



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**Archaeological Evaluation South of
High Street, Somerby, Leicestershire**

NGR: SK 776 104

Nathan Flavell




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**An Archaeological Evaluation South of
High Street, Somerby, Leicestershire
(SK 776 104)**

**Nathan Flavell
For: The Ernest Cook Trust**

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CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Geology and Topography	1
Historical and Archaeological Background	2
Archaeological Objectives	2
Methodology	3
Results	5
Discussion	36
The Finds	43
Archive	62
Publication	62
Acknowledgements	64
Appendix – Trench plans	65

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)	2
Figure 2: Proposed trench plan	3
Figure 3: Site plan with features	4
Figure 4: Ditches [20], [22], [24] & [26] looking northeast	6
Figure 5: Ditches [20], [22], [24] & [26] section	7
Figure 6: Ditch [28] & gully [30] looking east	7
Figure 7: Gully [3] looking north	8
Figure 8: Gully [3] section	8
Figure 9: Gully [7] looking east	9
Figure 10: Gully [7] section	9
Figure 11: Ditch [34] looking southeast	11
Figure 12: Ditch [34] section	11
Figure 13: Ditch [45] looking southeast	12
Figure 14: Ditch [45] section	13
Figure 15: Wall (17) & surface {18} looking northwest	13
Figure 16: Wall (15) looking southwest	14
Figure 17: Gully [40] looking northwest	16
Figure 18: Gully [40] section	16
Figure 19: Features [138] & [140] looking southwest	17
Figure 20: Surface (154) looking northeast	17

Figure 21: Surface (56) looking northwest	18
Figure 22: Features [75], [77], [79], [81] & [83] looking north.....	19
Figure 23: Gully [10] & Hollow-way [8].....	20
Figure 24: Gully [10] & hollow-way section	21
Figure 25: Hollow-way	21
Figure 26: Gully [89] looking south.....	23
Figure 27: Gully [89] section	23
Figure 28: Gully [91] looking southwest	24
Figure 29: Ditch [91] section	24
Figure 30: Ditch [150] looking southeast.....	26
Figure 31: Ditch [150] & gully [162] section	26
Figure 32: Ditch [150] section	26
Figure 33: Wall (59) looking east	28
Figure 34: Ditch [181] & wall (179) northwest	29
Figure 35: Ditch [181] section	29
Figure 36: Feature [51] looking north.....	31
Figure 37: Feature [51] section	31
Figure 38: Ditch [48] looking north	32
Figure 39: Drain [145] looking north.....	33
Figure 40: Gully [37] looking north.....	33
Figure 41: Gully [37], posthole [156], drain (146) and ditch [48] section.....	34
Figure 42: Trench 14 earthwork boundary & hollow-way looking east.....	36
Figure 43: Southeast corner of field showing hallway and toft and croft earthwork banks ...	38
Figure 44: Ridge and furrow earthworks with earthwork bank in the background	39
Figure 45: Eastern mini-hollow-way.....	39
Figure 46: Western mini-hollow-way in trench 12	39
Figure 47: Western mini-hollow way.....	40
Figure 48: Site plan with interpretation.....	41
Figure 49: Site plan	42
Figure 50: Trench plans.....	65
Figure 51: Trench plans.....	66
Figure 52: Trench plans.....	67
Figure 53: Trench plans.....	68

Archaeological Evaluation South of High Street, Somerby, Leicestershire (SK 776 104)

Nathan Flavell

Summary

Archaeological trial trenching was carried out on land south of High Street, Somerby, Leicestershire (SK 776 104) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 2nd January-15th February 2018. The work was undertaken on behalf of The Ernest Cook Trust to provide preliminary indications of the presence and state of preservation of any heritage assets, and assess the results against any impact from development proposals. A number of ditches were uncovered from Iron-Age to medieval, stone walls and surfaces, and toft and croft boundaries as extant earthworks. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A11.2018.

Introduction

This document describes the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out on land south of High Street, Somerby, Leicestershire (SK 776 104). The work was undertaken on behalf of The Ernest Cook Trust by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 2nd January-15th February 2018.

Somerby lies in east Leicestershire in Melton Borough close to the border with Rutland. It lies approximately 9km south of Melton Mowbray. The assessment area lies at the south-western edge of the village of Somerby along the southern side of High Street and consists of a small play area, a football pitch and a larger pasture field. The adjacent land to the south is farmland. The proposal is for new housing and trial trenching was required by the planning authority to determine if any archaeological deposits were present that might be impacted upon by the proposed scheme.

The work followed the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) as laid out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation* (Score 2018).

Geology and Topography

The site lies on the south-western edge of Somerby, to the south of High Street and consists of an irregularly shaped parcel of land of around 1.8 hectares (Fig. 1). The assessment area lies at height of around 182m aOD and is generally flat, but has a slight fall to the south in the southern field. The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology consists of Marlstone Rock Formation limestone.

A series of extant earthwork banks and linear depressions cover much of the area, indicative of individual tofts and crofts, a hollow-way to the south and ridge and furrow to the west, all of which relate to earlier occupation of this part of Somerby.

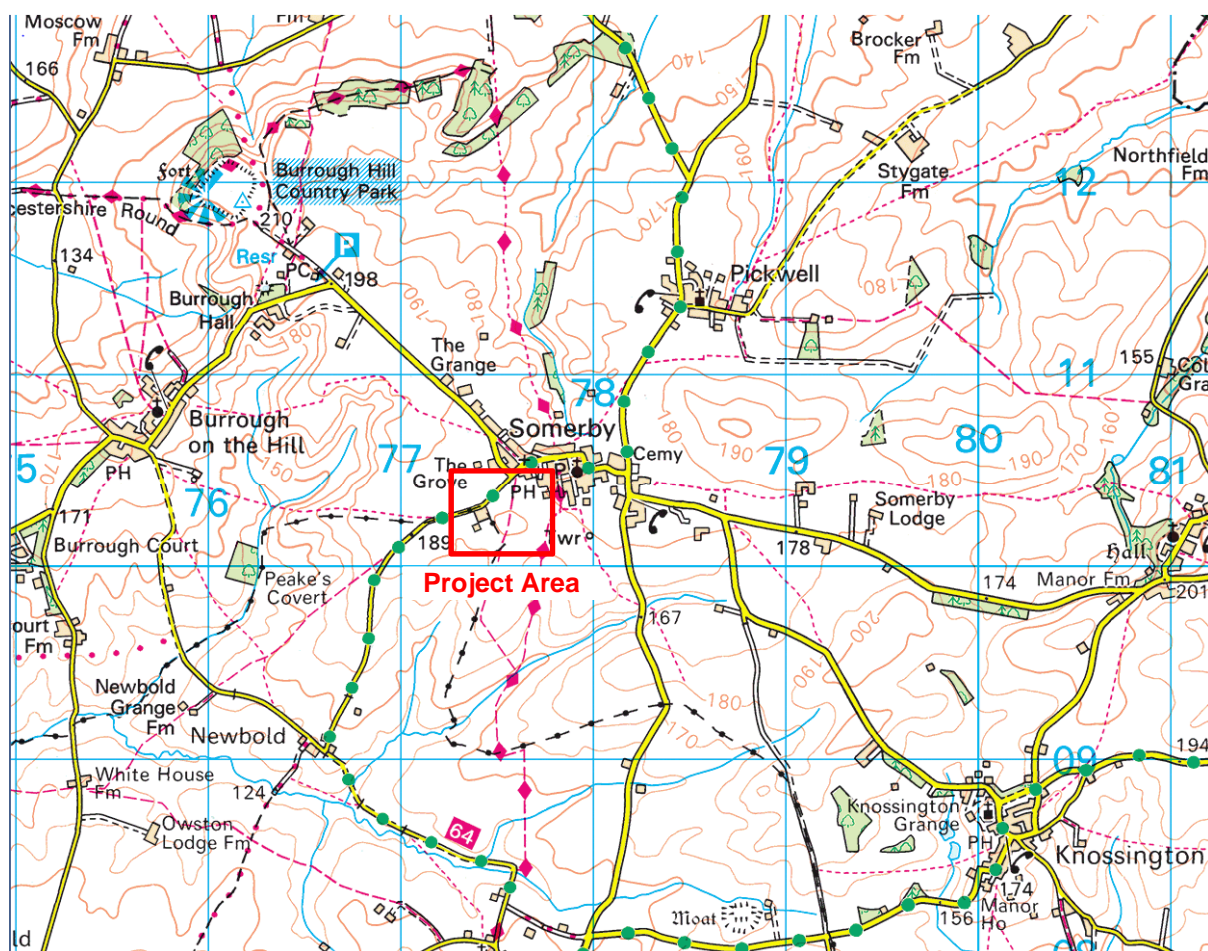


Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)

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Historical and Archaeological Background

The Desk Based Assessment (Hunt 2017) identified that the site contains earthworks associated with the shrunken medieval village. These include house platforms and a hollow-way (MLE22781). The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates that there are a few known archaeological sites in the area for prehistoric and Roman artefacts in the vicinity of the assessment area, and the site lies around 2km south-east of the Iron Age hillfort of Burrough Hill. The lack of known earlier archaeological sites in the area listed on the HER is most likely due to a general lack of archaeological investigation of the area, which has seen little survey or large scale development in recent years. The site lies outside the Conservation Area of Somerby but within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of the village. There are some historic buildings in the vicinity, including The Grove, a country house to the north-west of the site with its associated Grade II listed vinery and outbuildings, and Manor Farmhouse and the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel to the north-east.)

Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the archaeological work were:

- 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 establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape.
- To recover artefacts and ecofacts to compare with other assemblages and results
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Methodology

A total of fourteen 30-metre long trenches were excavated, to provide broad coverage of the area, and to specifically evaluate a range of the earthwork features (Fig. 2).

The trench sections and existing spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. If present, archaeological features were hand cleaned, planned, photographed and sample excavated as detailed in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological field evaluations* (2014).



Figure 2: Proposed trench plan

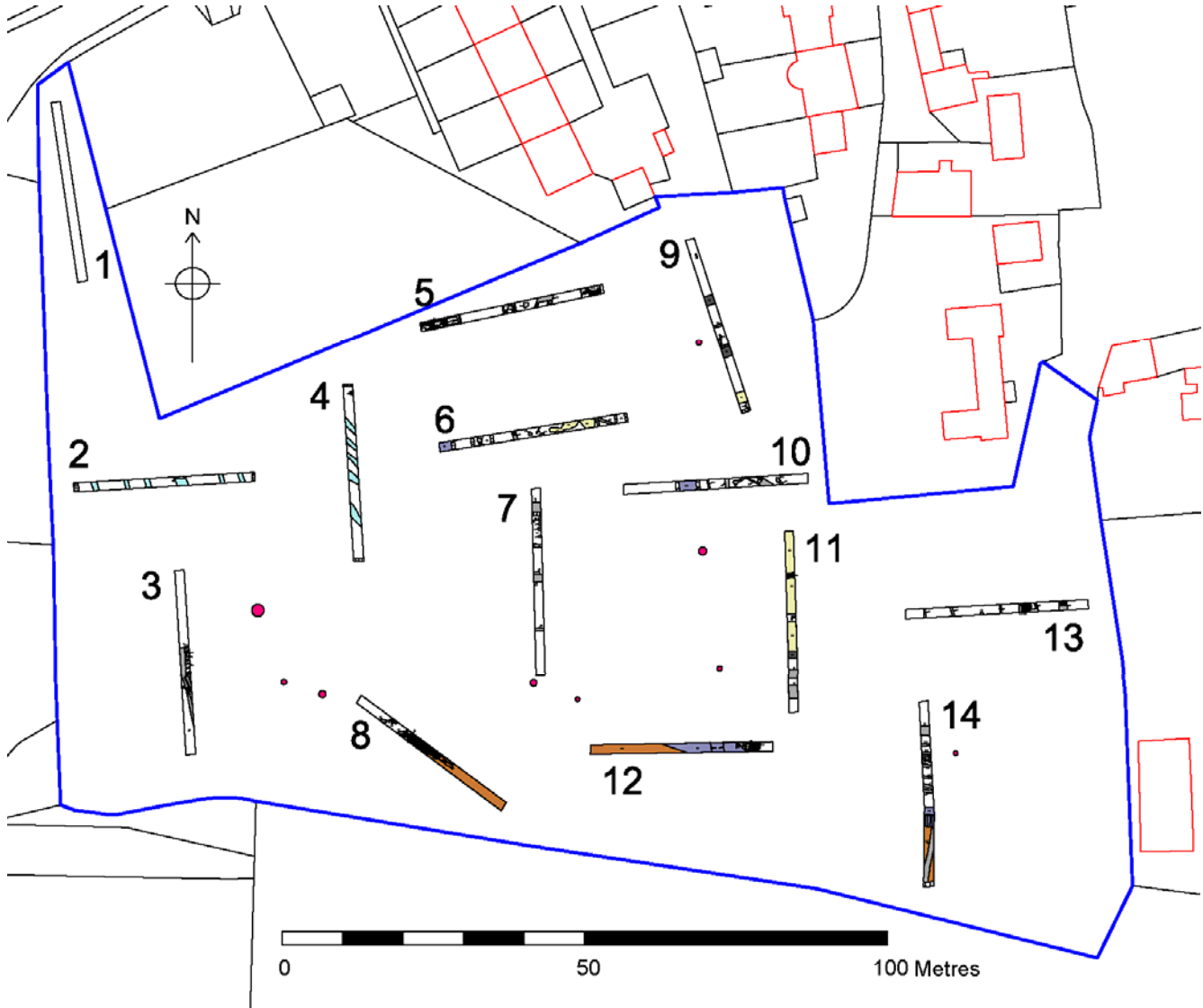


Figure 3: Site plan with features

Results

Natural substrata varied between mixed yellow-brown clay to red orange broken ironstone towards the north, between 0.23m and 0.9m below ground level. Subsoil was orange-brown sandy clay to mid brown clay loam between 0.05m to 0.4m thick. This was overlain by topsoil consisting of dark brown clay loam, 0.09m to 0.28m thick. Nine trenches contained evidence for complex archaeological sequences associated with buried soil horizons. Trenches 7, 9 and 12 contained one layer of buried soil, and trenches 5, 6, 10, 11, 12 and 14 had two layers of buried soils below the subsoil.

Trench 1

Trench 1 measured 29.8m x 1.5m, and was aligned north-south. The natural substratum was encountered between 0.38m and 0.56m. The natural was overlain by subsoil, 0.2m-0.36m thick. This was overlain by topsoil, 0.18m-0.24m thick. There appeared to be a filled in tree bole near the middle of the trench.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
1	29.8		1.5		44.7		0.46		0.6		N
Interval (m) from south end	0	5	10	15	20	25	29.8				
Topsoil depth	0.18	0.22	0.21	0.2	0.24	0.24	0.22				
Subsoil depth	0.2	0.31	0.27	0.36	0.29	0.27	0.25				
Top of natural substratum	0.38	0.53	0.48	0.56	0.53	0.51	0.47				
Base of trench	0.46	0.53	0.48	0.56	0.6	0.58	0.6				

Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 30m x 1.5m, and was aligned east-west. The natural substratum was encountered between 0.37m and 0.49m. The natural was overlain by subsoil, 0.25m-0.31m thick. This was overlain by topsoil, 0.09m-0.19m thick. Cut into the natural was a series of furrows, aligned northwest-southeast with an average width of 1.5m, filled by bred-orange-brown silty clay which was pretty much indistinguishable from the subsoil. These furrows appear to line up with the extant ridge and furrow earthworks.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
2	30		1.5		45		0.4		0.53		Furrows
Interval (m) from west end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30				
Topsoil depth	0.16	0.18	0.19	0.09	0.12	0.12	0.19				
Subsoil depth	0.31	0.26	0.26	0.29	0.3	0.25	0.3				
Top of natural substratum	0.47	0.44	0.45	0.38	0.42	0.37	0.49				
Base of trench	0.5	0.49	0.49	0.46	0.5	0.4	0.53				

Trench 3

Trench 3 measured 29.8m x 1.5m, and was aligned north-south. The natural substratum was encountered between 0.33m and 0.47m. Cut into the natural was a series five ditches and two gullies (Figs. 4 & 5). Four of the ditches, [20], [22], [24], and [26] were aligned east-west, measuring between 0.32m-0.85 wide, and 0.24m-0.46m deep. They each had a single fill (21), (23), (25) and (27), consisting of mid yellow-grey silty clay with occasional pebbles. There was no clear relationship between these ditches in section. A further ditch [28] was on the south side of [26], aligned northeast-southwest with a similar profile, 1.2m wide, 0.44m deep, filled by (29) a similar fill to the other ditches (Fig. 6). Feeding into ditch [28] from the south were a pair of gullies, [3] and [30], both aligned northwest-southeast. Gully [3] was 0.45m wide with a fairly steep and straight profile, 0.16m deep (Figs. 7 & 8). It had a single fill (4), of mid yellow-grey silty clay with occasional pebble inclusions. Gully [30] was 0.5m wide with a similar fill but was unexcavated. These features were sealed by subsoil, measuring 0.25m-0.31m thick. The topsoil was 0.18-0.23m thick.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
3	29.8		1.5		44.7		0.39		0.65		Y
Interval (m) from north end	0	5	10	15	20	25	29.8				
Topsoil depth	0.21	0.18	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.18	0.23				
Subsoil depth	0.27	0.19	0.16	0.17	0.12	0.19	0.24				
Top of natural substratum	0.48	0.37	0.37	0.39	0.33	0.37	0.47				
Base of trench	0.5	0.41	0.41	0.44	0.39	0.41	0.65				



