University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

An Archaeological Evaluation by trial trenching on land north of Park Lane, Castle Donington, Leicestershire.
NGR: SK436 276 centre

Jon Coward

ULAS Report No 2010-146.

An Archaeological Evaluation
by trial trenching on
land north of Park Lane,
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For: Nexus Heritage

Checked by

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1. Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ULAS in June/July 2010 for Nexus Heritage on land north of Park Lane, Castle Donington, Leicestershire SK 436 276, in advance of proposed residential development. The evaluation targeted a series of geophysical anomalies suggesting enclosure ditches across much of the area and lies to the east of an area containing known prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon deposits. Many of the less pronounced geophysical anomalies appeared be of agricultural origin, or responses to a complex geology However, two areas containing ditches and gullies of probable Late Iron Age/early Roman date were identified in the north-east and south-west corners, some of which were not apparent in the geophysical data. One feature to the north of the site contained Anglo-Saxon pottery. In the south-west corner many of these features lay beneath varying depths of colluviums including a ring-ditch containing Late Iron Age/very early Roman pottery.

Besides these two areas archaeological features were also identified along the west edge of the field and in the north-west of the site. The small field in the south-east corner appeared to have been previously disturbed with undulating topography and significant depths of deposits. The trenches here contained up to 2m of colluvial material, and an undated burnt oval feature of unknown function was recorded in one trench. Similar anomalies on the geophysical survey suggest that there may be several more of these features in this area.

The archive will be deposited with LMARS under accession code X.A115.2010 in due course.

2. Introduction

Archaeological trial trenching was carried out on land to the rear of 112 Park Lane, Castle Donington, Leicestershire (NGR SK 436 276; Fig. 1) between 29th June – 20th July 2010. The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5). Outline planning consent has been secured from North West Leicestershire District Council for residential development and associated infrastructure (Application Ref. 07/01844/OUTM). The work was carried out to provide preliminary indications of the character and extent of any buried archaeological remains in order that the potential impact of development may be assessed by the Planning Authority.

3. Background

3.1. Geological and Topographical Background

The site covered approximately 9.2 ha and comprised two fields (Fig. 1). The small field, in the south-east corner of the area was covered by scrub and bushes and exhibited considerable topographic variation, with the surrounding ground dropping sharply into a small ravine which ran from the south to the north-east of the field. The larger field to the west and north was under arable cultivation. This field sloped gently from the south to the north and east, with a greater fall towards its north-east edge where it bordered housing and part of the small field.

The British Geological Survey shows the underlying geology to be Triassic Mudstone bedrock with a soil of the Bromsgrove Series characterised as well-drained reddish loam over soft sandstone.

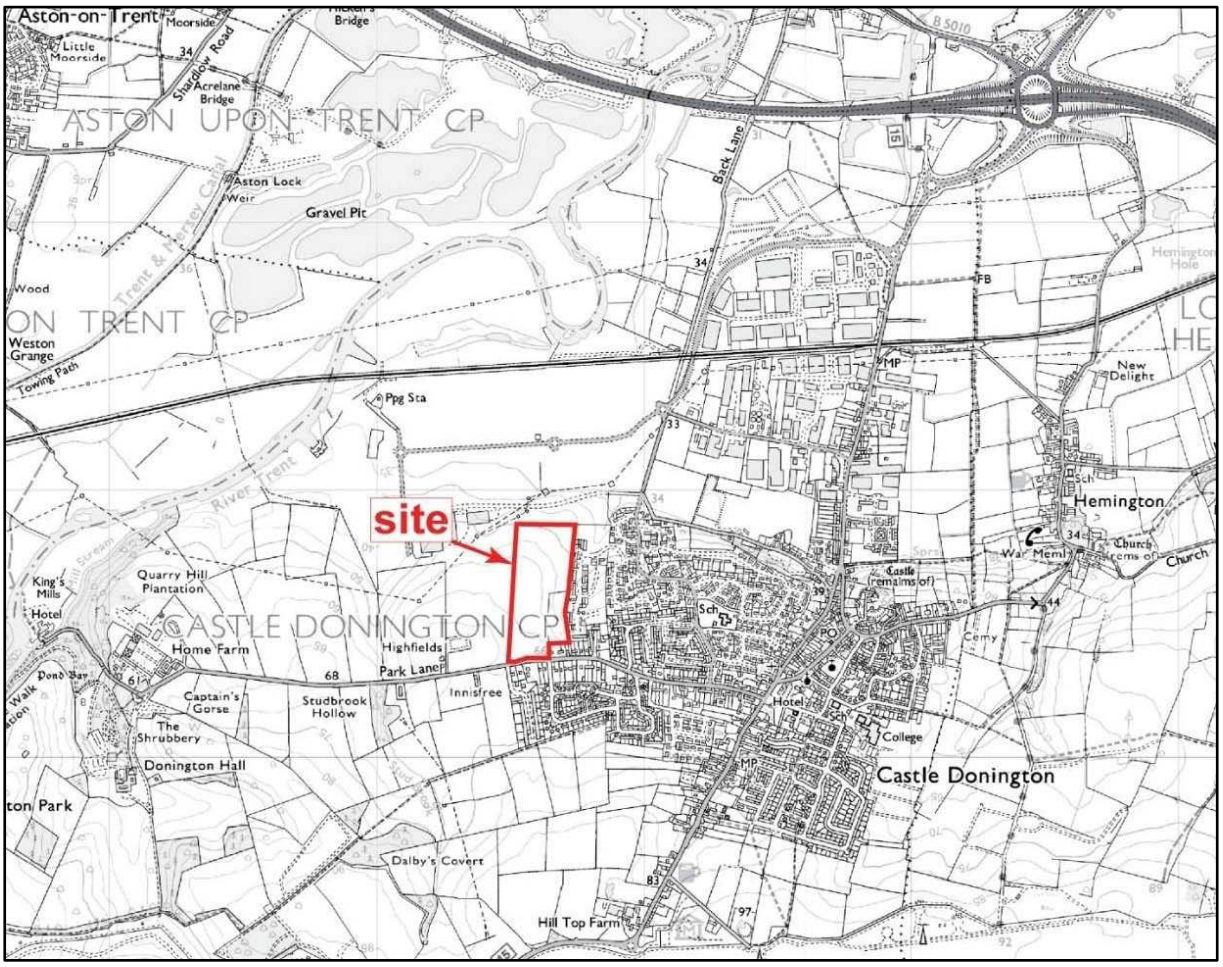

Figure 1. Location of site. Based on plan supplied by client.

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

The proposed development lies within an area of significant archaeological potential. A geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation was undertaken to the west of the site in 2003 (Stratascan 2003, ULAS 2003). This work identified a dense pattern of multi-period remains. Ditches and pits were located, with worked flint and pottery

dating from the late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age and Iron Age as well as a single pit containing Anglo-Saxon material to the east of the site. A multi-period floodplain landscape was recorded at Willows Farm to the north-east of the site (Ripper and Coward forthcoming) containing evidence for prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon activity.

The excavations suggested that these features might extend to the east into the current site and a geophysical survey was undertaken in 2008 which appeared to confirm this (Stratascan 2008). Desk-based research and a site visit undertaken for an Environmental Statement (Wardell Armstrong 2007) identified ridge and furrow earthworks and two discrete cropmarks (a circular and a curvilinear feature) were visible on aerial photographs. Although the 2008 geophysical survey did not locate the circular cropmark, it did identify a number of rectilinear enclosures likely to be of archaeological origin.

4. Aims

The purpose of the archaeological work was:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the location, extent, date range, character, condition, significance and quality for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To establish the nature and extent of existing disturbance and assess the survival of archaeological deposits.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of the results.

The detailed objective of the archaeological evaluation trenches was:
Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.

5. Methods

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2008) and adhered to its *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2008).

The WSI (Nexus 2010) requested a *c.* 2.5% sample of the site covering 43 trenches of differing lengths. Trial trenches were located by DGPS using a trench plan supplied by Nexus targeting a number of potential archaeological anomalies identified by the geophysical survey as well as blank areas (Fig. 2). Some trenches had to be moved and/or shortened or split into two (Trenches 24, 28, 33 and 44) to avoid an overhead power line. After all the trenches had been opened it became clear that the geophysics plot used to locate the trenches was not accurate particularly in the north of the site. After consultation with the client and the Planning Archaeologist, an extra trench (1B) was added, and Trenches 3, 4, 7, 21 were lengthened under contingency arrangements (Fig. 2). An attempt to extend Trench 18 failed due to the machine used being unable to remove the subsoil.

Topsoil and overburden were removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision using a 13 tonne 360^0 mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. Trenches were excavated to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever was reached first. Some of the trenches extended after consultation, using a JCB, had to employ a toothed bucket to remove the subsoil.

Trenches were examined by hand cleaning and potential archaeological deposits were investigated. Confirmed likely archaeological deposits were sample excavated, and recorded. All plans and sections were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid by differential GPS survey.

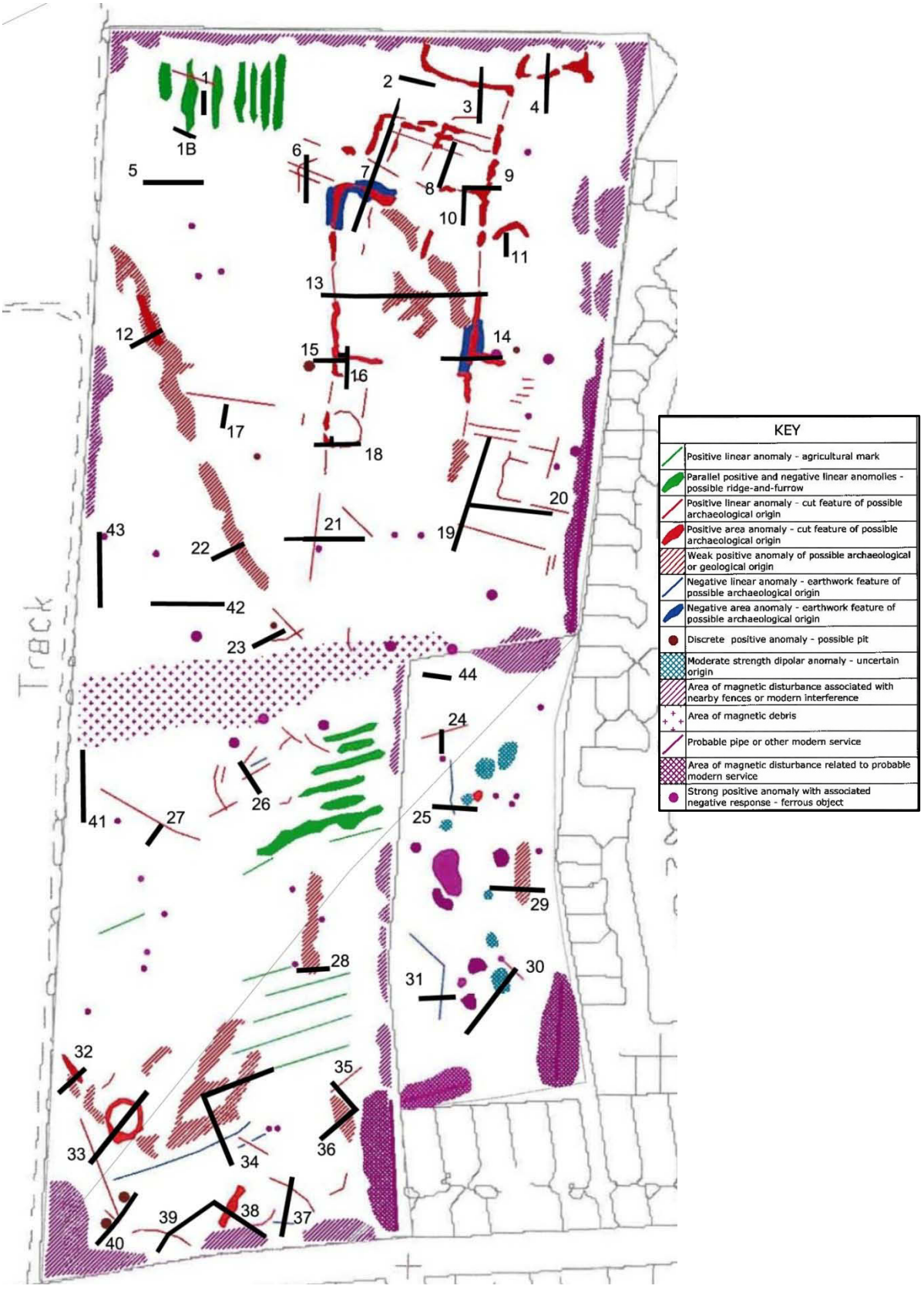

Figure 2: Excavated trenches overlaid on the geophysical anomalies (north to top).

