

SFBO18



LAND WEST OF BRETCH HILL (FIELD 3), BANBURY, OXFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

PLANNING REF. 13/00444/OUT

commissioned by Bloor Homes

October 2018

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PROJECT INFO:

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an archaeological field evaluation of land to the west of Bretch Hill, Banbury, Oxfordshire between 3rd to 7th September 2018. The work was commissioned by Bloor Homes, in advance of a residential development. The evaluation was undertaken in four separate phases, Field 1 (BHBO16), Field 2 (FTBO17 and CABO17) and Field 3 (CABO17 and SFBO18).

The following account is a summary and discussions of results related to evaluation of Field 3.

Geophysical survey assessed the potential for the site as moderate to high for underlying features relating to potential unrecorded prehistoric landscape, comprising of possible pit alignments and two fragmented circular features indicative of ploughed-out barrows.

The field evaluation recorded a single undated shallow ditch related to a potential field boundary and no other discernible negative cut features or geological anomalies correlating with the geophysical survey results. The combined archaeological assessments indicate that shallow features had once been present on the site but had been imperceptible during intrusive archaeological investigations.

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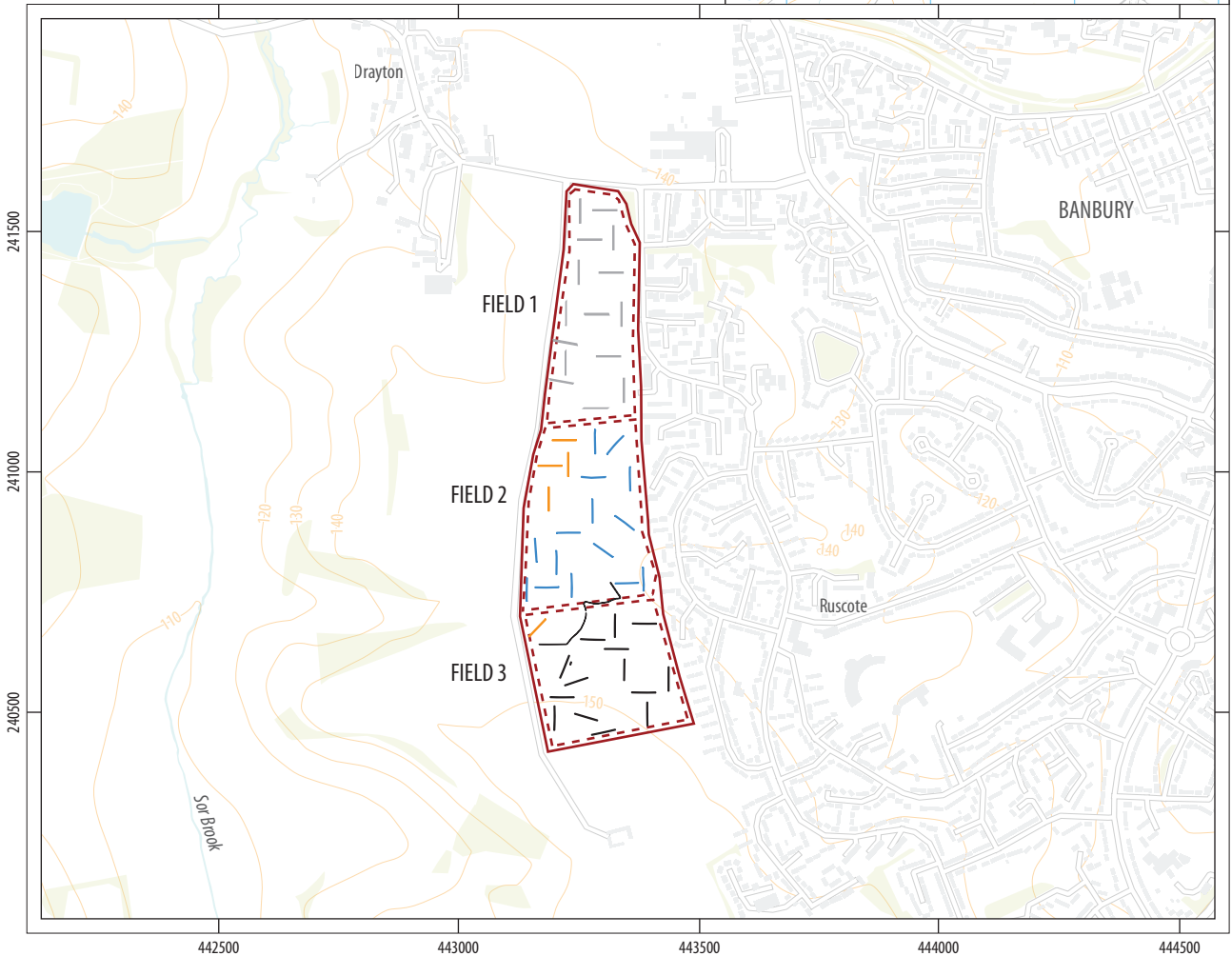
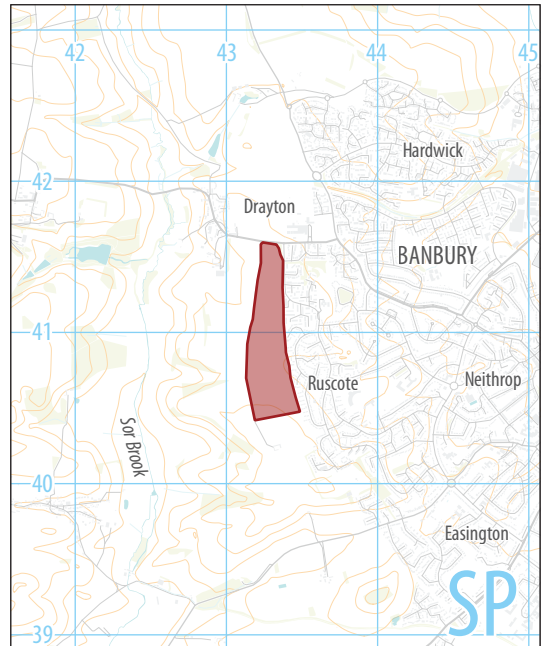
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Land south-west of Banbury
 Bretch Hill
 Banbury
 Oxfordshire



