



Outseats Farm, Alfreton Derbyshire

Strip, Map and Record Excavation (Area E)
Post-Excavation Assessment



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by The Wheeldon Group to undertake an archaeological strip, map and record excavation to inform a planning application (AVA/2012/0084) for housing development at Outseats Farm, Alfreton, Derbyshire (centred on NGR 442414 355540).

The mitigation works have fulfilled the aims of the project and have successfully expanded our understanding of the layout of a medieval enclosure complex that was previously identified by evaluation trial trenching. Associated features including a droveway, pits and drainage gullies were also recorded. The pottery has been assessed but further analysis may reveal more detail and improve our understanding of the Site. It is recommended that the results of the mitigation are published in a suitable journal.

The layout of the three main enclosures appears to have been well planned; the ditches formed a rectilinear drainage network taking water from the south-west to the north-east, down the natural slope of the Site, with an additional ditch draining the enclosures towards Cranfield Wood. Only a single formal entranceway was present in one of the enclosures, which was approached via a droveway from the north-west. Internal pits within the north-east enclosure are of uncertain purpose but may have been watering holes. The pits form two regular groups suggesting well-planned activities. The lack of evidence for domestic structures across the Site supports a function of livestock containment or cultivation for the enclosure complex. The approaching droveway suggests that livestock containment was the most likely purpose, at least for the central enclosure.

The presence of 13th to 15th century ceramics, from the enclosure ditches, droveway, a drainage gully and a pit, attest to settlement activity in the vicinity of the Site, perhaps immediately to the south-west as a precursor to the 16th- to 17th-century Carnfield Hall. A relationship between the enclosures and a nearby settlement may be demonstrated by the place name *Outseats*, with the enclosures possibly forming part of a fold or shieling associated with a nearby settlement such as a manor.

A series of later 'stone getting pits' (minor quarries) are associated with a sandstone wall in the south-west of the Site. These pits and wall probably represent a later phase of activity although they may represent the original south-west limit of the enclosures. The south-west part of the Site lay on higher ground and had been heavily truncated, probably by ploughing.

An earlier geophysical survey was successful in detecting some of the enclosure ditches and associated pits. However, some features were not detected by geophysical survey, particularly smaller gullies and features in the south-west and north-east of the Site. The geophysical survey failed to detect the presence of sandstone walls in the south-west. The poor performance of the geophysical survey in the south-west was perhaps due to the changing geology in this area.

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield under project code T23726. The archive will be submitted to Derby Museum and Art Gallery under accession code DBYMU2012-181. An OASIS form, wessexar1-309865, has been completed and will be finalised when the archive is deposited with the museum.



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Outseats Farm, Alfreton, Derbyshire

Strip, Map and Record Excavation (Area E) Post-Excavation Assessment

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by The Wheeldon Group (hereafter 'the Client') to carry out an archaeological strip, map and record excavation on land at Outseats Farm (Area E), Alfreton, Derbyshire (hereafter 'the Site'; Figure 1). The work was carried out to inform a planning application (AVA/2012/0084) for housing development, and followed on from a geophysical survey (Wardell Armstrong 2017) and a trial trench evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2017a). These previous works identified an enclosure that was possibly of medieval date.

1.1.2 Following discussions between Guy Kendall of GK Heritage and Sarah Whiteley of Derbyshire County Council (DCC), a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) proposing a programme of strip, map and record excavation was produced (GK Heritage 2017). The work was required in order to mitigate the effects of the development on the archaeological potential of the Site, and to inform the extent and nature of any further work that may be required. The WSI was approved by Sarah Whiteley prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The whole development site, of which Area E forms a portion, is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 442300, 355650 and comprises ten fields extending over approximately 14.9 ha, bounded by Mansfield Road to the north, allotments and a housing estate to the west and by the Alfreton to Chesterfield railway line to the east. Area E consists of a single field centred on NGR 442414, 355540 (Figure 1).

1.2.2 The Site is currently under pasture and occupies ground sloping down to the north-east at around 125 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.2.3 The Site is underlain by Pennine Coal Measures of Carboniferous Age defined as interbedded mudstone and sandstone (British Geological Survey online viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This section contains information summarised from the WSI (GK Heritage 2017).

2.1.2 No prehistoric or Romano-British sites or findspots are recorded from the development area, however scattered evidence exists in the wider area and it is possible that prehistoric or Romano-British activity may have occurred on Site.

2.1.3 The Grade II* Listed 16th- to 17th-century Carnfield Hall lies 180 m east of the Site boundary. Place name evidence for the hall suggests an earlier, medieval, date.



Demolished buildings associated with the hall may have survived archaeologically. The medieval boundary of the estate is unknown.

- 2.1.4 The name *Outseats* is referenced in 16th century documents. The Ordnance Survey and Sanderson (1835) map records a building with the placename *Flowery Leys* in the area of the Site.
- 2.1.5 Historic maps from 1880 onwards demonstrate that the Site was open farmland from the late 19th century to the present day.

2.2 Previous investigations in Area E

- 2.2.1 Geophysical survey was conducted in May 2017 (Wardell Armstrong 2017). Agricultural anomalies including plough furrows and land drains were identified. Linear and curvilinear features were also detected, however at the time of the survey it was not known if these were archaeological.
- 2.2.2 Trial trench evaluation was undertaken in June 2017 (Wessex Archaeology 2017a). The anomalies identified by the geophysical survey were shown to represent a ditched enclosure. Recovered artefacts included animal bone and a single sherd of abraded medieval pottery.

2.3 Other nearby investigations

- 2.3.1 A previous archaeological evaluation undertaken in the northern area of the wider development area (Wessex Archaeology 2012) found no evidence of archaeological remains. During the 2012 evaluation, a natural hollow or pond was seen measuring approximately 12 m in length and 0.63 m in depth.
- 2.3.2 In February 2017, an evaluation was undertaken in Area D which recorded four undated archaeological features. These features comprised two pits, a gully and a possible elongated pit or tree throw. These features likely represent low intensity land use of the site, perhaps relating to post-medieval or earlier agricultural activity (Wessex Archaeology 2017b).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The archaeological work aimed to record the location, extent, date and character of any surviving archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development where construction could impact to a depth likely to affect archaeological horizons of the enclosure as identified by the geophysical survey and trial trenching.
- 3.1.2 The specific aims laid out in the WSI (GK Heritage 2017) were as follows:
- *to excavate and expose the extent of the enclosure;*
 - *to identify any structural elements and their state of preservation. The range of objects that were in use, their status, presence of imports, etc.;*
 - *to identify the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits if revealed;*
 - *to excavate and record identified archaeological features and deposits to a level to enable their extent and significance to be identified;*
 - *to undertake sufficient post-excavation analysis to confidently interpret archaeological features identified during site works;*

- to undertake sufficient post-excavation analysis of artefacts and samples to identify the potential scope for detailed analysis in future mitigation;
- to report the results of the excavation and post-excavation analysis and place them within their local and regional context;
- to compile and deposit a site archive at a suitable repository;
- to identify areas where significant archaeological potential remains and areas where the archaeological potential is considered to be non-significant.

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 The methodology for excavation, recording and artefact analysis is detailed in the WSI (GK Heritage 2017) and is summarised below. The work was carried out in accordance with the WSI, and with Wessex Archaeology and current industry standards and guidelines (ClfA 2014a–c).
- 3.2.2 A single area of 0.36 ha was subjected to strip, map and record excavation.
- 3.2.3 Excavation was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the direct supervision of a suitably qualified archaeologist. Machining ceased at the first archaeological horizon or the level of natural geology, whichever was reached first.
- 3.2.4 All revealed deposits were hand cleaned and planned at an appropriate scale. A sufficient sample of exposed archaeological features was excavated to establish their extent, form, date, function and relationship to other features. A minimum sampling strategy was laid out in the WSI including 50% sampling of postholes and small pits and a 10–20% sample of linear features. In practice, some discrete features were 100% excavated.

3.3 Recording

- 3.3.1 Recording took place in accordance with standard Wessex Archaeology methodologies. All deposits encountered 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.
- 3.3.2 All excavation areas were located in relation to the Ordnance Survey grid, and other plans, sections and elevations of archaeological features and deposits were drawn as necessary at 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50. Drawings were made in pencil on permanent drafting film. The spot heights were calculated in metres relative to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places.
- 3.3.3 Photographs were taken of all archaeological features to produce a photographic record consisting of digital images (at least 10 megapixels) and 35 mm monochrome prints where appropriate.