Figure 4: Ditches [20], [22], [24] & [26] looking northeast

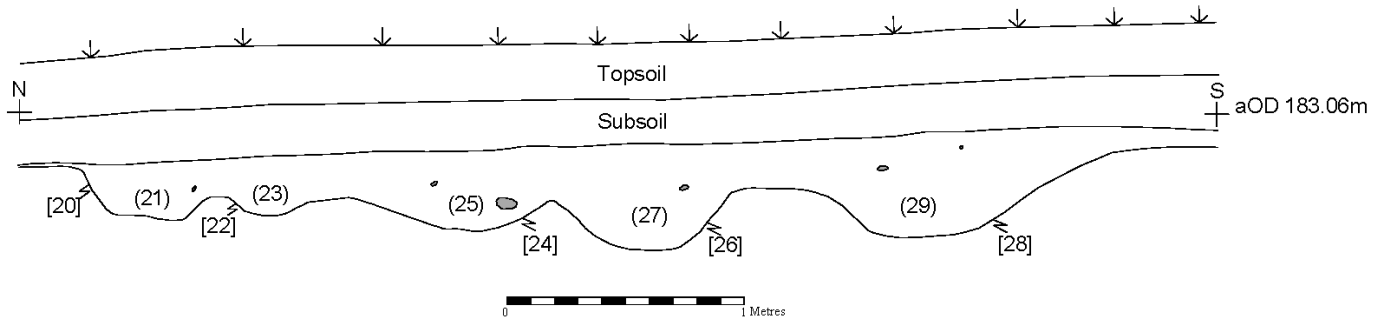


Figure 5: Ditches [20], [22], [24] & [26] section



Figure 6: Ditch [28] & gully [30] looking east



Figure 7: Gully [3] looking north

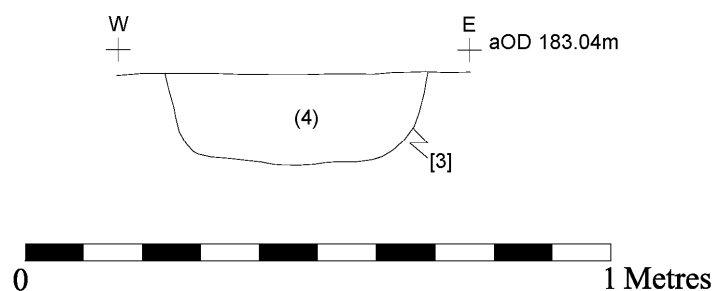


Figure 8: Gully [3] section

Trench 4

Trench 4 measured 29.5m x 1.5m, and was aligned north-south. The natural substratum was encountered between 0.41m and 0.5m. Cut into the natural at the north end of the trench was a single (possible) gully terminus [7] (Figs. 9 & 10). It appeared to be aligned northwest-southeast and measured 0.5m wide 0.32m deep, with steep concave sides and a concave base with a drop off to make it deeper, which could have been a posthole. The lower fill in the dip (6) was orange brown silty clay with occasional ironstone fragments, 0.14m thick. Above this was (5), a red-brown silty clay with frequent charcoal and burnt clay inclusions, measuring 0.18m thick. This feature was sealed by a subsoil layer measuring 0.24m-0.4m thick. The topsoil was 0.09-0.17m thick. Cut into the natural was a series of furrows, aligned northwest-southeast with an average width of 1.5m, filled by bred-orange-brown silty clay which was pretty much indistinguishable from the subsoil. These furrows do not appear to line up very well with existing earthworks and may suggest a slight change in the village boundary.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
4	29.5		1.5	44.25		0.47		0.6		Y
Interval (m) from north end	0	5	10	15	20	25	29			
Topsoil depth	0.12	0.16	0.17	0.09	0.13	0.09	0.1			
Subsoil depth	0.3	0.25	0.24	0.39	0.35	0.37	0.4			
Top of natural substratum	0.42	0.41	0.41	0.48	0.48	0.46	0.5			
Base of trench	0.49	0.47	0.449	0.53	0.56	0.6	0.56			



Figure 9: Gully [7] looking east

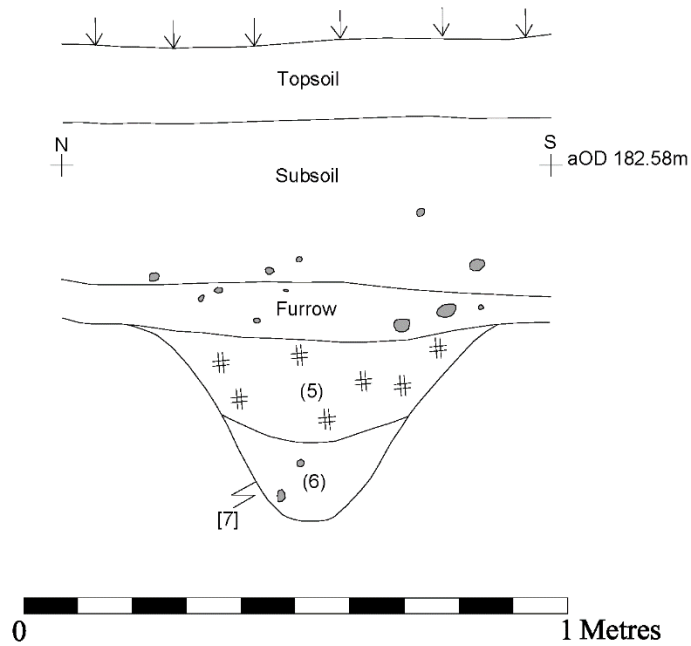


Figure 10: Gully [7] section

Trench 5

Trench 5 measured 30.7m x 1.5m, and was aligned northeast-southwest. The natural substratum was encountered between 0.52m and 0.62m. Cut into the natural toward the northeast end of the trench was a ditch [34] and a possible pit [45]. Ditch [34] was aligned north-northeast-south-southwest with sloping sides changing to steep sides, with a slightly concave base, onto the underlying ironstone geology, measuring 2.5m wide, 0.4m deep (Figs. 11 & 12). The lower fill (33) was russet mottled orange brown silty clay, 0.1m thick. It was overlain by (32) mottled orange-grey-brown silty clay occasional ironstone fragments, 0.3m thick. Pit [47] was sub circular, 0.8x0.6m, filled by (46) mid light brown silty clay, and was unexcavated.

These features were sealed by a lower buried soil (14), which comprised orange-brown silty clay with occasional ironstone inclusions, measuring 0.07-0.13m thick. Cut into this layer was a ditch terminus [45] (Figs.13 & 14). It was aligned north-northeast-south-southwest with irregular steep sides and a flat base ending at the underlying ironstone geology, measuring 0.6m wide and 0.52m deep. It had a single fill (44), consisting of dark brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and ironstone fragments. The ditch was sealed by an upper buried soil (13), consisting of red-brown silty-clay with frequent ironstone fragments and pebbles, and measuring 0.18-0.27m thick.

At the southwest end of the trench, at a higher level, but probably contemporary with buried soil (13), was a stone wall (17) and a possibly associated surface (18) (Fig. 15). The exposed section of (17) was L-shaped and made of roughly squared ironstone fragments forming the facing stones with a rubble type core. The northwest-southeast stretch was at least 0.35m wide, and the northeast-southwest stretch, 0.6m wide. The depth and number of courses are unknown as the wall remained unexcavated. Surface (18) lay within the L-shape, and was formed of mid-sized ironstone fragments, typically measuring 0.14m x 0.1m x 0.05m. Subsoil appears to have formed around the stones, however as these were only cleaned, this may be part demolition associated with wall (17). A probable demolition layer (19) lay directly to the northeast of wall (17) on a downward slope. It consisted of yellow-orange ironstone fragments, overlying buried soil (13).

At the opposite end of the trench was another section of wall (15) and partial surface (16) (Fig. 16). Wall (15) was aligned northeast-southwest and was similar in construction to wall (17), with larger squared off stones on the outside, and a rubble core, measuring 0.8m wide. It was truncated by a northwest-southeast linear, possibly a land drain. Surface (16) was relatively small, 0.9x0.4m, consisting of ironstone fragments. It is possible that this was also the remnants of a demolition event associated with the wall.

The subsoil appeared to seal most of the stonework, and measured 0.09-0.24m thick. This was overlain buy topsoil, measuring 0.1-0.17m thick.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
5	30.7		1.5	46.05		0.13		0.67		Y
Interval (m) from northeast end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30			
Topsoil depth	0.1	0.1	0.15	0.17	0.13	0.1	0.13			
Subsoil depth	0.09	0.14	0.13	0.15	0.19	0.24	-			
Buried soil (13)	-	0.18	0.27	0.24	0.19	-	-			
Buried soil (14)	-	0.1	0.13	0.07	0.11	-	-			
Top of natural substratum	-	0.52	-	0.62	0.62	-	-			

Base of trench	0.19	0.57	1.08	0.62	0.67	0.34	0.13		
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Figure 11: Ditch [34] looking southeast

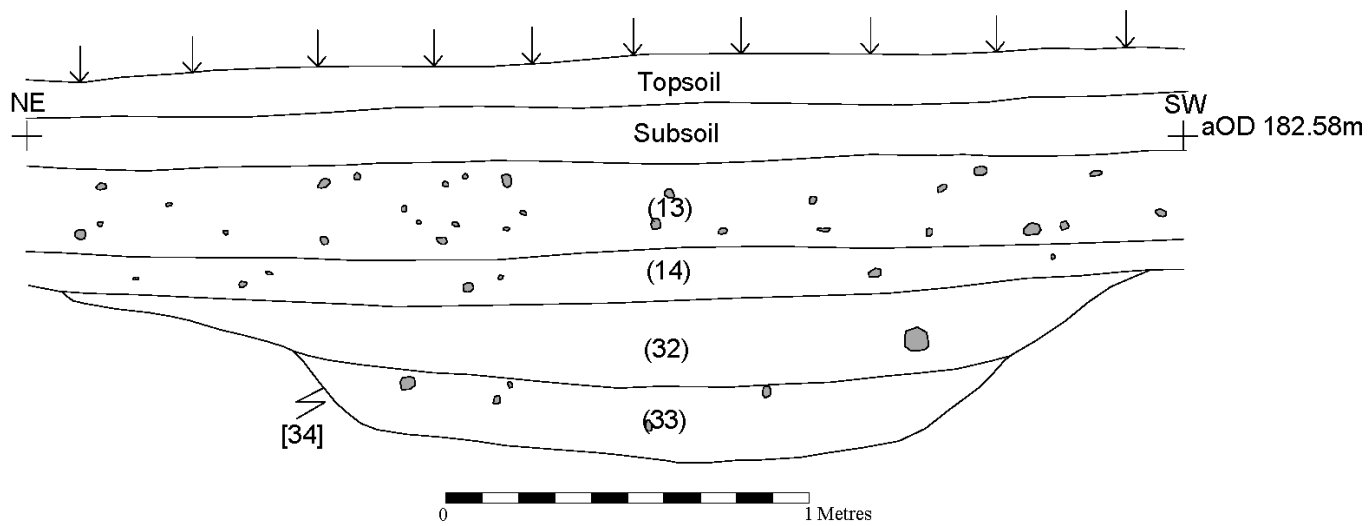


Figure 12: Ditch [34] section



Figure 13: Ditch [45] looking southeast

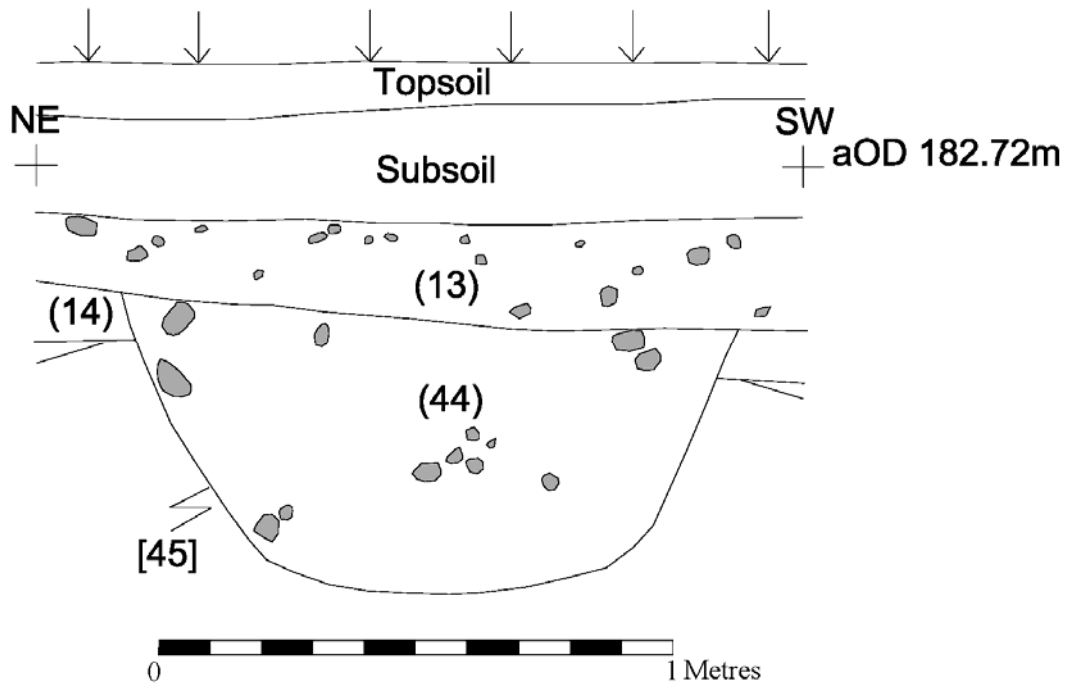


Figure 14: Ditch [45] section



Figure 15: Wall (17) & surface {18} looking northwest



Figure 16: Wall (15) looking southwest

Trench 6

Trench 6 measured 31m x 1.5m, and was aligned northeast-southwest. The natural substratum was encountered between 0.44m and 0.5m. Cut into the natural were a pit [132], a posthole [136] and a gully [148]. Pit [132] was 0.65m in diameter, and filled with (133), mid brown silty clay. Posthole [136] was half-moon in shape, 0.65x0.32m, and filled by (137), a red-brown silty clay with charcoal inclusions. Gully [148] was aligned northwest-southeast, and was 0.3m wide. It was filled by (149), a mid brown silty clay with small stone inclusions. These features were unexcavated, but seemed to be sealed by a buried soil (42), consisting of mid brown silty clay with small stone inclusions, 0.03-0.08m thick.

Cut into this buried soil were two gullies, [40] and [134]. Gully [40] was aligned northwest-southeast with moderately sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.8m wide, 0.35m deep (Figs. 17 & 18). It had a single fill (41), consisting of mid-dark browns silty clay with burnt and ironstone inclusions. Gully terminus [134] measured 0.65m wide and was aligned northwest-southeast. It was filled by (135), a mid brown silty clay. This was unexcavated.

These features were sealed by another buried soil layer (43) that consisted of mid brown silty clay with small pebble inclusions measuring 0.13-0.17m thick. Cut into this layer were two circular features [138] and [140] (Fig. 19). Feature [138] appeared to be a posthole, measuring 0.25m diameter, filled by (139) grey-brown silty clay with charcoal inclusions. Feature [140] was possibly a pit or hearth remnant, measuring 0.8x0.6m, and containing deposit (141), consisting of grey-brown silty clay with heat-reddened patches.

Possibly contemporary to layer (43), or possibly post-dating it was surface (56)/(154). Both were made from fragments of ironstone, (154) seemingly L-shaped in arrangement, or at least set around something square in shape which may be the inside of a building (Fig. 20). In the northeast part of surface (56) there was what appeared to be a repair layer (57) above it (Fig. 21). Below surface (56) was a compacted deposit (55) consisting of orange-brown silty clay with small stone and charcoal inclusions.

A buried soil layer (152) was noted northeast of this surface. It was most likely the same as (43) at the other end of the trench.

At the northeast end of the trench was a collection of mostly large ironstone blocks (153). These did not seem to form any structure or surface and could be interpreted as a tumble/demolition deposit, with the subsoil forming around it.

At the southwest end of the trench was layer (142), a mixed red-brown silty clay with frequent small to mid-sized ironstone fragments. This seemed to be the core of one of the earthwork banks associated with tofts and crofts and separating the edge of the village from the cultivated fields.

