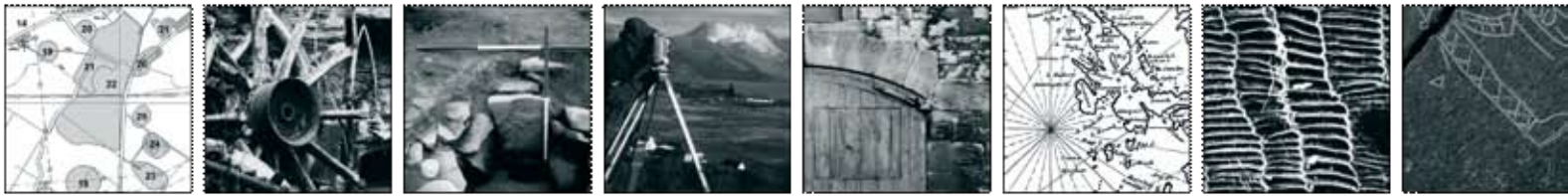


OBFW/02



# LAND OPPOSITE THE BOOT INN, FLYFORD FLAVELL, WORCESTERSHIRE

*Archaeological Field Evaluation*

*commissioned by Bloor Homes Western*

W/13/1770

WSM 49773

May 2014



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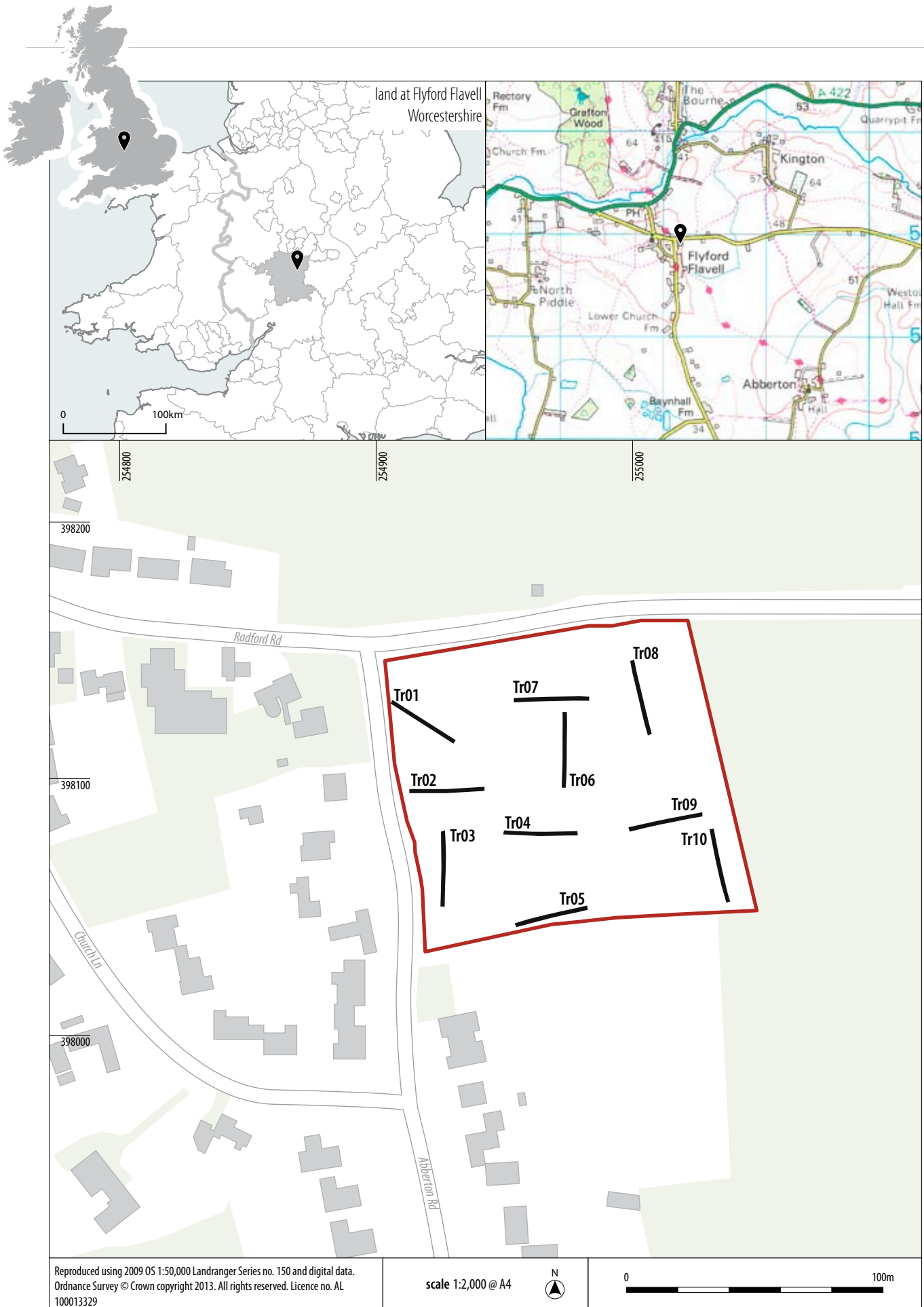
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## Illus 1

