

Archaeological Evaluation Report



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Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Mulberry Developments (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Hall Lane, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire, centred on National Grid Reference 450620, 287950. The archaeological evaluation is to support a planning application for residential development.

A total of seven trenches were excavated measuring between 30 m and 15 m in length. Trenches targeted anomalies of archaeological potential identified by geophysical survey of the proposed development area.

The evaluation demonstrated a correlation between the results of the geophysical survey and the features identified through excavation. The geophysical survey identified a rectilinear enclosure in the west with further parallel ditches identified to the east. A second enclosure was visible as a depression in the field.

The eastern limits of the enclosure identified by the geophysical survey were between 1.8 m and 2.8 m wide and up to 1 m deep. Pottery recovered from the fills of this ditch is primarily Iron Age in date. This feature was not visible as a depression in the current land surface also suggesting some antiquity to the feature. Similarly aligned features identified by the geophysical survey and also identified in Trench 3 are likely to be of a similar date and represent part of an Iron Age field system.

The southeastern corner of a large enclosure was identified in the northwestern part of site and could be seen as a surface depression extending to the east. The ditch was 5.5 m wide with a gradual slope to its southern face. The northern face was much steeper suggesting the ditch acted as a boundary to stop animal movement beyond this northern face. Pottery recovered from the fills of the ditch is primarily medieval and post-medieval date with the feature itself still visible as a depression in the current land surface.

Despite appearing as a depression the ditch predates the tithe map of 1843, which shows an existing boundary crossing the line of the surface depression. The ditch may be associated with the adjacent Perkin's farm, which is believed to date from the 17th century, but the orientation of the ditch and the residual medieval pottery in its upper fills hints at an earlier date. There was no evidence of a buried topsoil below the upcast ditch fill/bank material, which presumably was spread across the Site prior to the 19th century at the time of the addition of the current north-south aligned field boundary. The tithe map shows the Site as 'Orchard', which explains the visible ditches in the field and lack of ploughing.

It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Leicestershire County Museum Services under accession number X.A90.2015. The project archive will be retained at the Sheffield Office of Wessex Archaeology under project number 110620 until deposition.

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Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Mulberry Development, and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Simon Mortimer and Alexandra Thornton in this regard. The assistance of Teresa Hawtin and Richard Clark of Leicestershire County Council who monitored the work is also acknowledged.

The fieldwork was carried out between the 3rd and 10th September. Fieldwork was directed by Martina Tenzer, and undertaken by Adam Green, Callum Bruce, Jo Page and Jack Laverick. This report was written by Chris Swales. Finds analysis was varied out by Lorraine Mepham and the environmental analysis by Sarah Wyles with samples processed by Tony Scothern. The figures were illustrated by Alix Sperr. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Norton.



Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Mulberry Development (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Hall Lane, Ullesthorpe, Leicestershire, centred on National grid reference (NGR) 450620, 287950 (hereafter 'the Site', Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 Prior to any intrusive archaeological works a Desk-based Assessment (DBA) of the Site was carried out by CgMs (CgMs 2013). A geophysical survey (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2013) was subsequently undertaken in support of the planning application. The survey identified a rectilinear enclosure, comprising a series of ditches. Further parallel ditches were identified to the east of this enclosure. Following the geophysical survey and discussions between CgMs and the archaeological advisor for Leicestershire County Council (LCC) it was agreed that a programme of archaeological evaluation would be required to inform the planning application.
- 1.1.3 A total of seven trenches were excavated, these targeted anomalies of archaeological potential identified by geophysical survey of the proposed development area.
- 1.1.4 A specification was produced by CgMs (CgMs 2015) which detailed the scope and methodology for the proposed archaeological works. The specification was submitted to the Senior Planning Archaeologist for LCC (Teresa Hawtin) for approval prior to archaeological works commencing. All archaeological works conformed to current industry best practice and national guidelines (ClfA 2014a-c, HE 2015).

1.2 The Site, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The Site is located on the northern edge of Ullesthorpe (Figure 1). The area comprises an area of approximately 0.5 ha used as a paddock with associated stables for horses.
- 1.2.2 The bedrock geology comprises mudstone belonging to the Mercia Mudstone Member across the Site. The solid geology is overlain by diamicton (formerly known as boulder clay) (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).
- 1.2.3 The ground level of the Site are relatively level at just above 115 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

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2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following section summarises the archaeological background of the Site which was detailed in the DBA (CgMs 2013).

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 Fieldwalking has previously identified Mesolithic and Neolithic flints southeast of Ullesthorpe (250 m east of the Site) and Ullesthorpe Court (450 m north of the Site). Neolithic and Early Bronze Age flints have also been identified west Of Warren Farm (450 m southwest of the Site).
- 2.2.2 No conclusive evidence of occupation for the Mesolithic to Bronze Age period was identified and it is likely that these find spots relate to transient activities rather than permanent occupation.

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 Several find spots have been recorded within the study area, including: three sherds of pottery found at Ullesthorpe Court (250 m north of the Site) and a finger ring found at Baldwin's Spinney (600 m from the Site).

2.4 Anglo-Saxon

- 2.4.1 The place name 'Ullesthorpe' is of Saxon origin and is suggestive of a Saxon foundation to the settlement. The nearby village of Claybrooke Parva also derives its name from this period. However, evidence for Saxon activity is rare.
- 2.4.2 Fieldwalking has identified a single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery 450 m southwest of the Site.

2.5 Medieval

- 2.5.1 The Site lies at the northern edge of the medieval historic core of Ullesthorpe. Aerial photos identified ditches within the Site and this was confirmed during a site visit for the DBA. These are likely to be medieval in date.
- 2.5.2 A Scheduled Monument (National Reference 1010300), comprising a moated island with the remains of a manor house, fishponds and shifted village earthworks, is located at Ullesthorpe (500 m southwest of the Site).
- 2.5.3 Other find spots include: a lead seal and medieval coin (450 m southeast of the Site), as well as medieval pottery and tile (250 m east of the Site).