The subsoil appeared to seal most of the stonework, and measured 0.1-0.2m thick. This was overlain by topsoil, which measured 0.1-0.16m thick.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)	Archaeology?
6	31		1.5	46.5		0.22		0.62	Y
Interval (m) from southwest end	0	5	10	15	20	25	31		
Topsoil depth	0.15	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.1	0.1	0.15		
Bank material (142)	0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Subsoil depth	-	0.15	0.2	0.15	0.2	0.12	0.1		
Buried soil (43)	-	0.17	0.13	0.14	-	-	-		
Buried soil (42)	-	0.03	-	-	-	-	-		
Top of natural substratum	-	0.5	0.49	0.44	-	-	-		
Base of trench	0.35	0.5	0.62	0.44	0.3	0.22	0.25		



Figure 17: Gully [40] looking northwest

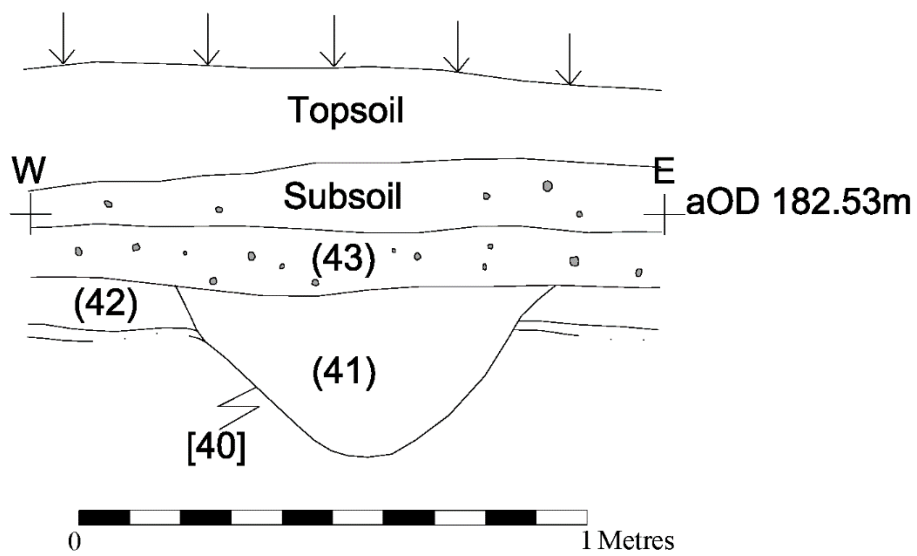


Figure 18: Gully [40] section



Figure 19: Features [138] & [140] looking southwest



Figure 20: Surface (154) looking northeast



Figure 21: Surface (56) looking northwest

Trench 7

Trench 7 measured 30.5m x 1.5m, and was aligned north-south. The natural substratum was encountered between 0.53m and 0.62m. Cut into the natural were two ditches, [68] and [85]. Ditch [68] was located near the south end of the trench, measuring 0.5m wide, and was filled by (69), a mixed brown-orange silty clay. Ditch [85] was at the opposite end of the trench and measured 1.6m wide. It was filled by (86), a brown-orange silty clay. These appeared to be sealed by buried soil (70), which comprised a russet mottled brown-orange silty clay, measuring 0.1-0.2m thick.

Cut into this layer were five circular features [75], [77], [79], [81] and [83], a linear feature [71] and a potential pit [73]. The circular features were all grouped together near the north end of the trench (Fig. 22). Posthole [75] was 0.45m in diameter, and filled by (76) brown-grey silty clay with charcoal and burnt stone inclusions. Posthole [77] was 0.55m in diameter, and filled by (78), brown silty clay with areas of red burning. Posthole [79] was 0.4m in diameter, and filled by (80), brown silty clay, also with areas of red burning. Posthole [81] was 0.5m in diameter, and filled by (82), brown-orange silty clay with burnt stone inclusions. Linear [72] was aligned east-west, measured 0.6m wide, and was filled by (72), an orange-brown silty clay with ironstone fragments, which may be a wall. On the north side of this was a possible pit, [73], measuring 0.8m wide, and filled by (74), a dark brown-orange silty clay with few ironstone inclusions. These features were sealed by the subsoil layer, which was 0.2m-0.32m thick. The topsoil was 0.17-0.24m thick.

No features in this trench were excavated.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
7	30.5		1.5	45.75		0.43		0.66		Y
Interval (m) from north end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30			
Topsoil depth	0.17	0.18	0.24	0.23	0.22	0.2	0.2			

Subsoil depth	0.23	0.28	0.32	0.2	0.28	0.2	0.2		
Buried soil (70)	0.13	-	0.1	-	-	0.18	0.2		
Top of natural substratum	0.53	-	0.66	-	-	0.58	0.6		
Base of trench	0.53	0.46	0.66	0.43	0.5	0.58	0.6		



Figure 22: Features [75], [77], [79], [81] & [83] looking north

Trench 8

Trench 8 measured 29.7m x 1.5m, and was aligned northwest-southeast. The natural substratum was encountered between 0.23m and 0.35m. Cut into the natural were four linear features [10], [12], [36] and [98]. Two gully termini [12] and [98] seemed to form a possible entrance near the northwest end of the trench. Both were aligned approximately east-west. Gully [12] was 0.7m wide with irregular concave sides and base, measuring 0.27m deep. It was filled by (11), a mid grey-brown silty clay. The opposing gully, [98] was 0.5m wide, and filled by (99), a red-brown silty clay.

Gully [10] was aligned east-west, with moderately straight sides and concave base, measuring 0.77m wide (Figs. 23 & 24). It was filled by (9), a mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional small stones, 0.36m thick. Parallel to this was a potential ditch [36], also aligned east-west, which was filled by (35) a grey-brown silty clay with rounded pebble inclusions. This appeared to be the original cut for the hollow-way at the south end of the site which had silted up. It was then consolidated into a surface (08) comprising mid-sized rounded pebbles set within grey-brown silty clay, measuring 0.05 thick (Fig. 25).

This was overlain by subsoil, measuring 0.05m-0.17m thick. Finally this was overlain by topsoil, which measured 0.15m-0.25m thick.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)		Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
8	29.7		1.5		44.55		0.24		0.38		Y
Interval (m) from northwest end	0	5	10	15	20	25	29				
Topsoil depth	0.16	0.2	0.15	0.25	0.18	0.21	0.16				
Subsoil depth	0.13	0.05	0.08	0.05	0.12	0.14	0.17				
Top of natural substratum	0.29	0.25	0.23	0.3	0.3	0.35	0.33				
Base of trench	0.38	0.26	0.24	0.38	0.32	0.38	0.38				



Figure 23: Gully [10] & Hollow-way [8]

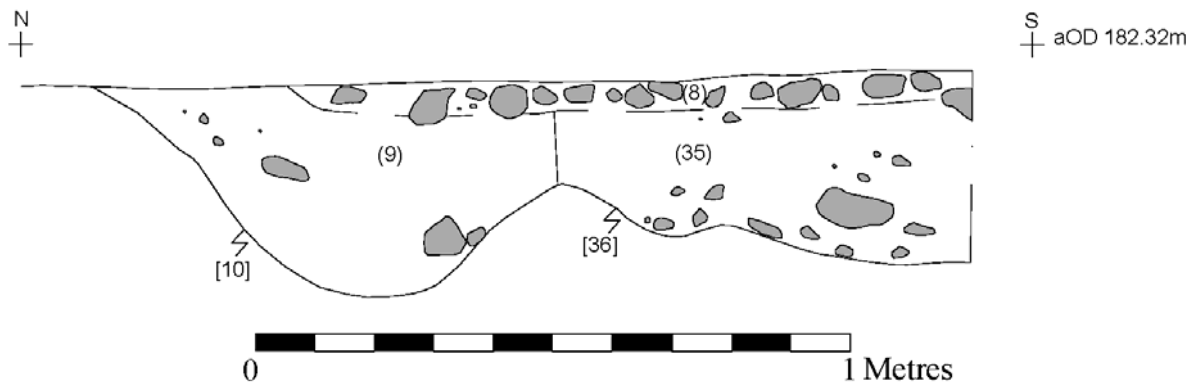


Figure 24: Gully [10] & hollow-way section



Figure 25: Hollow-way

Trench 9

Trench 9 measured 29.8m x 1.5m and was aligned northwest to southeast. The natural substratum was encountered at a depth of 0.35m and 0.47m. Cut into the natural was a posthole [94] and a gully [89]. Posthole [94] was located at the northwest end of the trench, was 0.3m in diameter, and filled by red-brown silty clay. Gully [89] was located near the middle of the trench, aligned north-south, and measured 0.2m wide with moderately concave sides and base (Figs. 26 & 27). It was filled by (90), a mid brown silty clay with ironstone fragments, 0.10m thick.

Covering these was a buried soil (176), comprising red-brown silty clay with occasional ironstone fragments, measuring 0.1-0.16m thick. Cut into this layer was ditch [91] that was aligned northeast-southwest, measuring 1.3m wide with steep sloping sides and base, that was 0.46m deep (Figs. 28 & 29). The lowest fill (175) was mid brown silty clay with occasional ironstone fragments, measuring 0.12m thick. It was overlain by (92), a mixed orange-brown silty clay also with ironstone fragments, measuring 0.34m thick.

This was overlain by (97), a layer of mixed broken roof tile, 0.17m thick, acting as a foundation layer for (96), which was a rough ironstone laid surface measuring 0.15m thick. There were two associated walls with this surface, (88) and (93), both aligned northeast-southwest and made up of small ironstone fragments and the odd brick.

Possibly contemporary with (176) was a surface (87) and possible pit [172] at the southwest end of the trench. Surface (87) was aligned northeast-southwest, measuring 1.6m wide, and made up of rough small ironstone fragments. On top of this was (174) a loose rubble/tumble of ironstone.

Subsoil covered most of the trench, and measured 0.09m-0.15m thick. This was overlain by topsoil, that was 0.11m-0.28m thick.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)	Archaeology?
9	29.8		1.5	44.7		0.12		0.59	Y
Interval (m) from northeast end	0	5	10	15	20	25	29.8		
Topsoil depth	0.16	0.15	0.28	0.13	0.12	0.13	0.11		
Subsoil depth	0.09	0.1	-	-	-	0.13	0.15		
Floor surface (96)	-	-	-	0.12	-	-	-		
Foundation layer (97)	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	-		
Buried soil (176)	0.1	0.1	-	0.12	-	0.12	0.16		
Top of natural substratum	0.35	0.35	-	0.47	-	0.38	0.42		
Base of trench	0.41	0.44	0.28	0.59	0.12	0.41	0.5		



Figure 26: Gully [89] looking south

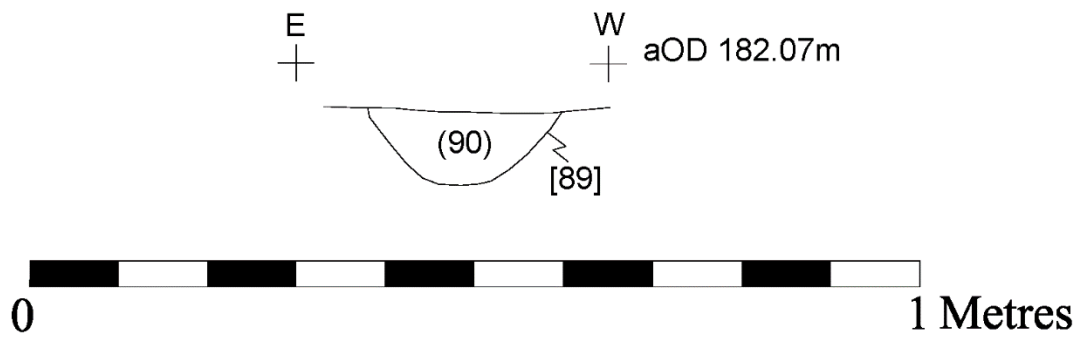


Figure 27: Gully [89] section



Figure 28: Gully [91] looking southwest

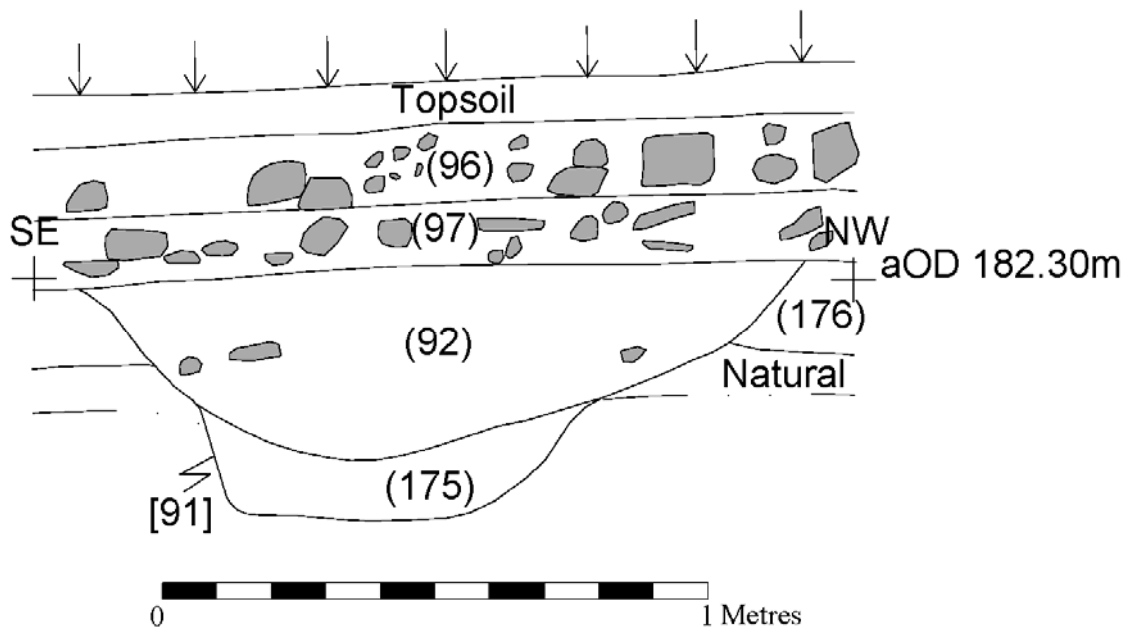


Figure 29: Ditch [91] section

Trench 10

Trench 10 measured 30.2m x 1.5m aligned east to west. The natural substratum was encountered at a depth of 0.52m and 0.6m. Cut into the natural was gully [168] that was aligned northwest-southeast, measured 0.3m wide, and filled by (169), a russet mottled brown-grey silty clay with pebble inclusions. It appeared that a small pit [170] truncated it, which was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.8x0.45m. It was filled by (171) a mid grey-brown clay silt.

Covering these was a buried soil layer (144), consisting of mid brown-orange clay, and measuring 0.08-0.18m thick. Cut into this layer was a gully [164] and three ditches [150], [162] and [166]. Gully [164] was aligned north-northwest-south-southeast, measuring 0.2m wide, and filled by (165), a grey-brown silty clay. Ditch [166] was aligned north-northwest-south-southeast, which measured 0.68m wide, and was filled by (167) a mid brown silty clay. Ditch [162] was aligned northeast-southwest, terminating to the southwest, and measuring 0.35m wide. It was filled by (161), a brown-grey silty clay with frequent sandstone inclusions. This appeared to be truncated by ditch [150], which was aligned northwest-southeast, and measured 1.1m wide with slightly irregular very steep sides and a flat base onto the underlying ironstone, 0.92m deep (Figs. 30-32). The lowest fill (160) was mid brown silty clay, 0.3m thick. This was covered by (159), mid brown silty clay with yellow clay patches 0.16m thick. This was covered by (151), mid-dark brown silty clay with infrequent ironstone fragments, 0.4m thick. The final fill (158) was the same as (159), 0.12m thick.

These linears were overlain by buried soil (143) mid brown-orange clay, 0.1-0.189m thick. Either contemporary to or overlying this layer was (163), made up of small to mid sizes ironstone fragments. This may be a surface, but seemed to line up with a linear earthwork running southwards, so may actually be a toft or croft boundary.

