

SHIW/01



LAND TO THE NORTH OF SHIPSTON ROAD, ALDERMINSTER, WARWICKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership
on behalf of Barwood Homes Ltd

14/02372/OUT

December 2015

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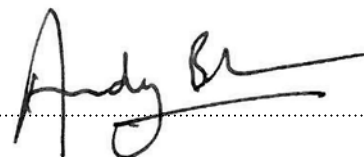
December 2015

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 **HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY**
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PROJECT SUMMARY

An evaluation was undertaken for Barwood Homes Ltd on land to the north of Shipston Road, Alderminster to satisfy a planning condition. The results of this exercise identified an area of medieval agricultural activity in the form of ridge and furrow. The few finds from the work appeared to be residual in nature and unlikely to relate to any activity within the proposed development area. The information gathered does not suggest potential for archaeology within the site other than the remains of ridge and furrow.

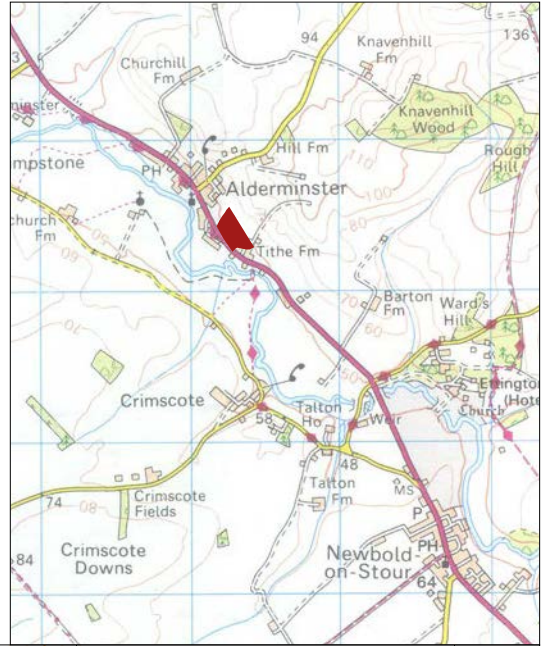
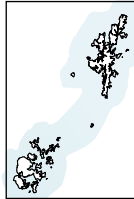
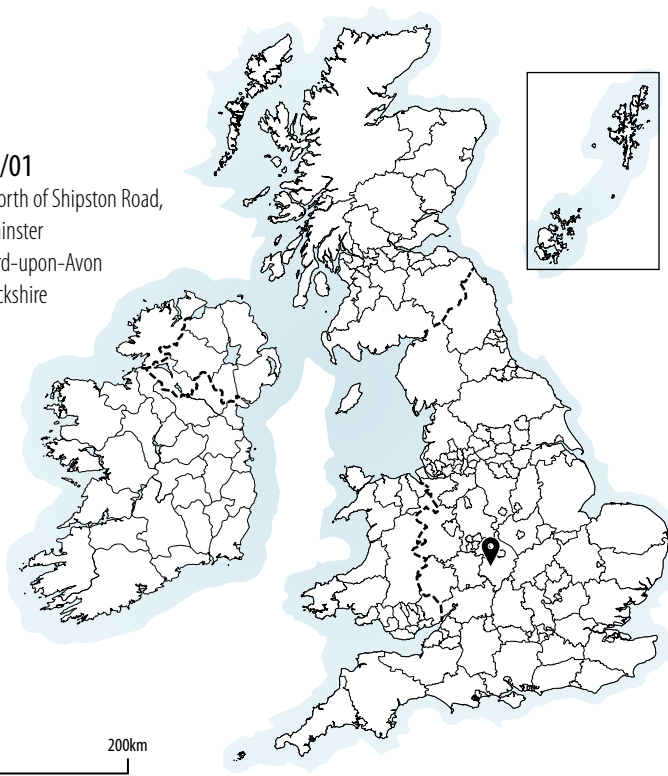
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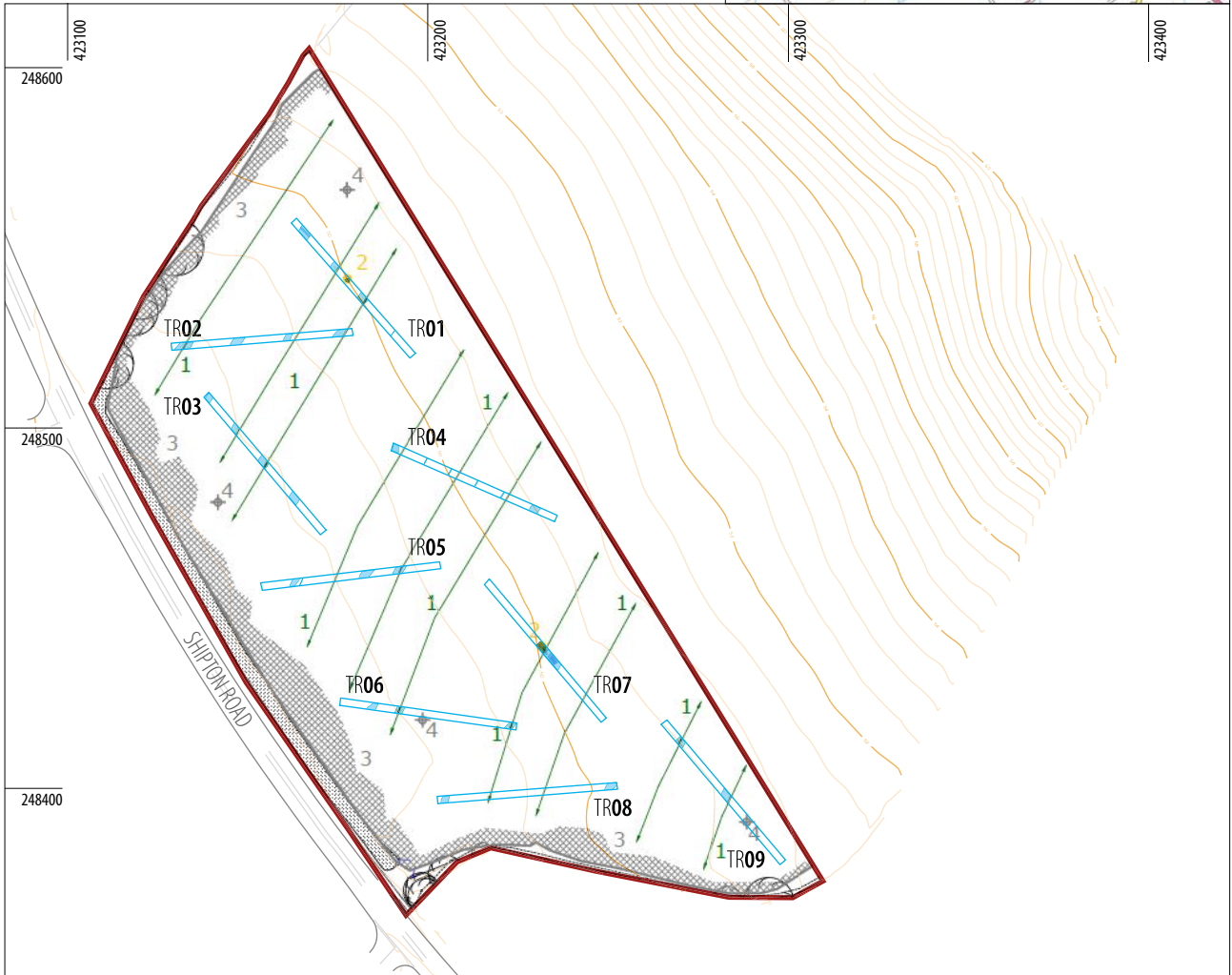
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SHIW/01
 Land north of Shipston Road,
 Alderminster
 Stratford-upon-Avon
 Warwickshire



0 200km



- KEY**
- development boundary
 - trench location
 - feature

0 100m
 scale 1:2,000 @ A4



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ILLUS 1 Site location

LAND TO THE NORTH OF SHIPSTON ROAD, ALDERMINSTER, WARWICKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by the Environmental Dimension Partnership, on behalf of Barwood Homes Ltd (the client), to undertake an archaeological evaluation on an area of land to the north of Shipston Road, Alderminster, Warwickshire.