3.4 Finds

- 3.4.1 All artefacts were retained except for unstratified 19th- and 20th-century material. Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance (Walker 2001; English Heritage 2005, Watkinson and Neal 1998). All retained artefacts were washed, weighed, counted and identified, and submitted for specialist assessment.

3.5 Environmental

- 3.5.1 All sealed and stratified archaeological contexts were considered for standard environmental sampling. The collection, processing and assessment of environmental samples was undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidelines (English Heritage 2011). Environmental sampling was undertaken in line with the strategy laid out in the WSI.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the information held in the Site archive, with a full list of context numbers and context descriptions within the excavation area contained in Appendix 1. A plan of the Site is given in Figure 2.

4.2 General stratigraphy

- 4.2.1 The undisturbed natural geological substrate across most of the Site was compact light grey yellow silt clay with broken sandstone (2003). There was a distinct change in the local geology on the high ground in the south-west: the natural became stonier with outcropping coal seams. Across the Site, the natural was overlain by a relict ploughsoil subsoil (2002) comprising mid-yellow brown silt sand with stones. The topsoil (2001) was dark brown clay silt. The total depth of soil was 0.55 m.

4.3 Phase 1 medieval

- 4.3.1 Phase 1 was represented by a ditched enclosure complex with associated water channels/gullies and pits (Figure 2). Re-cutting of the enclosure ditches was evident, indicating maintenance over time. The ditched enclosure complex consists of two large complete sub-enclosures, one in the north-east of the site (Enclosure 1) and one to the centre (Enclosure 2). An incomplete third enclosure (Enclosures 3) lay to the south-west and contained a fourth curvilinear enclosure (Enclosure 4). Pottery recovered from across the enclosure complex dated to the 13th to 15th centuries although no refinement for individual features was possible based on the existing assessment of the pottery.

Enclosure 1

- 4.3.2 Enclosure 1 measured around 25 m (north-west to south-east) by around 18 m (north-east to south-west) with no clear entrance.

Ditch 2132

- 4.3.3 The north-west side of the enclosure was delineated by ditch group 2132 (Plate 1; Figure 3.1). At the south-west end, ditch 2132 curved 90° to the south-east and continued as ditch group 2134, forming the division between Enclosures 1 and 2. In the north-east, ditch 2132 continued to the north-east beyond both Enclosure 1 and the limit of excavation. Ditch 2132 was investigated with five interventions during this mitigation work (2045, 2071, 2122, 2123 and 2127) and had previously been investigated with two interventions during the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2017a; contexts 106 and 1004). Ditch 2132 was between 1 m and 1.3 m wide and between 0.28 m and 0.46 m deep with a concave profile. The ditch generally had a single fill recorded in each intervention comprising mid-grey-, yellow- or orange-brown material with a variable texture. However, in one location where the ditch was the deepest (2127 in the north-east), ditch 2132 had two fills. The basal fill (2126) comprised yellow brown clay silt and the upper fill (2125) was orange brown sand silt. Either (or both) of these fills could be continuous with the single fills seen in the other interventions.

Ditch 2134

- 4.3.4 Ditch 2134 divided Enclosures 1 and 2 and formed the south-west boundary of Enclosure 1. The north-west end of ditch 2134 was continuous with ditch 2132 (described above); the south-east end of ditch 2134 intersected with ditches 2137 (described below). The Site archive records that ditch 2134 was cut by ditch 2137 however re-appraisal of the photographs (Plate 2) and the nature of the enclosures suggests that the fills of the two ditches were continuous and that the ditches were contemporary. Four interventions investigated ditch 2134, all excavated during this mitigation (2042, 2079, 2064 and 2071). Ditch 2134 was between 0.8 m and 1.1 m wide and between 0.28 m and 0.41 m deep. Each intervention generally contained a single fill; the fills were of variable colour and composition from one intervention to another. Intervention 2079, however, situated next to pit 2075 (described below) contained three fills (Figure 3.2; Plate 3): two fills of brown grey silt clay (2077 and 2078) and one of orange brown silt clay (2076).

Ditch 2133

- 4.3.5 The north-east side of Enclosure 1 was defined by ditch group 2133 (Plate 4), which intersected ditch 2132 in the north-west and turned 90° to the south-west as ditch 2138. Ditch 2133 was investigated with two interventions during the mitigation (2034 and 2049) and had already been investigated twice during the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2017a; contexts 104 and 304). In the mitigation interventions, ditch 2133 was between 0.84 m and 1.1 m wide and between 0.38 m and 0.49 m deep, with a mid-yellow brown clay silt or grey brown sand silt fill. (The east corner of Enclosure 1 had been previously excavated during the evaluation trial trenching as 304; this existing intervention was reassigned context number 2036 during the mitigation.)

Ditch 2137 re-cut as gully 2138

- 4.3.6 The south-east side of Enclosures 1, 2 and 3 was defined by ditch 2137 and gully 2138. Ditch 2137 was earlier and larger, with the boundary later re-cut as gully 2138 (Figure 3.3; Plate 5). At the east corner of Enclosure 1, only a single ditch was present (2024, probably continuous with 2138), but less than 10 m to the south the re-cut boundary was evident (2038 re-cut as 2040). The same re-cut pattern was evidenced in every intervention except 2080, which was a relationship slot and did not reach gully 2138, and at the south-west end of the boundary where the gully had probably been lost to plough truncation. The south end of the boundary was close to pit 2062, which may also have impacted preservation of the gully (group 2138).
- 4.3.7 Gully group 2138 was detected in three interventions during the mitigation (2040, 2068 and 2130) and two interventions during the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2017a, contexts 319 and 1204). Gully 2138 was between 0.35 m and 0.55 m wide and 0.12 m and 0.31 m deep with a single variable fill, eg, mid-brown loam.
- 4.3.8 Ditch group 2137 was recorded in five interventions during the mitigation (2038, 2059, 2066, 2080 and 2128) and in two interventions during the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2017a, contexts 406 and 1206). The ditch was between 0.47 m and 1.6 m wide and between 0.36 m and 0.55 m deep, generally with a single fill of variable mid-brown loam, although with two fills at the southern terminal in intervention 2059.

Pits

- 4.3.9 Six pits lay along the south-western side of Enclosure 1 in two groups: pits 2047, 2051, 2075 and 2089 formed one group and pits 2052 and 2054 formed the other.

- 4.3.10 Pits 2047 (Plate 6), 2051, 2075 and 2089 were evenly spaced along the south-west boundary of Enclosure 1 and were sub-circular. These four pits were between 1 m and 1.3 m in diameter and generally between 0.14 m and 0.29 m deep with single fills of generally mid orange brown sand silt. Pit 2075, however, was deeper at 0.68 m and contained three fills, the basal fill being identical to the fills of pits 2047 and 2051. The upper fills of pit 2075 (2073 and 2072) were dark grey brown and orange brown sand silt respectively. Pit 2089 was markedly more irregular than pits 2047, 2051 and 2075 and had a different fill: grey brown clay silt. The fill of pit 2049 (2048) produced a sherd of medieval pottery similar to the pottery recovered from the enclosures suggesting that these four pits and the enclosures were roughly contemporary. However, pit 2075 cut the fill of ditch 2134 (Figure 3.2; Plate 3), suggesting that these pits were dug after the enclosure ditches had begun to silt up.
- 4.3.11 Pits 2052 and 2054 (Plate 7) were immediately adjacent to each other in the southern corner of Enclosure 1, a little further into the enclosure than pits 2047, 2051, 2075 and 2089. Pits 2053 and 2054 were sub-circular, almost sub-rectangular, and were of very similar dimensions: 0.98 m by 1.17 m or 1.18 m in plan and 0.23 m or 0.25 m deep with identical single fills of dark grey brown and silt.
- 4.3.12 All six pits (2047, 2051, 2052, 2054, 2075 and 2089) might represent watering holes or dew ponds for livestock. Interpretation of the pits is not conclusive and they may have served some other function.

Enclosure 2 and western droveway

- 4.3.13 Enclosure 2 was roughly the same size as its neighbour to the north (roughly 28 m north-west to south-east by 17 m north-east to south-west). A small gap of 0.6 m in its north-west corner formed the only formal entrance anywhere in the enclosure complex.
- 4.3.14 The north-east boundary of Enclosure 2 was formed by ditch group 2134 (described above). The south-east boundary was defined by ditch 2137 and gully 2138 (also described above).

