

AFTW/04



# LAND WEST OF ALAMO GROUP, SALFORD PRIORS

EXCAVATION

commissioned by Bovis Homes Limited

14/01126/OUT

December 2016



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project team

**PROJECT MANAGER** Luke Craddock-Bennett  
**AUTHOR** Luke Craddock-Bennett, Robert Blackburn  
**FIELDWORK** Robert Blackburn, Sam Davis, Tom Hodgson  
**GRAPHICS** Caroline Norrman  
**SPECIALISTS** Julie Franklin, Julie Lochrie, Paul Blinkhorn – Finds  
**APPROVED BY** Luke Craddock-Bennett – Project Manager



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**MIDLANDS & WEST**

Headland Archaeology  
Unit 1, Clearview Court, Twyford Road, Hereford HR2 6JR

01432 364 901

[midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com)

[www.headlandarchaeology.com](http://www.headlandarchaeology.com)



## PROJECT SUMMARY

A two stage investigation comprising a watching brief and open area excavation was undertaken on land on the outskirts of Salford Priors, Warwickshire. The land appears to have been subject to waterlogging and attempts had been made to drain the site by hand digging drainage gullies. Small abraded sherds of pottery dating to the Romano-British and Medieval periods were recovered from the site, but in insufficient quantities to date the drainage features with confidence. The results of the current and former phases of archaeological work on the site suggest that the drainage features are predominantly medieval but there may be earlier ditch drainage dating to the Romano-British period.

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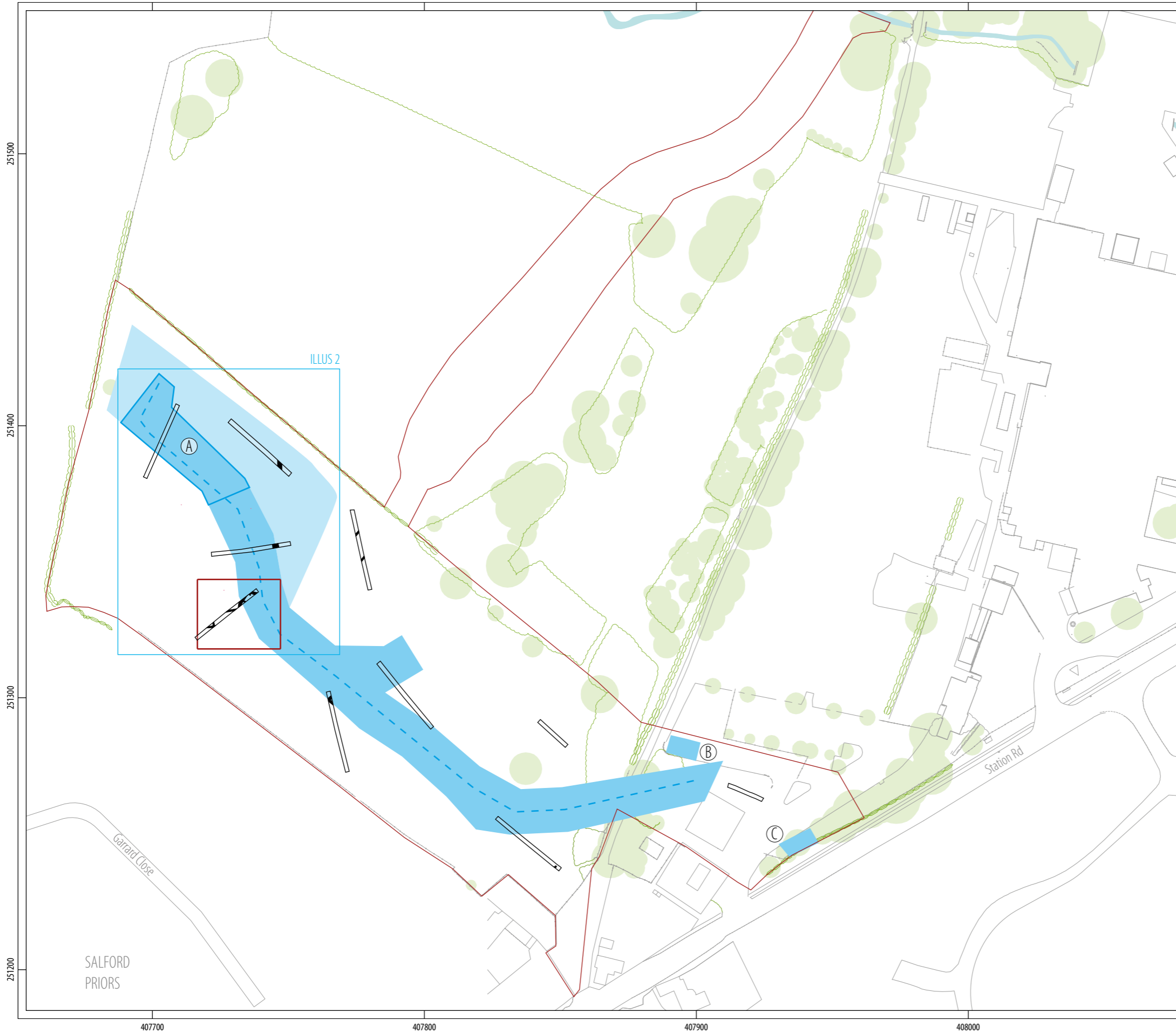
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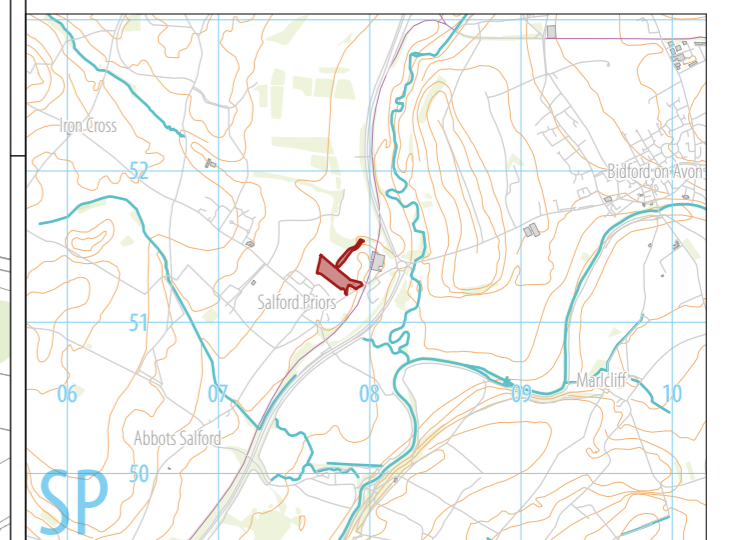
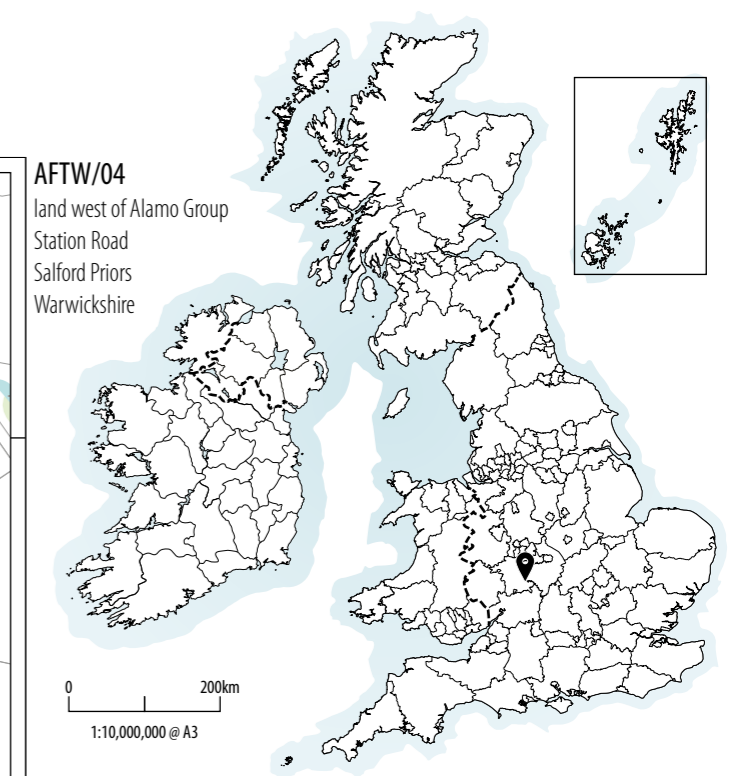
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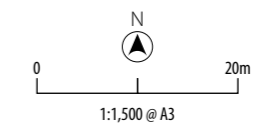
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MIDLANDS & WEST Unit 1, Clearview Court, Twyford Road  
 Hereford HR2 6JR  
 01432 364 901  
 www.headlandarchaeology.com