Planning permission has been granted for residential development on the site (14/02372/OUT) subject to a condition requiring a programme of archaeological work to be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Kimber 2015).

Fieldwork took place between 23rd and 25th November 2015.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

The proposed development site comprises a 3ha area of land located at NGR 423230, 248499 (site centre).

The site is located on flat ground at an elevation of approximately 42m OD and is currently agricultural land. It is bordered by Shipston Road (A3400) to the south-west, housing to the north and south-east and open pasture to the east (ILLUS1).

The underlying solid geology within the site comprises sedimentary geology of the Penarth and Mercia Mudstone Groups (British Geological Survey website; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>)

2.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

An archaeological and cultural heritage assessment of the site was produced by Heritage Collective (Collings 2014). The full results will not be repeated here; the previous work identified a moderate potential for medieval remains of an agricultural nature and a moderate potential for unstratified medieval artefacts. In addition it concluded that there was a low to moderate potential for unstratified finds of Saxon date and the proposed development area was likely to have been agricultural land for centuries.

A geophysical survey undertaken by Stratascan (Davies 2014) found evidence for ridge and furrow agricultural, two possible archaeological anomalies, and ferrous anomalies of likely recent date.

3 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the programme of works were as follows:

- To enable the development by fulfilling the archaeological condition to the satisfaction of the planning authority;
- 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 an appropriate further mitigation strategy where necessary;
- To produce and deposit a satisfactory archive and disseminate the results of the work via grey-literature reporting and publication as appropriate.

4 METHOD

A written scheme of investigation, outlining the proposed methodology for the archaeological works, was produced by Headland Archaeology (Kimber 2015). This document and the proposed layout of archaeological trenches were agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to Warwickshire County Council prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

A total of nine evaluation trenches were excavated (all measuring 50m x 1.8m). Trenches were targeted upon potential features identified from the results of the geophysical survey, as well as to test seemingly blank areas of the site.



ILLUS 2 S facing section showing site stratigraphy
ILLUS 3 NE facing section of furrow [1004] in Trench 1



All trenches were excavated by a 14 tonne tracked excavator equipped with a 1.8m wide ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. 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.

All trenches were planned using a Trimble differential dGPS system. The site plan was accurately linked to the National Grid and heights to OD. Where significant archaeological features were encountered, section drawings were produced at an appropriate scale.

All recording followed the ClfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological evaluations. All contexts and environmental samples

were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record sheets. Black-and-white print photographs were taken on 35mm film digital photographs on a 7.2mp camera.

The progress of the fieldwork was monitored by the Archaeological Advisor to Warwickshire County Council.

5 RESULTS

The overburden was the same across the whole site:

- the topsoil (e.g 1000, 2000, 3000 etc...) was a mid-grey brown silty clay with occasional small angular stones throughout, varying in depth between 0.22–0.35m BGL;
- the subsoil (e.g 1001, 2001, 3001 etc...) was a mid-orange brown sandy clay with small angular stones present throughout, varying between 0.10–0.27m in depth;

ILLUS 4 NE facing section of stoney spread [7003]
ILLUS 5 SW facing section of tree-throw [1006]



- the interface between sub-soil and what is probably the eroded upper surface of the natural geology (e.g 1002, 2002, 3002 etc...) was a mid-reddish brown sandy clay with small-medium angular stones present throughout, varying in depth from 0.37–0.54m below ground level (BGL) (ILLUS 2).

Ridge and furrow

All of the trenches contained the remains of ridge and furrow. These followed north-east/south-west orientated anomalies noted in the geophysical survey.

A furrow [1004] was excavated in Trench 1 to confirm the interpretation of the linear features as furrows. It measured 3.50m wide and 0.43m in depth (0.76m BGL). It contained two sherds of heavily abraded pottery, a single piece of CBM, animal bone and six iron nails, the animal bone and nails were not retained. Two other furrows [1008, 1010] were not excavated but also recorded in plan in Trench 1 (ILLUS 3).

