NCWG12

NEW CEMETERY AND ALLOTMENTS, GRETTON ROAD, WINCHCOMBE

Archaeological Evaluation

for The Environmental Dimension Partnership on behalf of Winchcombe Town Council

April 2013

HEADLAND ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd

REGISTERED ORGANISATION IfA

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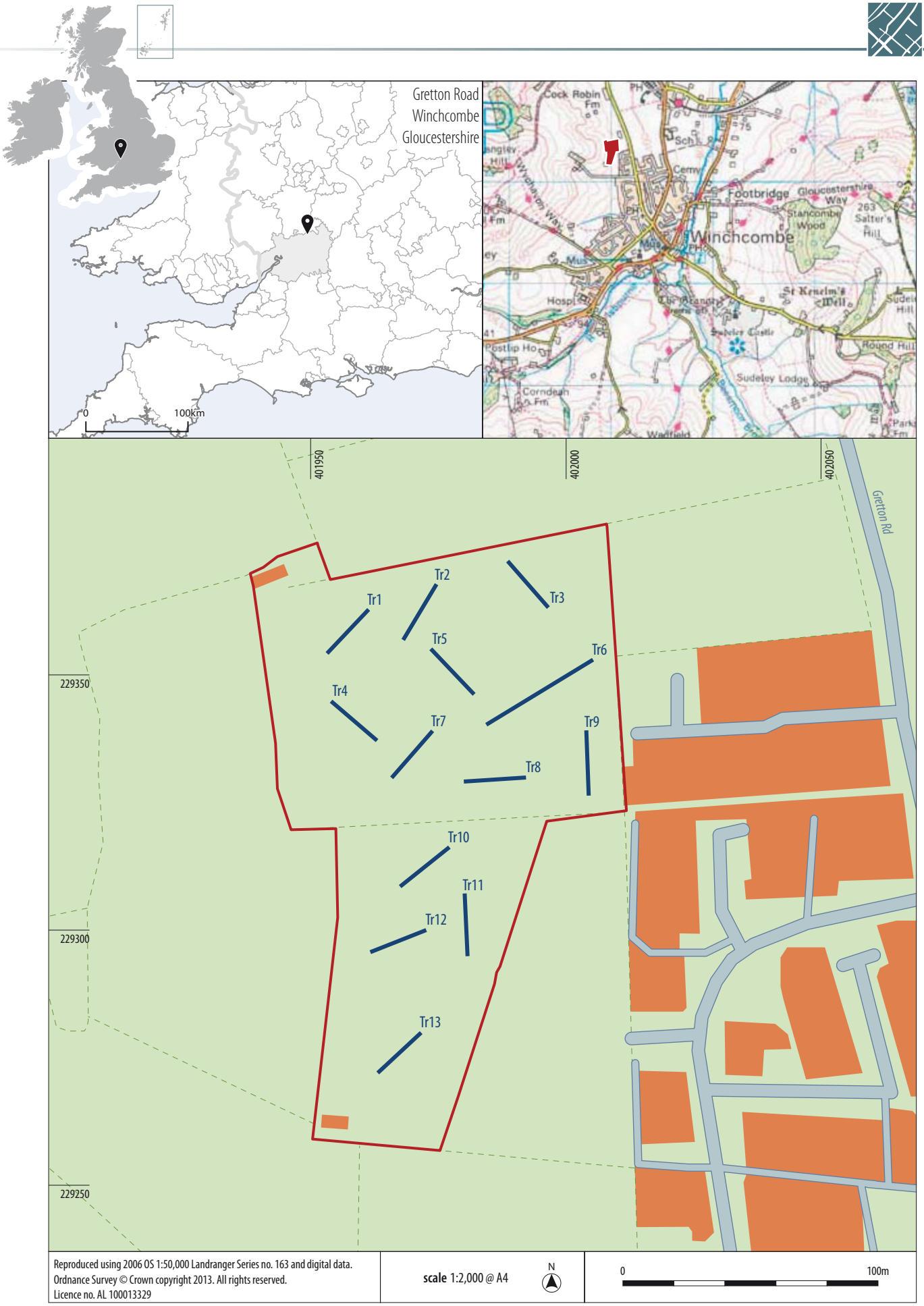

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Illus 1

Site location

NEW CEMETERY AND ALLOTMENTS, GRETTON ROAD, WINCHCOMBE

Archaeological Evaluation

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. excavated thirteen evaluation trenches on a plot of land to the west of Gretton Road, Winchcombe. The town council intends to apply for planning permission to use the site as a cemetery and allotments. Evidence for ridge and furrow agriculture was revealed. No further archaeological remains were encountered.

1. INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. was commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership (acting on behalf of Winchcombe Town Council) to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a plot of land to the west of Gretton Road in Winchcombe, Gloucestershire.

The site has been outlined for the proposed development of a new cemetery and allotments.

A geophysical survey of the site undertaken in November 2012 (Sabin & Donaldson) revealed evidence for ridge and furrow agriculture and anomalies potentially relating to archaeological activity.

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned to provide further information about the archaeological resource, to enable appropriate decisions to be reached regarding the proposed development.

A Project Design was prepared by Headland Archaeology and submitted to the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority by The Environmental Dimension Partnership.

2. LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

The Development Area (DA) is approximately 1.7 hectares in size and is located within two fields to the west of Gretton Road on the northern edge of Winchcombe (site centre SP 07240 43321). The fields are currently used as pasture.

The underlying solid geology across the majority of the site is from the Charmouth Mudstone Formation with interbedded siltstone and mudstone from the Dyrham Formation underlying the western half of the northern field and the north western corner of the southern field (BGS 2013).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site is located approximately 270m away from the Scheduled remains of enclosures and buildings which show evidence of occupation throughout the Roman and Iron Age periods (SM 21700).

A magnetometer survey carried out on the site in 2012 located anomalies associated with former and extant ridge and furrow. In the southern field, the ridge and furrow is evident as clear undulations in the topography of the field. In the northern field, crop marks are present suggesting the former presence of ridge and furrow.

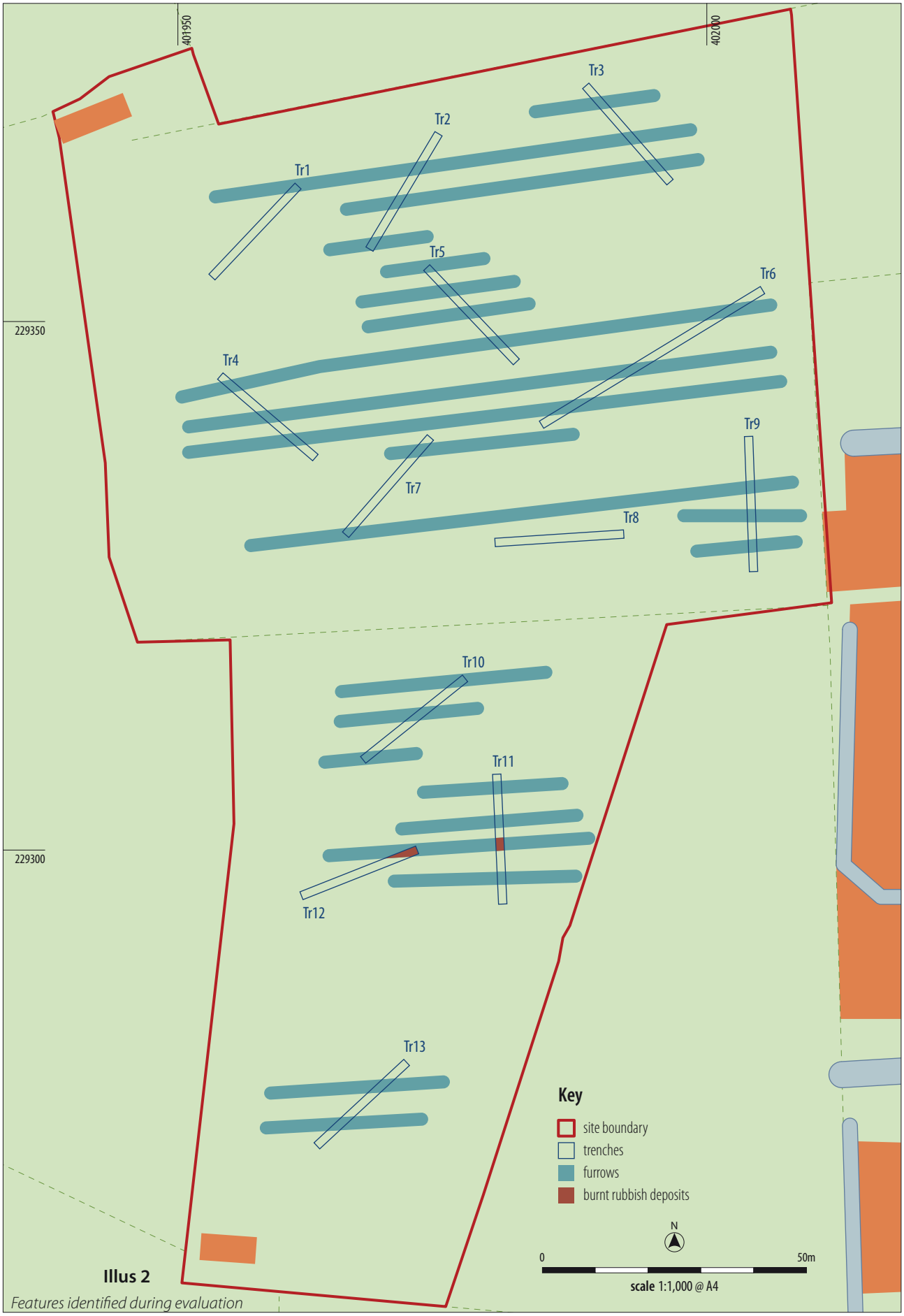
The survey also located a number of weak positive anomalies within the northern part of the site. In the southern part of the site, two short positive linear anomalies and a discrete response were associated with two patches of magnetic debris that were interpreted as potentially relating to areas of burning or dumped ferrous material.