- KEY**
- site boundary
  - evaluation trenches (previous phase)
  - evaluation features (previous phase)
  - excavation area
  - sewer main
  - monitored areas
  - A haul road
  - B house footings
  - C site entrance
  - additional monitored area



ILLUS 1 Site location



# LAND WEST OF ALAMO GROUP, SALFORD PRIORS

## EXCAVATION

### 1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of archaeological work carried out between the 18th May and 3rd of June 2016, at Salford Priors, Warwickshire, in advance of the construction of 60 residential dwellings by Bovis Homes Limited.

The history of archaeological investigation of the site began in 1993 when in response to an application for residential development to Stratford-on-Avon District Council (Ref: S92/0853), the site was identified as being archaeologically sensitive. A heritage assessment undertaken in 2013 (Craddock-Bennett 2013) reiterated the potential for the site to contain remains of archaeological significance.

Outline planning permission (ref: 14/01126/OUT) was granted to Bovis Homes, by Stratford on Avon District Council, for the erection of 60 dwellings and associated works.

Condition 18 of the planning permission stipulated that 'no development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, had secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which had been submitted to and approved in writing by the District planning Authority.

The former archaeological advisor to the District Council (Anna Stocks), suggested a phased approach to the works, with an initial stage of archaeological evaluation informing the need or otherwise for the further works

The initial stage of evaluation was undertaken by Headland Archaeology in accordance with a WSI (Craddock-Bennett 2016) agreed with the archaeological advisor. The trial trenching identified a continuation of the medieval field systems identified by the earlier evaluation.

Subsequent to the completion of the trial trenching (Thomson 2016), Stratford on Avon District Council advised the client (Bovis Homes) to determine the need or otherwise for further archaeological work following consultation with an external consultant.

Bovis Homes commissioned Cotswold Archaeology to act as consultant and prepare a brief for further works.

Cotswold Archaeology produced a brief for further archaeological work (Cox 2016) which specified a two stage requirement for further work comprising a watching brief and a set-piece archaeological excavation.

### 2 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site comprised c2.4 hectares of rough pasture located at NGR 407673, 251429 (centre). The land was relatively flat at around 31m AOD, with evidence of a linear depression cutting across the site towards the north-west end.

The site is bound by Alamo Group Engineering to the east, Station Road to the south-east, residential housing to the south-west and farmland to the west and north (Illus 1).

The underlying solid geology within the site comprised Triassic Mercia Mudstone overlain by glacial sands and gravels (NERC 2016). No superficial deposits are known from the site.

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Settlement evidence dating to the later prehistoric/Romano-British period forms a continuous complex along the gravel terraces to the north. These sites have been mostly identified from cropmarks which can be seen from the air.

Salford Priors was well established by the late Saxon period, and was the main medieval settlement in the parish clustered around the church. The village would have been surrounded by large open fields, marked by ridge and furrow ploughing, some of which is still visible on aerial photographs, to the north-east of the site.

The site has been subject to previous archaeological assessment, beginning in 1993 with a geophysical survey and evaluation carried

out by Warwickshire County Council (WCC 1993). This excavation identified a series of linear features, interpreted as possible boundary gullies and pits associated with closes or paddocks. Pottery from the features, indicated agricultural activity dating from the 13th – 16th century on the edge of the medieval village.

A 2016 evaluation carried out by Headland Archaeology (Thomson 2016), identified ditches of unknown date, along with seasonally waterlogged land, and a possible curvilinear ditch with associated postholes. Medieval pottery of 11th to 13th century date was recovered, but nothing from archaeological features. A small amount of flint debitage was recovered from the topsoil.

## 4 METHODOLOGY

All operations adhered to ClfA Standards and guidance on archaeological excavation and archaeological watching briefs (ClfA 2014), and Warwickshire County Council's Generic Archaeological Fieldwork Guidelines (2012).

Cotswold Archaeology produced a brief for the archaeological mitigation archaeological work (Cox 2016), specifying a two stage requirement for further work, comprising a watching brief of five days length during the excavation of the Haul road and site drainage, followed by a set piece excavation targeted on evaluation trench 5.

### 4.1 WATCHING BRIEF

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the mechanical excavation of the northern part of the haul road (to the north of the set piece excavation area). The area of haul road to the south of this was excavated prior to an archaeologist being present on site. This area was inspected following excavation in order to identify the presence/absence of archaeological features.

The removal of topsoil deposits extending beyond the north-eastern boundary of the haul road was monitored, in addition to discrete areas associated with the site entrance and house footings in the south of the site.

The excavation of a storm and foul running up the centre of the haul road was also monitored.

### 4.2 EXCAVATION

Approximately 50% of the topsoil in the set piece excavation area had been removed during an unmonitored phase of the haul road strip. The remaining area was partially covered by spoil from the haul road strip. Overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision, down to the level of the natural substrate.

The excavation area was hand cleaned to enable the identification of archaeological features. All significant features were then excavated, and drawn (where necessary) and a GPS survey plan was made of all features. All linear features were sampled at 20%, with all potential pits/discreet features sampled at 50%.

## 4.3 RECORDING

All recording followed standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA). The recorded contexts were assigned unique numbers and recording was undertaken on Headland Archaeology pro forma context sheets. Digital and black and white photos were taken of all archaeologically significant features, with a graduated metric scale clearly visible. An overall site plan of the excavated areas and identified features was digitally produced. Digital surveying was undertaken using a Trimble dGPS system. Where appropriate, hand drawings of archaeological features were made at a scale of 1:10.