Ditch 2135

- 4.3.15 The north-west boundary of both Enclosures 2 and 3 was delineated by ditch 2135 (Plate 8), which was on the same alignment as ditch 2132 to the north-east, but separated from 2132 by the small entrance already mentioned. Ditch 2135 was investigated with five interventions, all dug during this mitigation work (2008, 2013, 2024, 2032 and 2087). The ditch (2135) was between 0.8 m and 1.6 m wide and between 0.19 m and 0.5 m deep, generally with a single fill of mid brown silt clay. Interventions 2008 and 2013, however, contained two fills (brown silt or similar deposits). The north-east terminal of ditch 2135 (2087=2118) was re-cut as 2085 after 2087=2118 had silted up, widening the original entrance to the enclosure from only 0.2 m to around 0.6 m (Figure 2 inset; Plate 9). Ditch terminal 2085 was 1.7 m wide and 0.35 m deep with a fill of grey brown silt sand, very similar to the rest of ditch 2135.

Droveway

- 4.3.16 Running north from terminal 2085 was a short curvilinear feature (2118) which may have formed the start of a droveway directing livestock into the entranceway of Enclosure 2. Curvilinear feature 2118 was 1.3 m wide but only 0.1 m deep (Plate 10). This droveway continued up the north-west side of Enclosure 1 with its outer north-west side defined by gully group 2140. Gully 2140 was investigated with three interventions (2091, 2102 and 2104) including both terminals, and was 10.5 m long, between 0.56 m and 0.59 m wide and between 0.11 m and 0.15 m deep with a single fill of light grey brown silt clay. Pottery

recovered from gully 2140 was similar to that recovered from the main enclosures, suggesting that the driveway was contemporary with the enclosures. Close to the north-east terminal of 2140, a second similar gully (2139) ran from south-east to north-west, forming a perpendicular turn relative to gully 2140 (Plate 11). Gully 2139 ran north-west out of the area of excavation. Two slots were excavated in gully 2139 (2092 and 2100), which was between 0.6 m and 0.9 m wide and between 0.11 m and 0.17 m deep, again with a single fill of light grey brown clay.

Ditch 2136 and re-cuts

- 4.3.17 The south-west side of Enclosure 2 was formed by ditch 2136, which was re-cut at least twice as 2017 and 2142 (Figure 3.4; Plate 12). Ditch 2136 and its recuts formed the boundary between Enclosures 2 and 3. Where the north-west end of 2136 joined ditch 2135; the fill of 2136 was slightly darker (Plate 13) suggesting the possibility that 2136 was stratigraphically later than 2135. However, these two ditches (2136 and 2135) are likely to be contemporary due to the nature of the enclosures and the termination of ditch 2136 exactly at ditch 2135. Ditch 2136 was recorded in three interventions during the mitigation (2006, 2019 and 2030) and once during the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2017a, context 205). Ditch 2136 was between 0.45 m and 1.13 m wide and between 0.25 m and 0.56 m deep with a single silt clay fill of variable colour. In one location ditch 2136 was seen to have been re-cut as ditch 2017 (0.7 m wide and 0.22 m deep with a mid-brown-yellow clay silt fill). A second re-cut (2142) was seen in two interventions (2015, 2028), one of which (2015) was visible in the same intervention where re-cut 2017 was identified (Figure 3; Plate 12). The boundary ditch had therefore been re-cut at least twice. Re-cut 2142 was a small gully and resembled re-cut 2138 seen along the south-east boundary of the enclosures. Gully 2142 was between 0.38 m and 0.45 m wide and between 0.3 m and 0.38 m deep, with a single fill of mid grey brown silt clay.

Offshoot ditch 2143

- 4.3.18 The south-east end of ditch 2136 intersected with north-east to south-west aligned ditch 2137. Just inside the south corner of Enclosure 2, a short offshoot ditch (2143) ran parallel to ditch 2137. All three features (2136, 2137 and 2143) had continuous fills and appeared to be contemporary. Two interventions were dug into offshoot ditch 2143 (2082 and 2057); the ditch was 5.5 m long, between 0.86 m and 2.04 m wide and between 0.16 m and 0.25 m deep with a single brown silt fill. Offshoot ditch 2143 may have served as a reservoir of water derived from the main enclosure ditches, perhaps for livestock to drink.

Drainage gully 2144

- 4.3.19 In the west corner of Enclosure 2, a small north to south aligned gully (2144) cut the corner of Enclosure 2 between ditches 2135 and 2136. Two interventions were excavated into gully 2144 (2021 and 2023). Gully 2144 was 0.2 m to 0.4 m wide and 0.1 m to 0.2 m deep with a variable fill of light grey silt clay. It is possible that gully 2144 represented a natural feature associated with moving water although it was more likely anthropogenic. Gully 2144 was recorded as stratigraphically earlier than ditch 2136 (Figure 3.4, Plate 12), however this may be due to the highly re-cut nature of ditch 2136 in this location. The gully (2144) appeared to terminate at ditches 2135 and 2136 and is likely roughly contemporary with them, a view supported by a single sherd of medieval pottery recovered from the gully.

Enclosures 3 and 4

- 4.3.20 The southern enclosures occupied the highest part of the site, and appear to have been affected by plough truncation, which accounts for their poorer preservation and gradual terminals. There was a distinct change in the local geology on the high ground in the south

of Enclosure 3: sandstone, clay and outcropping coal seams were seen in this part of the Site, whereas better drained mudstone/sandstone lay on the lower ground to the north-east.

Enclosure 3

- 4.3.21 Enclosure 3 was the approximately the same length (around 27 m) as Enclosures 1 and 2 although the full width of Enclosure 3 is not known: only 6 m of the enclosure survived in the north-east to south-west direction. Enclosure 3 was delineated by ditches 2135, 2136 and 2137 and their re-cuts, which have all been described above.

Enclosure 4

- 4.3.22 Enclosure 4 was located in the south-west corner of Enclosure 3 and was unlike the other rectangular enclosures as it was defined by an irregular curvilinear ditch (2141). Curvilinear ditch 2141 survived only in the north-east, having been truncated in the south-west. Curvilinear ditch 2141 was investigated with five interventions (2026, 2109, 2112, 2115 and 2117; Plate 14), and was between 0.46 m and 1 m wide and was between 0.1 m and 0.35 m deep with one or two variable brown silt clay fills. Limited pottery recovered from ditch 2141 was similar to pottery recovered from the rest of the enclosure complex, suggesting they were roughly contemporary.
- 4.3.23 A possible small pit (2107; Plate 14) was recorded as having been cut into curvilinear ditch 2141; this feature (2107) may have been a part of the irregularity of curvilinear ditch 2141 or may have been a genuine separate feature. Pit 2107 was 0.5 m by 0.45 m in plan and 0.09 m deep with a mid-grey-brown silt clay fill.

4.4 Phase 2 medieval/post-medieval

- 4.4.1 Three similar features were present in Enclosure 3 (2005, 2095 and 2097), with a fourth similar feature (2062) located just east of the enclosure. Two of the features were directly associated with sandstone walls; all of them were likely stone getting pits (minor quarries). Features 2005, 2094 and 2097 all contained sherds of medieval pottery similar to that recovered from the enclosures. These sherds were probably residual in these contexts, however, see below for discussion of this issue.
- 4.4.2 Stone getting pit 2095 truncated the surviving south-east end of curvilinear ditch 2141. The pit (2095) was 2.5 m by 2.2 m in diameter and 0.4 m deep with a mid-grey silt clay fill (2096). Fill 2096 contained masonry elements probably derived from wall 2095 which ran across the south-west side of the pit. Wall 2094 comprised rough blocks of sandstone in a matrix of yellow-grey clay and was 0.4 m wide and 0.15 m (one course) deep.
- 4.4.3 Feature 2005 (Plate 15) was recorded as a rammed sub-base for wall 2004 although it is more likely to have been a shallow pit with a compacted backfill. Feature 2005 was likely a stone getting pit similar to pit 2095 and other nearby pits. Feature 2005 was 2.9 m by 2.3 m in plan with a depth of only 0.05 m and comprised a deposit of dark grey brown silt clay. A second fragment of wall comprising rough sandstone blocks in a yellow clay matrix (2004) overlay 2005 and ran on the same alignment as wall 2094. Wall 2004 was, again, 0.4 m wide and a single course deep.
- 4.4.4 Pit 2097 (Plate 16) was recorded as a tree-throw and did have a somewhat rooty diffuse boundary. However 2097 resembled other nearby features (2005, 2094, 2062) and contained some rough stone masonry in the fill suggesting a link with walls 2004 and 2094. It is probable that pit 2097 was a stone getting pit like its neighbours. Pit 2097 was 3 m by 2.8 m in plan and 0.4 m deep, with two grey-brown silt clay fills.