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the evaluation was to provide sufficient evidence to assess the impact of the proposal by establishing the extent, nature and importance of any heritage assets within the affected area.

Specifically the evaluation aimed to;

- Establish the location, extent, nature and date of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the areas proposed to be disturbed during the development.
- Establish the integrity and state of preservation of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the areas proposed to be disturbed during the development.
- Establish the nature of the anomalies identified by the magnetometer survey.



Illus 2

Features identified during evaluation

5. METHOD

Twelve trenches measuring 25m by 1.52m and one trench measuring 50m by 1.52m were excavated within the proposed development area. The trenches were positioned to target anomalies identified by the magnetometer survey and to achieve maximum coverage of the site. In total 350 linear metres were excavated, amounting to a 3% sample of the development area.

Trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision, with topsoil being removed by machine and excavation terminating at the uppermost significant archaeological horizon or when geological deposits were encountered.

All trenches were planned using a Trimble differential GPS system. A record sheet was completed for each trench, even where no deposits of archaeological significance were present. Identified archaeological features were subject to sample hand excavation, carried out to a sufficient degree to meet the objectives of the evaluation.

All recording followed IfA Standards and Guidance. All contexts were given unique numbers and recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards. Colour transparencies and black and white photographs were taken to record archaeological contexts and to illustrate the progress of the trial trenching. Digital photographs on a 7.2mp camera were taken for illustrative purposes but will not form part of the site archive.

6. RESULTS

6.1 Northern field (Trenches 1–8)

A consistent soil profile was observed in all trenches with the exception of Trench 9. A thin deposit of clay topsoil (c.0.1m–0.15m deep) overlay a mixed deposit containing elements of the topsoil and the underlying natural yellow clay. The mixed deposit varied in depth between 0.15m and 0.2m.

Evidence for ridge and furrow agriculture was observed in all trenches in the form of bands of mid brown clay passing through the trenches on an east to west alignment. The bands of darker clay (representing the furrows) varied in width between 2m and 3m. The observed spacing between the furrows was relatively consistent, varying between 2.8m and 3.8m.

6.2 Trench 9

The southern edge of Trench 9 was located adjacent to a small watercourse running through the site from west to east. Natural yellow clay deposits [902] were observed at a greater depth in the southern end of the trench (0.5m below ground level). The slight hollow in the natural is suggestive of a more pronounced watercourse than is currently visible. The hollow was filled with the mixed subsoil deposit [901] observed within trenches 1–8.