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 WATCHING BRIEF

The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the entire stripping of the haul road, the excavation of the storm and foul drain, and other miscellaneous groundworks that may have impacted upon archaeological remains. Unfortunately prior to the arrival of an archaeologist on site, the majority of the Haul road was stripped, with only the north-west section untouched. In order to mitigate the potential loss of information, the stripped surface was carefully checked for the presence of archaeological features.

In order to aid the descriptive process the areas subject to watching brief have been named A–C and the location of each area is identified on Illus 1.

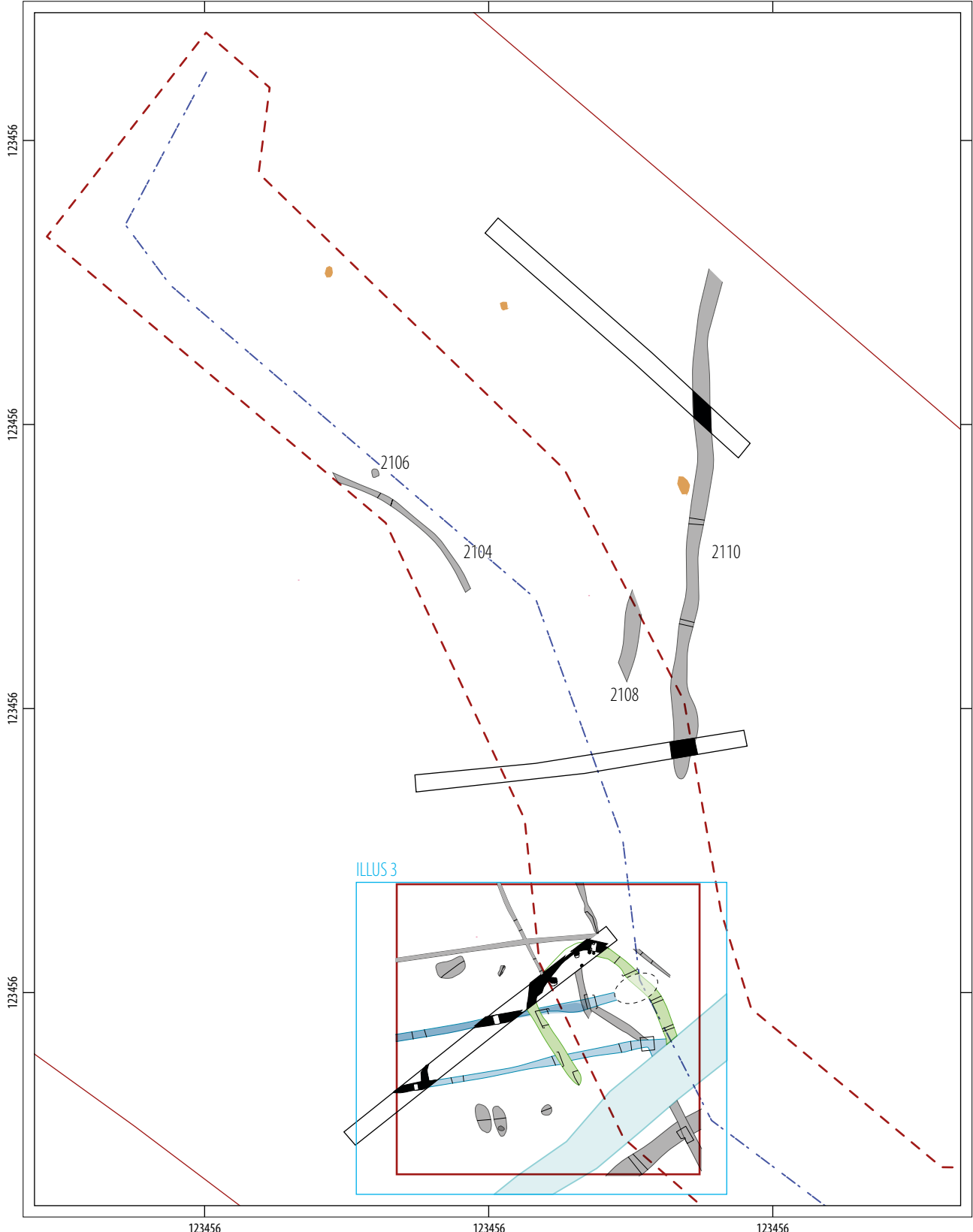
#### Area A (Illus 2)

At the northern end of the haul road strip, two modern ditches were revealed, as well as the continuation of a ditch previously identified during the evaluation works (Thompson 2016). Ditch [2104] measured 0.6m wide x 0.16m deep, and was visible for a length of approximately 15m, aligned northwest-southeast (Illus 4). Black and white glazed porcelain was recovered from the fill (2105) suggesting a modern date for the feature. Ditch [2108] measured 1.2m wide x 0.10m deep and extended out of the haul road section for a distance of 7.00m before petering out to the south. The profile was very shallow with a slightly uneven base, and a fragment of white glazed porcelain was recovered from the fill (2109). Rooting in the base of the feature suggests that it may represent the line of a former hedgerow.

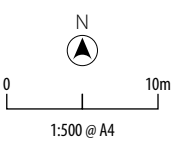
Located parallel and 3.35m to the east of feature [2108] was a further ditch [2110] measuring 1.68m wide x 0.40m deep. The feature was visible for a distance of approximately 40m running in a north-east/south-west direction. The feature had previously been identified and excavated during the earlier evaluation (Thompson 2016). No artefactual material was recovered from the feature.

To the north of linear [2104] a small oval shaped feature [2106], measuring 0.6m wide x 0.14m deep was excavated. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature, however, a re-touched lithic piece dated to the Neolithic/early Bronze Age was recovered from topsoil deposits approximately 1.00m to the north of the feature.

