



making sense of heritage

Land off London Road, Great Glen, Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation



Planning Reference: 15/00912/OUT
Ref: 110510.04
October 2015



**Land off London Road, Great Glen,
Leicestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

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Land off London Road, Great Glen Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching on land to the east of London Road, Great Glen, Leicestershire. The work was undertaken in support of a planning application for residential development.

Twelve trenches were excavated across approximately 2.4ha of land; the majority positioned to prospect for archaeological remains sealed beneath the well-preserved ridge and furrow earthworks that occupy much of the Site.

Within the central part of the Site, in Trench 5, a ditch of probable Middle Iron Age date was encountered, with the finds assemblage suggesting contemporary occupation in or near the Site.

In the eastern part of the Site, around Trenches 10-12, an archaeological horizon of unknown but potentially prehistoric date was encountered. The constituent remains comprised a probable pit containing heat-affected stone, an associated charcoal-enriched spread containing struck flint, a potentially natural gully containing struck flint and faunal remains, and a small, artefactually sterile pit.

More recent remains include a modern drainage feature corresponding with and accounting for a prominent east-west aligned geophysical anomaly, earthwork and vegetation mark, a linear ditch corresponding with a tree line depicted on First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping, and a probable fallen stock (cow) burial.

Deep deposits of clay, up to 2m thick, were encountered in the southern part of the Site; during fieldwork these were tentatively interpreted as fills of a palaeochannel. In support of this, modest amounts of cultural material were recovered from test pits dug into the clay. No deposits of palaeoenvironmental significance were encountered in the putative palaeochannel, however. There was also some evidence for contamination by later intrusive elements.

It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Leicester City Council Museums and Galleries. The Council has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **X.A85.2015**. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.



Land off London Road, Great Glen Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

Acknowledgements

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by CgMs Consulting. The assistance of Paul Clark is gratefully acknowledged in this regard.

Thanks are extended to Richard Clark, Principal Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council, who provided curatorial support and guidance.

The trenching was carried out by Patrick Daniel and Michael Howarth. The report was written by Patrick Daniel, with illustrations by Alix Sperr. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram, with environmental samples processed by Tony Scothern and assessed by Sarah Wyles. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Norton.



Land off London Road, Great Glen Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting (hereafter 'the Client') to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching in support of a planning application for residential development on land off London Road, Great Glen, Leicestershire, NGR 465140, 298090 (hereafter 'the Site').
- 1.1.2 The archaeological works were commissioned to inform a decision on planning consent, in accordance with local, regional and national planning policies.
- 1.1.3 Following discussions between the Client and Richard Clark, Principal Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council, a scope of works was agreed. The Client produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining how the requirements of the work would be met (CgMs 2015b). The WSI was approved by Leicestershire County Council prior to work commencing.

1.2 Site location and topography

- 1.2.1 The Site lies on the north-west edge of Great Glen and is 2.4ha in extent (**Figure 1**). The Site is bounded by London Road (the former course of the A6) to the south-west, by residential properties to the east and west, with agricultural land lying to the north and south.
- 1.2.2 The Site contains two fields sloping down to the south and east, with an east-west aligned strip of level ground running along the Site's southern boundary.
- 1.2.3 Ground levels descend from around 113m in the north-west corner of the Site, to 103m in its south-east corner.
- 1.2.4 The Site contains the reasonably well-preserved earthwork remains of broadly north-south oriented medieval ridge and furrow, along with an east-west negative earthwork/lush vegetation mark representing a largely infilled drainage feature. A small pond lies in the south-east corner of the Site.
- 1.2.5 In the eastern portion of the Site, a small fenced enclosure surrounds the grave of a former owner of the Site, who died in 2007.
- 1.2.6 The British Geological Survey records the surface geology of the Site as mudstone of the Charmouth Mudstone formation, overlain by Diamicton belonging to the Oadby Member (mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain). The Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW, 1983) identifies slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey and fine loam over clayey soils of the Ragdale association (712g) across the Site.



1.2.7 The Site contained well-established grazing pasture at the time of the evaluation.

1.3 Previous investigations

1.3.1 A desk-based assessment (hereafter 'DBA') was carried out in association with the proposed development (CgMs 2015a). The DBA recorded that there are no designated heritage assets within the Site. A review of the known archaeology of a 1km search area surrounding the Site concluded that it has a low potential for containing significant archaeological remains.

1.3.2 A geophysical survey was also commissioned in support of the proposed development (GSB Ltd 2015). This identified ridge and furrow across the northern part of the Site, and an east-west aligned magnetic disturbance to the south, possibly caused by a former stream.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following text is drawn from the DBA (CgMs 2015a).

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 There is only a single record of Prehistoric activity within the wider search area: a Neolithic/Bronze Age flint scatter, 475m south-west of the Site.

2.3 Iron Age/Romano-British

2.3.1 A substantial Romano-British farmstead comprising an enclosure, structural remains and an associated field system has been excavated 920m north-east of the Site.

2.3.2 A possible Romano-British villa is recorded 250m north-east of the Site. This interpretation is made on the basis of various finds including pottery, tesserae and box-flue tile. Other unstratified Iron Age and Romano-British finds have been recovered from a variety of locations within the search area.

2.4 Medieval

2.4.1 Charter evidence records that Great Glen dates back to the Anglo-Saxon period. The settlement core is mapped by the HER as overlapping the south-east corner of Site.

2.4.2 A single Saxon pottery sherd was recovered from 325m south-east of the Site, in an area of remains relating to the medieval village. These comprised earthworks, house platforms, and cobble spreads as well as sherds of medieval pottery.

2.4.3 The ridge and furrow present within the Site demonstrates that it was part of the open fields associated with the medieval settlement of Great Glen. The site lay beyond the settlement core of the medieval village, but was located within its agricultural hinterland.

2.5 Post-medieval and modern

2.5.1 London Road, forming the south-western boundary of the Site, was formerly the route of the London to Manchester Turnpike Road.



- 2.5.2 The 1814 Ordnance Survey Preliminary Drawing shows the Site located within two larger fields, with a north-south aligned boundary between them. A possible avenue of trees, on the same alignment as this boundary, appears to just extend into the southern part of the Site.
- 2.5.3 The 1886 Ordnance Survey shows the pond in the south-eastern corner of the Site. The possible avenue is not shown on this mapping, although the north-south aligned boundary through the Site is depicted as a line of trees.
- 2.5.4 The 1904 Ordnance Survey shows the construction of the southern Site boundary and the removal of the boundary through the eastern part of the Site.
- 2.5.5 The Site remained as agricultural land throughout the post-medieval and modern periods.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were as follows:

- *to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site;*
- *to verify the results of the geophysical survey;*
- *to assess the artefactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits encountered;*
- *to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the site so that archaeological implications of the proposed development could be assessed;*
- *to assess the impact of previous land use on the Site;*
- *to inform formulation of a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;*
- *to produce a Site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicestershire HER.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 The work was carried out in accordance with the approved WSI (CgMs 2015b), Wessex Archaeology's procedures, and industry standards and guidelines (ClfA 2014a and b).
- 3.2.2 The original scope of works stated that eleven 30m trial trenches would be excavated. In the event, one of the trenches (Trench 10) was shortened by 10m to avoid a buried anomaly detected during pre-excavation CAT scanning, with an additional 10m-long trench (Trench 12) excavated in compensation. In addition, five 2m-deep trial holes were dug within some of the evaluation trenches. This was done on the advice of Richard Clark, in order to better understand the palaeoenvironmental potential of deposits within the southern, downslope part of the Site (**Figure 1**).

3.3 Monitoring

- 3.3.1 Richard Clark visited the Site on 19th and 24th August 2015, when fieldwork was under way.



3.4 Machine excavation

- 3.4.1 Topsoil was removed using a JCB 3CX mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of the Site supervisor. Topsoil and overburden were removed in a series of level spits down to the level of the upper archaeological horizon, or the level at which deposits were presumed to be archaeologically sterile, whichever was reached first.

3.5 Hand excavation

- 3.5.1 Any archaeological features and deposits were cleaned as necessary to allow inspection and to define their extent. Archaeological features were hand excavated, with care taken not to compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits, which may have been deemed suitable for preservation by record or preservation *in situ*.

3.6 Recording

- 3.6.1 All deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. A stratigraphic matrix was compiled to record the relationships between features and deposits.
- 3.6.2 Excavated areas and deposits were located by means of an RTK GPS system and tied into the OS grid with a tolerance of better than + or - 100mm. All deposits had spot heights recorded in relation to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places.
- 3.6.3 A photographic record was maintained using digital images and 35mm monochrome film equipment.