4.4.5 Stone getting pit 2062 was slightly east of Enclosure 3 and truncated the south end of enclosure ditch 2137. Pit 2062 may also have truncated the southern end of gully 2138, however, preservation in this area was poor due to plough truncation. Pit 2062 was 2.7 m by 1.42 m in plan and 0.4 m deep with a dark brown clay silt fill with stones.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the excavation, consisting almost entirely of pottery. This is all of medieval date, although other finds include two Romano-British tile fragments and a piece of post-medieval glass. All finds are listed by context in Table 1. Finds derived mainly from enclosure ditch fills, with a few sherds from droveway ditch fills and pit fills.

Table 1 All finds by context

Context	Description	Pottery		Other finds
		No.	Wt. (g)	
2005	Feature 2005	29	335	
2007	Ditch 2136	3	40	
2010	Ditch 2135	3	58	
2011	Ditch 2135	6	66	
2013	Ditch 2135	3	97	
2022	Gully 2021	1	2	
2033	Ditch 2032	2	23	
2043	Ditch 2134	1	18	
2044	Ditch 2132	3	48	
2046	Pit 2047	1	6	
2050	Pit 2051	4	23	
2070	Ditch 2141	2	48	
2084	Ditch 2135			1 CBM
2090	Gully 2140	3	4	3 iron
2091	Gully 2140	1	1	
2096	Pit 2095	2	22	
2098	Pit 2097	1	7	1 glass
2099	Pit 2097	4	70	10 animal bone
2124	Ditch 2132			1 CBM
	TOTAL	69	868	

CBM = ceramic building material

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 This provides practically the only dating evidence for the Site. However, due to the imperfect understanding of the medieval pottery industry of Derbyshire, and the precise dating of specific types (Cumberpatch 2004a), the date ranges provided here are necessarily insecure.

- 5.2.2 The assemblage amounts to 69 sherds (weighing 868 g), and this is all of medieval date. Condition ranges from fair to poor; the assemblage is fragmentary, and although there are some conjoining sherds (including a group of probable same-vessel sherds from one context), there is a relatively high level of surface and edge abrasion. This may have been exacerbated by the relatively soft-fired nature of many of the wares. The mean sherd weight is 12.6 g.
- 5.2.3 With the exception of ten sherds in shell-tempered wares (four from pit 2051, one jar rim from ditch 2032, one from enclosure ditch 2135 and four from driveway ditch 2140), and four sherds unidentified to type but broadly classified as 'medieval sandy wares' (one from pit 2097, one from enclosure ditch 2134, two from enclosure ditch 2135), all sherds have been tentatively identified as Brackenfield-type wares, mostly white-firing (Cumberpatch 2004b). These include three jar rims, of which one can be identified as a type 12 jar with rilled shoulder (ditch 2135); and two pancheons, both of type 12 (feature 2005, pit 2095). Several sherds carry a suspension glaze, generally greenish-yellow on the white-firing bodies. There is no decoration. Brackenfield wares are conventionally dated to the 14th/15th centuries, on the basis of the presence of later medieval vessel forms, but there remains the possibility that some production began earlier. For example, comparable wares from Chesterfield are dated to the mid/late 13th to mid/late 14th century. A date range somewhere between the 13th and 15th centuries is suggested here, but no refinement within that range for individual features is possible.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 5.3.1 Two fragments of CBM were recovered. Both are Romano-British. The fragment from enclosure 2132 is certainly an *imbrex* roof tile, while the second fragment, from enclosure ditch 2135 (a recut of the ditch terminal), although showing only slight curvature, could be a second *imbrex*.

5.4 Other finds

- 5.4.1 Three pieces of iron from driveway ditch 2140 appear to belong to a socketed tool with a curved blade, perhaps a sickle or scythe. This implement is not chronologically distinctive, but on the basis of the associated pottery is likely to be medieval.
- 5.4.2 A very small fragment of pale olive green glass from pit 2097 was probably intrusive and probably represents window glass of broad post-medieval date. This is the only clearly datable post-medieval artefact from the Site.
- 5.4.3 Some small fragments of burnt animal bone (unidentifiable to species) were recovered from later pit 2097.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Eighteen bulk samples were taken from a range of features of medieval chronology such as pits and ditches, and were processed and assessed for the presence of environmental evidence.

6.2 Aims and Methods

- 6.2.1 The purpose of this assessment is to determine the potential of the environmental remains preserved at the site to address project aims and to provide archaeobotanical data valuable for wider research frameworks.



- 6.2.2 The size of the samples varied between 10 and 40 litres, and on average was around 33 litres. The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were scanned using a stereo incident light microscopy (Leica MS5 microscope) at magnifications of up to x40 for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (eg *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as earthworm eggs and insects, which would not be preserved unless anoxic conditions prevailed on site. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence of other environmental remains such as molluscs, animal bone and insects (in cases of anoxic conditions for their preservation), was recorded.
- 6.2.3 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. Abundance of remains is qualitatively quantified (A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5) as an estimation of the minimum number of individuals and not the number of remains per taxa.

6.3 Results

- 6.3.1 The flots were generally heavily bioturbated with high numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements.
- 6.3.2 Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation and was present in only a few of the samples, with small to moderate assemblages of remains from taxa including naked wheat (*Triticum cf. aestivum/turgidum*) oats (*Avena* sp.), grass (Poaceae) seeds and false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* subsp. *bulbosum*) tubers, black mustard (*Brassica cf. nigra*), plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and sedges (Cyperaceae). The absence of lemma bases prevents the identification of the oats to the cultivated or wild variety, but the size of the grains suggests these were cultivated. Similarly, it is not possible to tell based on the morphology of the seed whether the black mustard seed was a crop itself or a crop weed.

6.4 Discussion and Further potential

Charred plant remains

- 6.4.1 The assemblages of charred plant remains are relatively small and poor but consistent with domestic crop-processing activities in medieval times in the vicinity of the sampled areas. Naked wheat, and possibly oats and black mustard were cultivated. The other components of the assemblages were probably contaminants discarded as by-products. Weeding may have been carried out by uprooting, judging by the presence of tubers in the samples.
- 6.4.2 The analysis of the charred plant assemblages has little potential at this stage.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Enclosures 1–3

- 7.1.1 Phase 1 was represented by a ditched enclosure complex with associated water channels/gullies and pits. Re-cutting of the enclosure ditches was evident, indicating continued maintenance over time. Pottery recovered from across the enclosure complex dated to the 13th to 15th centuries although no refinement for individual features was

possible. Although Enclosure 3 was only partially preserved, the three rectangular enclosures appeared to have been roughly the same size (25–27 m by 17–18 m).

- 7.1.2 The enclosure ditches defined areas likely for agricultural purposes such as stock management or cultivation. The presence of the droveway suggests that Enclosure 2 at least was intended to corral stock. Environmental evidence identified small assemblages of charred seeds including wheat, oats and black mustard. These may relate to general background arable activity in the general area.
- 7.1.3 The enclosures also had a drainage function. A ditch (2132) extended from the northern corner of Enclosure 1 for 30 m to the north-east, beyond the site extents and downslope towards Carnfield Wood; this ditch likely carried surface water away from the enclosures.
- 7.1.4 Enclosure 1 had no clear entrance. Six pits along its southwestern side were divided into a group of four (2047, 2051, 2075, 2089) and a group of two (2052, 2054), each group with similar form, fills and distribution. The position of the pits may indicate that this enclosure was used for a specific activity. One of the pits (2075) was deeper with more clearly defined edges than the rest and was initially interpreted as a well although it was probably too shallow for groundwater extraction. The pits may represent dew-pond watering holes for livestock or may have served some other purpose. One pit (2047) contained pottery similar to that recovered from the enclosures. Pit 2075 cut ditch 2134, suggesting that although probably broadly contemporary with the enclosures, the pits were a later addition to the complex.
- 7.1.5 Enclosure 2 had a small entrance in the north-west corner which was originally only 0.2 m wide but was widened to 0.6 m. Gullies lying along the north-west external side of Enclosure 1 (2139, 2140) and an offshoot curvilinear ditch on the north-west side of Enclosure 2 (2118) appeared to form a droveway into the entranceway of the enclosure. Pottery recovered from the droveway was similar to that recovered from the enclosures. The presence of a droveway would suggest a stock related function for at least Enclosure 2. Enclosure 2 contained a drainage gully in its southwestern corner (2144) and an offshoot ditch in its south-eastern corner (2143) contemporary with the enclosures. The gully was likely to enhance drainage; conversely the offshoot ditch may have served as a reservoir, perhaps to provide drinking water for stock.
- 7.1.6 Enclosure 3 was incomplete and was ditched on three sides. It is likely that Enclosure 3 was originally similar to Enclosures 1 and 2.

