



making sense of heritage

Mansfield Road, Clowne, Derbyshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Ref: 89981.01
October 2013



**Mansfield Road, Clowne,
Derbyshire**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Mansfield Road, Clowne, Derbyshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by ECUS Ltd. to undertake a scheme of archaeological evaluation at Mansfield Road, Clowne, Derbyshire (NGR 448878 374837; hereafter 'the Site') ahead of proposed development.

The evaluation comprised a scheme of trial trenching following on from a geophysical survey undertaken by Wessex (2013). The work was carried out in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by ECUS (2013).

No archaeological features were discovered, although a modern deposit was revealed in what may have been either a modern or a geological feature. No artefacts were retained, although some obviously modern material was discarded on Site. The geophysical survey results were proved to correlate with geological rather than anthropogenic features. The potential for further archaeology on Site is minimal.

The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code 88981. The archive will be deposited with Weston Park Museum, Sheffield under a relevant accession number to be determined. An OASIS form will be submitted at the time of deposition.



Mansfield Road, Clowne, Derbyshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Paul White of ECUS for commissioning this project. Steve Baker monitored the work for Derbyshire County Council. The evaluation fieldwork was carried out by Chris Harrison, David Loeb, Michael Keech, Mark Hackney and Jonathon Buttery. The report was compiled by Ashley Tuck and the illustrations produced by Chris Swales. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andy Norton.



Mansfield Road, Clowne, Derbyshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by ECUS Ltd. to undertake a scheme of archaeological evaluation at Mansfield Road, Clowne, Derbyshire (NGR 448878 374837; hereafter 'the Site'). The work was carried out in order to satisfy a condition of planning application 12/00529/OUTMAJ.

1.1.2 The evaluation comprised a scheme of trial trenching following on from a geophysical survey undertaken by Wessex Archaeology (2013). The work was carried out in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by ECUS (2013) and approved by Derbyshire County Council (DCC).

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site is located to the south of Clowne and is bounded by Mansfield Road and associated built structures along its eastern edge. The Site is surrounded by agricultural fields on its other sides and High Ash Farm to the south. The Site is currently under arable cultivation, and covers approximately 5.5 hectares. The topography is broadly level at approximately 150m aOD and the Site is situated on a broad plateau. At the western edge of the Site the topography falls away sharply to 90m aOD.

The Site is situated on superficial geological deposits of clay which overlies Dolostone with bands of mudstone, siltstone and sandstones of Cadeby Formation (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). A geotechnical report for the Site, comprising 37 test pits, revealed the topsoil was on average under 300mm. The topsoil overlay either weathered gravel and cobble limestone or across the northern and eastern area of the Site a band of clay, usually up to 1m in depth which sealed the limestone bedrock.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information is summarised from the WSI (ECUS 2013).

2.2 Summary

2.2.1 Although there is evidence in the wider area for Prehistoric and Romano British activity and possible settlement to the south of the Site, there was no current evidence for any such activity within the Site. However it was considered given the proximity of such activity and the undeveloped nature of the proposed development site it was still possible that



archaeological remains may be encountered within the Site boundary although the potential was considered to be moderate/low.

2.2.2 The survival of archaeological remains were considered to be low, due to a long history of ploughing from the medieval period onwards on thin soils, and any buried archaeological features would be heavily truncated. The analysis of aerial photographs was undertaken at the request of the Development Control Archaeologist to provide further information to inform the archaeological potential of the Site. The analysis did not reveal any archaeological remains within the Site or the immediate surrounding area. Although the limestone geology may have the potential for historical settlement activity to be situated on it, as indicated by cropmarks in a wider area (up to 3km) surrounding the Site, there is no evidence for significant archaeological remains to exist within the Site.

2.3 Previous archaeological work

2.3.1 Geophysical survey was undertaken in May 2103 by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2013). The survey recorded a broad trend of ploughing and underlying geology aligned NNW-SSE across the entire Site. The work appears to confirm the impact of ploughing upon the sub-surface geology and much of the trends/anomalies detected by the geophysical survey relate to the displacement of underlying geological material being ploughed to the surface.

2.3.2 A single definite archaeological feature was identified on the very western edge of the survey area. Sub-rectangular anomalies were identified by the geophysical specialists, which may represent earlier enclosures, but were also broadly aligned with the ploughing trend and may represent geological variation. If these enclosures represented settlement, it would have been anticipated that settlement activity such as pits would have been observed with the survey results.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 Overall the aim of the archaeological investigation was to provide further information concerning the presence/absence, date, nature, extent and significance of potential archaeological remains that will be directly impacted by the scheme.

