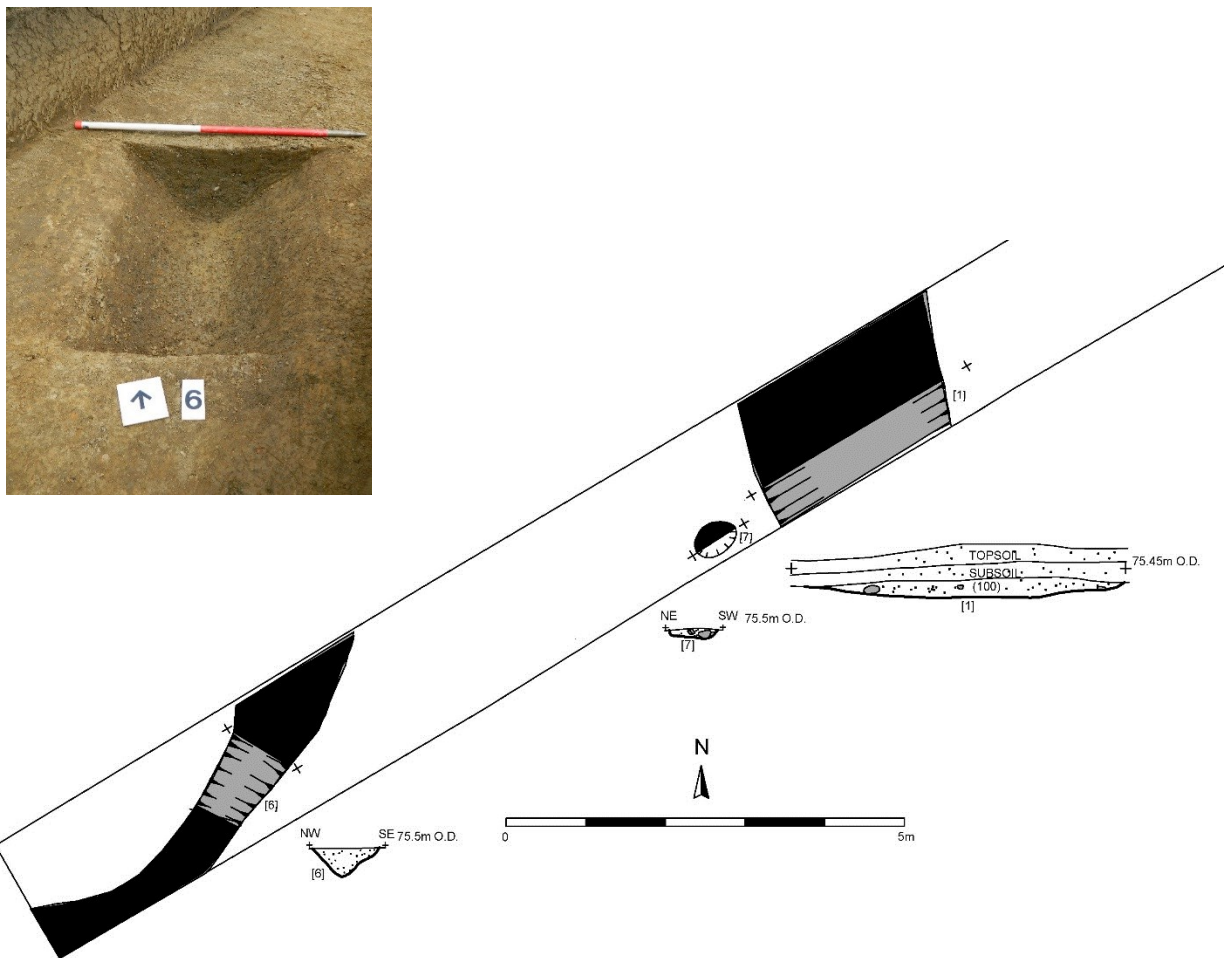


Figure 9: Trench 6, plan and sections, photo of ditch [6].

### Trench 7

Trench 7 contained three ditches ([16], [17], and [18]) all on a NE-SW alignment. They correspond with a positive geophysical anomaly that runs roughly NE-SW through the Site (Figure 2). Ditch [16] was 4.45m wide and its depth ranged from 0.1m to 0.4m. It had very gradually sloping sides and an irregular base. It was filled with a mid grey-brown silt-clay (132). Within this was 10 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, and charred plant remains (bread wheat grain, cereal grain, oat grain, bread wheat rachis, large grass seed, stinking mayweed, goosefoot, and unident.). Two metres to the north lay two further ditches ([17] and [18]). Ditch [18], was 1m wide and 0.8m deep. It had concave sides that broke to sharp, almost vertical, sides and a flat base. It contained a firm light brown-grey silt-

clay (134). Within this was one sherd of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, a worked flint flake, and animal bones (cattle, pig, large mammal). This ditch was cut by ditch [17], this had a similar profile and size to [17]. It contained a firm light grey-brown silt-clay (127). This contained no finds. Overlying both ditches was a dark grey-brown silt-clay layer (135). This seems to have accumulated in a depression over the ditches, it contained four sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, fired clay (burnt daub), and animal bones. The lower levels of ditches [17] and [18] were below the water table, and incoming water was a constant issue.

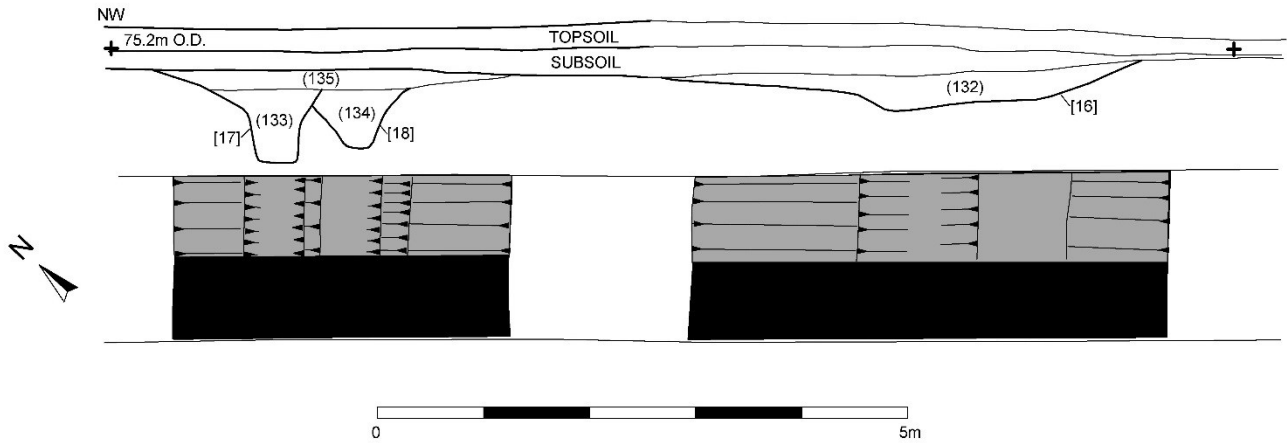


Figure 10: Plan and section of ditches in Trench 7



Figure 11: View of ditches [17] and [18], 1m scale

### *Trench 8*

Within Trench 8 eleven archaeological features were located ([11], [12], [13], [14], [15], [19], [20], [21], [22], [23], [24]).

At the north-end of the trench were seven archaeological features ([14], [19], [20], [21], [22], [23], [24]).

Gully [14], was curvilinear in plan, and orientated roughly NE-SW, it measured 0.37m wide and 0.12m deep. It contained a firm mid grey-brown silty-clay (130). Within this was one sherd of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, and animal bones (large mammal). A further gully [22] lay 5m north, this was similar to [14], ranging in width from 0.7 to 1m and 0.3m deep. It contained a firm mid grey-brown clay-silt (140), within this was three sherds of early medieval pottery, and animal bones. It is possible that these two are part of the same gully, perhaps forming a circular drainage gully of uncertain function. This is purely speculative, only further open-area excavation could clarify this. The geophysical survey results do not aid in the interpretation, simply showing ridge and furrow in this area.

Between the two gullies were a group of intercutting gullies and pits. Gully [19], was on a similar alignment to [14], it measured 0.64m wide and 0.17m deep. It contained a mid grey-brown clay-silt (136). Within this was six sherds of 12th century pottery, and animal bones (cattle). Gully [19] was cut by pit [20]. Pit [20] was heavily truncated by pit [21] and gully [24]. It contained a mid grey-brown clay-silt (137). Within this five sherds of early medieval pottery, and a worked flint flake. Gully [24] was orientated E-W and measured 0.6m wide and 0.22m deep. It contained a mid to dark grey-brown clay-silt (144), it contained no finds. It clearly cut pit [20], it may have been cut by pit [21]. Pit [21] was a large (oval?) pit, 2.5m wide and 0.65m deep. It contained a primary deposit of a mid to dark grey-brown clay-silt (139), and a secondary deposit of clay (138), perhaps sealing off the lower layer. 16 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, 10 sherds of 13th to 15th century pottery, fired clay (burnt daub), Roman roof tile, charred plant remains (bread wheat grain, cereal grain, oat, bread wheat rachis, vetch, dock), and animal bones (cattle) were recovered from the pit. Pit [23] was cut by pit [21], it was 1.4m wide and shallow (0.14m). It contained a light grey-brown clay-silt (144). Within this were two sherds of 12th-century pottery.