4 RESULTS OF EVALUTION TRENCHING

4.1 Deposit sequence

- 4.1.1 Two differing deposit sequences were recorded during the evaluation, with the location of each relating to the topographic location of the trench in which they were encountered.
- 4.1.2 Generally, trenches positioned within the sloping, more elevated ground (that is, Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5 and 9) contained a deposit sequence of stiff, stony orangey grey clay till overlain by a brownish grey silty clay subsoil derived from ridge and furrow cultivation. The natural till was generally encountered between 0.4m and 0.8m below the modern (undulating) ground surface (**Plate 1**).
- 4.1.3 By contrast, trenches located within the level, downslope parts of the Site contained a deposit sequence of stiff grey-blue clay located around 2m below the current ground surface, overlain by a thick accumulation of soft clay, grading from orange/brown to grey (**Plates 2 and 3**).
- 4.1.4 The full sequence was exposed in a series of five test pits dug into the bases of Trenches 4, 6 and 11. It is thought that within these trenches the softer clay deposits represent either glaciogenic/head deposits or fills of a palaeochannel. Further details are given below.
- 4.1.5 Topsoil across the Site was a friable mid- or dark brown sandy loam around 0.2-0.3m thick.

4.2 Blank trenches

4.2.1 Notwithstanding the deposit sequence described above, the majority of trenches were blank, or contained no features of archaeological significance. Trenches 1, 2, 3 were entirely blank. The trenches positioned across the east-west geophysical anomaly/vegetation mark (Trenches 4, 6 and 7) contained no features of note apart from a substantial modern land drain corresponding with, and accounting for, the anomaly (**Plate 4**). The sole archaeological finding in Trench 8 was the remains of a cow, presumed to be a modern fallen stock burial.

4.3 Archaeological features

Trench 5

4.3.1 Ditch **503** crossed Trench 5 on a north-east to south-west alignment (**Figure 2; Plate 5**). Excavation revealed that it had a maximum width and depth of 0.95m and 0.29m respectively, and an irregular dish-shaped profile. The ditch contained two fills, a lower deposit of pale brown sandy clay loam overlain by a darker deposit of sandy clay loam. The feature contained an assemblage of 224g of prehistoric, probably Middle Iron Age, pottery (8 sherds) and 181g of animal bone (31 pieces). A small amount of fired clay (119g), possibly representing daub, was also present.

Trench 9

4.3.2 Ditch **904** crossed Trench 9 on a north-west to south-east alignment (**Figure 3; Plate 6**). Excavation revealed that it had a maximum width and depth of 0.6m and 0.28m respectively, and a 'V'-shaped profile. The ditch contained a single fill of yellowish grey sandy silt loam. Two small fragments of post-medieval brick were recovered from this deposit.

Trenches 10-12

4.3.3 A group of remains was identified in the eastern part of the Site, each found sealed beneath a substantial thickness of clay subsoil (**Figure 3**).

4.3.4 A brownish grey clay-filled anomaly could be seen crossing the base of Trench 10 on a north-east to south-west alignment. Numbered **1005**, the feature was found to vary in width between 0.9m and 1.1m and attain a maximum depth of 0.16m (**Figure 4; Plate 7**). Its main fill was little different from the clay subsoil that overlay the natural substrate within the trench. Given this, and the shallow and somewhat vague form of the feature in plan, it is thought to represent a natural erosion gully that became infilled, possibly through alluvial aggradation. A piece of struck flint and fragments of degraded animal teeth were, however, recovered from the fill of **1005**, indicating a local human presence when or before its infilling occurred.

4.3.5 Preliminary excavation of Trench 11 revealed a dispersed scatter of heat-affected stone within a matrix of orangey grey silty clay, found approximately 0.7m below the current ground surface. Investigation of this deposit revealed an underlying feature, **1104**. Continuing beyond the western edge of the trench, feature **1104** is assumed to represent a pit or ditch terminal. It contained a single fill of dark grey sandy clay containing abundant charcoal and fragments of heat-affected stone (**Figure 4; Plate 8**). Feature **1104** measured 1.4m north-south by at least 0.42m east-west and was 0.49m deep, with a bowl-shaped profile.

4.3.6 A 0.1m-thick spread of soft mid-blue clay, **1106**, containing occasional heat-affected stone and charcoal fragments, along with two pieces of struck flint, was revealed 2m to the north



of feature 1104. It is thought that this material represents a trampled ground surface associated with feature 1104.

- 4.3.7 A small circular pit measuring 0.4m in diameter was noted in the south-west corner of Trench 12 (and 11m south-west of feature 1104). Numbered 1205, excavation revealed it to attain a maximum depth of 0.1m with an irregular concave profile. It contained a fill of red-stained grey clay with occasional stones showing possible effects of heating (Figure 4; Plate 9). The function of this feature is not known although its formation may be associated with pit 1104.

4.4 Test pits

- 4.4.1 Test pits were excavated into the bases of Trench 4 (Test Pits 4.1-4.3), Trench 6 (Test Pit 6.1) and Trench 11 (Test Pit 11.1) in order to give a preliminary indication of the palaeoenvironmental potential of underlying deposits (Figure 1).
- 4.4.2 The test pits were too deep to permit safe entry for hand-cleaning, and so the recorded characters and depths of the deposits are approximate.
- 4.4.3 No deposits of peat or other material of obvious high palaeoenvironmental potential were encountered. Instead, most contained a deposit sequence of stiff grey-blue clay located around 2m below the current ground surface, overlain by a thick accumulation of soft clay, that was bluer/greyer with depth and became browner towards the surface.
- 4.4.4 Records of the deposits revealed in the test pits, along with relevant Site information such as BGS data etc, were supplied to the Geoarchaeology and Environmental team at Wessex Archaeology. The team expressed the opinion that the clays are probably not alluvial in origin but are more likely to be glaciogenic head deposits, and as such probably have little to no palaeoenvironmental importance (David Norcott and Richard Payne pers. comm.). This observation carried the caveat that a Site visit would normally be required for a definite interpretation, however.
- 4.4.5 Cultural material was recovered from some of the deposits within the test pits. Fragments of cereal grain and a struck flint flake were recovered from deposit 403, approximately 1m below the modern ground surface in Test Pit 4.2. Further cereal grains were present within deposit 411, approximately 1.3m below the modern ground surface in Test Pit 4.1.
- 4.4.6 Detailed results of the deposits encountered in the test pits are presented below, running from the stratigraphically latest to earliest strata in each case.

| Test Pit No. | | 4.1 |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Location | | North end of Trench 4 |
| Ground Level O.D. | | 109.02m |
| Context | Description/interpretation | Depth from ground surface |
| 400 | Friable mid-brown loamy sand. Topsoil | 0-0.3m |
| 402 | Orangey grey clay | 0.3-1.2m |
| 411 | Greyish green clay with frequent angular sub-rounded coarse gravel and cobbles with occasional ?organic black mottling | 1.2m-1.4m |
| 412 | Stiff greyish orange clay with occasional pebbles | 1.4-2m+ |



| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Test Pit No. | | 4.2 |
| Location | | Centre of Trench 4 |
| Ground Level O.D. | | 108.55m |
| Context | Description/interpretation | Depth from ground surface |
| 400 | Friable mid-brown loamy sand. Topsoil | 0-0.2m |
| 402 | Orangey grey clay | 0.2-0.8m |
| 403 | Yellowish orange clay | 0.8-1.1m |
| 401=410 | Blueish grey clay | 1.1-2m+ |

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Test Pit No. | | 4.3 |
| Location | | South end of Trench 4 |
| Ground Level O.D. | | 108.40m |
| Context | Description/interpretation | Depth from ground surface |
| 400 | Friable mid-brown loamy sand. Topsoil | 0-0.2m |
| 402 | Orangey grey clay | 0.2-0.5m |
| 403 | Yellowish orange clay | 0.5-1.1m |
| 401 | Blueish grey clay | 1.1-1.5m |
| 409 | Orange grey clay | 1.5-1.8m |
| 410 | Blueish grey clay | 1.8-2m+ |

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Test Pit No. | | 6.1 |
| Location | | South end of Trench 6 |
| Ground Level O.D. | | 107.50 |
| Context | Description/interpretation | Depth from ground surface |
| 600 | Friable mid-brown sandy loam. Topsoil | 0-0.25m |
| 601 | Orangey grey soft sandy clay | 0.25-0.97m |
| 602 | Blue-grey clay. Soft, sticky, wet. | 0.97-1.5m |
| 603 | Yellow clay with gravel and sand. Soft, sticky, wet. | 1.5-1.7m |
| 604 | Blue-grey clay with white stone inclusions | 1.7-1.85m+ |

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Test Pit No. | | 11.1 |
| Location | | South end of Trench 11 |
| Ground Level O.D. | | 102.90 |
| Context | Description/interpretation | Depth from ground surface |
| 1100 | Friable dark brown sandy loam. Topsoil | 0-0.2m |
| 1102 | Brownish grey clayish silt | 0.2-0.5m |
| 1103 | Orangey grey silty clay | 0.5-1.1 |
| 1101 | Stiff mid-blueish grey clay with rusty orange mottling throughout | 1.1-1.6 |
| 1107 | Mid- to dark stiff blue clay with occasional white stone inclusions | 1.6-2m+ |

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The evaluation produced a small assemblage of finds, ranging in date from prehistoric to post-medieval. Finds derived largely from topsoil and subsoil contexts, with a small

quantity from stratified feature fills and deposits in Trenches 5, 10 and 11. The quantification of finds by context and by material type is given in **Table 1**.