7.2 Enclosure 4

- 7.2.1 Enclosure 4 was different to the other enclosures and was defined by the approximately semi-circular arc of an irregular curvilinear ditch. There was no preserved stratigraphic relationship between Enclosure 4 and the other enclosures; however pottery suggests Enclosure 4 was contemporary with the rectangular enclosures, forming a sub-division of Enclosure 3.

7.3 Phase 2

- 7.3.1 Two sections of a sandstone wall foundation (2004 and 2094) and four large shallow pits (2005, 2062, 2095 and 2097) at the southwestern extent of the Site probably form a second main phase of activity. The four pits were likely 'stone getting pits' to obtain bedrock for use in the wall.

- 7.3.2 Two of the pits (2062 and 2095) truncated earlier activity (ditch 2137, part of Enclosure 3 and curvilinear ditch 2141 forming Enclosure 4), indicating that the pits and walls were stratigraphically later than the enclosures. Pottery recovered from the pits was similar to that recovered from the rest of the Site and is therefore likely residual in the southern features (2005, 2095 and 2097). The possibility that the stone getting pits and walls were contemporary with the enclosures seems unlikely, not only because of the stratigraphic relationship of the features but also because it would make Enclosure 3 significantly narrower than Enclosures 1 and 2 (roughly 12.5 m rather than 17–18 m) and because Enclosure 4 would have been reduced to a semi-circular form.
- 7.3.3 A very small fragment of post-medieval glass was present in the fill of pit 2098. This fragment of glass may provide a date for the Phase 2 activity; however, the fragment is likely to be intrusive and as such cannot be relied upon for dating. Seven sherds of medieval pottery from the Phase 2 pits were similar to the sherds from the enclosures. It is probable that these medieval sherds are residual from activity related to the enclosures. Dating of the Phase 2 pits and walls is inconclusive.
- 7.3.4 The two sections of wall (2004 and 2094) were 0.4 m in width and 0.1 m in height and were on the same north-west to south-east alignment and likely originally formed part of a continuous structure, probably a field boundary. Wall 2004/2094 may be a later development of an earlier south-west boundary of Enclosure 3, shifted somewhat to the north-east.
- 7.3.5 Enclosures 3 and 4 and the stone getting pits (2005, 2062, 2095 and 2097) occupied the highest part of the Site. The enclosure ditches (2135, 2137 2141) had gradual terminals in the south-west indicating that they had been truncated probably as the result of ploughing, which may have differentially affected the higher ground.
- 7.4 Roman tile**
- 7.4.1 The two pieces of Roman tile are likely indicative of a general background activity as no other Roman remains are known from the area. It is possible that the tiles were introduced during manuring. It is also possible that the tiles were brought to the medieval enclosures and re-used for some purpose perhaps unrelated to roofing.
- 7.5 Placenames**
- 7.5.1 The place name *Outseats* is generally regarded as indicating outlying areas related to some other settlement. The University of Nottingham's online *Key to English Place-Names* suggests that the placename *Outseats* near Hathersage (also in Derbyshire) refers to 'Outlying settlements in relation to the manor at Hathersage.'
- 7.5.2 The *out* element of the name fairly strongly points at something outside the previous or normal limit (cf. *Outwell* in Ekwall 1960), although some other origin is possible: *Outchester* in Northumberland is given as the fort of owls (online Key to English Place-Names; Ekwall 1960) and *Oughtibridge* near Sheffield may be from a personally name *Uht-* (Ekwall 1960).
- 7.5.3 The *seats* element presents several possibilities. *Saete* may indicate dwellers (cf. *pecsaetan*, peak district dwellers), or a house, and *saetr* may indicate a shieling (Ekwall 1960) or a pasture or fold (Sedgefield 1915; online Key to English Place-Names).
- 7.5.4 Given the archaeological results of an enclosure complex it is tempting to identify *Outseats* with a fold, shieling and/or pasture outside of an area of settlement, which may possibly be the predecessor of the nearby Carnfield Hall.

7.6 Fulfilment of original aims

- 7.6.1 The original aims of the project have been fulfilled. These aims were laid out in the WSI (GK Heritage 2017), and are repeated above.

7.7 Contribution to research objectives

- 7.7.1 The Site falls into the geographical area covered by the *East Midlands Regional Research Framework* (Knight *et al.* 2012). The medieval enclosures have the potential to contribute to research objectives in the areas '7.2 Rural settlement', '7.3 Manors and manorial estates' and '7.7. The agrarian landscape and food-producing economy'. The enclosures may contribute to Research Objectives 7E 'Investigate the morphology of rural settlements', 7F 'Investigate development, structure and landholdings of manorial estate centres' and 7I 'Investigate development of the open-field system and woodland management'.
- 7.7.2 The enclosure complex is relevant to Research Objective 7E's desire to address the spatial complexity of dispersed farmsteads on the Derbyshire coal measures, and to address the development of settlement morphology in general.
- 7.7.3 Research Objective 7F considers regional manorial centres to have been poorly investigated. The enclosures identified on this Site may have formed outer elements of a manor, perhaps the precursor to Carnfield Hall, and may therefore make a contribution towards understanding the development and structure of manorial estates.
- 7.7.4 The identified enclosures do not conform to the open field system and as such provide a comparison point with which to address the development and extent of that system as addressed by Research Objective 7I.

8 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

8.1 Statement of potential

- 8.1.1 The value of the archaeological remains is as an example of a medieval enclosure system likely used for a range of activities including stock control. These enclosures likely represent a satellite fold or shieling associated with some nearby settlement or manor, perhaps a precursor to the nearby Carnfield Hall.
- 8.1.2 The finds assemblage is very small, but it does nevertheless have some further research potential. Preliminary identifications have been made for the pottery, but these should be superseded by more detailed analysis by a regional specialist, who will be able to correlate fabrics with the regional type series (South Yorkshire / North Derbyshire Medieval Ceramics Reference Collection, accessible via ADS: http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/ceramics_eh_2003/). Some refinement of the provisional dating may also be possible. The production and distribution of medieval pottery in Derbyshire is as yet imperfectly understood, and this small assemblage will at least provide an addition to the existing dataset. Two or three of the diagnostic rim sherds may be illustrated.
- 8.1.3 The stratigraphy, nature and interpretation of the archaeology is understood as fully as the recorded remains will allow. The environmental samples have been assessed and described in sufficient detail to inform the understanding of the Site; no further analysis is required at this stage.
- 8.1.4 The significance of the archaeology and the potential for the recorded enclosures to contribute to established research objectives is sufficient for publication of the results as a

note in a suitable journal such as the Derbyshire Archaeological Journal. The pottery should be analysed and used to inform a publication based on the content of this report.

8.2 Proposals for publication

Provisional synopsis of Outseats Farm, Alfreton, Derbyshire publication

Working title: *Beyond the settlement: Medieval Enclosures at Outseats Farm, Alfreton, Derbyshire*

by Ashley Tuck, with specialist contributions by Chris Cumberpatch

Introduction	500 words
Results	500 words
Finds and environmental reports	500 words
Discussion	500 words
Bibliography	400 words

Total: approximately 2400 words 3–4 figures (including 2–3 pottery illustrations), 2 plates, 1 table

8.3 Resources and Programme

Regional director	Andrew Norton MCIfA
Quality and publication manager	Pippa Bradley MCIfA
Project manager	Richard O'Neill MCIfA
Main author	Ashley Tuck
Illustrator	Ian Atkins

Table 2: Task list

Item	Task	Duration
Analyse pottery	Analyse pottery	1 day
	Prepare pottery report	1 day
	Pottery illustrations	1 day
Publication note	Prepare text	2 days
	Prepare graphics	1 day
	Edit and journal liaison	1 day
	Revise text and figures post-journal review	1 day
	Proof read	0.5 day
	Publication grant	Ext
Project webpage	Prepare content	0.5 day
Total		7

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Conclusions

- 9.1.1 The mitigation works have fulfilled the aims of the project and have successfully expanded our understanding of the layout of a medieval enclosure complex that was previously identified by evaluation trial trenching. Associated features including a droveway, pits and

drainage gullies were also recorded. The pottery has been assessed but further analysis may reveal more detail and improve our understanding of the Site. It is recommended that the results of the mitigation are published in a suitable journal.