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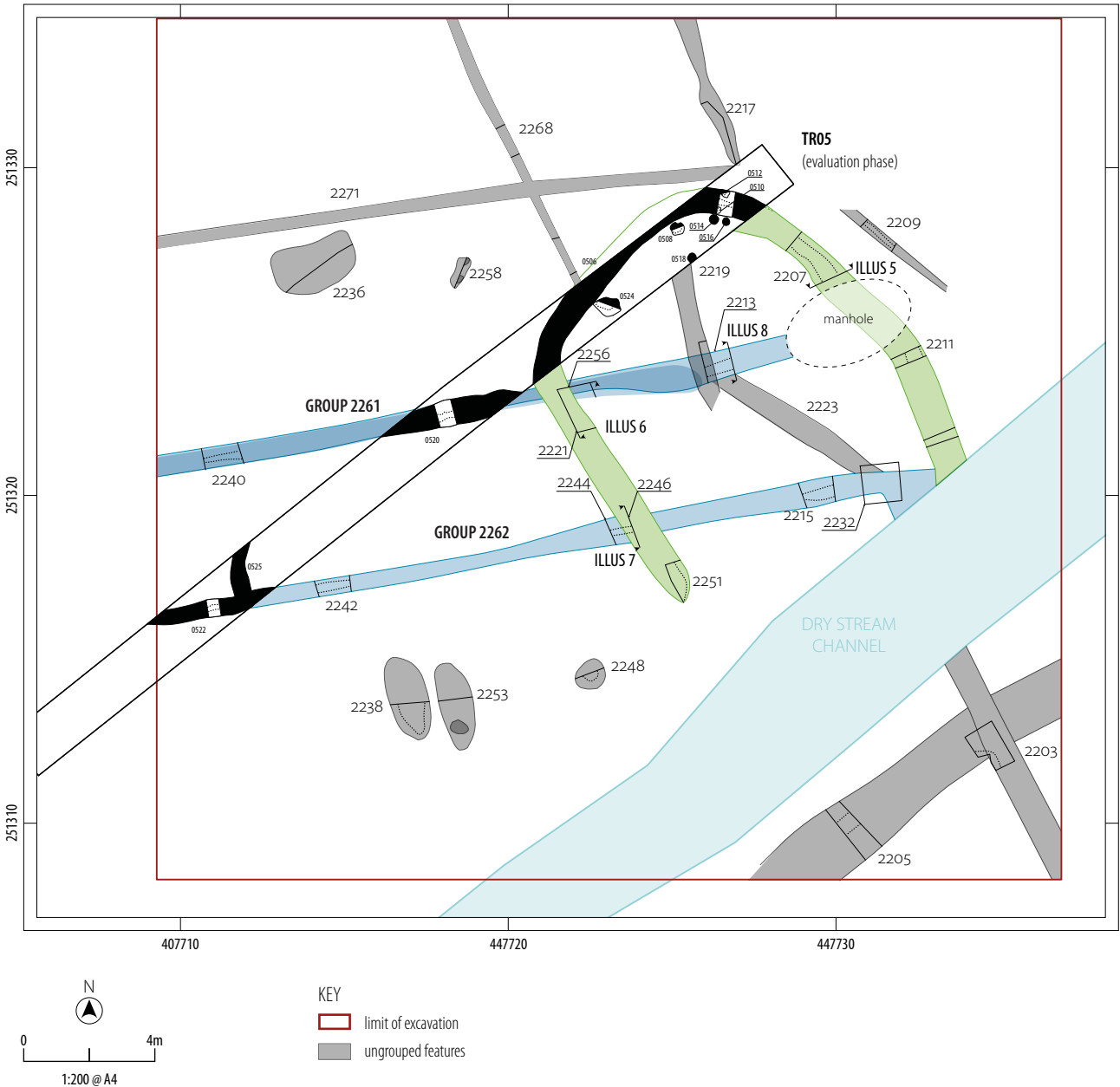


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- KEY**
- site boundary
  - evaluation trenches (previous phase)
  - evaluation features (previous phase)
  - excavation area
  - geological features
  - monitored area
  - sewer main

ILLUS 2 Plan of features identified during archaeological watching brief



**ILLUS 3** Open area excavation, showing plan of excavated features

**Area B**

During the excavation of house footings in the south east part of the site, a dark grey sandy clay was revealed in section at a depth of 0.3m below ground level (4114) (Illus 5). The deposit, which was sealed by a redeposited reddish brown clay (4111) measured 0.2m thick and is likely to represent a buried soil horizon sealed beneath made ground. The house footings were located within the area of the former Alamo Group car park; the made ground is likely to relate to the original landscaping of the carpark.

**Area C**

During the construction of a new entrance into the site, a rectangular trench (measuring 12.00m x 6.50m) was reduced in height down to the natural substrate. The overburden comprised topsoil and subsoil deposits overlying an orange clay natural (3002) encountered at a depth of 0.50m. No deposits of archaeological significance were identified.

**5.2 EXCAVATION AREA (ILLUS 3)**

The excavation area (which measured 25m by 30m in plan) was situated to target a curvilinear ditch feature identified during the evaluation (Trench 5, feature 506).

Topsoil (2201), where not truncated by excavations for the haul road, comprised a dark brown silty clay measuring 0.30m in depth. A subsoil (2202) deposit measuring a further 0.30m in depth overlay a geological natural (2270) comprised of yellowish sandy clays with occasional patches of gravel. Areas of grey clay, the result of gleying, were also identified.

A dry stream channel, which corresponded to an extant topographical feature was present within the south-east of the excavation area on a northeast-southwest alignment. The feature measured 4.40m in width.





**ILLUS 4** W facing section of ditch [2215]    **ILLUS 5** W facing section of ditch [2240]

## Parallel ditch features

Located on an east-west alignment within the excavation area were two parallel ditches, groups [2261] and [2262].

The northern ditch [2261], was 1.10m wide x 0.4m deep, with steep sides and a flattish base. Slot [2213] (Illus 6), contained a lower fill (2214), of soft, blueish grey, silty clay, and an upper fill (2275), which was a mid-reddish brown, friable loam. Two further slots were excavated across the ditch, cut numbers [2240] and [2256]. The depth of the ditch in these slots was comparatively shallow, measuring only 0.2m [2256] (Illus 7), and 0.18m in [2240] (Illus 8). The fill in both cuts was a blueish grey silty clay (2257 and 2241).

The most southerly of the two parallel ditches [2262], was 0.95m wide x 0.53m deep. Cut [2215] (Illus 9) located at the eastern end of the linear contained four fills, the lower of which (2229) was a firm, blueish grey silty clay. Above this was a thin deposit of greyish brown silty sand, containing small amounts of sand and gravel (2228). Above this was a deposit of mid reddish brown silty sand, approximately 0.18m thick (2227). The upper fill (2202), was a deposit of lower subsoil. Three additional slots were excavated across this ditch, cuts [2242], [2244] and [2232]. Slot [2242] and [2244], both contained a single fill of blueish grey silty clay.

A further parallel ditch [2271] located 6.20m to the north of ditch [2261] was a stone filled drainage ditch containing modern porcelain.

## Horse shoe shaped enclosure

In plan, feature [2260] took the form of a horse shoe shaped ditch with overall internal dimensions measuring approximately 7m x 10m. Slots were excavated across this feature including intersections with the two parallel ditch groups [2261] and [2262]. Slot [2207] (Illus 10) measured 1.10m wide x 0.30m deep. The fill (2208) was a brown, soft sandy silt with stone inclusions. Additional slots put across this feature included [2251], a possible terminus, and slots [2246], [2221], [2211] and [2264]. The nature of the fills on the western arm of the feature generally comprised a sandy loam (2252), with the depth of the feature consistent at around 0.25m.

It was clear from the intersections, that the horse shoe shaped feature [2260], was later than both parallel linear ditches, [2261] and [2262] (Illus 11). Two sherds of abraded pottery recovered from slot [2211] were dated to the 12–13th century.

## Ungrouped ditches and gullies

In the south-east corner of the excavation area were two intersecting ditches [2205] and [2203]. Ditch [2205] measured 2.10m wide x 0.43m deep (Illus 12). The profile was U-shaped with a single fill of loose, reddish brown, sandy loam. This feature was cut by the later and smaller ditch [2203] which measured 0.6m wide x 0.27m deep. A single small abraded sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the fill (2206) of ditch [2205].