All other furrows were recorded in plan and can be seen in ILLUS 1 with their dimensions presented in Appendix 1.1.

Other features related to agricultural practice

Trench 7 contained a stone spread (7003) measuring 6.30m in width, with a thickness of 0.10m, and extending beyond the edges of the trench. The deposit comprised a mid-grey brown sandy clay containing frequent small-medium sized rounded and angular stones. No finds were recovered (ILLUS 4).

A land drain cut through the middle of the spread 2.80m from its south eastern edge. The spread itself lay on top of the fills of two furrows [7004] and [7006], and thus is likely to be post-medieval or modern in date.

Natural features

Trench 1 contained a sub-circular treebole with an irregular base and steep sides [1006]. This measured 1.07m in length, 0.80m in width and 0.15m in depth (ILLUS 5).

Land drains

All the trenches with the exception of 2 and 3 contained land drains.

6 FINDS ASSESSMENT

BY JULIE FRANKLIN

The finds assemblage numbered two sherds (8g) of pottery and one sherd (75g) of ceramic building material all from the same deposit (1006). The brick and one sherd of glazed red earthenware are of post-medieval or modern date. One associated abraded sherd of pottery is clearly residual and belonging to an earlier period. It may be of Romano-British date, though medieval is also possible (Jane Timby pers com).

7 DISCUSSION

The trial trenching has confirmed the presence of the ridge and furrow that was identified from the geophysical survey. The two discrete positive anomalies also identified on the survey relate to a tree-bole [1006] and post-medieval/modern stone spread [7003].

Furrow [1004] contained two sherds of pottery with two disparate dates, one 16th–19th century sherd and another that is possibly Romano-British. The latter was very abraded and could equally be of medieval date, the considerable abrasion suggesting it has been heavily disturbed and and no longer near its original site of deposition, probably deriving from outside the confines of the development area.

The stone spread [7003] sits above furrows [7004] and [7006] identified from the geophysical survey results. As the spread is

situated above the furrow fills then clearly it post-dates the ridge and furrow agricultural activity. It is probable that the spread was formed by a dumping of material on the area in an effort to aid drainage and alleviate any standing water in this part of the field. The quantity of land drains of varying age and type also attests to the moisture retention of the surrounding soils over an extended period of time and the need to drain this.

8 CONCLUSION

The evaluation has identified an area of medieval agricultural activity partially surviving in the form of semi-truncated ridge and furrow. The pottery found on site suggests a site that has been greatly disturbed by farming activity and numerous attempts to keep the field well drained of ground water. The information gathered does not suggest potential for archaeology within the site other than the remains of ridge and furrow.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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10 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

Appendix 1.1 Trench register

D BGL* = Depth below ground level

TR1	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
		50	1.8	0.55

Context	Description	D BGL (m)		
1001	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay	–	–	0–0.35
1002	Subsoil – Mid orangey brown sandy clay	–	–	0.35–0.55
1003	Natural – Mid reddish brown sandy clay with small and medium stones	–	–	0.55+
1004	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	1.8+	3.5	0.76
1005	Fill of Furrow – Light greyish brown sandy clay	1.8+	3.5	0.76
1006	Cut of Treethrow – Irregular shaped cut with irregular sides and base	1.07	0.80	0.70
1007	Fill of [1006] – Light greyish brown sandy clay, plastic/firm, with occasional small stones	1.07	0.80	0.70
1008	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	1.8+	2.5	0.55+
1009	Fill of Furrow [1008] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	1.8+	2.5	0.55+
1010	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	1.8+	1.5	0.55+
1011	Fill of [1010] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	1.8+	1.5	0.55+

TR2	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
		50	1.8	0.50

Context	Description	D BGL (m)		
2000	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay	–	–	0–0.22
2001	Subsoil – Mid orangey brown sandy clay	–	–	0.22–0.46
2002	Natural – Mid reddish brown sandy clay with small and medium stones	–	–	0.46+