0 200km
 1:12,500,000 @ A4



0 250m
 1:15,000 @ A4

- development boundary
- field boundary
- SFBO18
- BHBO16
- FTBO17
- CABO17



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LAND WEST OF BRETCH HILL (FIELD 3), BANBURY, OXFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

Bloor Homes Ltd commissioned Headland Archaeology to undertake an archaeological evaluation on an area of land to the west of Bretch Hill in Banbury, Oxfordshire.

The work relates to the south field of three in the wider proposed development of the site (Planning Ref: 13/00444/OUT) and was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework and the Written Scheme of Investigation (Craddock-Bennett 2018).

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Planning permission has been granted for the residential development of agricultural land, located to the west of Bretch hill, Banbury, Oxfordshire (Illus 1).

The archaeological work has been undertaken in various phases, consisting of an initial geophysical survey (Harrison 2016) of the entire proposed development site and four separate evaluations, the northern field (Field 1; BHBO16) and a subsequent mitigation (Thomson 2017), the central field (Field 2; FTBO17 and CABO17) and the south field (Field 3; CABO17 and SFBO18) (Thomson 2017, Thomson 2018 and James 2018, respectively).

A Written Scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by Headland Archaeology (Craddock-Bennett 2018) on behalf of Bloor Homes setting out the proposed strategy for archaeological works. This was submitted to the Local Planning Authority and agreed with Richard Oram (Archaeological Advisor to Cherwell District Council).

1.2 SITE LOCATION, DESCRIPTION AND SETTING

The development site comprised three arable fields, located within a rectangular parcel of land to the west of Banbury, covering an area of 26ha (centred at NGR SP 43310 40583).

The site is bounded by Stratford Road (A422) to the north, Bretch Hill housing estate to the east and a farm track located to the west leading to Withycombe Farm to the south.

The development site is predominantly flat, at c143m AOD, with gradual slopes to the north-east.