In the middle of the trench were a further three features ([11], [12], and [13]). Gully [11] was curvilinear, roughly N-S aligned and terminated, it was 0.33m wide and 0.16m deep. It contained a mid grey-brown silt-clay (127). Within this were five sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, and animal bones (pig). Two post-holes lay close to this and may be associated with the gully. Post-hole [12] was circular, measuring 0.27m in diameter and 0.1m deep. It contained a mid grey-brown clay-silt (128). Within this was one sherd of late Saxon-early medieval pottery. Post-hole [13] was a similar size (0.26m diameter, 0.09m deep). It contained a mid grey-brown clay-silt (129), it contained no finds.

Towards the south-end of the trench was ditch [15]. Ditch [15] was orientated NE-SW. It was *c.* 3m wide and 0.85m deep. It had gradually sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a friable mid grey-brown silt-clay (131). The lower levels of the ditch were below the water table, and incoming water was a constant issue. Within the fill there were 30 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, a worked lithic core, fired clay (burnt daub), charred plant remains (bread wheat type grain, cereal grain, bread wheat rachis, stinking mayweed, vetch, goosefoot), and animal bones (cattle, dog, horse, mammal). The ditch may be the same as one of the ditches in Trench 7 (a long NE-SW ditch running through Fields 2 and 3), though this is uncertain.

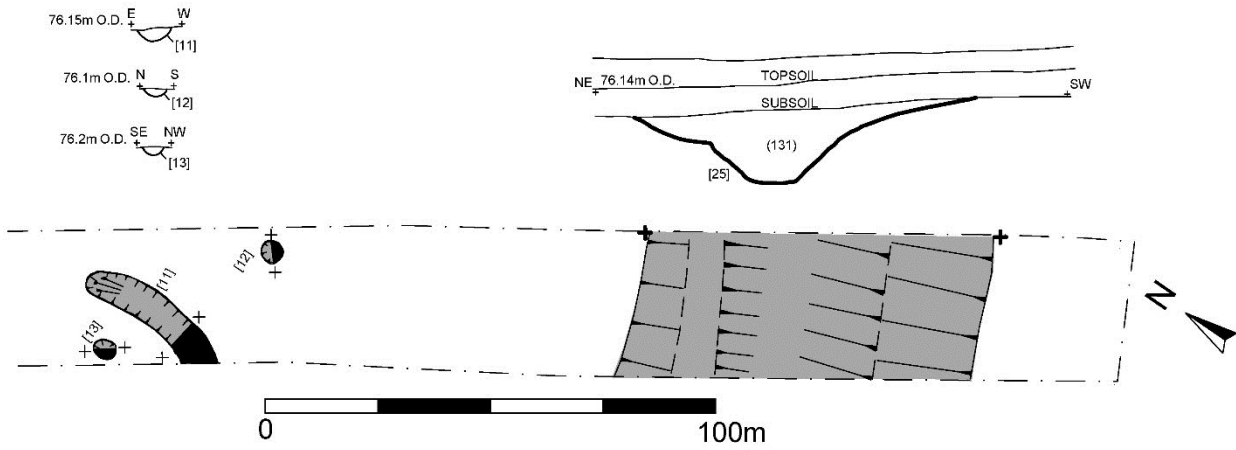
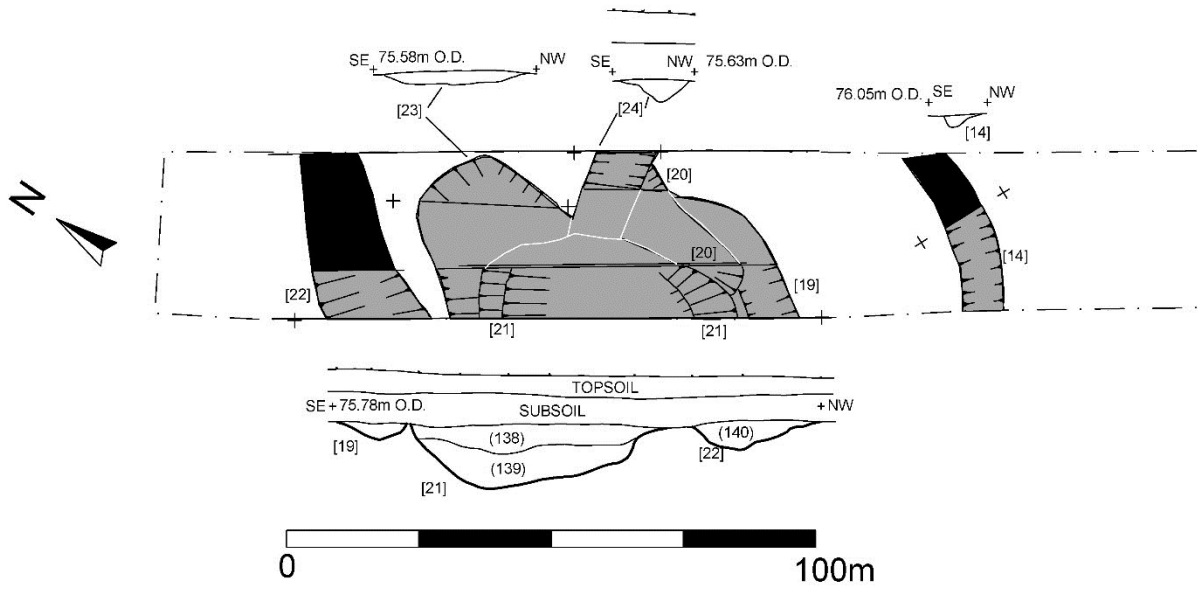


Figure 12: Trench 8, plan and sections



Figure 13: View of Trench 8 from NW-end, and ditch [15], 1m scale

### 6.3 Field 3

Five trenches were excavated in Field 3 (trenches 13-17), four contained archaeological features. Ridge and furrows were visible across the field in a E-W direction in the southern-half of the field, as shown in the geophysical and LiDAR surveys (see Section 3).

#### *Trench 13*

At the west-end of the trench were three shallow pits. Pit [25] was irregularly-shaped (only partly seen against the edge of the trench) 1.4m long and 0.12m deep. It contained a mid-grey silt-clay (124), it contained 12 sherds of 17th- to 18th-century pottery. An oval pit [26] lay to the west, it was 0.44m wide and 0.12m deep (again, only partly seen against the edge of the trench). It contained a firm light yellow silt-clay (125), two sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery were recovered from this. 1.5m along the trench was a shallow scoop pit [27], this was 0.35m diameter and 0.05m deep. It was filled with a light yellow-brown silt-clay (146), contained one sherd of 12th-century pottery. Within the topsoil, 36 sherds of early medieval pottery were recovered.

#### *Trench 14*

At the north-end of Trench 14 were two pits ([29] and [30]), they were around 3m south of the pits in Trench 13. Pit [29] was only partly seen against the edge of the trench, it was 0.7m by 0.3m and 0.1m deep. It contained a mid grey-brown silt-clay (147), it contained no finds. Immediately to the south was a larger pit [30], measuring 2m x 1.1m+, and 0.12m. It may be the same as pit [29], a ceramic land drain cut through and separated them. It contained a mid-grey-brown silt-clay (148), containing one sherd of 12th- to 14th-century pottery.

#### *Trench 15*

Trench 15 contained three ditches (all undated), all aligned approximately E-W. Ditch [31] measured 1.1m wide, 0.5m deep. It contained a compact light grey-brown silt-clay (149). A ceramic land drain was located in the base. This is probably a former field boundary, shown partly still existing on the 1st edition OS map (see Baker 2016, 17). Ditch (or gully) [32] was 0.35m wide and 0.14m, it contained a mid yellow-brown silt-clay (150). Ditch [33] was 0.8m wide and 0.3m deep. It contained a light yellow-grey silt-clay (151). It is likely that this ditch corresponds with a geophysical anomaly, a former field boundary '4' on Figure 2.

#### *Trench 16*

Four ditches were located within Trench 16, all correspond to geophysical anomalies ('1' on Figure 2), NNE-SSW orientated ditches, seen heading across the field. Ditch [28] was at the north-end of the trench. It measured 1.28m wide and 0.15m deep. It contained a light grey silt-clay (126), two sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, and fired clay (burnt daub) were recovered from this. 10.5m south were a series of ditches, recut on a very similar alignment. Ditch [34] was cut by [35], it was c.1.1m wide, 0.55m deep. Contained a firm dark grey-brown silt-clay (152), this contained three sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery. Ditch [35], appeared to cut ditches [34] and [36]. It measured 0.9m wide and 0.4m deep. It contained a firm dark brown-grey clay-silt (153). Within this was one sherd of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, and charred plant remains (bread wheat grain, pea, large grass seed, heath grass, stinking mayweed, clover, dock, unident. seed). Ditch [36] measured 1.2m wide and 0.4m deep, it contained a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay (154). Within this were six sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, fired clay (burnt daub), and animal bones (cattle, large mammal).



*Trench 17*

No archaeological deposits or finds were present within Trench 17.