Context	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)	D BGL (m)
2003	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides ut of furrow – Same as [1004]	1.8+	1.65	1.65	0.22–0.46+
2004	Fill of [2003] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	1.8+	1.65	1.65	0.22–0.46+
2005	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	1.8+	1.6	1.6	0.22–0.46+
2006	Fill of [2005] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	1.8+	1.6	1.6	0.22–0.46+
2007	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	1.8+	1.4	1.4	0.22–0.46+
2008	Fill of [2007] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	1.8+	1.4	1.4	0.22–0.46+
2009	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	1.8+	1.6	1.6	0.22–0.46+
2010	Fill of [2009] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	1.8+	1.6	1.6	0.22–0.46+

TR3	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
		50	1.8	0.38

Context	Description	D BGL (m)		
3000	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay	–	–	0–0.24
3001	Subsoil – Mid orangey brown sandy clay	–	–	0.24-0.34
3002	Natural – Mid reddish brown sandy clay with small and medium stones	–	–	0.34+
3003	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	–	1.8+	0.24-0.34+
3004	Fill of [3003] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	–	1.8+	0.24-0.34+
3005	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	–	1.8+	0.24-0.34+
3006	Fill of [3005] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	–	1.8+	0.24-0.34+
3007	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	–	1.8+	0.24-0.34+
3008	Fill of [3007] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	–	1.8+	0.24-0.34+
3009	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	–	1.8+	0.24-0.34+
3010	Fill of [3009] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	–	1.8+	0.24-0.34+

TR4				
	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
		50	1.8	0.63
Context	Description	DBGL (m)		
4000	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay	–	–	0–0.30
4001	Subsoil – Mid orangey brown sandy clay	–	–	0.30–0.57
4002	Natural – Mid reddish brown sandy clay with small and medium stones	–	–	0.57+
4003	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	1.8+	1.3+	0.30–0.57+
4004	Fill of [4003] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	1.8+	1.3+	0.30–0.57+
4005	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	1.8+	1.35	0.30–0.57+
4006	Fill of [4005] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	1.8+	1.35	0.30–0.57+

TR5				
	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
		50	1.8	0.63
Context	Description	DBGL (m)		
5000	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay	–	–	0–0.30
5001	Subsoil – Mid orangey brown sandy clay	–	–	0.30–0.56
5002	Natural – Mid reddish brown sandy clay with small and medium stones	–	–	0.56+
5003	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	1.8+	1.4	0.30–0.56+
5004	Fill of [5003] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	1.8+	1.4	0.30–0.56+
5005	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	1.8+	1.7	0.30–0.56+
5006	Fill of [5005] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	1.8+	1.7	0.30–0.56+
5007	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	1.8+	1.65	0.30–0.56+
5008	Fill of [5007] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	1.8+	1.65	0.30–0.56+

TR6				
	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
		50	1.8	0.49
Context	Description	DBGL (m)		
6000	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay	–	–	0–0.24
6001	Subsoil – Mid orangey brown sandy clay	–	–	0.24–0.44
6002	Natural – Mid reddish brown sandy clay with small and medium stones	–	–	0.44+
6003	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	1.8+	1.3	0.24–0.44+
6004	Fill of [6003] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	1.8+	1.3	0.24–0.44+
6005	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	1.8+	1.5	0.24–0.44+
6006	Fill of [6005] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	1.8+	1.5	0.24–0.44+
6007	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	1.8+	1.6	0.24–0.44+
6008	Fill of [6007] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	1.8+	1.6	0.24–0.44+

TR7				
	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
		50	1.8	0.53
Context	Description	DBGL (m)		
7000	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay	–	–	0–0.23
7001	Subsoil – Mid orangey brown sandy clay	–	–	0.23–0.53
7002	Natural – Mid reddish brown sandy clay with small and medium stones	–	–	0.53+
7003	Stoney spread – Sandy clay with medium and large stones, plastic, inclusions of frequent small stones and rare charcoal flecks	1.8+	2.80	0.23–0.53+
7004	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	1.8+	1.4	0.23–0.53+
7005	Fill of [7004] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	1.8+	1.4	0.23–0.53+
7006	Stoney spread – Same as (7003)	1.8+	1.2	0.23–0.53+