3.1.2 The investigation also tested the accuracy of the geophysical survey results as well as the value of this evaluation technique to identify and to distinguish between natural or anthropogenic features on this type of geology.

3.1.3 If the geophysical anomalies had turned out to be enclosures which dated to the prehistoric or Romano-British period, the results of the investigation would have had the potential to address the following research objective of the East Midlands Heritage Research Strategy (Knight et al, 2012):

- Research Objective 4F: Investigate intra-regional variations in the development of fields and linear boundary systems (Prehistoric);
- Research Objective 5H: Investigate the landscape context of rural settlements (Romano-British).



3.2 Scope of works

3.2.1 Various geophysical anomalies were tested through a trenching comprising one 50m x 2m and seventeen 25m x 2m trenches.

3.2.2 The investigation was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Evaluation (IfA revised 2008).

3.3 Mechanical excavation

3.3.1 The trenches were excavated using a 360° excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. All modern overburden was removed by machine under the constant direction of an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeologist. Mechanical excavation continued to the surface of the underlying geology. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation.

3.3.2 All excavation of suspected archaeological deposits or features was carried out by hand. Each trench was cleaned, where necessary, by hand to help define the presence and extent of any archaeological features. The trenches and any archaeological deposits were surveyed using a Total Station or GPS and tied in accurately to the Ordnance Survey.

3.4 Hand excavation

3.4.1 Archaeological remains were investigated through a programme of sample excavation using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system.

3.4.2 Excavated material was examined for archaeological material. All suspected archaeological features and deposits encountered during the investigation were recorded by detailed written context records, using pro forma recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. The recording system conformed to the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Evaluation (IfA 2009).

3.4.3 A full photographic record was maintained, using 35mm black and white print film and digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes which have embedded appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set. Output is in TIFF/raw format.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the information held in the Site archive, with a full list of context numbers and context descriptions within each trench contained in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 General stratigraphy

4.2.1 Typically, trenches had between 0.25m and 0.5m of dark greyish brown silty clay loam topsoil. In some locations this included sub-angular stones. Beneath the topsoil was typically 0.1m of mid greyish brown loam subsoil, interpreted as a relic ploughsoil. The natural geology was usually limestone bedrock, sometimes described as yellowish or reddish (**Plate 1**). In some places the natural consisted of yellowish or reddish silty clay closely allied to the limestone bedrock.



4.3 Geological features

- 4.3.1 Most trenches contained geological features. Many of these were identified as having been formed by ice wedges or by other freeze-thaw processes (**Plate 2**). Some of these geological features correlated with geophysical anomalies identified in the geophysics report (Wessex Archaeology 2013), and it is reasonable to say that most of the geophysical responses were caused by these non-archaeological features.
- 4.3.2 The geological features ranged from 0.07m to 1.15m deep, and were typically filled with yellowish or reddish silt clay, often very compact.

4.4 Modern

- 4.4.1 A gully, **1305 (Plate 3)**, was recorded in Trench 13. It ran north-south and had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Two fills were identified: the lower (**1304**) was a sterile mid grey brown clay silt, similar to the subsoil seen across Site. The upper fill (**1303**) was dark brownish grey clay silt with frequent coal and modern bricks. It is possible that this is a natural feature with a modern anthropogenic fill.
- 4.4.2 A land drain (**1403**) was also recorded in Trench 14.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 There were no finds, except for obviously modern material that was discarded on Site.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Conclusions

- 6.1.1 No archaeology was encountered, except for the modern fill **1303**. The geophysical survey results were proved to correlate with natural rather than anthropogenic features, except possibly in the case of feature **1305** which may either be a modern gully or a natural feature with a modern fill. The potential for further archaeology on Site is minimal.

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

- 7.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Weston Park Museum, Sheffield. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project under accession code to be determined after deposition. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

7.2 Archive

- 7.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Weston Park



Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

7.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the Site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared.