2.6 Post-medieval

- 2.6.1 The Site is set within the post-medieval settlement of Ullesthorpe. HER data contains twelve records from this period, all relating to buildings or monuments that are well defined and some distance from the Site.
- 2.6.2 Map regression has demonstrated that the Site has been in use as arable farmland from at least 1843 (1843 Tithe Map). The Site was divided into small enclosed fields and paddocks from at least the mid 19th century.



2.7 Previous archaeological investigations

- 2.7.1 HER data has highlighted eight previous archaeological investigations within the study area of the DBA.
- 2.7.2 A geophysical survey and a strip, map and sample excavation at Mill Lane (50 m southeast of the Site) and a watching brief at Forge House (100 m southwest of the Site) all produced negative results.
- 2.7.3 Various phases of fieldwalking within the search area have identified prehistoric flints as well as Roman, Saxon and Medieval pottery (see sections 2.2 to 2.5).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Research framework

- 3.1.1 The programme of archaeological investigation will be conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by 'East Midlands Heritage: A research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment' (compiled on behalf of the region's historic environment community by D. Knight, B. Vyner and C. Allen) and the earlier Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda for the East Midlands 'The Archaeology of the East Midlands' edited by N. Cooper (2006).
- 3.1.2 The investigation also took account of the national research programmes outlined in English Heritage's 'Strategic Framework for historic Environment Activities and Programmes in English Heritage (SHAPE)' first published in 2008.

3.2 General aims

- 3.2.1 The general aims of the archaeological works were:
 - to ensure the recording of archaeological assets discovered during the archaeological works;
 - to ensure that any below-ground archaeological deposits exposed were promptly identified; and
 - to ensure the recording of archaeological remains, to place this record in its local context and to make this record available.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 A total of seven trenches were excavated measuring between 30 m and 15 m in length. Trenches 1 and 6 being 30 m, Trenches 2, 3 and 4 being 15 m, Trench 5 being 25 m and Trench 7 being 20 m in length (see Appendix 1 for full details). Trenches targeted anomalies of archaeological potential identified by geophysical survey of the proposed development area.



4.1.2 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the approved specification (CgMs 2015), Wessex Archaeology's procedures and industry standards and guidelines (ClfA 2014a-c).

4.2 Machine excavation

- 4.2.1 Topsoil was removed using an 180° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Topsoil was removed in a series of level spits in two phases; at first to the upper level of redeposited natural derived from the underlying archaeology and then down to the level of the natural geology.
- 4.2.2 Following consultation with CgMs and LCC limited machine excavation of basal deposits of deep features was undertaken to establish date and depth.

4.3 Hand excavation

4.3.1 Archaeological features were cleaned, as necessary, to allow inspection and to define the extent of any archaeological features and deposits. 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. However, excavation was sufficient to understand and record the full stratigraphic sequence, down to naturally occurring deposits.

4.4 Recording

- 4.4.1 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.
- 4.4.2 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.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

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

5.2 General stratigraphy

- 5.2.1 The underlying natural geology was a sandy clay with stone and pebble inclusions. Colours varied from grey and yellow mottling (Trench 1) to a mid-red brown (Trench 4). Natural geology was reached at a depth of between 0.6 m and 0.9 m below ground level (bgl).
- 5.2.2 The natural geology was overlain by a thick sandy clay layer of redeposited upcast from the weathered and levelled banks associated with the identified enclosure ditches (see below). This deposit varied in colour from a mid to light grey brown and had a thickness of between 0.4 m and 0.6 m. No buried topsoil survived between the redeposited natural and natural geology, which was likely to have been truncated during ploughing.



5.2.3 Overlying the redeposited bank material was a mid-grey silty sand topsoil with a thickness of between 0.2 m and 0.3 m.

5.3 Trench 1

5.3.1 Ditch 104 was identified towards the southern end of Trench 1. The ditch was east to west aligned, 5.5 m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.8 m below the base of the trench (Figures 2 and 3, Plate 1). Ditch 104 was also recorded within Trench 2 (204) and Trench 5 (506). Ditch 104 corresponds to a depression visible on the current land surface and was identified as a potential archaeological anomaly by the geophysical survey. An assumed residual sherd of Romano-British pottery, medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from the upper fill (105), a dark brown clay silt derived from weathered topsoil.

5.4 Trench 2

5.4.1 Ditch 204 was identified towards the northern end of Trench 2. The ditch was north to south aligned, 4 m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.44 m below the base of the trench but not bottomed due to health and safety constraints (Figure 2, Plates 2 and 3). Ditch 204 corresponds to a depression visible on the current land surface and was identified as a potential archaeological anomaly by the geophysical survey. Post-medieval pottery was recovered from its fill (205), a dark brown clay silt derived from weathered topsoil.

5.5 Trench 3

5.5.1 Ditch 306 was identified towards the western end of Trench 3. The ditch was north to south aligned, 1.8m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.6 m below the base of the trench (Figures 4 and 5, Plate 4). The ditch was 'U'-shaped and presumably functioned as a boundary between enclosures. Iron Age pottery was recovered from the fill (307), a dark brown clay dumped deposit. An assumed continuation of ditch 306 was also recorded within Trench 4 (404) and Trench 7 (708), the fills of which were similar in nature to 307. The location of ditch 306 corresponds with a potential archaeological anomaly identified in the geophysical survey. A second ditch was excavated in to the east (304; Figure 4) and assumed to be similarly dated and similar function.

5.6 Trench 4

5.6.1 Ditch 404 was identified in the centre of Trench 4. The ditch was north to south aligned, 2.8 m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.4 m below the base of the trench (Figure 4, Plate 5). Iron Age pottery was recovered from its fill. The location of ditch 404 corresponds with a potential archaeological anomaly identified in the geophysical survey.

