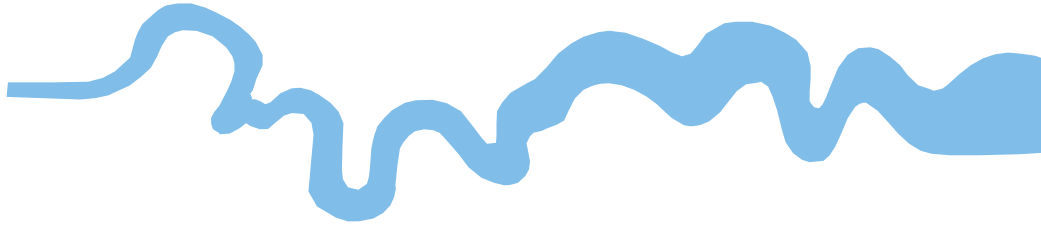


T V A S



NORTH MIDLANDS

**Whittington Heath Golf Club,
Lichfield, Staffordshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Garreth Davey

Site Code: WGL 18/09

(SK 1560 0760)

**Whittington Heath Golf Club,
Lichfield, Staffordshire**

An Archaeological Evaluation

For ADAS

by Garreth Davey

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WGL 18/09

February 2018

Summary

Site name: Whittington Heath Golf Club, Lichfield, Staffordshire

Grid reference: SK 1560 0760

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 29th January – 2nd February 2018

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Garreth Davey

Site code: WGL 18/09

Area of site: 29.7 ha

Summary of results: The evaluation was carried out as intended and twenty seven trenches were successfully excavated but no deposits of archaeological interest were revealed. The site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

Location of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited with the Potteries Museum, Stoke-on-Trent and a copy sent to the Historic England Archive in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 20.02.18 Steve Preston ✓ 20.02.18

Whittington Golf Course, Lichfield, Staffordshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Garreth Davey

Report 18/09

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out at land east of Whittington Heath Golf Course, Lichfield, Staffordshire (SK 1560 0760) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Andrew Brown of ADAS, Abingdon, on behalf of HS2 Limited, London.

Planning permission (16/00204/FULM) has been gained from Lichfield District Council for the redevelopment of the golf club including the change of use of farm land to a golf course. This consent is subject to a condition which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification provided by Diarmuid O'Seaneachain (ADAS 2017a) and approved by Ms Debbie Taylor, Cultural Heritage Consultant for Staffordshire County Council and archaeological adviser to the district.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Garreth Davey and Jon Tierney, between 29th January and 2nd February 2018 and the site code is WGL 18/09. The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited with the Potteries Museum, Stoke-on-Trent in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located west of Common Lane, approximately 4.5km south-east of Lichfield, Staffordshire and approximately 3.3km south-west of the River Tame (Fig 1). The site is currently three fields of undeveloped agricultural land which lies on an uneven level varying from 77m above Ordnance Datum to the east, 86m aOD in the centre and up to 90m aOD on the western extent. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is recorded as gravelly sandstone of the Helsby Formation with potential for interbedded sandstone and conglomerate of the Chester Formation on the western extents, with no superficial deposits shown on mapping (BGS 2018). The soils of the site are characterized as freely draining, slightly acid sandy soils (UKSO 2017).

Archaeological background

The site's history and archaeological context have been investigated in a Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (ADAS 2015). A brief summary of the results are below.

The Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) records one findspot located just beyond the western boundary of the site, on the existing golf course, for a bronze flanged axe (HER No. 40212). Further afield there are records for Iron Age and Roman enclosures west of Rookery, Fisherwick (HER No. 4224) and a quarry pit to the east of Whittington (HER No. 4223) which dates from the Bronze Age to the modern period. In Whittington an Iron Age brooch (HER No. 60899), a coin (HER No. 3955) and Roman and Saxon finds (HER No. 3994) are recorded. Further records are for Roman finds (HER No. 3993 and 60830) and Ryknild Street Roman road (HER No. 1144) (ADAS 2015).

Early Medieval and Medieval activity in the area was likely centred around the deserted settlements of Packington (HER No. 2536) and Freeford (HER No. 1094), Freeford House Farm (HER No. 53350), the Hospital of St Leonard (HER No. 50410) and the Church of St Giles (Historic England No. 1038868). Several find spots have been recorded in the surrounding area including a knife (HER No.60831), a dagger and knife end stop in Whittington (HER No. 60708) and coins and a lead object at Lichfield (HER No. 3146). The area around Whittington also includes an area of ridge and furrow (HER No. 4226) and further linear features of likely agricultural origin (HER No. 55372).