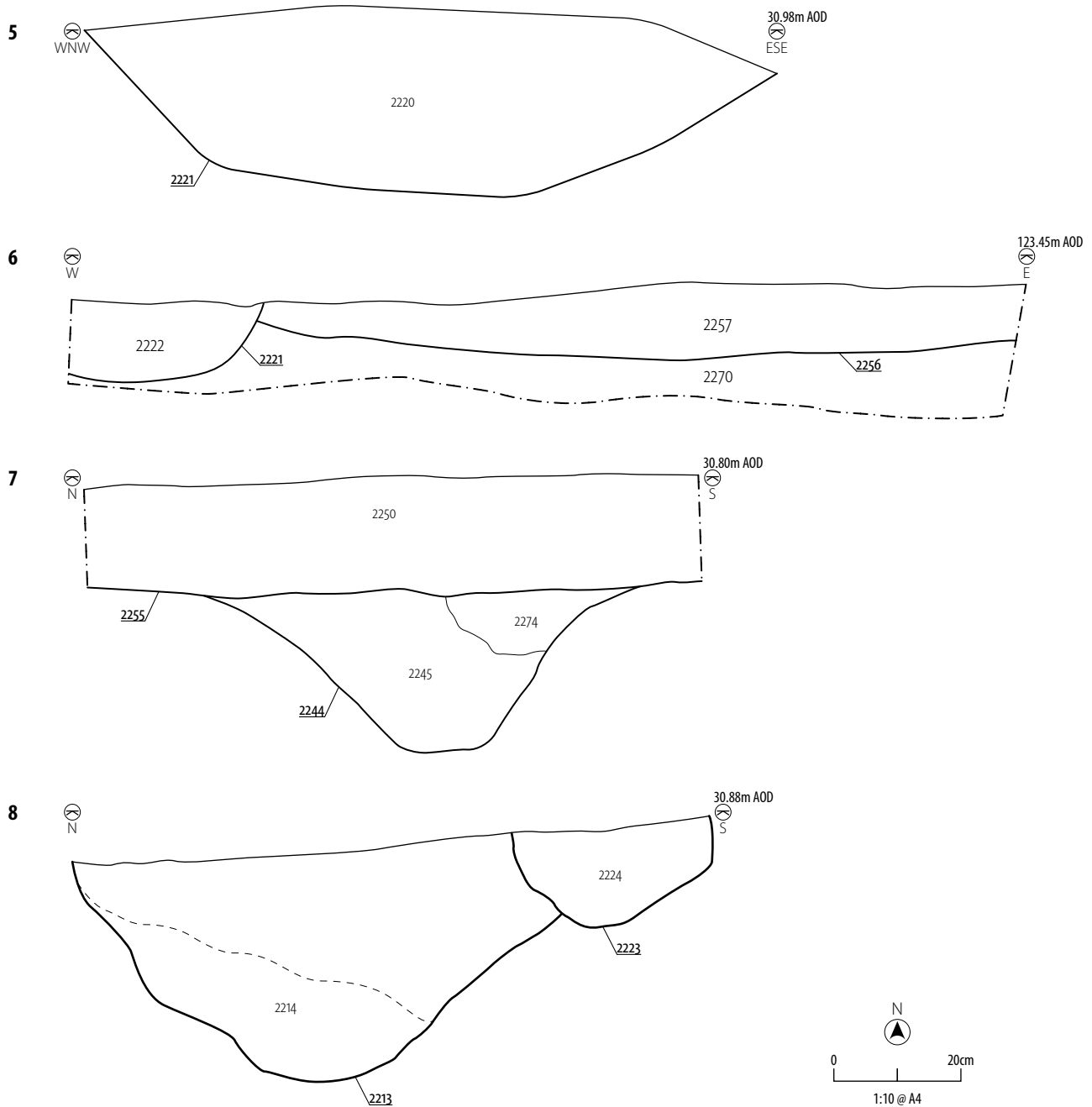
Linear feature [2223], measuring 0.70m in width and 0.26m in depth appeared to feed into and merge with the eastern end of ditch [2262]. The fill (2231) comprised a reddish brown silty sand which was identical in composition to the upper fill of [2262], making stratigraphic relationship between the features unclear. Excavation of the intersection between [2223] and [2261] to the north suggests that [2223] was stratigraphically later than [2261], with the feature terminating within the southern edge of the upper fill (2275). Ditch [2219], measuring 0.6m in width and 0.30m in depth was of similar dimensions to ditch [2223] and appears to represent a contemporary continuation of the feature to the north.

Two shallow parallel features were identified in the north of the excavation area on a northwest-southeast alignment. Feature [2268] measured 8.70m in length, 0.32m in width and extended to a depth of 0.13m. The gully which was filled by a mid-reddish brown loam (2269) devoid of artefacts, was truncated by the horse shoe enclosure [2260]. Linear [2217], located 5.70m to the north-east, varied in width between 0.15m and 0.55m. The irregular base of the feature was identified at a depth of 0.07m.

A further, heavily truncated linear feature [2209], measuring 0.38m wide x 0.12m deep, and visible for a distance of only 3m, was located to the north-east of the horse shoe enclosure [2260]. The feature orientated on a northwest-southeast alignment was truncated at either end by later activity.

## Discrete features

A number of variations within the geological surface were investigated for archaeological potential. Features [2236] (Illus 13), [2258], [2238], [2253] and [2248] were excavated. The irregular nature of the features suggested that the features represented tree throw pits created through the removal of vegetation.



**ILLUS 6** NNW facing section of curvilinear ditch [2207] **ILLUS 7** S facing section of curvilinear ditch [2221] cutting ditch group (2261) **ILLUS 8** W facing section of curvilinear ditch [2244] cutting linear ditch group (2262) **ILLUS 9** W facing section of linear ditch [2213] cut by later ditch [2223]

## 6 DISCUSSION

### 6.1 PREHISTORIC

A single flint tool recovered from the topsoil suggests a background of prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the site, however, no archaeological features that could be positively assigned to the prehistoric period were identified.

### 6.2 ROMANO-BRITISH

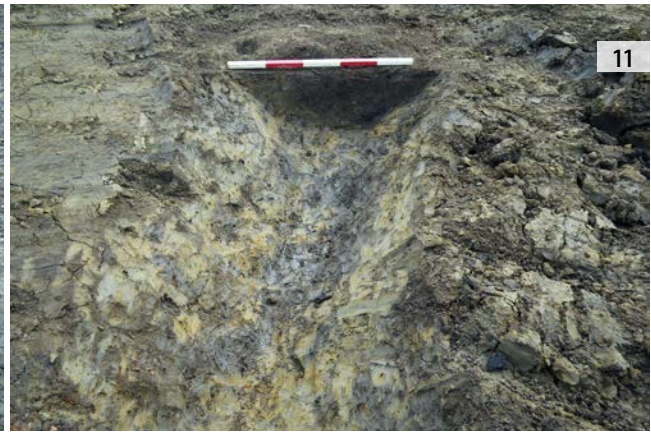
A broad ditch in the south of the excavation area contained a single sherd of abraded Romano-British Pottery. Although dating of the feature is

tentative, the presence of the pottery within a ditch of differing form and alignment to the medieval ditches identified on the site, suggests that a Roman-British date for this ditch is possible. The lack of finds within the feature suggests that is agricultural in nature and potentially represents a forerunner to the later medieval drainage system identified on the site.

