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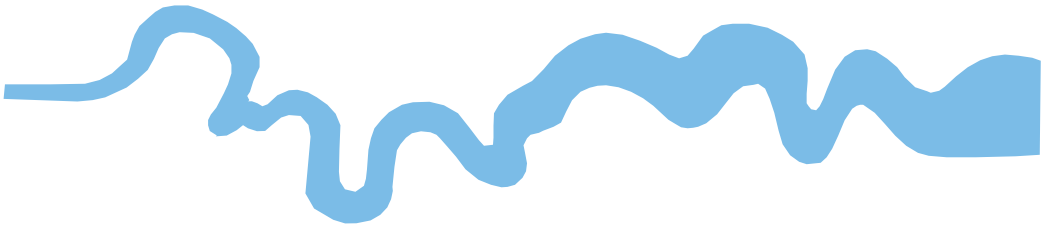

NORTH MIDLANDS

Land adjacent to Glebe Farm, Lower Strensham, Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

by Garreth Davey

Site Code: GFW18/35

(SO 8980 4125)

Land adjacent to Glebe Farm, Lower Strensham, Worcestershire

An Archaeological Evaluation

For Armour Heritage Ltd

by Garreth Davey

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GFW 18/35

March 2018

Summary

Site name: Land adjacent to Glebe Farm, Lower Strensham, Worcestershire

Grid reference: SO 8980 4125

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 6th to 9th March

Project Coordinator: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Garreth Davey

Site code: GFW 18/35

Area of site: 56.5 ha

Summary of results: The evaluation was carried out as intended and twenty three trenches were successfully excavated to target geophysical anomalies. However, no deposits nor artefacts 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 Worcestershire Museum Service in due course.

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓	23.03.18
	Steve Preston ✓	23.03.18

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Land adjacent to Glebe Farm, Lower Strensham, Worcestershire
An Archaeological Evaluation

by Garreth Davey

Report 18/35

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out at land adjacent to Glebe Farm, Lower Strensham, Worcestershire (SO 9003 4125) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Sue Farr of Armour Heritage Limited, Foghamshire Timber Yard, Foghamshire Lane, Trudoxhill, Frome, Somerset, BA11 5DG.

Planning permission (W/15/01323/PN) has been gained from Wychavon District Council for the construction of a solar farm and associated infrastructure. This application 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 Sue Farr (AH, 2018) and approved by the archaeological adviser to the district and Worcestershire Council.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Garreth Davey and Nick Dawson, between 6th and 9th March and the site code is GFW 85/35. The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited with Worcestershire Museum Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site comprises 56.5ha of agricultural land located adjacent to Baughton Lane, approximately 15km south-west of Worcester (Fig 1). The site is on a gentle west facing slope, at 24m above Ordnance Datum in the east dropping to 14m aOD at the north-western extent. The site is located between the River Avon and River Severn, approximately 800m east and 3.2km west respectively. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is recorded as mudstone of the Charmouth Formation with no superficial deposits shown on mapping (BGS 2018).

Site history and archaeological background

There are no designated heritage assets recorded within the site area. The site history and archaeological context have been investigated in a Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (AH 2015) covering a 1.5km study area. A brief summary of the results are below.

Within the study area there are two scheduled monuments, 24 listed buildings and part of a single conservation area. The two scheduled monuments consist of the moated site of Manor Farm and Strensham Castle moated site and civil war defences.

There is limited prehistoric activity within the study area however unstratified finds of Bronze Age material are recorded. The Romano-British evidence in the area includes crop marks (WSM06054) and unspecified finds dated to the 3rd century (WSM32371).

The most prominent archaeological evidence in the area relates to the medieval period. These consist of the remains of Strensham Castle (WSM00287) and the earthwork remnants of the associated deserted villages (WSM29612) and (WSM07707). A medieval arrowhead, decorated floor tiles and pottery dated to the 13th-14th century have been recovered from the eastern area of the DMV.