Site location



# LAND OPPOSITE THE BOOT INN, FLYFORD FLAVELL, WORCESTERSHIRE

## *Archaeological Field Evaluation*

*Headland Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to The Boot Inn in Flyford Flavell. A ridge and furrow agricultural system was identified, both as upstanding earthworks and below ground features. No archaeological deposits or features pre-dating the ridge and furrow were identified. The results of the field evaluation support the results of a geophysical survey previously undertaken on the site in suggesting that the development area has a low potential for the presence of significant archaeological remains.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Bloor Homes Western to undertake an archaeological field evaluation on an area of land located opposite The Boot Inn, in Flyford Flavell, Worcestershire.

The client was granted planning permission (Ref: W/13/1770) by Wychavon District Council for the construction of a new housing development on the site. A program of documentary research and geophysical survey (Boucher 2013) was previously undertaken on the site in order to assist the determination of the planning application. The archaeological advisor to Wychavon District Council, Mike Glyde, requested that a programme of trial trenching be undertaken in order to discharge the archaeological conditions on the planning permission.

The trial trenching was undertaken between 6th May 2014 and 8th May 2014 in accordance with a project design (Craddock-Bennett 2013) prepared by Headland Archaeology and agreed with the archaeological advisor.

### **1.1 Site description**

The proposed development site (**Illus 1**) is located within the small village of Flyford Flavell in the north-east of Worcestershire (NGR SO 98137 254917). The site comprises the western part of a pasture field located to the east of The Boot Inn. The proposed development area amounts to 1.33ha.

The site is bound by Radford Road to the north and Abberton Road to the west. A mature hedgerow to the south separates the

site from properties on Abberton Road. At the time of fieldwork there was no physical boundary to identify the eastern extent of the development area.

The upstanding remains of ridge and furrow earthworks are present within the development area.