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 The small pottery assemblage includes material of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval date.

Prehistoric

5.2.2 Eight prehistoric sherds were recovered, all from a secondary fill **504** of ditch **503** in Trench 5. Six of these are in a similar fabric, containing subangular quartz and coarse igneous rock inclusions (Leicester fabric RQ1); exterior surfaces are scored, but there are no other diagnostic features. The other two sherds are in a finer fabric containing subangular quartz but no macroscopically visible igneous inclusions (fabric Q1). The igneous inclusions suggest a local origin in the Charnwood Forest, location of the Mountsorrel granodiorite outcrop. A Middle Iron Age date can be suggested, and parallels can be found, for example, in the Middle Iron Age assemblage from Wanlip (Marsden 1998).

Medieval

5.2.3 Ten sherds are medieval. Eight of these are in the same coarse fabric, tempered with igneous rock inclusions, which can be identified as Potters Marston ware (Leicester fabric PM; Sawday 1991). This ware is well represented on medieval sites in Leicester, and the industry is dated c. 1100–1300; the source is about 15km to the west of the Site. One diagnostic sherd is present here: the rim from a jar (Trench 10 topsoil). Other sherds came from topsoil and subsoil contexts in Trenches 5, 7 and 8.

5.2.4 One sherd in an oolitic fabric, internally glazed, from the subsoil/ridge and furrow interface in Trench 7, is identified as Lyveden-Stanion ware (fabric LY), from north Northamptonshire, while an externally glazed sherd from the subsoil/ridge and furrow interface in Trench 11 is in Nuneaton 'A' ware (fabric CC1), dated c.1200-1400.

Post-medieval

5.2.5 The remaining twelve sherds are post-medieval, and consist largely of post-medieval blackwares (fabric EA6), with one English brown salt-glazed stoneware (fabric SW5). All sherds came from topsoil or subsoil contexts.

5.3 Baked clay

5.3.1 Baked clay was recovered from two contexts (**504** and **505**), both secondary fills of ditch **503**; fragments from both contexts are visually similar, occurring in a soft-fired, silty matrix containing randomly sorted (and probably naturally occurring) coarse inclusions (quartz, small pebbles, etc). Although superficially similar to the Iron Age pottery recovered from both contexts, the fabric is distinctly different, and each fragment only has one surviving surface. It is most likely to be of structural origin, for example from wattle and daub construction.

5.4 Worked flint

5.4.1 Five pieces of worked flint were recovered. All are waste flakes, two of which are broken. In the absence of any tools or other utilised pieces, these pieces can only be broadly dated as Neolithic/Bronze Age. One broken flake came from erosion gully **1005**, and two flakes from burnt spread **1106** (although in neither instance can they be regarded as reliable dating evidence); others came from topsoil and subsoil contexts.



5.5 Metalwork

- 5.5.1 The metalwork comprises objects of copper alloy and iron. All came from topsoil or subsoil contexts, and are demonstrably or probably of post-medieval/modern date.
- 5.5.2 The copper alloy consists of an illegible 19th/20th-century halfpenny (Trench 7), and a small decorative gilt mount (32 x 29mm) made from a pressed metal sheet (Trench 4), featuring a corn sheaf motif surrounded by an openwork frame of fruit and foliage design. The mount is of uncertain function, but stylistically is almost certainly also of 19th- or 20th-century date.
- 5.5.3 The iron objects include two handmade nails, and one slightly curved bar with a possible tang at one end, possibly a tool (the opposite end is broken). These iron objects are not intrinsically datable, but their provenance suggests a post-medieval date.

5.6 Animal bone

- 5.6.1 Bones from the subsoil (802) in Trench 8 appear to represent a single animal (cattle); present are both tibiae, both radii, both metacarpals, as well as the left ulna, calcaneus and astragalus, and assorted phalange and carpal bones. The condition of these bones is good, and no obvious butchery marks were observed. Bones from other contexts were in noticeably poorer condition, and the only identifiable examples are a cattle humerus from a secondary fill (504) of ditch 503, and some sheep/goat tooth fragments from erosion gully 1005 in Trench 10.

5.7 Other finds

- 5.7.1 Other finds are tabulated below, and comprise very small quantities of oyster shell (all from topsoil, almost certainly post-medieval), small post-medieval brick fragments from ditch 904 and burnt (unworked) stone (undated, possibly prehistoric).

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

| Context | Animal Bone | Baked Clay | Flint (No.) | Metal (No.) | Pottery | Other Finds |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|
| 100 | | | | | | 1 shell |
| 200 | | | | 1 Fe | | |
| 300 | | | | 1 Fe | 3/110 | 1 shell |
| 402 | | | | 1 Cu | | |
| 403 | | | 1 | | | |
| 500 | | | | | 2/40 | 1 shell |
| 504 | 1/54 | 11/100 | | | 8/224 | |
| 505 | 30/127 | 9/19 | | | | |
| 600 | | | | | 1/40 | |
| 601 | | | | 1 Fe | | |
| 703 | | | | 1 Cu | 12/217 | |
| 802 | 52/3118 | | 1 | | 1/5 | |
| 900 | | | | | 1/10 | |
| 905 | | | | | | 2 brick |
| 1001 | | | | | 1/15 | |
| 1006 | 3/3 | | 1 | | | |
| 1102 | | | | | 1/5 | |
| 1106 | | | 2 | | | 2 stone |
| Total | 86/3302 | 20/119 | 5 | 3 Fe; 2 Cu | 30/666 | |

Cu = copper alloy; Fe = iron

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A total of nine bulk samples was collected, deriving from ditch 503 in Trench 5, layer 602 in Trench 6, pit 1104 and spread 1106 in Trench 11 and from layers in Test Pits 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 11.1. Samples were taken to evaluate the presence and preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal.

6.2 Charred plant remains

6.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Table 2**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals.

6.2.2 The flots varied in size, with low to high numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material showed varying degrees of preservation.

- 6.2.3 Charred remains were only recovered in relatively small quantities. The assemblages recorded from ditch 503 in Trench 5 included hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), grain fragments and seeds of goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) and docks (*Rumex* sp.).
- 6.2.4 The sample from layer 602 in Trench 6 contained indeterminate grain fragments and seeds of oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.) and vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.).
- 6.2.5 Hulled wheat grain and glume base fragments and free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) grain and rachis fragments were recorded from layer 403 in Test Pit 4.2, together with seeds of oat/brome grass, vetch/wild pea and docks and a fragment of sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) stone. A fragment of free-threshing wheat grain was also noted within layer 411 in Test Pit 4.1.
- 6.2.6 These small assemblages may be indicative of settlement waste and activities in the wider area. The weed seeds are those of species typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments. There is a small possible indication of date of some of the assemblages as hulled wheat is typical of prehistoric and Romano-British assemblages in England while free-threshing wheat became more common during the Saxon and medieval periods (Greig 1991).
- 6.3 Wood charcoal**
- 6.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 2**. Moderately large quantities of wood charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were recovered from pit 1104 and spread 1106 in Trench 11. The charcoal included mature wood fragments.
- 6.4 Land and aquatic molluscs**
- 6.4.1 The bulk samples were also assessed for the presence of molluscs and the information recorded in **Table 2**. Nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008). The presence of these shells may aid in broadly characterising the nature of the wider landscape.
- 6.4.2 A few shells were recovered from layer 403 in Test Pit 4.2. These included those of the open country species *Helicella itala* and the amphibious species *Galba truncatula*. *Galba truncatula* 'inhabits marshy grassland, shallow ephemeral ponds, roadside trickles, flushes and dune slacks' (Kerney 1999). These few shells may be indicative of an open landscape with areas of seasonal/occasional flooding but the assemblage is too small to draw any firm conclusions.
- 6.5 Further potential**
- 6.5.1 Due to the small assemblages recovered, analysis of the charred plant assemblages has little potential to provide further information on the nature of the surrounding environment, or on past human activity on/around the Site, such as local agricultural practices and crop husbandry techniques.
- 6.5.2 The analysis of the wood charcoal from Trench 11 has the potential to provide limited information on the species composition, management and exploitation of the local woodland resource on the site.
- 6.5.3 No further work is proposed on these samples.