6. Results

Numbers in (brackets) denote deposits or fills, numbers in [square brackets] denote cuts. In terms of the composition of topsoil, subsoil and natural substrata, all the trenches except where noted in the text exhibited a similar form. Topsoil was a dark brown sandy loam, subsoil, if it was present at all, was a thin layer of sandy silt. The natural substrata comprised decayed sandstone, silty sands, and purple or yellowish clays. M ost trenches contained a combination of the different types of natural substrata rather than extensive areas of one type only. Natural substrata were rarely more than 0.50m below ground level.

Each trench is summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of trench details (those in grey contain archaeological deposits)

Trench No	Orientation	Length (m)	Min. Depth (m)	Max. Depth (m)	Archaeology identified?	Context numbers	Fig. No
1	N-S	10	0.25	0.35	Y	[36] (35)	5
1B	NW-SE	7.5	0.3	0.35	N		5
2	E-W	15	0.3	0.4	Y	[16] (15)	11
3	N-S	15	0.27	0.4	Y	[43] (42)	11
4	N-S	26	0.32	0.43	Y	[38] (39)	11
5	E-W	25	0.3	0.35	N		
6	N-S	20	0.32	0.5	N		
7	NE-SW	50	0.25	0.5	Y	[41] (40) [11] (12) [44] (48) (49) [45] (46) (47)	9, 18
8	NE-SW	20	0.35	0.55	Y	[50] (51)	9
9	E-W	15	0.35	0.35	Y	[14] (13)	9
10	N-S	17	0.29	0.4	N		9
11	N-S	10.5	0.27	0.34	N		
12	NE-SW	15	0.35	0.4	Y	[34] (33)	6
13	E-W	70	0.25	0.45	Y	[18] (17) [30] (29) [52] (53) [54] (55) [56] (57) [62] (63)	10, 19, 20
14	E-W	26	0.31	0.65	Y	[52] (53) [54] (55) [56] (57)	10
15	E-W	14	0.37	0.42	Y	[60] (61)	10
16	N-S	18.5	0.31	0.41	Y	[58] (59)	10
17	N-S	11	0.38	0.41	N		
18	E-W	25	0.34	0.45	Y	[64] (65)	7
19	N-S	49	0.22	0.42	N		
20	E-W	34	0.27	0.88	Y	[21] (22) [23] (24)	8
21	E-W	34	0.24	0.42	N		
22	NE-SW	15	0.35	0.5	N		
23	NE-SW	15	0.5	0.5	N		
24	E-W	11	1.3	1.46	N		21
25	E-W	19	1.12	1.3	N		
26	NW-SE	15	0.35	0.45	N		
27	NE-SW	10	0.6	1.06	N		
28	E-W	14	0.27	0.37	N		
29	E-W	20	0.55	1.5	N		
30	NE-SW	34	0.39	2.0	Y	[37] (66)	12, 22, 23
31	E-W	15	0.33	0.56	N		
32	NE-SW	15	0.45	0.6	Y	[20] (19)	3
33	NE-SW	36	1.0	1.2	Y	[6] (5) [7] (8)	3, 15
34A	NW-SE	30	0.35	0.7	N		
34B	NE-SW	30	0.28	0.54	N		
35	NW-SE	15	0.27	0.47	N		
36	NE-SW	18	0.25	0.6	N		

Trench No	Orientation	Length (m)	Min. Depth (m)	Max. Depth (m)	Archaeology identified?	Context numbers	Fig. No
37	N-S	24	0.3	0.62	N		
38	NW-SE	27	0.35	1.0	N		
39	NE-SW	10	0.65	1.06	Y	[3] (4)	3
40	NE-SW	28	1.04	1.28	N		3
41	N-S	31	0.26	0.51	N		
42	E-W	30	0.3	0.45	Y	[28] (27)	4, 16
43	N-S	31	0.24	0.4	Y	[25] (26) [31] (32)	4, 17
44	NE-SW	22	0.55	1.06	Y	[1] (2)	3, 14

6.1 Large field, southern area: Trenches 28, 32-40, 44.

No features apart from east-west plough furrows were revealed in trenches **28**, **35**, **36**, and **37**. Trench **32** contained a small gully (Fig. 3; (19), [20]) running across it, corresponding to a geophysical anomaly. The silty brown fill contained a mid-1st to mid 2nd century sherd.

The south end of trench **34**, and Trenches **39**, **44**, and **38** to the south of it contained a greater depth of subsoil with correspondingly deeper natural substrata (Fig. 14). No archaeological features were recorded in Trenches **34** and **38**. Trench **39** had a butt-ended shallow gully (Fig. 3; (4), [3]) at its north-east end, adjacent to another gully (Fig. 3; (2), [1]) in the west end of Trench **44,** which contained a single sherd of prehistoric pot**.** Both fills comprised a similar brown silty clay. Gully [3] may correspond to a geophysical anomaly although the orientation is slightly different. No other features were noted.

Trenches **33** and **40** also displayed an unusually deep build-up of subsoil/colluvium. The overburden in Trench **40** had a depth of up to one metre below ground level, although the junction between this and what was taken to be natural substrata beneath was very diffuse. No features were noted despite possible geophysical anomalies in this area. Trench **33** exhibited two distinct subsoil\colluvial deposits; the lower (a dark grey/brown silty sand) appearing between *c.* 0.90m to 1.00m below ground level. This lower subsoil was cut by two gully features (Fig. 3; (5), [6], Fig. 15) to the south and (Fig. 3; (8), [7]) to the north. These features correspond with a circular feature identified on the geophysical survey. The surface of fill (5) contained two sherds of mid to late 1st century Roman pot, while two sherds of mid to late 1st century pot, probably Roman but possibly Iron Age, and a sherd of Iron Age pot was recovered from the fill of the northern gully (fill (8)). A small charcoal-filled posthole (Fig. 3; (10), [9]) was also recorded just to the south-west of the circular feature.

6.2 Large field, central area: Trenches 22, 23, 26, 27, 41, 42, 43.

Trenches **22, 23, 26, 27** , and **41** were blank. Trench **42** recorded a shallow gully feature (Fig. 4; (27), [28]) running north-west to south-east which was cut by a furrow. This gully was not entirely convincing as a man-made feature and may be of geological origin. Trench **43** had an east-west orientated ditch (Fig. 4; (26), [25]) at its north end, and a posthole [31] adjacent which had plausible post packers in the fill (32), and a sherd of prehistoric pot (Fig. 16). None of these features correspond to geophysical anomalies in this area.

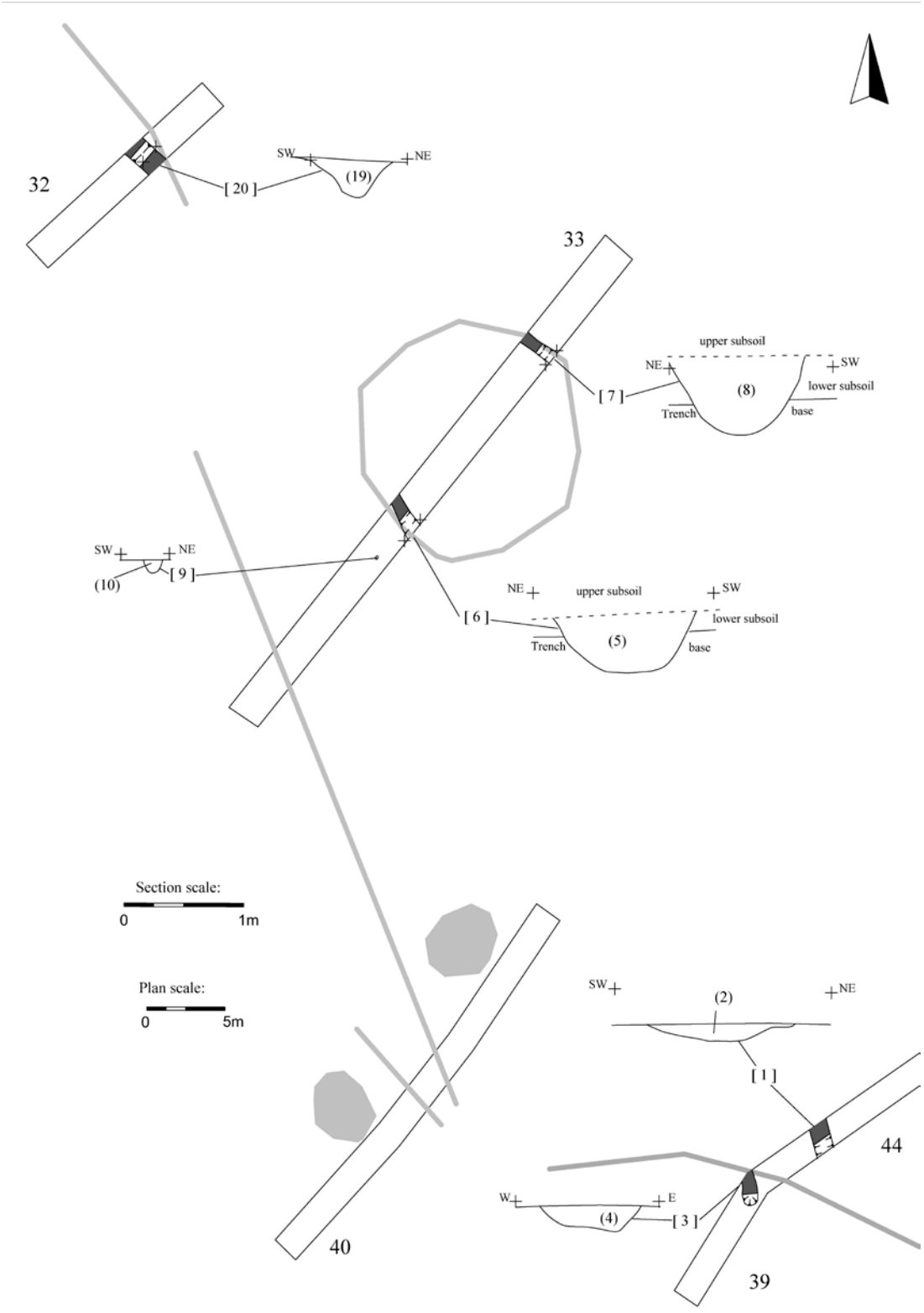

Figure 3: The south west corner, Trenches 32, 33, 40, 39 and 44. Geophysical anomalies shown in light grey.