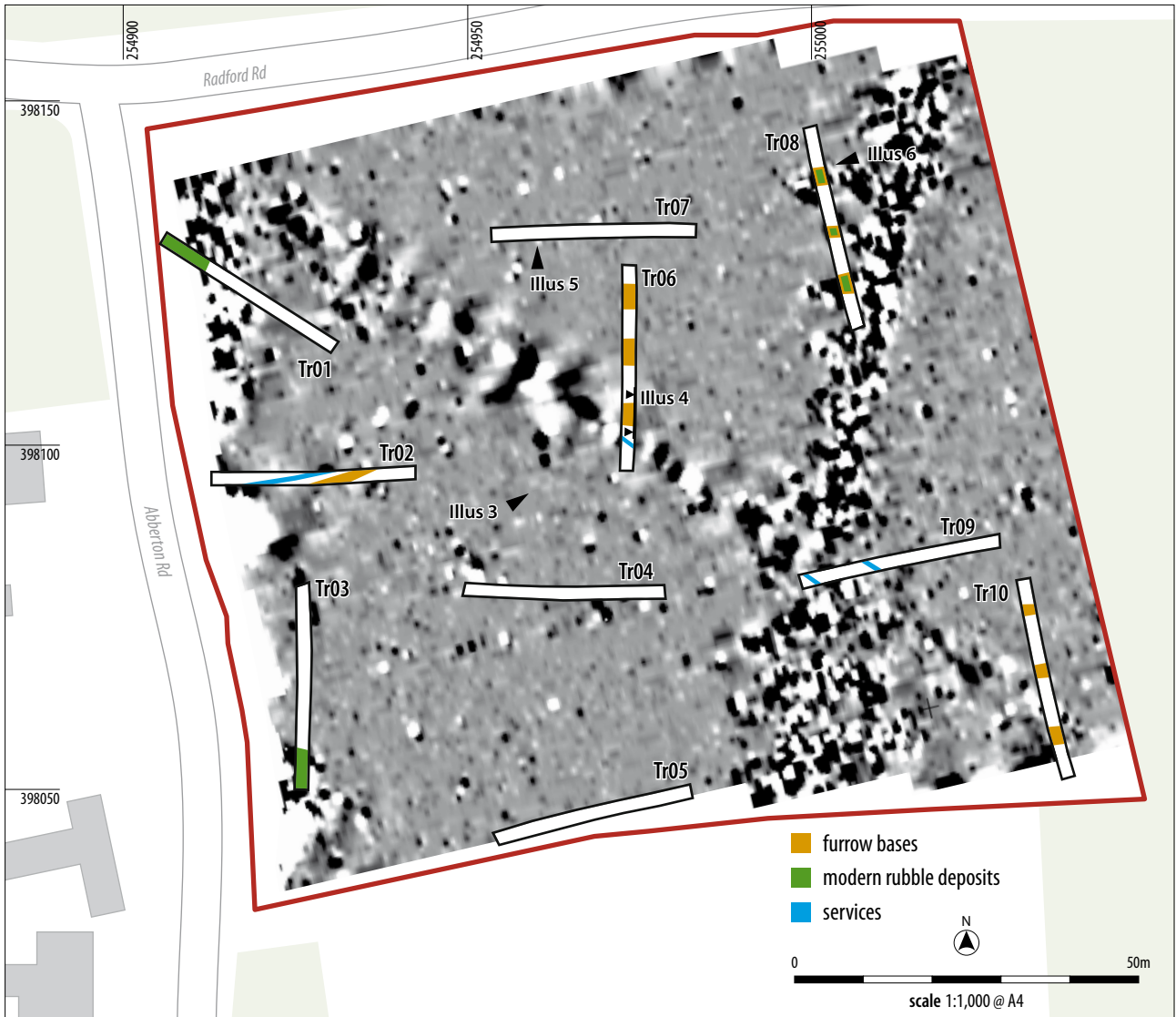
The site is underlain by Lias Group – Mudstone, Siltstone, Limestone and Sandstone, with no overlying superficial deposits (British Geological Survey website; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

### **1.2 Archaeological background**

As part of the planning application, documentary research and a geophysical survey of the site were undertaken by Headland Archaeology (Boucher 2013). The results are summarised below.

The historical accounts relating to Flyford Flavell go back to the early 10th century when 'five manse here were included in the lands said to have been restored by King Edgar in 972 to the Abbey of Pershore...FLYFORD FLAVELL is not separately entered in the Domesday Survey, being then included in the estate of 5 hides held at North Piddle under the abbey of Westminster by Urse' (Page and Willis-Bund 1924, pp83–85).

The church was entirely rebuilt in 1883 (with the exception of the 15th century tower) although there are indications of a possible Norman origin in the form of a reset 12th century head to the north doorway (op. cit.).



## Illus 2

### *Trench and feature plan overlying geophysical survey data*

The earliest identified map relating to the area is the 1819 Inclosure Map. This shows the field containing the site as having been part of a parcel of land (including fields on the west side of the road) that was sold to Sam Beale by John Day. The only other feature identified within the site was a foot-path running roughly parallel to the west boundary of the field.