Table 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

| Feature | Context | Sample | Vol (L) | Flot size | Roots % | Grain | Chaff | Cereal Notes | Charred Other | Notes for Table | Charcoal > 4/2mm | Other |
|--------------------|---------|--------|---------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|--|---------------|---|------------------|------------------------|
| Trench 5 - Ditch | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 503 | 504 | 5 | 9 | 100 | 70 | C | - | Wheat grain frags | C | <i>Chenopodium, Rumex</i> | <1/2 ml | - |
| 503 | 505 | 6 | 9 | 80 | 70 | B | - | Hulled wheat grain frags | - | - | <1/1 ml | - |
| Trench 6 - Layer | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 602 | 3 | 18 | 10 | 20 | C | - | Indet. grain frags | C | <i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus</i> | 0/<1 ml | - |
| Trench 11 - Pit | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1104 | 1105 | 2 | 14 | 60 | 20 | - | - | - | - | - | 15/15 ml | - |
| Trench 11 - Spread | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1106 | 4 | 10 | 60 | 30 | - | - | - | - | - | 7/10 ml | - |
| Test pit layers | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TP 4.1 | 411 | 10 | 9 | 25 | 70 | C | - | F-t wheat grain frags | - | - | 0/<1 ml | - |
| TP 4.2 | 403 | 9 | 17 | 30 | 50 | B | C | Hulled wheat + f-t wheat grain frags, glume base frags, f-t wheat rachis | B | <i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Rumex, Prunus spinosa</i> stone frag | 0/<1 ml | Moll-t (C), Moll-f (C) |
| TP 4.3 | 409 | 8 | 16 | 5 | 40 | - | - | - | - | - | 0/<1 ml | - |
| TP 11.1 | 1101 | 7 | 16 | 10 | 50 | - | - | - | - | - | 0/<1 ml | - |

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-f = aquatic molluscs;

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Summary

7.1.1 The geoarchaeological context for the thick clays in the southern part of the Site is yet to be resolved. Cultural material comprising cereal remains and a single struck flint flake was recovered at depth within them, although deposits of high palaeoenvironmental significance were not encountered.

7.1.2 A cluster of features of probable prehistoric date was present in the eastern part of the Site, within Trenches 10-12. These remains were buried to a depth of at least 0.7m below the current ground surface.

7.1.3 Elsewhere on the Site, finds from ditch 504 also indicate nearby occupation at some point in prehistory, in this instance most probably the Middle Iron Age. Ditch 504 represents the earliest dated stratified evidence of activity in the area (CgMs 2015a), and so is of some significance in tracing the development of local agricultural settlement.

7.1.4 The other recorded remains are of less importance. For example, ditch 904 appears to correspond with a boundary shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886.

7.2 General

7.2.1 During fieldwork the existence of an infilled palaeochannel within the southern part of the Site was mooted. Preliminary assessment of the Site archive has produced conflicting evidence for the existence of such a feature. On the one hand, current geoarchaeological opinion regards the thick clay deposits in the area as probably glaciogenic (David Norcott and Richard Payne pers. comm.). Running counter to this, modest amounts of cultural

material were present within the soil samples taken from deep within the deposits. Fragments of cereal grain and a struck flint flake were recovered from deposit **403**, approximately 1m below the modern ground surface in Test Pit 4.2. Further cereal grains were present within deposit **411**, approximately 1.3m below the modern ground surface in Test Pit 4.1. The environmental report does caution, however, that some degree of stratigraphic movement and contamination by later intrusive elements has probably affected the samples.

- 7.2.2 Remains of amphibious snails were also present within one of the samples, offering potential support for the notion that wetland conditions once existed here, although the assemblage is too small to provide firm conclusions regarding the nature of the local environment in the past.
- 7.2.3 Although the geoarchaeological context for the thick clays in this part of the Site is yet to be resolved, no deposits of palaeoenvironmental significance were encountered during the evaluation.
- 7.2.4 In the eastern part of the Site, around Trenches 10-12, the trench evaluation has revealed the presence of an archaeological horizon of unknown but potentially prehistoric date. The constituent remains comprise a probable pit containing heat-affected stone (**1104**), an associated charcoal-enriched spread containing struck flint (**1106**), a potentially natural feature (**1005**) containing struck flint and faunal remains, and a small, artefactually sterile pit (**1205**).
- 7.2.5 Features in this part of the Site were found buried at a depth of at least 0.7m below the current ground surface. The formation process for the overburden is not known, although it was clayish, fine-grained and clast-free and so perhaps most resembles alluvial build-up. Should further remains be encountered hereabouts, a significant level of preservation is possible, as such material would have afforded them good protection from later ploughing and other disturbance.
- 7.2.6 Alternatively, the overburden may represent deposits associated with levelled ridge and furrow (earthworks were not discernible in this part of the Site), and so the remains around Trenches 10-12 have already been impacted by subsequent land use.
- 7.2.7 Heat-affected stones are a common find-type on sites of a broad prehistoric (Neolithic to Iron Age) date and are *'among the most abundant and widespread categories of artefactual material found on prehistoric sites and they occur in a wide range of demonstrably different contexts'* (Seager Thomas 2010, 358). Hot stones were seemingly put to a multitude of uses during prehistory, and are commonly associated with food preparation and cooking. Their presence is not uncommonly read as a proxy for settlement activity.
- 7.2.8 It is not possible on the basis of the current evidence to determine what the remains recorded in Trenches 10-12 represent, or even whether or not they ever operated as a functional whole. The features potentially hint at the presence of a burnt mound nearby. Burnt mounds are often found located close to water channels, which may be of relevance in light of the possibility of an ancient water course lying within the southern part of the Site (see above).
- 7.2.9 Elsewhere, limited field system remains were encountered on the Site. Within Trench 5 a relatively sizeable assemblage of bone, pot and baked clay most likely to be of structural origin, for example from wattle and daub construction, along with cereal remains, was recovered from ditch **504**. The quantity and range of find types, in particular the presence



of the probable daub, suggests occupation in or near the Site at some point in prehistory, most probably the Middle Iron Age. The desk-based assessment (CgMs 2015a) recorded just one record of prehistoric activity within its 1km search area, and so the discovery of this feature is of some significance in contributing to an understanding of the development of agricultural settlement within the local area.

- 7.2.10 The ground surface to the east and west of ditch 504 had been scored by furrows, with ditch 504 lying on the ridge between them. Given its shallow depth, the earthworks furrows have probably impacted on the assumed continuation of this feature beyond the trench. Indeed, given that no other remains of potential Iron Age date were recorded on the Site, it is likely that medieval cultivation has removed such earlier features.
- 7.2.11 Ditch 904 was a relatively minor boundary feature running along an earthwork furrow. It would appear to correspond with the course and position of a tree line shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 5) of 1886 and may represent an earlier or associated boundary element.
- 7.2.12 The Site's ridge and furrow earthworks are typical of those to be found throughout the English Midlands (Upex 2004). The well-preserved character of these examples indicates that the Site has been largely given over to grazing since the ridge and furrow was last under cultivation. This is supported by the limited scale of the pottery assemblage, which suggests that the presence of grazing animals obviated the need for the spreading of nightsoil, within which a pottery component might normally be expected (Jones 2004). At the general level, the presence and survival of ridge and furrow reflects the steady shift from arable to grazing that occurred in the English Midlands from about c. AD 1400 onwards (Williamson 2003, 153-4), and these remains are a fairly typical product of that process.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 General

- 8.1.1 The archaeological evaluation largely met its aims and objectives. The evaluation succeeded in revealing that the Site contains a limited archaeological component. This would appear to be best preserved in the eastern portion of the Site where remains of potential prehistoric date were found sealed beneath a 0.7m-thickness of overburden.
- 8.1.2 In the western part of the Site, the discovery of a boundary ditch of probable Middle Iron Age date is of some importance in revealing the beginnings of enclosure within the local area. Furthermore, the finds assemblage associated with the ditch suggests settlement nearby.
- 8.1.3 It was not possible to meet some of the aims and objectives: evidence sufficient to reveal the processes responsible for the formation of the deep clays in the downslope part of the Site, and the date range for their formation, was not recovered. The presence of a palaeochannel in the southern part of the Site has therefore not been resolved. A small amount of cultural material was present deep within some of the sampled clays, but no deposits of high palaeoenvironmental significance were encountered.



9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Leicester City Council Museums and Galleries. The Council has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **X.A85.2015**. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

9.2 Preparation of archive

9.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Leicester City Council Museums and Galleries, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site and accession code (**110510; X.A85.2015**), and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- *one file/document case of paper records and A3/A4 graphics*
- *one standard archive box of artefacts*

9.3 Discard policy

9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this instance, the potential of the finds assemblage is severely limited by the small quantities recovered, their date range and provenance. It is recommended that the prehistoric and medieval artefacts (animal bone, worked flint, baked clay, pottery) should be retained, while post-medieval and otherwise undated artefacts (animal bone, shell, metalwork, pottery) could be discarded. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

9.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2011).

9.4 Security copy

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.

