

LLWW/01



LAND AT LAWN FARM, WELLAND, WORCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

commissioned by CgMs
on behalf of Kier Developments Ltd

APP/J1860/A/13/2197037

March 2015

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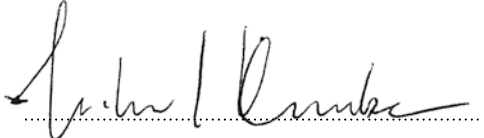
March 2015

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LAND AT LAWN FARM, WELLAND, WORCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd conducted an archaeological evaluation on land at Lawn Farm, Welland, Worcestershire as part of a programme of archaeological work carried out in response to a condition placed on planning consent for the redevelopment of the site. No significant archaeological deposits or remains were revealed during the evaluation, but traces of post medieval agricultural activity in the form of ridge and furrow was identified.

1 INTRODUCTION

Following the granting of planning permission to Kier Developments Ltd at appeal (APP/J1860/A/13/2197037), for development on the site, subject to condition 11, Headland Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation on an area of land at Lawn Farm, Welland, Worcestershire.

Subsequently a Written Scheme of Investigation defining the scope of the initial programme of work was submitted for agreement from the archaeological advisor to the planning authority (Malvern Hills District Council). It was intended that should the results of the trial trenching warrant further work, the specification for this would be encapsulated within any future supplementary project design.

The aim of the evaluation was to provide further information about the archaeological resource, and to enable appropriate decisions to be reached regarding whether or not further work was required.

1.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

The site is located on the eastern edge of Welland and is split into several fields of arable land subdivided by mature hedgerows. The site is centred on NGR 380095,239710. The proposed development area is approximately 13.1 in size although parts will be retained as green space and will not be subject to any development impacts.

The site lies on solid geology of the Sidmouth mudstone formation. There are mapped superficial deposits of glacial head within part of the development area (British Geological Survey website; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