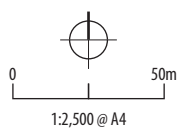
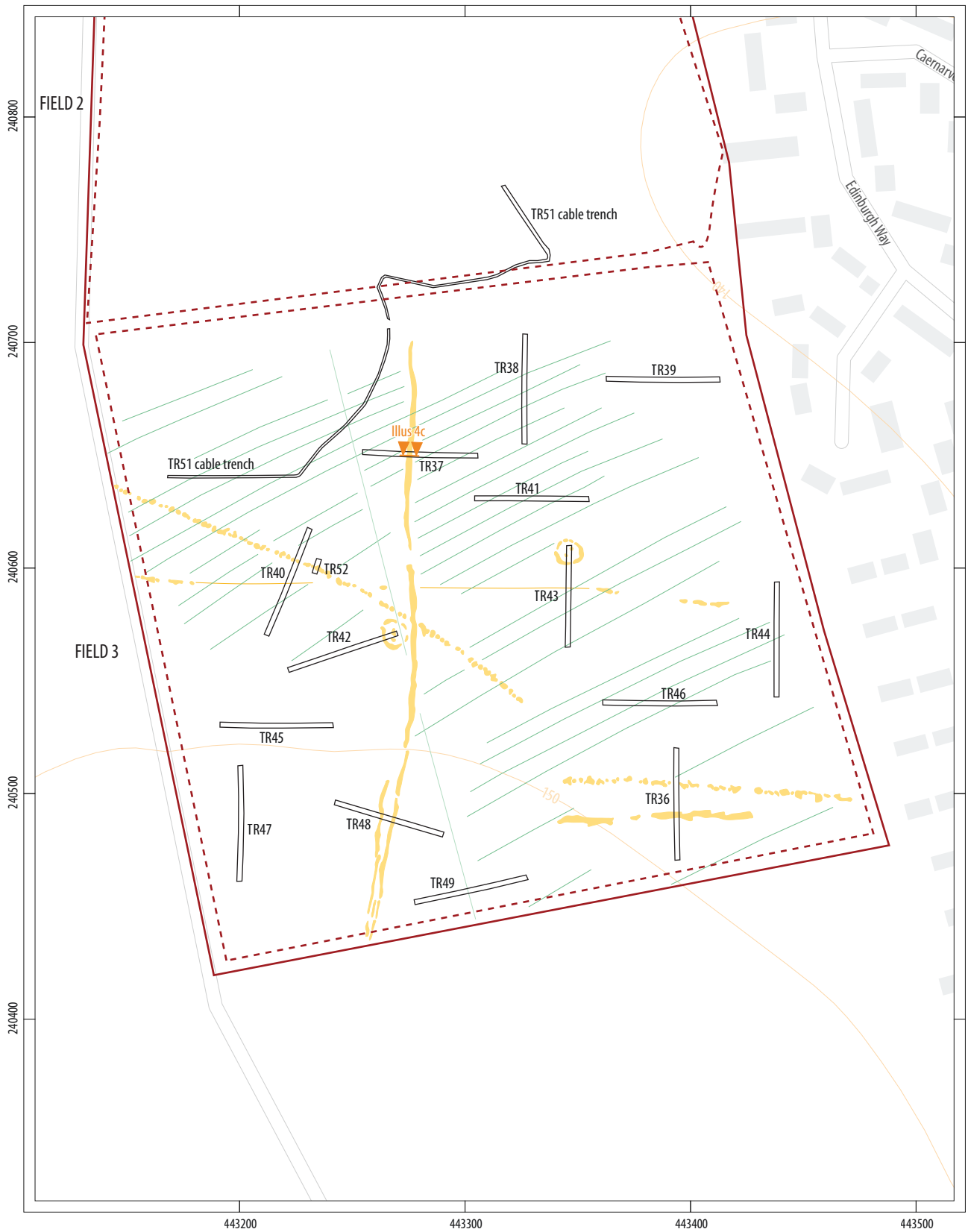
The underlying bedrock consists of Marlstone Rock Formation – Ferruginous limestone and ironstone. No superficial deposits are recorded (British Geological Survey 2016). The soils in the north of the site are classified in the Soilscape 7 association, characterised as freely draining, slightly acid but base-rich soils (Cranfield University 2016; LandIS 2016).

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The following section is a synthesis of the Desk-Based Assessment (Bourn 2013) and Geophysical Survey report (Harrison 2016).

The desk-based assessment had identified no recorded archaeological remains within the development area.

Geophysical survey results had identified linear and discreet anomalies. These anomalies were interpreted as a potential enclosure (Field 1; BHBO16), an unmapped field boundary and discreet areas of intensive burning, tentatively interpreted as kilns (Field 2; CABO187 and FTBO17).



- development boundary
- field boundary
- trench location
- geophysical anomalies – archaeological
- geophysical anomalies – agricultural

ILLUS 2 Trench location plan

Anomalies identified within Field 3 were indicative of a potential unknown prehistoric landscape. This consisted of evenly-spaced pit type anomalies, interpreted as a potential pit alignment and two fragmented circular features, interpreted as potential ploughed-out barrows (Harrison 2016).

Prehistory

Various geophysical surveys had identified similar results within the Banbury area. To the south of the Saltway, 1.5km south of the development site, several previously unknown Bronze Age barrows, as well as a continuation of a causewayed enclosure, were identified. Barrows have also been recorded from geophysical survey on a further two sites, 1km north of Banbury. These barrows have proved difficult to identify during field evaluation but have subsequently been recorded during excavation.

Evaluation of Field 1 recorded probable Romano-British enclosure and evidence to support periphery activity related to late Iron Age occupation (Thomson 2017).