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11 APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1: Context descriptions by trench

| Trench No. 1 | Description: | Dimensions: 30 x 1.6m |
|--------------|---|--------------------------|
| Context No. | | Depth: 0.5m |
| 100 | Topsoil – Friable mid-brown loamy sand. | 0 – 0.2m |
| 101 | Natural – Orangey grey clay with frequent/abundant gravel, flints etc. | 0.5m+ |
| 102 | Subsoil/ridge and furrow material - Greyish orange clay. Firm. Less stony than natural. Charcoal speckles throughout. | 0.2-0.5m |

| Trench No. 2 | Description: | Dimensions: 30 x 1.6m |
|--------------|--|--------------------------|
| Context No. | | Depth: 0.6m |
| 200 | Topsoil - Mid brown sandy silt. | 0 – 0.2m |
| 201 | Natural - Orangey grey silty clay. Frequent small white stone & flint inclusions | 0.6m+ |
| 202 | Subsoil/ridge and furrow material - Greyish orange clay. Occasional small white stone and flint inclusions. Slightly more mixed looking and less stony than natural. | 0.2 – 0.6m |

| Trench No. 3 | Description: | Dimensions: 30 x 1.6m |
|--------------|--|--------------------------|
| Context No. | | Depth: 0.68m |
| 300 | Topsoil – Dark greyish brown sandy loam. | 0 – 0.2m |
| 301 | Natural –stiff orangey grey clay with frequent white stone inclusions. | 0.65 – 0.68m |
| 302 | Furrow material – Dark greyish orange stiff clay with frequent stones, CBM and charcoal. | 0.2 – 0.43m |
| 303 | Subsoil – Stiff greyish orange clay similar to 302 but with fewer inclusions. | 0.43-0.65m |

| Trench No. 4 | Description: | Dimensions: 30 x 1.6m |
|--------------|--|--------------------------|
| Context No. | | Depth: 1.2m |
| 400 | Topsoil – Friable mid-brown loamy sand. | 0 – 0.2m |
| 401 | Natural – Blueish grey clay. | 1.1 – 1.2m |
| 402 | Subsoil – Orangey grey clay. | 0.2-0.5m |
| 403 | Lower subsoil/subsoil/natural, possible interface? – Yellowish orange clay, softer and paler than 402. Iron panning rust mottling occasional throughout. | 0.5-1.1 |
| 404 | Cut of ditch – filled with: 405, 406 and 407 408. | 0-1m+ |
| 405 | Secondary fill of 404 – Yellowy brown sand with mid-sized rounded stones. Possibly redeposited natural. | 0.2-0.4m |
| 406 | Secondary fill of 404 – Mid brown silty clay with rubble and occasional sub rounded stones. | 0.26-0.78m |
| 407 | Secondary fill of 404 – Mid greyish brown silty clay. Lowermost fill. | 0.64-0.95m |
| 408 | Tertiary fill of 404 – mix of topsoil, rubble and ash, likely deliberate backfill to level ground. | 0-0.3m |
| 409 | Orangey grey clay seen in Test Pit 4.3 | |
| 410 | Blueish grey clay seen in Test Pit 4.1 | |
| 411 | Greyish green clay with frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded coarse gravel and cobbles | |



| | | |
|-----|--|--|
| | and occasional black mottling organics. | |
| 412 | Stiff greyish orange clay, occasional pebbles. | |

| Trench No. 5 | Description: | Dimensions: 30 x 1.6m |
|--------------|---|--------------------------|
| Context No. | | Depth: 0.6m |
| 500 | Topsoil – Friable mid-brown loam/sandy loam. | 0 – 0.2m |
| 501 | Natural – Stiff/friable greyish orange clay with frequent flint, gravel and stone inclusions. | 0.4-0.6m |
| 502 | Subsoil/ridge and furrow material. Friable/stiff brownish grey silty clay. Occasional stones, similar to 501 but fewer. | 0.2-0.4m |
| 503 | Cut of small ditch, filled with 504 and 505. | 0.4-0.69m |
| 504 | Secondary fill of 503 - Dark greyish brown sandy clay loam. Upper fill of ditch. | 0.4-0.69m |
| 505 | Secondary fill of 503 – light brown sandy clay loam with white speckles. | 0.4-0.69 |

| Trench No. 6 | Description: | Dimensions: 30 x 1.6m |
|--------------|--|--------------------------|
| Context No. | | Depth: 1.85m |
| 600 | Topsoil – Mid brown friable sandy loam. | 0-0.25m |
| 601 | Subsoil – Orangey grey soft sandy clay. | 0.25-0.97m |
| 602 | Subsoil – Blue grey clay, soft sticky, wet. | 0.97-1.5m |
| 603 | Subsoil – Yellow clay with gravel and sand. Soft, sticky, wet. | 1.5-1.7m |
| 604 | Natural – Blue grey clay with white stone inclusions. | 1.7-1.85m |

| Trench No. 7 | Description: | Dimensions: 30 x 1.6m |
|--------------|--|--------------------------|
| Context No. | | Depth: 1.35m |
| 700 | Topsoil – Mid brown loamy sand, friable. | 0 – 0.28m |
| 701 | Natural – Mid-grey clay with rusty orange mottling through-out. Occasional sub-angular/sub-rounded coarse gravel and cobbles. | 0.4-70.5m |
| 702 | Fill of 704 – Dump: very dark brownish grey friable loamy sand with inclusions of brick, concrete and smashed up, salt glazed water drainage pipe. | 0-0.4m |
| 703 | Subsoil/ Ridge and furrow material – Mid grey with slight orange hue. Occasional small flints and stones. Bit greyer than natural. | 0.28-0.4m |
| 704 | Cut of drainage ditch Filled with 702, 705 and 706. | |
| 705 | Secondary fill of 704 – upper most fill, light brown with regular stone inclusions – very compact and solid. | 0.4-0.75m |
| 706 | Secondary fill of 704 – much looser and softer with more organics, greyish hue to brown and much less stone. | 0.75-1.35m |

| Trench No. 8 | Description: | Dimensions: 30 x 1.6m |
|--------------|--|--------------------------|
| Context No. | | Depth: 1.3m |
| 800 | Topsoil –Mid-brown friable sandy loam. | 0 – 0.3 |
| 801 | Natural – Blue-grey clayish sand. Soft, sticky, wet. | 0.9 – 1.3+ |
| 802 | Subsoil- Orangey grey soft sandy clay | 0.3 – 0.9 |

| Trench No. 9 | Description: | Dimensions: 30 x 1.6m |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Context No. | | Depth: 0.83m |



| | | |
|-----|--|------------|
| 900 | Topsoil – Mid greyish brown friable sandy loam. | 0 – 0.2 |
| 901 | Natural –Mixed mid-blue/grey clay and orangey brown plastic clay with frequent white stone inclusions. | 0.83+ |
| 902 | Subsoil/ Ridge and furrow material – Mid-brownish grey silty clay. Occasional stones. | 0.2 – 0.4 |
| 903 | Subsoil: Mid-brownish orange friable-firm silty sandy clay. Cleaner than 902 above. | 0.4 – 0.83 |
| 904 | Cut of boundary ditch. | |
| 905 | Secondary fill of 904: Yellowish grey silty sandy loam. | |

| Trench No. 10 | Description: | Dimensions: 20 x 1.6m |
|---------------|---|--------------------------|
| Context No. | | Depth: 1.2m |
| 1001 | Topsoil with redeposited natural upcast-friable brown loam with blobs of yellow/brown clay. | 0 – 0.25m |
| 1002 | Subsoil/ Ridge and furrow material – Friable greyish orange silt. | 0.25 – 0.6 |
| 1003 | Subsoil – Stiff/friable brownish grey silty clay. | 0.6 – 0.8 |
| 1004 | Natural? Mid-pale greyish orange plastic clay. | 0.8 – 1.2 |
| 1005 | Cut of erosion gully. | |
| 1006 | Fill of 1005: brownish grey clay v. similar to 1003. | |
| 1007 | Fill of 1005: pale greyish brown silty clay. | |

| Trench No. 11 | Description: | Dimensions: 25 x 1.6m |
|---------------|--|--------------------------|
| Context No. | | Depth: 1.2m |
| 1100 | Topsoil – Dark brown friable sandy loam. | 0 – 0.2 |
| 1101 | Natural – Stiff mid blue-ish grey clay with rusty orange mottling throughout. | 1.1 – 1.6 |
| 1102 | Subsoil/ Ridge and furrow material – Friable brownish grey clayish silt. Occ pebbles. Rooty. | 0.2 – 0.8 |
| 1103 | Subsoil – Orangey grey stiff/crumblly silty clay with frequent manganese speckling. Less stony than 1102 above, more orange and less blue than 1101. | 0.8 – 1.1 |
| 1104 | Cut of pit. | 0.74 – 1.2 |
| 1105 | Fill of 1104. Dark grey sandy clay with abundant heat-affected stone. | 0.74 – 1.2 |
| 1106 | Small spread of blue grey clay with frequent small charcoal fragments and occ. heat-affected stone. | |
| 1107 | Natural – Mid-dark stiff blue clay with white stone inclusions. | 1.6 – 2.2+ |

| Trench No. 12 | Description: | Dimensions: 10 x 1.6m |
|---------------|--|--------------------------|
| Context No. | | Depth: 1.3m |
| 1200 | Topsoil – Dark greyish brown friable silty sandy loam. | 0 – 0.2 |
| 1201 | Subsoil/ Ridge and furrow material – Mid orangey- brown silty clay. Firm/friable. | 0.2 – 0.65 |
| 1202 | Mid-brownish grey plastic clay. Frequent manganese speckles. | 0.65 - 1 |
| 1203 | Subsoil – Soft mid-grey clay with rusty orange mottling throughout. | 1 – 1.25 |
| 1204 | Natural – mixture of yellowish clayish sand and pale grey clay. Stony, soft and wet. | 1.25 – 1.3+ |



| | | |
|------|---|-------------|
| 1205 | Cut of pit. | 1.25 – 1.37 |
| 1206 | Fill of 1205 – Grey sandy clay with red staining. | 1.25 – 1.37 |



