

ARPW/02



ABBAY VIEW ROAD, PINVIN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

commissioned by Adcock Associates
on behalf of Bridgeview Pension Scheme

W/11/01867

April 2017

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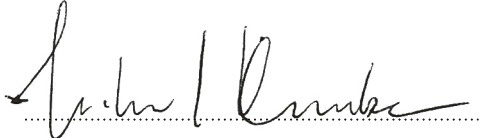
April 2017

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HER EVENT NO. WSM 69164
PARISH Pinvin
LOCAL AUTHORITY Wychavon District Council
OASIS REF. headland3-281193

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PROJECT SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological evaluation was implemented, in advance of the development of agricultural land off Abbey View Road, Pinvin. The works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) agreed by the archaeological advisor to Worcestershire County Council and entailed the excavation of 11 evaluation trenches over the area of the development footprint. The natural geology was identified in all trenches and appeared to change from gravelly clay-sand at the northern extreme of the site, to a significantly less sandy matrix, falling away on a gentle slope, to the south. The remains of furrows, associated with a former system of ridge and furrow cultivation, were identified within all but the southernmost trenches. An undated linear feature, crossing Trench 11 on an approximate north-south alignment appeared to represent a relict field boundary, its position visible on aerial photographs taken in 1945. A small post-hole, adjacent to the former boundary ditch was thought to represent part of a possible associated fence line.

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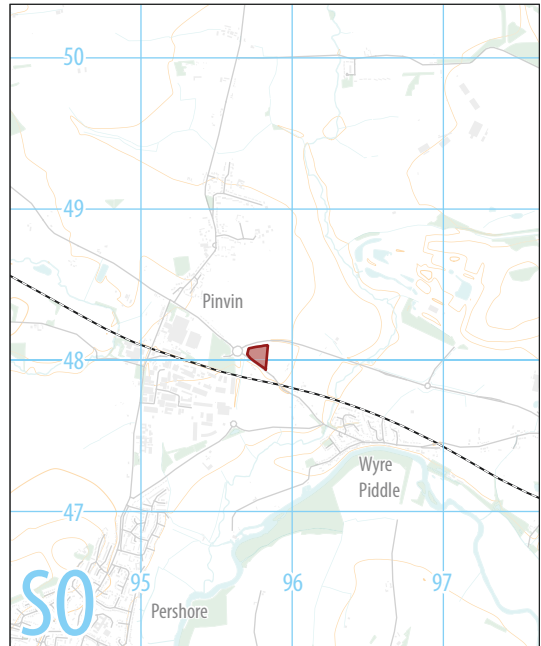
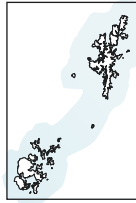
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ARPW/02
land south-east of A44
Abbey View Road
Pinvin
Worcestershire

0 200km
1:10,000,000 @ A4

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0 100m
1:5,000 @ A4

development boundary
trench location

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ILLUS 1 Site location

ABBAY VIEW ROAD, PINVIN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

Planning permission (W/11/01867) was granted, subject to conditions, for the construction of a new filling station adjacent to Abbey View Road, Pinvin, Worcestershire.

Condition 3 was applied as part of the planning process in line with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework, which states that any permitted development affecting a heritage asset should include the provision to record that asset:

‘...They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.’

The evaluation was carried out in order that the site could be assessed to inform a conditional programme of archaeological work if necessary.

1.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site has an area of 1.43ha and is located at NGR SO 95770 48050. It lies west of Wyre Piddle and south of Pinvin, bounded by the A44 to the north and the B4083 to the south. The site is currently a field with a coverage of scrub grasses and other vegetation and is on a gently falling south-westerly slope.

The bedrock geology of the site consists of mudstone of the Blue Lias and Charmouth formations; a sedimentary bedrock dating to the Jurassic and Triassic periods (NERC 2017). The superficial geology is represented by sandy clays and gravels.