Points worthy of comment from this map are the fact that the boundaries have an S-shaped plan along the long axes of the fields indicating that the inclosure originally intended to respect the existing strip fields or furlongs. The map also shows a foot path running along the west boundary of the site.

An aerial photo of 1946 clearly shows the ridge and furrow and what appears to be a head rig at right angles to the west end of this, but several metres short of the modern boundary adjacent to the road. Either way many of the aerial photos demonstrate that the east-west aligned ridges stop short of this boundary.

In 1995 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the insertion of a pipeline across the site. The report refers to finds of pottery comprising 'small, heavily abraded sherds of Roman and medieval date'. The exact location of these discoveries along the 1km length of the scheme was not reported. There is therefore a strong possibility that the finds were not recovered from within the proposed development area.

The geophysical survey responded clearly to the extant ridge and furrow cultivation pattern, which is represented by east-west linear earthworks.

The cultivation pattern appears to terminate at a dense north-south strip of disturbed readings towards the east of the survey area. These strong disturbances could represent a former track, probably with a surfacing of brick hardcore or similar material. They could alternatively indicate a ditch containing similar but slightly dispersed debris, but the width of the strip suggests a track. The track presumably follows the line of a former field boundary, and the ridge and furrow must be less well-preserved to its east.

The other main finding was an iron pipe, as indicated by strong magnetic anomalies intersecting the survey from north-west to



### Illus 3

*Ridge and furrow – looking east towards Trench 06*

Overburden was removed and machine excavation terminated at the uppermost significant archaeological horizon or when geological deposits were encountered. On completion of machine excavation, all faces of the trench that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools.

The stratigraphic sequence was recorded in full in each of the trenches, even where no archaeological deposits were identified. The excavation of archaeological deposits and features was undertaken by hand to a sufficient degree to satisfy the objectives of the evaluation.

south-east. Other magnetic activity consisted mainly of strong and probably recent disturbances close to the field boundaries.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the field evaluation were:

- to establish the location, extent, and as far as practicable, nature and date of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the areas proposed to be disturbed during the development;
- to inform any subsequent mitigation work that may have been necessary to excavate and record archaeological remains found during the course of the trenching.

The resulting archive (finds and records) will be organised and deposited with The Worcestershire Museums Service to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

## 3 METHOD

A project design outlining the proposed methodology for the archaeological field evaluation was produced by Headland Archaeology (Craddock-Bennett 2013). This proposed methodology was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Archaeological Advisor to Wychavon District Council.

A total of 10 evaluation trenches were excavated, each measuring 30m x 1.6m. This amounted to a sample of approximately 4% of the proposed development area.

The trenches were non-targeted and were located in order to achieve maximum coverage of the proposed development area.

All trenches were excavated by a JCB excavator equipped with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

All spoil, including the topsoil strip was checked for datable artefacts and diagnostic finds were retained.

All trenches were planned using a Trimble differential GPS system. The site plan was accurately linked to the National Grid and heights to mAOD.

All recording followed the IfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological evaluations. All deposits were given unique numbers.

All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards. Colour transparencies and black-and-white print photographs were taken on 35mm film. Digital photographs on a 7.2mp camera were taken for illustrative purposes but will not form part of the site archive.

The Archaeological Advisor to Wychavon District Council was informed of the progress of the fieldwork.

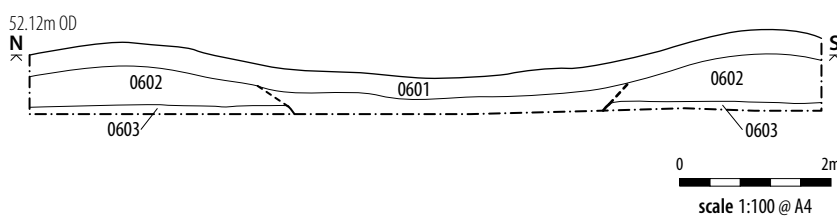
## 4 RESULTS

A total of 10 trenches were excavated within the proposed area of development.