### 6.3 MEDIEVAL

The original evaluation conducted in 1993, identified features associated with closes or paddocks dating to the medieval period. This characterisation of the site has been consistent in all the different types of archaeological investigations up to and including the present open area work.





**ILLUS 10** Excavation area, section of tree throw [2236]    **ILLUS 11** NW facing section of ditch [2104]    **ILLUS 12** Area 2, house footings, deposit (2114)

The stratigraphic information suggests a simple linear drainage system typified by features (2261) and (2262). Further ditches cross the site on varying alignments, but apparently with the same purpose; to drain the land presumably with the intention of making it more suitable for farming.

Dating of the site based on the material recovered during the watching brief and excavation is problematic. A very small assemblage of abraded pottery was recovered with sherds dating to the Romano-British, Medieval and Post-medieval periods.

The horse shoe shaped feature [2260] displays scant evidence for representing the remains of a dwelling; potential post holes were identified on the north-west interior during evaluation, but no post holes were identified during excavation. Two medieval sherds of pottery were recovered from the fill of the feature, suggesting a medieval date for the feature, albeit with a low level of confidence.

The function of the horse shoe shaped enclosure may be related to the presence of the former stream channel still visible as an extant linear depression, either as drainage, an informal stock enclosure, or a possible water feeder supplied by the stream.

It is clear from the presence of gleying, that the area was prone to seasonal flooding, an interpretation consistent with the findings of the evaluation, and borne out by the fact that areas of marsh are noted on current OS maps less than half a kilometre to the north-east. The presence of tree throw pits supports the possibility that the area was wooded prior to being reclaimed for agricultural purposes.

As an area prone to seasonal flooding, it would be unsuitable for more permanent forms of settlement, which may account for the general paucity of finds and structures.

## 6.4 POST-MEDIEVAL

A single sherd of pottery dated to the 14th – 17th centuries (and therefore potentially extending into the post-medieval period) was recovered from subsoil deposits. No further evidence for post-medieval activity was identified, however, it is possible that any number of the undated linear features could relate to this period.

## 6.5 MODERN

The presence of a modern drainage feature [2271] occupying the same alignment as the earlier medieval features suggests that drainage has continued to be an issue on the site into the modern period.

## 7 CONCLUSION

The archaeological finds and features identified during the watching brief and open area excavation were consistent with the findings of both the recent evaluation (Thomson 2016), and the initial evaluation in 1993 (WCC 1993). A series of ditches and gullies, largely devoid of dateable material were identified. Although previously considered to be medieval in date, it appears that the earliest identified example may date to the Romano-British period, with the need for drainage of the site continuing through the medieval period up until the present day.

The evidence suggests the area was utilised as agricultural land, as no structural evidence, or densities of pottery were found to indicate more permanent settlement.

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## 9 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT REGISTER

CONTEXT	TYPE	RELATES TO CUT	DIMENSIONS LxWxD (m)	DESCRIPTION
2100	Cleaning layer	—	—	Unstratified material
2101	Layer	—	Area x Area x 0.20	Topsoil - Dark brown rooty silty clay
2102	Layer	—	Area x Area x 0.15	Subsoil - Mottled orange brown silty clay
2103	Geological deposit	—	Area x Area x unknown	Natural - Very firm orange clay
2104	Cut	2104	15.00+ x 0.60 x 0.16	Cut for modern linear feature
2105	Fill	2104	See 2104	Brown silty clay containing modern brick and pottery
2106	Cut	2106	0.90 x 0.60 x 0.14	Oval shaped feature in plan, gentle scoop in profile
2107	Fill	2106	See 2106	Dark grey silty clay. Undated.
2108	Cut	2108	7.00+ x 1.20 x 0.10	North-south aligned linear ditch or gully. Possible hedge line.
2109	Fill	2108	See 2108	Grey sandy silt containing infrequent flecks of charcoal
2110	Cut	2110	45.00 x 1.68 x 0.41	North-south aligned linear ditch or gully. Possible hedge line.
2111	Fill	2110	45.00 x 1.68 x 0.41	Lower fill. Mid greenish grey silty clay. Firm.
2112	Fill	2110	45.00 x 1.68 x 0.21	Upper fill. Mid reddish brown silty clay. Firm.
2200	Cleaning layer	—	—	Unstratified material
2201	Layer	—	Area x Area x 0.30	Topsoil; dark brownish grey, sandy silty clay, frequent rounded /angular gravel
2202	Layer	—	Area x Area x 0.30	Subsoil; dark brown silty clay, frequent rounded/angular pea gravel
2203	Cut	2203	6.50 x 0.60 x 0.27	Northwest-Southeast aligned ditch. Sloping sides, gradual break of slope, uneven base
2204	Fill	2203	See 2203	Mid reddish brown sandy loam. Moderately stoney.
2205	Cut	2205	11.36 x 2.10 x 0.43	Northeast-Southwest aligned ditch feature. Rounded base.
2206	Fill	2205	See 2205	Reddish brown loamy sand. Loose compaction.
2207	Cut	2207	2.00 x 1.10 x 0.30	Slot excavated through curvilinear ditch 2260. Steep sides to uneven base.

CONTEXT	TYPE	RELATES TO CUT	DIMENSIONS LxWxD (m)	DESCRIPTION
2208	Fill	2207	See 2207	Mid-brown sandy silt. Soft compaction.
2209	Cut	2209	3.00 x 0.38 x 0.12	Shallow linear gully. Truncated to northwest and southeast.
2210	Fill	2209	See 2209	Mid-brown sandy silt. Soft compaction.
2211	Cut	2211	0.50 x 0.70 x 0.22	Slot excavated through curvilinear ditch 2260. Steep sides to uneven base.
2212	Fill	2211	See 2211	Mid-brown sandy silt. Soft compaction.
2213	Cut	2213	1.00 x 1.10 x 0.40	Slot excavated through E-W ditch 2261. Steep sides to flattish base.
2214	Fill	2213	See 2213	Blue/grey sandy silty clay. Occasional small stone inclusions.
2215	Cut	2215	1.00 x 0.95 x 0.53	Slot excavated through E-W ditch 2262. Steep sides to flattish base.
2216	Cancelled	Cancelled	Cancelled	Cancelled
2217	Cut	2217	4.00 x 0.50 x 0.07	Irregular linear, uneven base. Possible hedgeline or drainage feature.
2218	Fill	2217	See 2217	Mid brown, friable, silt sandy clay
2219	Cut	2219	5.00 x 0.60 x 0.30	North-south aligned linear ditch or gully. Steep sides to rounded base.
2220	Fill	2219	See 2219	Mixed deposit of silty clay.
2221	Cut	2221	1.52 x 0.56 x 0.23	Slot excavated through curvilinear ditch 2260. Gently sloping sides to uneven rounded base.
2222	Fill	2221	See 2221	Mid reddish brown sandy loam. Moderately stoney.
2223	Cut	2223	5.00 x 0.70 x 0.26	NW-SE aligned linear gully. Gently sloping sides to broadly rounded base.
2224	Fill	2223	See 2223	Fill of [2223]
2226	Fill	2213	1.00+ x 1.10 x 0.25	Upper fill of [2213]. Light brown clayey sand. Occasional small stones.
2227	Fill	2215	1.00 x 0.70 x 0.18	Mid reddish brown silty sand. Mottled with inclusions of light blueish grey silty clay.
2228	Fill	2215	1.00 x 0.78 x 0.13	Light greyish brown silty sand.
2229	Fill	2215	1.00 x 0.42 x 0.15	Light blueish grey silty clay loam. Moist. Firm.
2230	Fill	2215	1.00 x 0.11 x 0.24	Dark reddish brown silty clay loam.
2231	Fill	2223	5.00 x 0.70 x 0.23	Mid reddish brown silty sand.