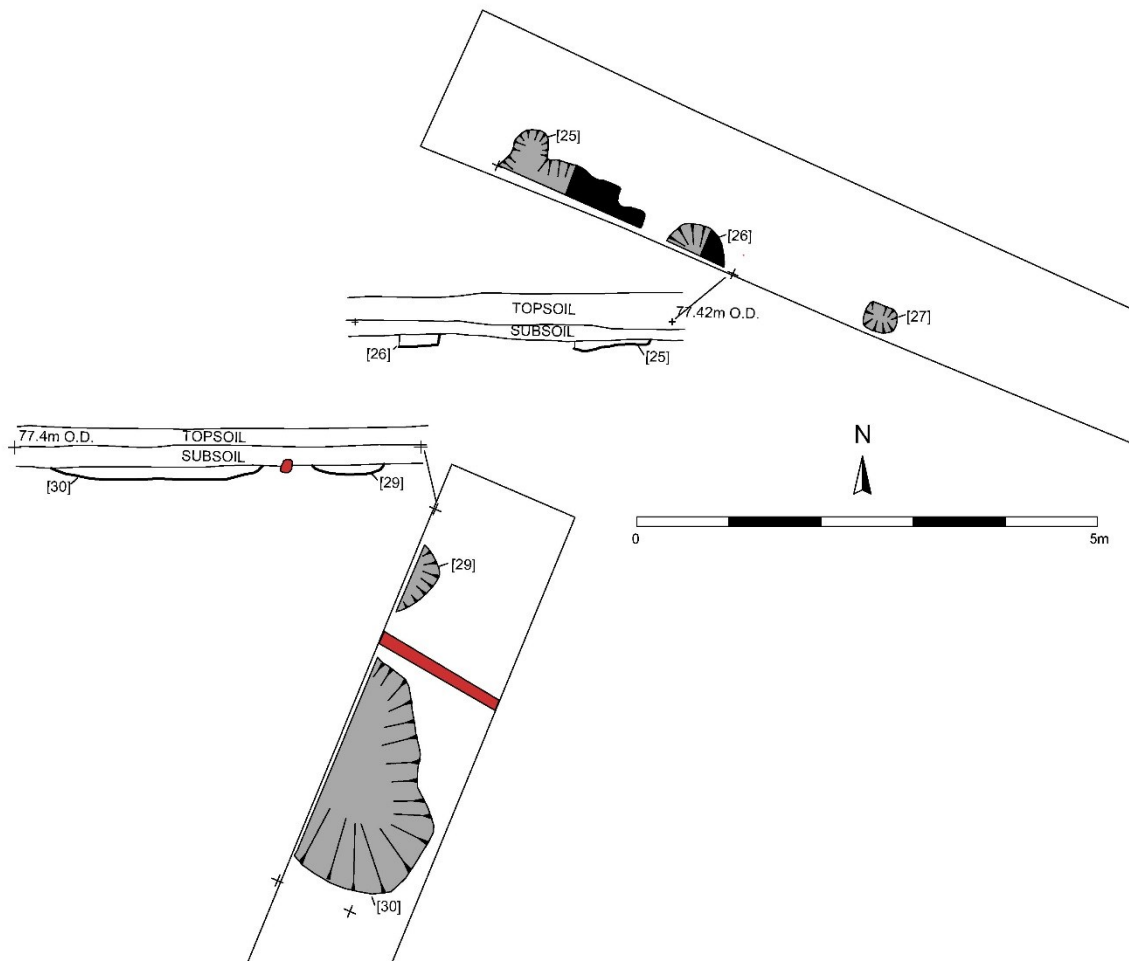


Figure 14: Plan and sections of Trenches 13 and 14



Figure 15: View of Trench 14, and detailed view of feature [30], 0.5m and 1m scales

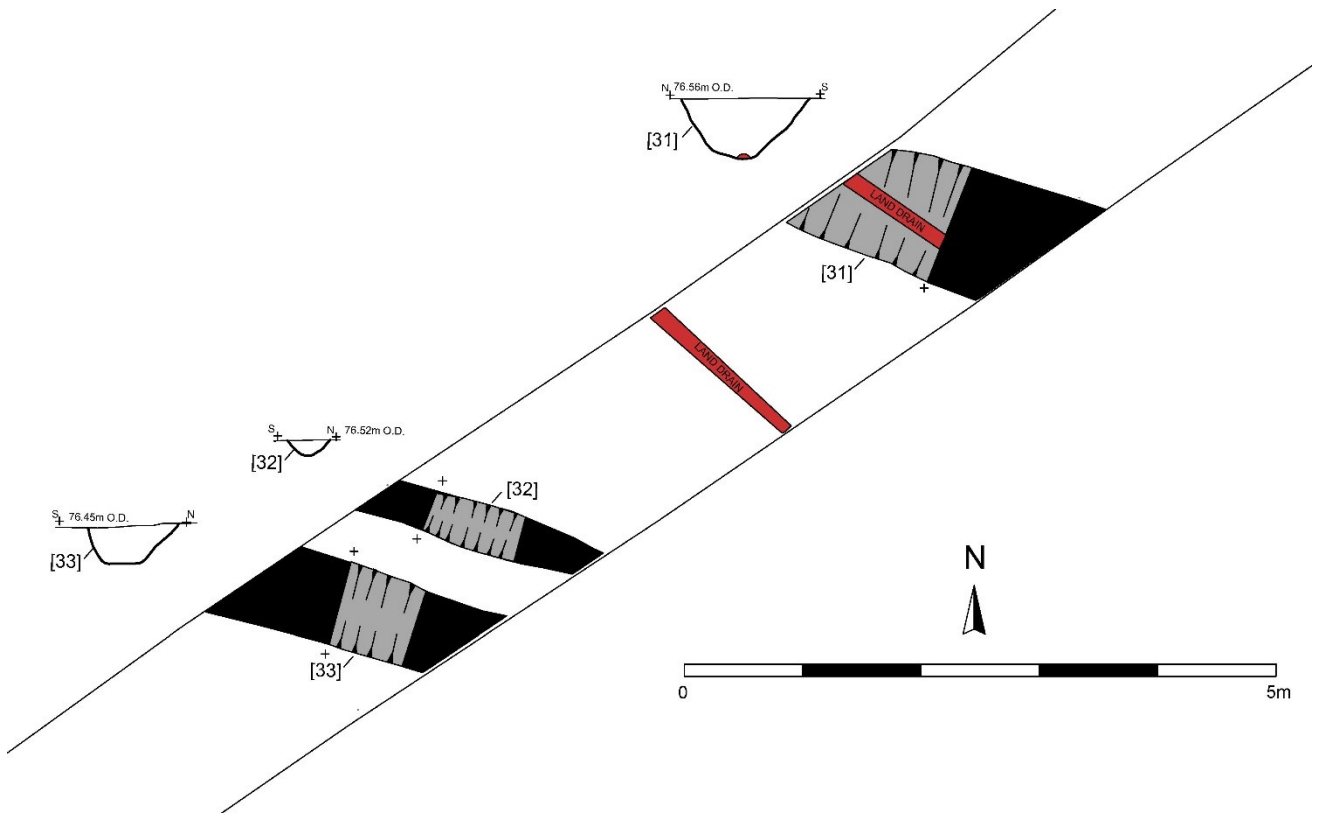


Figure 16: Plan and sections of Trench 15



Figure 17: View of ditches [32] and [33] within Trench 15, 0.5m scale

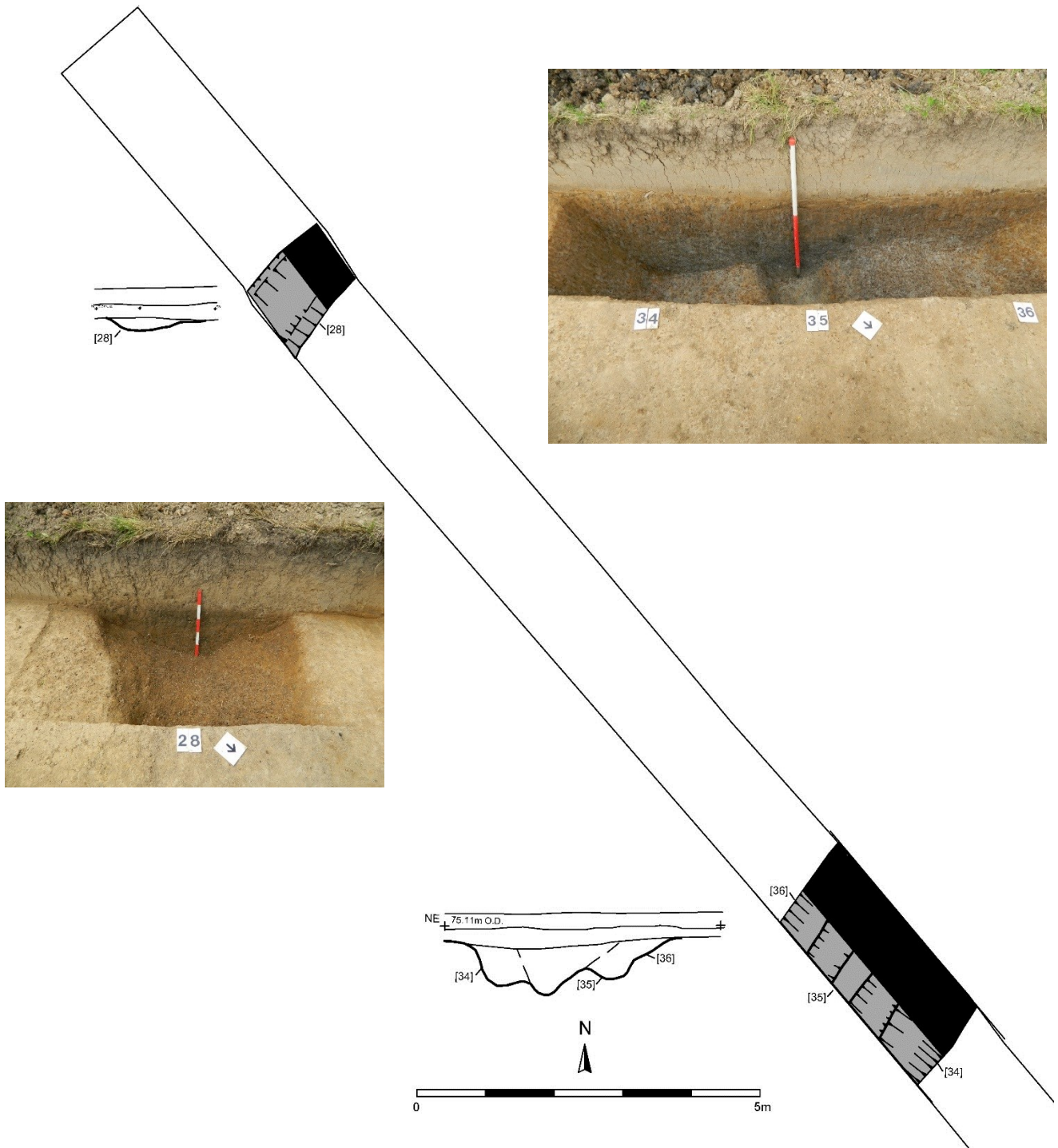


Figure 18: Trench 16, plan, sections, and photos

## 6.4 Field 4

Four trenches were excavated in Field 4, (trenches 9-12). Archaeological deposits were located in Trenches 9, 10, and 12.