7.3 Discard policy

7.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

7.4 Security copy

7.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011) on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

8 REFERENCES

8.1 Bibliography

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9 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No. 1		Max depth: 0.4m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
101	Ploughsoil: dark greyish brown silty clay loam.	0 – 0.2m
102	Subsoil: mid greyish brown silty clay loam	0.2-0.3m
103	Natural: Limestone and silty clay yellow or red. Geophysics indicated a junction of two linears. Not observed. Correlates with clay within natural.	0.25m+

Trench No. 2		Max depth: 0.4m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
201	Ploughsoil: dark greyish brown silty clay loam.	0 – 0.2m
202	Subsoil: mid greyish brown silty clay loam	0.2-0.3m
203	Natural: Limestone.	0.3m+

Trench No. 3		Max depth: 0.3m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
301	Ploughsoil: dark greyish brown silty clay loam.	0 – 0.2m
302	Subsoil: mid greyish brown silty clay loam	0.2-0.3m
303	Natural: Limestone.	0.3m+
304	Geological Feature: ice wedge cuts through bedrock, filled with a very compact yellowish brown sandy silt (20/80). Sterile ground. 0.6m x 0.5m x 0.15m	0.35-0.5m

Trench No. 4		Max depth: 0.3m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
401	Ploughsoil: dark greyish brown silty clay loam.	0 – 0.2m
402	Subsoil: relic ploughsoil, mid greyish brown silty clay loam	0.2-0.3m
403	Natural: Limestone (reddish kind).	0.3m+
404	Geological Feature: natural gravel corresponding with geophysical anomaly. Runs N-S through middle of the trench. 4.5m x 2m x 1.65m	0.3-1.45m+



Trench No. 5		Max depth: 0.3m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
501	Ploughsoil: dark greyish brown silty clay loam.	0 – 0.2m
502	Subsoil: mid greyish brown silty clay loam	0.2-0.3m
503	Natural: Limestone and red and yellow silt clay patches.	0.3m+
504	Geological Feature: runs N-S across trench. Shallow and erratic sides and edges. Mid reddish brown silty clay.	0.3-0.45m+
505	Geological Feature: running E-W along N edge of trench	0.3-0.65

Trench No. 6		Max depth: 0.4m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
601	Ploughsoil: dark greyish brown silty clay loam.	0 – 0.2m
602	Subsoil: mid greyish brown silty clay loam	0.2-0.3m
603	Natural: silty clay light brown natural with limestone gravel.	0.3m+

Trench No. 7		Max depth: 0.6m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
701	Ploughsoil: dark greyish brown silty clay loam.	0-0.2m
702	Subsoil: mid greyish brown silty clay loam	0.2-0.35m
703	Natural: limestone and red/yellow clay.	0.35m+
704	Geological Feature: E-W channel – water cut – measures 1m x 2m x 0.35m. Filled with red haloed yellow silty clay.	0.35-0.6m
705	Geological Feature: E-W channel – water cut – measures 0.8m x 2m x 0.3m	0.3-0.65m
706	Geological Feature: E-W channel – water cut – measures 0.5m x 0.2m x 0.3m	0.3-0.65m

Trench No. 8		Max depth: 0.45m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
800	Ploughsoil: light brown silty clay loam.	0-0.3m
801	Subsoil: light brown/orangish silty clay loam	0.3-0.45m
802	Natural: pink/white limestone.	0.45m+
803	Geological Feature: ice cut, fill is red silty clay and a yellow sand silt 2m wide 0.6m deep x >1.58m long..	0.45-1.05m
804	Geological Feature: either ice cut or stone throw. Fill is bright red clay >1.58m long, 0.7m wide, 0.32m deep.	0.45-0.77m
805	Geological Feature: very compact light brownish sandy silt, part of a large ice wedge running east-west across trench. 2.05m wide, 0.6m deep.	0.45m+



Trench No. 9		Max depth: 0.65m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
900	Ploughsoil: dark brown silty clay loam.	0-0.25m
901	Subsoil: light brown silty clay loam	0.25-0.65m
902	Natural: mix of light brown silty clay alluvium and white/pink dolomitised limestone.	0.65m+
903	Geological Feature: E-W linear on geophysics and appears in trench – steep sided and irregular – possibly natural fracture in limestone widened by freeze thaw. Filled by very compact silty clay both red and yellow.	0.65m+
904	Geological Cut: N-S linear cutting 903 – shallow u – fluvial channel?	0.65m+
905	Geological Fill: fill of 904. Mid reddish brown silty clay.	0.65m+
906	Geological Feature: same as 903	0.65m+

Trench No. 10		Max depth: 0.35m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
1000	Ploughsoil: dark brown silty clay loam. Friable	0-0.25m
1001	Subsoil: light brown/orange clay loam	0.25-0.3m
1002	Natural: light brown/white limestone and silty sand.	0.35m+
1003	Geological Feature: sharp cut with irregular sides forming a narrow channel in the limestone 0.74m by 0.82m x 0.52m deep. The channel appears to terminate to the E where it sharply inclines to the level of the natural. The fill is a mid reddish brown silty clay – very compact. A natural crack in which ice has formed.	0.35-0.87m