CONTEXT	TYPE	RELATES TO CUT	DIMENSIONS	DESCRIPTION	CONTEXT	TYPE	RELATES TO CUT	DIMENSIONS	DESCRIPTION
			L x W x D (m)					L x W x D (m)	
2232	Cut	2232	2.00 x 0.65 x 0.30	Slot excavated through E-W drainage ditch 2262. Steep sides to flat base.	2255	Cancelled	Cancelled	Cancelled	Cancelled
2233	Fill	2232	2.00 x 0.65 x 0.24	Lowest fill of 2232. Light blueish grey silty clay. Firm consistency.	2256	Cut	2256	1.22 x 0.49 x 0.24	Slot excavated through drainage ditch 2261.
2234	Layer	-	0.00 x 0.72 x 0.16	Mid reddish brown silty clay. Re-deposited natural layer underlying 2202. Cut by 2232.	2257	Fill	2256	See 2256	Fill of [2256]
2235	Layer	-	0.00 x 0.68 x 0.09	Mid reddish brown silty clay. Seals 2231.	2258	Cut	2258	1.03 x 0.40 x 0.25	Sub-oval in plan. Steep and undercut sides. Tree throw pit.
2236	Cut	2236	2.70 x 2.00 x 0.36	Irregular amorphous feature. Undulating sides and base. Undercutting evident. Tree throw pit.	2259	Fill	2258	See 2258	Dark grey silty clay. Occasional small and medium sub-angular and rounded stones.
2237	Fill	2236	See 2236	Dark grey-black organic/humic silty clay.	2260	Group	2260	10.00 x 7.00 x 0.30	Group number for horse shoe shaped enclosure ditch.
2238	Cut	2238	1.20 x 1.10 x 0.15	Irregular, discrete pit-like feature. Gently sloping sides to uneven base. Tree throw pit.	2261	Group	2261	20.00 x 0.80 x 0.40	Group number for parallel drainage ditch (north)
2239	Fill	2238	See 2238	Dark grey-black slightly stoney, sandy loam.	2262	Group	2262	25.00 x 0.90 x 0.53	Group number for parallel drainage ditch (south)
2240	Cut	2240	-	Slot excavated through drainage ditch 2261.	2263	Cancelled	Cancelled	Cancelled	Cancelled
2241	Fill	2240	-	Fill of [2240]	2264	Cut	2264	0.33 x 1.24 x 0.13	Slot excavated through curvilinear ditch 2260. Gently sloping sides to rounded base.
2242	Cut	2242	-	Slot excavated through drainage ditch 2262.	2265	Fill	2264	See 2264	Mid reddish brown sandy loam. Moderately stoney.
2243	Fill	2242	-	Fill of [2242]	2266	Cut	2266	1.17 x 0.13 x 0.09	Slot excavated through linear 2268. Gently sloping sides to uneven base.
2244	Cut	2244	-	Slot excavated through drainage ditch 2262.	2267	Fill	2266	See 2266	Mid reddish brown sandy loam. Moderately stoney.
2245	Fill	2244	-	Fill of [2244]	2268	Cut	2268	1.01 x 0.32 x 0.13	Linear gully on north-south alignment. Steep sides to to rounded base.
2246	Cut	2246	-	Slot excavated through curvilinear ditch 2260.	2269	Fill	2268	See 2268	Mid reddish brown sandy loam. Moderately stoney.
2247	Fill	2246	-	Fill of [2246]	2270	Geological deposit	-	Site x Site x unknown	Yellowish sandy clays with occasional patches of gravel. Concentrations of grey clay across site predominantly in the north.
2248	Cut	2248	0.54 x 1.10 x 0.23	Irregular discrete feature. Gently sloping sides to uneven base. Tree throw pit.	2271	Modern feature	-	18.00 x 0.35 x unknown	Stone filled drainage ditch on E-W alignment containing modern pottery.
2249	Fill	2248	See 2248	Mid grey sandy loam. Occasional charcoal flecking in top of deposit.	2272	Cut	2272	See 2205	Same as 2205
2250	Fill	2244	-	Upper fill of [2244]	2273	Fill	2272	See 2206	Same as 2206
2251	Cut	2251	1.25 x 0.59 x 0.26	Slot excavated in terminus of 2260.	3001	Layer	-	Site x Site x 0.50	Topsoil - loose, silty clay. Rooty.
2252	Fill	2251	See 2251	Mid reddish brown sandy loam. Moderately stoney.	3002	Geological deposit	-	Site x Site x unknown	Natural - Very firm orange clay
2253	Cut	2253	1.54 x 1.04 x 0.19	Irregular discrete feature. Gently sloping sides to uneven base. Tree throw pit.	4111	Layer	-	Site x Site x 0.30	Redeposited natural - Reddish brown clay, firm.
2254	Fill	2253	See 2253	Dark grey sandy loam. Slightly stoney.	4112	Geological deposit	-	Site x Site x 0.15	Natural - Light grey/blue clay, firm.

CONTEXT	TYPE	RELATES TO CUT	DIMENSIONS	DESCRIPTION
			L x W x D (m)	
4113	Geological deposit	—	Site x Site x 0.15+	Natural - Reddish brown silty clay, firm.
4114	Layer	—	Site x Site x 0.20	Dark grey sandy clay. Buried topsoil horizon.

APPENDIX 2 FINDS ASSESSMENT

TR	FEATURE	POTTERY (ROM)		POTTERY (MEDI)		POTTERY (MOD)		IRON	LITHICS	CBM		DATING
		COUNT	WGT	COUNT	WGT	COUNT	WGT			COUNT	WGT	
03	Layer 303	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	<0.5g	?
05	Curvilinear 0506	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	<0.5g	?
06	Subsoil	–	–	3	20g	–	–	–	–	–	–	13th – 14th C
07	Quarry pit 704	–	–	1	12g	–	–	–	–	–	–	11th – 12th
07	Quarry pit 707	–	–	1	4g	–	–	–	–	–	–	12th – 13th
07	Subsoil	–	–	1	8g	–	–	–	1	–	–	late 14th – 17th C
12	Subsoil	–	–	2	7g	–	–	–	–	–	–	13th C
EXC	Ditch 2211	–	–	2	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	12th – 13th C?
EXC	Ditch 2221	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	?
EXC	Ditch 2205	1	5g	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2nd - 4th C
EXC	Gully 2104	–	–	–	–	1	4g	–	–	2	802g	modern
EXC	Topsoil	1	2g	–	–	–	–	1	2	–	–	–
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>7g</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>54g</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4g</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>802g</b>	

TABLE A2.1 Finds summary by feature

Introduction

This report covers the finds from both trial trenching and excavation phases of the project. The total finds assemblage numbered 13 sherds (65g) of pottery, four pieces (802g) of ceramic building material, three lithics finds and two of iron. The Neolithic, Roman, Medieval and modern periods are all represented. A summary of the assemblage is given in Table A2.1. A complete catalogue is given at the end.