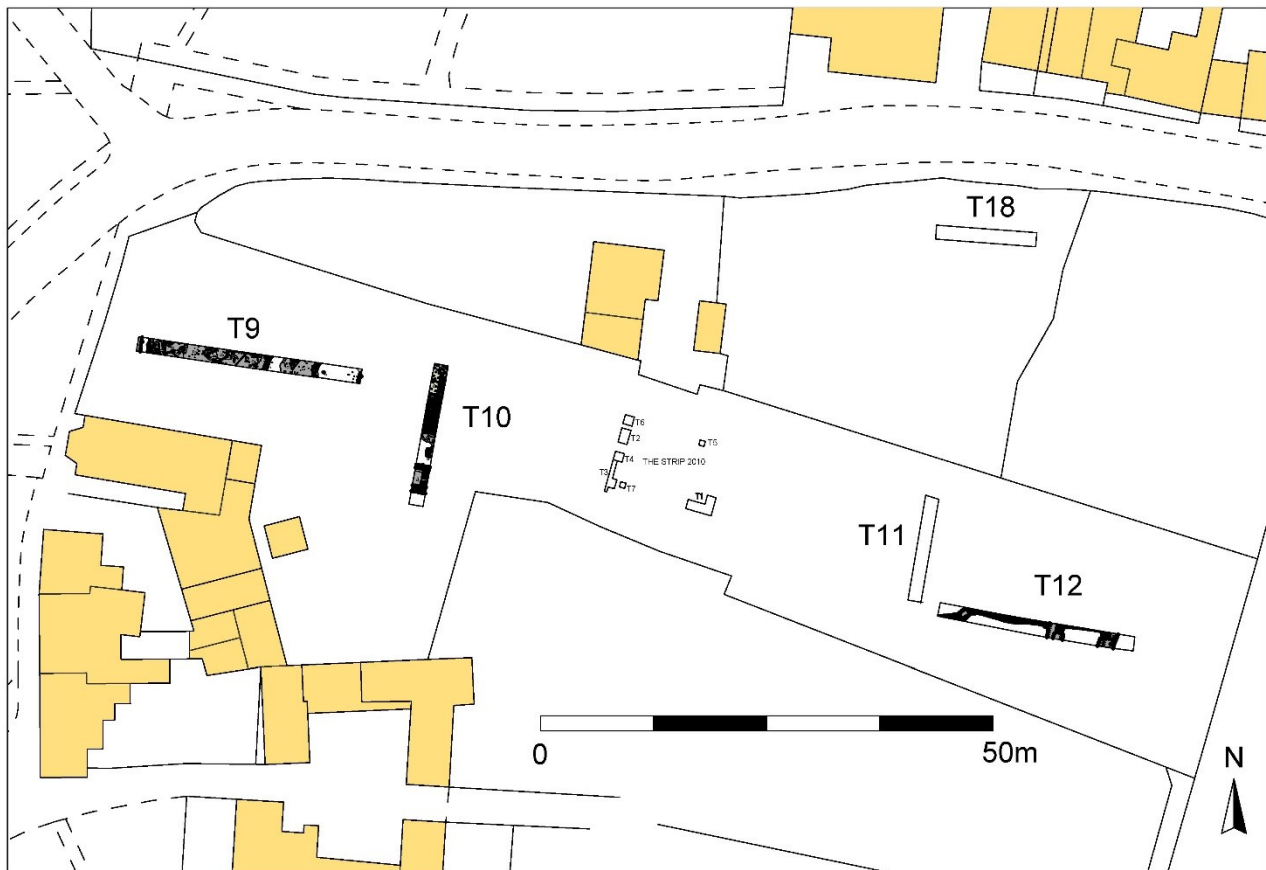


Figure 19: Field 4

### Trench 9

Trench 9 was located in the NW corner of the Site, at the west-end of Field 4. It was located over a magnetically strong linear anomaly on the geophysical survey, believed to be a modern trackway (see Figure 2). Within the trench a series of patches of cobble surfaces were seen across the entire trench. From west to east the following archaeological features were discovered:

At the far west-end of the trench a gully or pit [9], measured 1.5m in length. It contained a dark grey-brown clay-silt (111), within this were three sherds of a decorated jug, *c.*1200-1350. Lens of silt and charcoal (112) contained no finds. This overlay a clay and pebble layer (113). Within this were 10 sherds of AD 1250-1650 pottery. This was a cobbled surface placed within the natural clay. Below this was a compact ironstone layer (114), this contained no finds. This may have acted as a bedding layer for surface, or perhaps patching for (113). Mid grey-brown silty clay layer (115), possibly subsoil, was overlying cobbled surface (116). It contained one sherd of AD 1450-1550 pottery. Clay and pebble layer (116) contained no finds, it may have been the same cobbled surface as (113). Overlying (116) was a crushed ironstone layer (117), this contained no finds. It is the latest surface in the sequence of surfaces, it corresponds with the magnetically strong linear anomaly on the geophysical survey, believed to be a modern trackway running from the field entrance in the NW corner towards the village hall to the south. Below this was a reddish-brown clay and ironstone, some charcoal (118), it contained no finds. This may have been bedding for the cobbled layer above (117). Below (117) and (118) was a layer consisting of large compact pebbles in natural (119). Within this were five sherds of 17th to 18th-century pottery. This may be the same cobbled surface as (113) and (116). A land drain cut through the middle. Further remnants of the cobbled surface lay to the east

(120), this was likely to have been the same as (119). Below this was a mid to dark grey-brown silty-clay and ironstone (121), one sherd of AD 1450-1550 pottery was recovered from this. This layer appeared more like a compacted layer between surfaces. A similar compact mixed stony layer (122) was adjacent to this.

A modern posthole [10], lay to the east of this, it contained a mid to dark grey-brown silt-clay (123). Glazed china pottery was recovered from this.

These cobble surfaces likely relate to a cobble trackway, access was from the street through the red brick gate piers in the NW corner of the field. The finds recovered indicate some medieval activity. The cobble surfaces appear to be post-medieval, perhaps spanning the mid-15th century through to the 18th century, and up to more recent times (modern brick hardcore with some asbestos sheets was located in the middle of the trench). Parts of the cobbled trackway may relate to the trackway in Trench 10.

### *Trench 10*

Within trench 10 a well-defined cobble surface (109), c.10m wide, was located. It appears to have been aligned approximately E-W. It was constructed of ironstone and granite cobbles, along with smaller stones. A small area was excavated (0.2m<sup>2</sup>), the layer was 0.1m thick. They were set within the natural clay substratum. Within the cobbles were five amorphous fragments from a brick of uncertain date, and one sherd of 17th to 18th century pottery. The cobble surface was relatively flat, but sloped gently downwards towards the north-end. Layer (110), lay over cobble surface (109), it consisted of compact silty-clay. Within this were two sherds of 12th to mid-16th century pottery, and animal bones (large mammal). Underlying the cobble surface at its southern end was pit [42]. This was oval-shaped, measuring 1.15m by 0.7m and 0.4m deep. It contained a dark greenish-brown silty-clay (162). Within this were fragments of animal bones (horse, large mammal). At the south-end of the trench was ditch [8], this was approximately E-W aligned, and measured 2.8m wide and 1.3m deep. It contained a mid grey-brown silt-clay (108). Within this were four sherds of 13th to 14th century pottery, and charred plant remains (bread wheat grain, cereal grain, cereal/grass embryo, goosefoot, unident. seed). The ditch is on the same alignment as the southern edge of the field, and may represent a former field boundary subsequently backfilled. The cobbled surface (109) may be the same as one of the cobble surfaces seen in Trench 9, and cobbles seen in an earlier excavation 20m east (see Section 8).

### *Trench 11*

No archaeological deposits were present in Trench 11.

In the topsoil four metal objects were retrieved from a metal detector survey, these include: a copper alloy shoe buckle (AD 1350 and 1450); a modern plain copper alloy disc; a modern plain copper alloy counter with Roman numerals XV; and a modern copper alloy disc button.