5.7 Trench 5

- 5.7.1 Ditch 506 was recorded towards the northern end of Trench 5 and represents the corner of the ditch recorded in Trenches 1 (104) and Trench 2 (204). Ditch 506 has a recorded width of 11.4 m (Figure 2, Plate 6). Ditch 506 corresponds to a depression visible on the current land surface and was identified as a potential archaeological anomaly by the geophysical survey. An apparent recut or tip lines (508) were recorded in plan, and post-medieval pottery recovered as a surface find.
- 5.7.2 At the southern limit of Trench 5, a small northwest to southeast aligned post-medieval drainage gully was identified (504). Gully 504 was 0.53 m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.12 m from the trench base (Figure 2).



5.8 Trench 6

- 5.8.1 Pit 608 and gully 610 were identified towards the southern end of Trench 6. Gully 610 was 'V'-shaped, northwest to southeast aligned, 0.5 m wide and 0.32 m deep, with a sherd of medieval pottery recovered from its fill (611). The gully intersects pit 608, which was sub rounded in shape, 1.8 m wide and 0.25 m deep (Figure 6, Plate 7). No relationship could be determined between the two features, which both had a mid brownish grey silty clay fill. The southern end of Trench 6 corresponds to an area of high magnetic interference on the geophysical survey.
- 5.8.2 The only other features recorded within Trench 6 were north to south aligned land drains that contained residual post-medieval pottery.

5.9 Trench 7

- 5.9.1 Ditch **708** was identified at the northern end of Trench 7. The trench was located at the corner of ditch **708** as the ditch turns from an east-west to a north-south alignment. The ditch continues to the north of Trench 7 and is recorded within Trench 3 (**306**) and Trench 4 (**404**). Ditch **708** was 3.4 m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.7 m below the base of the trench, with the base of the feature not reached due to health and safety constraints (**Figure 4**, **Plate 8**).
- 5.9.2 Ditch 706 was located 3.7 m south of ditch 708. Ditch 706 was east to west aligned, 1 m wide and was 0.31 m deep (Figure 4). Pottery dating from the 12th to 15th centuries was recovered from its fills.
- 5.9.3 The location of ditch **708** corresponds with a potential archaeological anomaly identified in the geophysical survey.
- 5.9.4 Pit 704 was identified at the southern end of Trench 7. The eastern half of the feature was recorded in plan at 5.4 m in width. The western half of the feature extended beyond the western limit of the trench.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The evaluation produced a small assemblage of finds, dominated by pottery and animal bone, and ranging in date from Iron Age to post-medieval. Finds were recovered from all seven of the trenches excavated, and derived from topsoil and subsoil contexts, as well as from stratified feature fills.
- 6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**.



Context	Animal Bone	CBM	Iron	Pottery
105	5/238	5/467	3/19	8/44
205				1/11
302				2/11
305			1/90	
307				2/11
405	55/136			3/52
501	4/150	1/155		7/302
505	43/471			
507				1/15
602	4/2	1/49		1/91
605	1/6	2/129		2/77
607	1/18			6/54
611	4/108			1/20
705	6/2			1/3
707	24194			12/91
Total	147/1325	9/800	4/109	47/782

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

CBM = ceramic building material

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 Pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the Site, and the assemblage ranges in date from Iron Age to post-medieval. The pottery has been quantified by ware type, using the fabric codes of the Leicestershire county type series (Davies and Sawday 1994); a breakdown of the assemblage by context is given in **Table 2**.

Iron Age to Romano-British

- 6.2.2 Four sherds have been identified as Iron Age. Two of these came from ditch 306, and provided the only dating evidence for that feature; the other two were residual in ditch 404. The four sherds are in three fabrics, all of which are paralleled, for example, in the Middle Iron Age assemblage from Wanlip (Marsden 1998). Two sherds are in a sandy ware (Q1), one in a sandy ware with sparse igneous rock inclusions (RQ1), and one in a shelly ware (S1). All four sherds are undiagnostic body sherds.
- 6.2.3 One sherd, a bowl rim, is in a Romano-British greyware (GW); this was residual in ditch 104.

Medieval

- 6.2.4 Ten sherds are in Potters Marston ware (PM). This ware is well represented on medieval sites in Leicester, and the industry is dated c. 1100–1300 (Sawday 1991); the source is about 15 km to the west of the Site. The only diagnostic sherd present here is a jar rim (from ditch 706).
- 6.2.5 There are a few sherds of Chilvers Coton fabrics A and C (CC1, CC2); these have a potential date range from c. 1200 to c. 1400 (for CC1) or to c. 1475 for CC2. They include a jar rim in CC2, from Trench 5 topsoil. There are also two undiagnostic body sherds in a miscellaneous oxidised sandy ware (MS), possibly also a Chilvers Coton product.



6.2.6 Two sherds of Midlands Purple (MP), also from Trench 5 subsoil, include a jug strap handle with incised decoration, and a body sherd with the rilled decoration characteristic of jug shoulders. Midlands Purple is broadly dated as late 14th to 16th century, but these sherds probably belong earlier within this sequence rather than later, say 14th/15th century. Potential sources include the Chilvers Coton kilns, and the Ticknall production centre in Derbyshire.

Post-medieval

6.2.7 Post-medieval sherds include a few redwares (mostly black-glazed). These came from two land drains in Trench 6 (604, 606), ditches 204 and 506, pit/pond 704, and from various topsoil and subsoil contexts. Later sherds are limited to two refined wares (yellow ware and pearlware) from Trench 3 subsoil.



