

RSMB17



LAND AT THORNBROOK HOUSE AND ROYLANDS, STOKE MANDEVILLE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
PLANNING REF. 16/04243/AOP

commissioned by Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP)
on behalf of Mr and Mrs Bartman

February 2018

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Archaeological field evaluation, via trial trenching, was undertaken by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd on Land at Thornbrook House and Roylands, Stoke Mandevile, Buckinghamshire. Agricultural use of the land was identified in the form of field boundary ditches and shallow drainage ditches. A complex of intercutting ditches in the north-west of the site suggested more intensive agricultural use of the land in this area, possibly forming the southern extent of a wider co-axial type or gridded field system. There was a distinct lack of dateable material from the majority of features, with topsoil and subsoil deposits also devoid of residual artefacts of any period, including recent material. Former ridge and furrow agriculture were also attested in two fields.

The evidence of evaluation suggests that the land lay away from the focus of settlement of any historic period and had been utilised as agricultural land for a protracted period.

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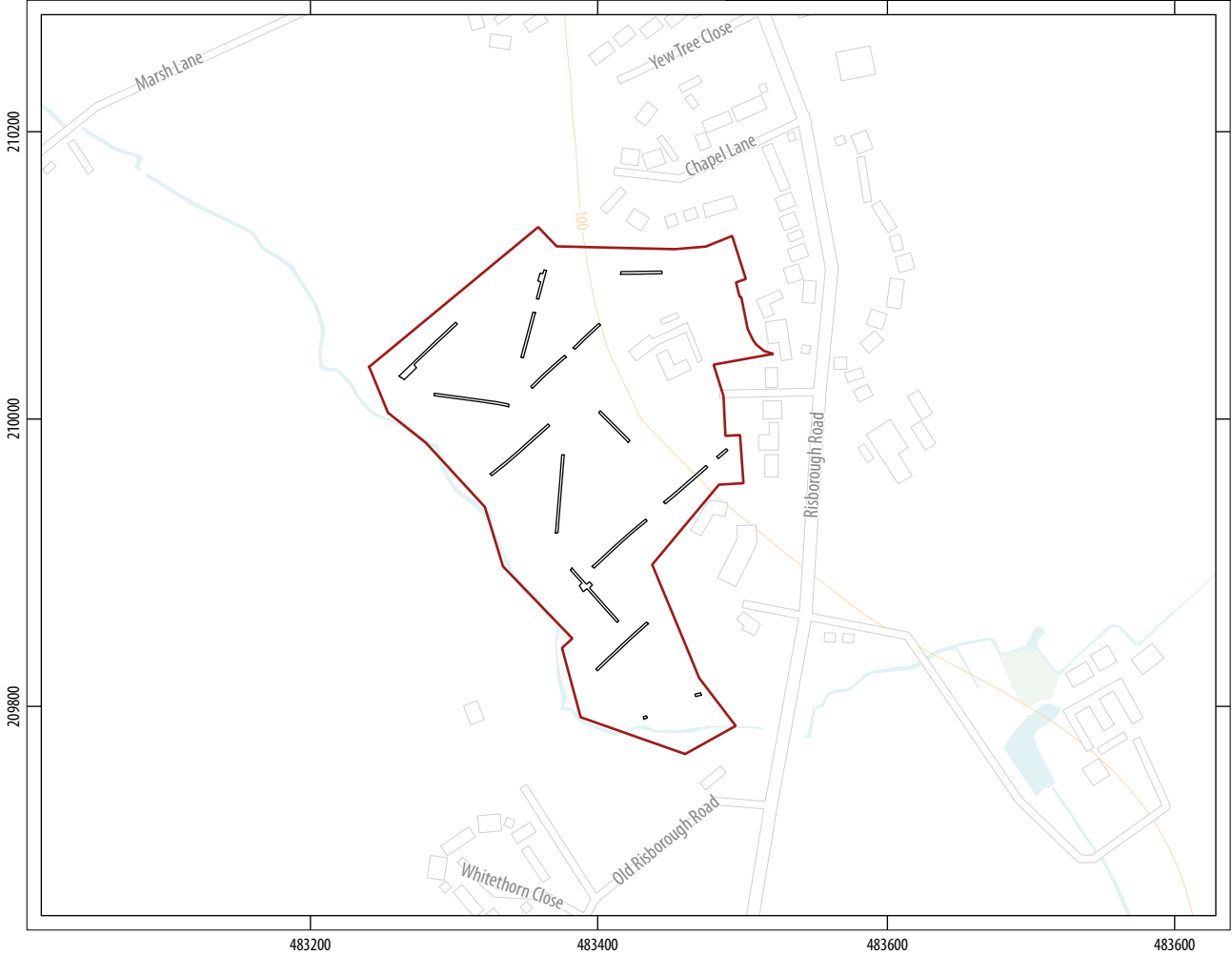
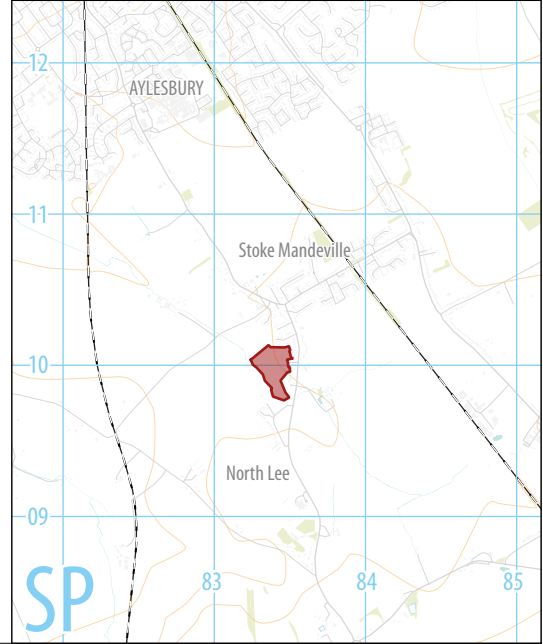
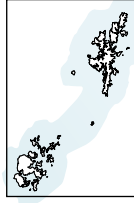
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Land adjacent to Risborough Road
Stoke Mandeville
Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire

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



0 100m
1:5,000 @ A4

development boundary
trench location

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LAND AT THORNBROOK HOUSE AND ROYLANDS, STOKE MANDEVILLE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological site investigation on land at Thornbrook House and Roylands, Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire. Headland Archaeology was commissioned by the Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), acting on behalf of the client, Mr and Mrs Bartman, to carry out trial trench evaluation of five pasture fields, hereafter referred to as the proposed development area (PDA).

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The client is proposing residential development of the site. Headland Archaeology was commissioned by the client, through their agents, EDP, to carry out the archaeological works as part of a phased planning condition attached to 16/04243/AOP.

A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by Headland Archaeology (Thomson 2017) and approved by the Archaeological Advisor. All works were undertaken in accordance with this document.

1.2 SITE LOCATION, DESCRIPTION AND SETTING (ILLUS 1)

The PDA is located at the southern extent of Stoke Mandeville and lies c 3.5km south of Aylesbury and 3.5km north-west of Wendover, Buckinghamshire (Illus 1). It measures a total of c 6.7 hectares (ha) in area, consisting of five pasture fields and is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 83437 09981.