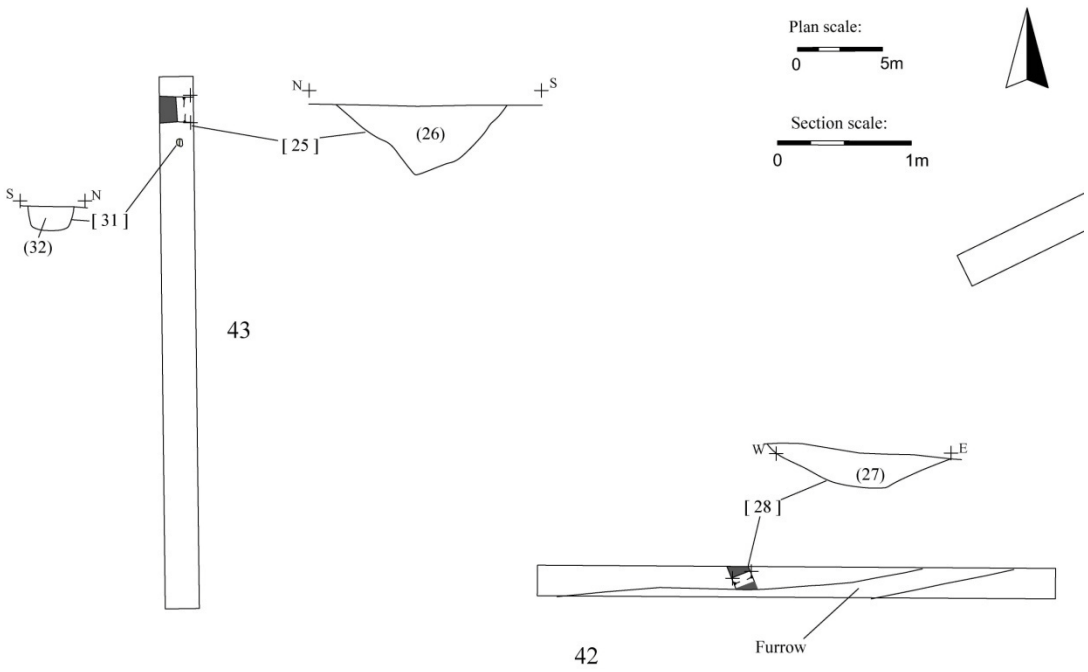

Figure 4: Centre west area, Trenches 42 and 43.

6.3 Large field, north-west area, Trenches 1, 1B, 5, 6, 12, 17.

Trench **1** showed no sign of the geophysical anomaly identified running north-west to south-east, however later correction of the geophysical survey showed this to lie further north. A ditch (Fig. 5; (35), [36]) was however recorded at the northern end. This ditch was approximately 0.8m wide running north-east to south-west and the dark brown silty fill contained late 3rd to 4th century pottery. Although this feature appeared to be heading towards Trench 5, it was not visible in that area and Trench **1B** was positioned to check the extent of this feature during contingency work. Although the subsoil was too hard to be removed with a standard ditching bucket, leaving a very disturbed surface, no sign of any feature was identified. Given the substantial nature of the feature seen in Trench 1 it is most likely that the ditch either turns or ends somewhere between Trenches 1 and 1B.

Trench **5** was blank although possible north-south furrows were visible. Trench **6** contained no plausible archaeological features although a very distinctive linear outcrop of natural sandstone blocks crossed the trench on a similar alignment to most of the geophysical features, which may explain the anomalies recorded in this area.

Trench **12** contained a ditch-like feature (Fig. 6; (33), [34] which could be a shallow archaeological feature. However, the furrows in the north-west corner of the field appear to change direction from east-west to north-south, and this feature could also be a plough furrow – its fill was similar to that seen in the furrows. Trench **17** was blank apart from an east-west furrow. Later correction of the geophysical survey showed that the linear geophysical anomaly lay to the north of this trench.

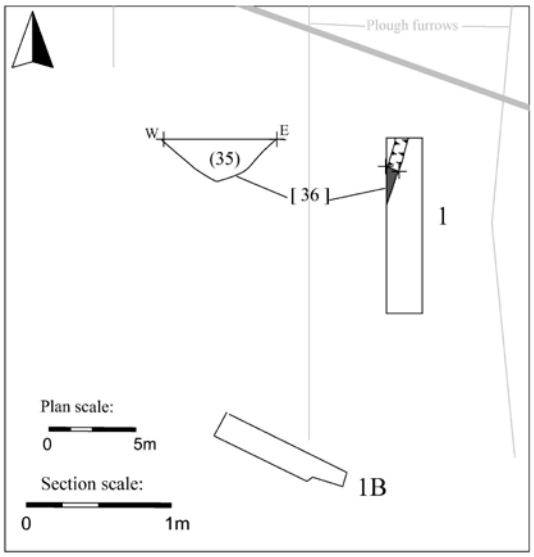

Figure 5 North-west area, Trenches 1 and 1B. Geophysical anomalies shown in light grey.

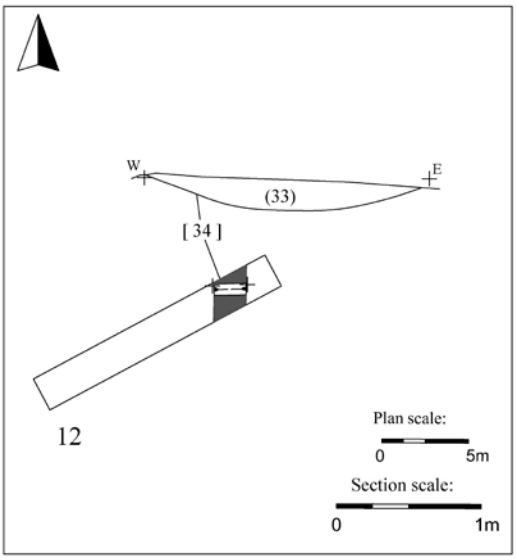

Figure 6: North-west area, Trench 12.

6.4 Large field, central and centre-east area, Trenches 18, 19, 20, 21.

Trench **18** was positioned to bisect a possible circular geophysical anomaly. Several potential features were seen in this trench, however the dry conditions made them difficult to define accurately. Excavation showed most to be variations in the natural substrata, however, one plausible shallow gully (Fig. 7; [64] (65)), ran north-west to south-east across the west side of the trench. An attempt to extend this trench perpendicularly under contingency failed as the subsoil was so compact that a JCB was unable to remove the soil and given the ephemeral nature of the features in the original trench it was thought inadvisable to use a toothed bucket in this area. The feature corresponds to the circular geophysical anomaly, although possibly larger or on a slightly different alignment as the eastern side of the feature was not identified in the trench.

Further south, Trench **21**, which had a more clayey topsoil, was positioned to check two anomalies on the geophysical survey. Neither the long linear feature running north-south or a second anomaly running north-west to south-east were identified. Although the second anomaly may lie outside the trench to the north, the trench was extended several metres to the west during contingency work in order to check that it had not narrowly missed the north-south anomaly, but no feature could be located.

Trench **19** displayed regular east-west plough furrows in alignment with the geophysical anomalies, but none of them appeared on investigation to be obscuring features beneath. However two of the recorded furrows at either end of the trench did correspond with linear features from the survey. Trench **20** did find a probable feature corresponding with the geophysical anomaly. This feature was situated on the crest of a steep slope to the east and was a broad, shallow and flat-bottomed linear feature with a very natural-like sandy fill (Fig. 8; [21] (22)). This feature had ill-defined edges but did contain two sherds of Iron Age pottery. Although this did not

correspond with a feature on the geophysical survey it could be a continuation of a linear feature noted to the north running in this direction (Fig. 13).

The second more definite feature had a well defined cut, only the south side of which was visible, running along the north baulk of the east end of the trench, filled with a brown sandy silt (Fig, 8; [23] (24)). This produced pottery, mostly of late 3rd to 4th century date. Although little of the cut was visible in plan, it is likely to correspond with the linear feature identified on the geophysical survey running roughly east-west. The deposits east of the break of slope in Trench 20 were potentially colluvial, with a greater depth of subsoil and no obvious natural substrata in evidence at the base in the last ten metres.

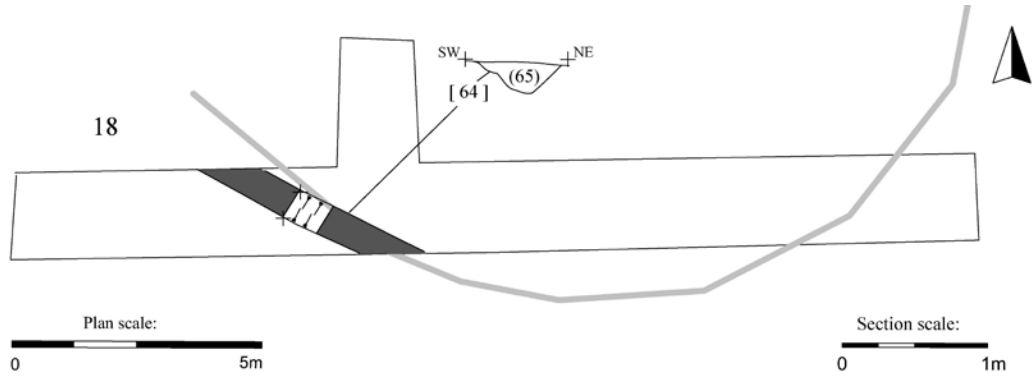

Figure 7: Centre north, Trench 18. Geophysical anomalies shown in light grey.

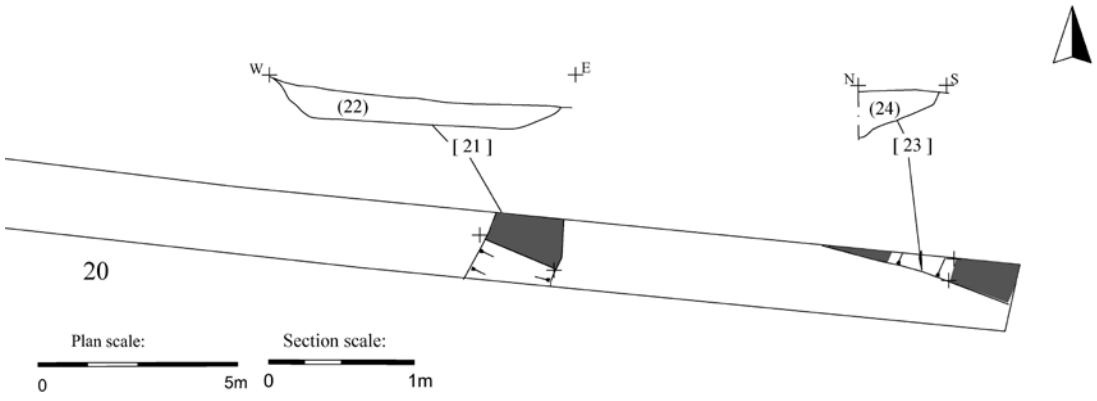

Figure 8: Centre north, Trench 20.

6.5 Large field, centre and centre-north area. Trenches 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16.

Trench **7** had several geophysical anomalies crossing it, including two particularly strong features, one at the south end and one at the north end. Three features were identified in the trench which corresponded with these anomalies. To the south, a recut ditch 3.7m wide and 0.40m deep was recorded (Fig. 9 [44] [45]). The southern earlier ditch [45] had a sterile upper fill (46) above a clayish sandy silt (47), which contained a flint, a sherd of mid 1st to mid 2nd century pottery and a sherd of early 2nd to 4th century pottery. The recut ditch [44] also had a clean upper fill (48) over a lower fill (49) of similar composition to (47). This lower fill contained a good assemblage of Roman pottery with a similar date range to that from (47). This feature represents the strong geophysical anomaly running to the south of the trench.

The geophysical anomaly recorded in the centre of the trench was not identified. However north of this, a feature was excavated which corresponded in plan with one of the more northern geophysical anomalies (Fig. 9; [11] (12)). This was a shallow ill-formed gully, which appeared to have been truncated by a plough furrow on the same alignment. A single sherd of prehistoric pot was recovered from the surface of this feature.

When the trench was extended under contingency works another ditch cut was revealed further to the north (Fig. 9; [41] (40)). This was 1.1m wide and 0.4m deep and corresponds with the strong geophysical anomaly. Fire-cracked stones in the fill together with burnt (or possibly decayed) bone could have enhanced the magnetic response. In addition, and not identified by the geophysical survey, a shallow sinuous gully ran north to south across the trench (Fig. 9; (67), [68]). This is similar in dimension and profile to gully [30] in Trench 13 (Fig. 10) and may be the same feature. Regular plough furrows were also noted in this trench on an east - west alignment.