Subsoil, 0.14m-0.19m thick. This was overlain by topsoil, 0.12m-0.2m thick. Linears [62], [164] and [166] were unexcavated.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
10	30.2		1.5	45.3		0.2		0.6		Y
Interval (m) from west end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30			
Topsoil depth	0.14	0.14	0.2	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.13			
Subsoil depth	0.16	0.15	-	0.19	0.15	0.14	0.14			
Buried soil (143)	0.2	0.2	-	0.19	0.1	0.14	0.12			
Buried soil (144)	0.08	0.08	-	0.08	0.13	0.18	0.13			
Top of natural substratum	0.58	0.57	-	0.6	0.53	0.58	0.52			
Base of trench	0.58	0.57	0.2	0.6	0.53	0.58	0.52			



Figure 30: Ditch [150] looking southeast

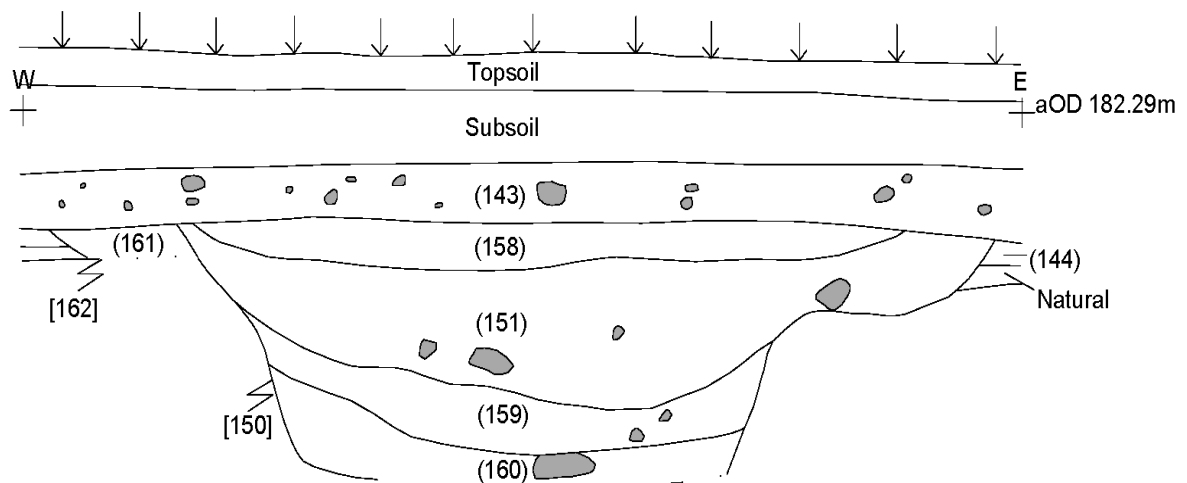


Figure 31: Ditch [150] & gully [162] section

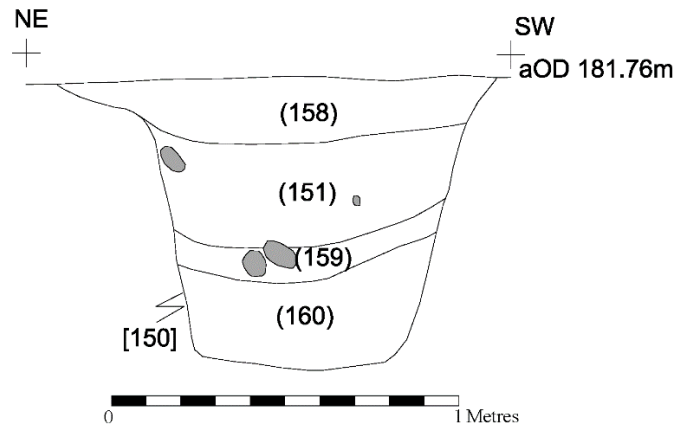


Figure 32: Ditch [150] section

Trench 11

Trench 11 measured 29.9m x 1.5m, and was aligned north-south. The natural substratum was encountered at a depth of 0.35m and 0.77m. Cut into the natural at the south end of the trench were ditches [63] and [65], both aligned east-west. Ditch [65] was 2.8m wide, filled by (66) mid brown-orange silty clay with ironstone flecks. This was sealed by a buried soil layer (187), consisting of brown-yellow clay 0.3m thick. The natural subsoil rose up towards the north, this deposit petering out, as if it was filling in a natural slope towards the hollow-way.

Ditch [63] was 2m wide, and filled by (64), a brown-orange silty clay with ironstone fragments. At this point in the trench there was no sign of buried soil (187), but a separate buried soil (186) at a higher level, overlay (187). This deposit consisted of red-brown silty clay with occasional small pebble inclusions, measuring 0.17-0.22m thick. Also cutting the natural near the middle of the trench was a gully [177], situated between two surfaces (60) and (61). The gully was aligned east-west, terminating to the west, and measured 0.47m wide. It was filled by (178), a mid yellow-grey silty clay.

Surface (61) on the south side of gully [177] consisted of rough and loose ironstone fragments ending further south in the trench at (62) which may have been the remnants of an east-west wall, but could also represent a demolition layer.

An east-west wall (59) was located near the north end of the trench. It was 0.35m wide, made up of roughly squared ironstone blocks (Fig. 33). To either side of the wall were surfaces; (60) to the south and (58) to the north. Surface (58) consisted of small flattish ironstone fragments loosely laid on top of natural with an orange-brown silty clay infill. Surface (60) was better laid with mid-sized ironstone fragments, measuring 0.1m deep.

These layers were sealed by subsoil, measuring 0.18m-0.2m thick. This was overlain by topsoil, that was 0.1m-0.21m thick.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)	Archaeology?
11	29.9		1.5	44.85		0.14		0.69	Y
Interval (m) from south end	0	5	10	15	20	25	29		
Topsoil depth	0.1	0.12	0.14	0.21	0.13	0.14	0.16		
Subsoil depth	0.2	0.18	-	0.14	0.08	0.08	0.12		
Buried soil (186)	0.17	0.22	-	-	-	-	-		
Buried soil (187)	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Top of natural substratum	0.77	0.52	-	0.35	-	-	-		
Base of trench	0.77	0.69	0.14	0.35	0.21	0.22	0.28		



Figure 33: Wall (59) looking east

Trench 12

Trench 12 measured 30.1m x 1.5m, and was aligned east-west. The natural substratum was encountered at a depth of 0.3m at the west end of the trench and 0.77m at the east end. Ditch [181] was cut into the natural near the east end of the trench (Figs. 34 & 35). It was aligned northwest-southeast with a gentle slope, dropping more steeply, with a concave base, measuring 1.2m wide, 0.4m deep. The lowest fill (182) was mid yellow-brown silty clay with small stone inclusions, 0.2m thick. This was overlain by (185), a mid brown-yellow silty clay with infrequent small stones, 0.15m thick.

Surface (180) seemed to be laid around the backfill of the ditch, and may have even slumped into it. It consisted of mid-sized ironstone blocks in a mid-yellow brown clay soil, with some larger blocks overlying it in places which probably represent demolition. A north-south aligned stone wall (179) lay on the eastern side of the surface. It was made up of a single width course of roughly squared off ironstone blocks, 0.2m wide. These were overlain by a buried soil (184), consisting of mid orange-brown silky clay with occasional ironstone fragment, and measuring 0.25-0.4m thick.

Possibly contemporary with the buried soil was deposit (67), comprising loose fragments of ironstone within a silty clay soil, making up a consolidated bank material, separating the toft or croft with the Hollow way to the immediate south. This became deposit (183), a material within the Hollow way as the trench was aligned across it, down the bank. It was a beige coloured sandy clay with ironstone fragments, either part of the consolidation surface, or erosion/slippage of the earthwork bank.

These were sealed by subsoil, 0.12m-0.24m thick. This was overlain by topsoil, 0.17m-0.23m thick.

Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (sq. m)	Min. depth (m)	Max. depth (m)	Archaeology?
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12	30.1		1.5		45.15		0.17		0.77		Y
Interval (m) from west end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30				
Topsoil depth	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.23	0.17				
Subsoil depth	0.2	0.1	0.15	-	-	0.12	0.24				
Buried soil (184)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.36				
Top of natural substratum	0.4	0.3	0.35	-	-	-	0.77				
Base of trench	0.4	0.3	0.35	0.2	0.2	0.35	0.77				



Figure 34: Ditch [181] & wall (179) northwest

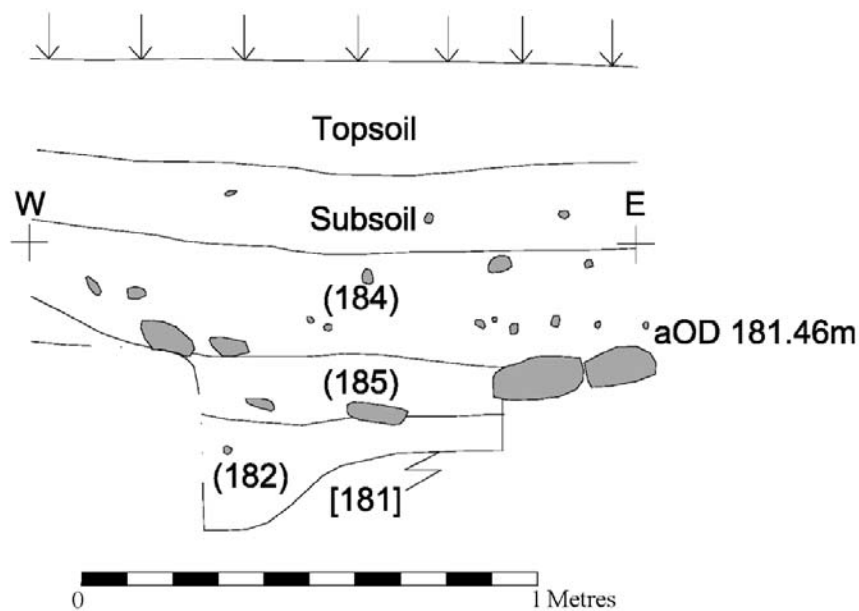


Figure 35: Ditch [181] section

Trench 13

Trench 13 measured 30.1m x 1.5m, and was aligned east-west. The natural substratum was encountered at a depth of 0.41m and 0.6m. This archaeological deposits in this trench were not consistent along its length, due to its location across two different tofts or crofts. The west end of the trench had one buried soil, while the east end contained two. The separation in the trench between the two tofts or crofts occurred in line with a drain cut [145]. The eastern side of the trench will be described with first.

Cut into the natural was a potential linear feature [51] apparently aligned north-south (Figs. 36 & 37). It was 0.6m wide, with quite irregular moderate to steep sides and an irregular base. It was filled by (52), light orange-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecking, 0.18m thick. As the entirety of the feature is not known, it is possible it may be a tree throw. This was sealed by buried soil (53)/(124), which comprised mid brown loamy clay measuring 0.09-0.15m thick. Cut into this layer was ditch [48], which was aligned northwest-southeast, and measured 1.3m wide, and at least 0.7m deep (Figs. 38 & 41). The lowest fill encountered (49) was mid yellow-brown silty clay with occasional sandstone blocks and charcoal flecking 0.24m thick. This was overlain by mid brown-grey silty clay with small stone inclusions and some charcoal flecking, 0.54m thick. The ditch was not fully excavated due to unsafe depth.

The ditch was sealed by a buried soil (54)/(125) consisting of mid-dark brown silty clay with frequent small ironstone fragments, 0.1-0.2m thick. Cut into this layer, and apparently representing a boundary between two tofts or crofts, was a north-south drain cut [145] (Figs. 39 & 41). It was 0.9m wide with moderate slopes sloping to vertical with a flat base, 0.34m deep. Both sides of the cut were lined with two courses of roughly squared ironstone blocks, 0.3-0.36m wide, and bonded with yellow clay. The drain fill (147) was light yellow-grey silty clay with few small stone inclusions, 0.34m thick. It was sealed by (155), a light yellow-brown silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions. The drain appeared to cut a possible posthole [156] on the west side. It was at least 0.35m in diameter, and 0.08m deep. Although this posthole seems to be in the western toft or croft, and so the drain may be a later truncation reusing the original boundary.

On the western side of the trench there were three linear features [37], [126], [128] and either a terminus or pit [130]. Gully [37] was aligned north-south with a v-shaped profile, measuring 0.24m deep (Figs. 40 & 41). It was filled by (38), a mid grey-brown silty clay with small stone and charcoal inclusions. Gully [126] was aligned north-south, and measured 0.2m wide. It was filled by (127), grey-brown silty clay. Gully [128] was aligned northwest-southeast, measured 0.4m wide, and was filled by (129) grey-brown-orange silty clay. The terminus [130] was 0.4m wide, probably aligned northeast-southwest, and filled by (131) grey-brown silty clay with occasional ironstone fragments and charcoal flecking. These three features were not excavated. They were all sealed by buried soil (39), which consisted of mid orange-brown clay silt with medium angular stone inclusions.

This was overlain by a subsoil layer measuring 0.1-0.18m thick. There was a yellow clay deposit above this where the dip was caused by drain [145]. This was overlain by topsoil, measuring 0.1m-0.2m thick.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)	Archaeology?
13	30.1		1.5	45.15		0.41		0.68	Y
Interval (m) from west end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30		
Topsoil depth	0.14	0.1	0.15	0.1	0.2	0.12	0.15		

Subsoil depth	0.18	0.1	0.13	0.13	0.17	0.16	0.14		
Buried soil (39)	0.1	0.21	0.23	0.2	-	-	-		
Buried soil (123)	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.17	0.2		
Buried soil (124)	-	-	-	-	-	0.15	0.09		
Top of natural substratum	0.42	0.41	0.51	0.43	0.47	0.6	0.58		
Base of trench	0.42	0.41	0.51	0.43	0.47	0.6	0.68		



Figure 36: Feature [51] looking north

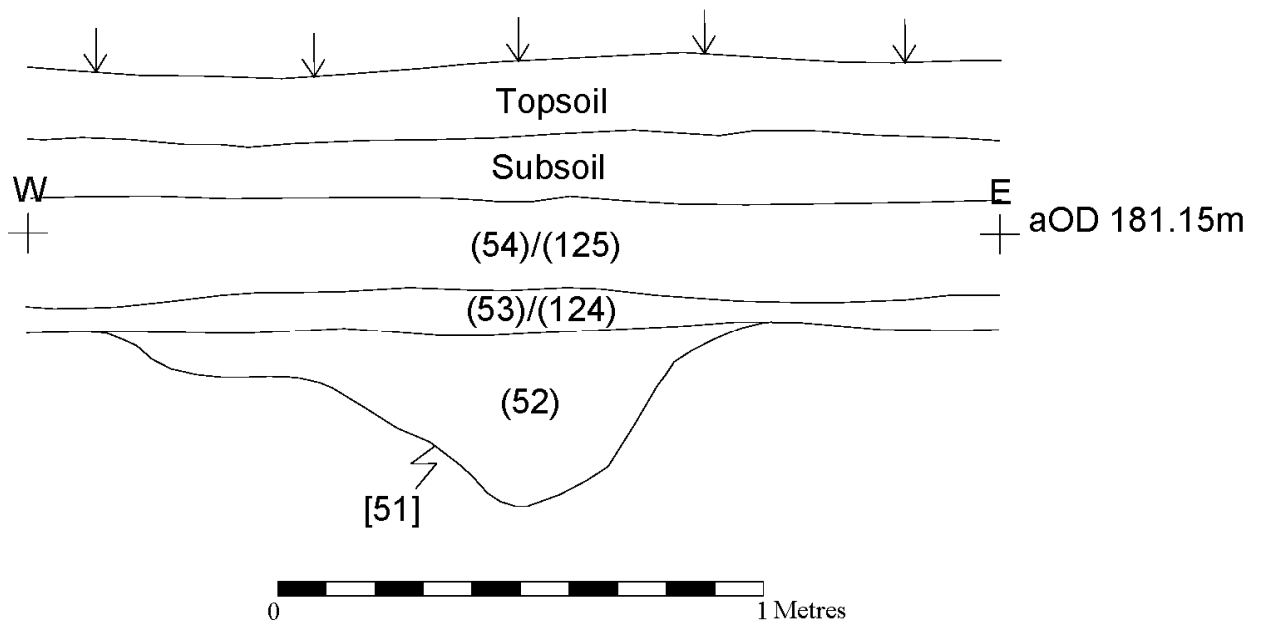


Figure 37: Feature [51] section



Figure 38: Ditch [48] looking north



Figure 39: Drain [145] looking north



Figure 40: Gully [37] looking north

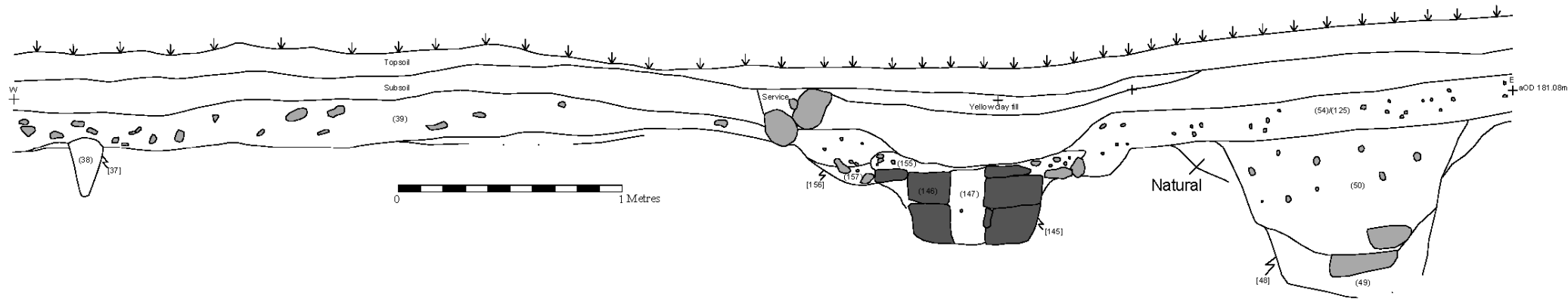


Figure 41: Gully [37], posthole [156], drain (146) and ditch [48] section

Trench 14

Trench 14 measured 30.4m x 1.5m, and was aligned north-south. The natural substratum was encountered at a depth of 0.1m and 0.9m but only in the northern half of the trench in the toft or croft, the south part of the trench was in the hollow way. Cut into the natural were two ditches, [102] and [104], and seven gullies [106], [108], [110], [112], [114], [116] and [118], none of which were excavated.