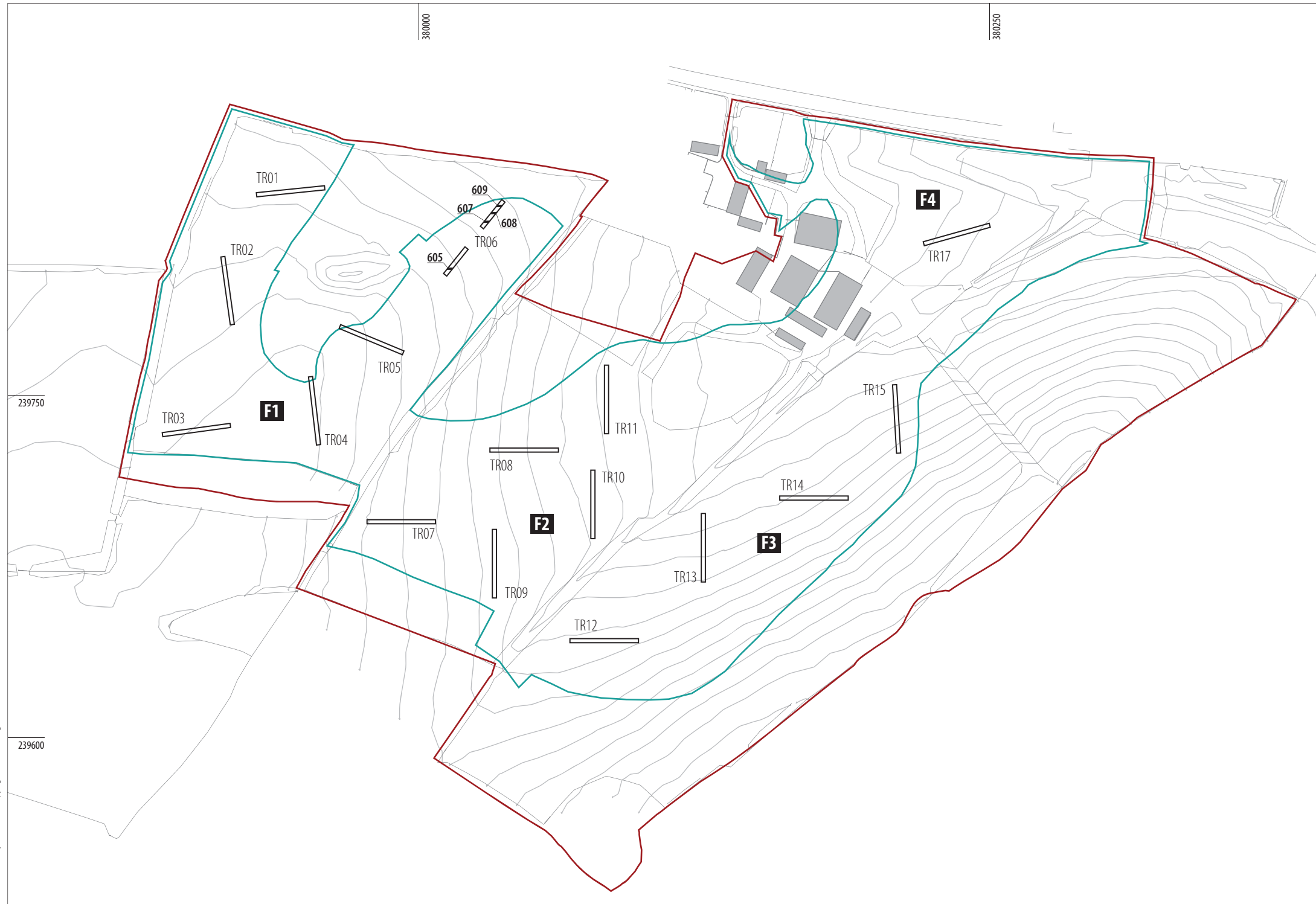
1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A desk-based assessment of the site was undertaken by CgMs Consulting in 2012 (Flitcroft 2012). There are no designated heritage assets within the study area. There are a total of forty three archaeological monuments and twenty two historic buildings within a 1km wide search radius of the site. These include individual landscape features such as clay pits, trackways or areas of cultivation, and identified local defensive structures built during the Second World War.

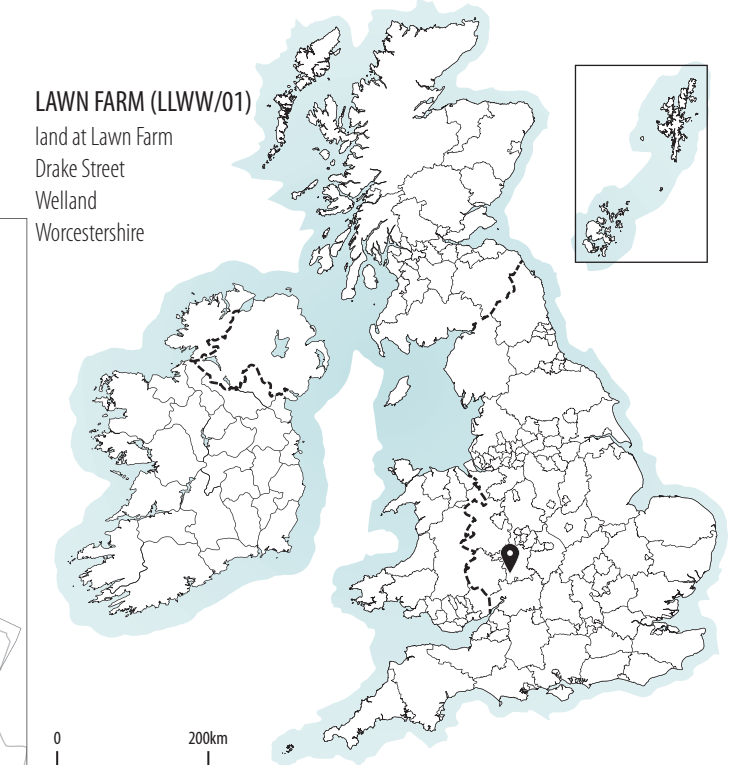
The only prehistoric archaeological find from within the search radius was a Neolithic stone axe-head found at Danemoor Cross 1km north of the development site (WSM17607). A small quantity of Roman pottery and tile was found during tree stump removal in Castlemorton parish 500m south-west of the study site (WSM39882), which included possible kiln wasters of pottery manufactured in the general area.