The topography slopes gradually from the north and west to the south and south-east and lies between 95m and 101m AOD. The

northern fields lie on generally more level ground at 100–101m AOD. The survey area is bounded to the west by a brook, to the north by pasture and fields and residential housing, with Risborough Road to the east and south. A narrow, level floodplain lies in the south of the site in the area around the brook.

The solid geology of the PDA belongs to the Gault and Upper Greensand formations comprising mudstone, siltstone and sandstone, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 94 to 113 million years ago during the Cretaceous period (NERC 2017). The local environment was previously dominated by shallow seas. No superficial geological deposits are recorded.

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological background of the PDA has been detailed in the desk-based assessment (DBA) (Gilmore and Oakley 2016). The results of this are briefly summarised here. The DBA identified that the site does not contain any designated heritage assets such as scheduled monuments, listed buildings, historic parks and gardens or registered battlefields.

Within a 1km study area of the site, a number of artefact find-spots were identified on the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record. No records relate to find-spots or identified archaeological remains within the PDA.

Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flint finds have been recorded in the PDA environs resulting from field-walking. Iron Age pottery is also recorded north-west of the site (HER MBC22245 and MBC14565) with two coins found in the parish in 1865 (HER MBC31986 and MBC 5291) though the location of the latter is unknown.

Romano-British pottery has been recovered during field-walking south-west of the site (HER MBC20326) with ditches, pits and a cremation burial of the period identified 0.7km to the south (HER MBC33477 and MBC33478). A possible enclosure of the period lies some 0.65km south-east of the PDA.

Medieval occupation is evidenced in the form of a deserted medieval village (DMV) consisting of earthworks some 0.7km south-east (HER MBC2955). A second possible medieval settlement site is also recorded 0.9km north-west (HER MBC3378). Moated sites are identified within a 1km radius of the PDA and numerous find-spots are also detailed on the Buckingham HER though none within the boundaries of the site.

The desk-based assessment concluded that the site lay outwith the main focus of settlement during the medieval and post-medieval periods and was under agricultural usage through these and the modern periods.

Geophysical survey of the site (Sykes 2017) identified geological and ferrous anomalies, with disturbance likely resulting from more modern activity. The report concluded that the archaeological potential of the site was low.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In general, the purpose of the evaluation is to provide sufficient evidence for confident prediction of the impact of the development proposal by establishing the extent, nature and importance of any heritage assets within the affected area.

The archaeological investigations will be carried out in order to:

- › assess extent, layout, structure and date of features and deposits of archaeological interest; and
- › place, where possible, the identified features within their local and regional context.

The regional research context is provided in the Solent Thames Research Framework (Hey and Hind 2014). Specific questions from this framework will be analysed in relation to the evidence recovered from the evaluation.

The results of the evaluation will be used to describe the significance of heritage assets potentially affected by the development, allowing the planning authority to make an informed assessment of any potential impacts on the historic environment in line with Paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

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

3 METHOD

The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the above mentioned WSI and method statement and in accordance with the following documents:

- › Code of Conduct (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014a)
- › Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014b)

Trenches were excavated using a 14.5tonne, tracked 360° mechanical excavator, fitted with a bladed bucket, to depths where archaeological features were identified or geological deposits encountered.

Thirteen trenches (11 measuring 50m x 2.00m and 2 measuring 25 x 2.00m) were located and staked-out using a dGPS across the five fields to provide an approximately 2% representative sample of the site (Illus 2). The archaeological works were carried out between the 8th and 12th January 2018. Prior to excavation, utility plans were consulted and a cable avoidance tool was used to check for the presence of potential buried services. Due to the location of public footpaths identified on site, Trenches 2, 3 and 13 were each excavated in two segments to preserve the integrity of the public rights of way.

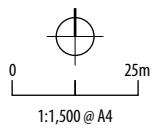
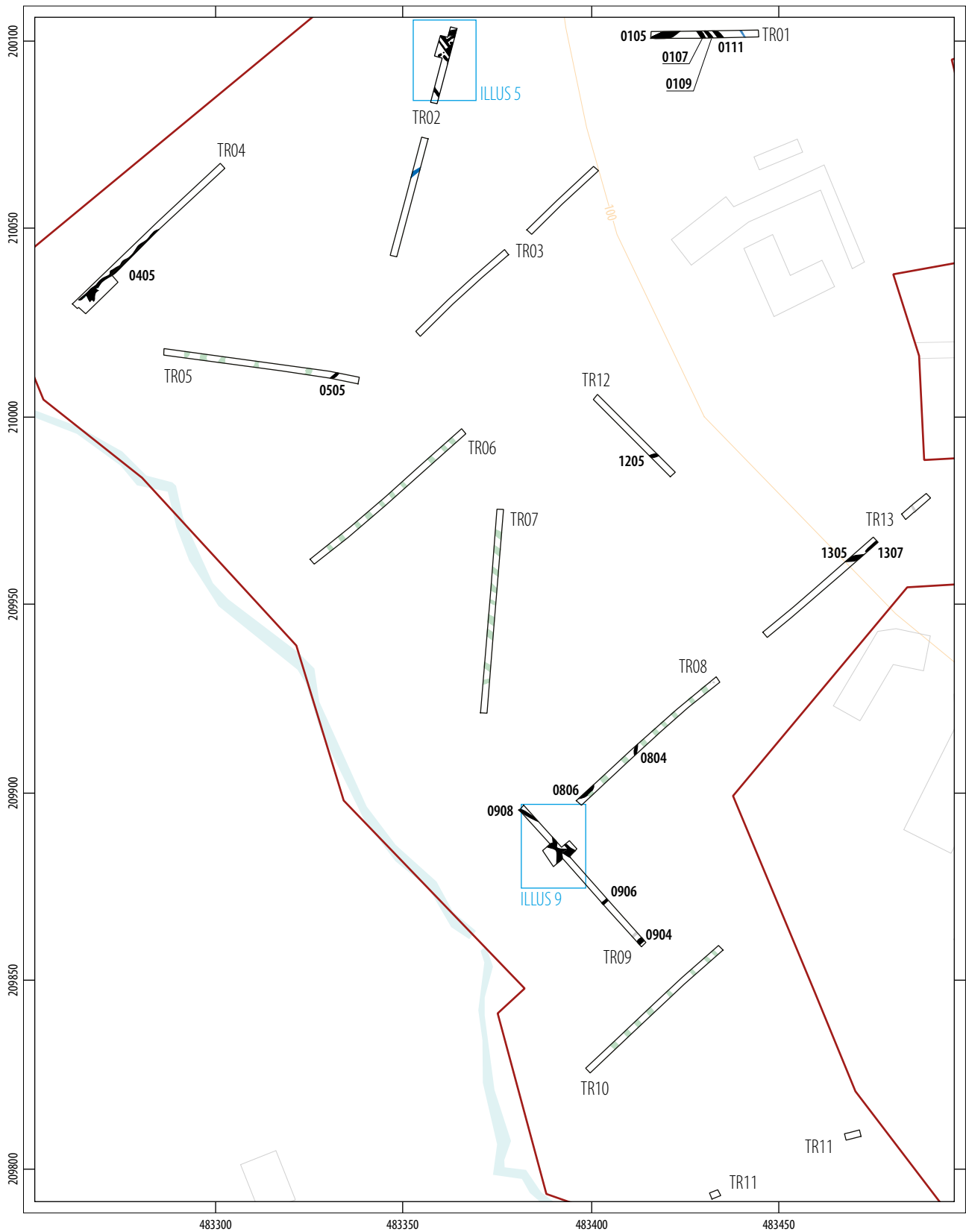
On commencement of excavation in Trench 11, a large deposit of asbestos fibre cement was identified, buried at 0.40/0.50m below ground level, approximately 5m from the north-west end of the trench. Excavation ceased at this point with only a further 5m segment of the trench excavated at the south-east end to check stratigraphic sequences. The lost metre-age from the trench (approx. 30 linear metres) was variably added to other trenches across the site to maintain the overall sample percentage.