A gradiometer survey undertaken over the site (Lefort, 2017) identified a number of linear and curvilinear anomalies which have been interpreted as former field boundaries as well as potential ring ditches.

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;

ground truth the results of the recently completed geophysical survey;

clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be impacted by development;

Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the Site;

Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits; and to;

Produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential.

It was proposed to excavate 23 trenches, each 25m long and 1.8m wide. Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed to expose archaeologically sensitive levels and carried out 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

The trenches were targeted at geophysical anomalies (Fig. 3), some of which were confidently identified as old field boundaries on Ordnance survey maps and were removed by the landowner at sometime in the 1990s.

Field 1 (Figs 2, 3 and 4, Pls 1, 2 and 6)

Trenches 2-4, 6-10, 12, 13, 15, 17-19 and 23 were located in Field 1. These were between 25.6m and 32.1m long, 1.8m wide and between 0.37m and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy of the trenches is consistent throughout and is formed of loose, mid brown, silty clay topsoil overlying a pale brown silty clay subsoil. The natural geology is a mottled blue grey, pale brown and reddish brown clays with some localised patches of light brown sandy gravel patches. None of the geophysical anomalies targeted with the exception of the former field boundaries revealed any corresponding below-ground deposits.

Field 2 (Figs 2, 3 and 4, Pl.7)

Trenches 1, 5, 20 and 21 were located in Field 2. These were between 25.5m and 27.4m long, 1.8m wide and between 0.32m and 0.53m deep. As in Field 1 the stratigraphy of the trenches consisted of loose, mid brown, silty clay topsoil, a pale brown silty clay subsoil onto the natural geology of mottled blue grey, pale brown and reddish brown clays with some localised patches of light brown sandy gravel patches in trench 5. As per Field 1, the only features identified were those related to the former field boundaries.

Field 3 (Figs 2, 3 and 4, Pls 3-5 and 8)

Trenches 11, 14, 16, and 22 were located in Field 3. These were between 26.0m and 29.5m long, 1.8m wide and between 0.31m and 0.39m deep. The stratigraphy of the trenches was formed of loose, mid brown, silty clay topsoil overlying a pale brown silty clay subsoil. The natural geology was a mix of mottled blue grey, pale brown and reddish brown clays with some localised patches of light brown sandy gravel patches in Trench 16 and 22. No features were identified in any of these trenches.

Conclusion

The 23 trenches were successfully excavated as intended however despite the site's location within an area of elevated potential archaeology neither features nor finds of archaeological interest were present. It is unclear why,

with the exception of the former field boundaries, no other geophysical anomalies were identified in the trenches. It is possible that anomalies were the result of subtle changes in the topsoil, or deeper geological variations.

Due to the lack of finds and features identified, the site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

References

Armour, R 2015. Land at Glebe Farm, Lower Strensham, Worcestershire. Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment, Unpublished client report ref. AH558, Armour Heritage, Frome.

BGS, 2018, https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html

Lefort, R 2017. Land at Glebe Farm, Lower Strensham, Worcestershire. Gradiometer Survey Report. Unpublished client report ref. 6-0009.01, Lefort Geophysics, North Petherton.