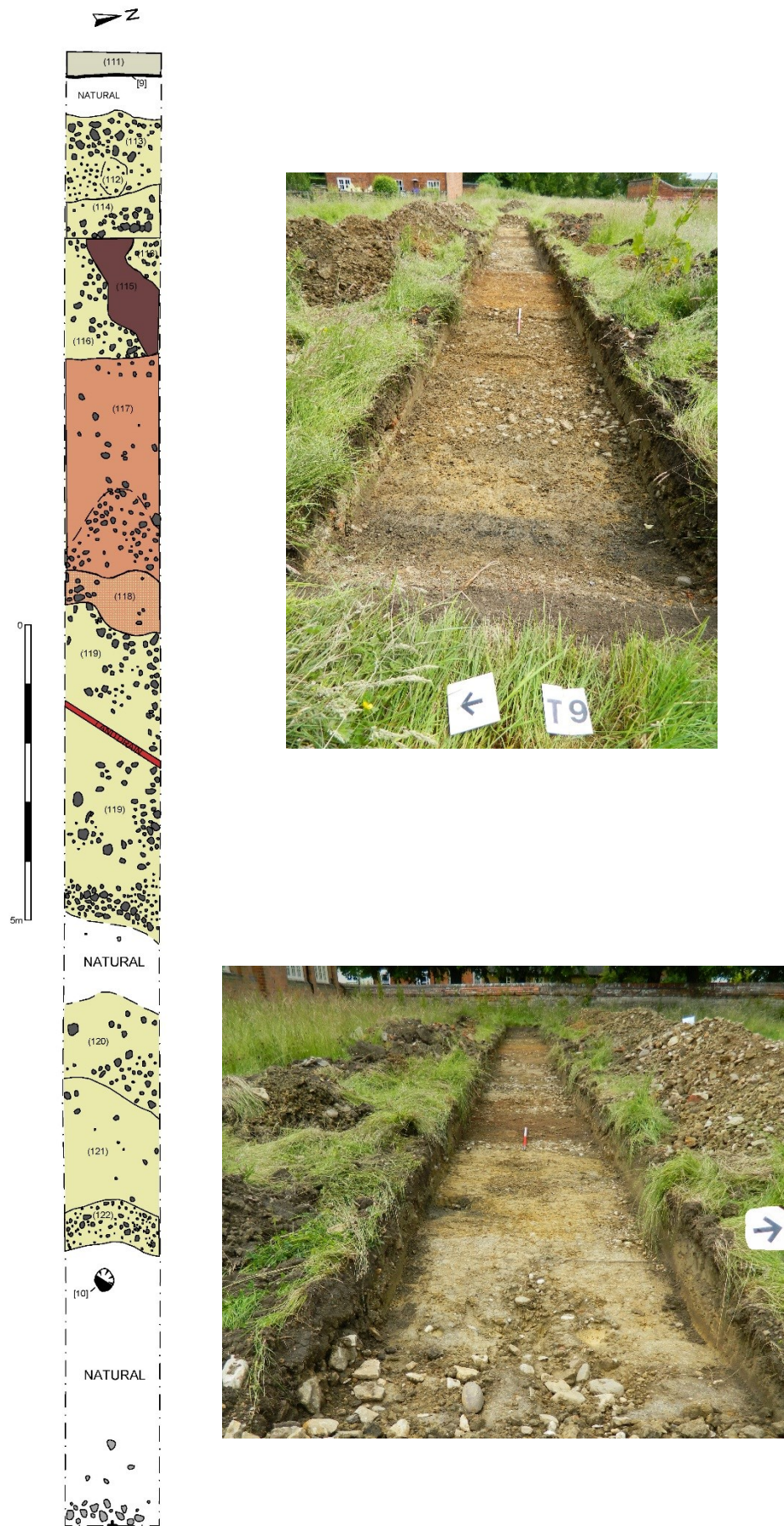


Figure 20: Plan of Trench 9, and views from west-end (top), and east-end (bottom), 1m scale

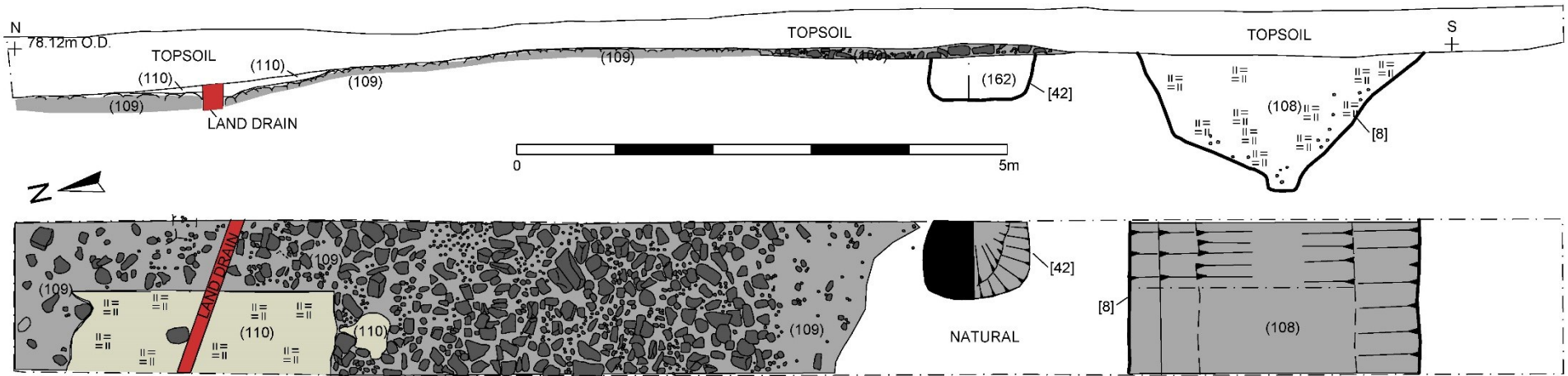


Figure 21: Plan and section of archaeological features in Trench 10



Figure 22: View of cobble surface (L), pit [42] (M), and ditch [8] (R)

### *Trench 12*

Trench 12 contained four archaeological features (Figure 23), these consisted of an E-W ditch [37], and three NNE-SSW ditches ([39], [40], and [41]).

Ditch [37] (same as [38]) was generally orientated E-W, but was sinuous and only part of the ditch was visible running along the length of the trench. It had concave sides and rounded base, and measured 0.93m wide, and 0.33m deep. It contained a firm mid grey-brown silt-clay (155), within this fragments of animal bones (from a large mammal) were recovered. Further east along the trench the ditch connected with NNE-SSW ditch [39]. The relationship between the two was excavated, but no difference in either fill could be seen. Ditch [39] was orientated NNE-SSW, its width was uncertain (it was cut by [40]), it was 0.31m deep. It contained a firm light grey-brown silt-clay (157), one sherd of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, along with animal bones (horse) were recovered from this. Ditch [40] was a re-cut of [39], its width was 1.42m and depth 0.34m. It contained a primary deposit of firm light grey-brown silt-clay (158), and a secondary deposit of firm mid grey-brown silt-clay (159). Both contained no finds. Four metres to the east was another ditch on broadly the same alignment, ditch [41] was 1.7m wide and 0.38m deep. There was some root disturbance from nearby trees. The ditch contained a primary deposit of firm mid to light silt-clay (160), and a secondary deposit of mid grey-brown silt-clay (161). It contained one sherd of medieval pottery, and a worked flint flake.

### **6.5 Field 5**

One trench (18) was located in field 5, no archaeological deposits were present. Within the topsoil four sherds Roman pottery, four sherds of early medieval pottery, and four sherds of post-medieval and modern pottery were recovered.



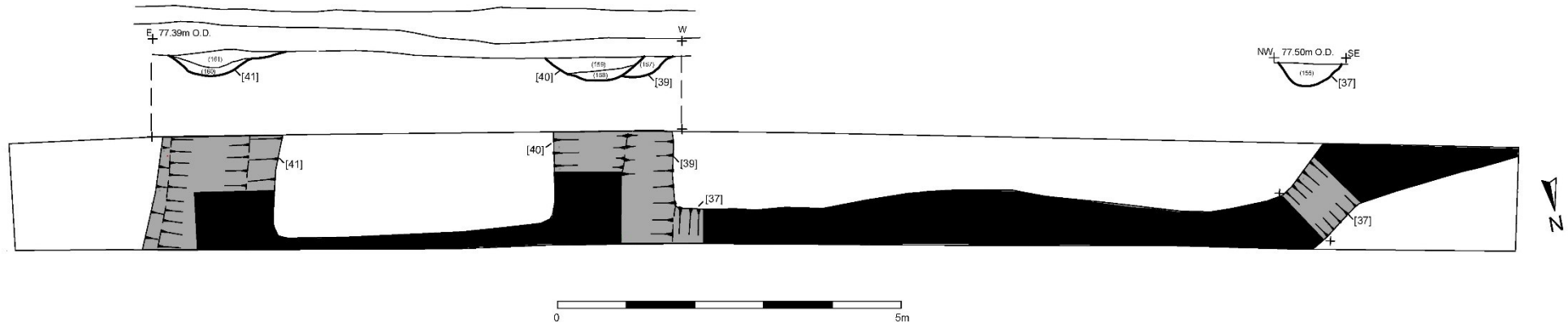


Figure 23: Trench 12 plan and sections



Figure 24: Views of ditches [41], [39], and [37].

## **7. Finds**

The trial trench evaluation recovered a range of artefacts including Roman pottery, plaster, ceramic and stone building material, glass, a nail; medieval and post-medieval pottery and a late medieval jeton; animal and human bone; and charred plant remains. This section contains the catalogue, analysis, and report of each.