Ditch [102] was aligned east-west, 2m wide, filled by (103) yellow-brown silty clay. This was sealed by buried soil layer (101), consisting of russet mottled orange-brown silty clay, measuring 0.08-0.2m thick. This deposit only seemed to exist in the very northern part of the trench and was not noticeable with regard to the other features, probably because the natural subsoil started to rise to the south.

Ditch [104] was aligned east-west, measured 0.48m wide, and was filled by (105) an orange-brown silty clay. Gullies [106] and [108] were both aligned east-west, measured 0.25m wide, and filled by (107) and (109), a brown-orange silty clay. Gully [110] was aligned northwest-southeast, measured 0.3m wide, and was filled by (111), a brown-orange silty clay. Gully [112] was aligned east-west, was 0.3m wide and filled by (113), a brown-orange silty clay. These were all sealed by a buried soil layer (100), consisting of red-brown silty clay, which measured 0.2-0.38m thick, which overlay buried soil (101).

Further south along the trench there was no further evidence of any buried soils covering the remaining gullies. Gullies [114], [116] and [118] were all aligned northwest-southeast, and measured 0.4m, 0.3m and 0.6m wide respectively. They were filled by (115), (117) and (119) consisting of orange-brown silty clay.

A deposit (120) consisting of frequent ironstone fragments within a soil seemed to constitute a bank material, separating the toft or croft from the Hollow way to the south where there was at least a 1m drop off into said Hollow way (Fig. 42).

These were sealed by a layer of subsoil, which measured 0.15m-0.2m thick.

Cut into the hallway was a ditch [121] aligned northeast-southwest, 0.8m wide. It was filled by (122), mid orange-brown silty clay with very frequent mid-sized ironstone fragments. It is unclear what stratigraphic relationship this ditch had with the Hollow way silting infill (123), which was mid-light brown-orange silty clay with small ironstone fragment inclusions, 0.07-0.1m thick.

This was overlain by topsoil, 0.1m-0.2m thick.

Trench No.	Length (m)		Width (m)	Area (sq. m)		Min. depth (m)		Max. depth (m)		Archaeology?
14	30.4		1.5	45.6		0.21		0.9		Y
Interval (m) from north end	0	5	10	15	20	25	30			
Topsoil depth	0.14	0.16	0.1	0.18	0.14	0.14	0.2			
Subsoil depth	0.18	0.16	0.15	0.2	-	-	-			
Buried soil (100)	0.2	0.38	0.2	-	-	-	-			
Buried soil (101)	0.08	0.2	0.08	-	-	-	-			
Hollow way fill (123)	-	-	-	-	0.07	0.1	0.1			
Top of natural substratum	0.6	0.9	0.51	0.54	-	-	-			
Base of trench	0.6	0.9	0.51	0.54	0.21	0.24	0.3			



Figure 42: Trench 14 earthwork boundary & hollow-way looking east

Discussion

The site appears to be part of the shrunken medieval village of Somerby with existing earthworks defining tofts and crofts, demolished buildings and earlier sets of fields systems.

The earliest feature is the Iron Age Ditch in Trench 5, and stratigraphically is sealed by the lower subsoil (although unfortunately there is no date for that), and seems likely to represent part of a field system. There were no Roman dated features although Roman pottery was recovered from several Saxon/early medieval contexts, and the lower buried soil (39) in Trench 13.

There appear to be a small number of features with pottery dating to 9th-11th centuries. Stratigraphically these generally cut the lower buried soil, and are sealed by the upper buried soil, in the trenches where these soils appear. This is evident in the ditches [45], [40], [150] and [48], in Trenches 5, 6, 10 and 13. Given the apparent size of [45], [48] and [150] these may well represent another field system out near the edge of the village or perhaps boundary plots. Ditch [181] in Trench 12 may also be part of such a system. Although no dating came from the fills, it was sealed by a buried soil (184) which contained 11-12th Century pottery.

The series of ditches in Trench 3 may be of a similar date, although only one sherd of pottery was recovered from these, and they may represent a sequence of ditches moving the southern boundary of the extent of occupation.

Generally the upper buried soils, where encountered, tended to be of a slightly later date of 11-13th centuries. The walls and surfaces may have been contemporary with this upper buried soil, as pottery recovered from wall (17) in Trench 5 and surface (56) Trench 6, seem to be of a similar date, with the later 15-16th Century pot more likely to be from a final occupation/demolition date. This appears to be similar with wall (59) and surfaces (58) and (60) in Trench 11.

The earthwork mounds in Trenches 6, 10, 12 and 14 all seemed to be denoting boundaries between individual tofts and crofts, and were all packed with stone within the soil, presumably to give these bank earthworks some stability. These may have also been contemporary with the upper buried soils, although only one piece of pottery came from (67) in Trench 12.

The sunken linear earthwork feature in the south of the field seemed fairly convincing as a hollow way in Trench 8 with its compacted stone surface (8). It may be that it is more obvious in the southeast end of the field as there is a natural hill to the south, which combined with the build-up of earthwork banks on its north side, emphasises its shape (Fig. 43). As the hollow way goes west, it moves out of the village, and is defined by a large earthwork bank (Fig. 44) as seen in Trench 6 (142).

There were a further two sunken features evident in the field, which appeared to be mini-hollow ways. One was located between Trenches 11 and 13 (Fig. 45), while the other was evident in Trench 12 (Fig. 46), and most likely on the east side of (163) in Trench 10 (Fig. 47)

In the west of the field there were remnants of the ridge and furrow field system, as also found in Trench 2. However the furrows encountered in trench 4 were of a different alignment, suggesting an earlier phase of ploughing.

There was evidence for a post medieval building within Trench 9, consisting of 2 walls (88) and (93) and a floor (97) with a post medieval tile foundation. This was in an area to the east of Trenches 5 and 6 which looked as if it had been landscaped as it was unusually flat for the area. As it doesn't appear on the first edition OS, it was most likely demolished by then.

While there is little evidence for exact layout there is definite evidence for early occupation from the Iron Age, with a possibility that its activity extended into the Roman period.

The earliest evidence for medieval activity appears to date to the Saxo-Norman period, between the 9th-11th centuries. While it would appear that the site is at the edge of the village, there is suggestion of domestic activity within the late Saxon features such as fill (5) in terminus [7] that contained a large concentration of cattle bones, and cereal grains.

As these features appear to be on totally different alignments to the toft and croft boundaries, it may suggest later re-planning and perhaps formalisation of the settlement. While the site is west of the church at the edge of the village, there is no evidence as yet, to indicate where the nucleus of the early settlement was located and if it predates the formation of the village.

It is difficult to ascertain why there was an abandonment and village shrinkage in this area. As the earthworks still remain it doesn't appear that it was given over to ploughing. However as there is a 16-17th Century pottery date for probably demolition, this suggests land being given over to livestock grazing.

What remains is the ghost of the edge of the village, defined by a raised earthwork bank to the west separating the ridge and furrow field system (light blue lines, figs. 48 & 49). These raised banks seem to define the western most tofts and crofts (lavender coloured line, figs. 48 & 49). The purple coloured lines define sunken linear features, as earthworks, which suggest definition between properties by ditches. The orange lines indicated probable hollow-ways. The southernmost one could be linked up to Oakham Road to the east via field boundaries. There are also potential mini hollow ways running north-south off the main high street. Chapel Street could be linked down to the sunken depression between Trenches 11 and 13. Meanwhile there is another potential hollow-way observed in Trench 12 and surviving above ground as a subtle depression also running north-south. This could potentially line up with West View, but is a much more modern access, however it does reflect the linear nature of these lanes off High Street, such as Manor Lane and Church Lane in the east side of the village. Manor Lane may be a medieval lane that led down to the southern hollow way as it does seem to meet up with it at the south of the village as the access road to Southfields Farm. Church Lane is also parallel

and also terminates at the farm. The pink circular depression could be filled in wells, and as they appear to be in ridge and furrow and a hollow way could be of completely different periods dating back to the Iron Age.

The site would benefit from further archaeological work from non-intrusive methods, such as a detailed earthwork survey and a geophysical survey, to assist further interpretation. These might better determine the extent and subtle nature of the earthworks, and may be able to define the location of building plots.



Figure 43: Southeast corner of field showing hallway and toft and croft earthwork banks



Figure 44: Ridge and furrow earthworks with earthwork bank in the background



Figure 45: Eastern mini-hollow-way



Figure 46: Western mini-hollow-way in trench 12



Figure 47: Western mini-hollow way

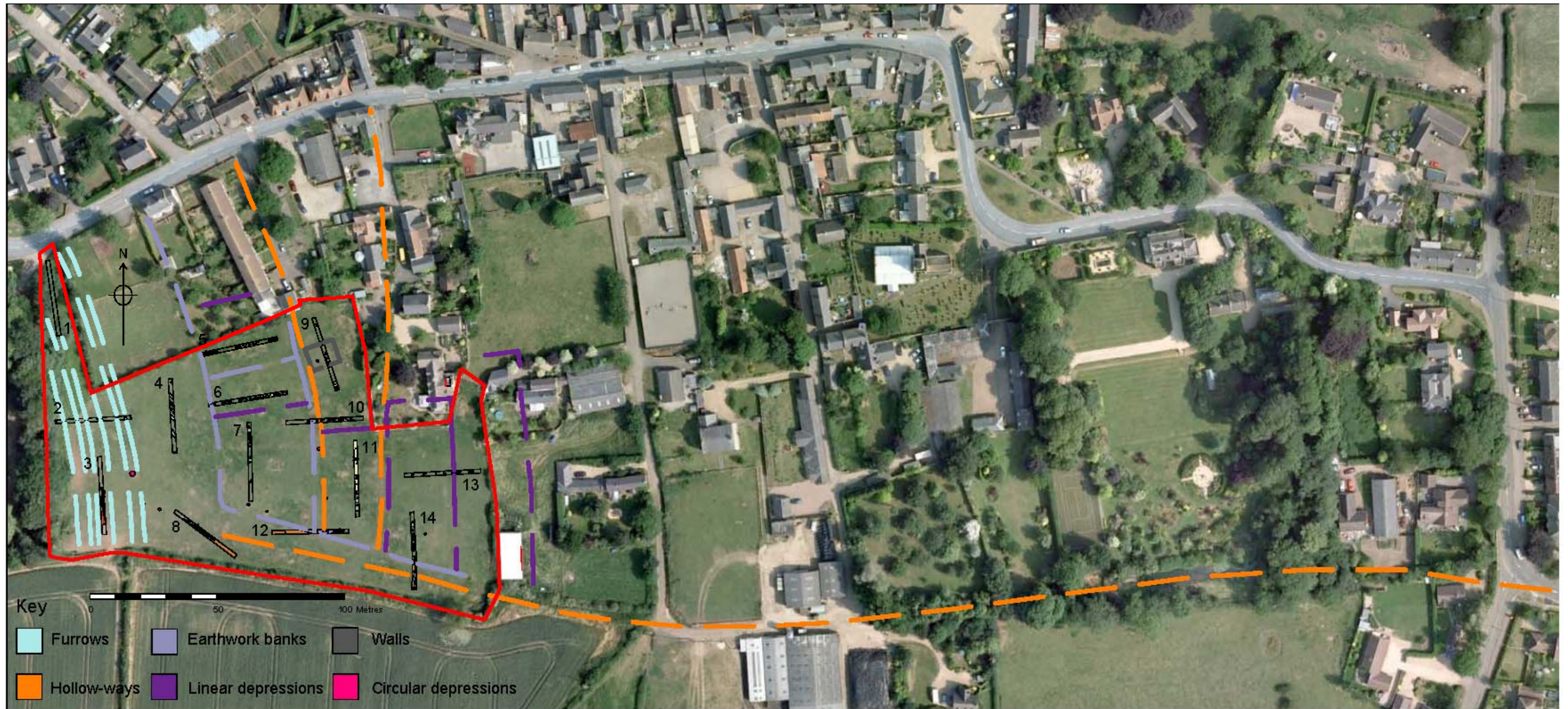


Figure 48: Site plan with interpretation
(Google Earth Pro v 7.1.2.2041, 7/3/2006 52°41'09.85" N 0°50'57.82" W elev 0m eye alt 545m ©2018 Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky)

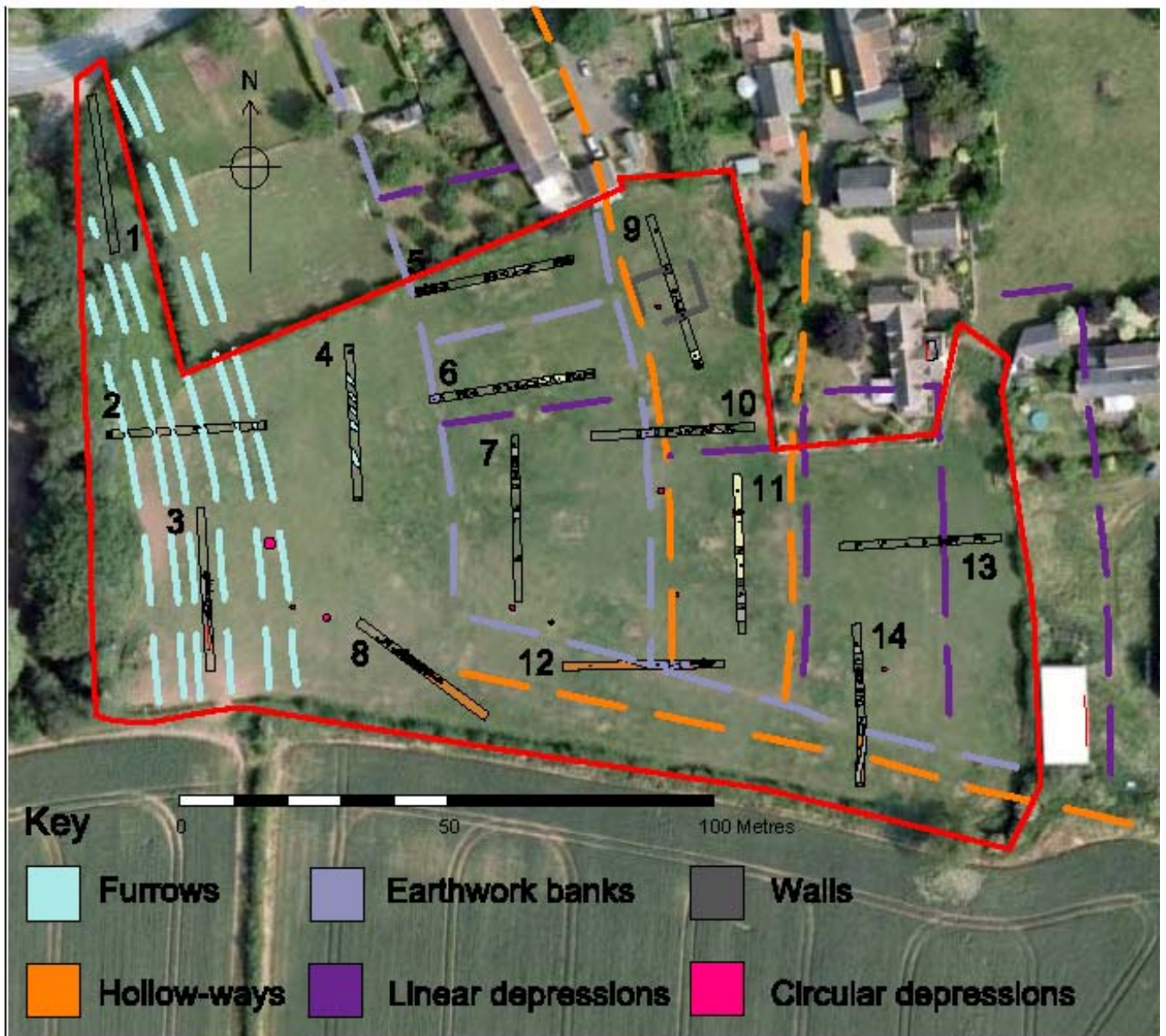


Figure 49: Site plan
(Google Earth Pro v 7.1.2.2041, 7/3/2006 52°41'09.32" N 0°51'06.09" W elev 0m eye alt 250m ©2018 Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky)

The Finds

The Ceramic Finds *Deborah Sawday*

The material ranged in date from the Iron Age and Roman, and the Late Saxon and earlier medieval to the post-medieval and modern periods.

Table 1: The Iron Age and Roman pottery by fabric/ware, sherd no and weight (grams).