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

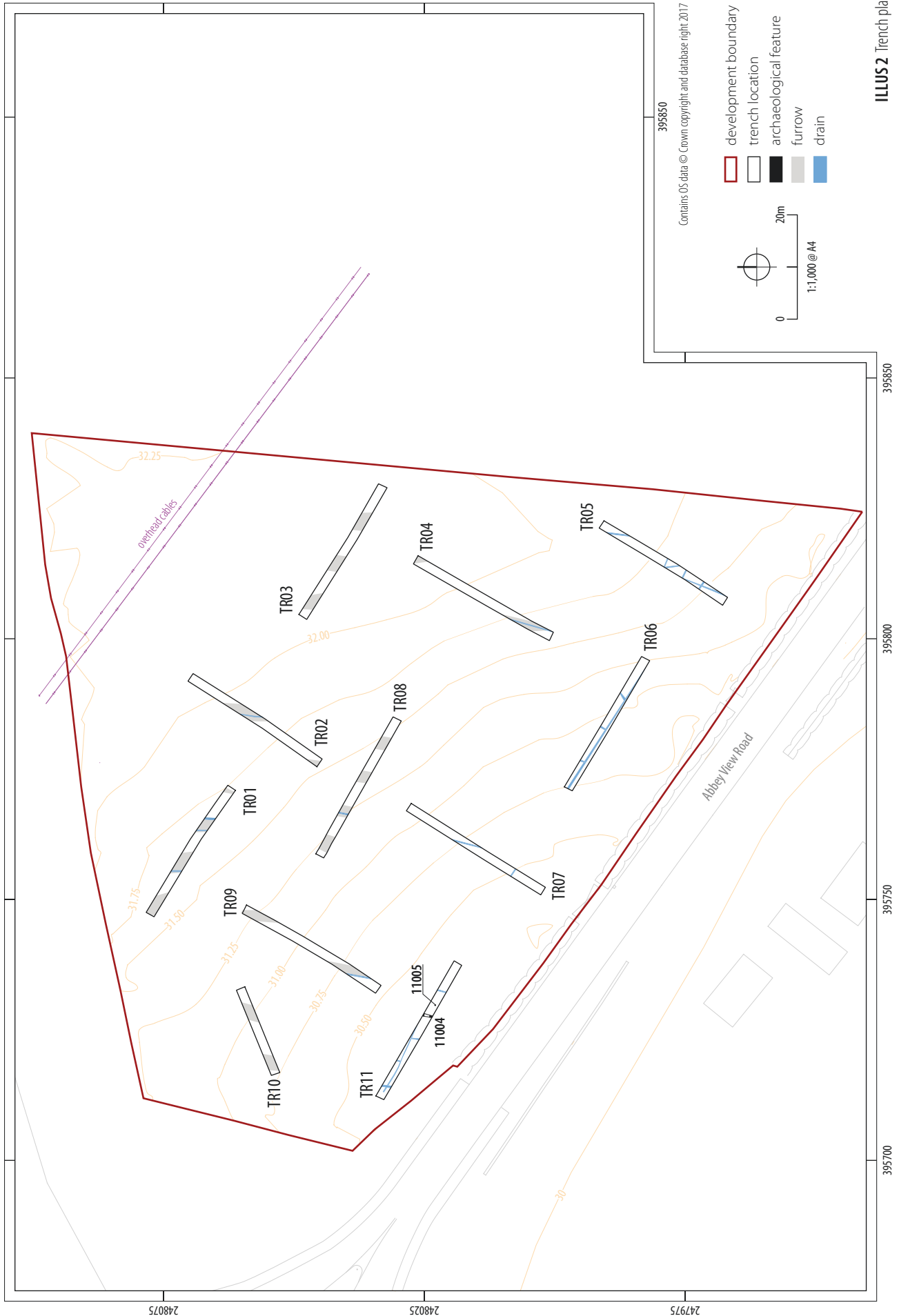
The proposed development site is situated adjacent to the line of a postulated Saxon road (WSM30402), approximately coincident with the A44 and a Bronze Age cemetery (WSM38130), identified during the construction of the Wyre Piddle Bypass. Fieldwalking in 1995 resulted in a number of finds ranging in date from the prehistoric through to post-medieval. Numerous examples of ridge and furrow cultivation have also been identified across the surrounding area. Thus, the development site was considered to be an area of archaeological potential.