A full description of the deposits identified in each trench is provided in Appendix 1 and the locations of the trenches and features are recorded on **Illus 2**.

At the time of excavation the site was in use as pasture land. Ridge and furrow was visible as upstanding features across the site (**Illus 3**), albeit with varying levels of preservation.

Topsoil across the area was generally consistent, comprising of dark brown silty clay, varying between 0.15m and 0.23m in depth (e.g. [0201, 0301]). This overlay a light blue/grey clay subsoil (e.g. [0202, 0302]) which varied in depth depending on the degree of 'mounding' caused by the use of non-reversible ploughs.



#### Illus 4

W facing section through ridge and furrow (Trench 06)

deposits were encountered at a depth of 0.44m (Illus 5) .

## 4.2 Evidence for modern rubble deposits

### 4.2.1 Trenches 01 and 03

Deposits of brick and stone rubble [0101, 0304] varying in depth between 0.15m and 0.48m were revealed along the western boundary of the site. The deposits correlate with the location of magnetic disturbance identified during the geophysical survey undertaken as part of the previous phase of works. Within Trench 01 the rubble overlay a buried topsoil horizon [0102]. The landowner (pers. comm.) confirmed that

rubble arising from the conversion of an adjacent barn in the early 1990s was deposited along the western site boundary to fill a hollow in the land surface.

### 4.2.2 Trenches 08 and 09

Ridge and furrow was evident as topographic undulations within Trench 08. Immediately beneath the topsoil and located within the furrow bases were deposits of crushed brick and rubble [0804] which appear to have been laid to level the field in this area (Illus 6). A similar rubble deposit was identified with the topsoil at the western end of Trench 09. The deposits appear to relate to a spread of magnetic anomalies identified during the geophysical survey.

## 4.3 Modern services

A service trench measuring approximately 0.4m in width was identified within Trenches 06 and 09. The trench appears to relate to the pipe laid across the site in 1995 and recorded as a NW-SE linear disturbance through geophysical survey.

Blue plastic piping believed to supply water to animal troughs was identified in Trenches 02, 06, 09 and 10.

## 4.4 Blank trenches

### 4.4.1 Trench 05

No archaeological deposits or features were identified within Trench 05. The close proximity of the field boundary may have prevented ploughing and consequently the formation of ridge and furrow in this part of the field.

In accordance with the requirements of the archaeological advisor, all artefacts recovered from topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed from site. No material pre-dating the post-medieval period was recovered.

The geological deposits remained fairly consistent across the site and were composed of a light blue/grey clay with a yellow hue. Rounded stone and gravel inclusions were present within the deposit.

## 4.1 Evidence for ridge and furrow

### 4.1.1 Trenches 02, 04, 06, 07, 08, 09 and 10

Evidence for ridge and furrow was identified both as topographic undulations and subterranean features. Trench 06 was orientated at 90° to the ridge and furrow within the area of greatest preservation. Ridges were comprised of a modified subsoil deposit which was both mounded on top of the geological horizon, and cut into it (Illus 4). An average distance of 15m between ridge tops was recorded. The maximum height of the extant ridges was 0.55m.

The ridge and furrow did not survive as upstanding features along the western boundary of the site (Trenches 01, 02 and 03). However, upon excavation of Trench 02 a 3m wide furrow was identified on a NEE-SWW alignment.

Trenches 04, 07 and 09 were located along the top of ridges. The depth of topsoil and subsoil deposits within these trenches reflected the levels of preservation of the ridge and furrow. Where preservation was poor and the ridges indistinct (Trench 04) geological deposits were encountered at a depth of 0.31m. Within Trench 07, where preservation was at its best, geological

**Illus 5**

*Trench 07 (S facing section)*



**Illus 6**

*Modern rubble deposits (Trench 08)*



## 5 DISCUSSION

Well preserved ridge and furrow was identified in the centre-north of the site. Ridges survived to a maximum height of 0.55m and were orientated on an east-west alignment. The accumulation of subsoil deposits within the base of furrows suggested that the ridge and furrow previously existed to a greater height than present. The deviation of a furrow to a NEE-SWW alignment towards the western boundary of the site is in-keeping with the S-shaped field boundaries identified during cartographic research (Boucher 2013). This pattern relates to the necessity for the plough team to veer to the left to enable a turn at the end of the field.