Although crossed by regular plough furrows, Trench **8** showed no sign of either the strong anomaly at its far north end (although this may lie just outside the edge of the trench) or the ditch seen to the west in Trench 7 (although ditch [11] was very shallow and the ploughing may well have removed traces of this feature to the east). However, a small ditch was recorded located beneath a plough furrow at the south end of the trench (Fig. 9; [50] (51)). This was 1.4m wide and 0.35m deep with an unusual red silty clay fill and may be the continuation of the feature located just south of the trench on the geophysical survey. This feature was not identified to the east in Trench **10**. Although none of the furrows appeared to be masking the ditch it is possible that the ploughing had truncated the feature to the point where it was no longer visible.

Trench **9** recorded a feature running north-south and corresponding to a strong geophysical anomaly. This was a ditch nearly two metres wide (Fig. 9; (13), [14]). Late 1st to 2nd century pottery and bone was recovered from this fill but the edges of the feature proved difficult to define, partly due to the cemented nature of the deposits and partly due to disturbance from one of the agricultural tramlines which ran down one side of the feature. As this anomaly crossed several trenches it was decided to attempt another section through the feature further south (Trench 13). Trench **11** was negative, apart from an east-west field drain. The geophysical anomaly to the north may well lie just outside the excavation.

Both the north-south linear geophysical anomalies at either end of Trench **13** were recorded during excavation. To the east, the anomaly seen further north in Trench 9 proved to be several ditches/ re-cuts (Fig. 10; [52] [54] and [56], Fig. 20). There was no surviving stratigraphic relationship between the centre ditch [54] and the western ditch [56], but the eastern ditch [52] appeared to be stratigraphically later than [54], possibly a recut. The fill of the eastern ditch (53) contained a sherd of late 1st to early 2nd century pot.

At the west end of Trench 13, a north-south ditch (Fig. 10; [18] (17)) approximately 1.35m wide and 0.55m deep appears to represent the north-south geophysical anomaly (possibly part of the feature [44], [45] identified in Trench 7). This had a sandy silt clay fill (17) containing pottery of the mid to late 1st century and late 1st to early 2nd century (Fig. 19). At the west baulk end a long shallow gully (Fig. 10; [30] (29)) not represented on the geophysical survey ran east along the trench before turning sharply to the north. Tiny fragments of prehistoric pottery were recovered from its fill. This gully was seemingly truncated by the ditch [18], although the arid conditions and cemented nature of the deposits made this difficult to confirm. This gully was similar in appearance to gully [68] in Trench 7 and may possibly be the same feature. At the east end, a further similar gully [62] (63), was truncated by the re-cut north-south orientated ditches.

Trench **14** recorded a wide north-south linear. This appears to be the same ditch identified in Trenches 9 and 13. As this anomaly had been tested positively in the two trenches further north, this feature was not excavated in order to allow more work elsewhere.

Trenches **15 and 16** both contained ditches corresponding to anomalies on the geophysical survey. The north-south ditch (Fig. 10; (59), [58]) in Trench 15 was 0.90m wide by 0.25m deep while the east-west ditch (Fig. 10; (61), [60]) in Trench 16 was of similar dimensions, profile and fills and is likely to be part of the same feature. The trench was extended to attempt to locate the east-west geophysical anomaly across the northern part of the trench but this was unsuccessful.

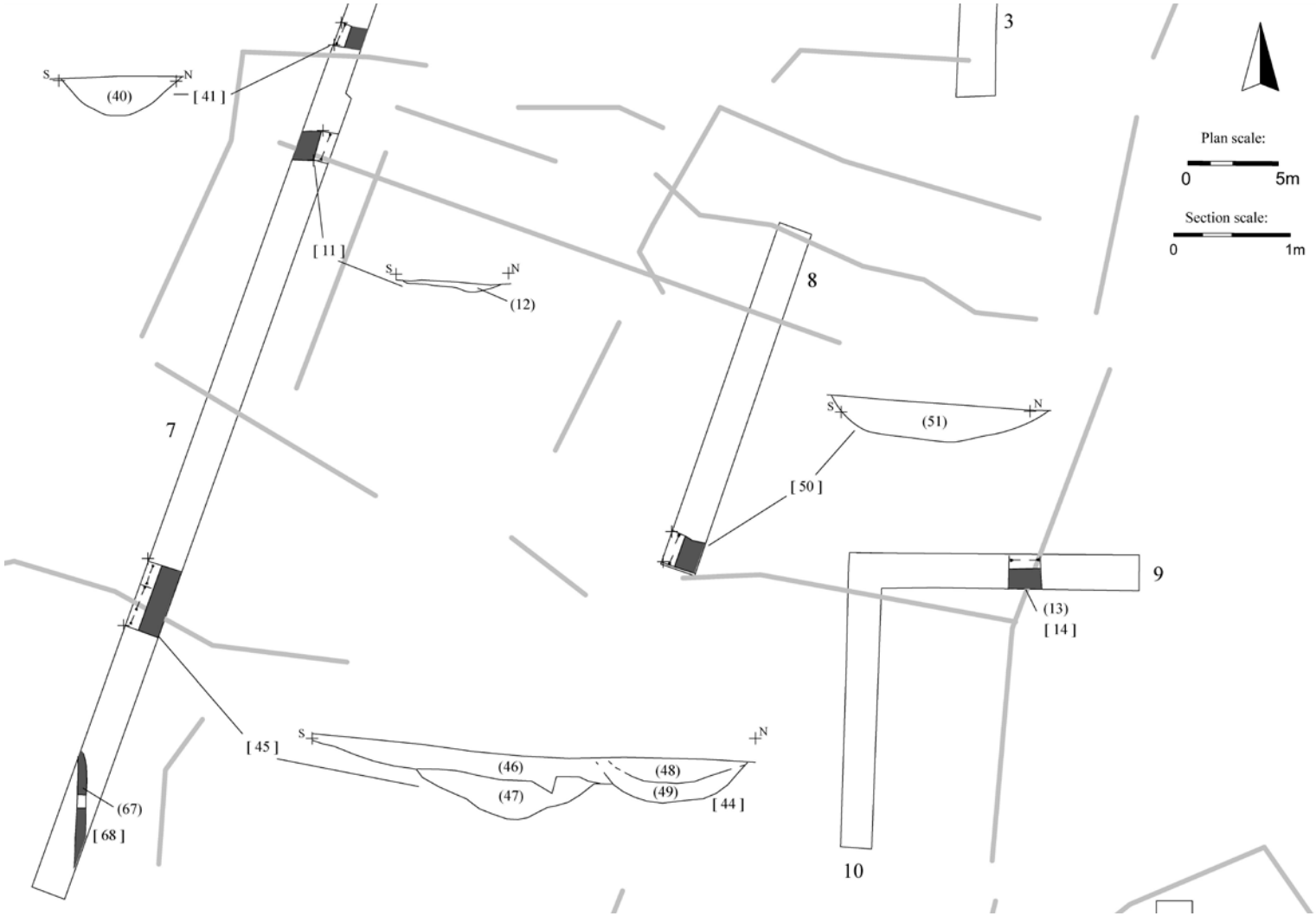

Figure 9: North area, Trenches 7-10. Geophysical anomalies shown in light grey.

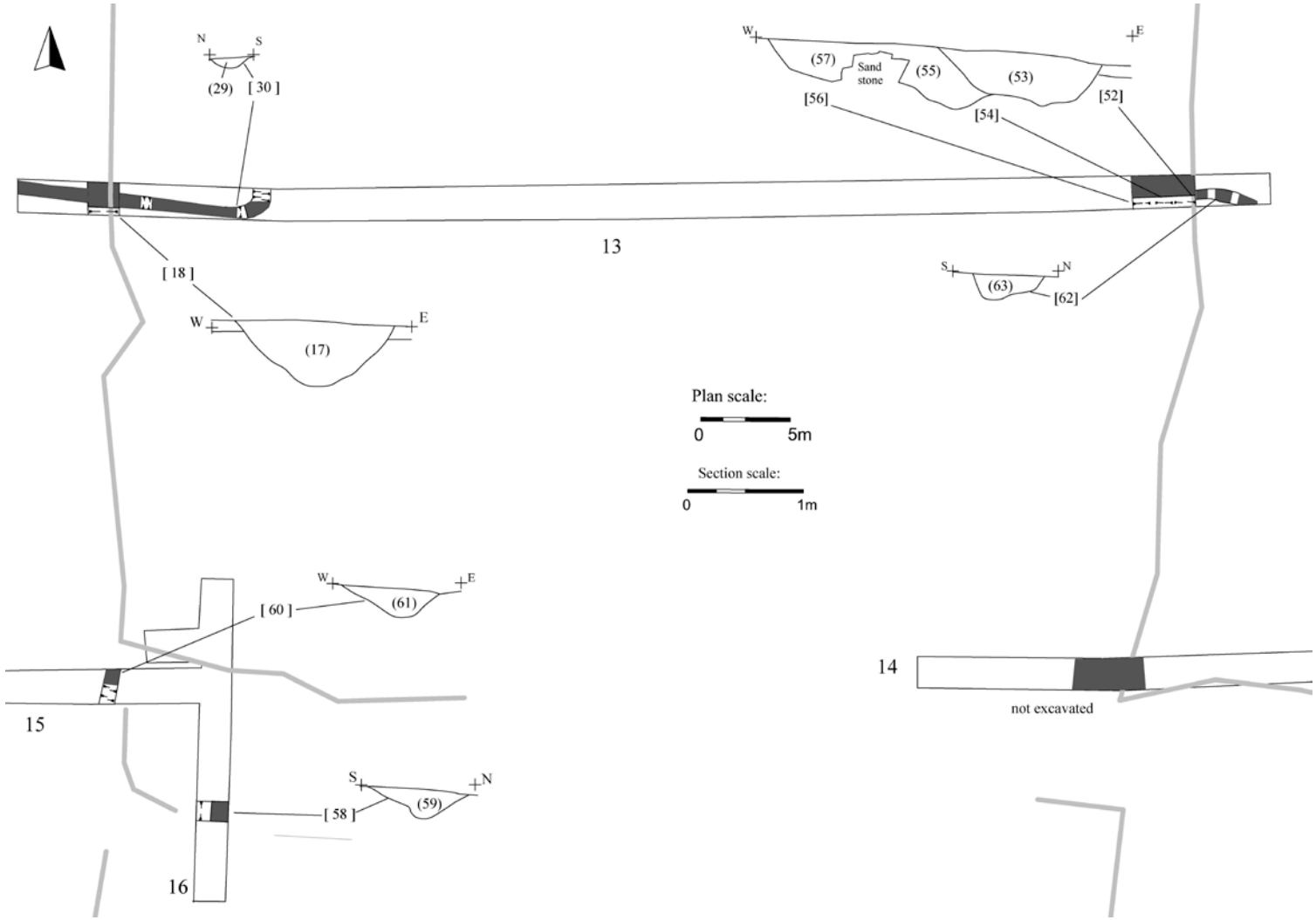

Figure 10: Centre north, Trenches 13-16. Geophysical anomalies shown in light grey.

6.6 Large field, northern edge, Trenches 2, 3, 4.

Trench **2** recorded a very truncated curving north-south gully (Fig. 11; [16] (15)), less than 0.1m in depth. The fill was very leached and despite its shallow nature produced two sherds of prehistoric pot and one flint. No corresponding feature was identified on the geophysical survey.

The geophysical anomaly running east-west across the top of Trench **3** was recorded in the extension excavated under the contingency (Fig. 11; [43] (42)). The dark brown silty fill of the ditch produced six mid 1st to mid 2nd century pot sherds as well as ten sherds of probable mid 5th to 7th century Saxon pot, and a flint.

Trench **4** had an unusually substantial furrow crossing its centre just south of a geophysical anomaly; however trial excavation of this furrow could locate no feature beneath it. Extending the trench uncovered a small curvilinear gully (Fig. 11; (39), [38]) containing prehistoric pottery. This lies on a similar alignment to the geophysical anomaly and appears more likely to represent it than the furrow to the south.