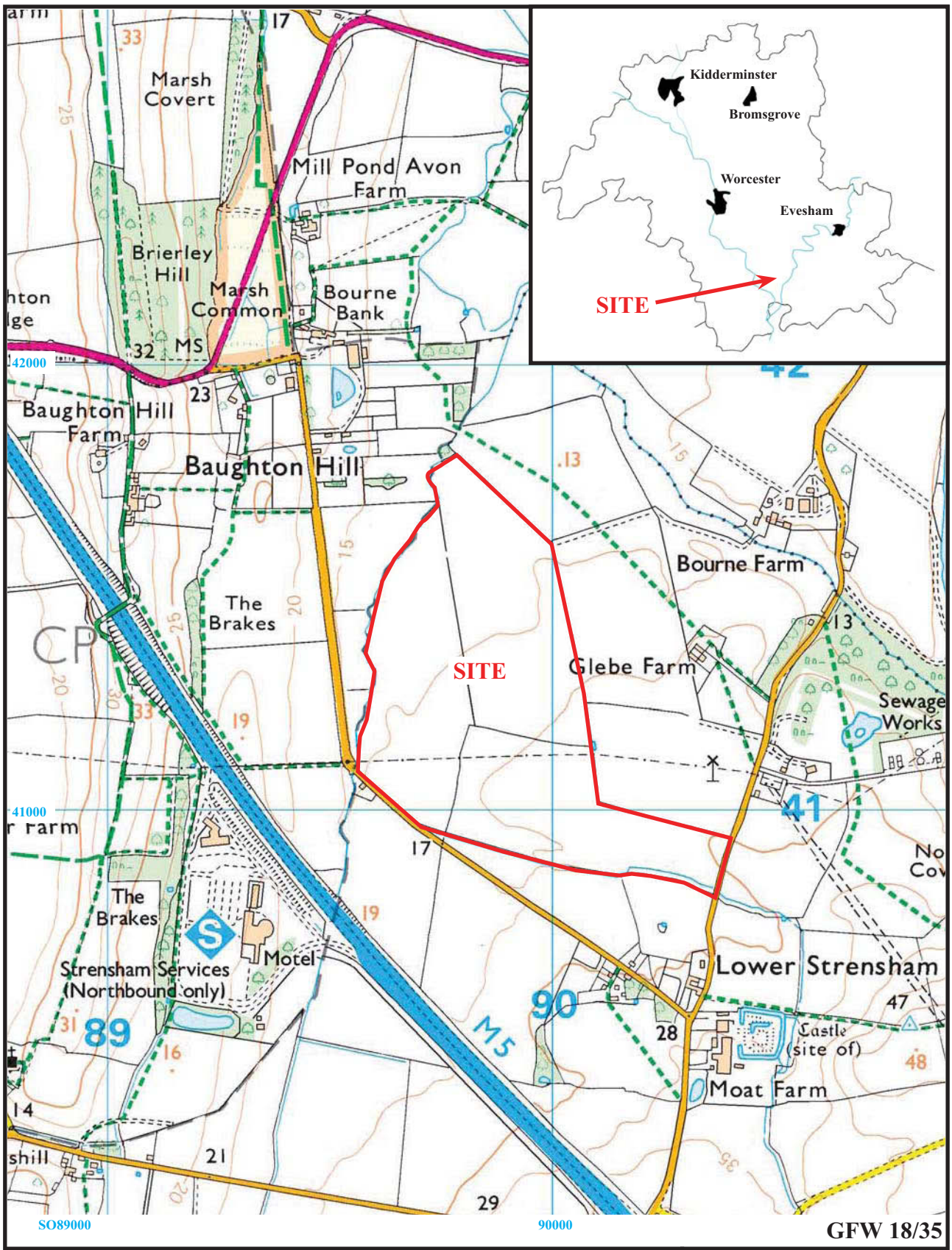
Farr, S 2018. Land at Glebe Farm, Lower Strensham, Worcestershire. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Field Evaluation. report ref. AH264/1, Armour Heritage, Frome.

NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government, London

UKSO, 2018, https://www.ukso.org/mapViewer.html

APPENDIX 1: Trench Details

Trench	*Length (m)*	*Breadth (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Comments*
1	25.5	1.8	0.49	0-0.19m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.19-0.49m pale brown silty clay, 0.49m+ mottled blue grey, pale brown and reddish brown clays.
2	26.2	1.8	0.48	0-0.26m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.26-0.48m pale brown silty clay, 0.48m+ mottled blue grey clays with light brown sandy gravel patches.
3	26.3	1.8	0.56	0-0.33m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.33-0.56m pale brown silty clay, 0.56m+ mottled blue grey clays with light brown sandy gravel patches.
4	31.2	1.8	0.56	0-0.26m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.26-0.56m pale brown silty clay, 0.56m+ mottled blue grey clays with light brown sandy gravel patches. **(Pl 1)(Fig 3)**
5	27.4	1.8	0.32	0-0.27m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.27-0.32m pale brown silty clay, 0.32m+ mottled blue grey clays with light brown sandy gravel patches.
6	30.1	1.8	0.42	0-0.19m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.19-0.42m pale brown silty clay, 0.42m+ mottled blue grey clays with light brown sandy gravel patches.
7	28.2	1.8	0.42	0-0.30m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.30-0.42m pale brown silty clay, 0.42m+ mottled blue grey clays with light brown sandy gravel patches. **(Pl 2)**
8	31.0	1.8	0.49	0-0.30m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.30-0.49m pale brown silty clay, 0.49m+ mottled blue grey clays with light brown sandy gravel patches.
9	25.6	1.8	0.46	0-0.28m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.28-0.46m pale brown silty clay, 0.46m+ mottled blue grey, pale brown and reddish brown clays.
10	29.6	1.8	0.37	0-0.18m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.18-0.37m pale brown silty clay, 0.37m+ mottled blue grey, pale brown and reddish brown clays. **(Fig 3)**
11	29.1	1.8	0.39	0-0.20m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.20-0.39m pale brown silty clay, 0.39m+ mottled blue grey, pale brown and reddish brown clays. **(Pl 3)**
12	29.7	1.8	0.46	0-0.29m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.29-0.46m pale brown silty clay, 0.46m+ mottled blue grey, pale brown and reddish brown clays.
13	32.1	1.8	0.51	0-0.29m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.29-0.51m pale brown silty clay, 0.51m+ mottled blue grey clays with light brown sandy gravel patches.
14	26.4	1.8	0.31	0-0.20m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.20-0.31m pale brown silty clay, 0.31m+ mottled blue grey, pale brown and reddish brown clays. **(Pl 4)**
15	29.5	1.8	0.53	0-0.24m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.24-0.53m pale brown silty clay, 0.53m+ mottled blue grey, pale brown and reddish brown clays.
16	29.5	1.8	0.36	0-0.29m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.29-0.36m pale brown silty clay, 0.36m+ mottled blue grey clays with light brown sandy gravel patches. **(Pl 5)(Fig 3)**
17	31.8	1.8	0.46	0-0.28m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.28-0.46m pale brown silty clay, 0.46m+ mottled blue grey, pale brown and reddish brown clays.
18	31.1	1.8	0.39	0-0.18m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.18-0.39m pale brown silty clay, 0.39m+ mottled blue grey, pale brown and reddish brown clays. **(Pl 6)**
19	27.0	1.8	0.53	0-0.21m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.21-0.53m pale brown silty clay, 0.53m+ mottled blue grey, pale brown and reddish brown clays.
20	26.9	1.8	0.44	0-0.28m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.28-0.44m pale brown silty clay, 0.44m+ mottled blue grey, pale brown and reddish brown clays. **(Pl 7)(Fig 3)**
21	26.8	1.8	0.53	0-0.19m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.19-0.53m pale brown silty clay, 0.53m+ mottled blue grey, pale brown and reddish brown clays.
22	26.0	1.8	0.38	0-0.24m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.24-0.38m pale brown silty clay, 0.38m+ mottled blue grey, pale brown and reddish brown clays. **(Pl 8)(Fig 3)**
23	28.1	1.8	0.42	0-0.24m mid-brown, silty clay, 0.24-0.42m pale brown silty clay, 0.42m+ mottled blue grey clays with light brown sandy gravel patches.



Land adjacent to Glebe Farm,
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Figure 1. Location of site within Lower Strensham and Worcestershire.