2 METHOD

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken between 28th and 30th March 2017. Trenches were distributed to ensure a good representative coverage of the whole site and comprised a 4% sample of the area. Of the eleven trenches excavated, ten measured 30m long x 1.8m wide and, the remaining trench measuring 18m long and 1.8m wide. The trenches were opened using a tracked mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under direct archaeological supervision. Machine excavation reduced the overburden in spits down to the natural geological horizon, with the spoil being stored beside the trench.

On completion of the machine excavation, all faces of the trenches that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools where required. The stratigraphic sequence was recorded in full in each of the trenches, even where no archaeological deposits were identified.

All recording followed CIfA and County Standards and Guidance, using pro forma record cards. The photographic record comprised 35mm monochrome negatives, supplemented by a full digital photographic record of the work using a minimum 7.2mp camera.



ILLUS 2 Trench plan



ILLUS 3 Trench 1; looking north-west with furrow in foreground **ILLUS 4** Trench 1; south-west facing section **ILLUS 5** Trench 8; south-east facing section through furrow (08003)

Plans of all the trenches excavated during the evaluation were drawn on pro forma Trench record sheets at an appropriate scale, and surveyed using a Trimble dGPS. All plans and drawings were related to the National Grid and Ordnance Datum.

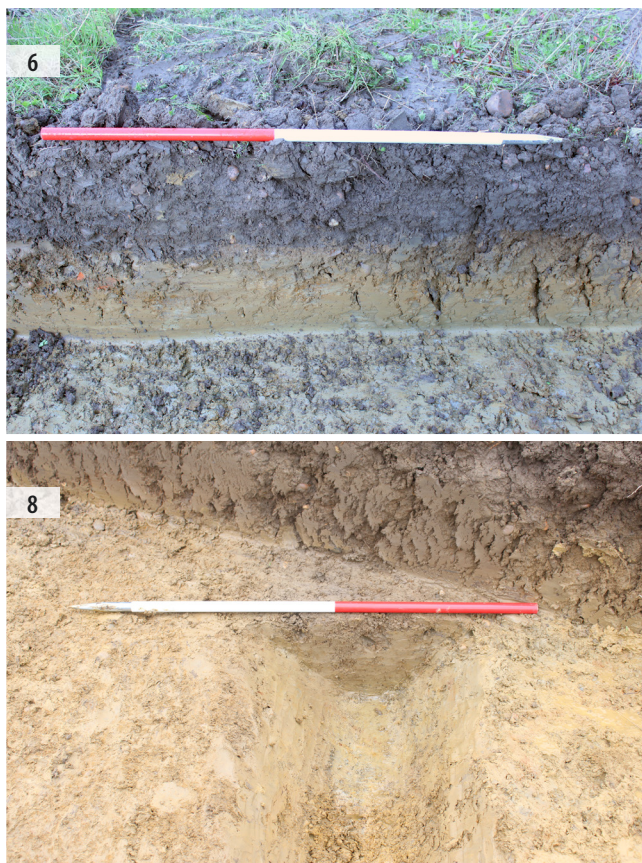
3 RESULTS

Full trench and context descriptions are presented in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Illus 3 and 4) measured 30m long and 1.8m wide and was located toward the north-western corner of the site on a northwest-southeast orientation. The natural geology (01002) was represented by mottled orange and buff clay-sands with sporadic

areas of rounded gravels, encountered at a depth of 0.30m below the current ground surface (BGS). The deposit was truncated by the remains of four, north-south aligned, linear features measuring up to 3.0 m wide. The features were interpreted as the remains of furrows (01003). In at least two cases the furrows were truncated by modern land drains on the same alignment. The overlying topsoil (01001) was composed of a 0.30m deep sandy, humic, mid-dark brown material with a moderate number of pebbles throughout its matrix. It had an unusually sharp interface with the underlying natural layer and there was no evidence of a subsoil being present.