11.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-220884

Project details

| | |
|--|--|
| Project name | Land off London Road, Great Glen, Leicestershire |
| Short description of the project | Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land to the east of London Road, Great Glen, Leicestershire. The work was undertaken in advance of a proposed housing development. A total of twelve trenches were excavated across approximately 2.4ha of land; the majority positioned to prospect for archaeological remains sealed beneath the well-preserved ridge and furrow earthworks that occupy much of the Site. Within the central part of the Site, a ditch of probable Middle Iron Age date was encountered in Trench 5, with the finds assemblage suggesting contemporary occupation in or near the Site. In the eastern part of the Site, around Trenches 10-12, an archaeological horizon of unknown but potentially prehistoric date was encountered. The constituent remains comprise a probable pit containing heat-affected stone, an associated charcoal-enriched spread and finds of struck flint and animal bone. These features were found buried at a depth of at least 0.75m below the current ground surface, affording them good protection from later disturbance. Deep deposits of clay, up to 2m thick, were encountered in the southern part of the Site; during fieldwork these were tentatively interpreted as fills of a palaeochannel. In support of this, modest amounts of cultural material were recovered from test pits dug into the clay. No remains of significantly high palaeoenvironmental potential were encountered in the putative palaeochannel fills, however, and there was also some evidence for their contamination by later intrusive elements. |
| Project dates | Start: 17-08-2015 End: 24-08-2015 |
| Previous/future work | Yes / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | 110510 - Contracting Unit No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | X.A85.2015 - Museum accession ID |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Current Land use | Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland |
| Monument type | DITCH Middle Iron Age |
| Monument type | PIT Late Prehistoric |
| Significant Finds | POT Iron Age |
| Methods & techniques | "Sample Trenches","Test Pits" |
| Development type | Housing estate |
| Prompt | Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS |
| Position in the planning process | Between deposition of an application and determination |



Project location

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Country | England |
| Site location | LEICESTERSHIRE HARBOROUGH GREAT GLEN Land off London Road, Great Glen, Leicestershire |
| Postcode | LE8 9FL |
| Study area | 2.4 Hectares |
| Site coordinates | SP 65140 98090 52.5763615269 -1.038638106574 52 34 34 N 001 02 19 W Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 103m Max: 113m |

Project creators

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Name of Organisation | Wessex Archaeology |
| Project brief originator | CgMs Consulting Ltd. |
| Project design originator | CgMS Consulting Ltd |
| Project director/manager | Andrew Norton |
| Project supervisor | Patrick Daniel |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Consultant |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | CgMs |

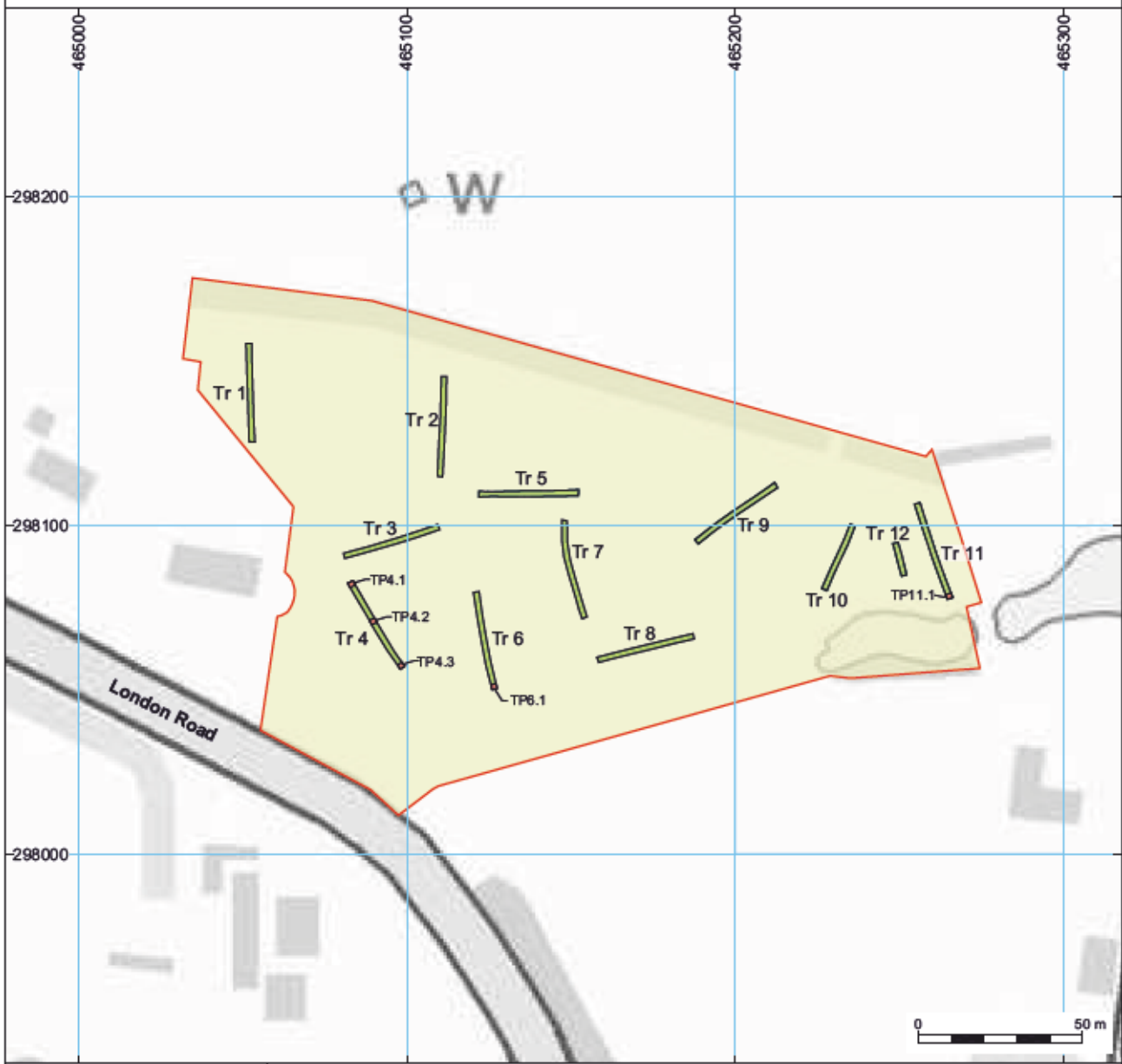
Project archives



| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Physical Archive recipient | Leicestershire County Council Museums Service |
| Physical Archive ID | X.A85.2015 |
| Physical Contents | "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics" |
| Digital Archive recipient | Leicestershire County Council Museums Service |
| Digital Archive ID | X.A85.2015 |
| Digital Contents | "Survey" |
| Digital Media available | "Images raster / digital photography","Text" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Leicestershire County Council Museums Service |
| Paper Archive ID | X.A85.2015 |
| Paper Contents | "Stratigraphic","other" |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet","Diary","Map","Photograph","Report","Unpublished Text" |



