



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation on land North of Uppingham Road, Billesdon,  
Leicestershire, LE7 9FL**

**NGR: SK 7210 0307**

**James Harvey**



**ULAS Report No 2019-135  
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**Site Name:** Uppingham Road, Billesdon, Leicestershire

**Grid Ref:** SK 7210 0307

**Author:** James Harvey

**Client:** Hazelton Homes

**Planning Ref.** 16/01819/OUT & 19/00148/PCD

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## OASIS RECORD

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	<b>Oasis No</b>	universi1- 370963		
	<b>Project Name</b>	An Archaeological Evaluation on land North of Uppingham Road, Billesdon, Leicestershire		
	<b>Start/end dates</b>	30th September to 7th October 2019		
	<b>Previous/Future Work</b>	DBA/Geophysical survey		
	<b>Project Type</b>	Evaluation		
	<b>Site Status</b>	None		
	<b>Current Land Use</b>	Pasture		
	<b>Monument Type/Period</b>	Ditch, Medieval; Ditch, Uncertain Bank, Uncertain		
	<b>Significant Finds/Period</b>	Pottery, Medieval; Flint, Mesolithic?; Pottery, Modern; Brick, Modern		
	<b>Reason for Investigation</b>	NPPF		
	<b>Position in the Planning Process</b>	Planning condition		
<b>Planning Ref.</b>	16/01819/OUT & 19/00148/PCD			
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	<b>County</b>	Leicestershire		
	<b>Site Address/Postcode</b>	Uppingham Road, Billesdon, Leicestershire, LE7 9FL		
	<b>Study Area</b>	2.35 ha		
	<b>Site Coordinates</b>	SK 7210 0307		
	<b>Height OD</b>	180 to 193m aOD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Brief Originator</b>	Harborough District Council		
	<b>Project Design Originator</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Manager</b>	Richard Buckley		
	<b>Project Director/Supervisor</b>	James Harvey		
	<b>Sponsor/Funding Body</b>	Hazelton Homes		
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVE</b>		<b>Physical</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Paper</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service
	<b>ID (Acc. No.)</b>	X.A93.2019	X.A93.2019	X.A93.2019
	<b>Contents</b>	Pottery, Flint	Photographs	Report/ Photo Record/ Trench Sheets
<b>PROJECT BIBLIOGRA PHY</b>	<b>Type</b>	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	<b>Description</b>	Developer Report A4 pdf		
	<b>Title</b>	An Archaeological Evaluation on land North of Uppingham Road, Billesdon, Leicestershire (SK 72105 03078)		
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## **An Archaeological Evaluation on land North of Uppingham Road, Billesdon, Leicestershire (SK 72105 03078)**

**James Harvey**

### **Summary**

*This document is a fieldwork report for an archaeological trial trench evaluation, carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on land North of Uppingham Road, Billesdon, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 72105 03078) in advance of the construction of a proposed residential development.*

*The proposed development area consisted of two pasture fields, situated immediately north of the village. Part of the area lies within the historic medieval core of Billesdon and contains an 'L' shaped ditch and bank earthwork, interpreted as part of a rectilinear enclosure, or moat. The western boundary of the site is located against a substantial hollow way, with additional village earthworks also located further to the west of the site.*

*A geophysical survey was carried out in September 2019 as part of the evaluation of the site. It revealed anomalies relating to the earthwork, as well as other linear anomalies, possibly relating to the shrunken medieval village. It also showed a single sequence of ridge and furrow that spanned both of the fields.*

*A total of eleven trenches were excavated across the two fields during the course of the evaluation. Four trenches were located within the western field, targeting the earthwork feature and other geophysical anomalies. Seven trenches were located within the eastern field, positioned across 'archaeologically blank' areas. Archaeological deposits were only recorded within western field (Trenches 8-11). Trenches 8 and 11 located a series of ditches against the western side of the field that are likely to be associated with the medieval hollow way. Pottery recovered from some of these features had a date range between c. 1100-1250. An undated ditch was also recorded within Trench 11 that could be earlier in origin. Trenches 9 and 10 bisected the earthwork feature and a substantial bank and ditch was recorded. The dating and function of the earthwork feature remains uncertain, although the evidence suggested that the feature probably dates to the late medieval, or early post-medieval period and may be agricultural in nature.*

*The archive for the site will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A93.2019.*

### **Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was commissioned by Hazelton Homes to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land North of Uppingham Road, Billesdon (SK 7210 0307; fig. 1). The work was carried out between the 30th September and the 7th October 2019.

The work was carried out as part of a phased programme of archaeological work required by the Harborough District Council, following advice from the Leicestershire Planning Archaeologist, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, MHCLG

2018). Outline planning permission has been granted for the erection of 35 dwellings on the site (16/01819/OUT & 19/00148/PCD).

A previous archaeological desk-based assessment (Kerr-Peterson 2015) has shown that part of the site lies within the historic medieval core of the village and contains part of an earthwork enclosure. Further village earthworks are also located immediately to the west, including a hollow way that runs along the western boundary. Geophysical survey (Davies 2019) has identified anomalies associated with the earthworks, as well as other features that may also be related to the adjacent hollow way. Therefore the Planning Archaeologist (on behalf of the local planning authority) has requested intrusive investigation by trial trenching to further assess the archaeological potential of the site. It was anticipated that the fieldwork would provide preliminary information on the character and extent of any buried archaeological remains which may exist on the site, in order to help formulate a mitigation strategy for the proposed development.

### **Location and Geology**

Billesdon lies within the Harborough District of Leicestershire. It is located approximately 14km east of Leicester and 15km west of Uppingham. The proposed development area comprises *c.*2.3 hectares of pastureland, situated immediately north of the village. It is made up of two fields (hereinafter, the East and West Field) that are bounded by the A47 to the north, the village of Billesdon to the south and agricultural land to the east and west (fig.1, SK 7210 0307).

The topography of the site gradually slopes downwards from a height of 193m aOD at the north-eastern corner of the East Field, to 180m aOD at the south-western corner of the West Field. This equates to a gradient of approximately 1 in 15.

The underlying solid geology comprises mudstone and siltstones of the Dyrham Formation. These were laid down 183 – 190 million years ago in an environment previously dominated by shallow seas. No superficial geological deposits are recorded.

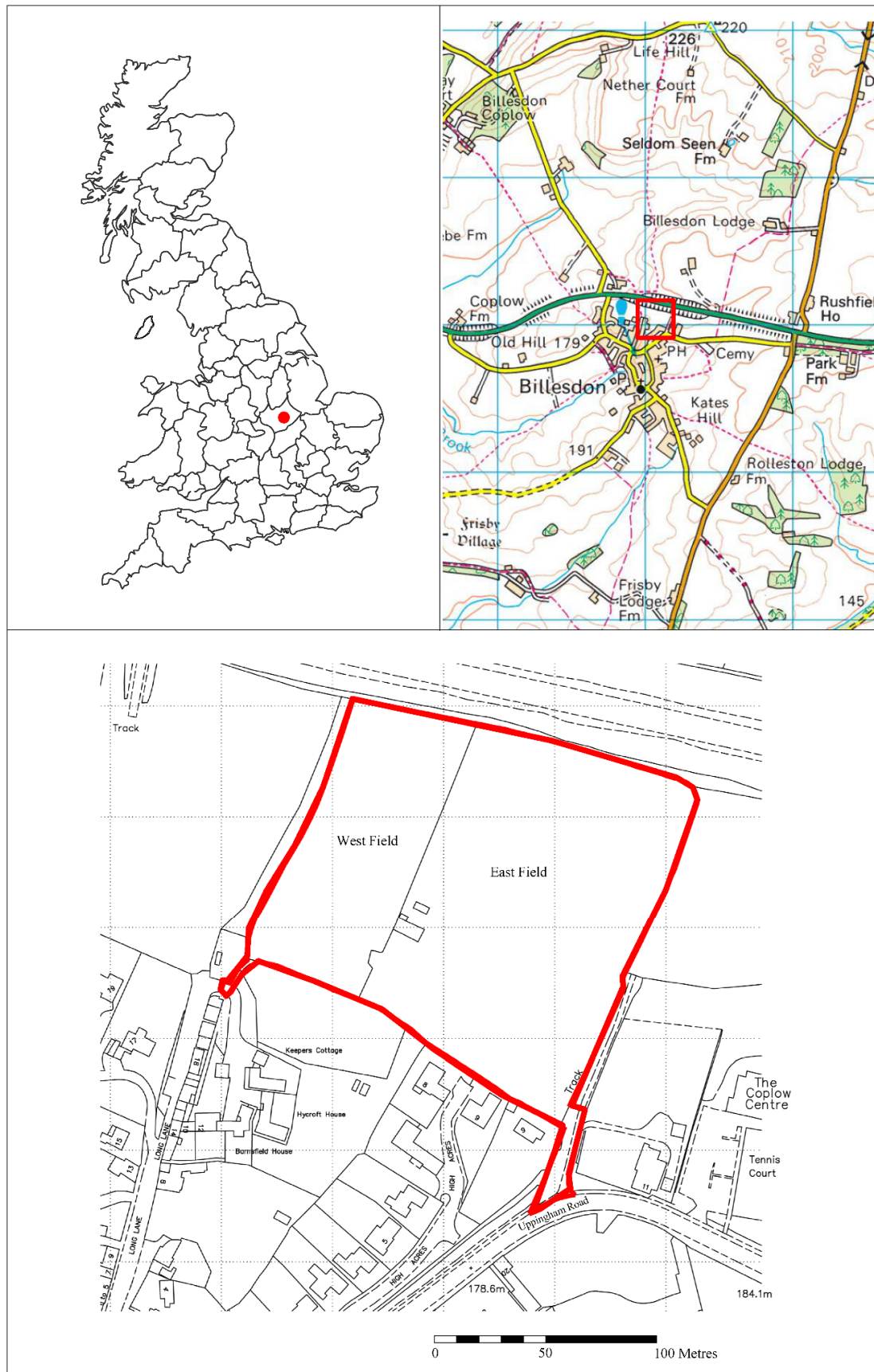


Figure 1: Site Location Plan, showing East and West Fields (provided by client)

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## **Historical and Archaeological Background (Adapted from the DBA, Kerr-Peterson 2015)**

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) has previously been undertaken for the proposed development (Kerr-Peterson 2015). It concluded that there was medium potential for buried archaeological features of Roman date and a high potential for the survival of medieval buried archaeological features to survive within the limits of proposed development (*ibid*, 1 and 23). The following information is adapted from the desk-based assessment, providing a background to the sites archaeological potential.