In agreement with the archaeological advisor and consultant, a contingency to the original excavation was activated to extend Trenches 2, 4 and 9, to further expose and assist in the understanding of exposed archaeological features in those areas. The use of machine sondages was also agreed where appropriate and was utilised in relation to a deposit in Trench 9 to assist understanding and potentially aid recovery of dateable material.

Exposed archaeological remains were recorded on Headland Archaeology pro forma record sheets and a representative sample of features identified was subsequently excavated by hand to determine form, function and retrieve dateable material. Following formal recording of features, further rapid hand excavation was undertaken to attempt to recover dateable material where appropriate.

Drawings of archaeological remains and the general stratigraphy of the site were produced at a scale of 1:10 where appropriate or digitally surveyed.

All recording followed standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). The recorded contexts were assigned unique numbers and recording was undertaken on Headland Archaeology pro forma trench and context record sheets. Digital and black and white photographs were taken of all trenches and identified features, with a graduated metric scale clearly visible. An overall site plan of the trenches and recorded features was digitally produced. Digital surveying was undertaken using a Trimble dGPS system.



- development boundary
- trench location
- archaeological feature
- ridge and furrow
- modern feature
- land drain



ILLUS 3 Stratigraphic sequence Trench 11 – south-east facing view **ILLUS 4** General view of ditches [0107, 0109, 0111], looking east

4 RESULTS

Results are presented below by trench with a preceding summary and description of the general stratigraphy across the entire site. Archaeological remains were generally encountered between 0.40 and 0.50m below ground level with the exception of Trench 9 where alluvium was encountered to 0.80–0.90m below ground level.

A summary of trenches and recorded contexts is presented as Appendix 1, with a finds assessment as Appendix 2.

4.1 GENERAL STRATIGRAPHY

The soil profile across the site displayed general consistency with a 0.20–0.25m topsoil overlying a 0.20–0.30m subsoil deposit. The topsoil and subsoil deposits displayed a diffuse interface indicative of a lack of extensive ploughing for some protracted period of time. A paucity of residual finds of any periods was also noted through both topsoil and subsoil deposits.

To the extreme south of the site in the vicinity of Trenches, 9, 10 and 11, alluvial deposits were identified below the subsoil. In Trench 11, made ground was observed below the turf line, with the former topsoil horizon identified below this (Illus 3). Identification of a substantial amount of asbestos fibre cement resulted in the abandonment of Trench 11.

Remnants of former ridge and furrow agricultural remains were identified in Trenches 6, 7, 8 and 10 (Illus 2). The furrows were visible as a banded crop-mark across the southern field and were oriented broadly east-west, turning to the south-east in the vicinity of Trench 10. The tops of the furrows were visible at the interface between top and subsoils during machine excavation. The furrows measured an approximate average of 1.30m wide and were spaced approximately 2.50 to 3.00m apart.

In Trench 5, remnants of a further ridge and furrow system, broadly north-south oriented were identified, more ephemeral than that to the east. The furrows measured approximately 1.50m wide and appeared to be spaced at approximately 4 to 5m intervals.

4.2 TRENCH 1

Located in the north of the site, 4 linear features were identified within the trench. Towards the centre of the trench, 3 parallel, east-west oriented ditch cuts were recorded, spaced between 0.78 and 0.88m apart (Illus 4). A section through the central ditch [0109] revealed it be 0.90m wide and 0.27m deep containing a single fill (0108) which appeared to be a slight gley, suggesting seasonally fluctuating water levels. A small quantity of animal bone fragments was noted in (0108) but not retained. The two ditches parallel to [0109], [0107 and 1011] were recorded in plan and measured 1.17 and 1.20m wide respectively. The fills appeared to be of the same character as (0108). The ditches were interpreted as likely to represent re-establishing of part of a field system and drainage ditch.

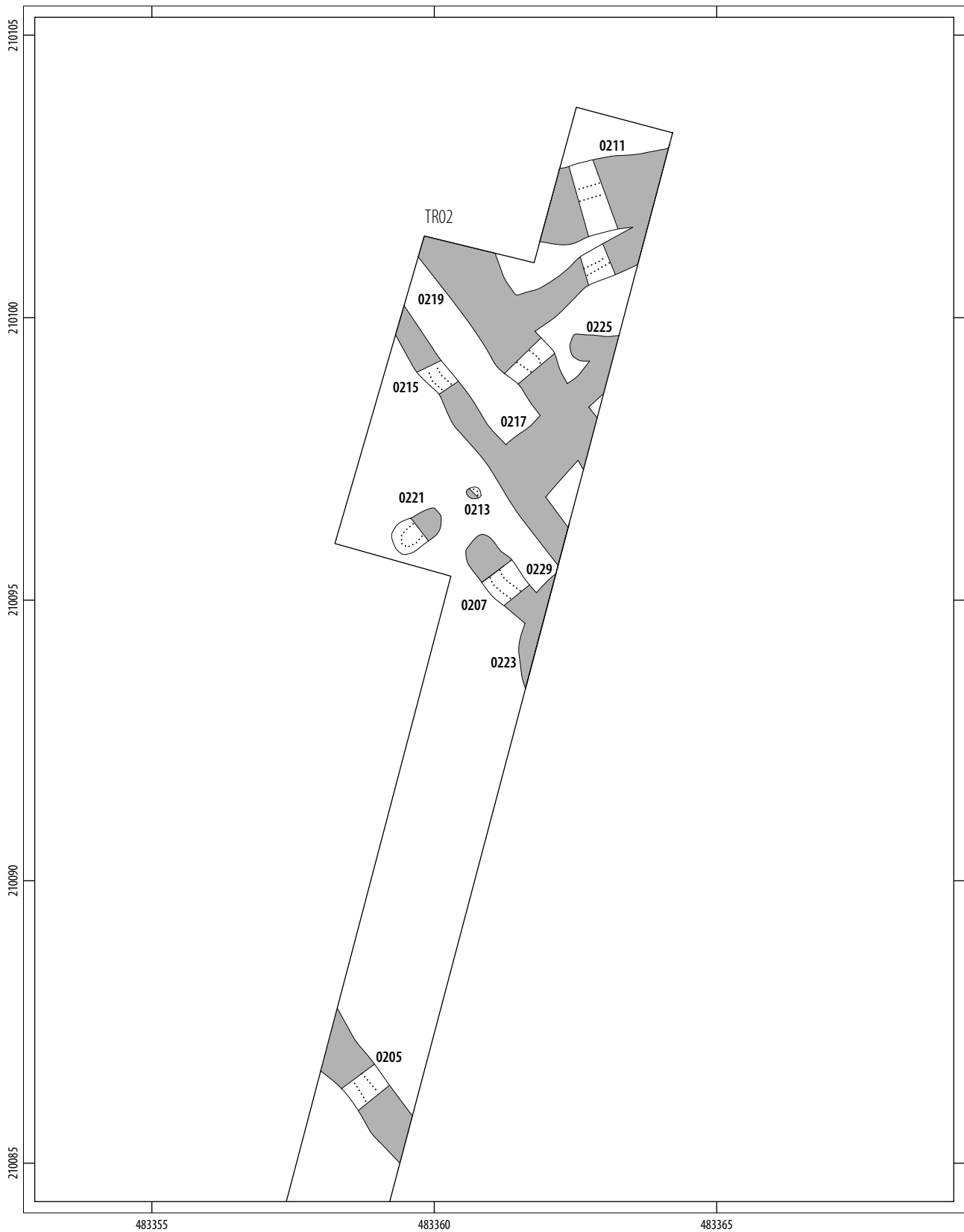
In the west end of the trench, a 3m wide ditch cut [0105] was recorded oriented north-east/south-west. The ditch was observed as a shallow earthwork depression within the field and represented a substantial former, relatively recent field boundary. A single sherd of pottery of 12th – 14th century date recovered from the upper fill of the ditch (0104).