TR8	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
		50	1.8	0.48

Context	Description	L (m)	W (m)	DBGL (m)
8000	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay	–	–	0–0.24
8001	Subsoil – Mid orangey brown sandy clay	–	–	0.24–0.43
8002	Natural – Mid reddish brown sandy clay with small and medium stones	–	–	0.43+
8003	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	1.8+	1.5	0.24–0.43+
8004	Fill of [8003] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	1.8+	1.5	0.24–0.43+
8005	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	1.8+	1.6	0.24–0.43+
8006	Fill of [8005] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	1.8+	1.6	0.24–0.43+

TR9	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
		50	1.8	0.53

Context	Description	L (m)	W (m)	DBGL (m)
9000	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay	–	–	0–0.26
9001	Subsoil – Mid orangey brown sandy clay	–	–	0.26–0.46
9002	Natural – Mid reddish brown sandy clay with small and medium stones	–	–	0.46+
9003	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	1.8+	1.4	0.26–0.46+
9004	Fill of furrow [9003] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	1.8+	1.4	0.26–0.46+
9005	Cut of furrow – Shallow linear with gently sloping sides	1.8+	1.6	0.26–0.46+
9006	Fill of furrow [9005] – Light greyish brown sandy clay	1.8+	1.6	0.26–0.46+

Appendix 1.2 Photo Register

Photo	B&W	Digital	Facing	Description
01	35	1110	—	Photo ID shot B+W film 1215
02	—	1111	N	General shot of field
03	—	1112	NW	General shot of field
04	—	1113	NE	General shot of field
05	34	1115	W	Oblique shot of NE facing section of [1004]
06	33	1116	SW	TR 1 – Sample section
07	32	1117	NE	SW facing section of [1006]
08	31	1119	NW	TR1 – Trench shot
09	30	1120	SE	TR1 – Trench shot
10	29	1121	W	TR2 – Trench shot
11	28	1122	S	TR2 – Sample Section
12	27	1123	SW	TR3 – Trench shot
13	26	1124	NW	TR3 – Sample section
14	25	1125	ESE	TR4 – Trench shot
15	24	1126	NE	TR4 – Sample Section
16	—	1127	N	Stoney deposit
17	—	1128	N	Stoney deposit
18	—	1129	NW	Stoney deposit
19	—	1130	NW	Stoney deposit
20	—	1131	E	TR5 – Trench shot (Bag in shot)
21	23	1132	E	TR5 – Trench shot
22	22	1133	N	TR5 – Sample section
23	21	1134	ESE	TR6 – Trench shot
24	20	1135	N	TR6 – Sample Section
25	19	1136	E	TR8 – Trench shot
26	18	1137	N	TR8 – Sample section
27	17	1138	SE	TR9 – Trench shot
28	16	1139	NE	TR9 – Sample section
29	15	1140	SW	TR7 – NEFS Furrow [7004] before feature was boxed
30	14	1141	SW	TR7 – NEFS of Stoney spread (7003)
31	13	1142	SW	TR7 – NEFS of Furrow [7004] after it was boxed to reveal edges.
32	12	1143	SW	TR7 – NEFS Stoney spread (7003) above furrow [7004]
33	11	1144	SW	TR7 – Furrow [7004] in plan
34	10	1145	SW	TR7 – land drain cutting through furrow [7004] in plan

APPENDIX 2 FINDS DATA

Appendix 2.1 Finds catalogue

Context	Qty	Weight (g)	Material	Object	Description	Spot Date
1006	1	75	CBM	Brick	small abraded fragment	PM-Mod
1006	1	5	Pottery	Unidentified	Handmade, coarse fabric, abraded, kicked out flat ?base sherd or damaged rim, c.90mm diam, possibly native RB	Rom?
1006	1	3	Pottery (PM)	GRE	thin walled red earthenware, glazed dark brown both sides	16th-19th



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