6.3 Southern field (Trenches 10–13)

Ridge and furrow was clearly visible in the landscape prior to excavation in the southern part of the site.

Illus 3
Evidence for furrows in northern field (Trench 5)

Illus 4
Excavated furrow in southern field (Trench 11)

Illus 5
Trench 13 – South-east facing section

Excavation revealed that the furrows had cut into the natural clay to a depth of c.0.2m, and the natural clay was subsequently re-deposited to the sides of the furrow to form the ridge.

Deposits of black cinder containing modern rubbish within the topsoil of Trenches 11 and 12 correlate with the areas of magnetically enhanced material identified in these areas by the magnetometer survey. The presence of a chocolate bar wrapper confirmed that the deposit was of recent origin.

7. CONCLUSION

Evidence for ridge and furrow agriculture was present within all trenches. No other archaeological finds or features were identified during the course of the evaluation. The form and spacing of the ridge and furrow identified in the evaluation trenches correlated with the results of the magnetometer survey. Faint linear anomalies in the northern field, interpreted from the magnetometer data, were not identified within the evaluation trenches. Spreads of magnetically enhanced material were identified within Trenches 11 and 12 – these were modern in origin.

The subsoil deposit identified as being a mix of topsoil and the underlying natural appears to have developed through the creation and (in the northern field) the subsequent destruction of the ridges by modern ploughing techniques. Although similar in nature, the deposit was distinct from the undisturbed natural beneath. No features were found to predate this deposit.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey (no date) 'UK geology' [online] Available from http://bgs.ac.uk/ [Accessed March 2013]

9. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Site registers

Appendix 1.1 Trench register

Trench	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. Depth (m)	Max. Depth (m)
1	25	1.52	0.38	0.4
2	25.5	1.52	0.35	0.4
3	24.5	1.52	0.35	0.4
4	24	1.52	0.35	0.4
5	25	1.52	0.3	0.32
6	49.6	1.52	0.38	0.4
7	25	1.52	0.47	0.4
8	24.6	1.52	0.25	0.25
9	25.5	1.52	0.5	0.55
10	25	1.52	0.3	0.45
11	25	1.52	0.35	0.44
12	24	1.52	0.4	0.48
13	24	1.52	0.38	0.45

Appendix 1.2 Context register

Trench	Context	Description	Depth (below surface m)
1	100	Mid brown clay. Topsoil.	0.00-0.14
1	101	Light brown clay with a yellow hue. Subsoil.	0.14-0.30
1	102	Yellow clay. Natural.	0.30-0.40+
2	200	Mid brown clay. Topsoil.	0.00-0.10
2	201	Light brown clay with a yellow hue. Subsoil.	0.10-0.28
2	202	Yellow clay. Natural.	0.28-0.40+
3	300	Mid brown clay. Topsoil. Modern white glazed pot.	0.00-0.12
3	301	Light brown clay with a yellow hue. Subsoil.	0.12-0.30
3	302	Yellow clay with a light grey hue. Angular stone inclusions. Natural.	0.30-0.40+
4	400	Mid brown clay. Topsoil.	0.00-0.10
4	401	Light brown clay with a yellow hue. Subsoil.	0.10-0.32
4	402	Yellow clay. Natural.	0.32-0.40+
5	500	Mid brown clay. Topsoil.	0.00-0.10
5	501	Light brown clay with a yellow hue. Subsoil.	0.10-0.30
5	502	Yellow clay. Natural.	0.30-0.32+
6	600	Mid brown clay. Topsoil.	0.00-0.14
6	601	Light brown clay with a yellow hue. Subsoil.	0.14-0.34
6	602	Yellow clay. Natural.	0.34-0.40+
7	700	Mid brown clay. Topsoil.	0.00-0.07
7	701	Light brown clay with a yellow hue. Subsoil.	0.07-0.28
7	702	Yellow clay. Natural.	0.28-0.47+
8	800	Mid brown clay. Topsoil.	0.00-0.14
8	801	Light brown clay with a yellow hue. Subsoil.	0.14-0.25
8	802	Yellow clay. Natural.	0.25+
9	900	Mid brown clay. Topsoil.	0.00-0.12
9	901	Light brown clay with a yellow hue. Subsoil.	0.12-0.50
9	902	Yellow clay. Natural.	0.26-0.55+
9	903	Recorded furrow in north of trench. Furrow approximately 2m wide, 0.3m+ deep. Filled with mid brown clay loam with small-medium angular stone inclusions. Occasional sherds of modern pottery.	0.14-0.36+
10	1000	Mid brown clay loam with a grey hue. Topsoil.	0.00-0.14
10	1001	Light yellow clay with a grey hue. Subsoil.	0.14-0.27
10	1002	Yellow clay. Natural.	0.27-0.45+
11	1100	Mid brown clay loam with a grey hue. Occasional modern white glazed pottery within. Topsoil.	0.00-0.11
11	1101	Light yellow clay with a grey hue. Subsoil.	0.11-0.28
11	1102	Yellow Clay. Natural.	0.28-0.40+
11	1103	Cut of excavated furrow. Gently sloping sides to a rounded base. Width = 2.38m, depth = 0.27m	0.10-0.44
11	1104	Fill of [1103]. Light yellow clay with a brown hue. Small-medium sub-rounded stones within deposit.	0.10-0.44
12	1200	Mid brown clay loam with a grey hue. Topsoil.	0.00-0.12
12	1201	Light yellow clay with a grey hue. Subsoil.	0.12-0.29
12	1202	Yellow Clay. Natural.	0.29-0.48+
13	1300	Mid brown clay loam with a grey hue. Topsoil.	0.00-0.12
13	1301	Light yellow clay with a grey hue. Subsoil.	0.12-0.25
13	1302	Yellow Clay. Natural.	0.25-0.45+