### ***Historical Background***

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland has indicated that part of the proposed development area is located within the historic medieval core of Billesdon (**MLE8911**). The village is first mentioned in the Domesday Book in AD 1086 as ‘Billesdone’. The placename is Old English, meaning ‘an expanse of high land associated with a man called Bill or Bilheard’ (Bourne 2003). Alternatively, the first element ‘Bill’ may be Old English for ‘sword’ referring to a ‘pointed hill’ (Mills 2011).

Before 1066 Billesdon belonged to a Saxon called Tochi but after the Norman Conquest it was given to a sub-tenant of Geoffrey Alselin (Lee & McKinley 1964). There is little evidence for a manor in Billesdon. In 1293 a Hugh Bardolf held what was called the ‘manor’ and land held by the Skeffington family from the late 13th century to the end of the 17th century was generally referred to as ‘the manor of Billesdon’ in the 16th and 17th centuries. A ‘lord of the manor’ still existed until 1922 when all manorial rights appear to have died out (Lee & McKinley 1964).

During the medieval period there were three open fields in Billesdon, with common land on high ground to the north of the village. Stonepitt Field (later North Field) lay north and east of the village, Portbridge Field lay north and west, and Mill Field lay to the south.

There was a mill in Billesdon from at least the 14th century and in 1558 there is first mention of a windmill, presumably giving its name to Mill Field. The enclosure map of Billesdon dates from 1764 but the land may have been enclosed before that date; the land was mainly distributed between Rev. Nicholas Simons, Rev. Caleb Robinson and Mrs. Ann Heard (Vlaeminck et. al. 1999).

The 1826 map of the Parish of Billesdon is the earliest map that shows the proposed development site in any level of detail. The site is shown as two fields, much as it is on the modern map. A small square plot with a building is shown in the north-east corner of the smaller western field, located within the area now truncated by the A47 Bypass.

### ***Archaeological Background***

#### ***Medieval village earthworks***

The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland has indicated that the proposed development area contains a rectilinear enclosure within the southern end of West Field, appearing to overlie earlier ridge and furrow (**MLE1212**). The earthwork consists of an ‘L’ shaped ditch and bank. Its eastern side tracking parallel and adjacent to the field boundary dividing the two fields, over a distance of *c.* 55m. The earthwork then turns at a right angle towards the west and continues towards the western boundary for a further *c.* 40m. These earthworks were surveyed in 1985 (fig. 2, **h**) and form part of a larger complex earthworks, located to the north and east of the modern village. They presumably relate to a hollow way that extends northwards from Long Lane (that leads north from the Market Place) towards

Stone Pits Field (fig 2, **a**; located against the western boundary of the site). The hollow way measures up to 5m deep along its central section, suggesting it was in use over a long period. Pottery dating from the 12th to 14th century was recovered from along the edge of the hollow way during a watching brief undertaken in 1975 (McWhirr 1975, 59). The ditch and bank earthwork located within the proposed development area is contained within a larger enclosure that encapsulates the whole furlong of ridge and furrow. This enclosure presumably dates to the late medieval or early post-medieval period (fig. 2, **i**). Immediately south of the site further evidence of banked enclosures was recorded, including possible house platforms. These have since been lost to modern residential development (fig.2, **f** and **g**). To the west of the hollow way there were at least three more house platforms (fig. 2, **b**, **c**, **d**) and a substantial enclosure (fig.2, **e**). The northern-most portion of these earthworks has been partially removed by the A47 Bypass (Hartley 2018, 134).

Collectively the earthworks indicate that the village of Billesdon originally extended further north along the hollow way during the medieval period and subsequently shrank at a later point in time.

As part of the previous desk-based assessment, the earthworks within the proposed development area were appraised in 2015. The most prominent feature was the ditch and bank enclosure (located within the West Field) that was described as being well preserved. Ridge and furrow was present across the entirety of the East Field, surviving to a height of c. 0.3-0.4m on the eastern and central part of the field and c. 0.1-0.2m on the western side of the field. Further ridge and furrow was also recorded within the West Field, but was described as being less well preserved. (Kerr-Peterson 2015, 17-20)

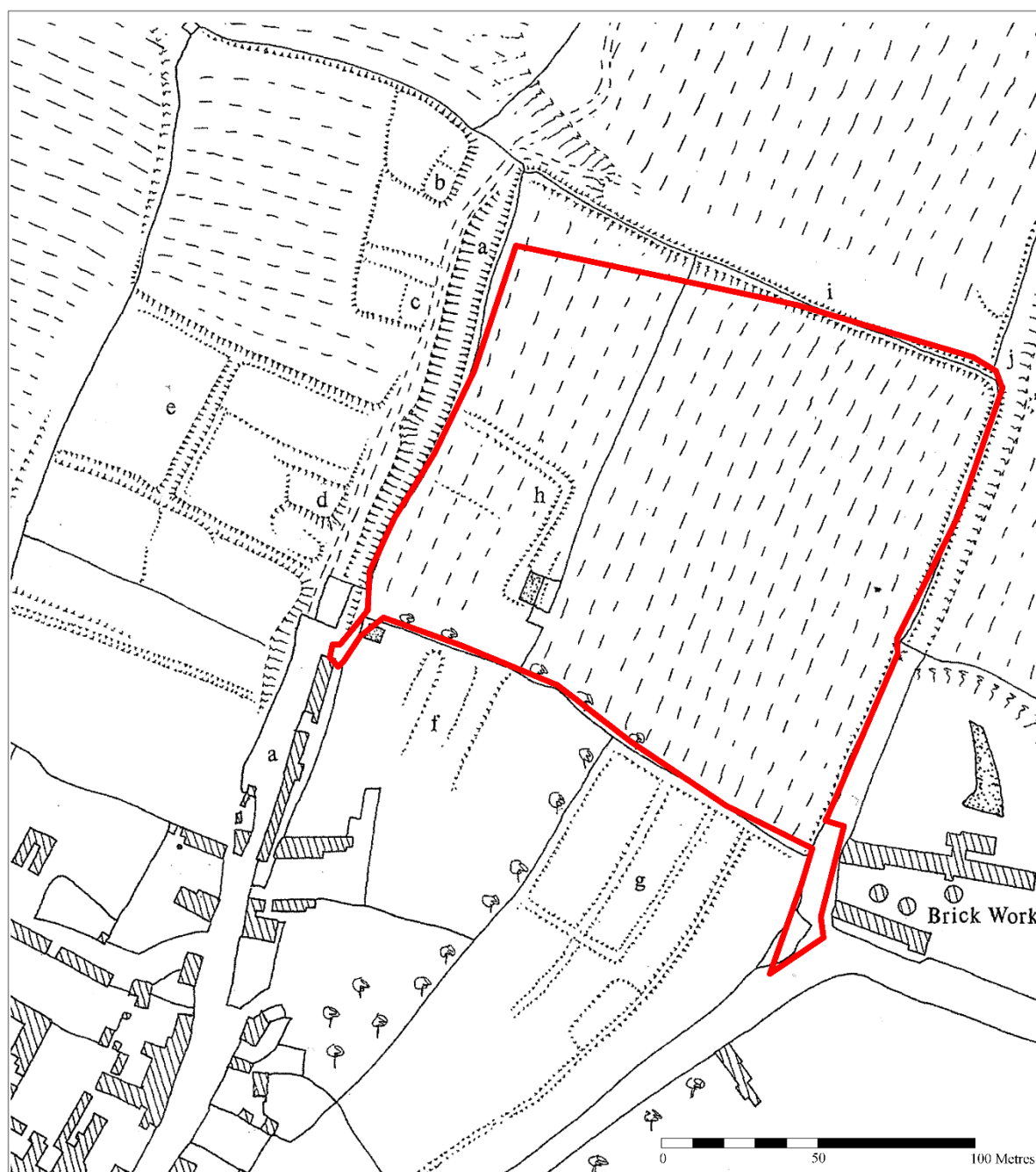


Figure 2: Billesdon Earthwork survey (with proposed development area highlighted; After Hartley 2018, Fig. 74)

### *Prehistoric and Roman Activity*

There is little evidence of prehistoric activity within the immediate vicinity of the site. A possible Iron Age settlement is located c. 1km south (**MLE20563**).

A possible Roman-British farmstead has previously been identified c.700m to the south by geophysical survey. Subsequent evaluation revealed ditches, pits and a possible surface, along with pottery, dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD (**MLE20562**). Further Roman pottery has also been found c.750m and c.200m to the south (**MLE1215**; **MLE10543**) and a Roman brooch c.650m north-west (**MLE6703**). A section of possible Roman road running approximately north to south between Market Harborough and Melton Mowbray is located c.850m to the east (**MLE8910**).

### *Geophysical Survey (from Davies 2019)*

A detailed magnetometer survey was undertaken across the proposed development area in September 2019 (fig. 3). The results confirmed the presence of the ditch and bank enclosure within the southern part of the West Field (fig. 3, no. 1). It has also located a small rectilinear anomaly containing a discrete internal anomaly within the south-west corner of the enclosure (fig. 3, no. 2). These have been interpreted as possible medieval settlement evidence; however, it is noted that the responses share the same alignment as the ridge and furrow cultivation present across the area. A further weaker rectilinear anomaly was also recorded at the northern end of the West Field, although one side of the feature also shares the same alignment as the ridge and furrow (fig. 3, no. 3). An area of strong magnetic disturbance located within the south-east corner of the West Field is interpreted as the infill of a former pond, visible on available historic mapping from 1886 to 1967 (fig. 3, no. 4).



Figure 3: Plan showing minimal processed results of geophysical survey (after Davies 2019, Fig. 5)

## Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the evaluation were:

- To investigate the known earthworks and verify results from the geophysical survey.
- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits.
- To assess the artefactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits encountered.
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to assess the impact of the proposed development on cultural heritage and to help formulate a mitigation strategy.
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to investigate the earthworks, verify anomalies identified by the geophysical survey and establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits identified on the site, in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

### *Research Objectives*

While the nature, extent and quality of archaeological remains within the areas of investigation for the project were unknown until archaeological work is undertaken, it was possible to determine some initial objectives derived from *East Midlands Heritage* research agenda (Cooper 2006, Knight et al. 2012). The site's location within the historic village core and the presence of earthworks overlying ridge and furrow suggests that there is potential for archaeological deposits from the medieval period onwards. The evaluation therefore had the potential to contribute to the following research aims:

#### *Medieval*

Can we identify, investigate and date sites associated with the region's key extractive industries (especially iron, coal, lead and alabaster), the production and distribution of cloth and leather-work, and freshwater or marine fishing? (7A)

The area lies within a medieval agricultural landscape and may contribute to the study of rural medieval settlement and early field systems. (7E)

#### *Post-Medieval – Industrial*

Can we elucidate further the use of social space in buildings and across the landscape, the manipulation of vistas and the integration of gardens with the wider landscape? (8D)

## Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (rev. 2014a) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (rev. 2014b). The archaeological work followed the *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Field Evaluation* prepared by ULAS and agreed with the Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist (ULAS 2019). The work was monitored by the project manager (ULAS) and the Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist, on behalf of Harborough District Council

An accession number (X.A93.2019) was obtained from Leicestershire County Council prior to commencement of the project and used to identify all records and artefacts.