A geophysical survey was undertaken over the site in 2017 (ADAS 2017b), which did not identify any anomalies of definite archaeological potential. A single fragmented linear anomaly may represent an agricultural ditch. The survey also did not identify former field boundaries depicted on historic maps.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeology relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits associated with Iron Age or Roman occupation are present;
- to determine if deposits from the early medieval and medieval periods are present;
- to determine if deposits from the post-medieval period are present;

to ground truth and assess the integrity and state of preservation of a number of anomalies identified in the geophysical survey; and

to provide sufficient information to enable an appropriate mitigation strategy if necessary.

It was proposed to excavate 28 trenches, each 50m long and 1.8m wide. Three trenches were to be placed in Field 1 (to the west), nine in the central Field 2 and the remainder in the much larger Field 3 to the east. Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed to expose archaeologically sensitive levels by a 360-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were then to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project, without compromising the integrity of any features that might warrant preservation *in situ* or might better be investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

Most of the trenches were excavated as planned, except that Trench 2, intended to be located in Field 1 remained unexcavated due to the presence of a gas main whose exact location was unknown. This was agreed with Ms Debbie Taylor and Diarmuid O'Seaneachain of ADAS on site. Other trenches were lengthened to compensate. Only two of the trenches contained potential archaeological features, and their stratigraphies were largely uniform, so only those with possible features are detailed below and the rest are summarized by field. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Field 1

Trenches 1 and 28 were 53m long, 1.8m wide and approximately 0.73m and 0.48m deep respectively. The stratigraphy of the trenches consisted of a loose, mid brown, sandy silt topsoil with > 3% sub-rounded 0.02-0.10m stones, a loose dark yellow sand interfacing subsoil above the natural red sand and gravel geology. Neither trench contained any features. Trench 2, as noted above, could not be excavated.

Field 2

Trenches 12-19 and 27 located in Field 2 were between 49.5m to 60m long, 1.8m wide and between 0.5m to 0.75m deep. The stratigraphy of the trenches was largely uniform and consisted of a loose, mid brown, sandy silt topsoil with > 3% sub-rounded 0.02-0.10m stones, a loose dark yellow sand interfacing subsoil above the natural red and yellow sand and gravel geology with occasional red clay patches. Trench 13 contained a linear feature (2)

towards the western extent but on investigation this was found to be a terracotta field drain. The southern extent of Trench 18 was significantly more clayey than any of the other trenches. No further features were identified within the trenches.

Field 3

Trenches 3-11 and 20-26 located in Field 3 were between 50.0m to 60m long, 1.8m wide and between 0.35m to 0.63m deep. The stratigraphy of the trenches was uniform throughout and consisted of a loose, mid brown, sandy silt topsoil with > 3% sub-rounded 0.02-0.10m stones, a loose dark yellow sand interfacing subsoil above the natural red and yellow sand geology with occasional red clay patches. The natural geology of Trench 20 was firm red clay throughout and likely represents a localised change in geology. Trench 6 contained a possible linear feature (1) near the eastern extent however on investigation this was found to be very rectangular and likely of modern origin. No finds were contained in this and no further features were identified within the trenches.

Conclusion

Most (27 of 28) trenches were successfully excavated as intended however despite the site's location within an area of elevated potential for medieval archaeology no features nor finds of archaeological interest were present. Due to the lack of finds and features identified, the site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