6.7 Small field, trenches 24, 25, 29, 30, 31

The trenches in the small field were of a different character to those in the larger field to the west and north, although they shared a similar sandy loam topsoil. Deep subsoils and colluvial deposits were present in many of the trench bases. Excavation was halted due to Health and Safety concerns before natural substrata could be reached in several areas.

Trench **24** was moved north from its planned position due to the presence of overhead power cables and was negative. It contained deep subsoil deposits with natural substrata appearing at *c.* 1.30m below ground level.

Trench **25** also contained deep subsoil, with no natural substrata in evidence at 1.30m below ground level at either end of the trench, although natural substrata were encountered in the middle. No features were encountered and nothing corresponding to the weak geophysical anomaly was seen.

Trench **29** recorded natural substrata at the east end at a depth of *c.* 0.55m, but diving away steeply after a few metres. Subsoil (possibly colluvium) was present down to 1.3m below ground level (Fig. 21). At the west end a different substratum was encountered; this comprised thin alternating bands of sand and clay. A machine sondage at the west end showed that these deposits continued to at least 1.5m below ground level. A single piece of mid to late 1st century pot came from one of the upper layers but it did not appear to be associated with any archaeological deposits. No feature corresponding to the geophysical anomaly was seen.

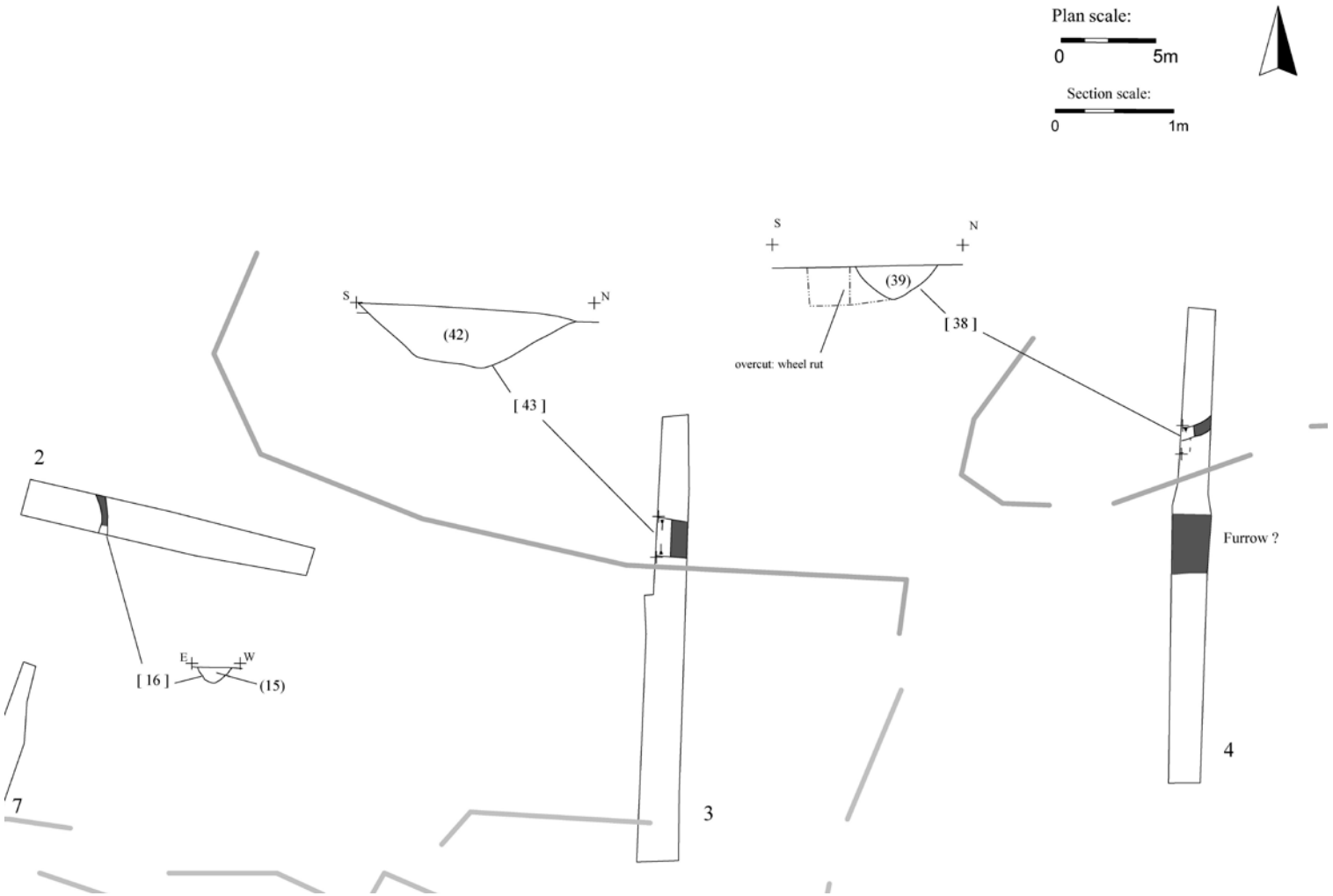

Figure 11: Northern area, Trenches 2-4.

Trench **31** recorded topsoil and subsoil over natural clay substrata at the west end, but dipped sharply to the east. No features were encountered; the line of the identified geophysical anomaly corresponded closely with a change in geology to sandstone.

Trench **30** was placed to cross a geophysical anomaly described as a moderate strength dipolar anomaly of uncertain origin (Fig. 2). Subsoil was recorded overlying the natural substrata at the south-west end, but no natural substrata were identified in the centre or to the north-east. A machine sondage to a depth of 2m could not locate natural substrata at the north-east end.

A large oval burnt feature (Fig. 12; [37] (66)) was located within the colluvial-type subsoil at *c.* 1m below ground level. This feature was 4.6m in length, and continued beneath the north-east section (Fig. 22). Around its perimeter was a band of fired clay and charcoal. This perimeter deposit could also be seen in the trench baulk, albeit fragmented, extending up to *c.* 0.5m below the ground level. The baulk showed also that the feature was filled with colluvial-type subsoil down to *c.*0.90m, when the fill changed to a very mixed mottled grey-brown sandy silt (66) with abundant flecks of red clay, common charcoal fragments and fragments of burnt rock, clay, and stone. A section through the feature showed that it had a flattish base, and a subsidiary band of fired red clay seen in a sondage indicted that it was used on more than one episode (Fig. 23). A sample of the fill did contain small amounts of coal, and confirmed that the fired clay clumps within it were not in themselves structural (i.e. brick or tile fragments, etc), but clay which had been fire-hardened as a by-product of whatever process was going on. The sample revealed no residues which could assign a definite function to the process being carried out or the date.

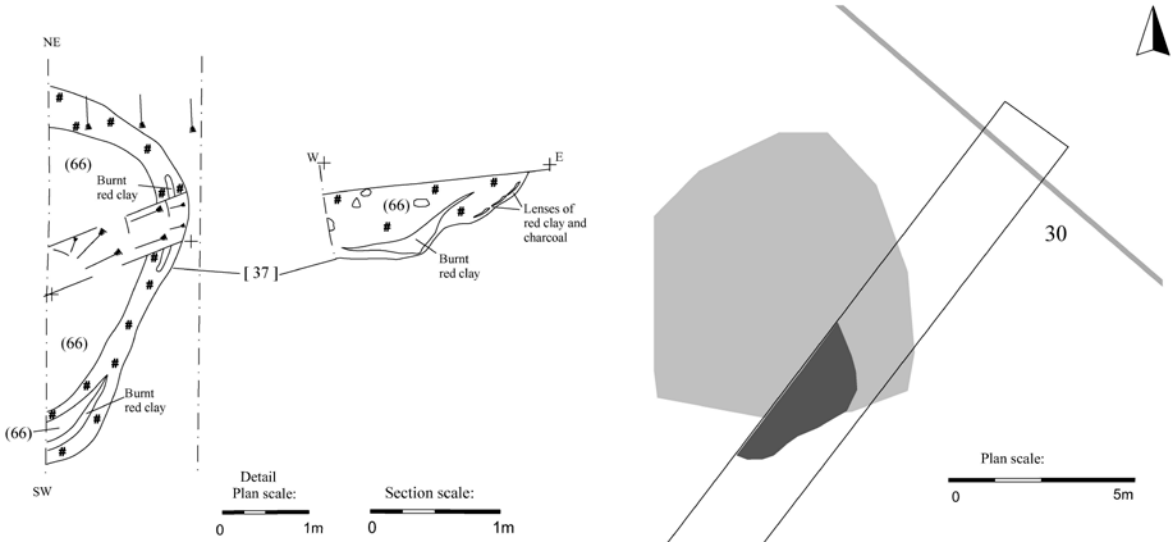

Figure 12: Small Field, Trench 30.

7. The Pottery - Nicholas J. Cooper

7.1 Iron Age Pottery

A total of 11 sherds of Iron Age pottery (55g) were retrieved from nine contexts across nine trenches. The material has been analysed by form and fabric using the Leicestershire County Museums prehistoric pottery fabric series (Marsden 1998, 45 and in press 2010), with reference to the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Groups Guidelines (PCRG 1992), and quantified by sherd count and weight.

The descriptions of the fabrics represented are given below and represent the typical range for the period in this part of the County.

Q1 Sandy ware
Moderate to very common sub-rounded or rounded quartz (well to moderately sorted, up to 1mm) and sparse-moderate angular quartz.

Q5 Pebble quartz
Rare to moderate sub-angular (white pebble) quartz (0.5-4mm) and rare to sparse sub-rounded to rounded quartz sand (0.25-1mm).

R1/R2 igneous rock inclusions (granodiorite) sometimes with sand as Q1
Sparse to very common sub-angular igneous rock fragments, poorly-sorted, most up to 5mm.

The occurrence of Iron Age pottery across the site is detailed in the table below.

Table 2: Iron Age pottery

Trench	Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Sherds	Weight	Dating
2	15	16	Q1			1	5	
4	39	38	Q5	jar	fingertip	1	12	Early IA?
7	12	11	Q1Shell			1	10	
13	29	30	Q5			2	1	
20	22	21	Q1			2	4	
33	8	7	R1	jar	Scored	1	20	M-L Iron
39	4	3	Q1Shell			1	1	
43	32	31	Q1			1	1	
44	2	1	Q5			1	1	
					Total	**11**	**55**	**ASW 5g**

The very low average sherd weight of 5g and the heavily abraded nature of the pottery make any detailed analysis difficult and only two sherds have diagnostic decorative features. The first is a scored sherd from (8) in the typical granodiorite tempered fabric (R1) dating to the Mid-late Iron Age (Knight *et al.* 2003; Elsdon 1992). The second is a rim from a wide-mouthed jar form in a pebble quartz-tempered fabric (Q5) with fingertip decoration. The form is not typical of scored ware and is probably instead of Early Iron Age date as paralleled from a nearby assemblage at Willington,

Derbyshire (Elsdon 1979 no.13). The assemblage as a whole, though smaller, is mirrored by that excavated in the adjacent field in 2003 (Cooper in Coward 2003).

The context containing the early Iron Age rim also contained fragments of fired clay or daub as detailed below.

Table 3: Fired clay

Trench	Context	Cut	Frags	Weight (g)
4	39	38	5	10

7.2 Roman Pottery

A total of 88 sherds of Roman pottery weighing 873g were retrieved from 11 contexts across 10 trenches (including six unstratified sherds). The material was classified using the Leicestershire Museums Fabric Series (Pollard 1994, 112-114) summarised below and quantified by sherd count and weight as detailed in the following table.

Table 4: Summary of Leicestershire Museums Fabric Series (Pollard 1994: 112-114).