Trench No. 11		Max depth: 0.6m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
1101	Ploughsoil: moderate compact mid greyish brown clay silt	0-0.5m
1102	Subsoil: compact greyish yellow sandy silt with sparse small sub angular stones	0.5-0.6m
1103	Natural: mixed dark red clay and layers of bedrock.	0.5m+
1104	Geological Feature: ice wedge running N-S filled with very compact mid brown yellow sandy silt (20/80). 2m x 1.8m x 0.7m	0.5-1.2m
1105	Geological Feature: ice wedge – filled with very compact mid brown yellow sandy silt, running NW-SE. Not possible to photograph due to angle of wedge.	0.5m+



Trench No. 12		Max depth: 0.6m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
1201	Ploughsoil: friable mid grey brown clay silt with occasional stone and rooting	0-0.5m
1202	Subsoil: mid yellow brown sandy silt with sparse fragments of bedrock	0.5-0.6m
1203	Natural: yellow sandstone bedrock	0.5m+
1204	Geological Feature: natural hollow filled with very compact mid brown yellow sandy silt (20/80) 0.6m x 0.5m x 0.17m	0.5-0.67m
1205	Geological Feature: possibly small ice wedge. Runs N-S with very compact mid brown yellow sandy silt. 0.8m x 0.24m x 0.05m.	0.5-0.55m
1206	Geological Feature: ice wedge, mid brown yellow silty sand, 2.5m x 1.8m x 0.2m	0.5-0.7m
1207	Geological Feature: ice wedge, same as 1206	0.5-0.7m

Trench No. 13		Max depth: 0.5m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
1300	Ploughsoil: dark brown silty clay loam	0-0.3m
1301	Subsoil: light brown silty clay loam with red lenses	0.3-0.56m
1302	Natural: white/pink limestone	0.5m+
1303	Fill: fill of 1305. Dark brownish grey compact clay silt with frequent coal and modern CBM	0.5-0.57m
1304	Fill: fill of 1305. Lower fill. Grey brown moderately compact clay silt. Sterile.	0.57-0.92m
1305	Cut: Modern gully cut into bedrock. 0.85m wide by 0.42m deep.	0.5-0.92m

Trench No. 14		Max depth: 0.4m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
1400	Ploughsoil: dark brown silty clay loam	0-0.25m
1401	Subsoil: light brown silty clay loam with regular subangular pebbles 10cm	0.25-0.4m
1402	Natural: white/pink limestone with silt/sand lenses	0.4m+
1403	Cut: field drain cut with vertical sides	0.4-1.2m
1404	Fill: fill of 1403. Fill of field drain including modern ceramic	0.4-1.2m