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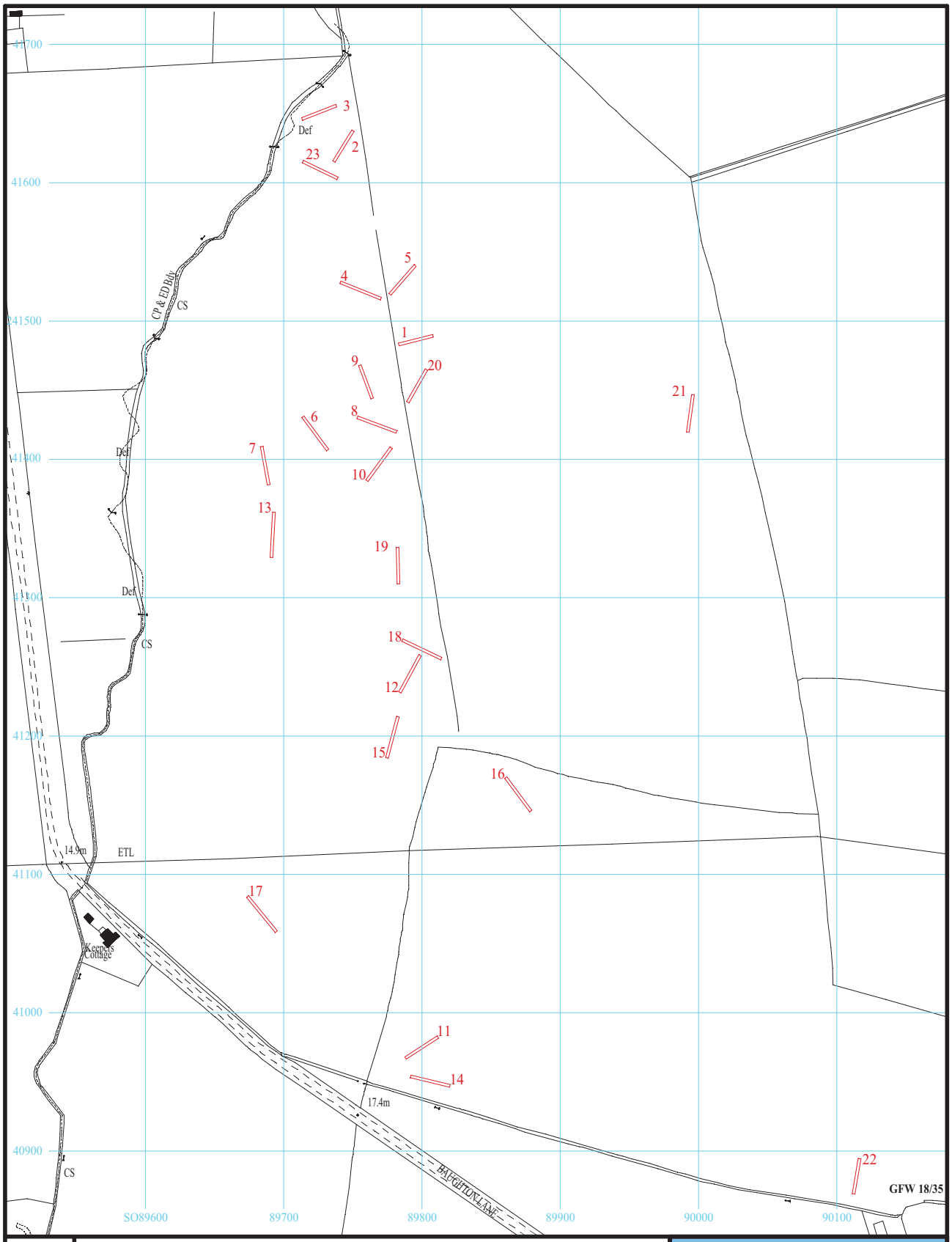

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Figure 2. Detailed site plan and trench locations