Fabric Code:	Fabric Type:
Samian	Samian ware
C	Colour-coated wares
AM	Amphorae
GW	Grey wares
CG	Calcite gritted (shelly)
GT	Grog-tempered wares

Fabric Code:	Fabric Type:
MO	Mortaria
WW	White wares
OW	Oxidised wares
BB1	Black Burnished ware
SW	Transitional sandy wares

Table 5: Roman Pottery by context

Trench	Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Type	Decoration	Sherds	Weight	Dating
1	35	36	BB1	jar			3	20	120-4th
1	35	36	GW3	jar	necked		2	25	2nd+
1	35	36	GW3	jar	lidseated		1	53	L3rd-E4th
1	35	36	GW3	jar		rusticated	1	5	L1st-E2nd
1	35	36	GW3	jar			16	125	2nd+
3	42	43	CG1	jar	base		6	11	M1st-M2nd
7	47	45	GT	jar			1	8	M1st-M2nd
7	47	45	BB1	jar	base		1	10	120-4th
7	49	44	GW9	jar	base		2	150	M-L1st
7	49	44	GW3	jar	evert rim		4	16	L1st-E2nd
7	49	44	SW4	jar	base		3	34	M-L1st
7	49	44	CG1	jar	chanrim		1	6	M1st-M2nd
7	49	44	OW3	jar	necked		4	35	L1st-2nd
9	13	14	SW2	jar	base		1	42	M-L1st
9	13	14	GW3	jar	necked		1	3	L1st-2nd
9	13	14	OW3	misc			1	2	L1st-2nd

13	53	52	WW2	jar	evert rim		1	10	L1st-E2nd
13	17	18	SW2	bowl	carinated	beadrim	3	20	M-L1st
13	17	18	GW3	jar		rusticated	4	9	L1st-E2nd
13	17	18	GW5	jar	evert rim		8	100	L1st-E2nd
20	24	23	GW1	bowl	b and f		5	85	L3rd-4th
20	24	23	GW5	bowl	b and f		2	39	L3rd-4th
20	24	23	MO4	mortarium			3	20	150-400
20	24	23	Derbys	jar	campanulate rim		1	6	L2nd-4th
29	US		SW4	misc			5	20	M1st-L1st
32	19	20	Samian	dish	18 or 18/31		3	3	M1st-M2nd
33	5	6	SW4	misc			2	8	M-L1st
33	8	7	GT3	jar	base		2	5	M-L1st
	US		Samian	dish	Dr36		1	3	2nd
						Total	**88**	**873**	**ASW 10g**

The low average sherd weight of 10g reflects the generally fragmented and abraded nature of the assemblage. No significant sherd groups were retrieved but broad dating of the features, bearing in mind the redeposited nature of the material, can be suggested. In general the assemblage dates to the early Roman period from the mid-1st to the early-mid-2nd century, with the exception of (24) from Trench 20 and (35) from Trench 1 both of which date to the later 3rd or early 4th century.

Material from the early Roman contexts includes transitional sandy wares, two of which (SW2), from (13) and (17) are 'Belgic' forms dating to the middle of the 1st century. The occurrence of everted rim jars in grey, oxidised and white fabric as well as rusticated decoration would indicate a later 1st-early 2nd century span for much of the material, whilst the presence of BB1 in (47) suggests a date in the middle of the 2nd century or later. The general lack of regional imports across the early assemblage would tend to indicate it does not extent into the 3rd century.

Amongst the later Roman material, the group from (24) includes two bead and flanged bowls in grey ware, a cam panulate rim jar in Derbyshire ware and a mortarium from Mancetter-Hartshill. The material from (35) is less diagnostic but does include a lid-seated rim jar of the type normally seen in East Midlands burnished grey ware, an example of which came from the well group at Empingham Site 6 dating to the later 3rd or early 4th century (Cooper 2000, 89, fig.44.126).

7.3 Early to Mid Anglo-Saxon Pottery

The remains of a single vessel came from (42) comprising a flat base from a globular handmade form together with sherds from an everted rim in a sand tempered fabric (Blinkhorn 1999, 165 fabric 1) dating to the mid-5th-7th century (Table 6). From the same context came sherds of heavily abraded Roman shell-tempered ware. A substantial assemblage of 58 sherds was previously excavated in the adjacent field in 2003 (Cooper in Coward 2003).

Table 6: Anglo-Saxon pottery

Trench	Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Type	Sherds	Weight	Dating
3	42	43	SX 1	jar	evert rim	10	52	M5th-7th

7.4 Modern Pottery

A total of three unstratified sherds of modern flowerpot were recovered (Table 7).

Table 7: Modern Pottery

Trench	Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Type	Decoration	Sherds	Weight
20	US		EA	Flowerpot			2	15
	US		EA	Flowerpot			1	6
						Total	**3**	**21**

7.5 Ceramic Building material

Four fragments of probably modern brick were recovered as follows.

Table 8: Ceramic Building Material

Trench	Context	Cut	Fabric	Frags	Weight	Dating
13	53	52	Brick	4	100	Modern?

8. Flint - Lynden Cooper

Five pieces of flint were recovered, comprising a discoidal core, a core with opposed platforms, both unstratified, a secondary flake from (15) and two tertiary flakes from (42) and (47).

9. Charcoal and coal - Graham Morgan

A single fragment of hazel from a branch of 40mm diameter comprising 15 rings and probably from a tree of approximately 20 years old was recovered from (35), a later Roman context. Additionally a fragment of partially burnt coal came from (22), a potentially Iron Age context. Small amounts of coal were found in industrial feature (66)

10. Environmental - Anita Radini

Four samples from four contexts (Table 9) were chosen for assessment. A subsample of 250ml from each was examined to assess the potential for plant remains. Sample 2 from (43) which may have a Roman or Saxon date, and sample 3 from (24) which has a late Roman date, represent a low potential for the recovery of charcoal and plant remains. Sample 1 from a prehistoric/early Roman circular feature had no potential for further environmental analysis containing only very sparse charcoal flecks. Sample 4 from (66) is from an industrial feature and contains burnt clay fragments. No evidence for slag or metalworking was recovered from the sample.

Table 9: Environmental data

Sample	Part	Tr	Context	Feature & date	Charcoal	Clay	Mod Root	Potential for plant remains
1	1	1	5	Iron Age/Early Roman ring ditch	flecks		x	None
1	2	1	5		flecks		x	None
2	1	3	43	Ditch containing Roman and Saxon pottery	flecks		x	Low
2	2	3	43		flecks		x	Low
3	1	20	24	Ditch containing late Roman pottery	flecks		x	Low
3	2	20	24		flecks		x	Low
4	1	30	66	Burnt industrial feature - undated industrial feature	flecks	x (burnt)	x	None
4	2	30	66		flecks	x (burnt)	x	None
4	3	30	66		flecks	x (burnt)	x	None

Although the results from these samples appears unproductive any future excavation in the area should consider taking appropriate samples for charred plants and other remains, as sites and deposits can vary a great deal. Environmental remains are often at a low concentration on rural sites, so more sampling is necessary to recover them and examine their distribution as possible evidence of agriculture and other activities. It should also be noted that the 2003 excavations to the west recovered charred cereal remains and seeds from the Anglo-Saxon pit (Monckton in Coward 2003).

11. Bone - Jennifer Browning

Context (13) in Trench 9 contained one cattle metacarpal, two large mammal shaft fragments and 1 horse tooth. Context (40) in Trench 7 contained two cattle molar fragments from the same tooth, and three large mammal shaft fragments.

The bone condition was fragmented but the surface condition was good.

12. Discussion

The evaluation area has produced varied results in terms of the effectiveness of the geophysical survey. Many of the large amorphous areas described as weak positive anomalies of archaeological or geological origin (Fig. 2) were not identified during the excavations, although some areas of differing geology (e.g. the outcrops of stone in Trench 5) did correspond to these type of geophysical anomalies. It seems likely that many of these features do in fact represent geological changes not necessarily visible in the trenches.

With the exception of the south-west area of the main field and the trenches in the small field, the top of the archaeological features noted in the evaluation trenches were all within 40-50cm of the ground level. Trench 33 had a depth of soil with the top of archaeology appearing approximately 0.9m below ground level. The origin of this colluvial-type deposit is unclear, although there appears to be a very slight rise to the north-east before the field drops down eastwards; there may have been a slight natural bowl in the area which gradually filled with soil over time.

The excavations suggest two main areas of prehistoric/early Roman activity one to the north-east and one to the south-west. Iron Age and early Roman pottery was recovered from many of the features identified in the north-east corner associated with the ditches recorded in Trenches 1 2, 3 4, 7, 9 13 and 20. Many of the stronger geophysical anomalies suggesting a series of enclosure/ditch systems in this area were confirmed by the evaluation (Fig. 13). However the top of archaeological deposits in this area lay very close to the ploughed surface and many of the geophysical anomalies not identified in the evaluations may well be badly truncated by ploughing and could possibly survive better elsewhere. Features were also recorded that were not visible on the survey including narrow curvilinear gullies in Trenches 2 and 13 and ditches in Trench 20 (Fig. 13). The excavations also identified some truncated features indicative of activity pre-dating the Roman ditches (for example in Trench 13; Fig. 10). Features recorded on the eastern edge of the field (Trench 20) seemed better preserved and this area appeared to have undergone colluviation after the features were backfilled. Despite the evidence for late Neolithic/early Bronze Age activity in the fields to the west of the site (Coward 2003), the only evidence for activity earlier than the Iron Age in this area comes from the few flints that were recorded. However given the ephemeral nature of deposits of this date and the truncation on the site, this is perhaps not unexpected. Evidence for Iron Age activity is consistent with that found on the site to the west. Interesting however, only four

sherds of Roman pottery were recorded from the 2003 excavations perhaps indicating a shift in the focus of activity to the east during the Roman period.

The north-west area of the main field was generally archaeologically quiet, with the exception of a Roman ditch seen in Trench 1 which was not picked up by the geophysics.

In the south-east corner ditches associated with Trenches 32, 3,3 39 and 44 also suggest Iron Age/Early Roman activity including a ring ditch. Many of these features lie beneath varying depths of colluvium and may be better preserved than elsewhere. Most of the rest of the geophysical anomalies in this area failed to materialise on the ground and may represent geological variations. A gully not seen on the geophysical survey was identified in Trench 44.

No definite archaeology was located in the large central area of the main field between Trench 28 to the south and Trenches 21 and 22 to the north. Features were recorded on the western edge of the field although these comprised small gullies in Trenches 12, 42 and 43 whose only dating was a single sherd of Iron Age pottery. These trenches lie close to a pit containing a large Saxon pottery assemblage in the next field, excavated in 2003 (Coward 2003) and may indicate that the deposits seen west of the site boundary do not extend very far to the east.

Given the presence of Anglo-Saxon material from the earlier excavations the pottery from Trench 3 might imply that Anglo-Saxon activity in this area may be present elsewhere on the site. Evidence for structures from the Anglo-Saxon period, was located during excavations at Willow Farm Business Park, immediately north-east of the Power Station (Ripper and Coward forthcoming).

The small field in the south-east corner of the evaluation area exhibited topography and soil build-up which was very unlike the main field. The topography appears very anomalous to the lie of the land around it and there is deep colluvial-type cover in all of the trenches excavated. The undulating topography suggests that this area might have been disturbed at some point in the past – perhaps by quarrying. The presence of a single sherd of mid-1st century pottery within this colluvium in Trench 29 indicates that colluviation episodes may have been periodic. The industrial feature uncovered in Trench 30 is 'floating' within the colluvium and has virtually no dating evidence. Although a post-medieval date might be postulated, given that coal is known to have been exploited from Roman times in this part of the country it could date from virtually any period. The fact that it is sealed by colluvial-type material is unhelpful as this covering process appears to have continued into the modern period. The industrial feature exhibited a distinctive response in the geophysical survey; several other anomalies with this type of response lie in the immediate area (Fig. 13), indicating that more of these features may exist. Although the environmental sampling suggests no unusual potential, a sampling and dating strategy for the burnt feature and any other similar features that may be impacted by the development would help to clarify their date and nature. The charcoal present in the samples was not sufficient for radiocarbon dating and if further excavation of the features is undertaken an in-situ technique such as archeomagnetic dating might provide a better dating method.