References

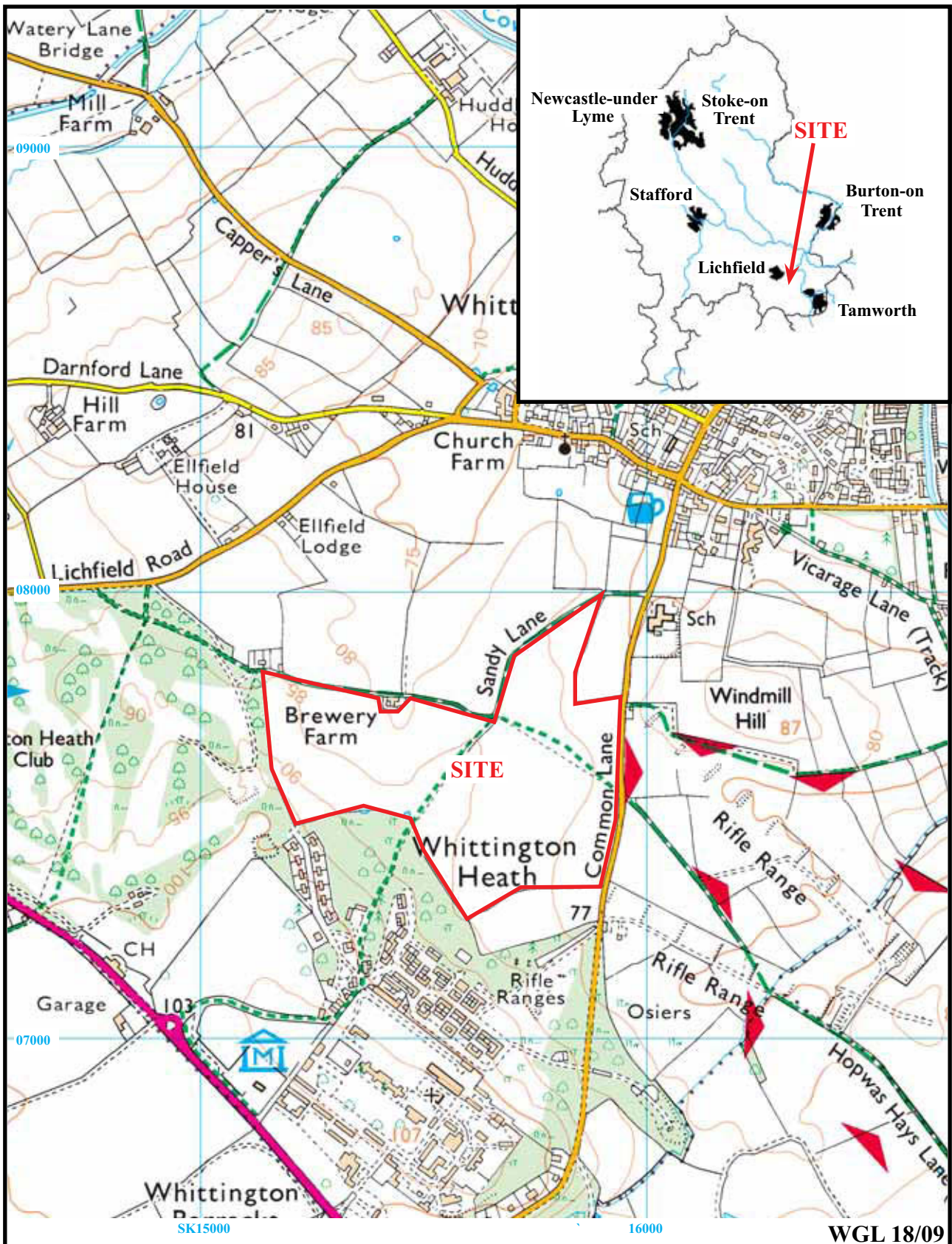
- ADAS, 2015, 'Archaeological Desk-based Assessment: Proposed Reconfiguration and Extension, Whittington Heath Golf Course, Lichfield, Staffordshire', ADAS unpubl rep PE/JL14, Abingdon
- ADAS, 2017a, 'Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Programme of Works. Whittington Heath Golf Club, Lichfield', ADAS, Abingdon
- ADAS, 2017b, 'Whittington Heath Golf Club; Area A: Geophysical Survey Final Report', ADAS unpubl rep PE/DO13, Abingdon
- BGS, 2017, <https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government, London
- UKSO, 2017, <https://www.ukso.org/mapViewer.html>