Fabric/Ware	No.	Gr
Iron Age		
Q1 – Quartz Sand	2	6
CG – Calcite Gritted	1	7
Total	3	13
Roman		
WW1 – White ware	2	14
WW2 – White ware 2	1	2
OW2 – Oxidised ware 2	1	1
GW – Grey ware	1	3
CG – Calcite Gritted	3	35
Total	8	55

Middle-Late Iron Age Pottery and Fired Clay

Three sherds of Iron Age pottery weighing 13g, and eight sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 55g, were recovered from the excavations, predominantly in medieval or later contexts. The pottery was catalogued with reference to the relevant ULAS fabric series (Marsden 1998, Pollard 1994).

The Medieval and Later Pottery

The assemblage was made up of 198 sherds, weighing 1.571 kg, with a vessel rim equivalent of 1.197 (calculated by adding together the circumference of the surviving rim sherds, where one vessel equals 1.00).

Condition

The condition of the medieval and later pottery was fragmentary with an average sherd weight of only 7.9 grams. The acidic soils meant that on occasion the inclusions in the calcareous sherds had leached out making the distinction between the St Neots, Coarse Shelly and Lyveden Stanion wares in some instances somewhat problematic.

Methodology

The material was examined under an x20 binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to current guidelines (MPRG 1998, MPRG 2016) and the ULAS fabric series (Davies and Sawday 1999, Sawday 2009).

The Ceramic Record

The fabric codes and sources – where known – are shown in the fabric list, table 2. Table 3 gives the medieval and later pottery site totals by fabric, number, weight (grams), EVES and average sherd weight (AVS), and table 4 lists the identifiable vessels by fabric and minimum vessel count. Table 5 catalogues the pottery (and miscellaneous finds) by context, fabric/material, number, weight (grams),

Table 2: The medieval and later pottery fabrics.

Fabric	Common Name/Kiln & Fabric Equivalent where known	Approx. Date Range
ST3	Stamford ware – coarse, fabrics E/F, H A/D	c.850/900-1050+
ST2	Stamford - fine, fabrics G B/(A)	c.1050-12th C+.
ST1	Stamford – very fine, fabrics B/C	c.1150-mid-13th C.
SN	St Neots/St Neots type ware, Northants CTS fabric 100	c.850/900-1100
CS	Coarse Shelly ware (includes some sherds previously catalogued as LY4 – Lyveden Stanion A ware) - Northampton fabric T1/2, T2, Northants CTS 330	c.1100-1400
OL	Oolitic ware – South Lincs. fabrics SLSNO.	11-12 th C.
OS2	Oxidised Sandy ware -? local, ?Bourne type/Northants CTS fabrics 302-305	c.12th-13th C.
LY4	Lyveden/Stanion type - Northampton fabric T6, Lyveden/Stanion ‘A’ ware Northants CTS 319	c.1150-1400
SP1	Nottingham Splashed ware	c.1150-1250
PM	Potters Marston ware - Potters Marston, Leicestershire	c.1100- c.1300/50+
LY1	Lyveden/Stanion type - Northampton fabric T2, Lyveden/Stanion ‘B’ ware, Northants CTS fabric 320	c.1200-1500
NO3	Nottingham Light Bodied/Reduced Green Glazed ware NOTGL/NOTGR	Early/mid-13th - c.1350
BO3	Bourne A/B ware/type ware	c.1250-1450
BO	Bourne ware/type ware	c.1250-1450
BO1	Bourne D ware/type ware	c.1450-1650
CW2	Cistercian ware 2 -? Ticknall, Derbyshire	c.1450/1475- 1550

MY	Midland Yellow ware - ?Ticknall, Derbyshire	c.1500-1725
EA1	Earthenware 1 – Coarse Post Medieval Earthenware - Chilvers Coton/Ticknall, Derbyshire	c.1450/1500+
EA2	Earthenware 2 – ‘Pancheon ware’, Chilvers Coton/Ticknall, Derbyshire(17th C-18th C. +
EA6	Earthenware 6 - Black Glazed Earthenware	16th C.-18th C.

The Ceramic Record

The pottery has been divided into an approximate chronological order by major periods (table 3). The bulk of these finds, over 89 per cent by sherd number, lie within the late Saxon and earlier medieval date range, with the Stamford fabrics ST3, ST2 and ST1 the most common fabrics present.

Table 3: The medieval and later pottery site totals by fabric, sherd number, weight (grams), minimum vessel count and average sherd weight (ASW).

Fabric	No.	Gr	EVEs	ASW	% of total by sherd
Late Saxon/Earlier Medieval					
ST3	54	413	0.447		
ST2	68	246	0.125		
ST1	3	5			
SN/CS	1	2			
CS	12	64	0.08		
OL	2	18	0.125		
OS2	4	16			
CS/LY4	7	55			
LY4	19	179	0.05		
SP1	1	4			
PM	6	45			
Sub Total	177	1047	0.827	5.9	89.3
Medieval					
LY1	3	35			
NO3	4	66			
BO3	1	2			
BO	3	112	0.17		
Sub Total	11	215	0.17	19.5	5.5
Later Medieval/Early Post Medieval					
BO1	1	1			

CW2	2	170			
MY	1	15	0.1		
EA1	1	74	0.08		
Sub Total	5	260	0.18	52.0	2.5
Post Medieval/Modern					
EA2	4	48	0.02		
EA6	1	1			
Sub Total	5	49	0.02	9.8	2.5
Site Totals	198	1571	1.197	7.9	99.8

Whilst both Potters Marston and the Lyveden Stanion fabric, LY4, have a fairly broad dates from c. 1100/1150 to c.1400, much of the pottery appears typologically to fall within the earlier period with a possible terminal date of c.1250.

Most of the early material was sooted, and had evidently been used for cooking; glaze was uncommon even on the Stamford ware, where there was limited evidence of table wares such as spouted pots and pitchers and jugs.

Whilst the fragmentary nature of the assemblage meant that relatively few vessels were identifiable, typically, for a predominantly early assemblage, the bulk of the identifiable vessels are jars, followed by bowls dating from the late 9th – or more typically the 10th or 11th centuries, although two 12th century examples of the latter, are also present. Jugs have only been identified here in those fabrics dating from the 13th century or later, including the Nottingham fabric NO3 and the Lyveden Stanion fabric, LY11 and the late medieval Cistercian ware, CW2.

Jars with simple everted rims, Kilmurry form 2 (Kilmurry 1980), in the Stamford fabrics ST3 and ST2 are the most common vessel type, two of the vessels are decorated with rectangular rouletting. There is also one possible example of a small jar, form 11, with thumbing on the inner rim. Two collared jar rims in the South Lincolnshire fabric OL, have been paralleled at Lincoln (Young et al 2005, fig.109.793), where they are dated from c. 1020-1170. A moulded jar rim in the Lyveden Stanion fabric LY4, was paralleled at Raunds, where it is dated from the 12th century (Blinkhorn 2001, fig.10.20.137).

The rims of two large straight sided bowls in ST3 (Kilmurry form 1) dating from the 11th century both had rectangular rouletting on the rim flange. A 12th century coarse shelly ware bowl with an inturned rim was also paralleled at Raunds (Blinkhorn 2001, fig.10.14.). Another inturned bowl rim of a possibly similar date was recorded in the Stanion Lyveden fabric LY4. The bowl in the Earthenware EA1, whilst in a post-medieval fabric, was in a late medieval or early post-medieval vessel form, and has been paralleled in Leicester in the late medieval Midland Purple ware (Woodland 1981, fig.36.155, fabric pxviii). The bowl in EA2 was also of interest as vessels in this fabric and form are generally slipped and glazed wide mouthed bowls or pancheons. Most unusually in this instance the vessel had traces of trailed slip and embossed decoration on the exterior wall suggesting a date in the later 17th century (Woodland 1986,fig.39.53).

The three jugs were identified; first by a splayed base with evidence of stacking in the Nottingham fabric N03; a highly decorated neck of a vessel in the Lyveden Stanion fabric LY1, both dating from the 13th century and a hollow ware base in the later medieval Cistercian ware fabric CW2.

Table 4: The medieval and later pottery: the identifiable vessels by fabric and minimum vessel count.

Fabric	Min. vessel no		
	jar	bowl	jug
ST3	4	2	
ST2	1		
CS		1	
OL	2		
LY4	1	1	
NO3			1
BO	1		
LY1			1
CW2			1
MY		1	
EA1		1	
EA2		1	
Site Totals	9	7	3

The Stratigraphic Record.

Trench 3

A single sherd was found in trench 3 of late Saxon/early medieval in the St Neots/ Coarse Shelley ware fabric SN/CS weighing 2 grams in context (27) the backfill of ditch [26].

Trench 4

The only finds from trench 4 were two sherds of the late Saxon/early medieval pottery in the Stamford fabric, ST3 weighing six grams in the upper backfill context (5) of the gully [7].

Trench 5

In trench 5, nine sherds, weighing 60 grams were recovered from the backfill, context (44) of the ditch/terminus [45]. This small assemblage was predominantly in fabrics ST1, ST2 and ST3, dating from the mid or later 9th or 10th centuries to the 12th century. The presence of two sherds of Coarse Shelly ware CS, and the Oxidised sandy ware, OS2, and the absence of any fine wheel thrown 13th century gazed wares confirming the latter date.

The ditch was sealed by the upper buried soil (13) and cut the lower buried soil (14). Context (13) contained five sherds, weighing 31 grams in fabric ST2 and the Potters Marston fabric, PM, dating from the 11th and 12th centuries. Perhaps contemporary with (13) was stone wall (17) and a possibly associated surface (18). The latter produced a single sherds of ST3, weighing 3 grams and part of a bowl, weighing 74 grams in the early post medieval Earthenware, EA1; the typologically later medieval rim form suggesting that the sherd was 'transitional' and dated from the mid or later 15th or 16th century.

A possible demolition layer (19) to the north-east of the wall (17) contained a large fragment, weighing 164 grams, of Cistercian ware, dating from c.1450-1550. To the south –east of the trench, two sherds of Bourne ware/type ware, fabrics BO3 and BO1, weighing 3 grams, the latter dating from c.1450-1650, were found within the surface or demolition layer (16) associated with wall [15].

Trench 6

Six sherds, weighing 19 grams, were recovered from context (41) in the gully [40] which lay below the buried soil (43) and cut the lower buried soil (42). The pottery comprised fabrics ST3, ST2 and CS, dating from the mid or later 9th to the 10th or 12th centuries.

Below the surface (56), the compacted layer (55) contained eight sherds, weighing 53 grams in fabrics ST3, CS, PM and LY4, which dated from the 10th to the 12th centuries

Nineteen sherds, weighing 100 grams, in fabrics ST2, CS, the oolitic ware OL, and the Lyveden Stanion ware, LY4, which dated from the 11th to the 12th centuries, lay within the surface (56) and (154) and the buried soil layer (152). All these contexts were possibly contemporary with the upper buried soil (43).

Trench 8

The only ceramic finds were from the surface (8) which was thought to represent the consolidation of the silted up hollow way to the south of the site. The five sherds, 50 grams of pottery, comprised thin walled and possibly 12th century PM, LY4 dating from the 12th or 13th centuries, and an Earthenware bowl in fabric EA2, dating from the later 17th century.

Trench 9

Possibly contemporary with the buried soil (176), the surface (87) produced two pottery sherds, one weighing 3 grams in the 12th century OS2, and another, weighing 8 grams, in EA2, which dated from the 17th or 18th centuries. Post medieval or modern clay tobacco pipe and fragments of roof tile occurred in the same context, but these were more likely from later demolition. Context (97) an underlying floor layer also produced post medieval fragments of roof tile (4 fragments), weighing 637 grams.

Trench 10

One of the upper fills of the ditch [150], context (151), produced a relatively large assemblage of 36 sherds, weighing 271 grams. All were in ST3, dating from the mid or later 9th century to the early or mid-11th century if not slightly later, save for three sherds catalogued here as CS, dating from the 12th century, but possibly late Saxon or early medieval Saint Neots type ware, fabric SN, the leached fabric making positive identification difficult. A sherd of 12th or possibly 13th century PM, and two sherds in LY4 dating from c.1150 or into the 13th century were also recorded.

Above [150] lay the buried soil (143) and associated with the latter was the surface or boundary (163) which contained two sherds dating from c.1150 or into the 13th century in LY4.

Trench 11

The surface (58) to the north of wall [59] produced a glazed fragment, 6 grams, in ST2, dating from c.1050 to the 12th century. South of the wall, the surface (60) produced three sherds, 20 grams of LY4, dating from c.1150 or into the 13th century, and a tiny, possibly intrusive fragment, weighing 2 grams, of EA2 dating to the 17th or 18th centuries.

A single sherd, weighing 17 grams, of the Lyveden Stanion fabric LY1, dating from c.1200 to 1500 was recovered from the surface (61).

Trench 12

The only finds from this trench were six joining sherds, weighing 6 grams of glazed ST2, dating from c.1050 to the 12th century, from the buried soil (184) which overlaid wall (179).

Trench 13

Two sherds, weighing 4 grams in ST2, dating from the mid-11th to the 12th century were found in the buried soil, (53)/(124).

The ditch [48], contexts (49) and (50), which cut the buried soil (53)/(124), contained 50 sherds, weighing 204 grams. These were all in the Stamford fabrics ST1, ST2 and ST3, dating from the later 9th or 10th centuries to the mid-13th century, save for a, probably 12th century sherd, weighing 5 grams, in the Oxidised Sandy ware, OS2, which was found in the lower fill (49). Context [48] was sealed by the buried soil (54)/(125) which produced a single sherd, weighing 19 grams, of ST3, which dated to the 11th century.

A fragment of CW2, weighing 3 grams was found in the fill (147) of the drain [145] which lay below the topsoil to the east. To the west, one of the linear features [126], context (127), produced a sherd of ST3, which weighed 8 grams and dated from the mid or later 9th or 10th centuries. This feature was sealed by the buried soil (39).

Discussion

Early features with later Saxon and earlier medieval finds sealed by the upper buried soils and cutting earlier buried soils were evident in trenches 5, 6 and 10, whilst the buried soils in trenches 12 and 13 produced pottery dating from the 11th and 12th centuries. Later features and demolition layers with medieval and early post medieval pottery were also present, although these made up a smaller proportion of the whole assemblage in terms of the quantities of material.

Conclusion

Whilst the average sherd weights and degree of brokenness, especially with the early material suggest intense activity in the vicinity over a long period of time, evidence of activity from the late Saxon period onwards survived in stratified contexts across the site. Indeed, almost 90 per cent of the pottery by sherd numbers dated from the later Saxon and earlier medieval periods (table 3), but the ceramic evidence suggests that activity if not occupation continued in the vicinity at least until and during the later medieval period if not later.

The Flint

Identified by Lynden Cooper.

Five pieces of worked flint were identified in contexts associated with Roman or medieval pottery and from unstratified contexts, (Table 5). These comprised a secondary blade and secondary flake, a tertiary bladelet, a piercer and a core fragment.

The Musket Balls

Two lead musket balls were found in an unstratified context. Each weighs approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ oz., suggesting 18 to the lb, and a musket bore suitable for the arquebus and cavalier muskets in the 17th century C. However, these muskets were already obsolete at the start of the Civil War, but were probably still present in many local armouries. The evidence is further complicated by the fact that, often musket bores were not standardised and the size of the balls were frequently unregulated at this time (Courtney 1988).

Table 5: The pottery by context, fabric/ware, sherd number, weight (grams), and EVES and miscellaneous finds by context, number, weight and material.