A total of eleven 30m x 1.6m trenches were proposed. Four trenches targeted earthworks and other geophysical anomalies located within the West Field. Seven trenches were positioned in order to target 'archaeologically blanks areas' areas within the East Field that will be most affected by the proposed building works (fig.4).

The trenches were excavated to the level of the natural sub-stratum or to archaeological layers, whichever the higher in the sequence, apart from the earthworks that were subject to machine excavation. All archaeological work was undertaken as specified within the WSI (ULAS, 2019). The trenches were verbally signed off by the Planning Archaeologist before being backfilled by machine.

The bases of the trenches were cleaned in areas where potential archaeology was observed. Archaeological remains were recorded and sample excavation was undertaken in order to determine the character and date of any remains. The ULAS Recording Manual was used as a guide for all recording.

The trenches were located using a Topcon Hiper V GPS+ RTK System attached to a Topcon FC-5000 controller that was also used to undertake the basic topographic survey of the site. The data was processed using Topcon Tools GPS+ Post Processing Software and the final plans completed with the aid of TurboCad v.2016 design software.

**Results**

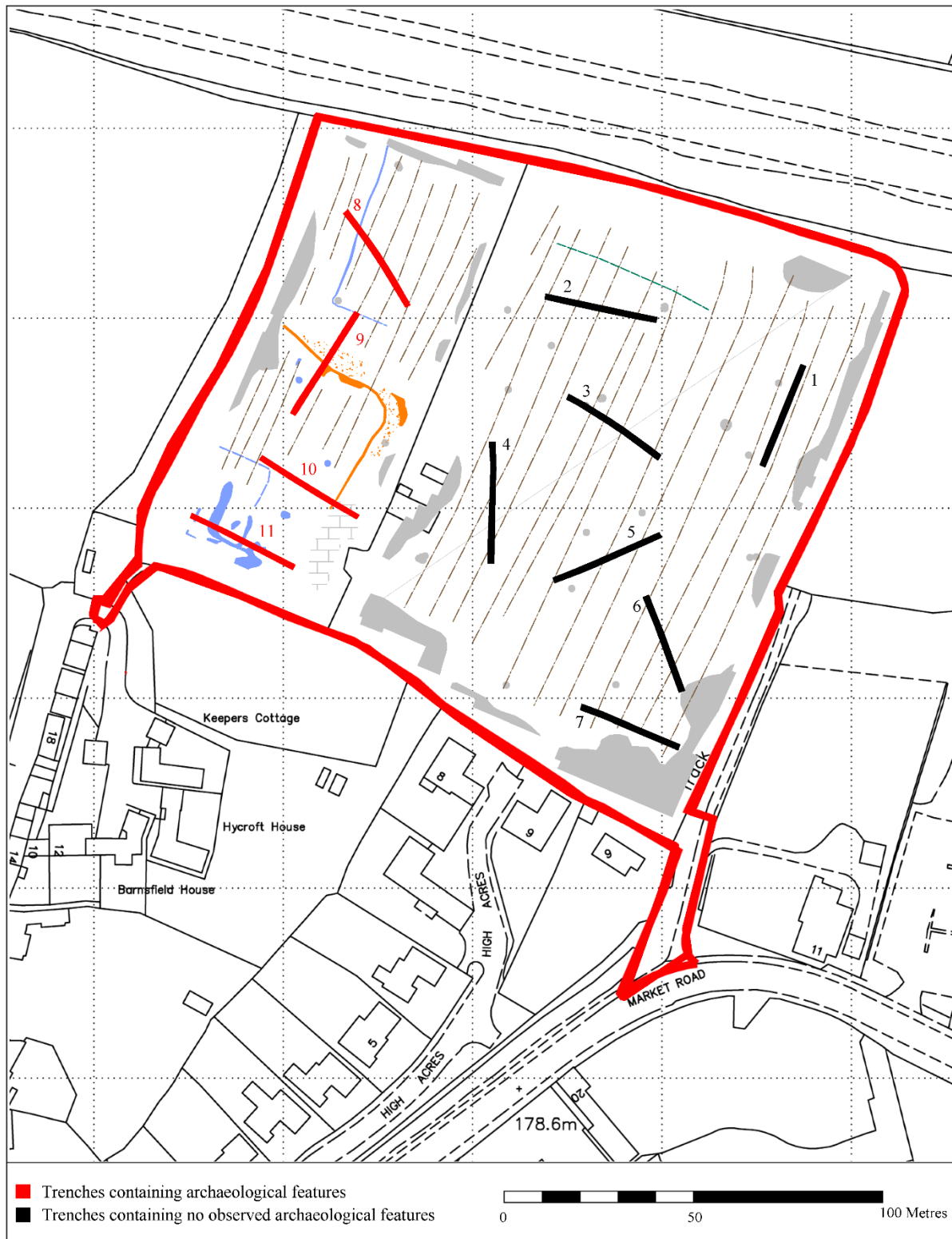


Figure 4: Location of trial trenches in relation to the interpreted geophysical anomalies (after Davies 2019, Fig. 3)

**East Field: Trenches 1-7**

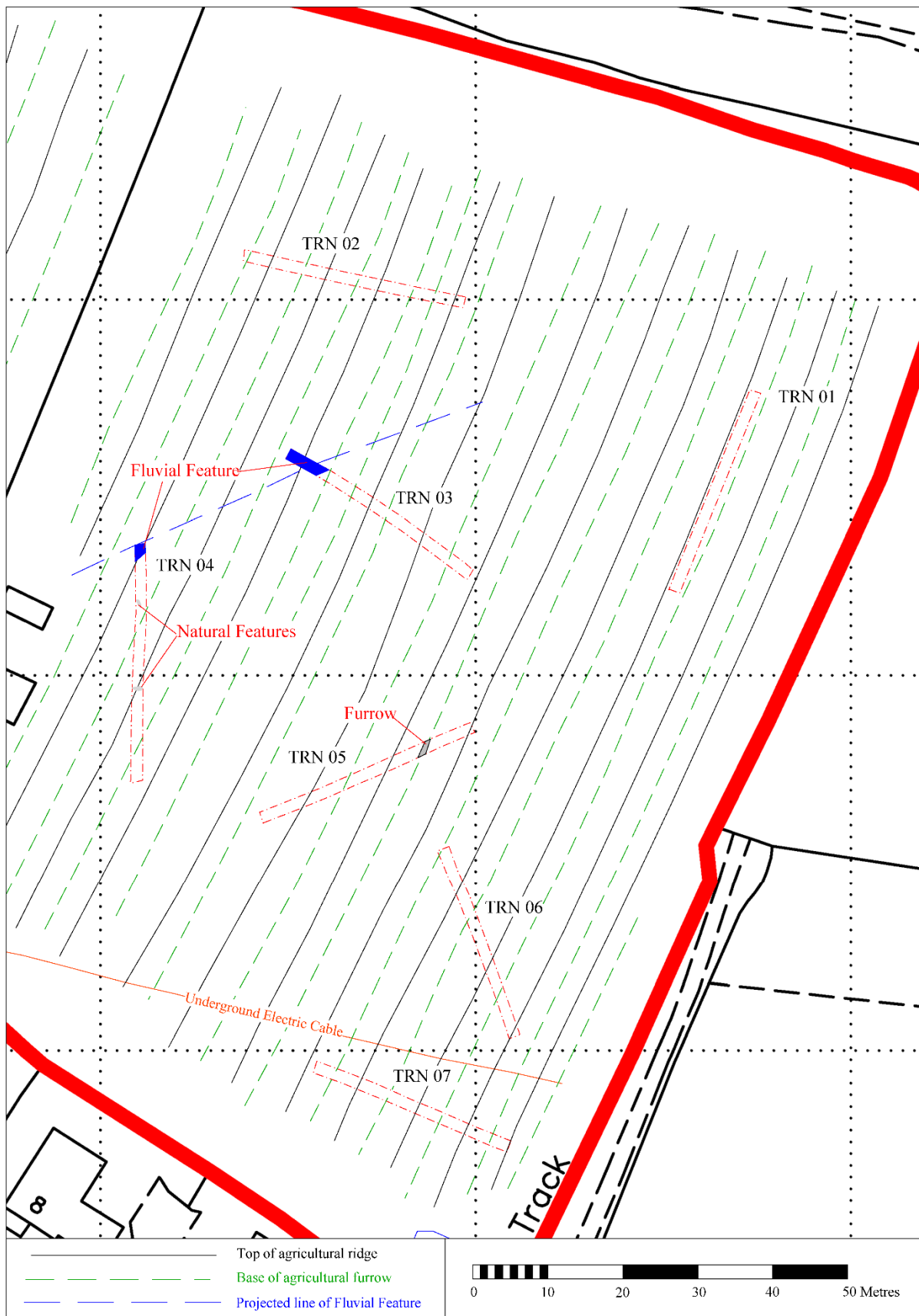


Figure 5: Evaluation results from the East Field, incorporating topographic survey of the ridge and furrow earthworks



In accordance with the WSI, seven evaluation trenches were excavated within the East Field (figs. 4 and 5 and 8). The locations of Trenches 6 and 7 were repositioned in order to avoid a live underground electrical cable that ran along the southern boundary (fig. 5).

The sequence of soils within the East Field consisted of dark brown clayey loam topsoil containing rare small to large stones that overlaid a dark yellowish-brown clayey silt subsoil that also contained rare small to large stones. This overlaid the natural substratum that showed slight variation across the field. It generally consisted of a yellowish-brown/grey clay, containing only a rare amount of rounded and angular stones. The south eastern corner of the field did contain a notably more sandy clay deposit (Table 1).

Evidence of field drainage was observed within a number of the trenches, with ceramic drains observed within Trenches 3-5. The field had also been subject to mole drainage – a subsurface method of draining clay soils that experience regular waterlogging from irrigation or high rainfall. This method involves piercing the clay with a bullet to create underground channels. It meant that the heavy rain experienced before and during the evaluation led to many of the trenches quickly becoming flooded, with the water from the drains flowing directly into the bases of the trenches.