Roman

A potential villa had been recorded during the 19th century, 320m west of the development site in which several Roman coins, a possible mosaic and a bath (PRN 2347) were identified. The possible location of a Roman farmstead (PRN 15894) was recorded 600m west of the site during fieldwalking. The walkover survey identified a broad assemblage of Roman pottery, indicative of rural settlement activity.

Medieval to Present

Throughout the medieval periods, it is likely the development site had resided within an agricultural hinterland. This is corroborated by the geophysical survey and evidence recorded from preceding evaluations (Thomson 2017; Thomson 2018).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The methodology followed was outlined in the WSI (Craddock-Bennett 2018).

The purpose of the archaeological investigations are as follows:

- › assess the extent, structure and date of any archaeological features and deposits of archaeological interest;
- › place, where possible, the archaeological features within their local and regional context;
- › establish any constraints to further fieldwork (eg services) and factors concerning the survival of archaeological remains (eg natural and human disturbance); and
- › place the findings of the investigation within the context of previous work undertaken within the vicinity of the site.

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 local and regional research contexts are provided by the Solent Thames Research Framework. Any evidence retrieved during the works will be considered in accordance with the objectives contained in these frameworks.

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

3 METHOD

In advance of the proposed trial trench evaluation, a cable trench was excavated to the north-west corner of the field. Following consultation with the Archaeological Advisor, this excavation was archaeologically monitored and subsequently replaced the requirement to excavate an evaluation trench in this area.

The subsequent evaluation comprised the excavation of fourteen trenches measuring 50m in length and 1.8m in width. An additional trench (Trench 52) was added to the works, after consultation with Richard Oram (Archaeological Advisor to Cherwell District Council) during a monitoring visit on 5th September. This trench measured 7m in length (Illus 1 and 2).

Prior to breaking ground, all trenches were located by a differential dGPS. Utility plans were consulted, and all trenches were scanned using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) to detect any services that could potentially impede the excavation of the proposed trench location.

The topsoil and subsoil were removed by mechanical excavator under constant archaeological supervision. Excavation ceased when the natural substrate or archaeological horizon was exposed.

Where archaeological features were identified, a representative sample was excavated by hand sufficiently to characterise the archaeological potential.

3.1 RECORDING

All recording followed the guidance laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014b) and was in line with the approved WSI (Craddock-Bennett 2018). All trenches and contexts were given a unique number. All recording was undertaken on pro forma recording sheets that conform to archaeological standards. All stratigraphic relationships were recorded. All sections of excavated archaeological features were hand-drawn on permatrace.

A plan of the trenches and features across the entire site was recorded digitally with a Trimble GPS using standard Headland Archaeology methodology.