Preservation levels vary across the site, with extant ridge and furrow being less pronounced in the south and east of the site. Within Trenches 08 and 09 brick rubble had been deposited to infill the furrows. This has resulted in a flat trackway being present across the site on SSW-NNE alignment.

The presence of ridge and furrow is usually expected to lead to good potential for the preservation of earlier archaeological features beneath the ridges and the likely truncation of features within the furrows. However, excavation was undertaken to the level of geological deposits. No features of archaeological significance were identified beneath the ridge and furrow landforms.

## 6 CONCLUSION

The field evaluation has largely confirmed the results of the geophysical survey, in identifying a ridge and furrow agricultural system along with areas of modern disturbance. The evaluation has established that it is unlikely that archaeological remains pre-dating the ridge and furrow features are present on the site.

## 7 PROJECT ARCHIVE

No artefacts pre-dating AD 1700 were recovered from the site. All finds will be discarded. The documentary archive will be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum within 1 year of the completion of fieldwork.

## 8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Site registers

#### Appendix 1.1 Trench registers

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. depth (m)
01	NW-SE	30	1.6	0.34

Context	Description	Depth of deposit from surface (m)
0100	Turf layer overlying deposit (0101). Confined to NW of trench.	0–0.05
0101	Deposit of rubble and building debris. Extended from NW extent of trench for a distance of 6.8m to the SE. Modern.	0.05–0.53
0102	Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay. Deposit sealed beneath [0101] at NW end of the trench. Rises up to SE to become the uppermost deposit.	0–0.15
0103	Subsoil. Light grey/blue clay with brown hue. Stiff, compact. Diffuse interface between subsoil and geological deposit beneath.	0.15–0.34
0104	Geological deposit. Light grey/blue clay with occasional yellow hue.	0.34–1.09+

No archaeological deposits identified. Landowner reports that building debris [0101] from adjacent barn conversion was dumped along western side of site in mid 1990s in order to level up a depression. Sondage excavated at NW of trench to confirm nature of geological deposits. Ridge and furrow not apparent within this area of the site.

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. depth (m)
02	E-W	30	1.6	0.34

Context	Description	Depth of deposit from surface (m)
0201	Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay.	0–0.16
0202	Subsoil. Light grey/blue clay with brown hue. Stiff, compact. Diffuse interface between subsoil and geological deposit beneath.	0.16–0.26
0203	Geological deposit. Light grey/blue clay with occasional yellow hue.	0.26–0.39

No archaeological deposits identified. Water feed to trough (blue plastic pipe) identified in base of trench. Base of furrow also present on NE-SW orientation.

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. depth (m)
03	N-S	30	1.6	0.44

Context	Description	Depth of deposit from surface (m)
0301	Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay.	0–0.21
0302	Subsoil. Light grey/blue clay with brown hue. Stiff, compact. Diffuse interface between subsoil and geological deposit beneath.	0.21–0.39
0303	Geological deposit. Light grey/blue clay with occasional yellow hue.	0.39–0.76+
0304	Rubble deposit. Same as [0101]. Confined to Southern extent of trench.	0.05–0.2

No archaeological deposits identified. Further rubble dumped at southern end of trench. Sondage excavated at northern end of trench to confirm nature of geological deposits. Ridge and furrow not apparent within this area of the site.

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. depth (m)
04	E-W	30	1.6	0.42

Context	Description	Depth of deposit from surface (m)
0401	Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay.	0–0.18
0402	Subsoil. Light grey/blue clay with brown hue. Stiff, compact. Diffuse interface between subsoil and geological deposit beneath.	0.18–0.31
0403	Geological deposit. Light grey/blue clay with occasional yellow hue.	0.31–0.69+

No archaeological deposits identified. Sondage excavated at western end of trench to confirm nature of geological deposits. Ridge and furrow very faint within this part of the site.