Trench 2 was located to the south-east of Trench 1, aligned northeast-southwest and measured 30m long and 1.8m wide. The same clay-sand deposit with pebbles (02002), forming the natural geology, as



ILLUS 6 Trench 7; north-west facing section showing subsoil (07002) **ILLUS 7** Trench 6; looking south-east showing land drains **ILLUS 8** Trench 11; south facing section of former field boundary [11004]

observed in Trench 1 was identified. Evidence of recent agricultural activity, in the form of plough scars was encountered in less gravelly areas of the trench. Two examples of the same north-south aligned system of furrows (02003) were present, as were land drains. The uppermost horizon was, again, formed of mid-dark brown humic topsoil (02001) with a sharp interface with the natural.

To the south-east of Trench 2, Trench 3 was positioned near to the northern and eastern site boundaries, on a northwest-southeast alignment. Its stratigraphic sequence remained the same as in Trench 3, the natural cut by three furrows (03003).

Trench 4 was located to the south of Trench 3 and was aligned approximately northeast-southwest. The stratigraphic sequence in this trench differed from those previously described. The natural at the southern end of the trench comprised a much finer, more plastic clay than the sandy and pebbly matrix identified at its northern end, the alteration coinciding with a gentle downward slope. Evidence of furrows (04003) and land drainage was revealed, truncating its surface. A 0.20m deep, buff coloured, sandy clay subsoil (04004) was also encountered in association with the slope, which sealed the natural at the southern end of the trench. This was, in turn, overlain by the 0.30m thick, humic topsoil (04001).

Trench 5 was on the same northeast-southwest alignment as Trench 4, positioned just to its south-east. The stratigraphic sequence was generally unchanged compared with Trench 4, except that the subsoil horizon (05002) was present throughout the entire trench;

evidence of the network of ceramic land drains was, however, markedly increased and no evidence of furrows was identified. Unusually, the cuts of the land drains themselves were not visible in the subsoil, rather they were encountered directly beneath it. Topsoil (05001) formed the 0.30m deep upper stratigraphic unit.

The same sequence was observed in Trenches 6 and 7 (Illus 6 and 7), which revealed the continuation of the land drainage system observed in Trench 5. Each was 0.60m deep and were positioned on northwest-southeast and northeast-southwest alignments respectively.

Trench 8 (Illus 5) was located to the north-east of Trench 7, at the approximate centre of the site, oriented northwest-southeast. The soil horizons encountered reflected the same pattern as the trenches around the northern portions of the site. The natural (08002) was encountered at a depth of 0.30m BGS and was truncated by four large furrows. The furrow at the western end of the trench (08003) was investigated, revealing a shallow, 0.20m deep, gently sloping concave profile. The surface deposit of topsoil (08001) had the same remarkably sharp interface with the lower stratigraphic unit.

Positioned to the north-west, Trench 9 was aligned northeast-southwest and revealed the, now familiar sequence of sandy-clay natural (09002), cut by furrows (09003) and sealed by the 0.30m thick, sharply contrasting topsoil layer (09001).

Measuring 18m long, Trench 10 was located toward the centre of the western site boundary and aligned almost exactly northeast-

southwest. It contained evidence of two furrows (10003) within the same stratigraphic sequence as Trenches 8 and 9.