Results

Pottery

The pottery assemblage comprised 13 sherds (65g). It was made up of a mixture of Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval material. The Romano-British pottery was recorded using the conventions of the *National Roman Fabric Reference Collection* (Tomber & Dore 1997), while the medieval and later wares were recorded using the codes and chronology of the *Warwickshire Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery Type-Series* (Ratkai & Soden, in archive), as follows.

CODE	NAME	DATING	PERIOD	SHERDS	WGT
SVW	Severn Valley Oxidized Ware	2nd – 4th C	RB	2	7g
CO01	Calcareous Oolitic Ware	11th – 12th C	medieval	1	12g
RS02	Warwickshire Grey Ware	13th–14th C	medieval	4	25g
SLM01	Late Oxidized Malvernian Ware	L14th – 17th C	medieval	1	8g
Sq02	Warwick Sandy Ware	12th – 13th C	medieval	1	2g
Sq25	Alcester type Ware	12th – 13th C	medieval	3	7g

CODE	NAME	DATING	PERIOD	SHERDS	WGT
CRW	Creamware	M18th – E19th C	modern	1	4g
<b>Total</b>				<b>13</b>	<b>65g</b>

TABLE A2.2 Pottery fabric type series

The range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites in the region (Table A2.2). All the sherds are fairly small, and most show some sign of abrasion, indicating that they are all the product of secondary deposition or are residual. The sherd of late Oxidized Malvernian Ware (SLM01, TR07 subsoil) is from the rim of a jug, the rest of the assemblage is all unglazed jarsh sherds, including two small rim sherds. This is a typical pattern for assemblages of the period in the region.

Iron

The two iron finds were a wrought iron nail found in topsoil (2200). It cannot be finely dated. A small unidentified fragment of iron was also found in ditch [2221] (2222). There were no associated finds and thus its dating is unclear.

Lithics

Three unstratified lithic finds were retrieved. All the lithics are tools made of a fine-grained, mottled brown flint. The tools include a burnt and fractured scraper and two edge retouched pieces. They date to the Neolithic or early Bronze Age.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

Two fragments of a modern brick occurred in gully [2104] (2105). One had a complete width at 120mm wide. Two very small fragments of red ceramic were found in Trenches 3 and 5. They may be fragments of ceramic building material but are too small to provide any further information.

## Discussion

The lithics are the earliest finds and can be dated to the Neolithic or early Bronze Age but all are residual in subsoil and topsoil. The earliest stratified find was a single small abraded sherd of Romano-British pottery in ditch [2205], however this is not sufficient evidence to date this feature with any certainty.

The medieval finds are few but indicate low level activity at the site from the 12th to 14th century, possibly for longer. Medieval pottery was stratified in possible quarry pits [0704] and [0707] and in ditch [2211] but again abraded and in such small numbers that any dating evidence inferred should be used with caution.

Finds of modern pottery and brick suggest a modern date for gully [2104]. The whole assemblage is of no further archaeological value.

## References

Ratkai, S & Soden, I (in archive) *Warwickshire Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery, Type-Series*

Tomber, R & Dore, J 1998 *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection: A Handbook* Museum of London/English Heritage/British Museum

TR	CONTEXT	CONTEXT NOTES	SAMPLE	QTY	WGT (G)	MATERIAL	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	SPOT DATE
03	0303	Layer	3	1	0	CBM	Fragment	—	—
05	0507	Curvilinear 0506	4	1	0	CBM	Fragment	—	—
06	0602	Subsoil	—	3	20	Pottery (Medi)	RS02	Warwickshire Grey Ware	13th – 14th
07	0702	Subsoil	—	1	2	Lithics	Tool	Light to medium brown, fine-grained, translucent flint flake. There is a break to the right distal corner and a small retouched notch to the left distal corner. The flake is hard hammer with a large section of the platform forming the left lateral.	Neol – EBA
07	0702	Subsoil	—	1	8	Pottery (Medi)	SLM01	Late Oxidized Malvernian Ware, jug rim	L14th – 17th
07	0705	Possible quarry pit 0704	—	1	12	Pottery (Medi)	CO01	Calcareous Oolitic Ware	11th – 12th
07	0708	Possible quarry pit 0707	—	1	4	Pottery (Medi)	Sq25	Alcester-type Ware	12th – 13th
12	1202	Subsoil	—	1	2	Pottery (Medi)	Sq02	Warwick Sandy Ware	12th – 13th
12	1202	Subsoil	—	1	5	Pottery (Medi)	RS02	Warwickshire Grey Ware	13th – 14th
EXC	2100	Topsoil	—	1	13	Lithics	Tool	fine grained mottled brown flint. Missing proximal end. Hard hammer inner flake with abrupt concave retouch to right lateral.	Neol – EBA
EXC	2100	Topsoil	—	1	2	Pottery (Rom)	SVW	Severn Valley Oxidized Ware	2nd – 4th
EXC	2105	Gully 2104	—	2	802	CBM	Brick	Modern Brick	Mod
EXC	2105	gully 2104	—	1	4	Pottery (Mod)	CRW	Creamware	M18th – E19th
EXC	2200	topsoil	—	1	28	Iron	Nail	wrought	—
EXC	2200	topsoil	—	1	1	Lithics	Tool	Burnt flint, dorsal side mostly missing, probably scraper fragment	—
EXC	2212	ditch 2211/2207	—	2	3	Pottery (Medi)	Sq25	Alcester-type Ware	12th – 13th
EXC	2222	ditch 2221	—	1	10	Iron	Object	small object, obscured by corrosion	—
EXC	2273	ditch 2205	—	1	5	Pottery (Rom)	SVW	Severn Valley Oxidized Ware	2nd – 4th

**TABLE A3.3** Finds catalogue









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**SOUTH & EAST**

Headland Archaeology  
Building 68C, Wrest Park, Silsoe  
Bedfordshire MK45 4HS

01525 861 578

[southandeast@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:southandeast@headlandarchaeology.com)

**MIDLANDS & WEST**

Headland Archaeology  
Unit 1, Clearview Court, Twyford Road  
Hereford HR2 6JR

01432 364 901

[midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com)

**NORTH**

Headland Archaeology  
Unit 16, Hillside, Beeston Road  
Leeds LS11 8ND

0113 387 6430

[north@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:north@headlandarchaeology.com)

**SCOTLAND**

Headland Archaeology  
13 Jane Street  
Edinburgh EH6 5HE

0131 467 7705

[scotland@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:scotland@headlandarchaeology.com)

[www.headlandarchaeology.com](http://www.headlandarchaeology.com)