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. depth (m)
05	E-W	30	1.6	0.34

Context	Description	Depth of deposit from surface (m)
0501	Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay.	0–0.15
0502	Subsoil. Light grey/blue clay with brown hue. Stiff, compact. Diffuse interface between subsoil and geological deposit beneath.	0.15–0.31
0503	Geological deposit. Light grey/blue clay with occasional yellow hue.	0.31–0.4+
No archaeological deposits identified. Ridge and furrow very faint within this part of the site.		

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. depth (m)
06	N-S	30	1.6	0.49

Context	Description	Depth of deposit from surface (m)
0601	Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay.	0–0.19
0602	Modified subsoil. Light grey/blue clay with brown hue. Stiff, compact. Diffuse interface between subsoil and geological deposit beneath. Subsoil has been formed into mounded peaks and troughs through repeated strip ploughing.	0.19–0.45
0603	Geological deposit. Light grey/blue clay with occasional yellow hue.	0.45–0.75+

No archaeological deposits identified. Trench orientated at 90° to best preserved area of ridge and furrow. Excavation continued beneath modified subsoil to level of undisturbed natural. Service trench on NW-SE alignment identified. Blue plastic water pipe on E-W alignment also present.

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. depth (m)
07	E-W	30	1.6	0.52

Context	Description	Depth of deposit from surface (m)
0701	Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay.	0–0.21
0702	Modified subsoil. Light grey/blue clay with brown hue. Stiff, compact. Diffuse interface between subsoil and geological deposit beneath.	0.21–0.44
0703	Geological deposit. Light grey/blue clay with occasional yellow hue.	0.44–0.56+
No archaeological deposits identified. Trench aligned with 'ridge'. Excavation continued below ridge deposits to undisturbed natural beneath.		

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Av. depth (m)
08	N-S	30	1.6	0.46

Context	Description	Depth of deposit from surface (m)
0801	Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay.	0–0.23
0802	Modified subsoil. Light grey/blue clay with brown hue. Stiff, compact. Diffuse interface between subsoil and geological deposit beneath. Subsoil has been formed into mounded peaks and troughs through repeated strip ploughing.	0.23–0.46
0803	Geological deposit. Light grey/blue clay with occasional yellow hue.	0.46+
0804	Deposits of brick rubble identified within each furrow. Levelling.	0.05–0.3

No archaeological deposits identified. Trench orientated at 90° to poorly preserved area of ridge and furrow. Furrows had been filled with brick rubble [0804] to create a track across the site on a NE to SW alignment. Position of rubble correlates with geophysical anomalies. Narrow (0.15m) service trench identified on NE-SE alignment.

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	<b>Length (m)</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Av. depth (m)</b>
09	E-W	30	1.6	0.41

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth of deposit from surface (m)</b>
0901	Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay.	0–0.18
0902	Subsoil. Light grey/blue clay with brown hue. Stiff, compact. Diffuse interface between subsoil and geological deposit beneath.	0.18–0.41
0903	Geological deposit. Light grey/blue clay with occasional yellow hue.	0.41–0.49+

No archaeological deposits identified. Ridge and furrow not clear in this part of the site. Continuation of service trench previously identified in Trench 06. Additional service trench (0.15m wide) on parallel alignment.

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	<b>Length (m)</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Av. depth (m)</b>
10	N-S	30	1.6	0.4

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth of deposit from surface (m)</b>
1001	Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay.	0–0.2
1002	Subsoil. Light grey/blue clay with brown hue. Stiff, compact. Diffuse interface between subsoil and geological deposit beneath.	0.2–0.34
1003	Geological deposit. Light grey/blue clay with occasional yellow hue.	0.34–0.44+

No archaeological deposits identified. Upstanding ridge and furrow not clear in this part of the site but furrows identifiable upon excavation. Narrow (0.15m) service trench identified on NW-SE alignment.







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