Table 2: Pottery by context

T GDIO 2.	Pollery by con	OA E				
Context	Ware Potters Marston	Code	Date Range	No.	Wt. (g)	Additional Comments
105	Ware	РМ	c.1100-1300	1	11	
105	Potters Marston Ware	PM	a.1100–1300	1	5	
105	RB greyware	GW	RB	1	19	bowl rim
105	Cistercian ware	CW2	c.1475-1750	5	9	
205	Black-glazed redware	EA6	C16-C18	1	11	
302	Yellow/buff ware	EA10	C19/C20	1	6	banded dec
302	Pearlware	EA9	C19/C20	1	5	
307	Iron Age sandy ware	RQ1	?Saxon	1	7	quartz grains, some rock inclusions, micaceous
307	Iron Age sandy ware	Q1	Iron Age	1	4	
405	Iron Age sandy ware	Q1	Iron Age	1	10	
405	Iron Age shelly ware	S1	Iron Age	1	14	
405	Potters Marston Ware	РМ	a.1100-1300	1	28	basal angle
501	Redware	EA	Post-med	1	91	bowl profile, internally whiteslipped
501	Chilvers Coton 2	CC2	c.1200-1475	2	60	1 jar rim
501	Midland Purple	MP	a.1375–1550	2	108	1 strap handle (inc dec); 1 glazed body sherd with horizontal rilling from shoulder
501	Misc medieval sandy ware	MS	a.1200–1400	2	43	orange sandy ware, non-distinctive
507	Redware	EA	Post-med	1	15	
602	Black-glazed redware	EA6	C16-C18	1	91	bowl rim; small firing fault in glaze
605	Black-glazed redware	EA6	C16-C18	2	77	
	Black-glazed					
607	redware Potters Marston	EA6	C16-C18	3	25	
607	Ware	PM	a.1100-1300	3	29	1 applied thumbed strip
611	Potters Marston Ware	PM	a.1100–1300	1	20	basal angle, sotted externally
705	Black-glazed redware	EA6	C16-C18	1	3	
706	Potters Marston Ware	PM	a.1100–1300	5	53	1 jar rim
706	Chilvers Coton 1	CC1	c.1200-1400	2	12	
706	Chilvers Coton 2	CC2	a.1200–1475	1	3	glazed
707	Potters Marston Ware	PM	a.1100–1300	3	16	conjoining sherds
707	Chilvers Coton 2	CC2	c.1200–1475	1	7	glaze spot

6.3 Ceramic building material (CBM)

6.3.1 This category consists entirely of fragments of flat roof tiles of medieval or post-medieval date.



6.4 Metalwork

6.4.1 The metalwork comprises four iron objects, including three probable nail shank fragments (ditch 104), and one larger rod or bar, possibly the shank from a bolt or large nail (ditch 304). None of these objects is intrinsically datable.

6.5 Animal bone

- 6.5.1 Animal bone was recovered from contexts in five of the trenches excavated (no bone was recovered from Trenches 2 and 3). The bone is in variable condition; the bone from Trench 4 (all from enclosure ditch 404) is in very fragmentary condition, but in other trenches the bone survived in better condition, and the majority of bones were identifiable to species.
- 6.5.2 The species range is very limited; cattle and sheep are the best represented species, with horse represented by two bones only. The group of 43 bones and bone fragments from gully 504 are all sheep, and mostly comprise parts of one individual (two femurs, pelvis; vertebrae, sacrum, metatarsal and phalanges); there are also four foetal lamb bones from this deposit.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Bulk samples were taken from ditches 104 in Trench 1, 306 in Trench 3 and 404 in Trench 4 to evaluate the presence and preservation of palaeo-environmental remains. This information can contribute to providing an indication of the significance of the archaeological deposits. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal.

7.2 Charred plant remains

- 7.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) 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 3**. 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.
- 7.2.2 The flots were generally relatively small with about 20% roots and modern seeds. The charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.
- 7.2.3 Large quantities of charred cereal remains were recovered from ditches 104 and 306. These included hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), grain and glume base fragments, free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum type*) grain and rachis fragments and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain fragments. A number of the glume base fragments were identifiable as those of spelt wheat.
- 7.2.4 The weed seeds within these assemblages included seeds of oat (*Avena* sp.), brome grass (*Bromus* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.), vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus*), rye-grass/fescue (*Lolium/Festuca* sp.) and clover/medick (*Trifolium/Medicago* sp.).



- 7.2.5 The small number of remains observed within the assemblage from ditch **404** included free-threshing wheat grain fragments and hulled wheat glume bases.
- 7.2.6 The assemblages from ditches 104 and 306 appear to be indicative of general rural settlement waste and activities within the vicinity. The weed seeds recorded are species typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments. Spelt wheat is common in Iron Age and Romano-British assemblages in England while free-threshing wheat is more typical of Saxon and medieval deposits (Greig 1991). The assemblage as a whole is indicative of an Iron Age or Romano-British date for the Site, and the material from the medieval/post-medieval ditch 104 is residual.

7.3 Wood charcoal

7.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in Table 3. Small quantities of charcoal fragments greater than 2 mm were recovered. The charcoal included round and mature wood fragments.

7.4 Land and aquatic molluscs

- 7.4.1 A small mollusc assemblage was noted within the sample from ditch 404. 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. Molluscs were not preserved in the samples from ditches 104 and 306.
- 7.4.2 The assemblage from ditch **404** included shells of the open-country species *Vallonia* sp., the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus*, the shade-loving species *Aegopinella nitidula* and the amphibious species *Galba truncatula*. It may be reflective of a well-established open landscape with some longer grass and some evidence for occasional flooding/damp grass and seasonal desiccation in the vicinity of the ditch.