With the exception of the south-west corner of the development area and the colluviated deposits in the small field, archaeological remains were identified at depths likely to be damaged by the development of the site (approximately 0.4 – 0.5m below present ground level). It may be also noted that any proposed residential development in this area will need to address the topographic and colluviation issues.

Figure 13 Trenches as excavated showing geophysical anomalies identified in excavation (red), those not tested or recorded (grey), features not identified on the survey (green) and other potential burnt/industrial features (cyan).

13. Archive

The archive consists of :.

2 context index sheets
1 sample index sheet
65 context record sheets
43 trench recording sheets
9 sheets permagraph measured drawings
3 photographic index sheets
3 sets ofmonochrome contact sheets and negatives
Digital images

The archive will be deposited with LMARS under accession code X.A115.2010 in due course.

14. Acknowledgements

The project was carried out by Jon Coward and James Harvey of ULAS. Project management was by Vicki Score and specialists consulted include Jenifer Browning, Lynden Cooper, Nick Cooper, Graham Morgan, Anita Radini and Angela Monckton. ULAS would also like to thank Anthony Martin at Nexus Heritage for their assistance.

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Figure 14: Trench 44 showing depths of colluvium.

Figure 15: Trench 33 showing section through curvilinear gully [6].

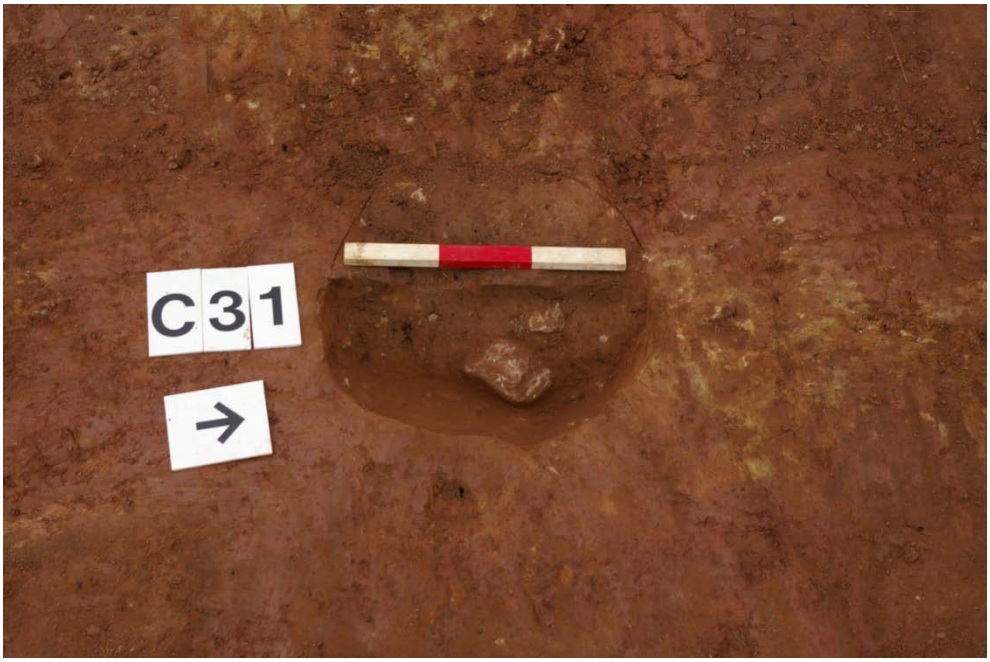

Figure 16: Trench 43 showing section through posthole [31].

Figure 17: Trench 18 looking east

Figure 18: Trench 7 showing section through ditches [44] and [45].

Figure 19: Trench 13 showing section through ditch [18].

Figure 20: Trench 13 showing section through ditches [52] [54] [56].

Figure 21: Trench 29 showing colluvium.

Figure 22: Trench 30, industrial feature [37].

Figure 23: Trench 30, section through industrial feature [37].

Appendix 1: Design Specification

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Design Specification for Archaeological Work (Trial Trench Evaluation)

Land to rear of 112 Park Lane, Castle Donington, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 436 276

Client: Nexus Heritage

Planning Authority: North-west Leicestershire District Council

WSI – Nexus Heritage Document No: 3042.R01

1 Introduction

Definition and scope of the specification

1.1 This document is a design specification for archaeological work at the above site, in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5). The fieldwork specified below is required in advance of groundworks on the site which may disturb areas of archaeological potential in connection with a planning application for a proposed residential development at the rear of 112 Park Lane, Castle Donington SK 436 276 (Fig 1).

1.2 The document provides details of the work proposed by ULAS on behalf of the client and follows the 'Written Scheme of Investigation and Tender Specification for Archaeological Evaluation' (hereinafter 'the WSI') issued by Nexus Heritage (2010).

1.3 Unless otherwise detailed within this Design Specification, the evaluation will be undertaken in accordance with, and fulfil the requirements of, the WSI.

2. Background

Context of the Project

2.1 The site comprises two fields and covers approximately 9.2 ha. An archaeological evaluation of the site has been requested by trial trenching the area as outlined in Fig. 2.

Archaeological Potential (from the WSI)

2.2 The proposed development lies within an area of significant archaeological potential. A geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation was undertaken to the west of the site in 2003 (Stratascan 2003, ULAS 2003). This work identified a dense pattern of multi-period remains. The excavations suggested that these features might extend to the east into the site and a geophysical survey was undertaken in 2008 which confirmed this (Stratascan 2008). Desk-based research and a site visit undertaken for an Environmental Statement (Wardell Armstrong 2007) identified ridge and furrow earthworks and two discrete cropmarks (a circular and a curvilinear feature) were visible on aerial photographs. Although the 2008 geophysical survey did not locate the circular cropmark, it did identify a number of rectilinear enclosures likely to be of archaeological origin. There is therefore the potential for groundworks associated with the development to impact upon previously unknown archaeological deposits.

Geological and Topographical Background (from the WSI)

2.3 The site slopes gently from the south to the north and the underlying geology is likely to be Triassic Mudstone bedrock with a soil of the Bromsgrove Series characterised as well-drained reddish loam over soft sandstone.

3. Archaeological Objectives

3.1 The purpose of the archaeological work is to:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the location, extent, date range, character, condition, significance and quality for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To establish the nature and extent of existing disturbance and assess the survival of archaeological deposits.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of the results.

Research Aims

3.2 The detailed objective (from the WSI) is to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the remains identified and to relate these to the wider archaeological and historical landscape.

3.3 Evalution work will be considered in light of the East Midlands Research Framework (Cooper ed. 2006). While specific research objectives are difficult to identify before evaluation has begun, potential research objectives that this scheme might contribute towards include;

Neolithic and Early Middle Bronze Age (Clay 2006)

3.4 The development of ceremonial monuments and their environs – the development area may contain cropmarks indicative of prehistoric ceremonial landscapes and work to the west Late Neolithic – Early Bronze Age Beaker pottery which may suggest burials or settlement. The site also lies relatively close to the prehistoric ceremonial landscape of the Trent Valley near Lockington and Aston.

Late Iron Age (Willis 2006)

3.5 The enclosures identified by the geophysical survey and the excavations to the west found evidence for Iron Age settlements. The character of aggregated settlements and the reasons for their emergence are an agreed regional priority. The comparison of such sites with similar complexes in the Trent Valley and their location and intra-site spatial arrangements is also a regional research aim. Information on the sequence and chronology of boundaries and their relationship to settlements may be recovered and palaeoenvironmental evidence could provide information on agricultural practices and land use. Artefacts can provide evidence for evidence for craft industry and exchange across broad landscape areas.

Anglo-Saxon Period (Vince 2006)

3.6 The evaluations to the west found a pit containing Anglo-Saxon pottery. Little is known about Anglo-Saxon settlement in this area and any work that provides more evidence would be useful.

3.7 These research aims have been identified based on the current state of knowledge within the area of the project. Further research aims will be considered as new information comes to light.

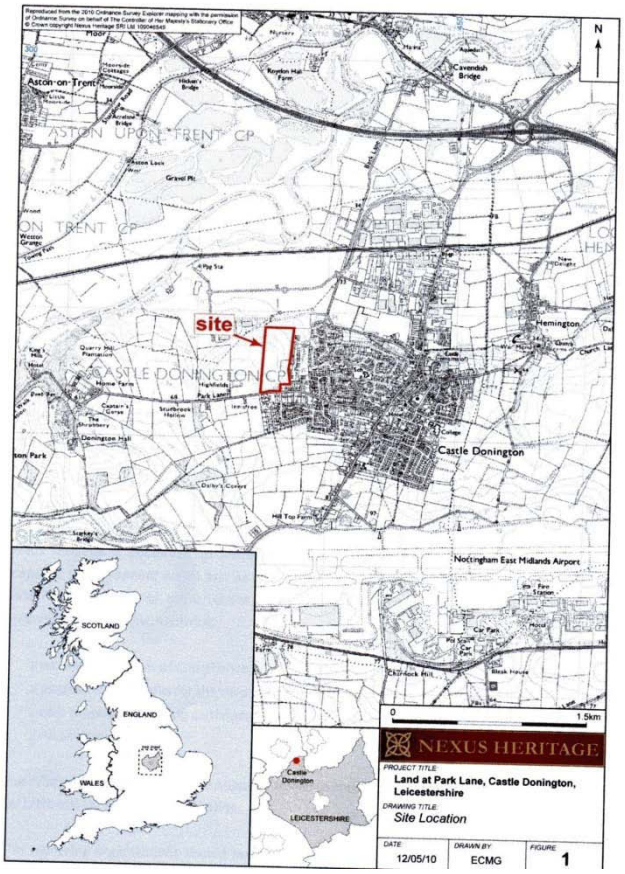

Figure 1: Location of the site
Plan provided by client

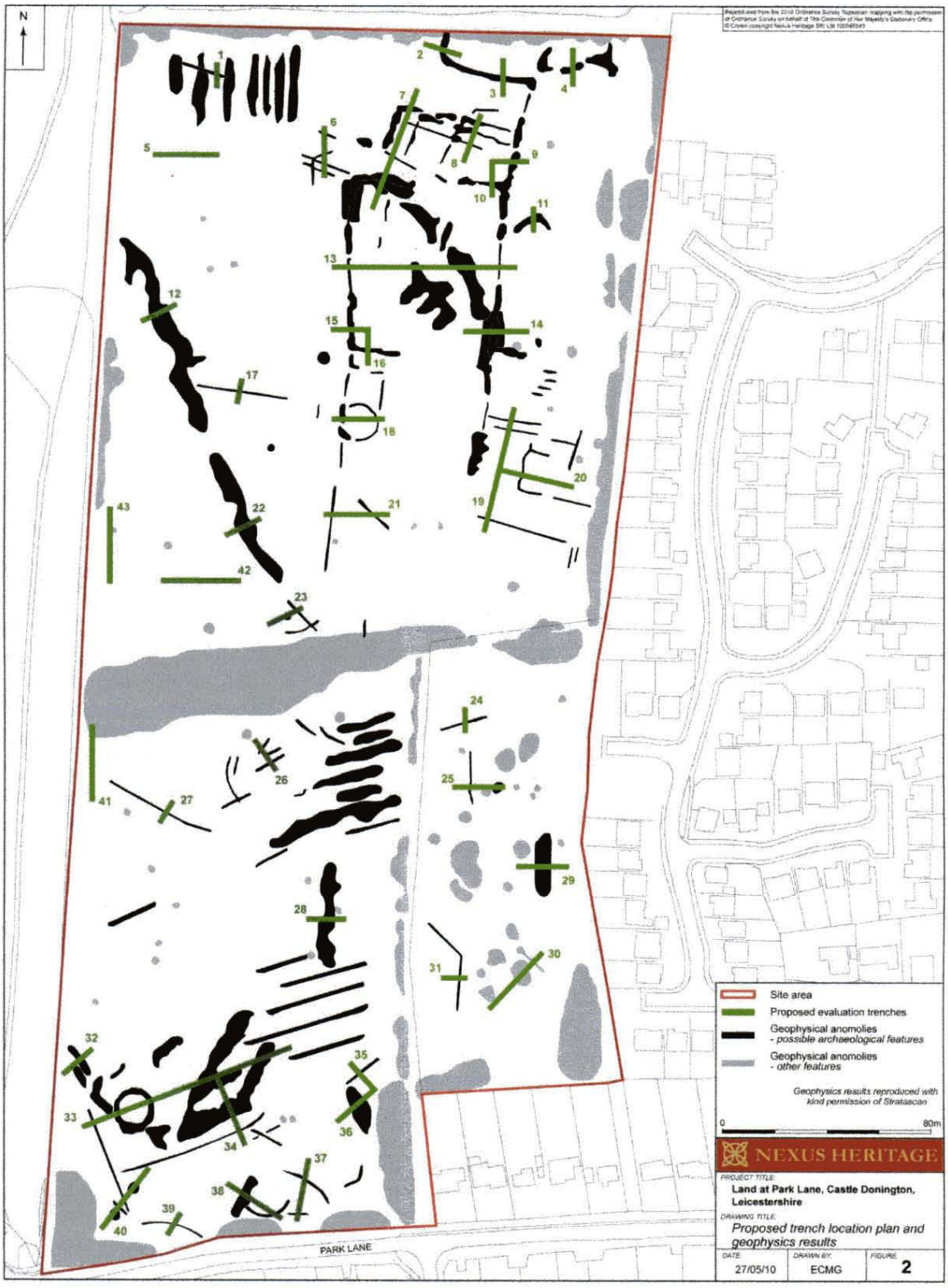

Fig. 2: Plan showing proposed trench locations (provided by client)