There are no records relating to the Saxon period within the 1km search radius, however ten HER entries relate to sites of possible medieval date. These include a possible moated settlement at Hill Court Farm Welland (WSM01404), and Hurst Farm Castlemorton (WSM07667). Several individual areas of ridge and furrow were identified within the search area, including remains in the north east part of the development site (WSM17628).

Early documentary references point to settlement in the Welland area from at least the 9th century AD, however Welland is not mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1066, but was probably included in the Manor



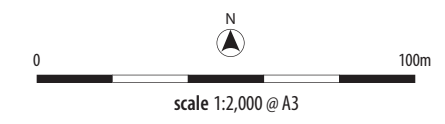
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 land at Lawn Farm
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- KEY**
- site boundary
 - area of development 5.38 ha
 - trench location
 - archaeological features



ILLUS 2

General shot, Field 3, Trench 15, facing N

2

ILLUS 3

Field 1, Trench 6, post-ex shot of [0605], post-medieval plough furrow facing W

of Bredin. The nature and form of medieval settlement within the Welland township is not fully clear, however the medieval church was located around 600m east of the development site, suggesting that the development site is well outside of any main focus of settlement.

Early buildings of Lawn Farm date from the 17th century, and there are two pits identified in the vicinity of the development site, (WSM17628 and WSM11758) which may represent clay extraction pits or marling pits of 19th century date.

A gradiometer survey was conducted by Stratascan in October 2014, which showed only anomalies associated with agricultural activity (Richardson 2014).

1.3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the evaluation were as follows:

- to enable the development by fulfilling the archaeological condition to the satisfaction of the planning authority;
- to ground test the results of the geophysical survey;
- 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;
- to 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;
- to inform the development of an appropriate mitigation strategy;
- to produce and deposit a satisfactory archive and disseminate the results of the work via grey-literature reporting and publication as appropriate.

The local and regional research contexts are provided by the Archaeological Research Framework for the West Midlands (Watt 2011). Any evidence retrieved during the works will be analysed in light of the objectives contained in these frameworks.

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



2 METHODOLOGY

The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the following documents:

- *Code of Conduct* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014)
- *Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014)

The methodology underlying the archaeological trial trenching programme was based on a strategy produced by Nick Shepherd of CgMs Consulting, outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Headland Archaeology 2014), and agreed with the archaeological advisor. The trench layout was designed to evaluate the site using a systematic trenching array, with the trenches spread evenly across the area.



ILLUS 4

General shot of Field 3, facing S, showing lynchets and ridge and furrow



Trial trenching was carried out on the 14th and 15th January 2015. A total of 17 trenches were excavated across the site, measuring 30m in length by 1.6m in width, trench 6 was excavated in two separate trenches because of the presence of services.

A 360 degree tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket was used to remove topsoil under direct archaeological control. Excavation continued until clean geological sediments or archaeological deposits were encountered.

A representative sample of identified features was investigated by hand where appropriate, in order to satisfy the archaeological condition, and all features were subsequently recorded. The stratigraphy of each trench was recorded in full.

All recording was in accordance with the code of practice of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and in line with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation. All trenches and contexts were given unique numbers, and all recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards that conform to accepted archaeological standards. All stratigraphic relationships were recorded.

An overall site plan at an appropriate scale and relative to the National Grid was recorded by digital survey using a differential GPS.