### ***7.1 Pottery (by Debbie Sawday and Nicholas J Cooper)***

#### *Overview*

A total of 219 sherds (2050g) of pottery was recovered from stratified contexts during the evaluation, the majority of which dates to the Late Saxon and early medieval period (c.AD850-1250), with four sherds of later Roman pottery occurring residually, and later medieval and post-medieval material found in certain contexts. The pottery has been analysed in accordance with the Leicestershire Roman and medieval pottery fabric series (Pollard 1994; Davies and Sawday 1999) and quantified by sherd count and weight by context (Table 1).

The Late Saxon and early medieval assemblage is dominated by Stamford ware (Fabric ST1-3) cooking pots and those in oolitic and shell-tempered wares (Fabrics OL and CS) typical of Northamptonshire. Other notable wares include a Lyveden decorated jug (Fabric LY1) from (111) and sherds of Bourne ware from South Lincolnshire. The later medieval and post medieval material includes Cistercian Ware (Fabric CW) from (110) and (115), and earthenwares (Fabric EA) from (109) and (119), respectively. Overall, the assemblage indicates the presence of well-stratified deposits of this date across the site, and the potential for a substantial rural group of material for research if further work takes place on the site.

## Analysis

Table 2: The pottery spot dates

Context	Major fabric/ware	No	Gr	Comments – terminal date
Subsoil T1	C2NV (Nene valley CC)	1	25	Roman. Plain rim dish 4th century
100 T6	ST2/3, OL, CS	24	210	Late Saxon/Early Med Stamford jar rims
102, T4	OL/CS (medieval oolitic/shelly)	9	15	Late Saxon/Early Med. Abraded
103 T4	CS (med shelly), GW5 (Roman resid),	2	17	Late Saxon/Early Med
104	OL/CS (med shelly)	1	8	Late Saxon/Early Med
105 T6	ST2/3	7	26	Late Saxon/Early Med
106 T6	OL/CS (med oolitic/shelly)	9	33	Late Saxon/Early Med
107 T6	ST	1	5	Late Saxon/Early Med
108 [8]	MS CS (shelly) + 1x GW5 (resid Roman)	4	41	13th – 14th C
109	EA2	1	8	17-18th C+
110	OL, CW	2	7	12th - 1450/75-1550
111 T9	LY1	3	223	Decorated jug, c.1200-1350
113	CS, BO1/2	10	173	1250-1650 – includes later med cistern frags
115 T9	CW	1	6	1450/75-1550
119 T9	EA1, EA6. EA7, MB	5	157	17th - 18th C
121 T9	BO1	1	25	c.1450-c.1650
124 T13	CS, MS, BO1	12	139	13th – mid 17th C
125 T13	CS	2	17	Late Saxon/Early Med - join
126 T16	LI, CS	2	33	Late Saxon rouletted jar rim
127 T8	ST2/3, ST1/ CS (shelly)	5	20	Late Saxon/Early Med
128	ST3	1	12	Late Saxon/Early Med
130 T8	SN	1	2	Late Saxon/Early Med
131 [15] T8	ST, OL, CS (shelly)	30	228	Late Saxon/Early Med
132 [16] T7	ST2/3, OL	10	72	Late Saxon/Early Med
134 [18] T7	ST2/3	1	13	Late Saxon/Early Med
135 [17/18]	ST, CS (shelly)	4	34	Late Saxon/Early Med
136 T8	ST1, CS (shelly)	6	25	12th C+
137 T8	CS, OS	5	62	Early med – decorated jar trim
138 T8	ST, OL CS (shelly)	16	60	Late Saxon/Early Med
139 T8	CS, OL	10	130	13th – 15th C
140 T8	ST1, PM	3	29	Early med
141 T8	OL, ST1	2	9	12th C+ fine rim with glaze
143 T5	ST, SN, CS	6	20	Late Saxon/Early Med
145 T5	CS, OL (+ GW5 resid x1)	8	52	Late Saxon/Early Med
146 [27]	ST1	1	6	12th C+
148 [30]	CS/PM	1	21	12th -14th C jar rim
152 T16	CS	3	19	Jar rim, abraded Late Saxon/Early Med
153 T16	CS	1	8	Jar rim, abraded Late Saxon/Early Med
154 T16	OL, CS,	6	33	Late Saxon/Early Med
157 [39]	CS (shelly)	1	16	Late Saxon/Early Med
161 T12	CS (shelly)	1	11	Early med , jar
<b>Totals</b>		<b>219</b>	<b>2050</b>	

Late Saxon = AD 850 – 1150

Early medieval = AD 1100 – 1250

### *Unstratified Pottery*

A total of 630g of unstratified pottery was recovered from the following trenches. It has not been recorded in detail because of its lack of context but has been scanned to give an impression of date. In general, it reflects the dating of the stratified material from those trenches and, where features of that date may have been disturbed by ploughing, it may add information about the previous existence of such features, or the potential depth of those which have been heavily truncated.

Trench 5. Five sherds ST and OL 44g

Trench 6. Two sherds ST 30g

Trench 7. Two joining sherds of a rim with thumbled edge in a Late Saxon reduced sandy fabric 20g

Trench 9. Two sherds in CS (shelly) or OL. 25g

Trench 13. 36 sherds (270g) mainly CS (shelly) and OL.

Trench 14. 1sherd in OL/CS shelly 35g

Trench 18. Four sherds Roman GW (35g). 1 early medieval cooking pot rim PM (Potters Marston) and 3 sherds OL 120g. Four sherds (40g) post-medieval and modern earthenware.

### *References*

Davies, S. and Sawday, D., 1999, 'The post-Roman pottery and tile' in A. Connor and R. Buckley *Roman and Medieval Occupation at Causeway Lane, Leicester*. Leicester Archaeology Monograph 5, 165-213. Leicester: University of Leicester School of Archaeological Studies.

Pollard, R., 1994 The Iron Age and Roman Pottery in P. Clay and R. Pollard *Iron Age and Roman Occupation in the West Bridge Area, Leicester; Excavations 1962-71*, 51-114. Leicester: Leicestershire County Council, Museums, Arts and Records Service.

### **7.2 Metal objects (by Nicholas Cooper)**

Five unstratified copper-alloy objects were recovered by metal detector, one from Trench 10 and four from Trench 11, and are catalogued as follows.

#### Trench 10

1) Cast copper-alloy disc button with base of integral loop preserved. Diameter 27mm. Modern

#### Trench 11

2) Copper-alloy shoe buckle of double oval form with iron pin. Length 21mm, width 18mm. Shoe buckles of this type become fashionable between 1350 and 1450 (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 86).

3) Plain copper-alloy disc diameter 26mm. Modern.

4) Plain copper alloy with Roman numerals XV (15) crudely inscribed on the centre of one face. Diameter 26mm. Presumably used as a counter. Modern.

5) Cast copper-alloy disc button with one face coated in a white metal plating. Reverse has base of an integral loop. Diameter 25mm. Modern

### *Reference*

Egan, G. and Pritchard, F., 1991 *Medieval Dress Accessories from Excavations in London c.1150-c.1450*. Museum of London. London: HMSO.

### **7.3 Other stratified finds (by Nicholas J. Cooper)**

A fragment of fuel ash (27g) was recovered from (126).

Small fragments of fired clay (burnt daub) from wattle and daub structures, were recovered from (126) 16g, (131) 15g, (135) 15g, (138) 65g, and (154) 8g.

A single fragment of Roman *tegula* flanged roofing tile (90g) was also recovered from (138) and five amorphous fragments from a brick (320g) of uncertain date came from (109).

In addition, two amorphous fragments (85g) from a Niedermendig basalt rotary quern were found unstratified. Such querns were imported from the Eifel mountains in Germany during the Roman and early medieval period.

### **7.4 Animal Bone (by Jennifer Browning)**

#### *Introduction and Methods*

Stratified hand-recovered animal bones recovered during trial trenching at Great Bowden were examined to assess preservation, variety and provide an indication of the faunal potential, should the site progress to excavation. The bones were recovered from ditches, gullies and pits dating to the Late Saxon and medieval period. The bones were examined macroscopically and their preservation was assessed using criteria defined by Harland et al (2003).

#### *The Assemblage*

Animal bones, numbering 114 specimens, were recovered from 17 different contexts across eight trenches. Bone surfaces had suffered some abrasion and were generally in fair condition (72%), with fewer considered to be in 'good' (25%) A small number of bones (n=4) were in poor condition (4%) and one appeared to have acid erosion, possibly as a result of digestion. Six bones showed signs of gnawing. More than half of the bones were undiagnostic fragments probably belonging to a few fragmented bones; 26% of the assemblage was identifiable to taxon. The remains of cattle, sheep/goat, pigs, dogs and horses were identified in the assemblage. Cattle bones were most numerous, followed by pig. The cattle assemblage was recovered from a variety of features and included bones from several parts of the anatomy but with an emphasis on metapodials. Most of the porcine bones were recovered from ditch fill 131 and all were from the maxilla and mandible. They generally appeared to be adult; a partial canine from a male was recovered from ditch 15 (context 131). The same context produced a maxilla with abnormally rotated premolars. The five sheep/goat bones were all isolated examples in different contexts but were all from the lower hind-legs. Five horse bones from were recovered from four deposits. A distal femur had a curious adaptation, the bone had been hollowed out to form a smooth-edged 'tunnel' c.2cm in diameter through the thickest part of the distal articulation. The origins and purpose of this modification are currently obscure, as the bone shows no other sign of working. An abraded and gnawed radius constituted the only dog bone found on site. A single bone fragment from ditch 15 appeared to have been scorched and two cattle bones, a femur from ditch 19 and a metatarsal from ditch 15 had been butchered. Teeth and a small number of epiphyses survived in the assemblage and a small number of bones were considered measureable.