4.3 TRENCH 2 (ILLUS 5)

Located to the north-west of the site, Trench 2 was subject to extension to further explicate the nature of the remains identified. This revealed a series of intercutting north-east/south-west and north-west/south-east oriented ditches (Illus 5 and 6). Physical relationships between the ditches were not investigated due to the limited exposure of the features.

Ditch [0205] was the southernmost of the identified features, measuring 0.77m wide and 0.19m deep and oriented north-west/south-east. On the same alignment, were ditches [0207, 0215 and 0219], measuring 0.65 x 0.21m, 0.47 x 0.11m and 0.92 x 0.34m respectively.

Ditch [0207] terminated within the trench at its north-west extent whilst [0215] was observed to continue beyond the limit of excavation. Both ditches were shallow and likely truncated by later agricultural activity. Ditch [0219] was the more substantial on this orientation with a relatively steep 'V' shape profile (Illus 7), suggesting that this may have been a more substantial field boundary.



All of the ditches were filled with deposits of a similar character, a semi-gley, mid-grey silty clay containing flint gravel and rare charcoal fragments (eg [0204, 0214]) suggesting seasonally fluctuating water levels, indicating a probable primary function for the ditches of drainage. No dateable artefactual material was recovered from what was relatively sterile, lower energy gradually sedimented fills.

Oriented north-east/south-west, four further ditches [0209, 0211, 0217 and 0227] were recorded.

Ditch [0211] was the largest of these, measuring 1.35m wide and 0.30m deep, displaying a broad, 'U' shape profile. The ditch appeared to curve towards a potential terminus at its southwestern extent, just beyond the trench edge. It also shared a relationship with a narrow 0.63m wide x 0.19m deep ditch [0209], lying immediately south. The two ditches merged just before the eastern trench edge.

Ditch [0217] was recorded in plan, measuring 0.45m wide and had a physical relationship with both ditches [0215 and 0219]. The south-west extent of the ditch appeared to terminate within or was truncated by [0215], where the deposit suggested a possible second cut [0227] as it appeared to widen to 1.10m. It is possible that, alternately, this represented a bulbous terminal end, only further investigation could explicate this.

Oriented east-west, the possible terminal end of a further ditch [0225] measuring 0.38m wide was also recorded in plan. A physical relationship with [0217] was observed.

The fills of the ditches were of the same character as the north-west/south-east oriented ditches, with no dateable material recovered.

Partially exposed against the eastern trench edge, [0223 and 0229] represented the probable northern and southern parts of the same feature, appearing to curve from the north-east. A physical relationship existed with ditch [0207]. The nature of the partially exposed feature remains indeterminate.

An oval shaped feature [0221] and small sub-circular feature [0223] were also investigated and identified as probable bio-turbation.

4.4 TRENCH 5

Towards the northern end of the trench, a ditch [0505] (Illus 2), measuring 0.72m wide x 0.52m deep was oriented north-east/southwest and displayed a shallow 'U' shaped profile. A fragment of tile, possibly of medieval date was recovered from (0504).

A series of broadly spaced, approximately 1.5m wide, linear features identified the ephemeral remnants of a ridge and furrow agricultural system oriented north-south (Illus 2).

4.5 TRENCH 7

Oriented broadly east-west, ditch [0705] (Illus 2) measured 0.87m wide and 0.19m deep and contained a single homogeneous mid-grey silty clay fill (0704). Some 20m south of this, a further linear feature [0707] was recorded in plan and interpreted as a ditch. The

fill (0706) displayed similar characteristics to (0704). No dateable material was recovered from either feature.

4.6 TRENCH 8

Oriented north-south and measuring 0.76m wide and 0.14m deep, a shallow ditch [0804] contained a semi-gleyed greyish brown silty clay fill (0805) (Illus 8). Partially exposed within the southern end of the trench, a further feature (0806) was recorded in plan, cut by later ridge and furrow. Too little of the feature was exposed to provide full interpretation or investigation.

4.7 TRENCH 9 (ILLUS 9)

Two north-east/south-west oriented ditches [0904 and 0906] were recorded in the eastern half of the trench. The ditches measured 1.20 x 0.14 and 0.75 x 0.21m respectively. Both ditches contained a single fill suggestive of gradual sedimentation in seasonally waterlogged conditions. Neither yielded any dateable material.

Extending beyond the western end of the trench, ditch [0908] was oriented broadly east-west and measured 0.59m wide and 0.21m deep. The probable continuation of the ditch was identified in an extension to the central area of the trench as ditch [0914].

Within the extension of the trench, two further linear features were recorded. Measuring a maximum 1.55m wide, a north-south oriented ditch was recorded in plan as [0916 and 0918]. The ditch intersected with a broadly east-west oriented linear through which a section was placed on the western side [0910] revealing it to be 1.40m wide and 0.25m deep. A sondage on the eastern side of the intersection [0912] revealed a similar broad, shallow profile.

A flint scraper, of prehistoric provenance, was recovered from the surface of ditch [0910]. A single, fragmentary sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the top of the fill of [0913].

A machined sondage within the trench extension evidenced a wide spread of greyish brown silty clay, containing rare charcoal flecks and flint gravel (0919) (Illus 10) which extended beyond the limits of the trench, possibly deriving from slope-wash and run off or an alluvial event.

A more recent or modern ditch was also observed as a shallow extant earthwork depression and its location within the trench was surveyed in plan.