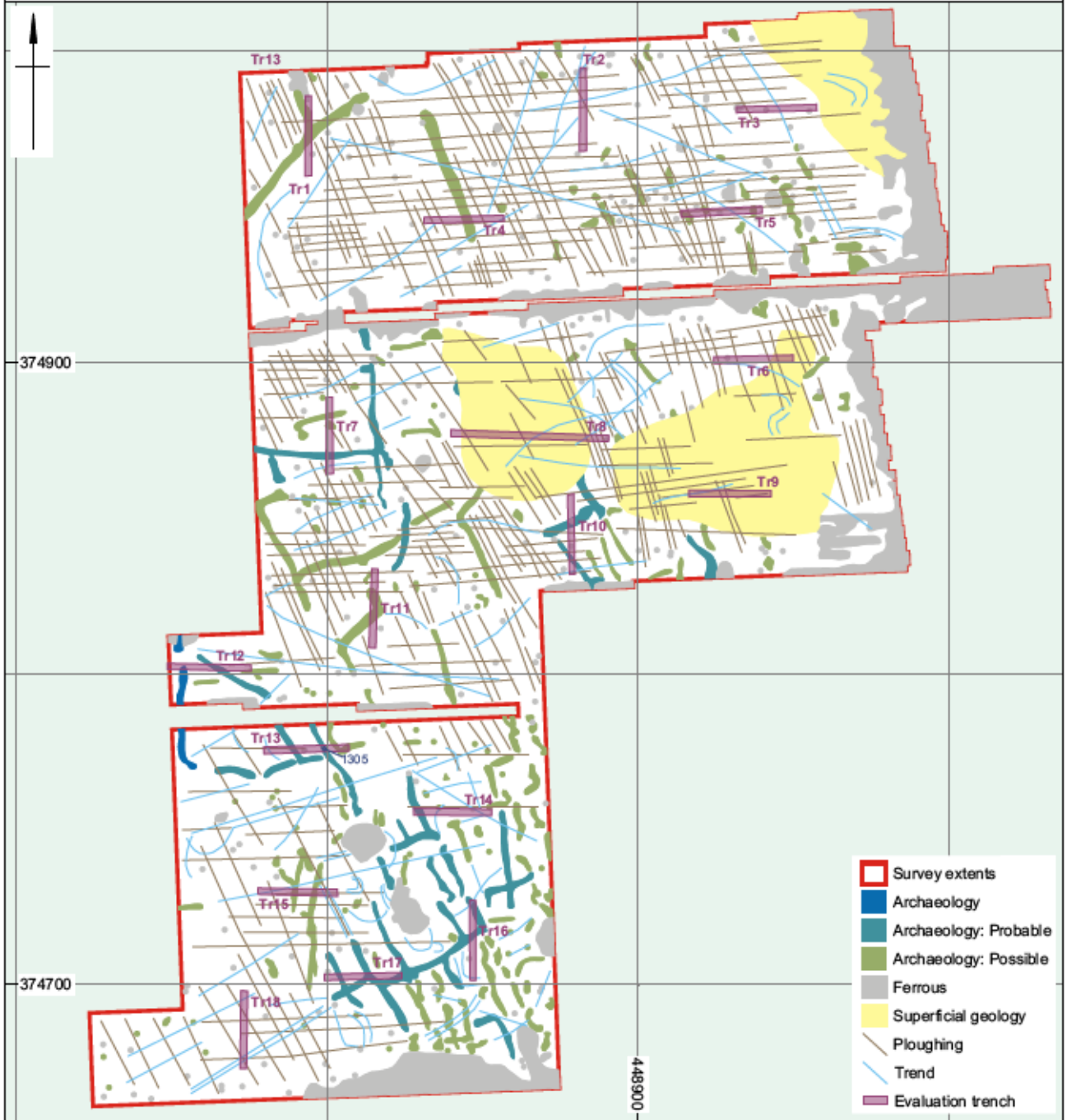
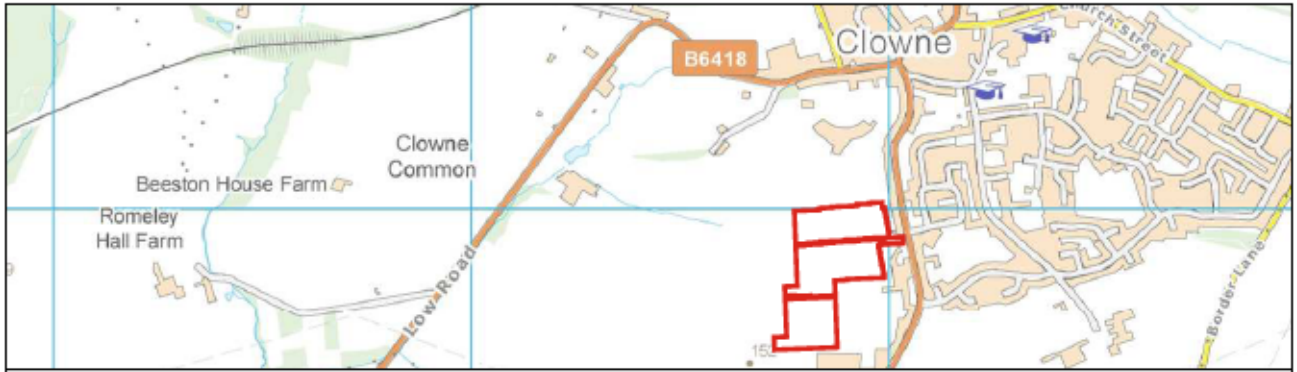
Trench No. 15		Max depth: 0.47m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
1501	Ploughsoil: dark grey brown silty sand with sparse subangular stones and rooting	0-0.35m
1502	Subsoil: light yellowish brown compact sandy silt (20/80)	0.35-0.47m
1503	Natural: compact red clay with some sandy patches and sandstone bedrock	0.47m+



Trench No. 16		Max depth: 0.45m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
1601	Ploughsoil: dark grey brown silty sand moderately compact with occasional subangular stones and rooting	0-0.35m
1602	Subsoil: mid brownish yellow compact silty sand	0.35-0.45m
1603	Natural: very compact clay and sandstone bedrock	0.45m+