**Project
bibliography 1**

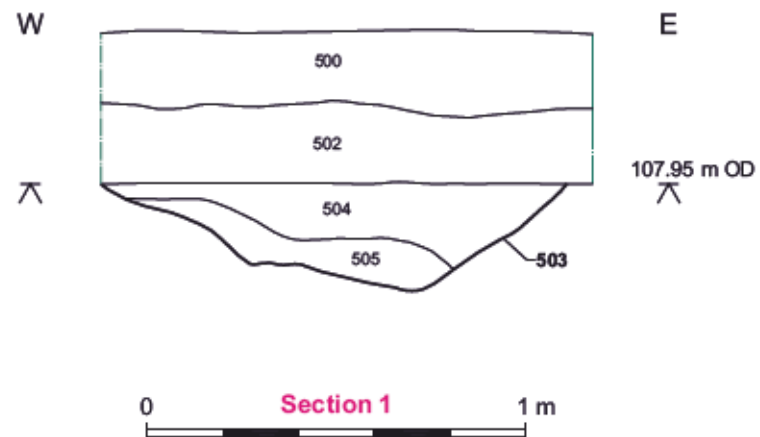
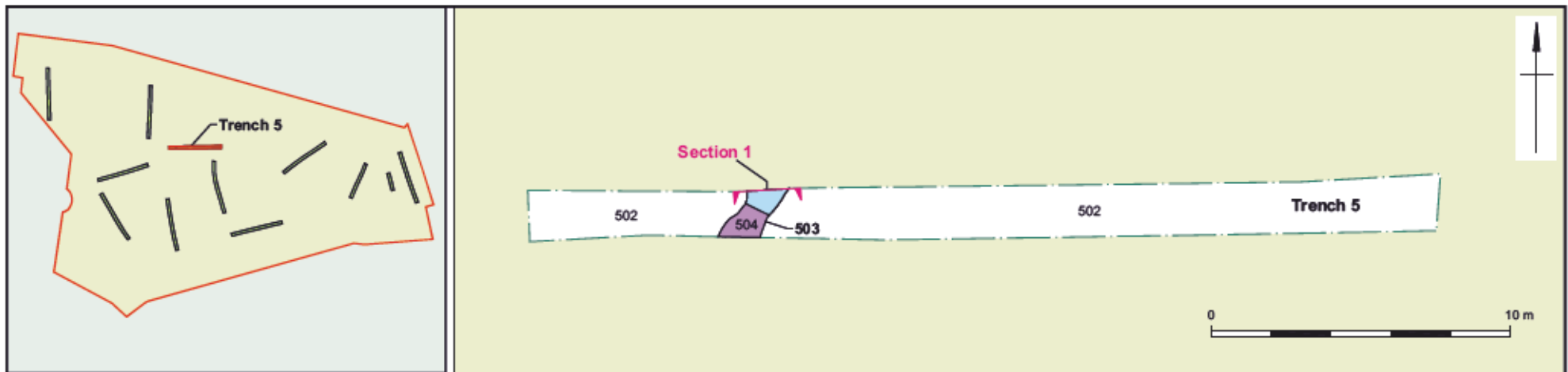
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| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Land off London Road, Great Glen, Leicestershire: Archaeological Evaluation |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Daniel, P. |
| Date | 2015 |
| Issuer or publisher | Wessex Archaeology |
| Description | A4 spiral bound report, c. 40 pages, with colour plates and figures. |
| Entered by | Patrick Daniel (p.daniel@wessexarch.co.uk) |
| Entered on | 10 September 2015 |



| | | | |
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Site location

Figure 1



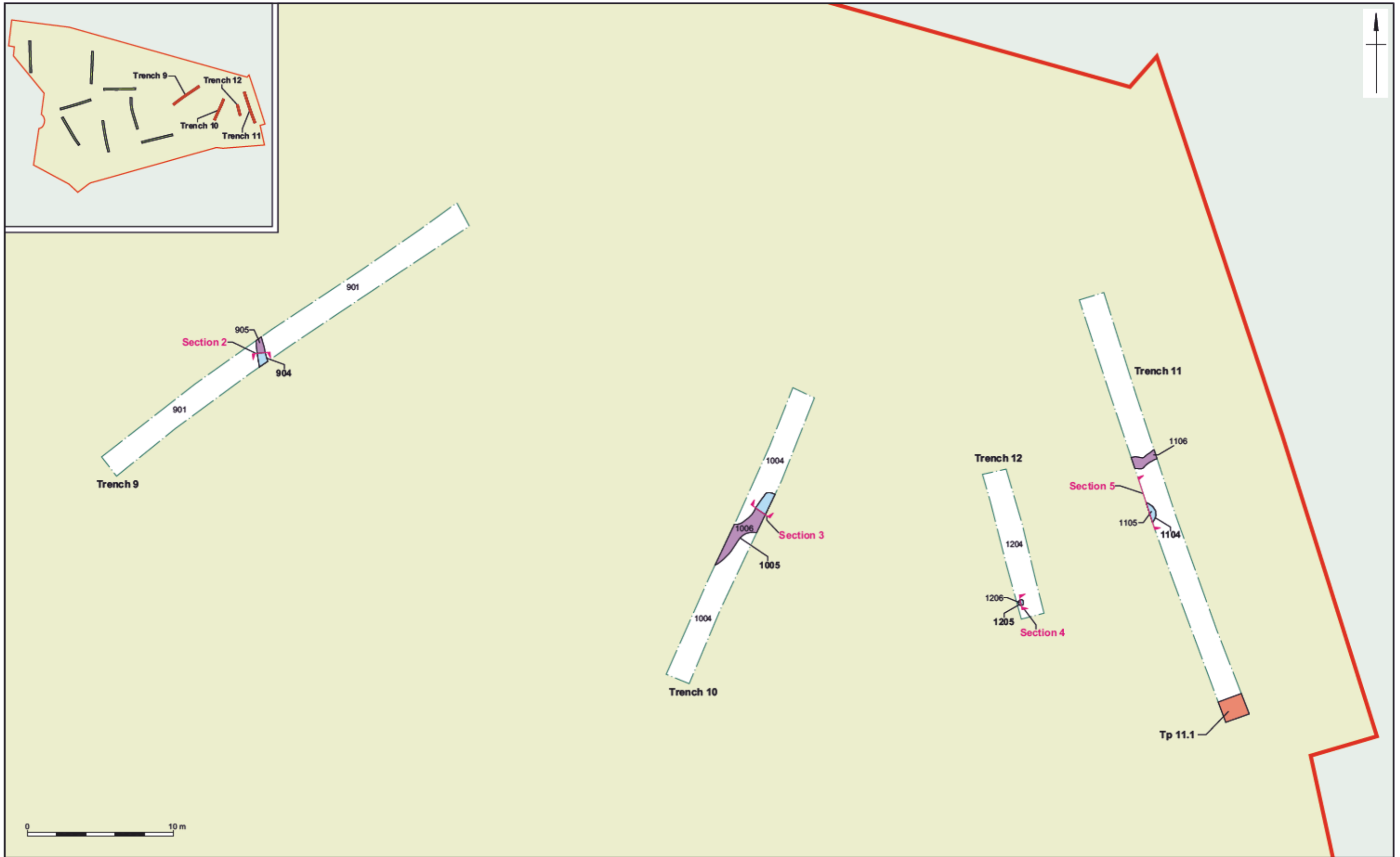
Limit of excavation
 Archaeological feature
 Excavated slot

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| Scale: | Plan - 1: 200, Section - 1: 20 @ A4 | Illustrator: | APS |
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Plan of Trench 5 and south-facing section of ditch 503

Figure 2



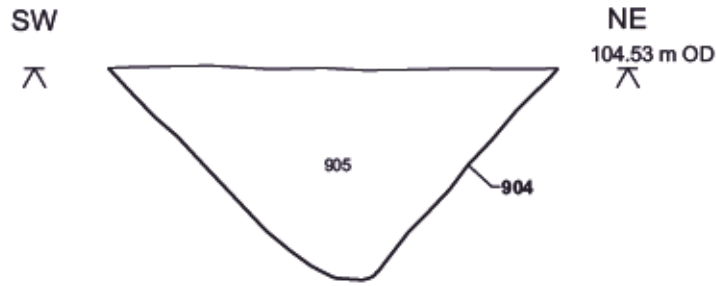
- Site boundary
- Test pit
- Limit of excavation
- Archaeological feature
- Excavated slot

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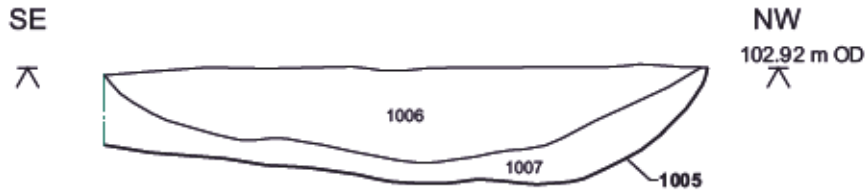
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Plan of Trenches 9, 10, 11 and 12