4.8 TRENCH 12

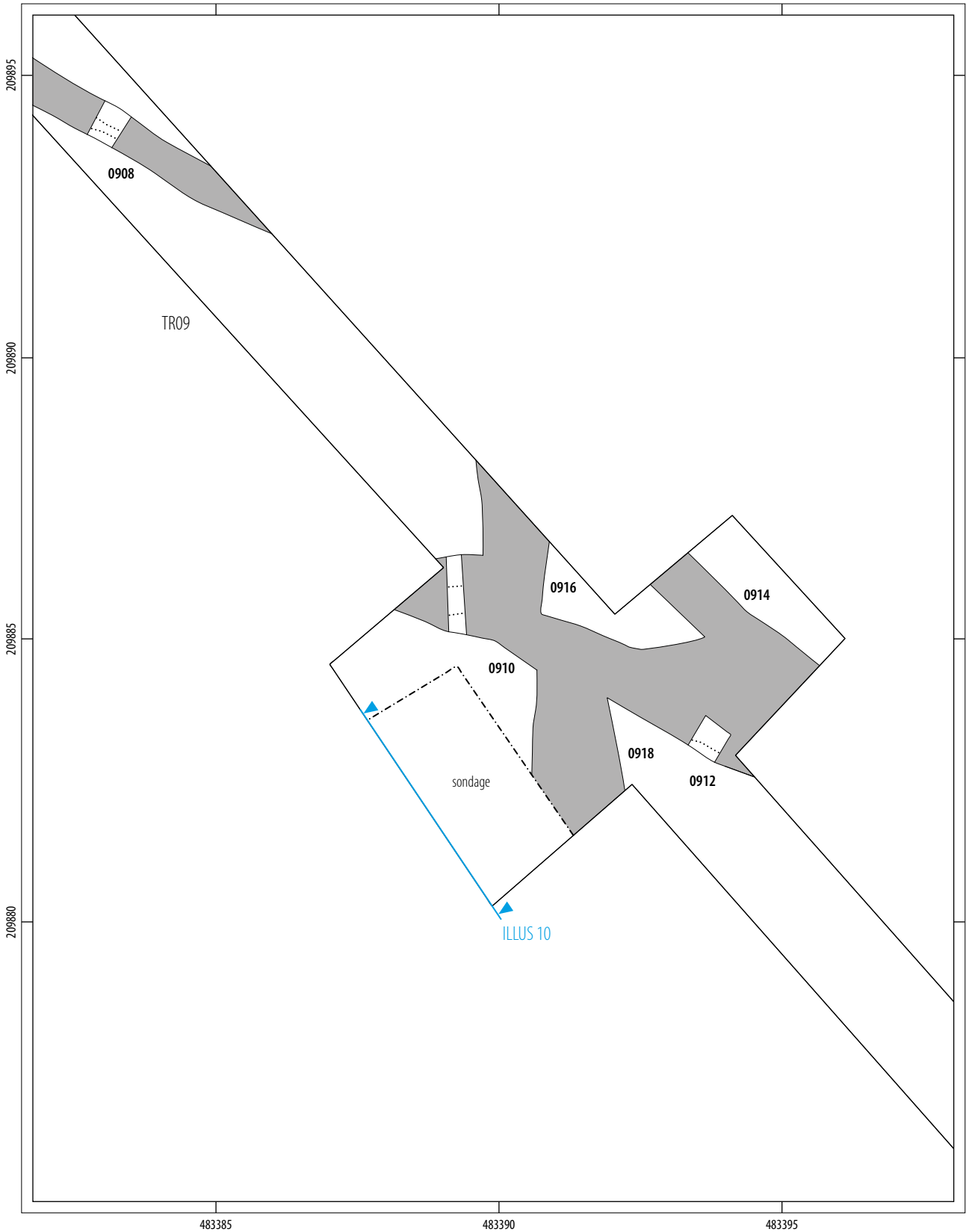
A single linear feature [1205] was recorded in plan, oriented east-west and measuring approximately 0.73m wide. Due to flooding of the trench, the feature was not investigated but is likely to represent a further drainage ditch.

4.9 TRENCH 13

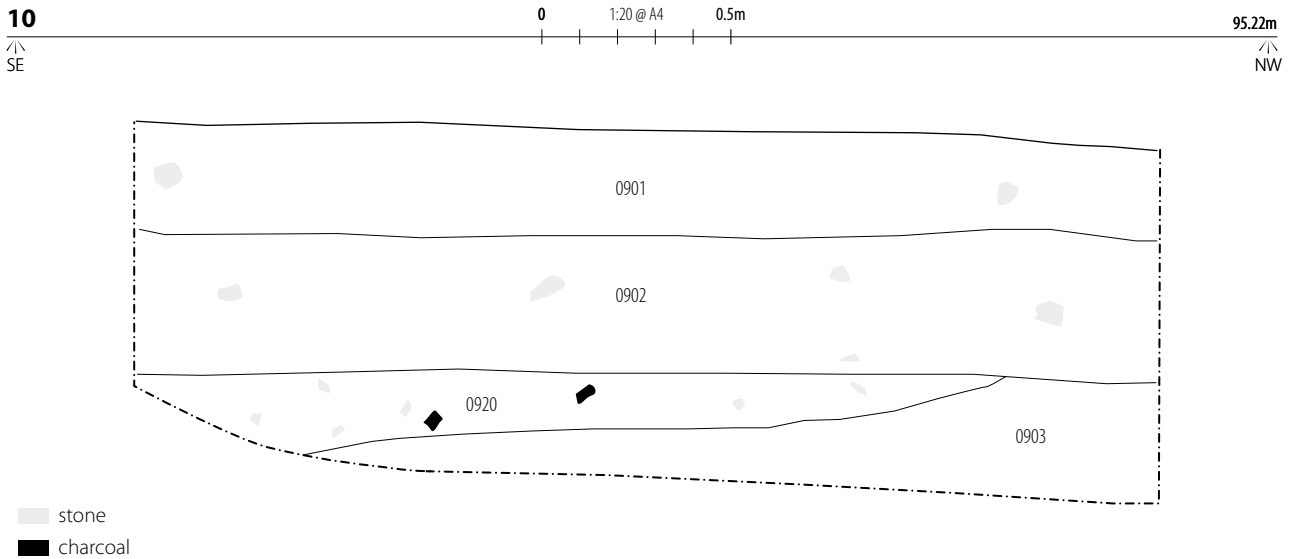
Measuring 1.30m wide and 0.24m deep, a linear cut [1305] (Illus 11) was identified as a ditch and contained a single fill of mid-grey silty clay and gravel (1304). The density of gravel suggested the possible



ILLUS 6 General view of extended area Trench 2 – looking east **ILLUS 7** North-west facing section through [0219] **ILLUS 8** General view [0804] looking north-west, showing water table ingress



ILLUS 9 Plan of Trench 9



ILLUS 10 North-east facing section through deposits Trench 9 **ILLUS 11** View of ditch [1305] looking east

erosion or collapse of up-cast from the ditch, combined with general sedimentation. A single piece of iron hinge, of medieval or later date, was recovered from (1304). Animal bone fragments were also observed within the ditch but not retained.

To the north of [1305] a further narrow, shallow ditch [1307] measuring 0.57m wide and 0.18m deep terminated at its south-western end, continuing beyond the end of the trench to the north-east. A fragment of an iron nail was recovered from the fill of the ditch (1306).

4.10 TRENCHES WITH NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

Trench 3 returned no archaeological remains, with Trench 6 evidencing only ridge and furrow remnants. Within Trench 4, a broadly north-south former hedge-line (0405) was also recorded with the bases of modern posts identified along its line. Trench 10 also contained evidence of ridge and furrow together with track or wheel ruts, associated with a recent track leading from former chicken shed buildings to the east of the trench.



5 DISCUSSION

The most noticeable factor of the evaluation was the paucity of artefactual material associated with identified features and within topsoil and subsoil deposits. The latter was particularly striking with a complete lack of materials usually associated with working of the land in the post-medieval and modern periods (eg glass, ceramics, coal, clay pipe etc) and the artefacts of potential earlier occupation usually distributed through top and subsoils as a result of later working of the land.