APPENDIX 1: Trench Details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1	53.1	1.8	0.73	0-0.42m soft mid-brown sandy silt with >3% sub-rounded 0.02-0.10m stones, 0.42-0.73m loose mid-dark yellow sandy interface layer, 0.73m+ red sand and gravel natural with occasional clay patches. [Pl. 1]
2				Not Excavated.
3	57.6	1.8	0.52	0-0.49m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.49-0.52m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.52m+ red and yellow sandy natural.
4	58.2	1.8	0.44	0-0.36m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.36-0.44 subsoil as Trench 1, 0.44m+ red and yellow sandy natural. [Pl. 4]
5	58.5	1.8	0.55	0-0.44m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.44-0.55m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.55m+ red and yellow sandy natural with occasional clay patches.
6	56.5	1.8	0.49	0-0.41m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.41-0.49m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.49m+ red and yellow sandy natural with occasional clay patches.
7	57.5	1.8	0.51	0-0.37m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.37-0.51m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.51m+ red and yellow sandy natural with occasional clay patches.
8	55.2	1.8	0.56	0-0.49m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.49-0.56m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.56m+ red and yellow sandy natural with occasional clay patches. [Pl. 3]
9	60.0	1.8	0.48	0-0.39m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.39-0.48m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.48m+ red and yellow sandy natural.
10	54.6	1.8	0.63	0-0.44m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.44-0.63m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.63m+ red and yellow sandy natural.
11	53.0	1.8	0.56	0-0.46m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.46-0.56m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.56m+ red and yellow sandy natural.
12	54.5	1.8	0.55	0-0.42m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.42-0.55m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.55m+ red and yellow sandy natural with occasional clay patches.
13	57.0	1.8	0.70	0-0.41m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.41-0.70m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.70m+ red and yellow sandy natural with occasional clay patches. [Pl. 4]
14	54.8	1.8	0.73	0-0.47m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.47-0.73m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.73m+ red and yellow sandy natural with occasional clay patches.
15	59.0	1.8	0.66	0-0.40m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.40-0.66m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.66m+ red and yellow sandy natural with occasional clay patches. [Pl. 5]
16	49.5	1.8	0.75	0-0.36m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.36-0.75m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.75m+ red and yellow sandy natural with occasional clay patches.
17	53.0	1.8	0.75	0-0.57m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.57-0.75m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.75m+ red and yellow sandy natural with occasional clay patches.
18	60.0	1.8	0.70	0-0.50m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.50-0.70m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.70m+ red and yellow sandy natural with red clay natural at the southern end.
19	53.0	1.8	0.72	0-0.44m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.44-0.72m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.72m+ red and yellow sandy natural with occasional clay patches. [Pl. 6]
20	55.0	1.8	0.42	0-0.33m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.33-0.42m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.42m+ firm red clay natural.
21	52.7	1.8	0.43	0-0.35m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.35-0.43m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.43m+ red and yellow sandy natural.
22	50.0	1.8	0.48	0-0.38m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.38-0.48m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.48m+ red and yellow sandy natural with occasional clay patches.
23	53.5	1.8	0.54	0-0.40m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.40-0.54m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.54m+ red and yellow sandy natural with occasional clay patches. [Pl. 7]
24	53.5	1.8	0.47	0-0.43m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.43-0.47m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.47m+ red and yellow sandy natural with occasional clay patches.
25	56.0	1.8	0.53	0-0.41m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.41-0.53m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.53m+ red and yellow sandy natural with occasional clay patches.
26	54.7	1.8	0.58	0-0.45m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.45-0.58m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.58m+ red and yellow sandy natural with occasional clay patches.
27	54.1	1.8	0.63	0-0.45m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.45-0.63m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.63m+ red and yellow sandy natural with occasional clay patches. [Pl. 8]
28	53.0	1.8	0.48	0-0.41m topsoil as Trench 1, 0.41-0.48m subsoil as Trench 1, 0.48m+ red sand and gravel natural with occasional clay patches.

APPENDIX 2: Feature Details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill[s]</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i> Finds</i>
8	1	53	Ditch	Modern	No finds present.
13	2	54	Gully	Modern	Field drain present, no other finds.