Table 1: East Field Trench Summaries

Trench	Length (m)	Width (m)	Height at top of trench (m aOD)	Natural Substratum	Depth (m)	Notes
1	29	1.5	189.87-191.46	Yellowish-brown clay with occasional flint	0.40-0.51	None
2	30	1.5	187.07-189.12	Yellowish-brown clay with rare rounded/angular stones	0.55-0.78	None
3	29	1.5	186.12-187.64	Yellowish-brown clay with occasional rounded stones	0.55-0.83	Fluvial feature located at NW end. Ceramic drains also recorded
4	32	1.5	184.07-184.75	Yellowish-brown clay with occasional rounded/angular stones	0.57-0.78	Fluvial feature located at N end. Natural tree throw towards centre. Ceramic drains also recorded
5	30.5	1.5	185.07-187.53	Yellowish-brown clay with occasional gravel/ greyish brown clay with occasional rounded stones and flint	0.4-0.7	Single furrow and ceramic drains
6	27	1.5	186.93-187.44	Orangey brown clayey sand/yellowish-brown clay with rare rounded/angular stones	0.45-0.6	None
7	29	1.5	185.36-186.71	Greyish-brown clay with chalk flecks/ orangey brown sandy clay with occasional rounded/angular stones	0.4-0.64	None

*Trench 1 (figs. 5 and 6)*

Trench 1 was located along the top of an agricultural ridge within the north-eastern corner of the field, parallel to the eastern boundary. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.18-0.22m. It overlaid subsoil that varied in depth between 0.18-0.27m and directly overlaid the natural substratum.

No archaeological features or finds were recorded within this trench.

*Trench 2 (figs. 5 and 6)*

Trench 2 was located towards the north-west corner of the field. It bisected four ridges and four furrows. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.23-0.25m. It overlaid subsoil that varied in depth between 0.29-0.55m and directly overlaid the natural substratum. None of the furrows penetrated the subsoil deep enough to truncate the underlying substratum.

No archaeological features were recorded within this trench, although a small quantity of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the base of the subsoil.

*Trench 3 (figs. 5 and 6)*

Trench 3 was located towards the centre of the field. It bisected three ridges and three furrows. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.21-0.26m. It overlaid subsoil that varied in depth between 0.29-0.44m and directly overlaid the natural substratum. None of the furrows penetrated the subsoil deep enough to truncate the underlying substratum.

A linear feature was located beneath the subsoil at the north-west end of the trench. It was >4m wide, extending beyond the end of the trench on a north-east to south-west orientation. Sample excavation showed that the feature had a shallow profile, measuring a maximum of 0.15m deep. It was filled by a sterile light brownish-grey with orangey brown mottled clay containing occasional iron pan. The feature has been interpreted as fluvial in nature, based on its profile and orientation, running perpendicular to the ground contours.

No archaeological features or finds were recorded within this trench.

*Trench 4 (figs. 5 and 6)*

Trench 4 was located towards the central, western side field. It bisected two ridges and two furrows. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.24-0.27m. It overlaid subsoil that varied in depth between 0.25-0.44m and directly overlaid the natural substratum. None of the furrows penetrated the subsoil deep enough to truncate the underlying substratum.

The likely continuation of the fluvial feature was recorded at the northern end of the trench. Two small crescent shaped features were also recorded *c.*8m and *c.*20m from the northern end of the trench. These features have been interpreted as tree throws, based on their irregular shape and poorly defined edges.

No archaeological features or finds were recorded within this trench.



*a. Trench 1, looking north north-east*



*b. Trench 2, looking west north-west*



*c. Trench 3, looking north-west*



*d. Trench 4, looking south*

Figure 6: Trenches 1-4

*Trench 5 (figs. 5 and 7)*

Trench 5 was located towards the central, southern side field. It bisected three ridges and three furrows. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.21-0.26m. It overlaid subsoil that varied in depth between 0.16-0.40m and directly overlaid the natural substratum. The easternmost furrow penetrated the subsoil, truncating the underlying substratum.

No archaeological features or finds were recorded within this trench.

*Trench 6 (figs. 5 and 7)*

Trench 6 was located towards the south-east corner field. It bisected three ridges and three furrows. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.20-0.26m. It overlaid subsoil that varied in depth between 0.22-0.38m and directly overlaid the natural substratum. None of the furrows penetrated the subsoil deep enough to truncate the underlying substratum.

No archaeological features or finds were recorded within this trench.

*Trench 7 (figs. 5 and 7)*

Trench 7 was located within south-east corner field, parallel to the southern field boundary. It bisected four ridges and four furrows. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.22-0.26m. It overlaid subsoil that varied in depth between 0.22-0.38m and directly overlaid the natural substratum. None of the furrows penetrated the subsoil deep enough to truncate the underlying substratum.

No archaeological features were recorded within this trench. A worked flint and a small quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from within the subsoil.



a. Trench 5, looking east north-east



b. Trench 6, looking north north-west



c. Trench 7, looking west

Figure 7: Trenches 5-7

**West Field: Trenches 8-11**

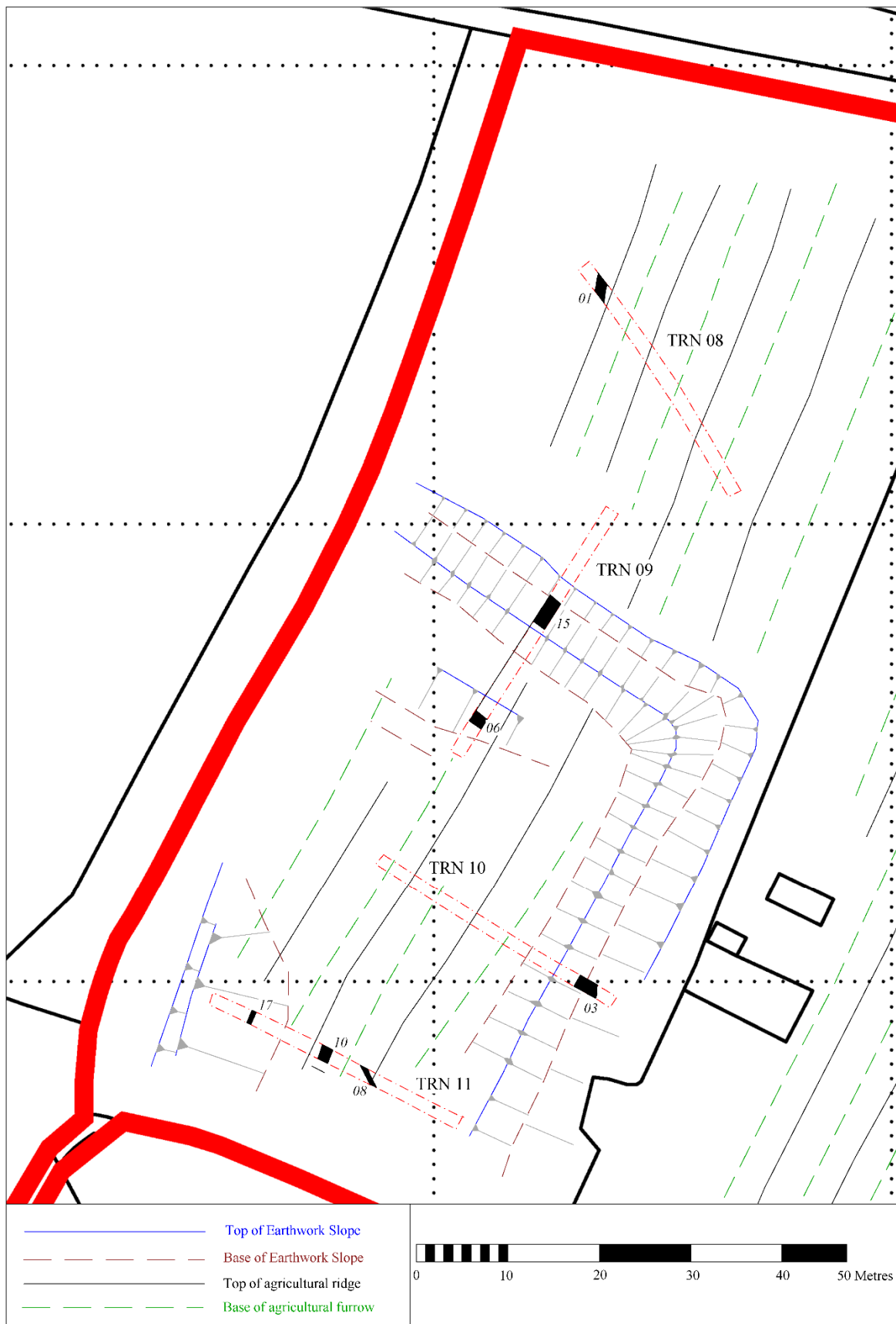


Figure 8: Evaluation results from the West Field, incorporating topographic survey of the earthworks

Table 2: West Field Trench Summaries

Trench	Length (m)	Width (m)	Height at top of trench (m aOD)	Natural Substratum	Depth (m)	Notes
8	31	1.5	185.41-187.87	Yellowish brown/grey clay	0.6-0.72	Ditch [01]
9	30	1.5	182.95-185.35	Yellowish brown/grey clay	0.5-0.8	Ditch [06] and [15]
10	29	1.5	181.74-182.45	Yellowish brown/grey clay	0.4-0.82	Ditch [03]
11	32	1.5	180.57-181.30	Yellowish brown/grey clay/ orangey brown gravelly clay	0.45-0.74	Gully [08]; Ditches [10] and [17]

In accordance with the WSI, four evaluation trenches were excavated within the East Field (figs. 4 and 8) in order to target the earthworks and the additional anomalies highlighted by the geophysical survey. Trench 8 was positioned in order to target a weak linear anomaly, suggested to form part of a rectilinear feature (Fig. 3, no. 3). Trenches 9 and 10 targeted the northern and eastern side of the earthwork enclosure, as well as the magnetic disturbance against the eastern field boundary, suggested to relate to a former pond (Fig. 3, nos. 1 and 4). Trench 11 was located within the south-western corner of the field in order to target a series of positive linear anomalies located within the internal area of the enclosure (Fig. 3, no. 2).

The sequence of soils within the West Field was similar to the East Field. It consisted of dark-brown clayey loam topsoil containing rare small to large stones that overlaid a dark yellowish-brown clayey silt subsoil that also contained rare small to large stones. This overlaid the natural substratum that consisted of a yellowish-brown/grey clay that showed little variation across the whole field (Table 2).

This field had also been subject to mole drainage, causing the trenches on the lower ground (Trenches 10 and 11) to become severely flooded after heavy rainfall.