A full photographic record comprising colour slide and black and white print photographs was taken, supplemented with digital photography. A metric scale was clearly visible in record photographs.

3 RESULTS

Full trench descriptions, including orientation, length, and depth are presented in Appendix 1. Technical details of individual contexts are also presented in Appendix 1. Contexts are numbered by trench number: i.e. Trench 1 (101), Trench 2 (201). Cut features are shown as [101] whilst their fills are expressed as (102), for example.

In all fields the sequence of deposits noted in the trenches, comprised a topsoil, measuring 0.10 to 0.15m thick, composed of a brown, humic, soft, clayey silt, below this was a subsoil, measuring 0.10 to 0.15m thick, comprising a greyish brown, friable, silty clay. The geological substrate comprised a reddish brown, firm, stony, silty clay, which was consistent over the whole site.

Field 1, containing Trenches 1–6, was a large sub-rectangular area, located on the highest part of the site, on the eastern edge of the development area. In Trench 6, three parallel linear features were identified running in a north-west/south-east direction [0605] [0607] and [0609]. They measured from 0.30 to 0.55m in width x 0.11m to 0.13m deep. They were filled by a light brownish grey, firm, silty clay. Fill (0606) of feature [0605] contained three fragments of post medieval pottery.

Field 2, containing Trenches 7–11, was a sub-rectangular area, located in the centre of the development area, on sloping ground, with a small stream running along its southern boundary. This field was particularly wet during excavation of the trenches. No archaeological deposits or remains were identified in this field, and

ILLUS 5

Field 3, Trench 13, post ex, showing detail of 'lynchets'.
Facing S



ILLUS 6

General shot of site topography, looking across Field 2
towards Field 3, with stream in between. facing SE



there was no evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation over the surface of the field, unlike within Field 3.

Field 3 comprising Trenches 12–15 was a large elongated field, located on steep sloping ground in the southern part of the site; along with Field 2 it formed a small valley. Several field lynchets were visible running in a north-west/south-east direction at surface level, in addition to traces of ridge and furrow being visible in the field. No other archaeological deposits or artefacts were located in this field.

Field 4 comprising only Trench 17, was located on a grassy hummock, close to the present day farmhouse, in the eastern part of the site. No archaeological remains or artefacts were located in this trench.

There was no evidence of features related to the geophysical anomalies identified during the gradiometry survey carried out in 2014.

4 DISCUSSION

The only features found in the evaluation were of clear post-medieval date. Given their regular parallel arrangement and dimensions they are almost certainly agricultural in character, probably cultivation furrows.

The absence of any significant archaeological features or deposits suggests that this part of the medieval township of Welland was beyond the main focus of settlement activity. The original medieval church lay approximately 600m to the east but there is no clear nucleus of settlement obvious on the historic mapping beyond this. The settlement that is shown tends to be associated with the road network, including Drake Street, to the north of the development area. The ridge and furrow more prominently seen in Field 3, and previously recorded in other parts of the development area, indicates that it was part of the agricultural hinterland of Welland during the medieval period and later. None of the OS maps from 1831 to the present day record any structures other than Lawn Farm itself being present in these fields. The clay pits, not shown on the 1831 map, appear on the map of 1886, suggesting a 19th century date for this activity. Seasonal flooding and ground water, which is a modern day problem, may account for the lack of any settlement activity in the fields, particularly north of the stream separating Fields 2 and 3.

5 CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation has confirmed the lack of any significant archaeological deposits or other remains over the area of the development site.

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7 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 TRENCH REGISTER

TR01	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
	E-W	30	1.6	0.35

Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
---------	-------------	---------------

0101	Topsoil – Brown, humic, soft, clayey silt	0.0–0.10
0102	Subsoil – Greyish brown, friable, silty clay	0.10–0.20
0103	Natural – Reddish brown, firm, stony, silty clay	0.20+

No archaeology.