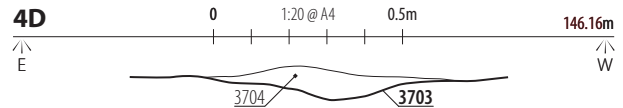
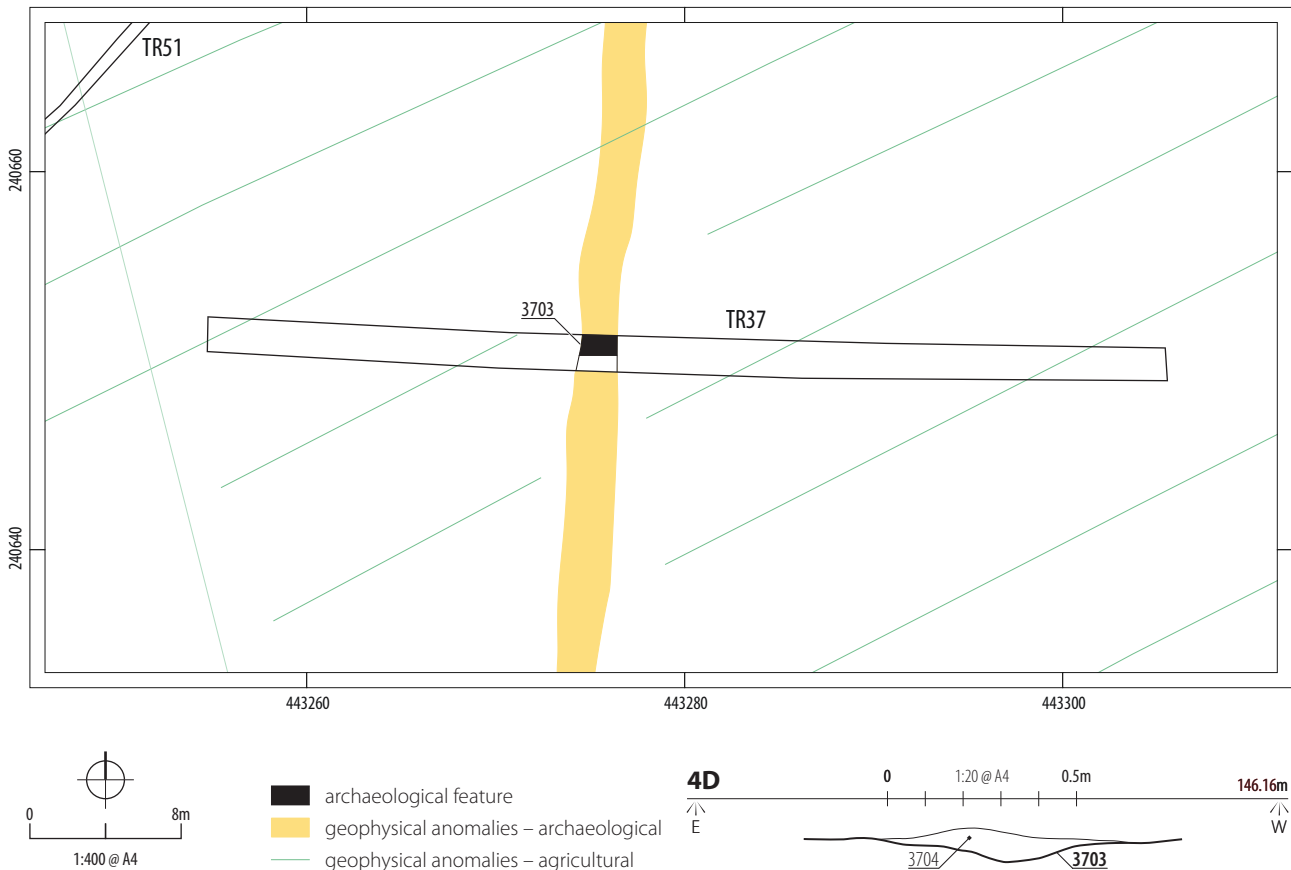


ILLUS 3A South facing shot of Trench 36 representative section of Trench 37

ILLUS 3B West facing representative section of Trench 36

ILLUS 4A East facing shot of Trench 37

ILLUS 4B North facing



ILLUS 4C Plan of Trench 37 ILLUS 4D North facing section of ditch [3703]

A full photographic record was taken using digital photography and incorporating black and white print photographs where appropriate. A metric scale was clearly visible in record photographs.

4 RESULTS

Full context descriptions and trench descriptions, including dimensions, depths and orientations, are presented in Appendix 1. Contexts are identified numerically by trench (ie Trench 01: (0100), Trench 02: (0200)) with cuts indicated by square brackets and deposits by rounded brackets. An assessment of the finds recovered is included as Appendix 2. Selected technical detail is utilised below in order to describe the remains found and to inform the interpretation and dating presented in this report.

The archaeology comprised a single negative cut feature, encountered in one trench. This was an undated shallow ditch potentially a removed field boundary. This feature correlates with a geophysical anomaly.

All remaining trenches contained no evidence of negative cut features, deposits or materials of archaeological significance.

Six lithic fragments were recovered from the plough-soil. These were assigned to the nearest trench, where possible. The small assemblage consisted of waste material with one bladelet dated to the Mesolithic or early prehistoric period (Appendix 2).

4.1 GENERAL STRATIGRAPHY

The natural substrate was relatively consistent across the site. In general, it was a medium yellow brown sandy clay with outcrops of limestone, ironstone and clay. This was exposed between 0.18–0.32m BGL. Subsoil was identified on the eastern part of the field in Trenches 36, 39, 44 and 46 at a thickness between 0.06 to 0.21m, comprising medium red brown sandy silt with few sub-rounded sandstone and ironstone. This was in turn sealed by medium red brown sandy silty loam plough soil.

Trench 36, 37, 40, 42, 43, 48 and 49 targeted anomalies identified by geophysical survey.

4.2 TRENCH 36 (ILLUS 3A–B)

The natural substrate was exposed at a depth of 0.27m BGL, sealed by remnants of a shallow subsoil and in turn by plough-soil.

Two parallel linear anomalies were identified by geophysical survey, respecting an east to west alignment. The northern anomaly produced a high magnitude response indicative of a soil-fill from a buried ditch.

No evidence of negative cut features was encountered.