Trench No. 17		Max depth: 0.52m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
1700	Ploughsoil: dark grey brown moderately compact sandy silt with rooting.	0-0.4m
1701	Subsoil: light yellowish brown compact sandy silt	0.4-0.52m
1702	Natural: mixed compact red clay and broken sandstone bedrock	0.52m+
1703	Geological Feature: ice wedge formed linear with a very stiff dark reddish brown sandy silt fill. 1.8m x 1.2m x 0.45m	0.52-0.97m
1704	Geological Feature: Ice wedge, roughly circular geological feature filled with very stiff dark red brown sandy silt. 0.7m x 1m x 0.32m	0.52-0.84m
1705	Geological Feature: Ice wedge with very compact dark reddish brown sandy silt. 0.7m x 1m x 0.24m	0.52-0.76m

Trench No. 18		Max depth: 0.6m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
1801	Ploughsoil: dark grey brown moderately compact sandy silt with rooting and sparse small subangular stones	0-0.5m
1802	Subsoil: mid yellow brown compact silty sand with sparse bioturbation	0.5-0.6m
1803	Natural: mix of broken sandstone bedrock and compact clay	0.6m+
1804	Geological Feature: ice wedge filled with compact dark yellowish brown sandy silt sitting on bedrock. 1m x 1.5m x 0.35m	0.6m-0.95m
1805	Geological Feature: Ice wedge with compact dark yellow brown sandy silt. 0.5m x 0.5m x 0.32m	0.6-0.92m



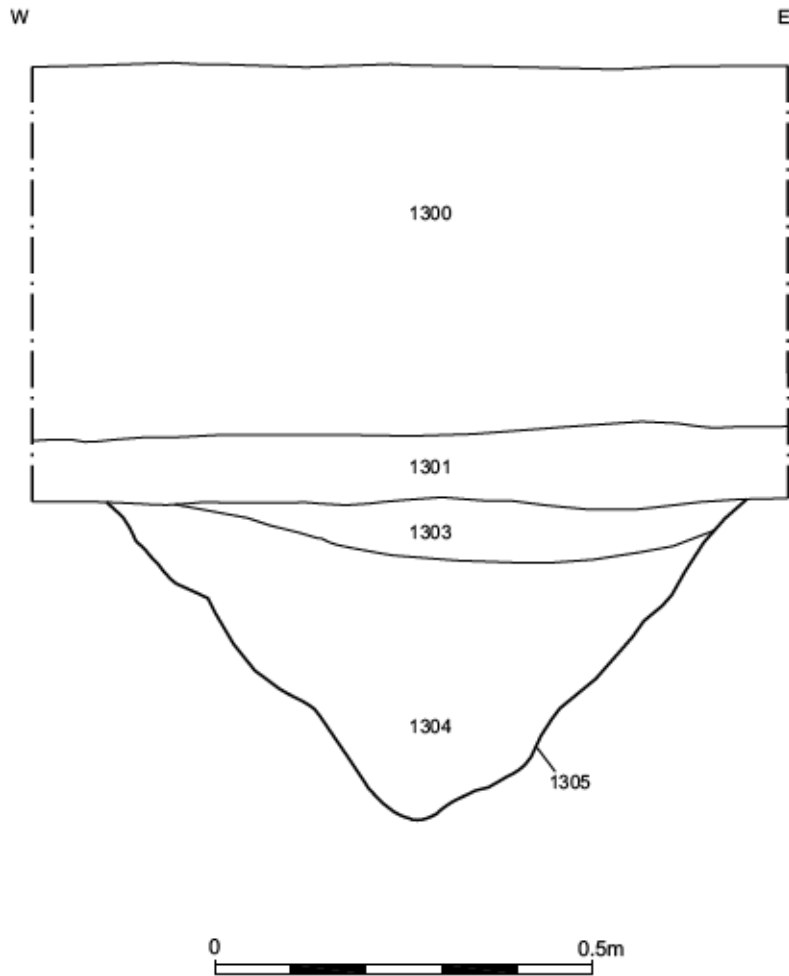
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Site and trench locations overlain on geophysical interpretation

Figure 1



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Section through feature 1305

Figure 2



Plate 1: Typical trench: Trench 2 from north



Plate 2: Example of ice wedge geological feature, 1003



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	Path:	Y:\Projects\89981_clowne eval\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Eval\2013-10-09\plates.cdr		



Plate 3: Trench 13, feature 1305

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