#### *Trench 8 (figs. 8, 9 and 20)*

Trench 8 was positioned at the northern end of the field in order to target a weak linear anomaly, suggested to form part of a rectilinear feature (fig. 3, no. 3). It bisected three ridges and three furrows. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.20-0.28m and sealed subsoil that varied in depth between 0.28-0.40m and directly overlaid the natural substratum. None of the furrows penetrated the subsoil deep enough to truncate the underlying substratum.

A well-defined ditch [01] was recorded below the subsoil at the north-west end of the trench, located c.2m to the west of the geophysical anomaly and on the same north-north-east to south-south-east alignment. The feature measured 1.1m wide, spanned the width of the trench and was 0.4m deep. It had moderately sloping concave sides and base. It was filled by a single mid greyish-brown silty clay deposit (02) containing rare small rounded stones (figs. 9 and 10).

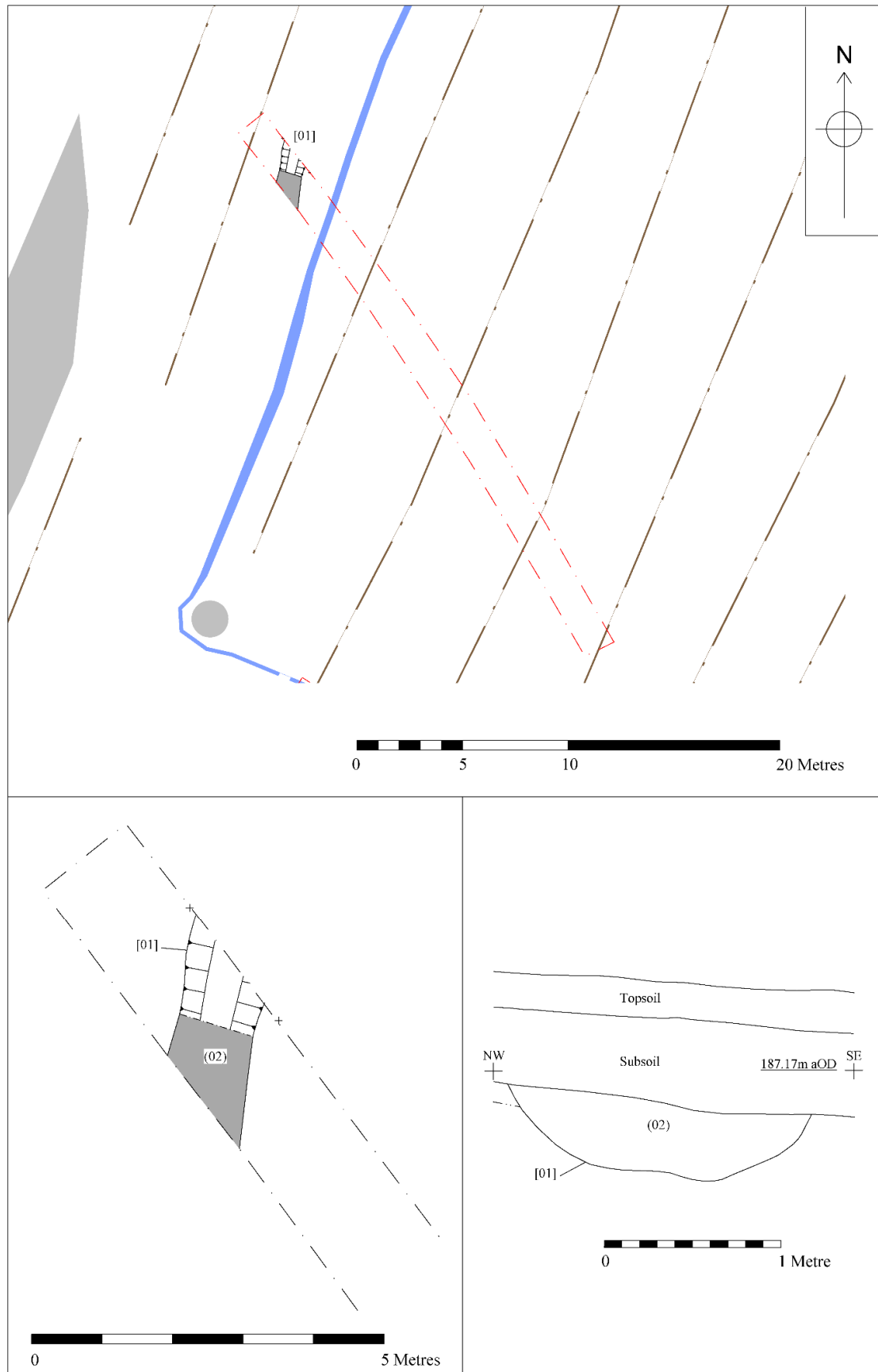


Figure 9: **Trench 8** (top, Plan of Trench 8 in relation to interpreted geophysical survey; bottom, recorded archaeology within the trench)





Figure 10: Trench 8; Ditch [01] looking north north-east

*Trench 9 (figs. 8, 13 and 20)*

Trench 9 was positioned towards the centre of the field, in order to bisect the northern-eastern side of the earthwork enclosure (fig. 3, no. 1 and fig. 6). The topsoil varied in depth between 0.15-0.28m and sealed subsoil that varied in depth between 0.22-0.41m and directly overlaid the natural substratum.

The earthwork bank was located centrally within the trench and was machine excavated in shallow spits. It was formed from re-deposited natural, consisting a mid yellowish brown clay deposit (13) containing rare small to large rounded and angular stones (figs. 11 and 13). The deposit measured 3.5m wide and 0.4m thick. Its northern edge continued below the base of the trench, possibly slumping into the associated ditch located on its north-east side. The deposit overlaid a dark yellowish-brown silty clay deposit (14) containing rare small to medium rounded pebbles and ironstone fragments. It measured  $\geq 2.5$ m wide and 0.3m thick. It is uncertain whether the deposit formed the lower bank material, or the remnants of the pre-existing ground surface, although the latter seems a more likely interpretation. A small sherd of abraded medieval pottery was recovered from this context.

The corresponding ditch [15] was located on the north-east side of the bank. It measured  $\geq 2.5$ m wide,  $>0.7$ m deep and spanned the width of the trench on a north-west to south-east orientation. Its sides were V-shaped, with an incline of  $c.45^\circ$ . The base of the feature was not reached due to its depth and the flooded site conditions. The excavated upper part of the ditch was filled by a dark yellowish-brown silty clay deposit (16) containing very rare small rounded stones. It measured 2.5m wide and  $> 0.65$ m deep and was overlain by a dark yellowish-brown

silty clay deposit (12) that partially extended over the bank to the south-west and continued beyond the extent of the ditch to the north-east (figs. 11 and 13).



Figure 11: Trench 9, Orthomosaic section of bank (13) and ditch [15]

A second ditch [06] was also recorded *c.* 4m from the south-west end of the trench, cutting through the underlying subsoil at this location. It corresponded to a faint earthwork that tracked parallel to its north-eastern side of the enclosure (fig. 8). The feature measured 2.2m wide, 0.7m deep and spanned the width of the trench on a north-west to south-east orientation. Its south-western side was straight and shallow, with an incline of *c.*25°, breaking towards the base to *c.*40°. The north-east side was moderately sloping, with an incline 45°, breaking towards the base to *c.*60. The base of the ditch was narrow and pointed. It was filled by a mid orangey brown silty clay deposit (07) that contained abundant ironstone fragments, perhaps suggesting the ditch had been deliberately backfilled (figs. 12 and 13).



Figure 12: Trench 8, Ditch [06] looking north-west

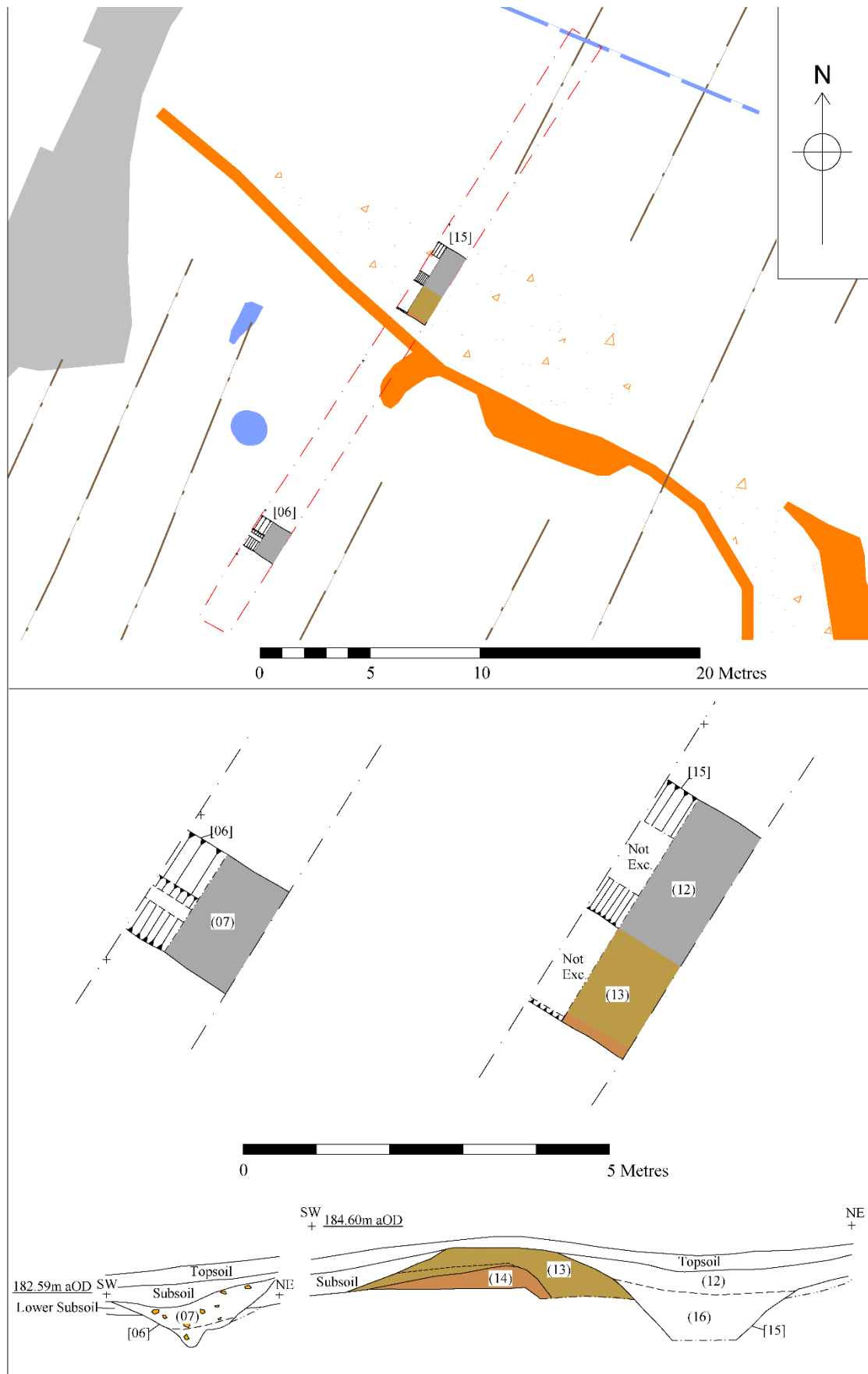


Figure 13: **Trench 9** (top, Plan of Trench 9 in relation to interpreted geophysical survey; bottom, recorded archaeology within the trench)

### *Trench 10 (figs. 8, 15 and 20)*

Trench 10 was positioned towards the centre of the field, in order to bisect the south-eastern side of the earthwork enclosure, as well as and investigate the magnetic disturbance highlighted by the geophysical survey (fig. 3, no. 1 and 4 and fig. 8). The trench also bisected two diminished ridges and three furrows. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.12-0.40m. It overlaid subsoil that varied in depth between 0.10-0.26m and directly overlaid the natural substratum.