Trench 11 was located in the south-western corner of the site, parallel with the southern site boundary. The natural clays (11001) were revealed at a depth of 0.64 BGS and were cut by not only a network of land drains, but also a north-south aligned ditch [11004] (Illus 8) and a small post-hole [11005]. Both the features appeared to be cut through the layer of subsoil (11002) that was encountered across the southern part of the site. The ditch measured 0.53m wide and at its interface with the natural had relatively steeply sloping sides and a narrow, concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of mid-brown sandy clay (11006), with charcoal flecks occurring occasionally throughout its matrix. The sub-rectangular post hole, located 2.20m to its south-east, was filled with a similar deposit (11007), from which a small fragment of modern ceramic building material was recovered. It measured 0.20m long, 0.15m wide and 0.17m deep, with near vertical sides and a flattened base. Numerous land drains could be seen throughout the trench.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The only archaeological features identified on the site were the remains of a system of ridge and furrow cultivation, seemingly isolated to the northern and central part of the site. The ditch features and the nearby post-hole appeared to represent the remains of a relict field boundary visible on aerial imagery from the 1940s. Interestingly, the sharp interface of the topsoil with the natural in the northern part of the site and the non-visible cuts in the subsoil horizon associated with the land drainage at the southern side, may indicate that the site had already been subject to some sort of landscaping; perhaps associated with the construction of the bypass road. With the exception of the furrows and the relatively recent field boundary features, no further archaeological features or deposits were encountered as a result of the trial trenching.

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6 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 TRENCH AND CONTEXT REGISTER

DBGL = Depth below ground level

TR01	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	NW – SE	30.0	1.80	0.30
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			DBGL (M)
01001	Topsoil – Mid-brown humic clay sand with pebbles			0.00 – 0.30
01002	Natural – Mottled orange and buff sandy clay with gravel, sharp interface with topsoil.			0.30 +
01003	4 furrows, appx 3m wide crossing trench on N-S alignment			0.30+

Summary: Trench near NW corner of field, contains furrows and land drains aligned N-S

TR02	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	NE – SW	30.0	1.80	0.30
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			DBGL (M)
02001	Topsoil – Mid-brown humic clay sand with pebbles			0.00–0.30
02002	Natural – Mottled orange and buff sandy clay with gravel, sharp interface with topsoil. Some plough scarring at surface.			0.30+
02003	2 furrows, appx 3m wide crossing trench on N-S alignment			0.30+

Summary: Trench located on northern edge of site, approximately central. Contains furrows and land drains.

TR03	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	NW-SE	30.0	1.80	0.30
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			DBGL (M)
03001	Topsoil – Mid-brown humic clay sand with pebbles			0.00–0.30
03002	Natural – Mottled orange and buff sandy clay with gravel, sharp interface with topsoil. Some plough scarring at surface			0.30+
03003	3 furrows, appx 3m wide crossing trench on N-S alignment			0.30+

Summary: Trench located on north-eastern edge of site, near northern boundary. Contains furrows and land drains.

TR04	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	NE – SW	30.0	1.80	0.5
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			DBGL (M)
04001	Topsoil – Mid-brown humic clay sand with pebbles			0.00–0.30
04002	Subsoil – Orange – browns clay sand with patches of rounded pebbles			0.30–0.50
04003	2 furrows, appx 3m wide crossing trench on N-S alignment			0.50 +
04004	Natural – Mottled orange and buff sandy clay with gravel, sharp interface with topsoil.			0.50 +

Summary: Trench located on eastern side of site, approximately central. Contains furrows and land drains. Subsoil encountered which increases in depth as trench progresses southwards.

TR05	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	NE – SW	30.0	1.80	0.5
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			DBGL (M)
05001	Topsoil – Mid-brown humic clay sand with pebbles			0.00–0.30
05002	Subsoil – Yellow-brown clay sand with frequent rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks			0.30–0.50
05003	Natural – Mixed orange and buff sandy clay with gravel, sharp interface with topsoil.			0.50 +

Summary: Trench located near south-eastern corner of site, Contains multiple ceramic land drains, sealed by subsoil with no visible cut in subsoil.

TR06	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	NE – SW	30.0	1.80	0.5
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			DBGL (M)
06001	Topsoil – Mid-brown humic clay sand with pebbles			0.00–0.30
06002	Subsoil – Orange – brown clay sand with patches of rounded pebbles			0.30–0.50
06003	Natural – Mottled orange and buff sandy clay with gravel, sharp interface with topsoil.			0.50 +

Summary: Trench located near southern site boundary near eastern corner. Contains multiple ceramic land drains sealed by subsoil, no visible cut in subsoil.