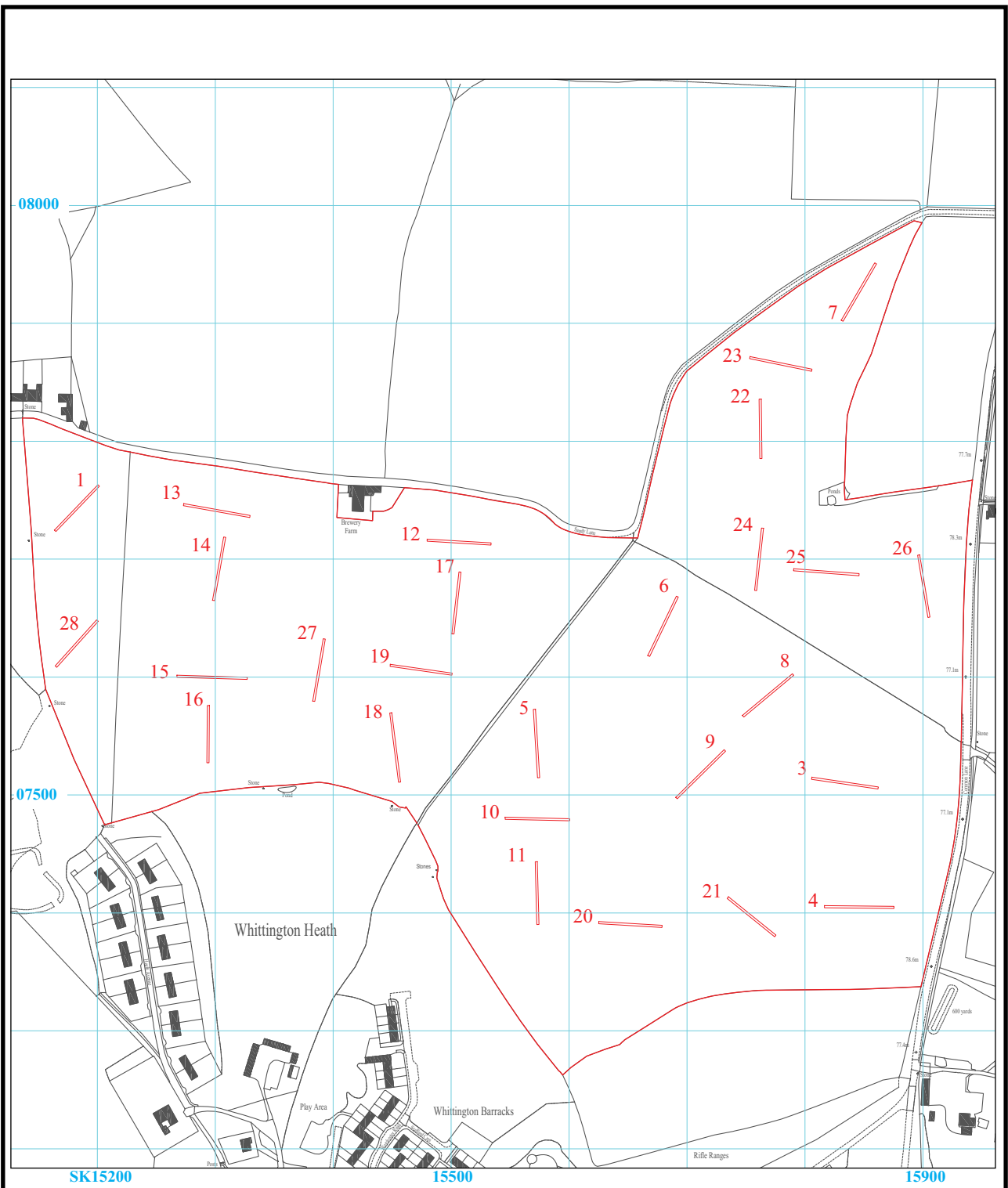
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Lichfield, Staffordshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Whittington Heath and Staffordshire.

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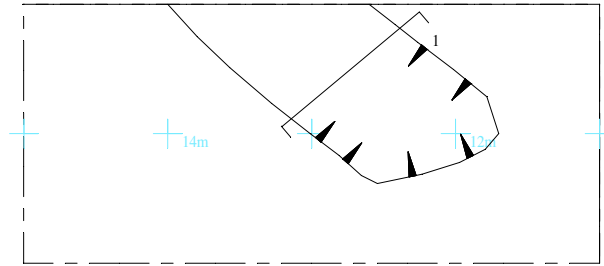
WGL 18/09