The earthwork bank was located *c.*5m from the south-east end of the trench and was machine-excavated in shallow spits. It measured 4.7m in width and 0.3m thick, perhaps suggesting it had become more flattened at this location. It consisted of a mid yellowish-brown silty clay deposit (05), presumably formed from a mixture of subsoil and re-deposited natural excavated from the associated ditch. The deposit directly overlaid the subsoil, although the actual boundary between the two deposits was not clear.

The associated ditch [03] was located adjacent to the bank on its south-eastern side. It measured 2.5m wide, 0.8m deep and spanned the width of the trench on a north-east to south-west orientation. The north-western side of the ditch broke sharply against side the bank, sloping to an incline of *c.*65°. The south-east side of the ditch was noticeably shallower, with an incline of *c.*35°. The base of the ditch was relatively flat in nature. It was filled by two separately identifiable deposits. The primary fill measured 1.8m wide, 0.5m thick and consisted of a dark yellowish-brown silty clay deposit (19) containing rare small rounded stones. It was overlaid by an upper (secondary) fill that measured 4.7m wide and 0.2m deep. It consisted of a dark greyish-brown silty clay deposit (04) that contained rare rounded stones and ironstone fragments. It also contained a large quantity of modern building material, including bricks and tile. A small quantity pottery dating to the 19th century was also recovered. The magnetic response recorded within the geophysical survey is likely to have resulted from debris.

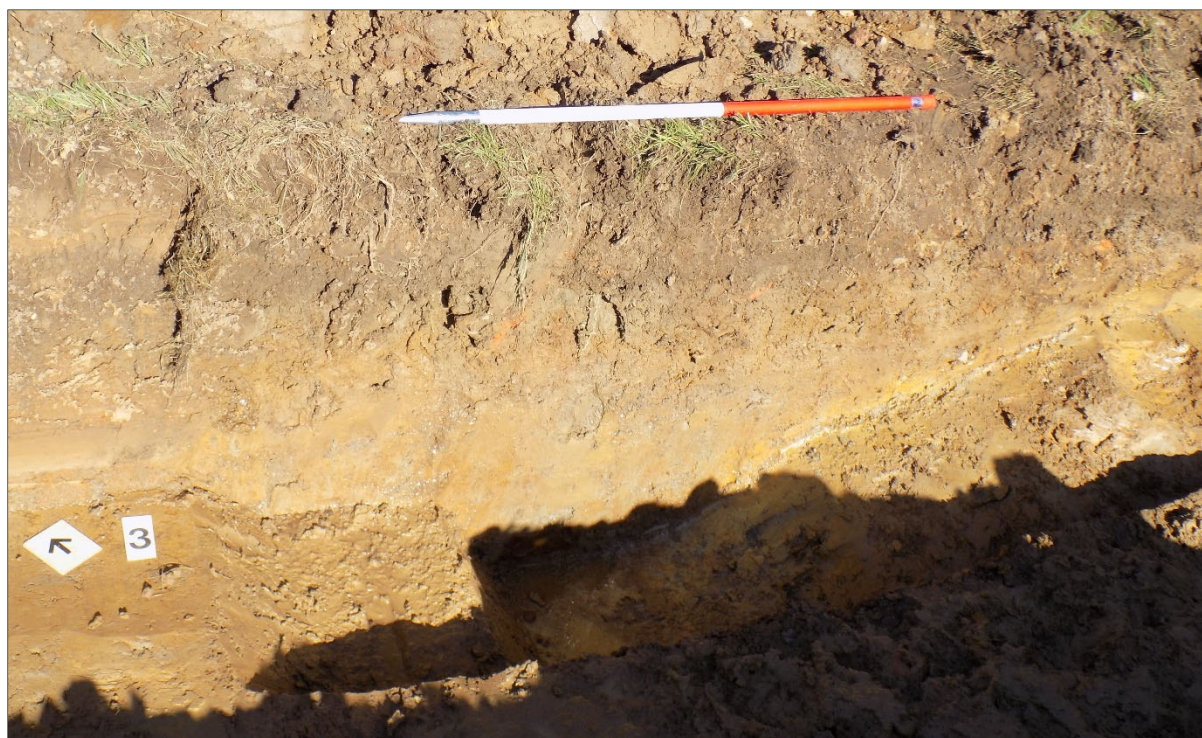


Figure 14: Trench 10, Ditch [03] looking north-east

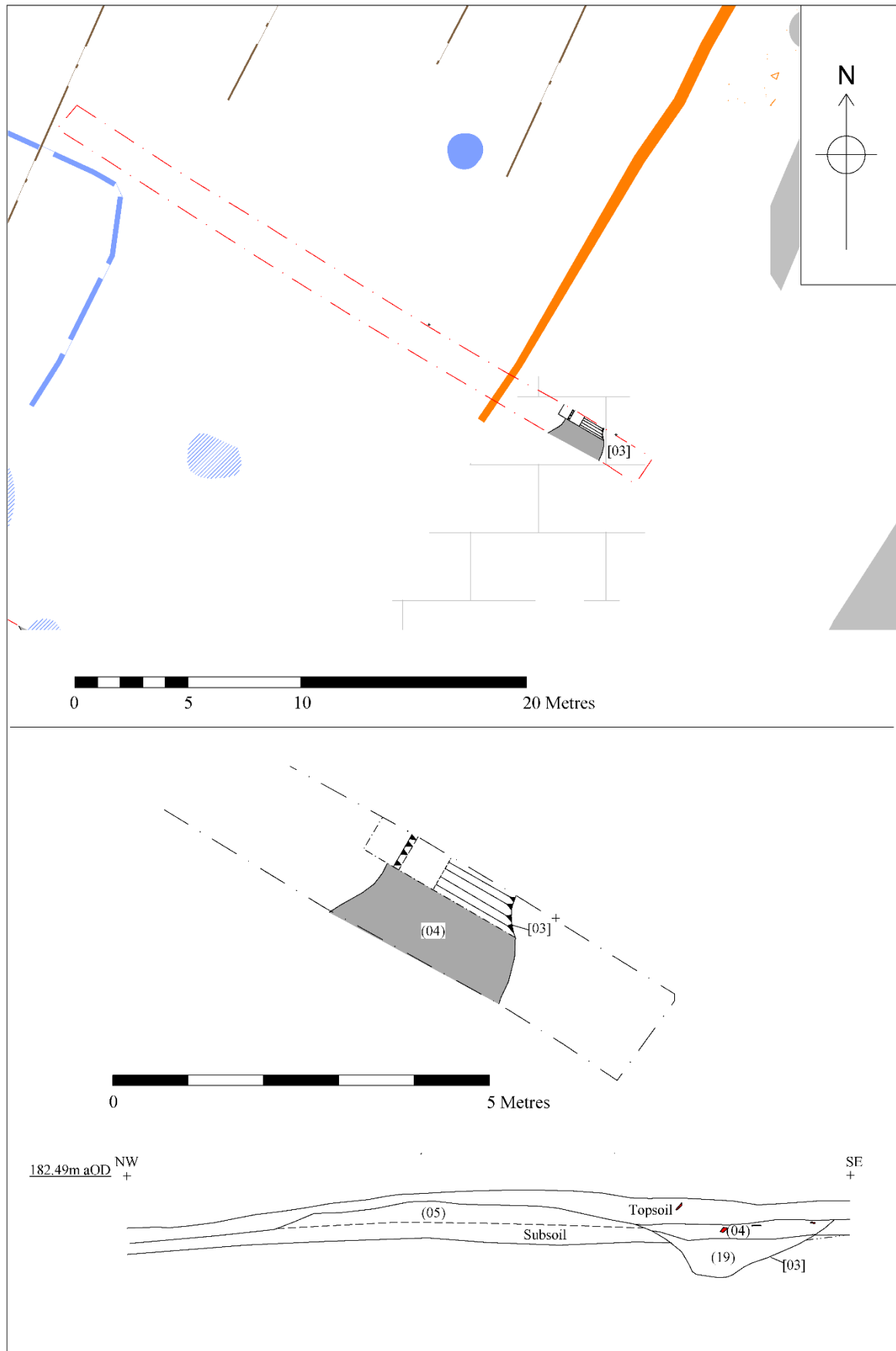


Figure 15: **Trench 10** (top, Plan of Trench 10 in relation to interpreted geophysical survey; bottom, recorded archaeology within the trench)

*Trench 11 (figs. 8, 19 and 20)*

Trench 11 was positioned towards the southern end of the field, in order to target a group of anomalies, interpreted as possible small rectilinear enclosure (fig. 3, no. 2). The trench bisected two diminished ridges and two furrows and also an area of higher ground located within the south-western corner of the field that appeared to overlay the ridge and furrow, possibly forming part of a later platform (fig. 6). The topsoil varied in depth between 0.19-0.21m. The higher ground corresponded with an upper layer of subsoil that consisted of a dark greyish-brown clayey silt containing rare rounded pebbles. It measured a maximum of 0.3m thick at the north-west end of the trench, gradually thinning to zero *c.* 9m into the trench. This soil deposit overlaid lower subsoil (as observed within the other trenches) that extended across the entire trench, varying in depth between 0.25-0.34m and directly overlaid the natural substratum.