The diffuse nature of the interface between top and subsoils strongly suggested a lack of more recent ploughing and surviving crop-mark

ridge and furrow remains, particularly in the south of the site, would also suggest that the fields had been utilised as pasture over an extended period of time. Ploughing of the fields had certainly not occurred over the last 60 years (N Bartman pers comm). The nature of the subsoil, a grey semi-gley, suggested seasonal waterlogging of the soils on the site with relatively impermeable clay gravels underlying this and groundwater intrusion into trenches (even above the flood plain). It may be possible to speculate that the land had been considered as more marginal for an extended time.

The variable orientations of the ditches identified suggest the potential for several phases of land use, with shifting boundaries and changing needs for drainage, potentially in response to changes in

land use and management. The vast majority of features were very shallow, implying a relatively high degree of truncation from later agricultural activity. Later ridge and furrow may have been largely responsible for this, with a degree of colluviation also likely to have occurred in the southern half of the site, where a considerable drop in ordnance datum was observed (eg 2.5m between Trench 12 and 9) towards the southern brook and narrow flood plain. Even taking into account elements of truncation, the majority of ditches are unlikely to have been substantial and would suggest a drainage function, perhaps also sub-dividing larger field systems to assist drainage and land management. However, no overall pattern of orientations can be identified at this stage from which to extrapolate specific field orientations or positions.

The fills of features appeared largely archaeologically sterile, particularly within the south of the site, where even charcoal fragments were generally absent from deposits within ditches. This contrasted with features in the north-west of Trench 2 and within Trench 1 where, whilst still relatively rare, charcoal fragments were more readily observed. The density of ditches, particularly within Trench 2, suggests a greater focus of activity towards this area, with converging drainage and probable field boundaries, possibly demarcating the edge of a more defined area of agricultural activity and potential field systems. The overall paucity of any artefactual material suggesting that this still lay to the periphery of settlement focus. A further absence of any discrete features suggesting occupation or settlement on the land (such as post-holes, pits etc) would also potentially indicate that the site lay away from the focus of settlement.

Artefactual material recovered, whilst providing limited evidence of dating, cannot be securely used to date features. Particularly in relation to Trench 9, the location of the features at the base of a slope and on an alluvial floodplain could equally suggest that these have arisen as a result of secondary deposition. Given the overall paucity of material on the site, this seems a more likely scenario.

However, it may be possible to suggest that agricultural use of the land may have occurred from the Iron Age through to the post-medieval period, with shifting field patterns occurring. Together with evidence of ridge and furrow remains, it seems likely the land has been the focus of agricultural activity.

6 CONCLUSION

Archaeological evaluation of land at Thornbrook House and Roylands, Stoke Mandeville evidenced agricultural use of the land, in the form of largely undated, variably oriented field boundary and drainage ditches, potentially dating from the Iron Age to modern periods. A paucity of artefactual material suggested that the land had not been subject to a density of settlement activity or occupation and lay away from the foci of settlement in the area.

The results of geophysical survey were not substantiated in that ditches recorded during evaluation were not identified by geophysical survey. This is likely to have been due to the composition of fills of features closely matching the character and composition of

subsoil deposits on the site and the absence of material associated with occupation within the fills of features.

7 REFERENCES

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8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 TRENCH AND CONTEXT REGISTER

DBGL = Depth below ground level

LOE = Limit of excavation

TR01	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	E-W	30	2	0.50
Context	Description			DBGL (m)
0101	Topsoil – mid-greyish brown silty clay containing rare small sub-rounded stones			0–0.25
0102	Subsoil – Light greyish brown silty clay containing frequent flint gravel			0.25-0.50
0103	Geological deposit – Sandy clay and flint gravel			0.50 (LOE)
0104	Mid-grey slightly silty clay containing frequent flint gravel and rare charcoal flecks – fill of [0105]			0.50
0105	Linear cut – >2m wide – recorded in plan NE-SW orientation – field boundary ditch			0.50
0106	Mid-grey silty clay containing rare charcoal flecks, animal bone fragments and frequent flint gravel – fill of [0107]			0.50
0107	Linear feature - NW-SE orientation, 1.17m wide – recorded in plan only – drainage ditch and field boundary			0.50
0108	Mid-grey silty clay containing rare charcoal flecks, animal bone fragments and frequent flint gravel – fill of [0109]			0.50
0109	Linear cut – NW-SE orientation, steep sides, concave base, 0.90m wide x 0.27m deep – field drainage and boundary ditch			0.50
0110	Mid-grey silty clay containing rare charcoal flecks, animal bone fragments and frequent flint gravel			0.50
0111	Linear feature – NW-SE orientation, 1.20m wide – recorded in plan only – Field drainage and boundary ditch			0.50
Summary: No archaeological remains				
TR02	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	N-S	33m 22m	2	0.50
Context	Description			DBGL (m)
0201	Topsoil – mid-greyish brown silty clay containing rare small sub-rounded stones			0–0.22
0202	Subsoil - Light greyish brown silty clay containing frequent flint gravel			0.22–0.50
0203	Geological deposit – Sandy clay and flint gravel			0.50 (LOE)
0204	Mid-grey silty clay containing rare charcoal flecks and frequent flint gravel – fill of [0205]			0.50
0205	Linear cut, NW-SE orientation 0.77m wide x 0.19m deep, steep sides concave base – Field drainage ditch			0.50

0206	Mid-grey silty clay containing rare charcoal flecks and frequent flint gravel – fill of [0207]	0.50
0207	Linear cut – NW-SE orientation, 0.654m wide x 0.21m deep, steep sides, concave base – Field drainage ditch	0.50
0208	Mid-grey silty clay containing rare charcoal flecks and frequent flint gravel – fill of [0209]	0.50
0209	Linear cut – NE-SW orientation, 0.63m wide x 0.19m deep, steeply sloping sides, concave base – Field drainage ditch	0.50
0210	Mid-grey slightly silty clay containing rare charcoal flecks and frequent flint gravel – fill of [0211]	0.50
0211	Linear cut – NE-SW orientation, 1.35m wide x 0.30m deep, steep NW edge, gradual slope SE, flat base	0.50
0212	Light grey, silty clay containing flint gravel and rare charcoal flecks – fill of [0213]	0.50
0213	Sub-circular feature, irregular edges, uneven base, 0.27 x 0.23 x 0.14m – probable bio-turbation	0.50
0214	Mid-grey silty clay containing rare charcoal flecks and frequent flint gravel – fill of [0215]	0.50
0215	Linear cut, NW-SE orientation, gradually sloping sides, concave base 0.47m wide x 0.11m deep – Field drainage ditch	0.50
0216	Mid-grey silty clay containing rare charcoal flecks and frequent flint gravel – fill of [0217] – recorded in plan only	0.50
0217	Partially exposed linear feature – SW-NE orientation 0.45m wide – relationship with [0215, 0219,0227] terminating within trench – recorded in plan only – Ditch	0.50
0218	Mid-grey silty clay containing rare charcoal flecks and frequent flint gravel – fill of [0219]	0.50
0219	Linear cut – NW-SE orientation, steep sides, 'V' shape profile, slightly concave base, 0.92m wide x 0.34m deep – Field boundary/drainage ditch	0.50
0220	Mid-grey silty clay containing rare charcoal flecks and frequent flint gravel – fill of [0221]	0.50
0221	Oval shaped feature 1.31m x 0.51m x 0.11m deep, steep shallow sides, concave to flat irregular base – Probable bio-turbated feature	0.50
0222	Mid-grey silty clay – recorded in plan – fill of [0223]	0.50
0223	Partially exposed feature – 1.03 x 0.51m – physical relationship with [0207] – recorded in plan only	0.50
0224	Mid-grey silty clay containing rare charcoal flecks and frequent flint gravel – fill of [0225]	0.50
0225	Linear feature, broadly E-W orientation – relationship with [0217] – appears to terminate, recorded in plan only – probable ditch	0.50
0226	Mid-grey silty clay containing rare charcoal flecks and frequent flint gravel – fill of [0227]	0.50
0227	Partially exposed feature >1m long x >0.50m wide – indeterminate function/feature	0.50
0228	Mid-grey silty clay – recorded in plan – fill of [0229]	0.50