- 9.1.2 The layout of the three main enclosures appears to have been well planned; the ditches formed a rectilinear drainage network taking water from the south-west to the north-east, down the natural slope of the Site, with an additional ditch draining the enclosures towards Cranfield Wood. Only a single formal entranceway was present in one of the enclosures, which was approached via a driveway from the north-west. Internal pits within the north-east enclosure are of uncertain purpose but may have been watering holes. The pits form two regular groups suggesting well-planned activities. The lack of evidence for domestic structures across the Site supports a function of livestock containment or cultivation for the enclosure complex. The approaching driveway suggests that livestock containment was the most likely purpose, at least for the central enclosure.
- 9.1.3 The presence of 13th to 15th century ceramics from the enclosure ditches, driveway, drainage gully 2144 and pit 2047, attest to settlement activity in the vicinity of the Site, perhaps immediately to the south-west as a precursor to the 16th- to 17th-century Cranfield Hall. A relationship between the enclosures and a nearby settlement may be demonstrated by the place name Outseats, with the enclosures possibly forming part of a fold or shieling associated with a nearby settlement such as a manor.
- 9.1.4 A series of later 'stone getting pits' (minor quarries) are associated with a sandstone wall in the south-west of the Site. These pits and wall probably represent a later phase of activity although they may represent the original south-west limit of the enclosures. The south-west part of the Site lay on higher ground and had been heavily truncated, probably by ploughing.
- 9.1.5 An earlier geophysical survey was successful in detecting some of the enclosure ditches and associated pits. However, some features were not detected by geophysical survey, particularly smaller gullies and features in the south-west and north-east of the Site. The geophysical survey failed to detect the presence of sandstone walls in the south-west. The poor performance of the geophysical survey in the south-west was perhaps due to the changing geology in this area.

10 STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 Museum

- 10.1.1 The project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Derby Museum and Art Gallery. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under the accession code DBYMU 2012-181. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

10.2 Preparation of archive

- 10.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Derby Museum and Art Gallery, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013). All archive elements will be marked with the accession code DBYMU2012-181, and a full index will be prepared.



10.3 Selection policy

- 10.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis.
- 10.3.2 In this instance, the research potential of the assemblage is considered to be severely curtailed by the small quantity recovered, and the absence of any items of intrinsic interest. Retention for long-term curation is therefore not recommended, although this should be reviewed if any further fieldwork is planned on the Site. Any dispersal of artefacts from the project archive will be fully documented.
- 10.3.3 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2011).

10.4 Security copy

- 10.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, 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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12 APPENDICES

12.1 Appendix 1: Context descriptions



Context	Fill of	Description
2001		Topsoil: Dark brown clay silt
2002		Subsoil: Mid yellow brown silt sand with stones
2003		Natural: Light grey yellow silt clay with broken sandstone
2004		Wall: sandstone in clay matrix N-S
2005		Layer: beneath floor possible trample or preparation layer
2006		Ditch: NW-SE part of 2136
2007	2006	Fill: brown silt clay
2008		Ditch: NE-SW part of 2135
2009	2008	Fill: brown silt clay
2010	2008	Fill: brown grey silt clay
2011	2013	Fill: grey brown silt clay
2012	2013	Fill: grey brown silt clay
2013		Ditch: NE-SW part of 2135
2014	2015	Fill: grey brown sand silt
2015		Gully: NW-SE, part of re-cut 2142
2016	2017	Fill: grey brown silt clay
2017		Gully: NW-SE, re-cut of 2136
2018	2019	Fill: brown yellow silt clay
2019		Gully: NW-SE, part of 2136
2020	2021	Fill: grey yellow silt clay
2021		Gully: N-S drain, possibly natural, part of gully 2021
2022	2023	Fill: brown mottled grey silt clay
2023		Gully: N-S drain, possibly natural, part of gully 2021
2024		Ditch: SW terminal of 2135
2025	2024	Fill: brown grey silt clay
2026		Ditch: Part of curvilinear 2141
2027	2026	Fill: brown grey silt clay
2028		Gully: NW-SE part of 2136
2029	2028	Fill: brown silt clay loam
2030		Gully: NW-SE, part of re-cut 2142
2031	2030	Fill: brown silt clay loam
2032		Ditch: NE-SW part of 2135
2033	2032	Fill: grey brown silt clay
2034		Ditch: Continuous corner of ditches 2133 and 2137
2035	2034	Fill: yellow brown clay silt
2036		Cut: eval tr3
2037	2036	Fill: grey brown silt loam
2038		Ditch: NE-SW part of 2137
2039	2038	Fill: brown silt clay loam
2040		Gully: NE-SW part of 2138
2041	2040	Fill: brown silt clay loam



2042		Ditch: NW-SE part of 2134
2043	2042	Fill: grey brown silt clay
2044	2045	Fill: grey brown silt clay
2045		Ditch: NE-SW part of 2132
2046	2047	Fill: orange brown sand silt
2047		Pit: circular pit at S limit of Enclosure 1
2048	2049	Fill: grey brown sand silt
2049		Ditch: NW-SE part of 2133
2050	2051	Fill: orange brown sand silt
2051		Pit: circular pit at S limit of Enclosure 1
2052		Pit: sub-circular in Enclosure 1
2053	2052	Fill: grey brown sand silt
2054		Pit: sub-circular in Enclosure 1
2055	2054	Fill: grey brown sand silt
2056		Layer: Overcut bioturbated material between pits 2052 and 2054. Yellow grey brown sand silt
2057		Ditch: terminal of offshoot ditch 2143
2058	2057	Fill: grey brown silt clay
2059		Ditch: SW terminal of 2137
2060	2059	Fill: brown black silt
2061	2059	Fill: brown yellow clay silt
2062		Pit: large pit in S of site near S terminal of 2137
2063	2062	Fill: brown yellow clay silt
2064		Ditch: NW-SE part of 2134
2065	2064	Fill: yellow grey sad silt
2066		Ditch: NE-SW part of 2137
2067	2066	Fill: grey brown sand silt
2068		Gully: NE-SW part of 2138
2069	2068	Fill: grey silt sand
2070	2071	Fill: grey brown sand silt
2071		Ditch: part of curvilinear 2141 N-S then E-W
2072	2075	Fill: orange brown sand silt
2073	2075	Fill: grey brown sand silt
2074	2075	Fill: orange brown silt clay
2075		Pit: circular pit at S limit of Enclosure 1
2076	2079	Fill: orange brown silt clay
2077	2079	Fill: brown grey silt clay
2078	2079	Fill: brown grey silt clay
2079		Ditch: NW-SE part of 2134
2080		Ditch: NE-SW part of 2137
2081	2080	Fill: grey brown silt clay
2082		Ditch: part of NE-SW offshoot ditch 2143



2083	2082	Fill: grey brown silt clay
2084	2085	Fill: brown grey sand silt loam
2085		Ditch: recut NE terminal of ditch 2135
2086	2087	Fill: grey brown sand silt
2087		Ditch: original NE terminal of ditch 2135
2088	2089	Fill: grey brown clay silt
2089		Pit: circular pit at S limit of Enclosure 1
2090	2091	Fill: grey brown silt clay
2091		Gully: NE-SW part of 2140
2092		Gully: NW-SE part of 2139
2093	2092	Fill: grey brown silt clay
2094		Wall: sandstone foundation of boundary wall
2095		Pit: later oval pit truncating curvilinear 2141
2096	2095	Fill: grey silt clay
2097		Pit: later oval pit in Enclosure 3
2098	2097	Fill: grey silt clay
2099	2097	Fill: grey brown silt clay
2100		Gully: SE terminal of 2139
2101	2100	Fill: yellow brown silt clay
2102		Gully: NE terminal of 2140
2103	2102	Fill: yellow brown silt clay
2104		Gully: SW terminal of 2140
2105	2104	Fill: yellow brown silt clay
2106	2107	Fill: grey brown silt clay
2107		Pit: small pit within irregular curvilinear 2141
2108	2109	Fill: orange brown silt clay
2109		Gully: part of curvilinear 2141
2110	2112	Fill: grey brown silt clay
2111	2112	Fill: grey brown sand silt
2112		Ditch: part of curvilinear 2141
2113	2115	Fill: orange brown clay silt
2114	2115	Fill: brown grey silt clay
2115		Gully: part of curvilinear 2141
2116	2117	Fill: orange brown clay silt
2117		Gully: part of curvilinear 2141
2118		Gully: terminus N-S. Same as 2087
2119	2118	Fill: grey brown silt clay
2120	2122	Fill: orange brown sand silt
2121	2122	Fill: yellow brown clay silt
2122		Ditch: NE-SW part of ditch 2132of NE of enclosures
2123		Ditch: NE-SW part of ditch 2132of NE of enclosures
2124	2123	Fill: orange brown silt clay