ILLUS 5A South-west facing shot of Trench 40 **ILLUS 5B** South-east facing representative section of Trench 40 **ILLUS 6A** South-west facing shot of Trench 42 **ILLUS 6B** South-east facing representative section of Trench 42



ILLUS 7A South facing shot of Trench 43 **ILLUS 7B** West facing representative section of Trench 43

4.3 TRENCH 37 (ILLUS 4A–D)

The natural substrate was exposed at a depth of 0.28m BGL, sealed by plough-soil. A shallow linear feature [3703] was encountered, aligned north to south measuring 0.72m in width and 0.08m in depth. It contained a single dark grey brown sandy silt deposit and no material culture.

This feature correlates with geophysical survey results.

4.4 TRENCH 40 (ILLUS 5A–B) AND TRENCH 52

The natural substrate was exposed between depths of 0.21–0.32m BGL, sealed by plough-soil.

A linear anomaly was identified by geophysical results, interpreted as potential pit alignment.

No evidence for negative cut features was encountered.

4.5 TRENCH 42 (ILLUS 6A–B) AND 43 (ILLUS 7A–B)

The natural substrate was exposed between depths of 0.18–0.22m BGL, sealed by plough-soil.

Two fragmented circular features were identified by geophysical survey results, interpreted as potential ploughed-out barrows.

No evidence of negative cut features was encountered.

4.6 TRENCH 48 (ILLUS 8A–B)

The natural substrate was exposed at a depth of 0.28m BGL, sealed by plough-soil.

Two linear anomalies were identified by geophysical survey results, indicative of soil-fill from a buried ditch.

No evidence of negative cut features was encountered.



ILLUS 8A North-west facing shot of Trench 48 **ILLUS 8B** South-east facing representative section of Trench 48

4.7 TRENCH 49

The natural substrate was exposed at a depth of 0.28m BGL, sealed by plough-soil.

A linear anomaly was identified by geophysical survey results. This feature respects a former field boundary illustrated in first edition OS map from 1882 (Bourne 2013). A clear undulation was evident on the land surface, indicative of a grubbed-out hedge-line. This feature was perpendicular to the present field boundary.

No negative feature through the natural substrate was observed.

Trenches 38, 39, 41, 44, 45, 46 and 47 contained no archaeological features. The excavation of a cable trench (Trench 51) was monitored, and no archaeological features, deposits or materials were observed.

5 DISCUSSION

The field evaluation indicated high levels of truncation as a result of long-term arable land use. Previous assessments suggest ridge and furrow earthworks had been extant in the field although no physical evidence had been identified during the field evaluation, suggesting that all remnants had been levelled and removed.

The geophysical survey identified positive trends indicative of negative/buried features below the present ground level. The cause of these trends was not identified during the field evaluation except for the shallow remains of a ditch recorded in Trench 37. The presence of this feature and its preservation suggest that the geophysical survey had potentially identified ephemeral remnants of features at the base of the plough-soil which had not been visible in the underlying substrate. This is either as a result of intensive land management limiting the preservation of these features or the features did not cut into the underlying geology sufficiently to be recorded.

6 CONCLUSION

The field evaluation recorded a single undated linear ditch related to a potential field system. This feature had been identified by geophysical survey, forming a curving feature continuing to the north (Field 2).

Geophysical survey assessed the site as having moderate to high potential for underlying archaeological features. No discernable negative cut features were identified during the evaluation,

suggesting the survey results had identified shallow cuts surviving in the lower levels of plough/subsoil. Although the result is not conclusive, the combined archaeological assessments indicate that shallow features had once been present on the site but have since been removed by intensive agricultural land-use, significantly impacting the preservation and the subsequent recording. Due to the nature of the resource and absence of data, limited conclusions can be made as to the form, function and date of these features.

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8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 TRENCH AND CONTEXT REGISTER

*D BGL = Depth below ground level

TR36			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	1.8	0.40	0.44

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)
3601	Topsoil: Medium red brown sandy silty loam with few sub-rounded limestone and ironstone (0–0.04). Clean plough soil.	0.21
3602	Subsoil: Medium red brown sandy silt with few sub-rounded sandstone and ironstone (0–0.03).	0.06
3603	Natural: Medium yellow brown sandy clay 'brash' Iron stone.	N/A

SUMMARY		
No archaeological features encountered		

SUMMARY		
No archaeological features encountered		

TR37			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	1.8	0.32	0.37

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)
3701	Topsoil: Medium red brown sandy silty loam with few sub-rounded limestone and ironstone (0–0.04). Clean plough soil.	0.28
3702	Natural: Medium yellow brown sandy clay 'brash' Iron stone.	N/A
3703	Cut of ditch: aligned N/S. 0.72m wide	0.08
3704	Fill of [3703], secondary deposit: Dark grey brown sandy silt with few sub-rounded limestone and ironstone (0–0.04m).	0.08

SUMMARY		
Linear ditch exposed, N/S aligned. Poorly preserved. Visible in section, not in plan. Respects geophysical anomaly. Plough scars noted, N/S aligned.		