Table 3: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

	Sampl	es		Flot								
Feature	Context	Sam	Vol.	Flot	%		Charred Plant Remains		Charcoal	Other	Anal	
reatule	Context	ple	Ltrs	(ml)	roots	Grain	Chaff	Other	Comments	>4/2mm	Other	ysis
Trench	1 Ditch											
104	105	3	16	25	20	A	A	В	Hulled + ?f-t wheat grain frags, glume base frags inc. spelt. Avena, Bromus, Rumex, Lolium/Festuca. Round + mature wood frags	5/3 ml	-	-
Trench	3 Ditch											
306	307	2	18	40	20	A	А	В	Hulled wheat + barley grain frags, glume base frags inc. spelt, f-t wheat rachis frag. Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Rumex, Trifolium/Medicago	5/5 ml	-	-
Trench	4 Ditch					•			•			
404	405	1	8	30	20	С	С	-	F-t wheat grain frags, glume base frags	1/1 ml	Moll-t (A), Moll-f (C)	-

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



8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 The archaeological evaluation has demonstrated a correlation between the results of the geophysical survey and the features identified through excavation. The geophysical survey identified rectilinear enclosures in the west and east (Figure 1), with the western results also corresponding with an 'L'-shaped depression visible in the field.
- 8.1.2 The archaeological evaluation has demonstrated that the enclosure ditches can be loosely assigned to two distinct phases of activity:
- 8.1.3 Phase 1 The eastern limits of an enclosure identified by the geophysical survey was identified within Trenches 3, 4 and also identified within Trench 7 where it was recorded as turning on an east to west aligned alignment. This ditch was between 1.8 m and 2.8 m wide and up to 1 m deep. Pottery recovered from the fills of this ditch is primarily Iron Age in date. This feature was not visible as a depression in the current land surface also suggesting some antiquity to the feature (Plate 9).
- 8.1.4 Similarly aligned features identified by the geophysical survey and also identified in Trench 3 are likely to be of a similar date and represent part of an Iron Age field system.
- 8.1.5 Phase 2 The corner of a large enclosure was identified within Trench 2 and within Trench 5, where it turned on an east to west alignment and extended into Trench 1. The ditch was 5.5 m wide within Trench 1 with a gradual slope to its southern face. The northern face was much steeper suggesting the ditch acted as a boundary to stop movement beyond this northern face. Pottery recovered from the fills of the ditch is primarily medieval and post-medieval with the western part of the feature itself still visible as a depression in the current land surface (Plate 9). The eastern extent, identified through geophysical survey but not visible as a depression, is assumed to have been levelled through later landscaping.

8.2 Conclusions

Topography

8.2.1 The evaluation has demonstrated that the archaeological horizon survives at a depth of c. 0.6 m to 0.9 m below the current ground surface. The archaeological features identified were sealed by a 0.4 m to 0.6 m thick deposit of sandy clay, which is likely to be derived from bank material associated with the earlier enclosure ditches. These banks were subsequently ploughed out prior to the excavation of the 'L'-shaped medieval ditch.

Iron Age

8.2.2 The features identified in the east of the Site are likely to be Iron Age in date, with an apparent entrance to an enclosure lying between Trenches 3 and 4. The east-west continuation of the medieval ditch is aligned through this apparent entrance, which does cast some doubt on the date of this continuation. It is feasible that the geophysical anomaly bisecting the enclosure is also Iron Age in date but more likely that the medieval ditch was located to avoid any remaining upstanding earlier earthworks.

Medieval

8.2.3 The large enclosure appeared to be enclosing an area to the northwest. The ditch had a shallow southern side and a steep northern side; in appearance it would allow stock to enter and leave the ditch without passing it, much in the manner of a ha-ha.



- 8.2.4 Despite appearing as a depression the ditch predates the tithe map of 1843, which shows an existing boundary crossing the line of the ditch.
- 8.2.5 The ditch may be associated with the adjacent Perkin's farm, which is believed to date from the 17th century, but the orientation of the ditch and the residual medieval pottery in its upper fills hints at an earlier date. It is feasible that a precursor to Perkin's farm and possibly the 'Hall' of Hall Lane lies outside the Site to the north-west. Alternatively this area may have been utilised for crops in the medieval/post-medieval period and secured from roaming stock.
- 8.2.6 There was no evidence of a buried topsoil below the upcast ditch fill/bank material, which presumably was spread across Site prior to the 19th century at the time of the addition of the current north-south aligned field boundary. The tithe map shows the Site as 'Orchard', which explains the visible ditches in the field and lack of intensive ploughing, but gives no hint to an earlier use of the land or alternative origin of Hall Lane other than by association with Perkin's Farm. The field to the west is called Dairy House Close, which is also presumably associated with Perkin's Farm but is less evocative of the 'Hall' of Hall Lane.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Leicestershire County Museum Services under accession number X.A90.2015. The project archive will be retained at the Sheffield Office of Wessex Archaeology under project number 110620 until deposition.
- 9.1.2 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 Leicestershire County Council Museums Service, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 9.1.3 All archive elements will be marked with the accession code, and a full index will be prepared.

9.2 Security copy

9.2.1 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.



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10.2 Online sources

(http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).



11 APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1:Context descriptions

Trench No. 1		Dimensions: 30.0 x 2.0m Max depth: 0.90m
Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
101	Topsoil: Mid-grey brown silty sand	0.00 - 0.30m
102	Layer: Redeposited upcast from enclosure ditches	0.30 - 0.90m
103	Natural: Grey clay with patches of sand. Frequent pebble inclusions	0.90m+
104	Cut: Enclosure ditch	0.90 - 1.40m
105	Fill:Fill of ditch 104	0.90 - 1.40m-

Trench No. 2		Dimensions: 30.0 x 2.0m Max depth: 0.80m
Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
201	Topsoil: Mid-grey brown silty sand	0.00 – 0.20m
202	Layer: Redeposited upcast from enclosure ditches	0.20 - 0.80m
203	Natural: Red sand. Frequent pebble inclusions	0.80m+
204	Cut: Enclosure ditch	0.80 - 1.22m
205	Fill:Fill of ditch 204	0.80 - 1.22m-

Trench No. 3		Dimensions: 15.0 x 4.0m Max depth: 0.72m
Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
301	Topsoil: Mid-grey brown silty sand	0.00 - 0.31m
302	Layer: Redeposited upcast from enclosure ditches	0.31 – 0.72m
303	Natural: Orange-brown sandy clay. Frequent pebble inclusions	0.72m+
304	Cut: Boundary ditch	0.72 - 1.12m
305	Fill:Fill of ditch 304	0.72 - 1.12m-
306	Cut: Enclosure ditch	0.72 - 1.32m-
307	Fill:Fill of ditch 306	0.72 - 1.32m-