2125	2127	Fill: orange brown sand silt
2126	2127	Fill: yellow brown clay silt
2127		Ditch: NE-SW part of ditch 2132 of NE of enclosures
2128		Ditch: NE-SW part of ditch 2137
2129	2128	Fill: brown silt clay loam
2130		Cut: NE-SW part of gully 2138
2131	2130	Fill: brown silt clay loam
2132		Ditch forming NW side of Enclosure 1 and continuing beyond to the NE
2133		Ditch forming NE side of Enclosure 1
2134		Ditch dividing Enclosures 1 and 2
2135		Ditch forming NW side of Enclosures 2 and 3
2136		Ditch dividing Enclosures 2 and 3
2137		Ditch forming SE side of Enclosures 1, 2 and 3
2138		Gully re-cut of 2137
2139		Part of driveway in W of site
2140		Part of driveway in W of site
2141		Curvilinear Enclosure 4
2142		Gully re-cut of 1236
2143		Offshoot ditch in Enclosure 2
2144		Drainage gully in Enclosure 2



12.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-309865

Project details

Project name	Outseats Farm, Alfreton, Derbyshire
Short description of the project	The mitigation works have fulfilled the aims of the project and have successfully expanded our understanding of the layout of a medieval enclosure complex that was previously identified by evaluation trial trenching. Associated features including a droveway, pits and drainage gullies were also recorded. The pottery has been assessed but further analysis may reveal more detail and improve our understanding of the Site. It is recommended that the results of the mitigation are published in a suitable journal. The layout of the three main enclosures appears to have been well planned; the ditches formed a rectilinear drainage network taking water from the south-west to the north-east, down the natural slope of the Site, with an additional ditch draining from the enclosures towards Cranfield Wood. Only a single formal entranceway was present in one of the enclosures, which was approached via a droveway from the north-west. Internal pits within the north-east enclosure are of uncertain purpose but may have been watering holes. The pits form two regular groups suggesting well-planned activities. The lack of evidence for domestic structures across the Site supports a function of livestock containment or cultivation for the enclosure complex. Due to the approaching droveway, livestock containment seems the most likely purpose, at least for the central enclosure. The presence of 13th to 15th century ceramics from the enclosure ditches, droveway, a drainage gully and a pit attest to settlement activity in the vicinity of the Site, perhaps immediately to the south-west as a precursor to the 16th- to 17th-century Carnfield Hall. A relationship between the enclosures and a nearby settlement may be demonstrated by the place name Outseats, with the enclosures possibly forming part of a fold or shieling associated with a nearby settlement such as a manor. A series of later 'stone getting pits' (minor quarries) are associated with a sandstone wall in the south-west of the Site. These pits and wall probably represent a later phase of activity although they may represent the original south-west limit of the enclosures. The south-west part of the Site lay on higher ground and had been heavily truncated, probably by ploughing.
Project dates	Start: 08-01-2018 End: 23-01-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any project codes associated with reference	T23726 - Contracting Unit No.
Any project codes associated with reference	AVA/2012/0084 - Planning Application No.
Any project codes associated with reference	DBYMU2012-181 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 5 - Character undetermined
Monument type	ENCLOSURE Medieval
Monument type	DROVEWAY Medieval



Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval
Investigation type ""Part Excavation""
Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England
Site location DERBYSHIRE AMBER VALLEY ALFRETON Outseats Farm
Postcode DE55 7QH
Study area 0.36 Hectares
Site coordinates SK 42414 55540 53.095081123128 -1.366539375995 53 05 42 N 001 21 59 W
Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 125m Max: 125m

Project creators

Name of Wessex Archaeology
Organisation
Project brief G.K. Heritage
originator
Project design GK Heritage
originator
Project director/manager Richard O'Neill
Project supervisor Hannah Dabill
Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body
Name of The Wheeldon Group
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive DBYMU2012-181
recipient
Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Archive DBYMU2012-181
recipient
Digital Contents "none"
Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography","Text"
available
Paper Archive DBYMU2012-181
recipient
Paper Contents "none"
Paper Media "Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"
available



Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Outseats Farm, Alfreton, Derbyshire: Strip, Map and Record Excavation (Area E) Post-Excavation Assessment

Author(s)/Editor(s) Tuck, A.

Other bibliographic details T23726.1

Date 2018

Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology

Place of issue or publication Sheffield

Description A4 laser printed report

Project bibliography 2

Publication type An article in published serial

Title Beyond the Settlement: Medieval Enclosures at Outseats Farm, Alfreton, Derbyshire

Author(s)/Editor(s) Tuck, A.

Entered by Ashley Tuck (a.tuck@wessexarch.co.uk)

Entered on 27 March 2018



12.3 Appendix 3: Environmental evidence

Table 3: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Subsample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Notes	Other	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Charcoal	Other	Comments (preservation)
2030	2029	201	35	60		80%, B, E, I, F	-	-	-	C	Poaceae		Trace	Mature	-	Poor
2049	2048	203	40	40		80%, B, E, F	-	-	-	C	Indets		4ml	Mature	-	Fair
2045	2044	204	38	30		80%, B, E, I, F	-	-	-	C	Poaceae		5ml	Mature	-	Poor
2032	2033	205	40	120		80%, B, E, I	A*	-	<i>Triticum aestivum/turgidum</i> (C), <i>Avena sp.</i> (A*)	C	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> , Cyperaceae		4ml	Mature	-	Poor
2057	2058	206	40	50		90%, B, E, F (A***), I	-	-	-	C	Poaceae		Trace	Mature	-	Fair
2038	2039	207	38	25		90%, B, E, F (A***)	-	-	-	C	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> ssp. <i>bulbosum</i> tuber		3ml	Mature	-	Fair
2068	2069	202	20	200	50%	90%, A***, E	-	-	-	-	-		Trace	Mature	-	-
2091	2090	211	40	40		80%, B, E, I, F	-	-	-	C	Poaceae		Trace	Mature	-	Poor
2092	2093	212	36	60		90%, B, F	-	-	-	-	-		1ml	Mature	-	-
2062	2063	208	40	125		60%, B, E, I, F	-	-	-	-	-		5ml	Mature	-	-
2051	2050	209	38	50		80%, B, E	B	-	<i>Avena sp.</i>	-	-		4ml	Mature	-	Poor
2089	2088	210	10	40		75%, C, E, I	-	-	-	-	-		<1ml	Mature	-	-
2052	2053	213	20	30		80%, A, E, I, F	-	-	-	C	Poaceae		1ml	Mature	-	Fair
2054	2055	214	20	35		90%, B, E, F, I	-	-	-	-	-		Trace	Mature	-	-
2075	2074	215	34	20		80%, B, E, F, I	C	-	<i>Triticum sp.</i>	C	Poaceae		<1ml	Mature	-	Poor
2097	2098	216	37	125		75%, B, E, I, F	-	-	-	C	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> , indet tuber		<1ml	Mature	-	Fair
2094	2096	217	40	250		75%, A, E, I	A	-	<i>Avena sp.</i>	A	<i>Brassica cf. nigra</i>		5ml	Mature	-	Fair
2112	2110	218	40	250		75%, B, E, I	-	-	-	-	-		10ml	Mature	-	-

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), F = mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia, E = earthworm eggs, I = insects.