SUMMARY		
Linear ditch exposed, N/S aligned. Poorly preserved. Visible in section, not in plan. Respects geophysical anomaly. Plough scars noted, N/S aligned.		

TR38			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	1.8	0.3	0.37

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)
3801	Topsoil: Medium red brown sandy silty loam with few sub-rounded limestone and ironstone (0–0.04). Clean plough soil.	0.25

SUMMARY		
No archaeological features encountered		

3802 Natural: Medium yellow brown sandy clay 'brash' Iron stone. N/A

SUMMARY		
No archaeological features encountered		

No archaeological features encountered

TR39			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	1.8	0.28	0.30

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)
3901	Topsoil: Medium red brown sandy silty loam with few sub-rounded limestone and ironstone (0–0.04). Clean plough soil.	0.09
3902	Subsoil: Medium red brown sandy silt with few sub-rounded sandstone and ironstone (0–0.03).	0.21
3903	Natural: Medium yellow brown sandy clay 'brash' iron stone with medium red brown sandy clay.	N/A

SUMMARY		
No archaeological features encountered.		

SUMMARY		
No archaeological features encountered.		

TR40			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	1.9	0.35	0.60

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)
4001	Topsoil: Medium red brown sandy silty loam with few sub-rounded limestone and ironstone (0–0.04). Clean plough soil.	0.21
4002	Natural: Medium yellow brown sandy clay 'brash' Iron stone.	N/A

SUMMARY		
No archaeological features encountered. Sondage excavated on the northern extent to test the geological level.		

SUMMARY		
No archaeological features encountered. Sondage excavated on the northern extent to test the geological level.		

TR41			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	1.8	0.28	0.38

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)
4101	Topsoil: Medium red brown sandy silty loam with few sub-rounded limestone and ironstone (0–0.04). Clean plough soil.	0.23
4102	Natural: Medium yellow brown sandy clay 'brash' Iron stone.	N/A

SUMMARY		
No archaeological features encountered. Plough scars noted, N/S aligned.		

SUMMARY		
No archaeological features encountered. Plough scars noted, N/S aligned.		

SUMMARY		
No archaeological features encountered.		

L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	1.8	0.34	0.51
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)	
4201	Topsoil: Medium red brown sandy silty loam with few sub-rounded limestone and ironstone (0–0.04). Clean plough soil.	0.22	
4202	Natural: Medium yellow brown sandy clay 'brash' Iron stone with medium red brown sandy clay	N/A	
SUMMARY			

No archaeological features encountered. Sondage excavated on the eastern extent to test the geological level.

TR43			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	1.8	0.22	0.98
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)	
4301	Topsoil: Medium red brown sandy silty loam with few sub-rounded limestone and ironstone (0–0.04). Clean plough soil.	0.18	
4302	Natural: Medium yellow brown sandy clay 'brash' Iron stone.	N/A	
SUMMARY			

No archaeological features encountered. Excavated into the geology on the southern extent with the excavator to test the level.

TR44			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	1.8	0.32	0.42
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)	
4401	Topsoil: Medium red brown sandy silty loam with few sub-rounded limestone and ironstone (0–0.04). Clean plough soil.	0.26	
4402	Subsoil: Medium red brown sandy silt with few sub-rounded sandstone and ironstone (0–0.03).	0.06	
4403	Natural: Medium yellow brown sandy clay 'brash' Iron stone with limestone outcrops.	N/A	
SUMMARY			

No archaeological features encountered.

TR45			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	1.8	0.3	0.35
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)	

4501	Topsoil: Medium red brown sandy silty loam with few sub-rounded limestone and ironstone (0–0.04). Clean plough soil.	0.25
4502	Natural: Medium yellow brown sandy clay 'brash' Iron stone.	N/A
SUMMARY		

No archaeological features encountered.

TR46			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	1.8	0.32	0.46
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)	
4601	Topsoil: Medium red brown sandy silty loam with few sub-rounded limestone and ironstone (0–0.04). Clean plough soil.	0.19	
4602	Subsoil: Medium red brown sandy silt with few sub-rounded sandstone and ironstone (0–0.03).	0.06	
4603	Natural: Medium yellow brown sandy clay 'brash' Iron stone.	N/A	
SUMMARY			

No archaeological features encountered.