Trench No. 4		Dimensions: 15.0 x 2.0m Max depth: 0.80m
Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
401	Topsoil: Mid-grey brown silty sand	0.00 – 0.20m
402	Layer: Redeposited upcast from enclosure ditches	0.20 - 0.80m
403	Natural: Red sand. Frequent pebble inclusions	0.80m+
404	Cut: Enclosure ditch	0.80 - 1.20m
405	Fill:Fill of ditch 404	0.80 - 1.20m-

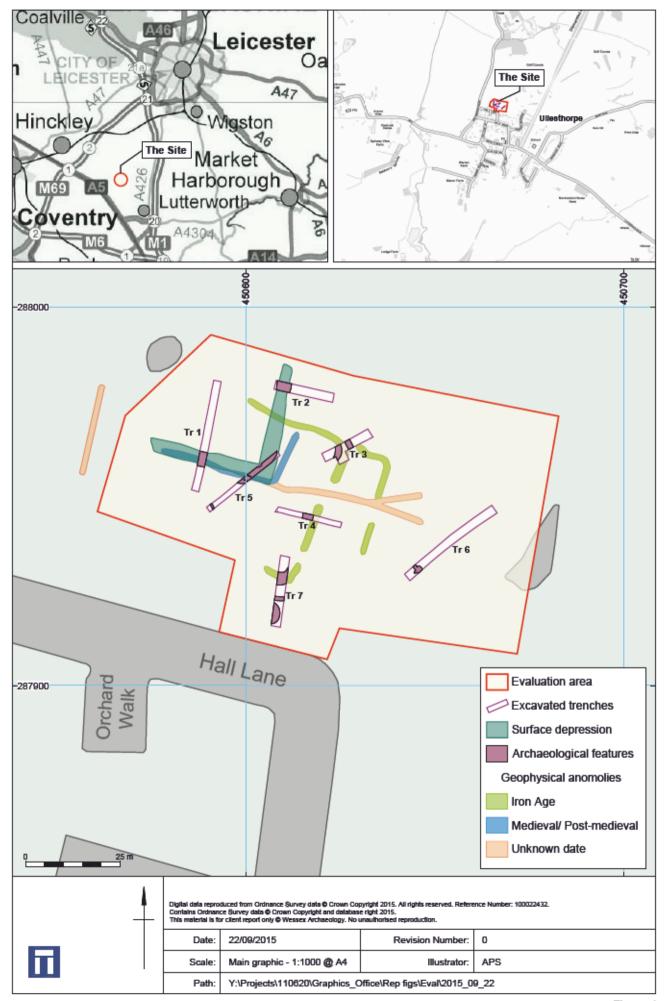
Trench No. 5		Dimensions: 30.0 x 2.0m Max depth: 0.80m
Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
501	Topsoil: Mid-grey brown silty sand	0.00 - 0.20m
502	Layer: Redeposited upcast from enclosure ditches	0.20 - 0.90m
503	Natural: Grey clay with patches or orange sand.	0.90m+