Appendix 1.3 Photographic register

Photo	C/S	B/W	Digital	Direction	Description
1	769/37	744/36	1	-	ID shot
2	769/36	744/35	2	N	Trench 9 – General shot
3	769/35	744/34	3	E	Trench 9 – Ridge and furrow in section
4	769/34	744/33	4	S	Trench 9 – Ridge and furrow in section
5	769/33	744/32	5	E	Trench 9 – West facing section

Photo	C/S	B/W	Digital	Direction	Description
6	769/32	744/31	6	W	Trench 8 – General shot
7	769/31	744/30	7	N	Trench 8 – South facing section
8	769/30	744/29	8	NE	Trench 6 – General shot
9	769/29	744/28	9	NNW	Trench 6 – SSE facing section
10	769/28	744/27	10	NE	Trench 3 – General shot
11	769/27	744/26	11	SSW	Trench 3 – NNE facing section
12	769/26	744/25	12	W	Trench 3 – Ridge and furrow
13	769/25	744/24	13	NE	Trench 2 – General shot
14	769/24	744/23	14	SE	Trench 2 – NW facing section
15	769/23	744/22	15	NE	Trench 1 – General shot
16	769/22	744/21	16	NW	Trench 1 – SE facing section
17	769/21	744/20	17	NW	Trench 4 – General shot
18	769/20	744/19	18	SW	Trench 4 – NE facing section
19	769/19	744/18	19	SW	Trench 7 – General shot
20	769/18	744/17	20	NNW	Trench 5 – General shot
21	769/17	744/16	21	S	Trench 11 – General shot
22	769/16	744/15	22	W	Trench 11 – East facing section
23	769/15	744/14	23	SW	Trench 10 – General shot
24	769/14	744/13	24	NW	Trench 10 – SE facing section
25	769/13	744/12	25	WSW	Trench 12 – General shot
26	769/12	744/11	26	WSW	Trench 12 – General shot
27	769/11	744/10	27	NW	Trench 12 – SE facing section
28	769/10	744/09	28	SW	Trench 13 – General shot
29	769/09	744/08	29	SW	Trench 13 – General shot
30	769/08	744/07	30	NW	Trench 13 – SE facing section
31	769/07	744/06	31	NW	Trench 7 – SE facing section
32	769/06	744/05	32	NE	Trench 5 – SW facing section
33	769/05	744/04	33	NE	Trench 5 – SW facing section
34	769/04	744/03	34	W	Trench 11 – East facing section of ridge and furrow
35	769/03	744/02	35	W	Trench 11 – East facing section of ridge and furrow
36	769/02	744/01	36	W	Trench 11 – East facing section of ridge and furrow
37	769/01	744/00	37	N	Trench 11 – Slot through ridge and furrow

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