Context	Fabric/ware	No	Gr	EVEs	Diam	Comments
IRON AGE						
32 [34] T5	Q1	1	3			
58 T11	CG	1	7			
151[150] T10	Q1	1	3			
ROMAN						
39 T13	WW2	1	2			
39 T13	OW2	1	1			
44 [45] T5	GW	1	3			
50 [48] T13	WW1	1	3			
52 [51] T13	WW1	1	11			Jar rim
52 [51] T13	CG	2	31			
U/S T6	CG	1	4			
MEDIEVAL						
5 [7] T4	ST3	1	3			Jar body, black fabric, rectangular rouletting, c.900-1050+
5	ST3	1	3			
8 T8	PM	2	3			Join – thin walled, early
8	LY4	1	9			
8	EA2	2	38	0.02	360	Join – abraded bowl with traces of trailed slip/embossed on ext under rim, unusual decoration on this

						fabric, later 17 th C. (Woodland 1987, fig.39.53).
13 T5	ST2	3	20			Join, sooted/burnt
13	ST2	1	2			Sooted/burnt
13	PM	1	9			Flat base
16 T5	BO3	1	2			Olive green glaze
16	BO1	1	1			Slipped and glazed
18 T5	ST3	1	3			Knife trimmed basal angle, burnt/sooted, reduced.
18	EA1	1	74	0.08	280	Wide mouthed rim of flared bowl, oxidised, slipped & glazed. Late medieval/early post medieval form paralleled in Leicester in Midland Purple (fabric pxviii) (Woodland 1981, fig.36.155)
19 T5	CW2	1	167			Glazed, jug base
27 [26] T3	SN/CS	1	2			Thin wall, leached fabric
38 [37] T13	ST2	1	2			sooted
41 [40] T6	CS	3	7			2 pots
41	ST3	1	7	0.10	130	Jar rim, reduced black, Kilmurry 1980, form 2-8, ?10/11 th C
41	ST2	1	6			Handle – broken, wheel thrown, 10 th C.+
44 [45] T5	ST3	1	7			White bodied, burnt
44	ST2	1	2			sooted
44	ST2	1	1			
44	ST2	2	4			Thin yellow gl, 2 pots
44	ST1	1	1			Over-fired glaze, ?c.1150+
44	CS	1	7			Base frag, sooted underneath
44	CS	1	31	0.08	270	Bowl profile, similar in shelly coarseware at Raunds (Blinkhorn 2001, fig.10.14.
44	OS2	1	7			Wheel thrown, micaceous, sooted, sparse calcareous inclusions – 12 th C?
49 [48] T13	ST1	1	2			Incised wavy line decoration, thin glaze

49	ST2	2	3			Join, thin yellow glaze
49	ST2	5	11			Lightly sooted, 5 pots
49	ST3	2	3			Sooted – white/orange bodied, 2 pots
49	ST3	1	3			Basal angle – flat, knife trimmed, late 10 th – early 11 th C. burnt/sooted. White bodied.
49	ST3	1	15	0.08	150	Jar rim, white bodied, sooted, Kilmurry 1980 form 2-35, 11 th C., sooted
49	OS2	1	5			Wheel thrown, micaceous sandy fabric as above - ?12 th C
50 [48] T13	ST2	1	1			Thin yellow gl, joins (49)
50	ST3	1	28	0.06	270	Jar rim, white bodied, grey core, sooted – rouletted on ext flange, Kilmurry form 2-7/8, ?late 9 th -10 th C+
50	ST3	1	8	0.05	220	Bowl, white bodied, Kilmurry form 1, rouletted on flange, ?11 th C
50	ST2	3	12	0.125	100	Jar – form 11? Thumbled on inner rim Kilmurry M39, sooted ext
50	ST1	1	2			Thin lead glaze
50	ST2	2	3			Thin lead gl, 2 pots
50	ST2	6	19			1 pot, 1 sherd thin gl-
50	ST2	15	51			.misc. externally sooted, ?13 pots
50	ST2	1	17			Base, flat, kt, reduced externally
50	ST2	3	6			3 pots
50	ST3	3	15			3 pots, white bodied, grey core, sooted
53 T13	ST2	2	4			1 pot
54 T13	ST3	1	19	0.14	130	Jar rim, white body, form 2-35, sooted/burnt, 11 th C
55 T6	CS	2	7			Leached fabric
55	LY4	1	16	0.05	300	Bowl rim, inturned. Estimated diameter/EVE -

55	LY4	1	4			leached
55	ST3	1	3			Flat base, sooted
55	ST3	1	12			Sooted/burnt
55	ST3	1	1			sooted
55	PM	1	10			Sooted, thin walled, 12 th C
58 T11	ST2	1	6			Thin glaze
60 T11	LY4	3	20			Abraded, moulded jar rim, no diam/EVEs. Shouldered, (Blinkhorn 2001, fig.10.20.137) 1 pot
60	EA2	1	2			Post med
60	EA6	1	1			1650-1750
61 T11	LY1	1	17			Type – atypical - lot of fe, thin gl, 1200-1500
87 T9	OS2	1	3			?wheel thrown, Limescale on int, sooted ext
87	EA2	1	8			Post med
92 [91] T9	ST3	1	6			knife trimmed, pale buff body, sooted,
92	ST2	1	2			sooted
127 [126] T13	ST3	1	8			Patchy reduction/burning
147 [145] T13	CW2	1	3			Glazed /cup body
151 [150] T10	ST3	2	71	0.017	240	Bowl, pale buff body, Kilmurry form 1-03 & rouletting M5 on flange, ?early-mid 11 th C, sooted burnt int & ext of rim, 1 pot.
151	ST3	3	26			All rest white bodied. Convex bases, 1 burnt , 2 sooted, 3 pots,
151	ST3	1	9			Shoulder, thin lead glaze
151	ST3	2	12			Traces of thumbing – 1 pot
151	ST3	8	51			7 pots
151	ST3	14	62			Sooted/burnt, ?13 pots
151	LY4	2	32			2 pots
151	CS	3	5			Byrozoa not evident but thin walled & fine shell, 3 pots
151	PM	1	3			
152 T6	ST2	2	11			Thin lead gl, 1 pot
152	ST2	3	10			3 pots

152	ST2	2	11			Sooted, knife trimmed
152	OL	1	13	0.075	160	Collared jar rim, reduced, sooted (Young <i>et al</i> 2005, fig.109.793) 1020-1170
152	OL	1	5	0.05	160	Jar rim, as above, sooted, est EVE
152	CS	1	3			sooted
152	LY4	9	49			5 pots, all sooted
155 [145] T13	OS2	1	1			sooted
163 T10	LY4	2	49			Convex bases, sooted 2 pots
184 T12	ST2	6	6			Thin yellow glaze – 1 pot
U/S T11	NO3	1	45			Jug base with stacking evidence, grey int, later 13 th C.
U/S T6	ST3	4	38			Sooted, 4 pots
	ST2	3	36			Sooted, 3 pots
	PM	1	20			sooted
	CS	1	4			sooted
	CS/LY4	7	55			4 pots, 3 sooted
	LY1	1	8			Jug neck, slip & gl decoration
	LY1	1	10			Three white clay strips + gl
	SP1	1	4			?coarse Nottingham
	NO3	3	21			Glazed – 1 pot – later 13 th C.
	MY	1	15	0.1	120	Jar rim
	BO	3	112	0.17	380	Everted jar rim, rolled and ext thickened, similar at Bourne & pos a Bourne type but without the white inclusions, (Healey 1973) traces of gl and sooting. Fe in fabric. I pot.
CHINA CLAY						
[87] T9	China clay	1				Clay tobacco pipe stem – post med/modern.
LEAD						
U/S T11	Pb	1	62			Circular disc.
U/S T14	Pb	2	41			Musket balls
CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL						
49 [48] T13	EA	1	6			

58 T11	EA	1	9			
[87] T9	EA	2	68			Post med/modern roof tile
157 [156] T13	EA	2	2			
97 T9	EA	4	637			Post med/modern curved roof tile,
FIRED/BURNT CLAY						
5 [7] T4	EA	8	22			
41 [40] T6	EA	1	2			
58 T11	EA	1	3			
60 T11	EA					
MORTAR						
38 [37] T13	Mortar	1	1			
58 T11	Mortar	1	16			
COAL						
60 T11	coal	2	7			
61 T11	coal	1	5			
FLINT		L. Cooper				
49 [48] T13	1	Piercer				
52 [51] T13	1	Secondary Blade				
52 [51] T13	1	Core fragment				
95 [94] T9	1	Secondary Flake				
U/S T6	1	Tertiary Bladelet				

The Animal Bones

William Johnson

Overview of the Material

The material from this site forms a very small assemblage of 118 fragments from 17 contexts. The assemblage is highly fragmented but fairly well preserved. There was one context from a stratigraphically earlier period (5) which produced 30% of the animal bone and was the best preserved context assessed.

Preservation

The surface preservation was assessed using a 0-5 scale described in O'Connor, 2000 (p44). The preservation of the material on the site was largely good, with the majority of the contexts being well preserved with little surface damage or cracking (59% values 0-2). On the other hand the material was highly fragmented with only 28% of the material being identifiable to taxa the rest being only identifiable to size class or being unidentifiable.

Preservation	0	1	2	3	4	5	Grand Total
Count of Contexts	0	2	8	3	4	0	17
%	0.0%	11.8%	47.1%	17.6%	23.5%	0.0%	100.0%

Taxa Present

Of the bone assessed only 27.9% was identifiable to taxa. Of this the majority of the material was cattle, followed by sheep with small occurrences of deer and pig. The majority of the assemblage was made up of long bone fragments, with a small number of fragments of pelvis and skull. This suggests a selection for meat bearing elements in the deposits investigated, with the butchery of the animal occurring elsewhere on site.

The earlier context (5) contains the 1 mandibular and 1 maxillary tooth, possibly of deer. The cattle and large mammal bones from (5) are predominantly long bone fragments, metapodial epiphyses, carpals/tarsals and phalanges. This context is dominated by cattle with no other main domesticates. This deposit may suggest primary butchery on the site, with the lower limbs being removed with the skins of the animals.

Unfortunately these conclusions are largely speculative due to the very small size of the assemblage and its low rate of identification.

ID	Count	%
Cattle	21	61.8%
Pig	2	5.9%
Sheep	7	20.6%
Deer	2	5.9%
Roe Deer	1	2.9%
Domestic Fowl	1	2.9%
Total ID	34	100.0%
% ID of Total Frags		27.9%

NISP	Count	%
UNID	59	48.4%
Cattle	21	17.2%
LM	25	20.5%
Pig	2	1.6%
Sheep	7	5.7%
MM	4	3.3%
Horse		0.0%
Deer	2	1.6%
RoeDeer	1	0.8%
RedDeer		0.0%
Fallow Deer		0.0%
Dom.Fowl	1	0.8%
Other Bird		0.0%
Lago		0.0%
Total	122	100.0%

Taphonomy

The rates of burning, butchery and gnawing were fairly low but that may simply be due to the size of the assemblage. Of note is that the only burnt bones recovered were calcined and the gnawed specimens are from the same context and are heavily gnawed by rodents. The gnawing suggests that the bones in (49) were exposed for a period of time before burial.

Taphonomy	Count	%
Burning	4	3.3%
Butchery	2	1.6%
Gnawing	2	1.6%
Total frags	122	100.0%

Recommendations for further work

Due to the very small nature of the assemblage, the high level of fragmentation and the low rate of identification it would not be worthwhile to send this assemblage to be analysed in full by a specialist.

Industrial Residues

Heidi Addison

Introduction and Methodology

A total of 1857g of industrial residues were collected from four contexts and a wall feature during the evaluation. The assemblage was subject to visual identification and weighed by context as detailed in Table 1, and summarised by material in Table 2.

Results

Table 1: Quantified record of material by context.

Context	Cut	Weight (g)	Description
49		1045	Incomplete iron smithing hearth bottom. Plano-convex in section. Iron corrosion products and reduced vitrified ceramic lining attached on underside. Charcoal remains present.
61		64	Iron rich fayalite slag. Dense. Vitrified with some fuel ash glazing. Fe corrosion products.
143		675	2 amorphous fragments of fayalite hearth slag. Vesicular. Vitrified ceramic lining attached. Iron corrosion products on both. 1 fragment has iron artefact incorporated. Charcoal remains.
151		15 6	Amorphous fayalite hearth slag. Iron corrosion products. Vitrified ceramic hearth lining.
	87	6	Fayalite hearth slag.
U/S		46	Amorphous lump of fayalite slag. *Discarded*
Total		1857	

Table 2: Quantified list by material

Fe fayalite smithing slag 1851g
Ceramic lining 6g

Discussion

The small assemblage mostly consists of fayalite slag 1851g from all of the contexts listed above, providing firm evidence for iron smithing. The largest quantity of material came from context (49), in trench 13, producing an incomplete smithing hearth bottom with vitrified ceramic lining attached on the underside and part of the outer surface. Although the hearth bottom is not complete, it does show a plano-convex form. Late Saxon and early medieval pottery was found in this context (49) and also in (151), trench 10, along with a tiny amount of hearth slag. More fayalite hearth slag 64g was collected from (61), trench 11, yielding medieval pottery dating to c.1200-1500. A larger amount of hearth slag 675g from (143), trench 10, presented an iron object that is fused to the upper surface of the slag, possibly an iron nail, which mistakenly fell into the hearth or perhaps a defected object. No dating evidence was present within that context but two sherds of medieval pottery were retrieved from an associated context (163).

The Charred Plant Remains

Adam Santer and Rachel Small

Introduction

During an archaeological evaluation at this site three medieval soil samples were taken and processed for the analysis of charred plant remains. Samples 1 and 2 were from gullies; sample 1 was from the fill (5) of a terminus [7] and sample 2 from the fill (41) of gully [40]. Samples 3 and 4 were from ditches; sample 3 was the fill (44) of terminus [45] and sample 4 was from the fill (151) of gully [150]. The analysis of the charred plant remains recovered from the samples are presented here, together with a discussion of what this can potentially tell us about past diet, crop husbandry strategies and environment at the site.

Methodology

Samples 2 and 3 were dark grey/brown clay whilst sample 1 and 4 were dark orange/brown clay. The samples were processed in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm sieve. The flotation fractions (flots) were sorted for plant remains and other artefacts under an x10-40 stereo microscope. Due to high quantity of remains, only twenty percent of sample 3's flot was sorted. The other three flots (samples 1, 2 and 4) were sorted in their entirety. The residues were air dried and the fractions over 4mm were sorted in their entirety and the fraction under 4mm was only scanned for remains. Plant remains were identified by comparison to modern reference material available at ULAS and their names follow Stace (1991). The plant remains were quantified as follows: each whole grain or those representing over 60% of the specimen was counted as one; for chaff, each rachis internode was counted as one; and for seeds each fragment was counted as one, except for legumes where each cotyledon was counted as 0.5 (identifications and counts are listed in table 1).

Results

The quantity of charred plant remains differed between the samples. Sample 1 contained a low density of remains, 1.71 items per litre. Sample 2 and 4 contained a moderate density of

remains, 14.5 and 5 items per litre respectively. Sample 3 contained a high density of remains 106.88 items per litre.

Despite the differing densities, the composition of the samples were similar. They were characterised by a dominance of cereal grains. These were very well preserved and it was possible to identify the majority of whole fragments to species. Free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* spp.) was the most commonly occurring species, a smaller number of barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) and oats (*Avena* spp.) grains were identified. Whether the latter is wild or cultivated cannot be ascertained from the grain alone, this is only possible if the lemma base is attached. Very small numbers of free-threshing wheat rachis internodes were present in samples 3 and 4, only two specimens in each. The fragments were too small to identify to species.

A pea (*Pisum/Lathyrus*) was present in sample 3, it is possible it was considered a food crop, however, it could also be a contaminant of the field. Wild seeds were common in the assemblage, especially those which are typical of cereal fields, including corncockle (*Agrostemma githago* L.) and stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula* L.), and wastelands, such as cleavers (*Galium aparine* L.). Stinking chamomile is indicative of heavy clay soils, whilst cleavers are typical of high nitrogen soils.

Discussion

The composition of the samples - grain dominant with a smaller number of wild seeds, and absent/very little chaff - is characteristic of a 'grain product' the latter being contaminates. This could represent an accumulation of accidental spillage during cooking or the burning of a small store which was accessed on a day to day basis. If the latter is true, it was likely an accident as the grain does not appear to show signs of insect boring or germination. Similar compositions exist in samples analysed at the rural Medieval East Midlands settlements at South Witham, Lincolnshire (Monckton 2003a) and St. Mary's Gate, Derby (Monckton 2003b).

Table 1: plant remains present in flots.

Sample	1	2	3	4	
Context	5	41	44	151	
Cut	7	40	45	150	
Date	Med	Med	Med	Med	
Feature type	Gully terminus	Gully	Ditch terminus	Ditch	
Grain					
<i>Cf. Avena sp.</i>		3	2		Oat
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	2	16	14	3	Barley
<i>Triticum sp.</i> (free-threshing type)	4	53	111	20	Free-threshing wheat
Cereal	1	5	5	1	Cereal
Cereal fragment*	4	61	115	56	Cereal fragment
Chaff					
<i>Triticum sp.</i> rachis internode			2	2	Free-threshing wheat rachis internode
Legumes					
<i>Pisum/Lathyrus</i>			1		Peas
Seeds					
<i>Agrostemma githago</i> L.				1	Corncockle (C)
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.		3	7	4	Stinking chamomile (C)
<i>Chenopodium sp.</i>	2	4	1		Goosefoot (C/W)
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.			1		Cleaver (W)
Poaceae (large)	1	2	18	2	Large grass (V)
<i>Polygonum convolvulus</i> L.	1				Black-bindweed (V)
<i>Rumex sp.</i>	1	1	1	1	Dock (V)
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> (L.) Schultz-Bip.			1		Scentless mayweed (C/W)
<i>Vicia sp.</i>			7	1	Vetch (V)
Total	12	87	171	35	
Sample volume (L)	7	6	8	7	
% of flot analysed	100	100	20	100	
Items per litre	1.71	14.5	106.88	5	

* Not included in total and items per litre.

Key: C = plants of cereal fields; W = plants of wastelands; V = plants of various habitats.

Statement of potential

The assemblage has high densities of remains and is generally well preserved. It was possible to draw conclusions as to what the samples represent, i.e. a grain product, diet and field conditions. If further excavation is to be carried, sampling is highly recommended as a larger assemblage has the potential to help answer the following regional research aims put forward

by Monckton (2003c: 36) including the study of crop rotation and field systems, and supplies to towns.