TR07	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	NW-SE	30.0	1.80	0.45
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			DBGL (M)
07001	Topsoil – Mid-brown humic clay sand with pebbles			0.00–0.30
07002	Subsoil – yellowish-brown sand clay with patches of rounded pebbles and flecks of charcoal, quite plastic compared with topsoil			0.30–0.45
07003	Natural – Mottled orange and buff sandy clay with gravel, sharp interface with topsoil.			0.45 +

Summary: Trench located near southern site boundary, roughly central. Contains land drains sealed by subsoil, no visible cut in subsoil. Subsoil increases in depth as trench progresses southwards.

TR08	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	NE-SW	30.0	1.80	0.30
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			DBGL (M)
08001	Topsoil – Mid-brown humic clay sand with pebbles			0.00–0.30
08002	Natural – Mottled orange and buff sandy clay with frequent gravel; becomes finer grained clay to northern end with large patches of bright orange sand. Sharp interface with topsoil.			0.30+

08003 4 furrows, appx 3m wide crossing trench on N-S alignment. 1 at western end investigated. Furrow has gently sloping sides and concave base and contains single light brown silty clay sand deposit with occasional charcoal flecking. Survives to depth of 0.20m

Summary: Trench located toward western boundary, roughly centrally located. Contains furrows and land drains. 1 furrow investigated.

11007 Mid-brownish grey sandy clay with occasional pebbles. Small fragment of modern ceramic recovered. Single fill of post hole [11006]

Summary: Trench located near southern site boundary, toward south-western corner of site. Contains land drains and a single linear feature on N-S alignment, cut through subsoil. Single posthole to east probably represents associated fence line.

TR09	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	NE-SW	30.0	1.80	0.35
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			DBGL (M)
09001	Topsoil – Mid-brown humic clay sand with pebbles			0.00–0.35
09002	Natural – Mottled orange and buff sandy clay with frequent gravel, becomes finer grained clay to northern end with large patches of bright orange sand. Sharp interface with topsoil.			0.35+
09003	2 furrows, appx 3m wide crossing trench on N-S alignment.			0.35+

Summary: Trench located toward western boundary, roughly centrally located. Contains furrows and land drains. 1 furrow investigated.

TR10	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	NW-SE	18.0	1.80	0.30
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			DBGL (M)
10001	Topsoil – Dark-brown humic clay sand with pebbles. Quite friable.			0.00–0.30
10002	Natural – Yellow clay sand with coarse orange sandy patches and frequent gravel, sharp interface with topsoil.			0.30+
10003	2 furrows, appx 3m wide crossing trench on N-S alignment			0.30+

Summary: Trench located toward western site boundary, roughly central. Contains furrows and land drains.

TR11	ORIENTATION	L (M)	W (M)	AV. D (M)
	NW-SE	30.0	1.80	0.60
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION			DBGL (M)
11001	Topsoil – Mid-brown humic clay sand with pebbles			0.00–0.30
11002	Subsoil – orange-brown sand clay with patches of rounded pebbles and flecks of charcoal.			0.30–0.60
11003	Natural – bright yellow with grey mottling and sandy clay with occasional gravel,			0.60 +
11004	Cut of Linear ditch 0.55m wide and 0.24m deep, aligned roughly N-S. Steeply sloping sides and concave base. Cut through subsoil; almost certainly represents former field boundary of modern origin.			0.30–0.84
11005	Cut of small sub-rectangular post hole, 0.15m wide, 0.17m deep and 0.20m long. Locate to south-east of ditch [11004]. Single fill contained modern ceramic. Probably part of fence line associated with ditch [11004]			0.60– 0.77
11006	Mid-brownish grey sandy clay with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks. Single fill of ditch [11005]			0.30–0.84



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