Three linear features were recorded within the trench. Ditch [10] and gully [08] were located beneath the lower subsoil, directly cutting into the natural substratum. Later ditch [17] truncated the lower subsoil and was sealed by the upper subsoil. Ditch [10] was located towards the centre of the trench, immediately north-west of a linear anomaly highlighted by the geophysical survey and on the same north north-east to south south-west alignment (fig. 19). It measured 1.3m wide, 0.5m deep and spanned the width of the trench. Its sides were moderately sloping, with an incline of 40-55° and it had a concave base. It was filled by a single dark yellowish-brown silty clay deposit (11) containing rare small rounded stones (fig. 16). A single large sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the fill of this feature.



Figure 16: Trench 11, Ditch 10 looking north north-east



Figure 17: Trench 11, Gully [08] looking north-west

Gully [08] was located *c.*4m south-west of ditch [10] and was north-west to south-east orientated (fig. 19). It measured 0.55m wide, 0.15m deep and spanned the width of the trench, possibly expiring at its south-eastern extent. Its sides were moderately sloping and it had a flat to slightly concave base. It was filled by a single dark greyish-brown, with reddish-brown mottling silty clay deposit (08) containing rare small to medium rounded to angular stones (fig. 17).

Ditch [17] was located *c.*5m from the north-west end of the trench, immediately north-west of a large linear anomaly highlighted by the geophysical survey and on the same north-north-east to south-south-west alignment (fig. 19). It measured 0.85m wide, 0.4m deep and spanned the width of the trench. Its sides were steep and sloping and it had a concave base. It was filled by a single dark greyish-brown clayey silty deposit (18) containing rare small to medium rounded stones, ironstone fragments and charcoal flecks (fig. 18). A reasonable quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from the fill of this feature. A soil sample was also recovered from environmental analysis that contained well-preserved evidence of domestic food waste (see Environmental Remains, below)



Figure 18: Trench 11, Ditch 17 looking north north-east



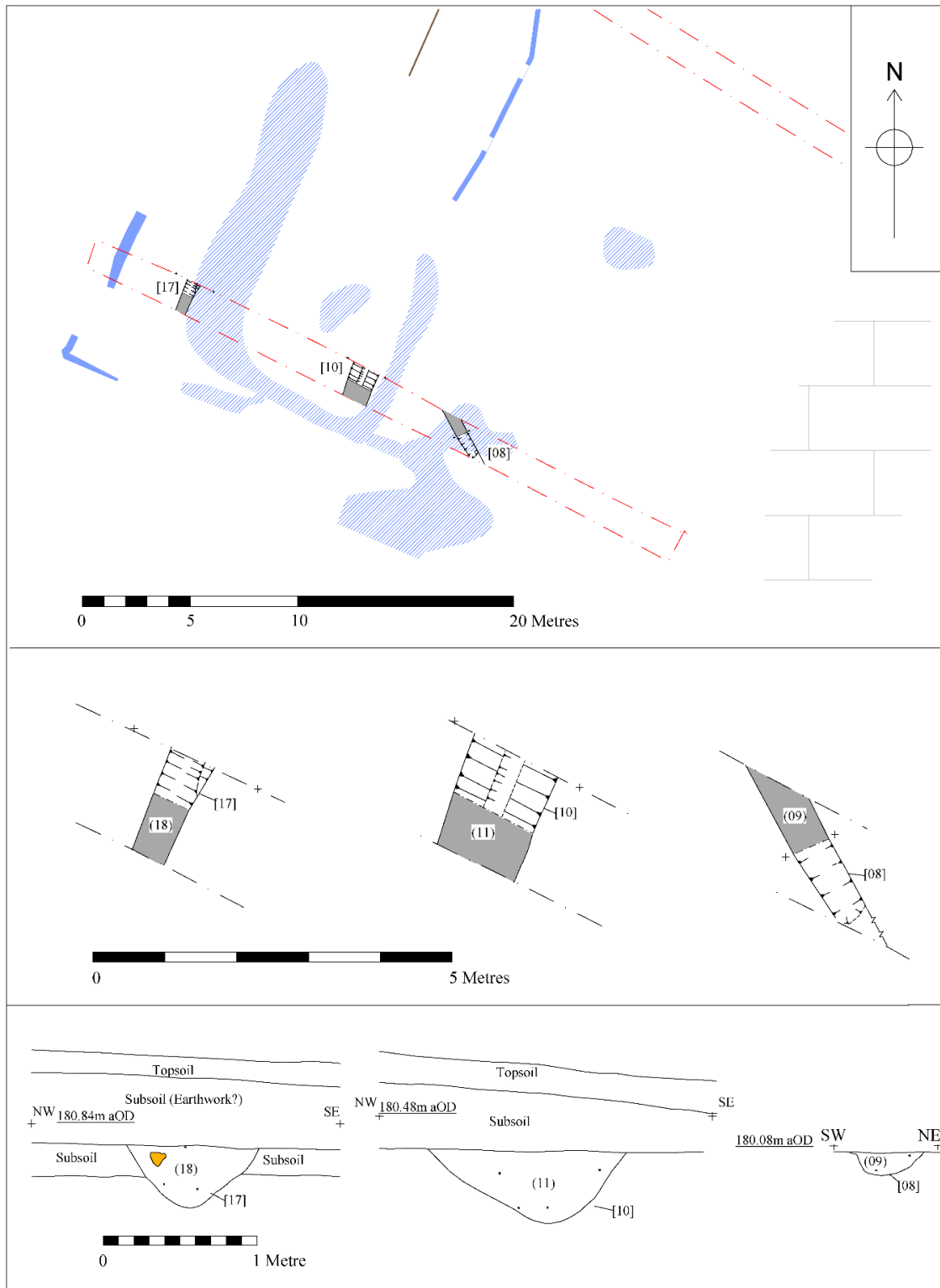


Figure 19: **Trench 11** (top, Plan of Trench 10 in relation to interpreted geophysical survey; bottom, recorded archaeology within the trench)



a. Trench 8, looking south-south-east



b. Trench 9, looking south-south-west



d. Trench 10, looking north-west



d. Trench 11, looking west-north-west

Figure 20: Trenches 8-10

## The Ceramic Finds

*Deborah Sawday*

The pottery assemblage was made up of 26 sherds, weighing 345g, representing a maximum count of 17 vessels and a vessel rim equivalent of 0.365 (calculated by adding together the circumference of the surviving rim sherds, where one vessel equals 1.00). Seven fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 4.103 kg were also recorded.

### *Condition*

The condition of the pottery was fair, with a degree of abrasion, and a reasonable average sherd weight of 13.26 grams. The acidic soil conditions had leached out some of the shelly ware inclusions potentially hampering the identification of some of the medieval finds – but typologically most if not all appears to be medieval rather than Saxo Norman/earlier medieval in date.

### *Methodology*

The pottery was examined under an x20 binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to current guidelines (MPRG 1998, MPRG 2016) and the ULAS fabric series for the Iron Age (N. Cooper, pers. com.), and the medieval and later material (Sawday 2009). The results for the pottery and the ceramic building material are shown below (tables 3 – 6).

Table 3: The pottery and ceramic building material fabrics.

<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Common Name/Kiln &amp; Fabric Equivalent where known</b>	<b>Approx. Date Range</b>
S1	Shelly ware	Iron Age
ST1	Stamford – very fine, fabrics B/C	c.1150-13th C.
PM	Potters Marston ware - Potters Marston, Leicestershire	c.1100-c.1250+
CS	Coarse Shelly ware	c.1100-1250+
EA10	Fine White earthenware	Modern
EA11	Earthenware 11 – English Tin Glazed	1650-1800
EA	Earthenware	Post Med/Modern

### *Discussion*

The four fragments of Iron Age pottery from an unstratified context in trench 2, weighed 20 grams, and included some joining sherds and represented a single vessel. A sherd in developed Stamford ware with copper glaze, dating from c.1150 to 1250 (Kilmurry 1980), was the only find in context (14) in trench 9. The group was dominated by the nineteen sherds, weighing 311 grams in Potters Marston and Coarse Shelly ware in contexts (11) [10] and (18) in trench 11. In the absence of later finds, notably fabric LY1, Lyveden Stanion B ware, this material may lie within a date range of c.1100 to c.1250, but the relatively small size of the assemblage overall means that this date must be treated with some caution. The post medieval and modern finds, including the ceramic building material, reflect continuing activity in the area over time.

Table 4: The pottery site totals by fabric, sherd number, weight (grams), EVES (where one vessel equals 1.00), maximum vessel count and average sherd weight (ASW).

<b>Fabric</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Gr</b>	<b>EVE</b>	<b>Max Vessel</b>	<b>ASW</b>
Iron Age					
S1	4	20		1	
Sub-Total	4	20		1	
Medieval					
ST1	1	1		1	1.00
PM	12	206	0.13	8	17.16
CS	7	105	0.235	5	15.00
Sub-Total	20	312	0.365	14	15.60
Post Medieval/Modern					
EA9	1	10		1	
EA10	1	3		1	
Sub Total	2	13		2	
Site Totals	26	345	0.365	17	13.26

### **Conclusion**

The presence of Iron Age material is of some interest.

The medieval pottery fabrics are typical of the region; Stamford and Potters Marston were both major centres of pottery production from *c.* 850 to *c.*1250, and *c.*1100 to *c.*1400 respectively, and the Coarse Shelly wares are typically found on the Jurassic to the east and south east of the county. This material is clearly associated with the medieval village and, with a relatively large average sherd weight of 15.6 grams (table 2), provides some evidence of occupation in the vicinity.

Table 5: The pottery by context, fabric, sherd number, weight (grams) EVES and vessel number.

Context	Fabric	No	Gr	EVEs	Max Vessel No	Comments
4 T10	EA9	1	10		1	Hollow pedestal base fragment, painted blue under glaze.
4 T10	EA10	1	3		1	Printed brown under glaze on exterior and green under glaze on interior, possibly 19th century.
11 [10] T11	CS	1	63	0.11	1	Shouldered jar, with internal thumbing on rim flange. Handmade, wheel finished. Paralleled at St Peter's Street, Northampton in an unstratified context, (McCarthy 1979, fig.98.564). Rim diameter 270mm.
11 [10] T11	CS	1	1		1	Fragment.
14 T9	ST1	1	1		1	Abraded body with horizontal incised lines, possibly from the shoulder of a jug or pitcher, with copper green glaze, dating c.1150- 1250 (Kilmurry 1980).
18 T11	PM	9	115		6	Abraded body sherds, three vessels show evidence of external sooting.
18 T11	PM	1	10	0.075	1	Simple everted jar rim, abraded, with signs of sooting on inner rim. Estimated diameter 150mm
18 T11	CS	1	14		1	One lower body with flat base, externally sooted. Handmade, soft fired, inclusions leached out.
18 T11	CS	2	7		1	Body sherds. Leached inclusions.
18 T11	CS	2	20	0.125	1	Simple everted jar rim. Leached inclusions. Rim diameter 170mm. Similar at West Coton, Northamptonshire (Blinkhorn, 2010, fig.10.60), but the example here is, thumbed on the inner rim unlike the Northants parallel.
U/S T7	PM	2	81	0.055	1	Externally thickened rim from a flared bowl, estimated rim diameter 500mm.
U/S T2	S1	4	20		1	Soft fired fragments of shelly ware, some joins – Iron Age.