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Archive

The site archive for this phase consists of: 14 A4 trench recording sheets, 4 A4 context index sheets, 179 A5 context sheets, 1 A4 drawing index, 1 A4 drawing record sheet, 1 A4 sample index, 1 A4 small finds record sheet, 4 A4 photo index sheets, 271 digital photographs and 3 A2 permatrace sheets. It will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A11.2018.

Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

PROJECT	Oasis No	universi1-314774
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DETAILS	Project Name	High Street, Somerby		
	Start/end dates of field work	22-01-18 – 15-02-18		
	Previous/Future Work	DBA 2017-087		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status			
	Current Land Use	Pasture		
	Monument Type/Period	Iron-Age, Saxo-Norman, Medieval, post-medieval		
	Significant Finds/Period	Pottery, tile, flint, bone		
	Development Type			
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
	Planning Ref.			
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	High Street, Somerby, Leicestershire, LE14 2QB		
	Study Area	14,767.37 square metres		
	Site Coordinates	SK 776 104		
	Height OD	182m		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Originator Brief	Local Planning Authority (CCC)		
	Project Originator Design	ULAS		
	Project Manager	John Thomas/Vicki Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Nathan Flavell		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	The Ernest Cook Trust		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	Leics MusService	Leics MusService	Leics MusService
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A11.2018	X.A11.2018	X.A11.2018
	Contents	Pottery, bone, flint, tile, slag	Photos	Context index, context sheets, photo records, sample record, contact sheet, permatrace
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	Archaeological Evaluation South of High Street, Somerby, Leicestershire		
	Author	Flavell, N.		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2018-072		

	Date	2018
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester
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18/04/2018

Appendix – Trench plans

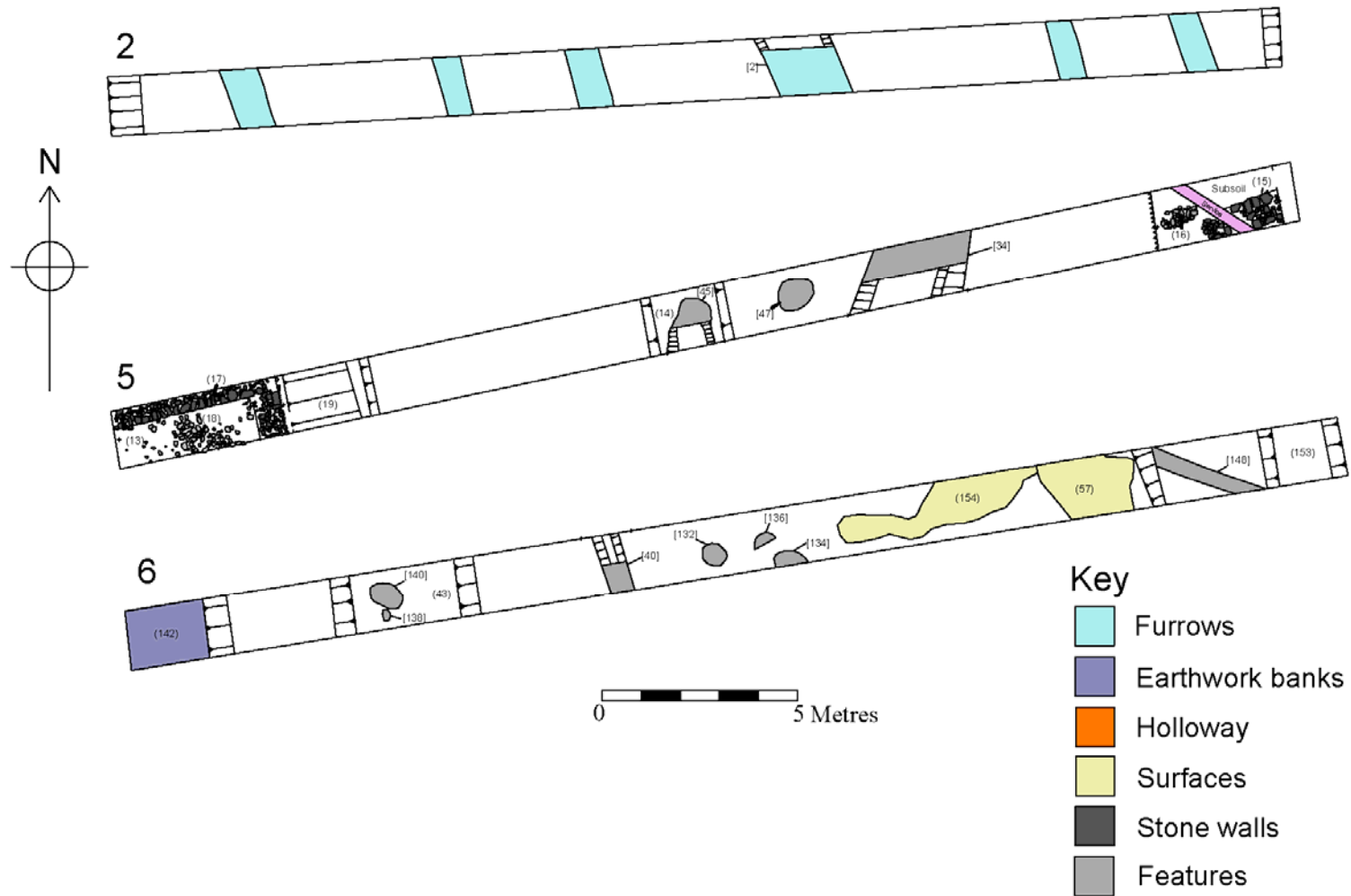


Figure 50: Trench plans

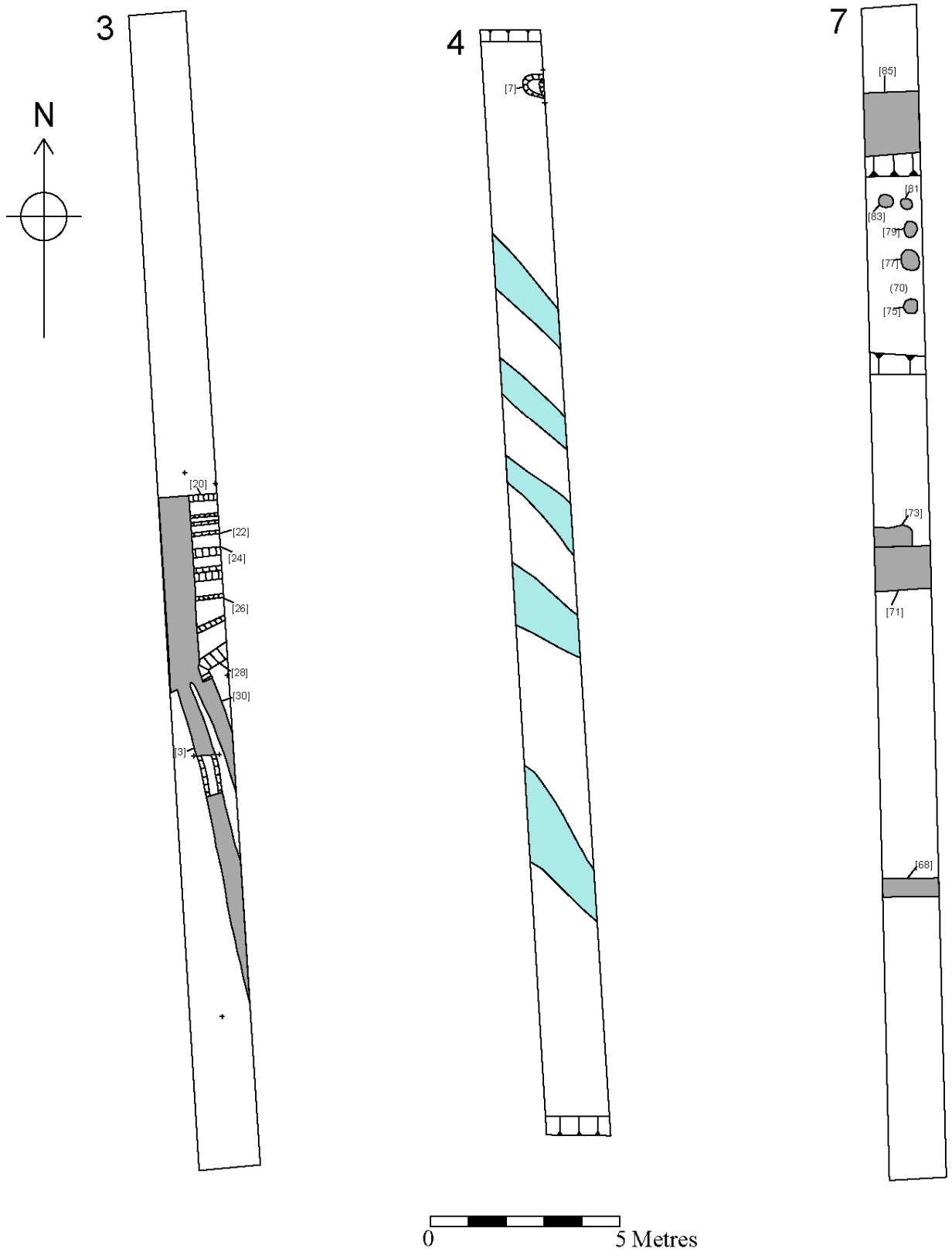


Figure 51: Trench plans

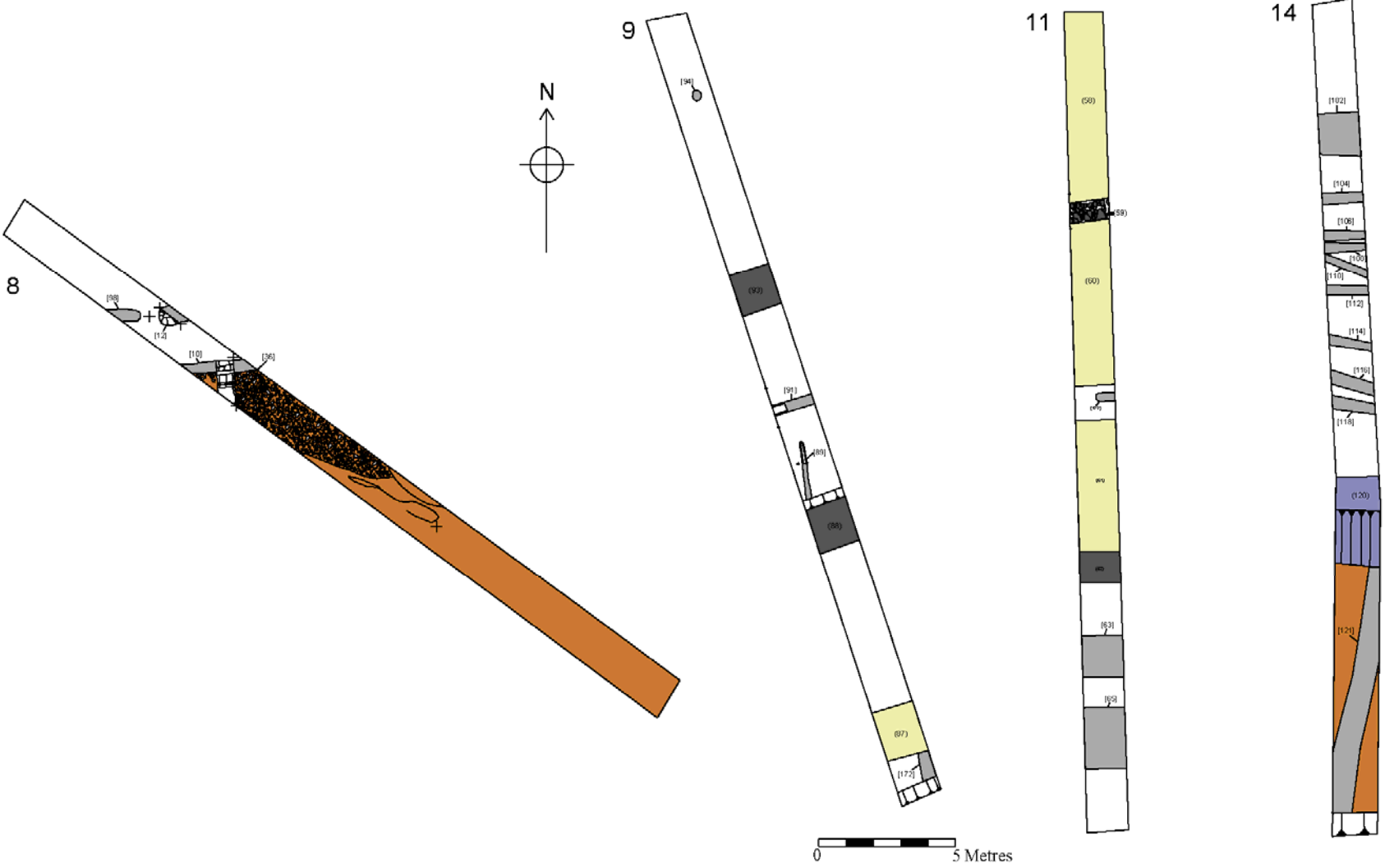


Figure 52: Trench plans

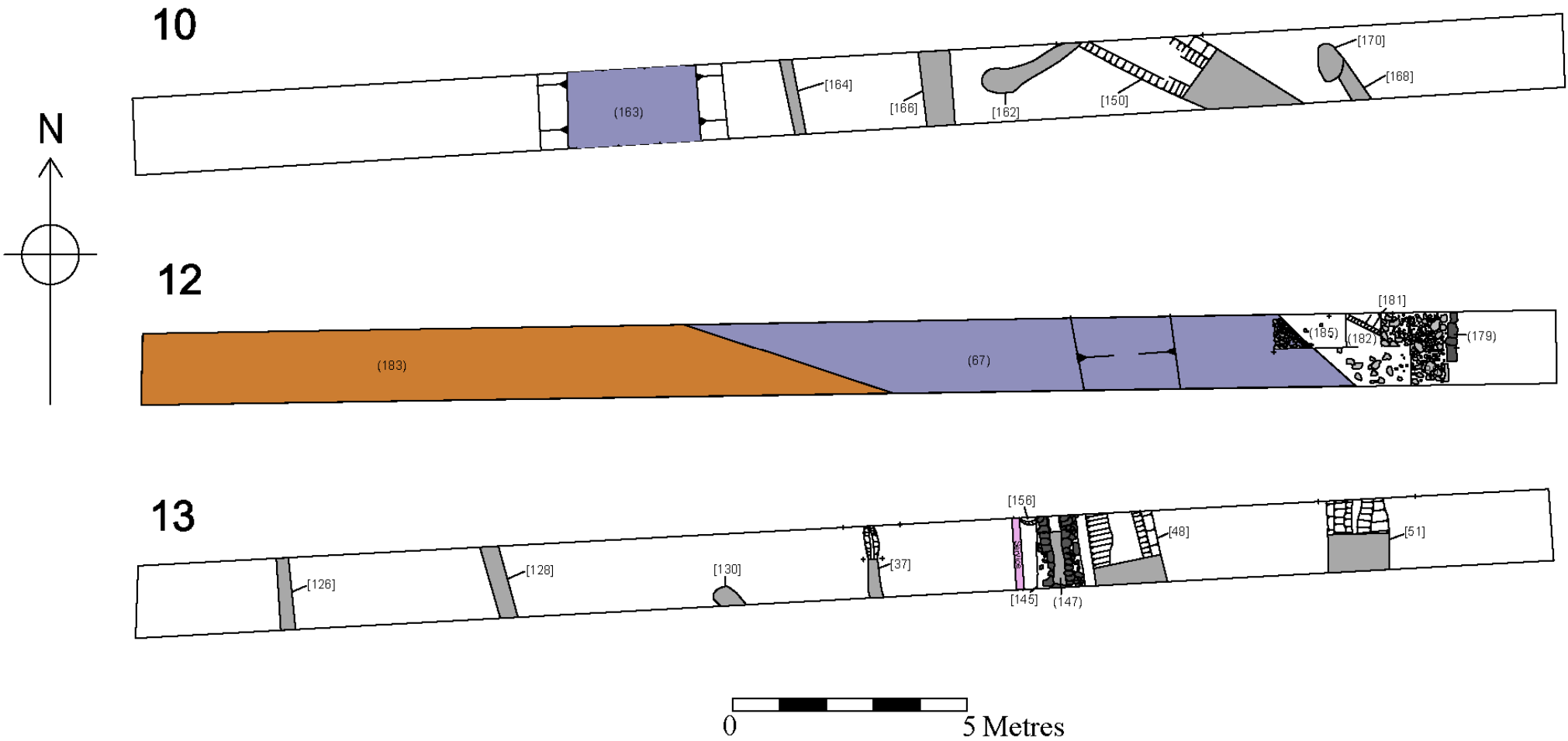


Figure 53: Trench plans

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