TR02	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
	N-S	30	1.6	0.35

Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
---------	-------------	---------------

0201	Topsoil – Brown, humic, soft, clayey silt.	0.0–0.10
0202	Subsoil – Greyish brown, friable, silty clay	0.10–0.22
0203	Natural – Reddish brown, firm, stony, silty clay	0.22+

No archaeology.

TR03	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
	E-W	30	1.6	0.30

Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
---------	-------------	---------------

0301	Topsoil – Brown, humic, soft, silty clay.	0.0–0.10
0302	Subsoil – Greyish brown, friable, silty clay, occasional stone	0.10–0.20
0303	Natural – Reddish brown, firm, silty clay	0.20–0.30+

No archaeology.

TR04	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
	N-S	30	1.6	0.3

Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
---------	-------------	---------------

0401	Topsoil – Brown, humic, clayey silt.	0.0–0.10
0402	Subsoil – Greyish brown, friable, silty clay, occasional stone	0.10–0.20
0403	Natural – Reddish brown, firm, silty clay	0.20–0.30+

No archaeology.

TR05	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
	E-W	30	1.6	0.30

Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
---------	-------------	---------------

0501	Topsoil – Brown, humic, soft, clayey silt.	0.0–0.10
0502	Subsoil – .	0.10–0.15
0503	Natural –	0.15–0.25+

No archaeology.

TR06	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
	NE-SW	15	1.6	0.33

Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
---------	-------------	---------------

0601	Topsoil – brown humic, clayey silt,	0.0–0.18m
0602	Subsoil – greyish brown, friable, silty clay, occasional stone	0.18–0.3
0603	Natural – Firm, reddish brown clay	0.33>

0604	Fill of [0605], light greyish brown, firm, silty clay	0.11
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0605	Gulley-linear, gentle sides, concave base, gradual break of slope. 0.25m wide x 0.11m deep	
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0606	Fill of [0607], light greyish brown, loose, silty clay, occasional small pebble	0.13
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0607	Gulley-linear, gentle sides, gradual break of slope, concave base. 0.55m wide x 0.13m deep	0.13
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0608	Fill of linear Gulley-Light greyish brown, loose, silty clay	–
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0609	Fill of linear Gulley-light greyish brown, loose, silty clay, occasional small pebble	–
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Archaeology. Three post medieval furrows

TR07	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
	E-W	30	1.6	0.25

Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
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0701	Topsoil – mid greyish brown, firm, friable, silty clay, occasional small pebble	0.0–0.9
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0702	Subsoil – mid brownish grey, firm, silty clay	0.9–0.15
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0703	Natural – mid pinkish brown, compact, silty clay	0.15+
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No archaeology.



TR08	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
	E-W	30	1.6	0.35

Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
---------	-------------	---------------

0801	Topsoil – dark grey-brown, firm, friable, silty clay, occasional small pebble	0.0–0.10
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0802	Subsoil – mid brownish grey, firm, silty clay	0.10–0.17
------	---	-----------

0803	Natural – mid pinkish brown, compact, silty clay	0.17+
------	--	-------

No archaeology.

TR09	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
	N-S	30	1.6	0.3

Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
---------	-------------	---------------

0901	Topsoil – mid greyish brown, firm, friable, silty clay, occasional small pebble	0.0–0.10
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0902	Subsoil – mid brownish grey, firm, silty clay	0.10–0.17
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0903	Undisturbed geology – medium-large sub-angular / angular stones, within a loose orange / grey-brown clayey-sand.	0.17+
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No archaeology.

TR10	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
	E-W	30	1.6	0.3

Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
---------	-------------	---------------

1001	Topsoil – mid greyish brown, firm, friable, silty clay, occasional small pebble	0.0–0.10
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1002	Subsoil –	0.10–0.17
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1003	Natural – mid pinkish brown, compact, silty clay	0.17+
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No archaeology.