- ▭ Site
- ▭ Mitigation area
- ▭ Evaluation trench
- ▭ Geophysical survey area
- ▭ Geophysical anomaly

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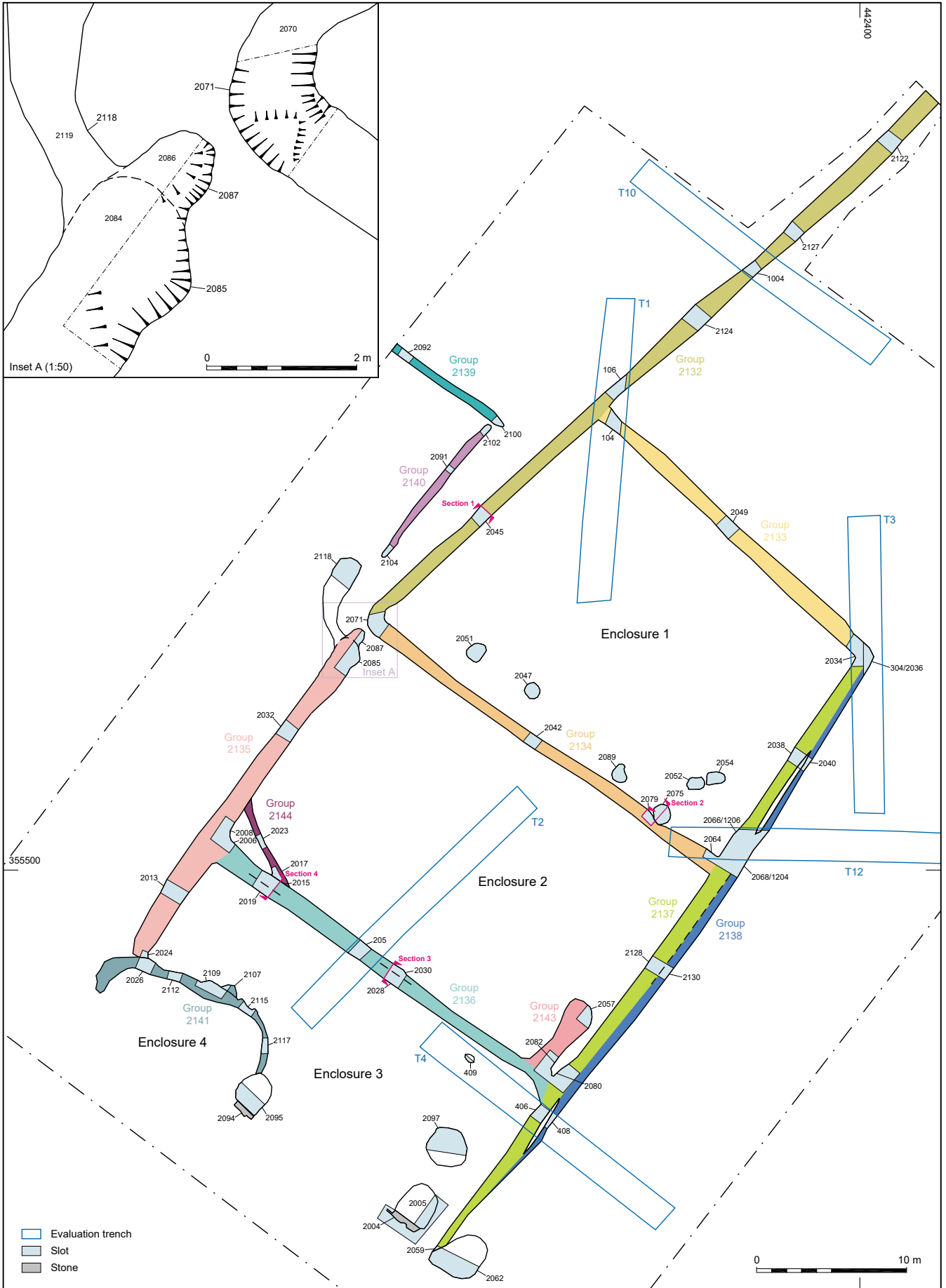


Coordinate system:
 OSGB36
 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

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Scale:	1:20000 and 1:1000 at A4	Illustrator:	IA
Path:	S:\PROJECTS\T23726\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Mitigation\2018_02_23		

Site location

Figure 1



Coordinate system:
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

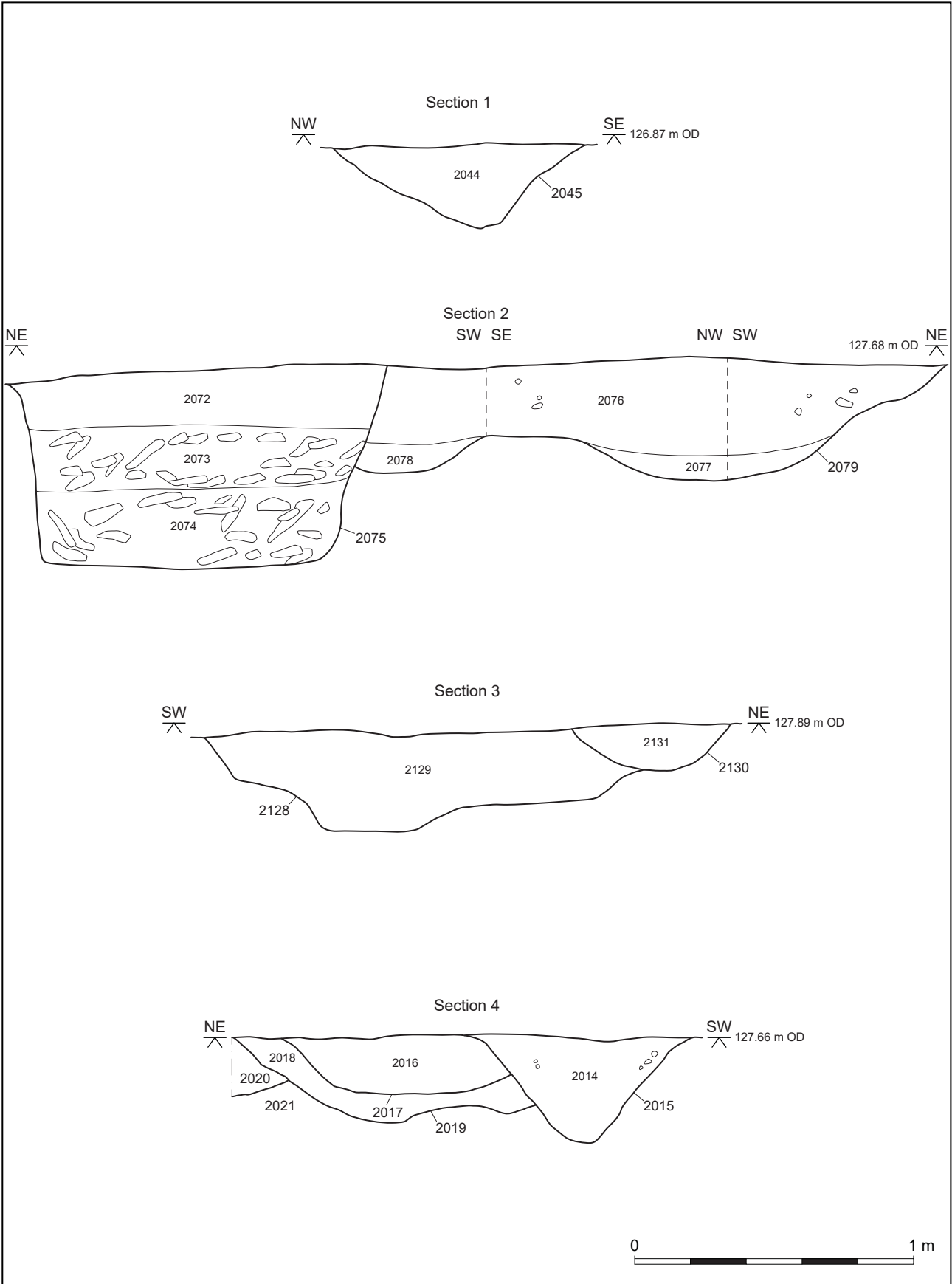


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Site plan

Figure 2



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Sections

Figure 3



Plate 1: Ditch 2123, part of ditch group 2132, from south-west



Plate 2: Ditches 2064 (part of ditch 2134) and 2066 (part of ditch 2137) with single continuous fill from north-east


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Plate 3: Ditch 2079 (part of 2134, right) and pit 2075 (left) from north-west



Plate 4: Ditch 2049 (part of ditch 2133) from north-west


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Plate 5: Ditch 2129 (part of 2137) and gully 2131 (part of 2138) from south-west



Plate 6: Pit 2047 from south-east


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Plate 7: Pits 2052 and 2054 from south



Plate 8: Ditch 2013 (part of 2135) showing dark coal measures geology from south-west


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Plate 9: Ditch terminal 2087 (part of 2135) and re-cut as 2085 from south-west



Plate 10: Ditch terminal 2118 from north


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Plate 11: Gullies 2139 and 2140 from east



Plate 12: Ditch 2019 (part of 2136) re-cut as 2017 and 2015 (part of 2142) with relationship with gully 2021 (part of 2144) from north-west


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Plate 13: Ditches 2006 (part of 2136) and 2008 (part of 2135) from east



Plate 14: Curvilinear gully 2109 (part of 2141, right) and possible pit 2107 (left) from west



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Plate 15: Wall 2004 and feature/pit 2005 from south-west



Plate 16: Pit 2097 from north

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