Table 1: Details of trenches

Trench No	Trench Length (m)
1	10
2	15
3	15
4	15
5	25
6	20
7	50
8	20
9	15
10	15
11	10
12	15
13	70
14	25
15	15
16	15
17	10
18	20
19	50
20	30
21	25
22	15
23	15
24	10
25	20
26	15
27	10
28	15
29	20
30	30
31	10
32	15
33	85
34	30
35	15
36	20
37	25
38	25
39	10
40	30
41	30
42	30
43	30
Total	**990**

4. Methodology

General methodology and standards

4.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2008) and adhere to its *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2008).

4.2 An Accession Number will be requested from Leicestershire Museums. This will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.

4.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits, where appropriate, to the site by the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are being met and professional standards are being maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Planning authority and the client, if required.

4.4 All ground reduction and excavation is to be undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Archaeologist.

Evaluation

4.5 Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas may be taken.

4.6 The WSI requests *c.* 2.5% sample of the site covering 43 trenches of differing widths.

4.7 The trench plan attached (Fig. 2, Table 1) shows the proposed locations of the trenches. These have been placed to target geophysical anomalies and other possible features as well providing an adequate sample of the entire area. The size and position of the trenches indicated on the trench plan may vary on site due to unforeseen site constraints or archaeology.

4.8 Topsoil and overburden will be removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. Trenches will be excavated to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever is reached first.

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

4.10 Any archaeological deposits encountered will be recorded and excavated using standard ULAS procedures. Sufficient of any archaeological features or deposits will be hand excavated in order to provide the information required.

- 50% of each pit and other discrete archaeological features will be excavated.
- 50% of structural features (e.g. beamslots)
- %0-100% of domestic or industrial working features (e.g. hearths and ovens).
- 25% of the exposed lengths of linear features will normally be excavated. Excavation sections will be placed to provide adequate coverage of the features and will include excavation of terminals and intersections. A flexible approach will be adopted to the location of excavation samples such that areas of exposed ditch fill with higher artefact or ecofact content may be targeted.
- 25% of ring gullies will normally be excavated to include excavation of the terminals. Special regard will be given to significant stratigraphic relationships and concentrations of artefactual material.
- Surviving structural elements such as walls will be exposed and cleaned.
- Any increase in sample ratio will be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist.

4.11 Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.12 Sections of any excavated archaeological features will be drawn at an appropriate scale. At least one longitudinal face of each trench will be recorded. All sections will be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed benchmark.

4.13 Trench locations will be recorded and tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

4.14 The spoil heaps will be scanned for metal artefacts using a metal detector (Viking 20) by staff trained in the use of the equipment.

4.15 A contingency of 25% may be required to clarify the character or extent of additional features. In addition excavation of any given feature may be increased up to 100% to provide further information. The contingency will only be initiated after consultation with the Planning Archaeologist and Nexus Heritage.

5. Recording Systems

5.1 The ULAS recording manual will be used as a guide for all recording. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto *pro-forma* recording sheets.

5.2 Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into the overall trench plan. All excavated sections will be recorded and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, levelled and tied into the Ordnance Survey datum.

5.3 A site location plan will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a plan at appropriate scale, which will show the location of the areas investigated in relationship to the investigation area and OS grid.

5.4 The stratigraphy of all trenches shall be recorded even where no archaeological features are identified. The relative height of all principal strata and features will be recorded.

5.5 Any human remains encountered will be initially left *in situ* and protected and only be removed in compliance with relevant Ministry of Justice and environmental health regulations and English Heritage guidance 2004, 2005. Nexus Heritage, the land owner, local authority and its archaeological advisers and the coroner will be informed immediately on their discovery.

5.7 A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. Conventional (silver halide) photography and 35mm colour slides will be used for the recording, although digital photographs may be used to supplement the archive. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

5.8 This record will be compiled and checked during the course of the excavations.

6. Finds

6.1 The IfA Guidelines for Finds Work will be adhered to.

6.2 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, which may constitute treasure' as defined by the Treasure Act 1996 will be removed to safety and reported to the local Coroner. ULAS will liaise with the landowner in order to request that a transfer of title regarding the ownership of any other recovered artefacts is arranged between the landowner and Warwickshire Museum.

6.3 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the Planning Archaeologist.

6.4 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best-practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context numbers and boxed by material in standard storage boxes (340mm x 270mm x 195mm). All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

7. Environmental Sampling

7.1. If features are appropriate for environmental sampling a strategy and methodology will be developed on site following advice from ULAS's Environmental Specialist. Preparation, taking, processing and assessment of environmental samples will be in accordance with current best practice.

7.2 A maximum of 10 soil samples from key stratified deposits may be taken for assessment by means of coarse sieving and flotaion. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.

- Any buried soils or well-sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.
- Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.
- Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated.

7.3 All collected samples will be labelled with context and sequential sample numbers.

7.4 Appropriate contexts will be bulk sampled (15 litres or the whole context depending on size) for the recovery of carbonised plant remains and insects.

7.5 Wet sieving with flotation will be carried out using a York Archaeological Trust sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh will be used initially as flotation of plant remains may be incomplete and some may remain in the residue. The residue > 0.5mm from the tank will be separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions will be sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots will be evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent will be sorted. The prioritised flots will not be sorted until the analysis stage when phasing information is available. Flots will be scanned and plant remains from selected contexts will be identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.

7.6 Where appropriate specialist samples may be collected and retained for further study.

7.7 Recovery of small animal bones, bird bone and large molluscs will normally be achieved through processing other bulk samples or 30 litre samples may be taken specifically to sample particularly rich deposits.

7.8 Up to three samples may be taken for scientific dating. These will be obtained by suitably qualified staff under the direction of ULAS' Environmental Officer.

8. Report and Archive

8.1 A draft version of the report will be presented within four weeks of completion of the site works. Six final copies will be provided to Nexus Heritage for onward submission to the client, Local Planning Authority and the Senior Planning Archaeologist. A copy will also be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record, the NMR and other bodies as appropriate.

8.2 The copyright of all original finished documents shall be retained jointly and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations. ULAS allows the right to print material (once in the HER or Leicestershire County Record Office), with due acknowledgements.

8.2 The report will include consideration of:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
- The nature, location and extent of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
- The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
- The anticipated archaeological impact of the current proposals.
- Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
- Summary.
- The location and an index of the archive.

8.3 A full copy of the archive as defined by IfA guidelines (2008) will be presented to Leicestershire Museums, normally within six months of the completion of analysis. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

9. Publication

9.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional archaeological journal following completion of the fieldwork. A full report will be submitted to a national or period journal if the results are of significance.

9.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at http://ads.ac.uk/project/oasis will be completed detailing the results of the project. ULAS will contact the HER prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into the HER it may be placed on the web-site.

10. Acknowledgement and Publicity

10.1 ULAS shall acknowledge the contribution of the Client in any displays, broadcasts or publications relating to the site or in which the report may be included.

10.2 ULAS and the Client shall each ensure that a senior employee shall be responsible for dealing with any enquiries received from press, television and any other broadcasting media and members of the public. All enquiries made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment.

11. Timetable and Staffing

11.1 A small team of 2-4 archaeologists will be present during the work and the work is expected to take up to three weeks.

12. Health and Safety

12.1 A Risks Assessment form will be completed prior to work commencing on s ite, and updated as necessary during the site works.

12.2 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) Health and Safety in Field Archaeology Manual (updated 2006) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

13 Insurance

13.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

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ULAS 21-04-2010

APPENDIX 1

Draft Project Health and Safety Policy Statement:

Land to rear of 112 Park Lane, Castle Donington, Leicestershire

NGR: SK 436 276

1 Nature of the work

1.1 This statement is for archaeological trial trenching and watching brief.

1.2 The work will involve excavation during daylight hours and recording of any archaeological deposits revealed. Overall depth is likely to be *c.* 0.3 – 1m deep during trial trenching but may well exceed 1m under certain circumstances. Work will involve the examination of the exposed surface with hand tools (shovels, trowels etc) and excavation of archaeological features. All work will adhere to the University of Leicester Health and Safety Policy and follow the guidance in the ULAS Health and Safety Manual (2001) together with the following relevant Health and Safety guidelines.

- HSE Construction Information Sheet CS8 Safety in excavations.
- HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)143 (L): Getting to grips with manual handling.
- HSE Industry Advisory leaflet IND (G)145 (L): Watch Your back.
- CIRIA R97 Trenching practice.
- CIRIA TN95 Proprietary Trench Support Systems.
- HSE Guidance Note HS(G) 47 Avoiding danger to underground services. HSE Guidance Note GS7 Accidents to children on construction sites

1.4 A risk assessment will be undertaken prior to work taking place, and will be reassessed during the evaluation .

2 Risks Assessment

2.1 Working within a building site

No work will be undertaken beneath section faces. Loose spoil heaps will not be walked on. Protective footwear will be worn at all times. Hard hats will be worn at all times. A member of staff qualified in First Aid will be present at all times. First aid kit, vehicle and mobile phone to be kept on site in case of emergency.

2.2 Working with plant.

Hard hats, protective footwear and hazard jackets will be worn at all times. No examination of the area of stripping will take place until machines have vacated area. Observation of machines will be maintained during hand excavation. Liaison will be maintained with the contractors to ensure programme of machine movement is understood.

2.3 Working within areas prone to waterlogging.

Protective clothing will be worn at all times and precautions taken to prevent contact with stagnant water which may carry Weils disease or similar.

2.4 Working with chemicals.

If chemicals are used to conserve or help lift archaeological material these will only be used by qualified personnel with protective clothing (i.e a trained conservator) and will be removed from site immediately after use.

2.5 Other risks

If there is any suspicion of unforeseen hazards being encountered e.g chemical contaminants, unexploded bombs, hazardous gases work will cease immediately. The client and relevant public authorities will be informed immediately.

No other constraints are recognised over the nature of the soil, water, type of excavation, proximity of structures, sources of vibration and contamination.

22-04-2010

Appendix 2: Oasis Record

INFORMATION REQUIRED	EXAMPLE
Project Name	112 Park Lane Castle Donington
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Jon Coward
Previous/Future work	Geophysical survey
Current Land Use	Arable/waste land
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	Outline planning condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 436 276
Start/end dates of field work	29th June – 20th July 2010
Archive Recipient	LMARS
Study Area	9.2 ha

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