TR11	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
	N-S	30	1.6	0.3

Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
---------	-------------	---------------

1101	Topsoil – mid greyish brown, firm, friable, silty clay	0.0–0.10
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1102	Subsoil – mid brownish grey, firm, silty clay	0.10–0.20
------	---	-----------

1103	Natural – mid pinkish brown, compact, silty clay	0.20+
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No archaeology.

TR12	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
	E-W	30	1.6	0.3

Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
---------	-------------	---------------

1201	Topsoil – mid greyish brown, soft, sandy clay	0.0–0.10
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1202	Subsoil – mid brownish grey, firm, silty clay	0.10–0.21
------	---	-----------

1203	Natural – mid pinkish brown, compact, silty clay	0.21+
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No archaeology.

TR13	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
	N-S	30	1.6	0.35

Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
---------	-------------	---------------

1301	Topsoil – mid greyish-brown, friable, silty clay, occasional small pebble	0.0–0.12
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1302	Subsoil – mid brownish grey, friable, silty clay	0.12–0.22
------	--	-----------

1303	Natural – mid pinkish brown, compact, silty clay	0.22+
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No archaeology.

TR14	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
	E-W	30	1.6	0.30

Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
---------	-------------	---------------

1401	Topsoil – mid greyish-brown, friable, silty clay, occasional small pebble	0.0–0.11
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1402	Subsoil – mid brownish grey, firm, silty clay	0.11–0.19
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1403	Natural – mid pinkish brown, compact, silty clay	0.19+
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No archaeology.

TR15	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
	N-S	30	1.6	0.35

Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
---------	-------------	---------------

1501	Topsoil – mid greyish brown, friable, silty clay, occasional small stone	0.0–0.13
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1502	Subsoil – mid brownish grey, friable, silty clay	0.13–0.18
------	--	-----------

1503	Natural – mid pinkish brown, compact, silty clay	0.18+
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No archaeology.

TR16	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
	N-S	30	1.6	0.35

Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
1601	Topsoil – mid greyish brown, friable, silty clay, occasional small stone	0.0–0.13
1602	Subsoil – mid brownish grey, friable, silty clay	0.13–0.18
1603	Natural – mid pinkish brown, compact, silty clay	0.18+

No archaeology.

TR17	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
	E-W	30	1.6	0.35

Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
1501	Topsoil – mid greyish brown, friable, sandy clay, occasional small pebble	0.0–0.13
1702	Subsoil – mid brownish grey, friable, silty clay	0.15–0.35
1703	Natural – mid pinkish brown, compact, silty clay	0.35–+

No archaeology.

APPENDIX 2 PHOTO REGISTER

Photo	C/S	B/W	Digital	Direction	Description
001	36	36	054	–	ID shot
002–005	–	–	055–058	SW	Site pre-excavation shots
006	–	–	059	–	Trench 1 working shot
007	–	–	060	–	Trench 1 working shot
008	35	35	061	NE	Trench 1 post-excavation plan
009	34	34	062	NW	Trench 1 section
010	33	33	063	NE	Trench 3 post-excavation plan
011	32	32	064	SW	Trench 3 post-excavation plan
012	31	31	065	NW	Trench 3 section
013	30	30	066	NW	Trench 3 section
014	29	29	067	SSE	Trench 5 post-excavation plan
015	28	28	068	SSW	Trench 5 section
016	27	27	069	NW	Trench 2 post-excavation plan
017	26	26	070	NE	Trench 2 section
018	25	25	071	SE	Trench 4 post-excavation plan
019	24	24	072	SW	Trench 4 section
020	23	23	073	SSW	Trench 6 post-excavation plan
021	22	22	074	SE	Trench 6 section
022	21	21	075	W	Trench 6 oblique section shot
023	20	20	076	SW	Trench 3 section of sondage at SW end
024	19	19	077	NW	Trench 3 section of sondage at NE end
025–030	–	–	078–083	–	Site post-excavation shots
031–038	–	–	084–091	–	Backfilled trenches



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