0229	Linear feature – partially exposed – probably same as [0223] – possible ditch			0.50
Summary: 2 part, split trench with extension on north segment, series of 9, intercutting and stand-alone drainage and field ditches, 2 x natural features, 1 x partially exposed indeterminate feature				
TR03	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	NE-SW	33m 25.5m	2	0.41
Context	Description			DBGL (m)
0301	Topsoil – mid-greyish brown silty clay containing rare small sub-rounded stones			0-0.25
0302	Subsoil - Light greyish brown silty clay containing frequent flint gravel			0.25-0.41
0303	Geological deposit – Sandy clay and flint gravel			0.41 (LOE)
Summary: 2 part segmented trench. No archaeological remains.				
TR04	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	NE-SW	54	2	0.40
Context	Description			DBGL (m)
0401	Topsoil – mid-greyish brown silty clay containing rare small sub-rounded stones			0-0.21
0402	Subsoil - Light greyish brown silty clay containing frequent flint gravel			0.21-0.40
0403	Geological deposit – Sandy clay and flint gravel			0.40 (LOE)
0404	Mid-blueish grey slightly silty clay containing frequent flint gravels – fill of [0405]			0.40
0405	Irregular linear feature, uneven sides and base broadly N-S orientation - >15m long 0.20-1.50m wide – modern posts noted within fill – Former hedge line			0.40
Summary: 1 irregular linear feature – former hedge line/field division				
TR05	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	E-W	54	2	0.45
Context	Description			DBGL (m)
0501	Topsoil – mid-greyish brown silty clay containing rare small sub-rounded stones			0-0.20
0502	Subsoil - Light greyish brown silty clay containing frequent flint gravel			0.20-0.45
0503	Geological deposit – Sandy clay and flint gravel			0.45 (LOE)
0504	Mid-blueish grey slightly silty clay containing frequent flint gravel – fill of [0505]			0.45
0505	Linear cut – NE-SW orientation, 0.72m wide x 0.20m deep, steep sides concave base – Drainage ditch			0.45
Summary: 1 x field drainage ditch, remnants of ridge and furrow				
TR06	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	NE-SW	54	2	0.44

Context	Description			DBGL (m)
0601	Topsoil – mid-greyish brown silty clay containing rare small sub-rounded stones			0-0.22
0602	Subsoil - Light greyish brown silty clay containing frequent flint gravel			0.22-0.44
0603	Geological deposit – Sandy clay and flint gravel			0.44 (LOE)
Summary: Remnants of ridge and furrow agriculture. No archaeological remains.				
TR07	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	N-S	55	2	0.45
Context	Description			DBGL (m)
0701	Topsoil – mid-greyish brown silty clay containing rare small sub-rounded stones			0-0.20
0702	Subsoil - Light greyish brown silty clay containing frequent flint gravel			0.20-45
0703	Geological deposit – Sandy clay and flint gravel			0.45 (LOE)
0704	Mid-grey slightly silty clay containing frequent flint gravel – fill of [0705]			0.45
0705	Linear cut – NE-SW orientation, 0.87m wide x 0.9m deep, steep sides slightly uneven base – Filed drainage ditch			0.45
0706	Recorded in plan only - Mid-grey slightly silty clay containing frequent flint gravel – fill of [0705]			0.45
0707	Recorded in plan only – linear feature – 0.99m wide – probable field drainage ditch			0.45
Summary: 2 x field drainage ditches, remnants of ridge and furrow agriculture				
TR08	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	NE-SW	50	2	0.50
Context	Description			DBGL (m)
0801	Topsoil – mid-greyish brown silty clay containing rare small sub-rounded stones			0-0.20
0802	Subsoil - Light greyish brown silty clay containing frequent flint gravel			0.20-0.50
0803	Geological deposit – Sandy clay and flint gravel			0.50 (LOE)
0804	Linear cut – N-S orientation, 0.76m wide x 0.14m deep, shallow sides, concave base – field drainage ditch			0.50
0805	Mid-greyish brown silty clay containing occasional flint gravel – fill of [0804]			0.50
0806	Partially exposed feature – recorded in plan only, overlain by ridge and furrow, >0.93m long – indeterminate function			0.50
0807	Recorded in plan only, Mid-greyish brown silty clay containing occasional flint gravel – fill of [0804]			0.50
Summary: 1 x ditch, 1 x indeterminate feature, remnants of ridge and furrow.				

TR09	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	NW-SE	50	2	0.80/0.90m
Context	Description			DBGL (m)
0901	Topsoil – mid-greyish brown silty clay containing rare small sub-rounded stones			0-0.26
0902	Subsoil – Light greyish brown silty clay containing frequent flint gravel			0.26-0.46
0903	Geological deposit – Light grey slightly silty clay, containing frequent sub-rounded gravels - Alluvium			0.46-0.80/0.90
0904	Linear cut – NE-SW orientation, 1.20m wide x 0.14m deep, shallow sides, concave base – Drainage ditch			0.80
0905	Mid-greyish brown slightly silty clay containing frequent gravel – fill of [0904]			0.80
0906	Linear cut – NE-SW orientation, 0.75m wide x 0.21m deep, steep sides flat base – Drainage ditch			0.80
0907	Mid-greyish brown slightly silty clay containing frequent gravel – fill of [0906]			0.80
0908	Linear cut – ESE-WNW orientation, 0.59m wide x 0.21m deep, steep sides concave base – drainage ditch			0.80
0909	Mid-greyish brown slightly silty clay containing frequent gravel – fill of [0908]			0.80
0910	Linear cut – E-W orientation, 1.40m wide x 0.25m deep, gradually sloping sides, concave base – Ditch – possible land division and drainage			0.80
0911	Mid-brownish grey silty clay containing occasional gravel – fill of [0910]			0.80
0912	Linear cut – E-W orientation, >0.60m wide x 0.14m deep, gradually sloping sides concave base – Possible land division and drainage ditch - same as [0910]			0.80
0913	Mid-brownish grey silty clay containing occasional gravel – fill of [0912]			0.80
0914	Linear feature – Recorded in plan only – NW-SE oriented, 0.66m wide – Probable ditch			0.80
0915	Recorded in plan only - Mid-brownish grey silty clay containing occasional gravel – fill of [0914] – animal bone fragments noted – not retained			0.80
0916	Linear feature – recorded in plan only – N-S orientation, 1.04m wide – probable ditch			0.80
0917	Recorded in plan only - Mid-brownish grey silty clay containing occasional gravel – fill of [0916]			0.80
0918	Linear feature – recorded in plan only – N-S orientation, 1.70m wide – probably same as [0916] – probable ditch			0.80
0919	Recorded in plan only - Mid-brownish grey silty clay containing occasional gravel – fill of [0918]			0.80
0920	Dark greyish brown silty clay containing rare charcoal flecks and small stones. >3mE-W, >2m N-S – alluvially derived spread of material – possible run-off from ditches/hill slope			0.80