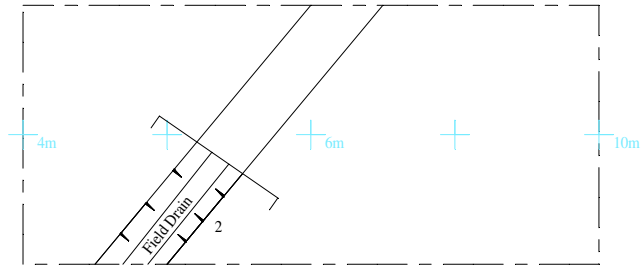
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Figure 2. Location of excavated trenches.
Scale: 1:5000



Trench 8



Trench 13



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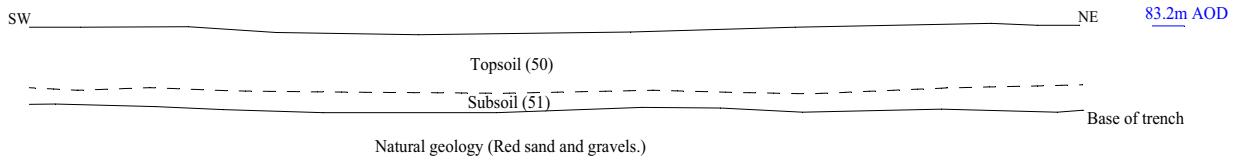


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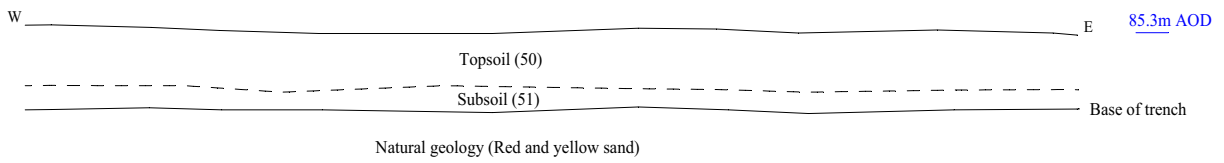
Figure 3. Trench Plans



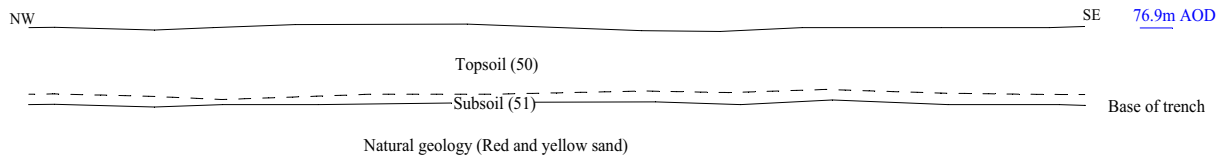
Trench 1



Trench 15



Trench 26



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Figure 4. Representative sections





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north-east,
Scales: 0.3m, 1m and 2m.



Plate 2. Trench 4, looking east,
Scales: 0.3m, 1m and 2m.



Plate 3. Trench 8, looking south-west,
Scales: 0.3m, 1m and 2m.



Plate 4. Trench 13, looking south-east,
Scales: 0.3m, 1m and 2m.

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**Whittington Heath Golf Club,
Lichfield, Staffordshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 to 4.**





Plate 5. Trench 15, looking south-east,
Scales: 0.3m, 1m and 2m.



Plate 6. Trench 19, looking south-east,
Scales: 0.3m, 1m and 2m.



Plate 7. Trench 23, looking south-east,
Scales: 0.3m, 1m and 2m.



Plate 8. Trench 27, looking south,
Scales: 0.3m, 1m and 2m.

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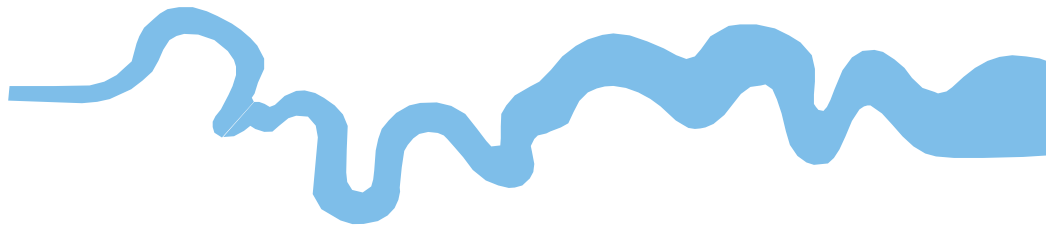
**Whittington Heath Golf Club,
Lichfield, Staffordshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 5 to 8.**



TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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