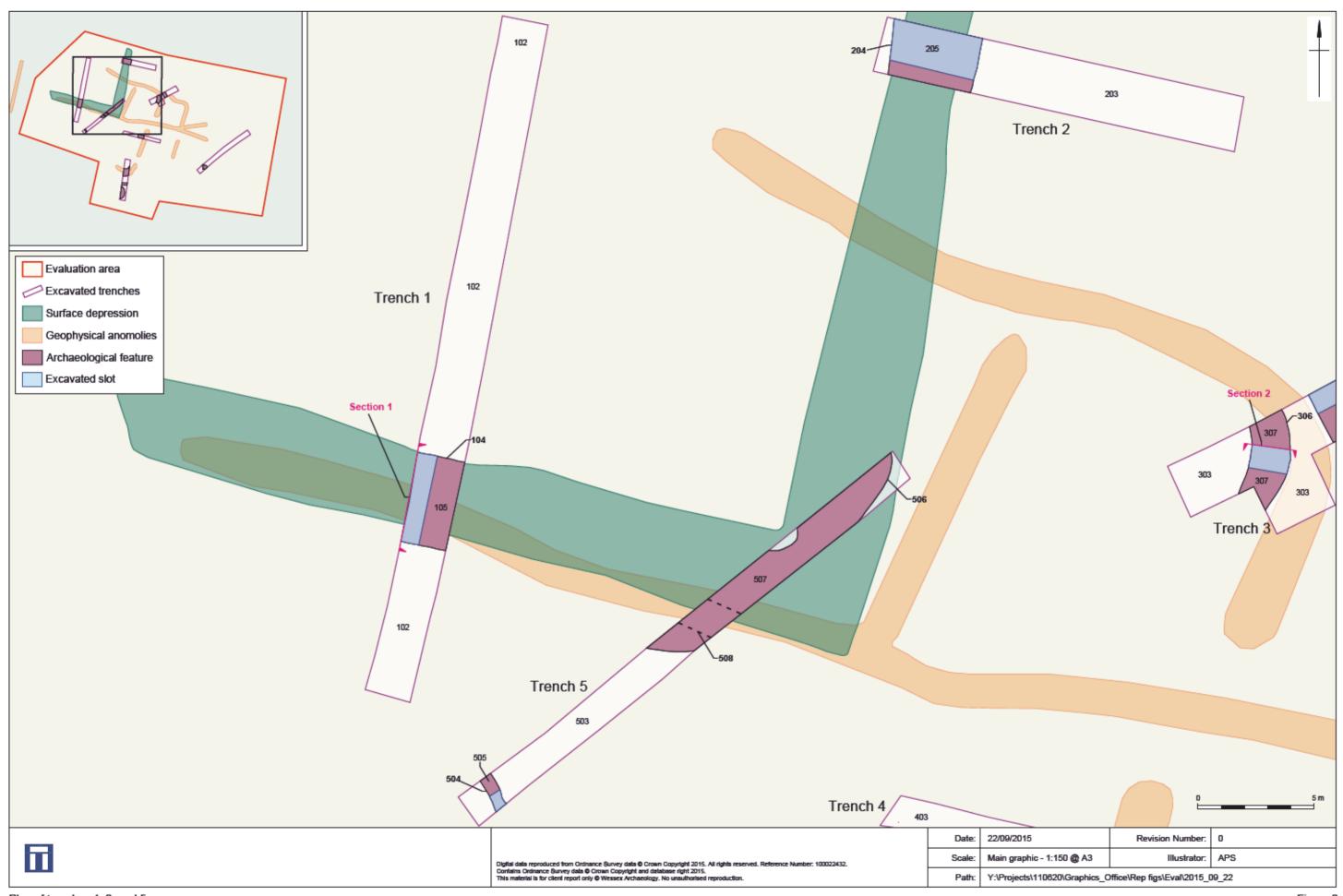


Trench No. 5		Dimensions: 30.0 x 2.0m Max depth: 0.80m
Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
504	Cut: Drainage gully	0.90 - 1.02m
505	Fill:Fill of gully 504	0.90 - 1.02m
506	Cut: Enclsoure ditch	0.90 m+
507	Fill:Fill of ditch 506	0.90 m+

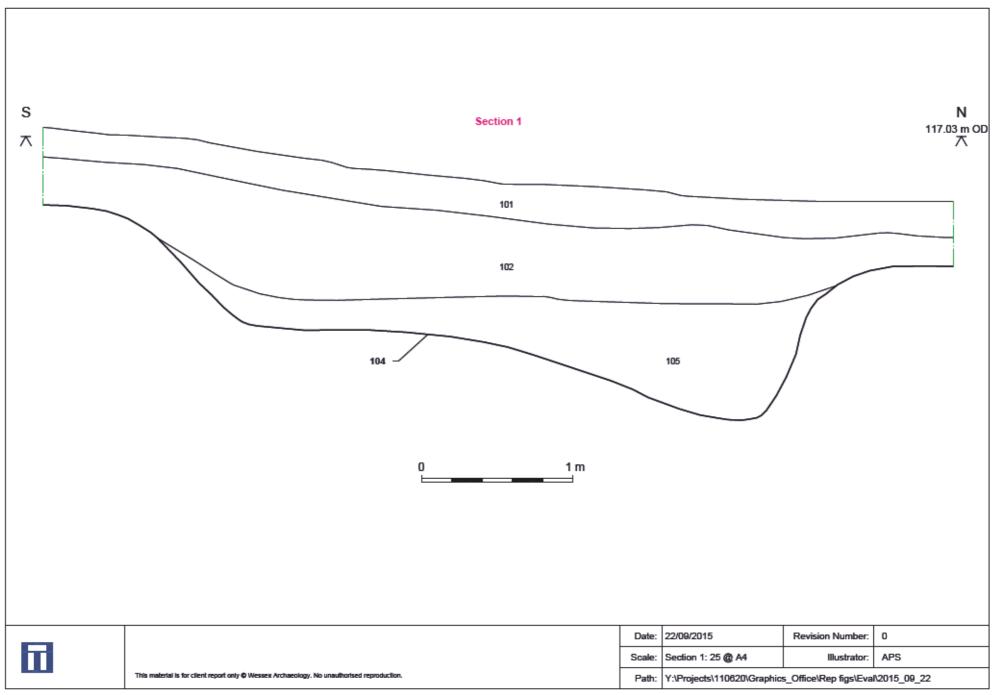
Trench No. 6		Dimensions: 30.0 x 2.0m Max depth: 0.60m
Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
601	Topsoil: Mid-grey brown silty sand	0.00 – 0.20m
602	Layer: Redeposited upcast from enclosure ditches	0.20 - 0.60m
603	Natural: Grey clay with patches or orange sand.	0.60m+
604	Cut: Drainage gully	0.60m+
605	Fill:Fill of gully 604	0.60m+
606	Cut: Drainage gully	0.60m+
607	Fill:Fill of gully 606	0.60m+
608	Cut: Pit	0.60 - 0.85m
609	Fill: Fill of pit 608	0.60 – 0.85m
610	Cut: Gully	0.60 – 0.95m
611	Fill:Fill of gully 610	0.60 - 0.95m

Trench No. 7		Dimensions: 30.0 x 2.0m Max depth: 0.60m
Context	Description	Depth BGL (m)
701	Topsoil: Mid-grey brown silty sand	0.00 - 0.25m
702	Layer: Redeposited upcast from enclosure ditches	0.25 - 0.60m
703	Natural: Grey clay with patches or orange sand.	0.60m+
704	Cut: Pit	0.60m+
705	Fill:Fill of pit 705	0.60m+
706	Cut: Boundary ditch	0.60 – 0.91m
707	Fill:Fill of ditch 706	0.60 – 0.91m
708	Cut: Enclosure ditch	0.60 - 1.30m
709	Fill: Fill of enclosure ditch 708	0.60 - 1.30m