Summary: 6 ditch cuts, alluvial deposit, 1 x post-medieval earthwork ditch surveyed

TR10	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	NE-SW	50	2	0.55
Context	Description			DBGL (m)

1001 Topsoil – mid-greyish brown silty clay containing rare small sub-rounded stones 0-0.25

1002 Subsoil - Light greyish brown silty clay containing frequent flint gravel 0.25-0.55

1003 Geological deposit – Sandy clay and flint gravel 0.55 (LOE)

Summary: Ridge and furrow remnants, modern track/wheel ruts

TR11	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	NE-SW	2 x 5m segments	2	0.90
Context	Description			DBGL (m)

1101 Mid greyish brown Silty clay and brick fragments – Made ground 0-0.41

1102 Dark greyish brown silty clay – Buried topsoil 0.41-0.51

1103 Mid-greyish brown silty clay – subsoil 0.51-0.68

1104 Mid-brownish grey slightly silty clay containing occasional gravel – Alluvial deposit 0.68-0.84

1105 Dark brownish grey, very slightly silty clay containing occasional small stones – alluvial deposit 0.84-0.96

1106 Light greyish brown silty clay containing frequent gravel – alluvial deposit 0.96+ (LOE)

Summary: Trench abandoned due to extensive asbestos contamination of soils. Stratigraphy of made ground and alluvial sequence recorded

TR12	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	NW-SE	30	2	0.50
Context	Description			DBGL (m)

1201 Topsoil – mid-greyish brown silty clay containing rare small sub-rounded stones 0-0.22

1202 Subsoil - Light greyish brown silty clay containing frequent flint gravel 0.22-0.50

1203 Geological deposit – Sandy clay and flint gravel 0.50 (LOE)

1204 Mid-blueish grey slightly silty clay containing frequent gravel – fill of [1205] 0.50

1205 Linear feature – Broadly E-W orientation, 0.73m wide – recorded in plan – probable drainage ditch 0.50

Summary: Single ditch – field drainage

TR13	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	NE-SW	40m 10m	2	0.45
Context	Description			DBGL (m)

1301	Topsoil – mid-greyish brown silty clay containing rare small sub-rounded stones	0-0.25
1302	Subsoil - Light greyish brown silty clay containing frequent flint gravel	0.25-0.45
1303	Geological deposit – Sandy clay and flint gravel	0.45 (LOE)
1304	Mid-grey silty clay and gravel, containing rare charcoal and animal bone fragments – fill of [1305]	0.45
1305	Linear cut – Broadly E-W orientation, 1.30m wide x 0.24m deep, steep eastern edge, more gradual west, concave base – Field boundary ditch	0.45
1306	Dark grey, slightly silty clay containing rare charcoal fragments and frequent flint gravel – Fill of [1307]	0.45
1307	Linear cut – NE-SW orientation, terminal end at south-west, 0.57m wide x 0.18m deep, steep sides slightly concave base – drainage ditch	0.45

Summary: 1 x Field boundary ditch and 1 x field drainage ditch

APPENDIX 2 FINDS ASSESSMENT

The finds assemblage numbered two sherds (44g) of pottery, two finds of metalwork, one lithic and one sherd (65g) of ceramic building material. These were found in four separate trenches in six different features. The early prehistoric, Iron Age and medieval and modern periods are represented. The finds are summarised by feature in Table A2.1 and a complete catalogue is given at the end.

TR	Feature	Pottery (PH)		Pottery (Medi)		Metalwork	Lithics	CBM	Spot date
		Count	Wgt (g)	Count	Wgt (g)	Count	Count	Count	
01	linear [0105]	-	-	1	35	-	-	-	12th-14th
05	linear [0505]	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	65 Medi
09	linear [0910]	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	PH
09	linear [0912]	1	9	-	-	-	-	-	IA
13	linear [1305]	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	Medi-Mod
13	linear [1307]	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	?
Total		1	9	1	35	2	1	1	65

TABLE A2.1 Summary of finds assemblage by feature with spot dating

Methodology

The report includes only hand-collected finds; no samples were taken. The finds were collected, processed and packaged for long term storage in accordance with professional guidelines (ClfA 2014; Watkinson & Neal 1998). The finds were each assessed and recorded by appropriate specialists. The resultant data was then drawn together into one MS Access database. A copy of this data is given at the end of the report.

The pottery was examined visually, using x20 magnification where necessary. It was recorded according to standards set out by specialist bodies (PCRG 2010; Slowikowski 2001). The medieval pottery was recorded using the fabric codes of the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit type-series (Mynard & Zeepvat 1992).

Prehistoric pottery

One sherd (9g) of Iron Age pottery was retrieved from linear [0912] (0913). The fabric (IA1) includes moderate fine shell up to 2mm and is a common fabric for the region (Knight 1993). The sherd is friable and highly fragmented.

Medieval pottery

One sherd (35g) of medieval pottery was retrieved from linear [0105] (0104). It is of Medieval Sandy Ware (MS2), which is common for the region and dates from the 12th-14th centuries (Mynard & Zeepvat 1992). The sherd is likely from the base-pad of a large jar or bowl.

Metalwork

Two iron finds were retrieved from Trench 13. These were a piece of hinge strap from linear [1305] (1304) and a nail shaft fragment from linear [1307] (1306). Neither can be closely dated, though the hinge strap is likely to date from the medieval or later.

Lithics

One lithic was found in linear [0911] (0910) and is an edge retouched, distal flake fragment which was most likely used as a scraper. A few breaks have retouched edges, indicating the piece was maintained during its use. It is prehistoric but cannot be tied to a specific period.

Ceramic building material

A single fragment (65g) of roof tile was retrieved from linear [0505] (0504). It is in a hard, orange fabric with dense sub-rounded quartz up to 1mm and moderate iron ore of the same size. It is 13mm thick. Such tiles are known from medieval sites in the region (King 1994, 174), and is likely to be medieval in date.

Discussion

The finds represent various periods, suggesting a low-level presence in the area in early prehistory, the Iron Age, medieval and modern periods. However, as no feature contained more than one find, they do not provide secure dating evidence for any of the features in which they were found.

Recommendations for further work

The assemblage is too small to be of further analytical potential, however, if further excavation should be done in the vicinity, then the assemblage should be combined with any subsequent finds and re-evaluated.

Recommendations for archive

The material as it stands is of no further value and if no further work is undertaken on the site then it is recommended the finds be discarded. Any actions will be undertaken in consultation with the local museum (Buckinghamshire County Museum, BCM 2013) and according to professional standards (AAF 2011).

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Appendix 2.1 Finds catalogue

TR	Context	Qty	Wgt (g)	Material	Object	Description	Spot date
01	0104	1	35	Pottery (Medi)	MS2	Medieval Sandy Ware	12th – 14th
05	0504	1	65	CBM	Roof tile	TF1. Medieval Tile	Medi
09	0911	1	23	Lithics	tool	Edge retouched flake possibly a scraper	PH
09	0913	1	9	Pottery (PH)	IA1	Shelly	IA
13	1304	1	29	Iron	hinge strap	Damaged plate, decoratively shaped strap with curving edge and one nail hole remaining, damaged and overall shape unclear, two joining sherds	Medi – Mod
13	1306	1	2	Iron	nail	Shaft fragment	?



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