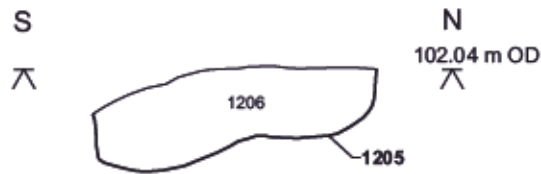
Figure 3



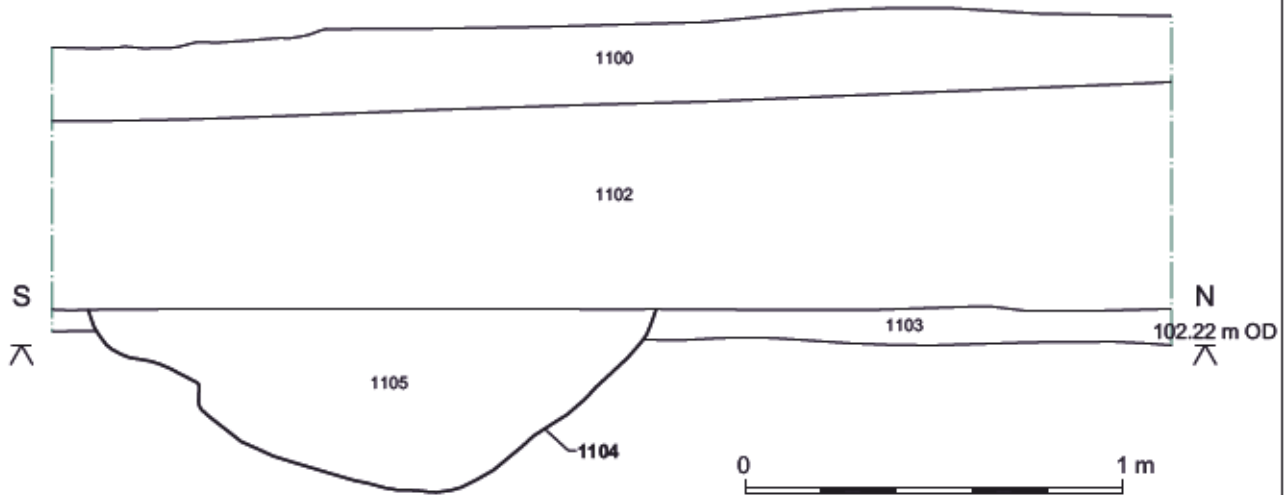
Section 2: South-east facing section of ditch 904



Section 3: North-east facing section of gully 1005



Section 4: East-facing section of pit 1205

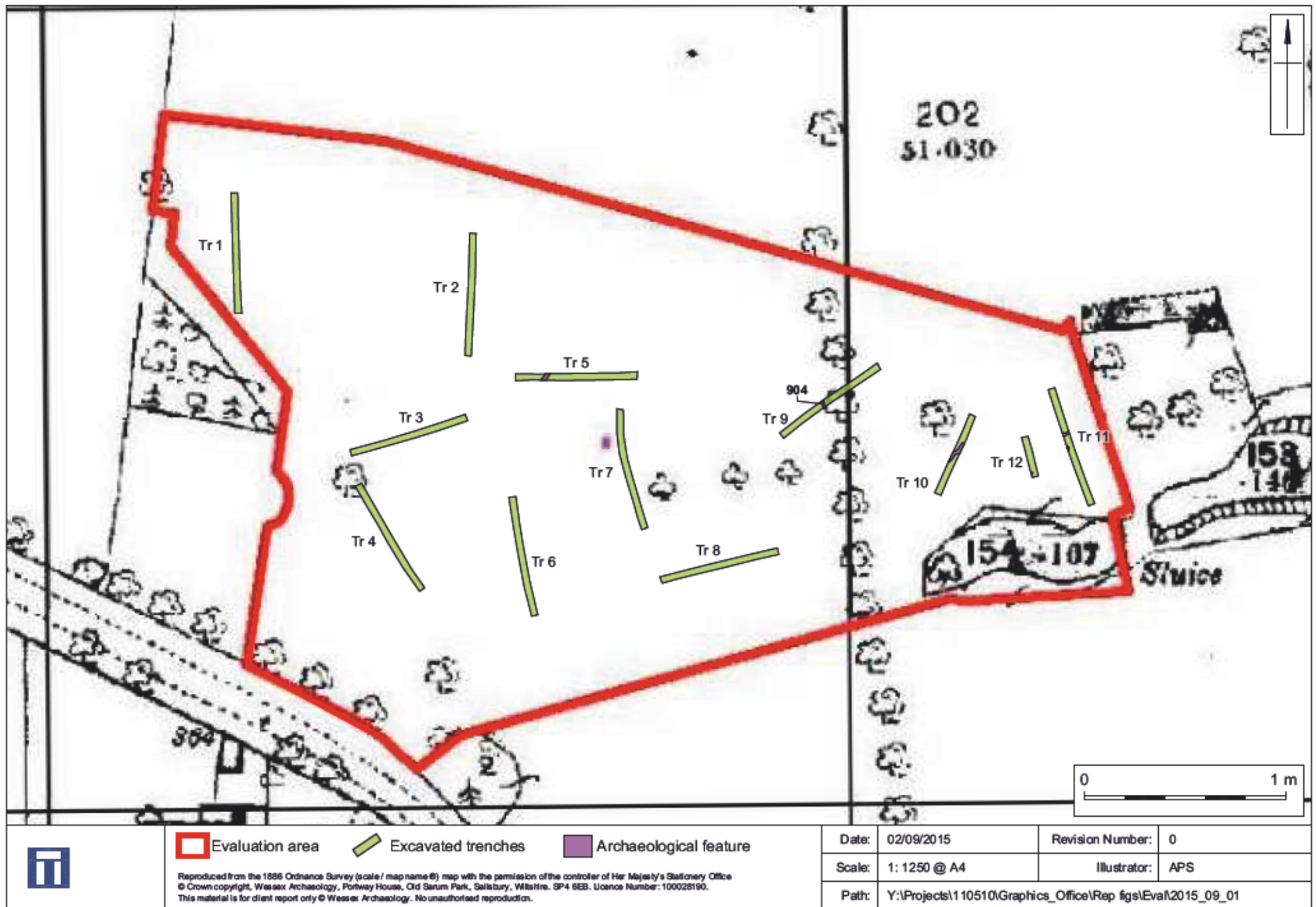


Section 5: East-facing section of pit 1104



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| | | | |
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| Date: | 02/09/2015 | Revision Number: | 0 |
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| Path: | Y:\Projects\110510\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2015_09_01 | | |



The Site overlain on 1886 1st Edition Ordnance Survey mapping, showing ditch 904 in alignment with treeline

Figure 5



Plate 1: Representative section of deposits in Trench 1 (typical of those encountered in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5 and 9)



Plate 2: Deposits exposed in Test Pit 4.3 (2m-length of tape visible)


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Plate 3: Deposits exposed in Test Pit 11.1
(2m-length of tape visible)



Plate 4: Cut containing modern land drain and associated fill, as seen in Trench 4


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Plate 5: Ditch **503**, south-facing section



Plate 6: Ditch **904**, south-east facing section



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Plate 7: Gully 1005, north-east facing section



Plate 8: Pit 1104 sealed by 0.7m of overburden, east-facing section

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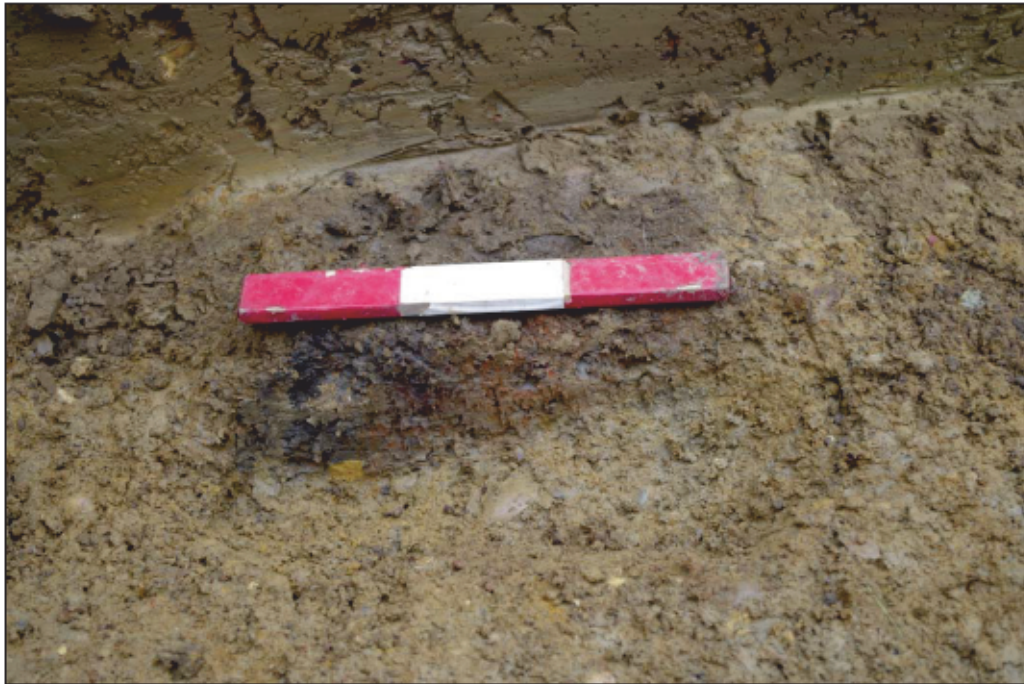



Plate 9: Pit 1205, east-facing section

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