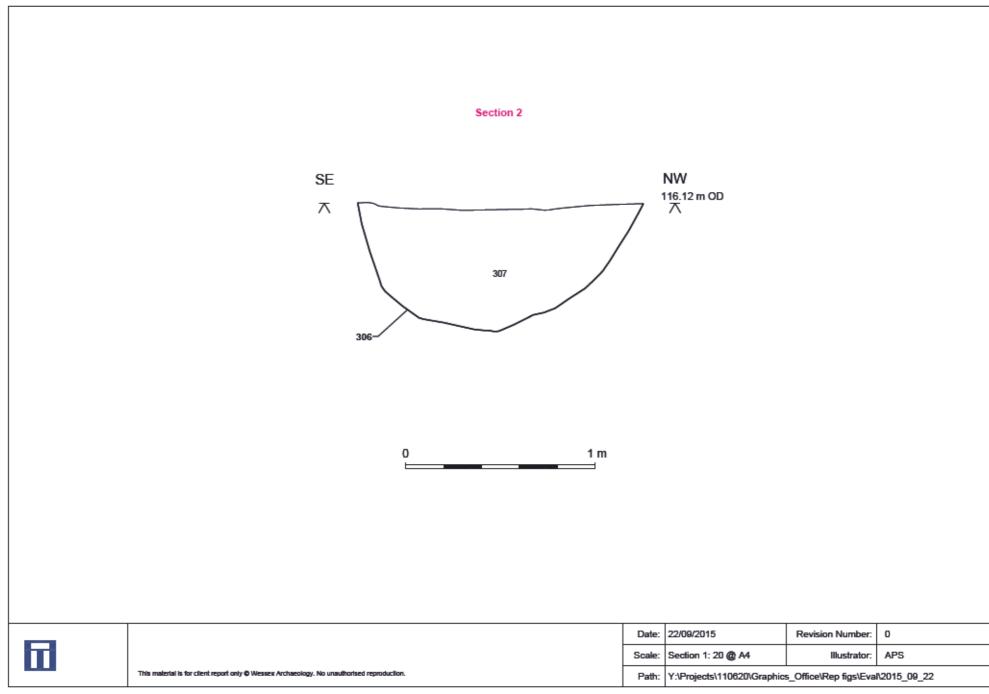


Plan of trenches 1, 2, and 5



East facing section of ditch 104





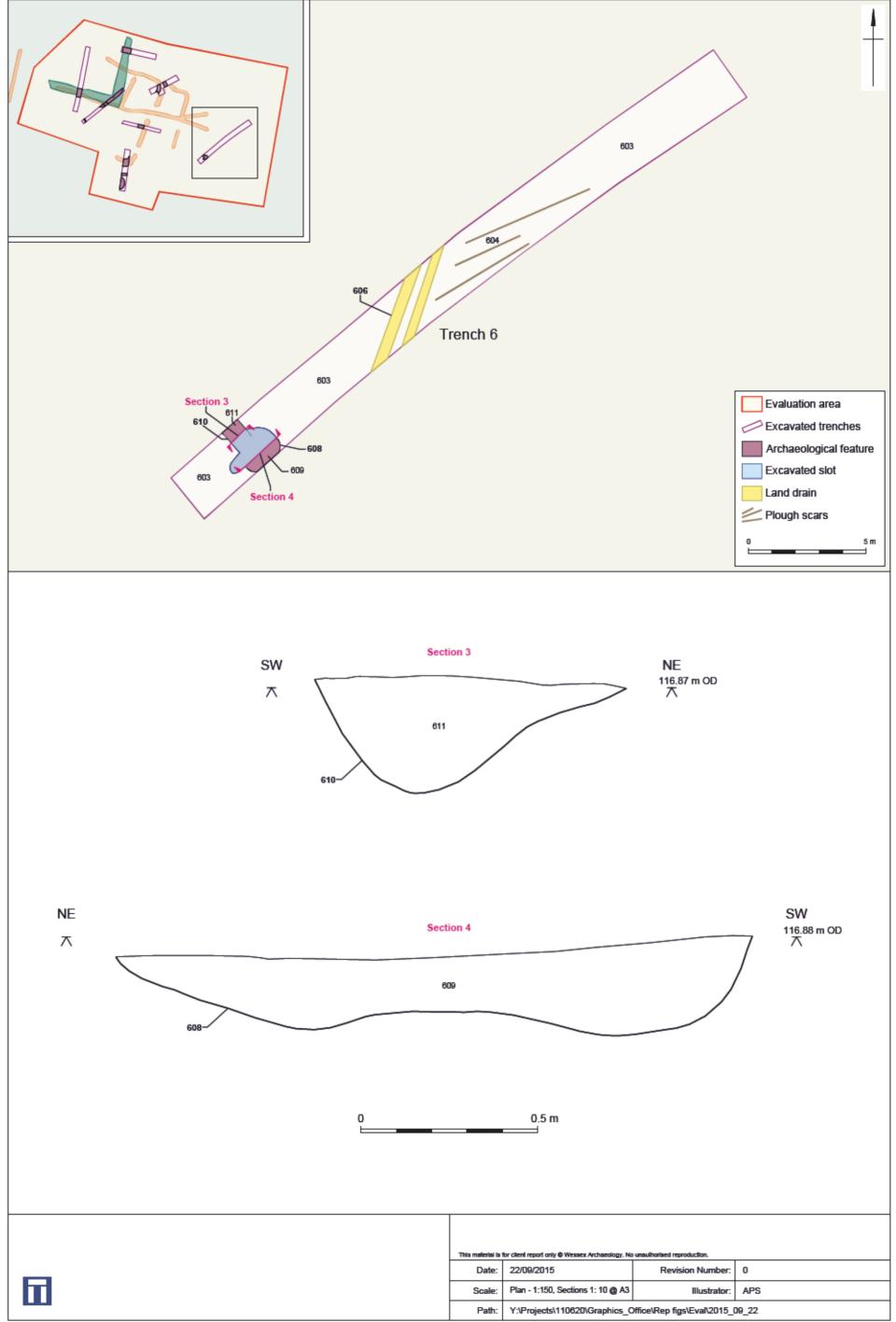




Plate 1: Trench 1 looking southwest



Plate 2: Ditch 204 looking west

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Plate 3: Trench 5 looking south



Plate 4: Trench 2 looking east

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Plate 5: Trench 3 looking northeast



Plate 6: Trench 4 looking east

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Plate 7: Trench 7 looking south



Plate 8: Trench 6 looking northwest

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Plate 9: Aerial view of the site showing surface depressions (Aerial image copyright of Getmapping plc.)

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