Table 6: The ceramic building material by context, fabric, number and weight (grams).

Context	Fabric	No	Gr	Comments –( all discarded)
4	EA	1	356	Brick – moulded, post med/modern
4	EA	2	2097	Two modern bricks.
4	EA	1	481	Curved roof tile, modern.
4	EA	3	1169	Land drain, post-med/ modern.

## The Worked Flint

*Lynden Cooper*

A small quantity of worked flint was recovered during the evaluation. They included a retouched flake (possibly a scraper) from medieval ditch [17] and a secondary flake with bladelet scars from the subsoil in Trench 7.

Table 7: The catalogue of worked flint

Context	No	Comments
18	1	Re-touched flake – possibly a scraper.
18	1	? Chip.
U/S T7	1	Secondary flake with bladelet scars – possibly Mesolithic.

## The Environmental Remains

*Rachel Small*

A bulk sample (sample 1) was taken from the fill (18) of a ditch [17] which dated from 1100 to 1250. One part of the sample, measuring ten litres in volume, was processed in a York tank using a 0.5mm mesh with flotation into a 0.3mm sieve. The flot and heavy residue were dried and then rapidly scanned under a microscope to assess the potential for further analysis and the results are presented below.

### Results

The sample was abundant in grains (*c.*50-100 items) including free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* spp.) and large grass (Poaceae), the latter may represent oat (*Avena* spp.). Legume fragments were common (*c.*10-20 items) and included peas (*Pisum/Vicia/Lathyrus*) and smaller specimens of vetch (*Vicia* spp.). Wild seeds were also present (*c.*10-20 items) including dock (*Rumex* spp.), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare* L.), stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula* L.), and goosefoot (*Chenopodium* spp.). These weeds are typical of agriculture. A single fragment of free-threshing wheat rachis was present. The sample is likely to represent food waste.

### Potential for further work

The sample contains a sufficient number of remains for further analysis. If further work is carried out at the site it is suggested that a comprehensive sampling strategy is implemented. A larger assemblage would have great potential to reveal insight into foods consumed and crop husbandry and processing activities carried out at the site. The development of farming techniques including crop rotation utilising leguminous plants and more intensive cultivation of clay soils has been noted as of regional interest, alongside the introduction of new crops such as rivet wheat (Monckton 2003, 35-36).

## Discussion

The evaluation has confirmed that archaeological deposits are present within the West Field of site, with positive results recorded within all four of the excavated trenches in this area. The results relating to the earthwork closely matched with the anomalies highlighted by the geophysical survey. However, there some uncertainly whether the other results from the survey provide an accurate representation of the underlying archaeological deposits.

No archaeological deposits were recorded within the East Field, although unstratified Iron Age and medieval pottery was recovered from two of the excavated trenches.

### *The ditch and bank earthwork*

The two sides of a substantial 'L' shaped ditch and bank earthwork were evaluated within the West Field during the course of the evaluation, located within Trenches 9 and 10 (described previously, see Archaeological Background).

#### *Form*

The earthwork was most pronounced within Trench 9, on its northern north-eastern side. A bank measuring a 3.5m wide x 0.4m high was recorded, constructed from re-deposited natural that had been uncast from an adjacent ditch located on its outer (north north-eastern) side. The ditch was excavated to a depth of 0.65m (c.1.20m deep from the top of the trench) and appeared to have a symmetrical V-shaped profile, although the actual interface between the edge of the bank and the side of the ditch was not fully explored.

The bank was flatter within Trench 10 (on its east north-eastern side), measuring 4.7m in width and 0.3m thick and was constructed out of a mixed subsoil deposit. It seems reasonable to assume the bank on this side of the earthwork was partially formed from a pre-existing agricultural ridge, its continuation recorded to the north of the earthwork ditch (fig. 8). The adjacent ditch measured 0.8m deep and exhibited a noticeably steeper inner edge.

A further ditch was recorded within Trench 9, located within internal area of the earthwork. Although the feature could not be directly related to the earthwork, it tracked parallel to its north-north-east side and was visible as a shallow earthwork, also post-dating the ridge and furrow (fig. 8). A parallel earthwork was also recorded within the 1985 survey, although this appears to be somewhat further south than the feature recorded during the evaluation.

#### *Dating*

The geophysical survey and evaluation have both verified that the earthwork post-dates the fossilisation of the ridge and furrow. Features located below the ridge and furrow at the southern end of the field have been dated to c.1100-1250, suggesting the earthworks are likely to post-date this activity. However, the evaluation did not reveal clear evidence relating to its actual construction date. A single sherd of abraded medieval pottery was recovered from beneath the earthwork bank (within Trench 8) that does provide a *terminus post quem* of the 13th century for the feature. The only finds recovered from the earthwork came from the top of the associated ditch excavated within Trench 10 and were the result of modern infilling (see below).

The earthwork appears to be on a slightly different alignment to the earthworks previously recorded immediately south and to the west of the hollow way (fig. 2, **d** and **f**), possibly indicating that it relates to a separate (presumably later) phase of activity. The earthwork most likely dates to either the late medieval, or early post-medieval period.

### *Function?*

The results of the evaluation have only provided limited information in order to help elucidate the actual function of the feature. No structural evidence was recorded inside the enclosure, suggesting that it was likely to be agricultural in nature. The 1985 survey recorded no evidence of a southern boundary to the feature, although separate earthworks were recorded within the field that were previously located immediately to the south (fig. 2, f). It may suggest that the earthwork was created in order to control the flow of rainwater running off the slope to the north. The inclement weather experienced during evaluation certainly proved that this area was susceptible to flooding. The creation of the earthwork would have diverted any water away from the hollow way and also improved the drainage within the parcel of land that it enclosed.

### *Other Features within the West Field*

An undated ditch was recorded beneath subsoil within Trench 8, located the northern end of field. It tracked parallel to the hollow way, located c.23m distant to the west. A further two ditches were also recorded beneath the subsoil within Trench 11, located at the southern end of the field. A ditch was recorded that also tracked parallel to the hollow way, located c.25m distant to the west. It contained a large sherd of medieval pottery dated to c.1100-1250. The other feature consisted of a smaller ditch/gully that did not correspond with any of the alignments relating to the medieval village earthworks. The feature was shallow, perhaps indicating that it had also suffered from a degree of horizontal truncation. The feature was undated, but could date to the early medieval period, or significantly earlier.

A later ditch was also recorded at the western end of Trench 11 that truncated the subsoil. It tracked parallel to the hollow way, located c.16m distant to the west. Medieval pottery also dating to between c.1100-1250 was recovered from the ditch. A sample recovered from fill of this feature also contained well-preserved environmental remains indicative of domestic food waste.

The later ditch was sealed beneath a subsoil that appeared to form a possible raised earthwork within the south-west corner of the field, located adjacent to the hollow way (fig. 8). The feature appeared to overlay the ridge and furrow and the overlying topsoil contained distinctly different vegetation, including lots of nettles. The actual function of this raised feature and its relationship with the ditch and bank earthwork is uncertain. However, it is possible that the soil accumulation may be the result of a relatively recent event.

The three ditches that track parallel to the hollow way closely matched linear anomalies highlighted by the geophysical survey. However, the anomalies were all offset to the east of the actual recorded features. Both the geophysical survey and evaluation were tied in using GPS Rtk survey equipment, so it seems unlikely that to represent a survey error. It is possible that magnetic material from the ditches may have subsequently become displaced along the lines of the furrows. This could indicate that the anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey do not offer a true representation of the underlying archaeological features.

### *Modern Activity*

The upper portion of the earthwork ditch within Trench 10 contained a large quantity of building material associated with modern pottery. Its location corresponds with the edge of a rectangular pond marked on Ordnance Survey maps dating between 1886 and 1967. The material presumably forms part of the in-fill of the pond, reflected in the magnetic disturbance recorded at this location by the geophysical survey. It is likely that the pond was positioned at this location in order to utilise the flow of water along the earlier earthwork, in order to feed it.



## Conclusion

Three of the four ditches recorded within Trenches 8 and 11 are likely relate to the shrunken medieval village, perhaps forming plot boundaries situated along the hollow way. The deposits were recorded at different levels of the archaeological sequence, indicating a succession of activity along this part of the hollow way over a protracted period between *c.*1100-1250. Although no evidence of any structures or surfaces was recorded during the course of the evaluation, the quantity of pottery recovered from one of the later ditch sections and the presence of food waste does indicate that domestic activity was situated nearby. The dating of the features closely matches the dating of the pottery recovered from the hollow way during the 1970s (McWhirr 1975, 59), perhaps reflecting the expansion of the village after the Norman Conquest.

The dating and function of the L-shaped earthwork feature currently remains uncertain. However, the dating evidence from earlier activity does suggest that it most likely dates to the late medieval, or early post-medieval period. The lack of internal structures or associated finds may suggest that the feature was agricultural in nature.

In conclusion, the evaluation has located evidence of medieval, and possibly early post-medieval activity (including well-preserved environmental evidence) relating to the shrunken village of Billesdon. Evidence of medieval village core settlement is rare in the East Midlands and has been identified as a regional priority (Lewis 2006, 212; Knight et al. 2012, Objective 7E). The area therefore has the potential to contribute to further understanding of the origins and development of the medieval settlement of Billesdon.

## Archive and publication

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A93.2019 and consists of the following:

- 1 A4 Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report No. 2019-135)
- 1 A4 Context Summary Record
- 18 A5 Context Sheets, containing 19 contexts
- 11 A4 Trench recording sheets
- 1 A4 Photo Record sheet
- 1A4 Sample record sheet
- 1 A4 Drawing sheet index
- 1 A4 Drawing Index
- 3 A3 sheets of permatrace, containing 14 drawn plans and sections
- 2 Contact sheet of digital photographs
- 1 CD digital photographs

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.

## Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Tom Hazelton and Natalie Good, of Hazelton Group, for their help and co-operation with the project. Thanks is also extended to the landowners Mr and Mrs Hayes. The fieldwork was carried out by the author, with the assistance of Christopher Naisbitt and the project was managed by Richard Buckley. The pottery and other ceramic material was identified by Deborah Sawday and the lithics by Lynden Cooper. William Johnson processed the environmental sample and Rachel Small analysed the environmental material, all of ULAS. The JCB excavator was provided by Newline.

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