#### *Discussion*

This brief examination confirmed the presence of common domestic mammals, including cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse. The size of the assemblage is currently insufficient to suggest patterns in terms of taxa, element distribution, dietary preference or husbandry. The level of abrasion, gnawing,

low occurrence of articular ends and absence of articulating parts, suggests that many of the bones may have been re-deposited. However, the quantity and preservation of the bones is promising and suggests that a larger assemblage (from any future excavation) could provide useful information on the exploitation of animal resources at the site. The pottery assemblage indicates the presence of well-stratified deposits of late Saxon to early medieval date across the site. Evidence for animal husbandry has been highlighted as being scarce in this period (Monckton 2006, 286). Despite recent fieldwork, animal bone assemblages of this date are rare in the region and any further excavation on the site would present an opportunity to potentially recover a significant group of material for research.

### *References*

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- Monckton, A., 2006. Environmental Archaeology in the East Midlands, in N. Cooper (ed.) *The Archaeology of the East Midlands* Leicester Archaeological Monograph 13, 259-286

	100	104	105	110	127	130	131	134	135	136	139	140	143	145	154	155	157	162	Total
<b>cattle</b>	1						5	1		1	2		1		1				12
astragalus								1											1
femur										1			1						2
humerus							1												1
mandible							1												1
metatarsal							1				2								3
molar	1														1				2
scapula							1												1
tibia							1												1
<b>dog</b>							1												1
radius							1												1
<b>horse</b>		1					2										1	1	5
3rd phalanx							1												1
atlas							1												1
femur																	1		1
tibia		1																1	2
<b>indeterminate</b>							18		5			1					39		63
shaft fragments							18		5								39		62
vertebra fragment												1							1
<b>large mml</b>	1	1		1		1	5						2		1	1		4	17
occipital													1						1
rib fragment						1													1
rib shaft																		1	1
shaft fragments	1			1			5						1		1	1		3	13
tibia		1																	1
<b>med mml</b>							3	1											4
rib shaft								1											1
shaft fragments							3												3
<b>pig</b>					1		5	1											7
mandible								1											1
maxilla					1		2												3
premolar							2												2
upper canine							1												1
<b>sheep/goat</b>			1				1	1			1			1					5
astragalus			1																1
metacarpal								1											1
metatarsal							1												1
tibia										1				1					2
<b>Grand Total</b>	2	2	1	1	1	1	40	4	5	1	3	1	3	1	2	1	40	5	114

Table 1: Basic catalogue of material (Key: large mammal= undiagnostic to species but of cattle, horse, red deer size; medium mammal = undiagnostic to species but of sheep/goat, pig, roe deer size; Cxt=context number; Pres=preservation)

#### 7.4 Worked Lithics (by Lynden Cooper)

A small collection of débitage of worked flints. The raw material was till-derived local flint. There were no diagnostic forms. The material can be assigned to a general late prehistoric period. The single bladelet is likely to be Mesolithic.

Table 3: Catalogue of worked lithics

Context	Worked lithic type
131	core (flake and bladelet)
134	2ry flake
137	1ry flake
145	2ry bladelet
161	flake fragment
u/s	2ry flake
u/s	2ry flake

#### 7.8 Charred Plant Remains (by Rachel Small)

##### Introduction

This report presents the study of charred plant remains recovered from environmental samples taken during trial trenching on land south of Dingley Road, Great Bowden, Leicestershire. Six samples were taken, five of which came from ditch fills and the remaining sample was from a pit fill, all dated to the late Saxon/early medieval period. Plant remains, including cereal grains, chaff, and weed seeds are useful indicators of past diet, agricultural practice and environment.

##### Method

One part of each sample (all were ten litres in volume) 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; they were then sorted for plant remains using a x10-40 stereo microscope. The residues were also air dried and the fractions over 4mm sorted for all finds. Plant remains were identified by comparison to modern reference material available at ULAS and names follow Stace (1991). Whole grains, grain fragments which included the embryo, each rachis internode and fragments of weed seed were counted as one. Counts are given in Table 4.

##### Results

Plant remains were present in all of the samples but in low densities. Grains were puffed and distorted from burning at high temperatures and also showed signs of abrasion. Modern rootlets and seeds, including grass (Poaceae) and elder (*Sambucus nigra* L.), were present in all flots, along with earthworm egg-shell capsules in samples 2 (132) and 3 (100). These remains are suggestive of bioturbation; however, as the quantities are low it can be assumed the effects were minimal.

Cereal grains were present and included bread wheat type (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum* L.) and oat (*Avena* spp.). It is not possible to tell the difference between wild and cultivated oat types from the grain. Fragments of bread wheat rachis (*Tritium aestivum* L.) were identified. Other cultivated plants identified included pea (*Pisum* spp.) in sample 5 (153).



Seeds identified included those of arable and disturbed land: goosefoot (*Chenopodium* spp.), dock (*Rumex* spp.) and stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula* L.). The latter is common on heavy and poorly drained soils and is associated with cultivation using the mould board plough (Monckton 2006). Heath grass (*Danthonia decumbens* L.), a grass land species, was also identified. Other weeds that were present included vetch (*Vicia* spp.), grass seeds (Poaceae) and clover type (*Trifolium* spp.) which grow in a variety of habitats.

Table 4: Plant remains present in flots

Sample	Context	Cut	Description	Volume (L)	Grain	Chaff	Seed	Items per litre	Comments
1	131	15	Ditch fill (near base)	10	8	2	3	1.3	4 x bread wheat type grain; 4 x cereal grain; 2 x bread wheat rachis; 1 x stinking mayweed; 1 x vetch; 1 x goosefoot
2	132	16	Ditch fill	10	11	1	4	1.6	5 x bread wheat type grain; 4 x cereal grain; 2 x cf oat grain; 1 x bread wheat rachis; 1 x large grass seed; 1 x stinking mayweed; 1 x goosefoot; 1 x unident.
3	100	1	Ditch fill	10			2	0.2	1 large grass seed; 1 x vetch
4	138	21	Pit fill	10	10	1	5	1.6	5 x bread wheat type grain; 4 x cereal grain; 1 x cf oat; 1 x bread wheat rachis; 4 x vetch; 1 x dock
5	153	35	Ditch fill	10	1		17	1.8	1 x bread wheat type grain; 1 x pea; 9 x large grass seed; 2 x heath grass; 1 x stinking mayweed; 1 x clover; 2 x dock; 1 x unident. seed
6	108	8	Ditch fill (near to base)	10	3		3	0.6	1 x bread wheat type grain; 1 x cereal grain; 1 x cereal/grass embryo; 1 x goosefoot; 2 unident. seed

### Discussion

The assemblage most probably incorporates residue from cleaning grain for consumption (rachis and weeds) and grain and peas spilt during the cooking process. These would have become burnt on a hearth, the hearth cleanings would then have been dumped or would have accumulated in the ditches and pits on site. The bread wheat and oat grains could have been ground on a small scale for flour or used in foods such as pottage along with the peas (Dyer 1989). The weed seeds provide evidence for the surrounding environment – an arable land with heavy, poorly drained soils where cultivation was undertaken using a mouldboard plough. Grassland was also in the vicinity of the site. The quantities of the remains were too small for reliable statistical analyses to be undertaken. For example, ratios of the different types of remains could not be calculated as over 50 items per sample is needed for accurate results. It is recommended that if the site goes to full excavation a suitable sampling strategy is implemented and larger volumes of soil are taken to obtain the quantities needed for analysis.

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## 8. Discussion

The trial trench evaluation has located archaeological finds and deposits in 12 of 17 trenches. Most of the archaeological remains consist of late Saxon – early medieval (AD 850 - 1250) former field boundaries, along with associated activity.

### *Field 2*

Archaeological finds and deposits were identified in all trenches in Field 2. These mainly consisted of ditches, former field boundaries dating to the late Saxon-early medieval period (AD 850-1250). Ditches in Trench 7 and 8 are likely part of a NNE-SSW ditches, perhaps a droveway running across Fields 2 and 3. They appear to date to the late Saxon-early medieval period (AD 850-1250). More discrete features (curvilinear gullies and pits) in Trench 8 may relate to medieval activity in the Knights End Road area.

### *Field 3*

Within Field 3 part of a ditch and banked enclosure survives in the north-east corner. The earthwork feature is 50m long and 40m wide, it features internal and external ditches, the ditch is at its deepest just inside the outer bank. Part of a bank can be observed extending into the adjacent cemetery area. It is uncertain what the earthwork was, it could have been fishponds, a building platform of possible medieval date, or relate to agricultural activity. This was investigated by Great Bowden Heritage and Archaeology in 2004 and 2010.

At the north-end of Field 3, to the west of the earthworks were the base of five shallow pits, one dates to the 17th to 18th century, the others date to the late Saxon-early medieval period (AD 850-1250). These may relate to medieval / post-medieval refuse disposal close to the middle core of the village. Midway along the Field three ditches located (in Trench 15) are likely post-medieval field boundaries. Four ditches at the south-end of the field correspond to NNE-SSW orientated geophysical anomalies ('1' on Figure 2), and believed to be droveway ditches. They appear to date to the late Saxon-early medieval period (AD 850-1250).