TR47			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	1.8	0.29	0.36
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)	
4701	Topsoil: Medium red brown sandy silty loam with few sub-rounded limestone and ironstone (0–0.04). Clean plough soil.	0.22	
4702	Natural: Medium yellow brown sandy clay 'brash' Iron stone.	N/A	
SUMMARY			

No archaeological features encountered.

TR48			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	1.8	0.30	0.38
CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)	
4801	Topsoil: Medium red brown sandy silty loam with few sub-rounded limestone and ironstone (0–0.04). Clean plough soil.	0.25	
4802	Natural: Medium yellow brown sandy clay 'brash' Iron stone with medium red brown sand clay.	N/A	
SUMMARY			

No archaeological features encountered

TR49			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
50	1.8	0.30	0.36

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)
4901	Topsoil: Medium red brown sandy silty loam with few sub-rounded limestone and ironstone (0–0.04). Clean plough soil.	0.28
4902	Natural: Medium yellow brown sandy clay 'brash' Iron stone.	N/A

SUMMARY

No archaeological features encountered.

TR51			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
262	1m	0.90	1.10

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)
5101	Topsoil: Medium red brown sandy silty loam with few sub-rounded limestone and ironstone (0–0.04). Clean plough soil.	0.28

5102 Subsoil: Medium red brown sandy clay with few sub-rounded ironstone and flecks of charcoal. 0.15

5103 Natural: Medium yellow brown sandy clay 'brash' Iron stone. N/A

SUMMARY

No archaeological features encountered.

TR52			
L (M)	W (M)	MIN. D (M)	MAX. D (M)
7.1	1.8	0.28	0.35

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	*D BGL (M)
5201	Topsoil: Medium red brown sandy silty loam with few sub-rounded limestone and ironstone (0–0.04). Clean plough soil.	0.32
5202	Natural: Medium yellow brown sandy clay 'brash' Iron stone.	N/A

SUMMARY

No archaeological features encountered. Additional trench excavated targeted linear anomaly, located to the east of Trench 42.

APPENDIX 2 FINDS ASSESSMENT

Introduction

The finds assemblage numbered six lithics weighing 17g. These were recovered from the plough-soil. The Mesolithic or early Neolithic periods are represented. The finds are summarised by feature in Table A2.1 and a complete catalogue is given at the end.

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

FEATURE	LITHICS		SPOT DATE
	COUNT	WGT (G)	
unstrat	1	4	PH
topsoil (3701)	2	3	PH
topsoil (3801)	1	4	PH
topsoil (4701)	1	3	Meso/Neol
topsoil (4901)	1	3	PH
Total	6	17	–

Methodology

The report includes only hand-collected finds as no soil samples were retrieved on site. 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.

Results

Lithics

A total of six pieces (17g) of worked flint were recovered from the topsoil of Trenches 37, 38, 47 and 49 and an unstratified context (see Table A2.2). As they are all residual, the finds are not a reliable source for dating any features on site.

This small assemblage solely consists of waste material. The bladelet from topsoil (4701) has a triangular cross section and exhibits dorsal bladelet scars which are indicative of planned and deliberate reduction from a bladelet core. The piece has suffered proximal and distal breaks, which cut the heavy cortication, and are therefore likely to be more recent damage. The flakes from the rest of the assemblage are simple removals, with no evidence for platform preparation. All have suffered slight to moderate post-depositional damage and two are corticated. The level of damage and surface alteration is consistent with recovery from the topsoil.

TABLE A2.2 Summary of flint by type and context

CONTEXT	FLAKE	BLADELET
unstratified	1	–
(3701)	2	–
(3801)	1	–
(4701)	–	1
(4901)	1	–
Total	5	1

The flakes are not chronologically diagnostic, however, the bladelet is likely to derive from the Mesolithic or Earlier Neolithic. The significance of the assemblage lies in its representation of human activity at the site during prehistory.

Recommendations for further work

The small size of the assemblage limits potential for additional analysis and further work is not recommended. However, if further work were to be carried out, the finds should be re-evaluated in this light.

Recommendations for archive

All finds will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums Service. The archive has been prepared in accordance with professional standards (AAF 2011) and the specific requirements of the Oxfordshire Museums Service (OMS 2016).

References

- Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF) 2011 *Archaeological Archives A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (2nd edn) (ClfA: Reading) http://www.archaeologyuk.org/archives/aaf_archaeological_archives_2011.pdf accessed 24 September 2018
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- Oxfordshire Museums Service (OMS) 2016 *Requirements for Transferring Archaeological Archives* Oxford
- Watkinson D & Neal V (1998) *First aid for finds: Practical Guide for Archaeologists* (3rd revised edn) London



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