### *Field 4*

The cobble surfaces seen in Trenches 9 and 10 appear to be post-medieval, perhaps spanning the mid-15th century through to the 18th century, and up to more recent times. Known locally as 'The Strip'. Access to this field from the road is between the 17th century brick pillared gateposts (HER MLE14942) in the NW corner. The gateposts and boundary wall suggests that "...this was a paddock of some significance and may have been associated with the Rectory of Great Bowden" (Coulkin 2010, 1). A building is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, and another on an earlier map. A 2010 excavation located the later structure and interpreted it as brick-built barn with tile roof. The southern test pits appeared to locate a cobble surface, it is possible that the cobble surfaces located in Trenches 9 and 10 led to this barn further along the field. At the east-end of the field Trench 12 located early medieval ditches.

## 9. Conclusion

The archaeological investigation has successfully addressed the aims and objectives and the highest confidence can be placed in the data recovered and this report. There were no physical constraints, with a satisfactory application of the methodological approach.

The trial trench evaluation has located archaeological finds and deposits in 12 of 17 trenches. Most of the archaeological remains consist of late Saxon – early medieval (AD 850 - 1250) former field boundaries, along with associated activity. Ditches orientated NNE-SSW, perhaps a droveway, were

seen in Trenches 7, 8, and 16, confirmed geophysical anomalies across Fields 2 and 3. They date to the late Saxon-early medieval period (AD 850-1250). More discrete features in Field 2 relate to medieval activity in the Knights End Road area. A post-medieval cobble surface was located in Field 4, these may be part of a cobble surface seen in earlier excavations found in association with a barn.

## 10. Archive

The site archive will be held by *Leicestershire Museums Service*, under accession no. *XA.73.2016*.

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	<b>Oasis No</b>	universi1- 259661		
	<b>Project Name</b>	Dingley Road, Great Bowden, Leicestershire		
	<b>Start/end dates of field work</b>	03-05-2016 - 10-06-2016		
	<b>Previous/Future Work</b>	Yes/ unknown		
	<b>Project Type</b>	Evaluation		
	<b>Site Status</b>	None		
	<b>Current Land Use</b>	Pasture		
	<b>Monument Type/Period</b>	Ditches, pits,/ medieval,; cobble surfaces / post-medieval		
	<b>Significant Finds/Period</b>	Pottery / medieval, post-medieval		
	<b>Development Type</b>	Rural residential		
	<b>Reason for Investigation</b>	NPPF		
	<b>Position in the Planning Process</b>	Planning condition		
	<b>Planning Ref.</b>			
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	<b>Site Address/Postcode</b>	Dingley Rd, Great Bowden, LE16 7EU		
	<b>Study Area</b>	3ha		
	<b>Site Coordinates</b>	SP 74717 88687		
	<b>Height OD</b>	75-80m OD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Brief Originator</b>	Leicestershire Council		
	<b>Project Design Originator</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Manager</b>	Dr Richard Buckley		
	<b>Project Director/Supervisor</b>	Dr Gavin Speed		
	<b>Sponsor/Funding Body</b>	Developer / Leicester City Council		
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVE</b>		<b>Physical</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Paper</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	LCC MusService	LCC MusService	LCCMusService
	<b>ID (Acc. No.)</b>	XA.73.2016	XA.73.2016	XA.73.2016
	<b>Contents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photos</li> <li>Survey data</li> <li>Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>trench recording sheets</li> <li>context summary records</li> <li>context sheets</li> <li>photographic recording sheet</li> <li>Sample records sheet</li> <li>Drawing Index sheet. CD containing digital photographs and report</li> <li>Survey data</li> <li>Unbound copy of this report</li> <li>Thumbnail print of digital photographs</li> </ul>
<b>PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>Type</b>	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	<b>Title</b>	An Archaeological Evaluation at Dingley Road, Great Bowden, Leicestershire.		
	<b>Author</b>	Speed, G.		
	<b>Other bibliographic details</b>	ULAS Report No 2016-117		
	<b>Date</b>	2016		
	<b>Publisher/Place</b>	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		

## 11. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York (under OASIS ID: universi1-259661, see archive above).

## 12. Bibliography

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## 13. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken for Langton Developments, directed by Dr Gavin Speed, and assisted by Sue Henderson. Richard Buckley managed the project.

The analysis of the worked lithics by Lynden Cooper, charred plant remains by Rachel Small, processing of the environmental soil deposits by Louis Huscroft, analysis of the pottery by Debbie Sawday and Nicholas Cooper, and small finds by Nicholas Cooper, analysis of the animal bones by Jennifer Browning.

ULAS would like to thank Langton Developments for funding the project, and for their help and cooperation during the fieldwork. Thanks to some members of the Great Bowden Heritage and Archaeology group for their useful insights and thoughts on the archaeology, thanks also to John Capps who kindly undertook a metal detector survey. Teresa Hawtin (Senior Planning Archaeologist) of Leicestershire County Council monitored the work on behalf of the planning authority.

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09/08/2016

**Appendix: Contexts list**

CUT	FILLS (s)	TRENCH	FEATURE TYPE	FINDS
1	100	6	Ditch	24 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, charred plant remains (large grass seed, vetch), animal bones (cattle & large mammal)
2	101	4	Ditch	None
3	102	4	Ditch	9 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery.
4	103, 104	4	Ditch	2 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, animal bones (horse, large mammal)
5	104	4	Ditch	7 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery.
6	105, 106	6	Ditch	16 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, animal bones (sheep/goat)
7	107	6	posthole	1 sherd of late Saxon-early medieval pottery.
8	108	10	Ditch	4 sherds of 13th to 14th century pottery, charred plant remains (bread wheat grain, cereal grain, cereal/grass embryo, goosefoot, unident. seed)
9	111	9	Gully	3 sherds of decorated jug, c. 1200-1350
10	123	9	Posthole	None
11	127	8	Gully	5 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, animal bones (pig)
12	128	8	Posthole	1 sherd of late Saxon-early medieval pottery
13	129	8	Posthole	none
14	130	8	Gully	1 sherd of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, animal bones (large mammal)
15	131	8	Ditch	30 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, worked lithic core, fired clay (burnt daub), charred plant remains (bread wheat type grain, cereal grain, bread wheat rachis, stinking mayweed, vetch, goosefoot), animal bones (cattle, dog, horse, mammal)
16	132	7	Ditch	10 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, charred plant remains (bread wheat grain, cereal grain, oat grain, bread wheat rachis, large grass seed, stinking mayweed, goosefoot, unident.)
17	133	7	Ditch	None
18	134	7	Ditch	1 sherd of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, worked flint flake, animal bones (cattle, pig, large mammal)
19	136	8	Gully	6 sherds of 12th century pottery, animal bones (cattle)
20	137	8	Pit	5 sherds of early medieval pottery, worked flint flake
21	138, 139	8	Pit	16 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, 10 sherds of 13th to 15th century pottery, fired clay (burnt daub), Roman roof tile, charred plant remains (bread wheat grain, cereal grain, oat, bread wheat rachis, vetch, dock), animal bones (cattle)
22	140	8	Gully	3 sherds of early medieval pottery, animal bones
23	141	8	Pit	2 sherds of 12th century pottery
24	144	8	Gully	None
25	124	13	Pit	12 sherds of 17th to 18th century pottery
26	125	13	Pit	2 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery
27	146	13	Pit	1 sherd of 12th century pottery
28	126	16	Ditch	2 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, fired clay (burnt daub)
29	147	14	Pit	None
30	148	14	Pit	1 sherd of 12th to 14th century pottery
31	149	15	Ditch	None
32	150	15	Gully	None
33	151	15	Ditch	None
34	152	16	Ditch	3 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery
35	153	16	Ditch	1 sherd of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, charred plant remains (bread wheat grain, pea, large grass seed, heath grass, stinking mayweed, clover, dock, unident. seed)
36	154	16	Ditch	6 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, fired clay (burnt daub), animal bones (cattle, large mammal)
37	155	12	Ditch	animal bones (large mammal)

	LAYER	TRENCH	FEATURE TYPE	FINDS
38	156	12	Ditch (same as [37])	None
39	157	12	Ditch	1 sherd of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, animal bones (horse)
40	158, 159	12	Ditch	None
41	160, 161	12	Ditch	1 sherd of medieval pottery, worked flint flake
42	162	10	Pit	animal bones (horse, large mammal)
-	109	10	Cobble surface	five amorphous fragments from a brick of uncertain date, 1 sherd of 17th to 18th century pottery
-	110	10	Layer, lay over cobble surface (109)	2 sherds of 12th to mid-16th century pottery, animal bones (large mammal)
-	112	9	Lens of silt and charcoal	None
-	113	9	Clay and pebble layer	10 sherds of AD 1250-1650 pottery
-	114	9	Compact ironstone layer	None
-	115	9	Mid grey-brown silty clay layer, possibly subsoil	1 sherd of AD 1450-1550 pottery
-	116	9	Clay and pebble layer	None
-	117	9	Crushed ironstone layer	None
-	118	9	Redish-brown clay and ironstone, some charcoal	None
-	119	9	Large compact pebbles in a yellow-grey matrix	5 sherds of 17th to 18th century pottery
-	120	9	Mixed stony layer, mid grey-brown clay	None
-	121	9	Mid to dark grey-brown silty-clay and ironstone	1 sherd of AD 1450-1550 pottery
-	122	9	Compact mixed stony layer	None
-	135	7	Layer (135) over ditches [17 and [18].	4 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, fired clay (burnt daub), animal bones
-	142	5	Layer over 143	None
-	143	5	Layer	6 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, animal bones (cattle, large mammal)
-	145	5	Layer	8 sherds of late Saxon-early medieval pottery, animal bones (sheep/goat)





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