0 100m

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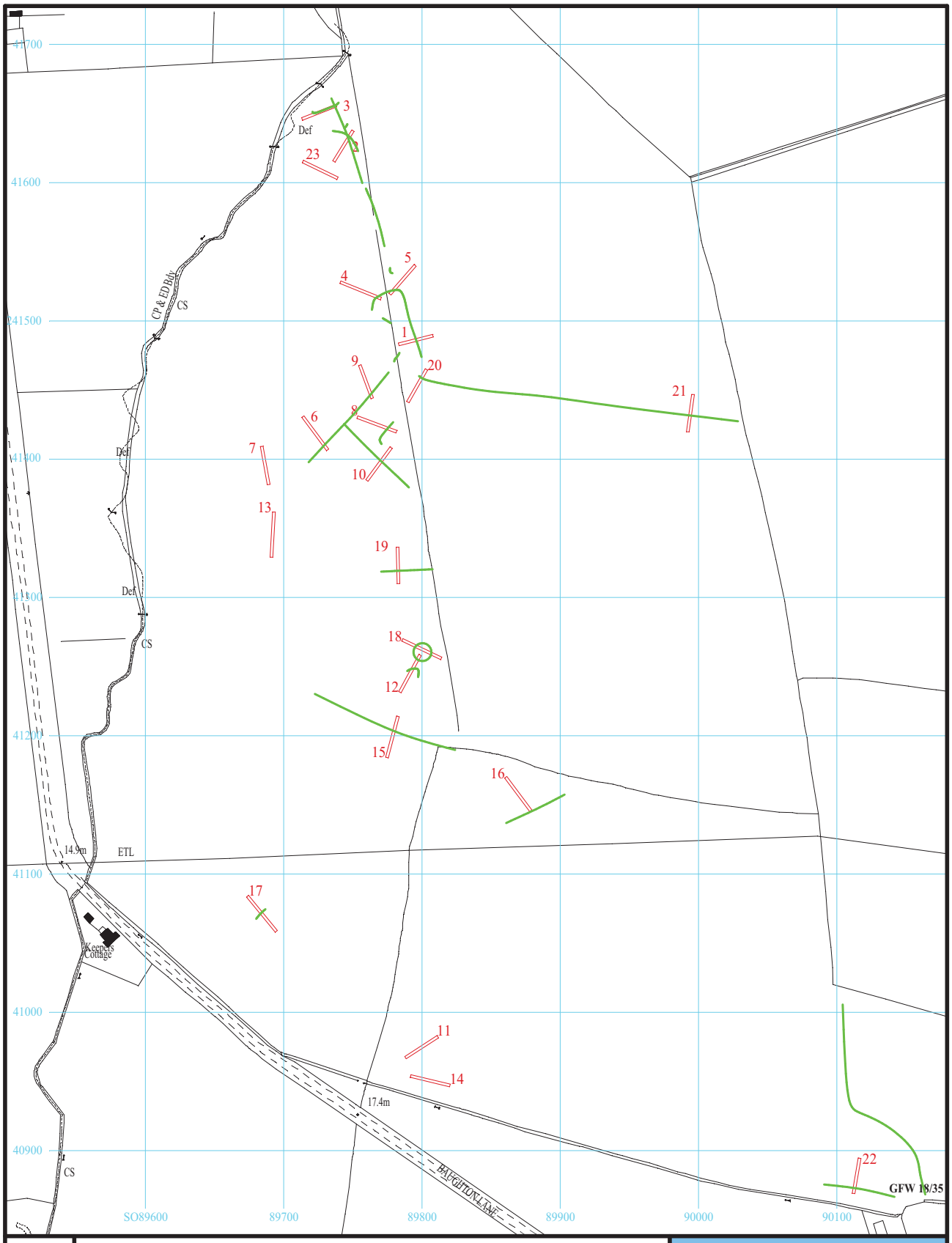

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Figure 2. Plan of trench locations and principal geophysical anomalies.

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0 100m

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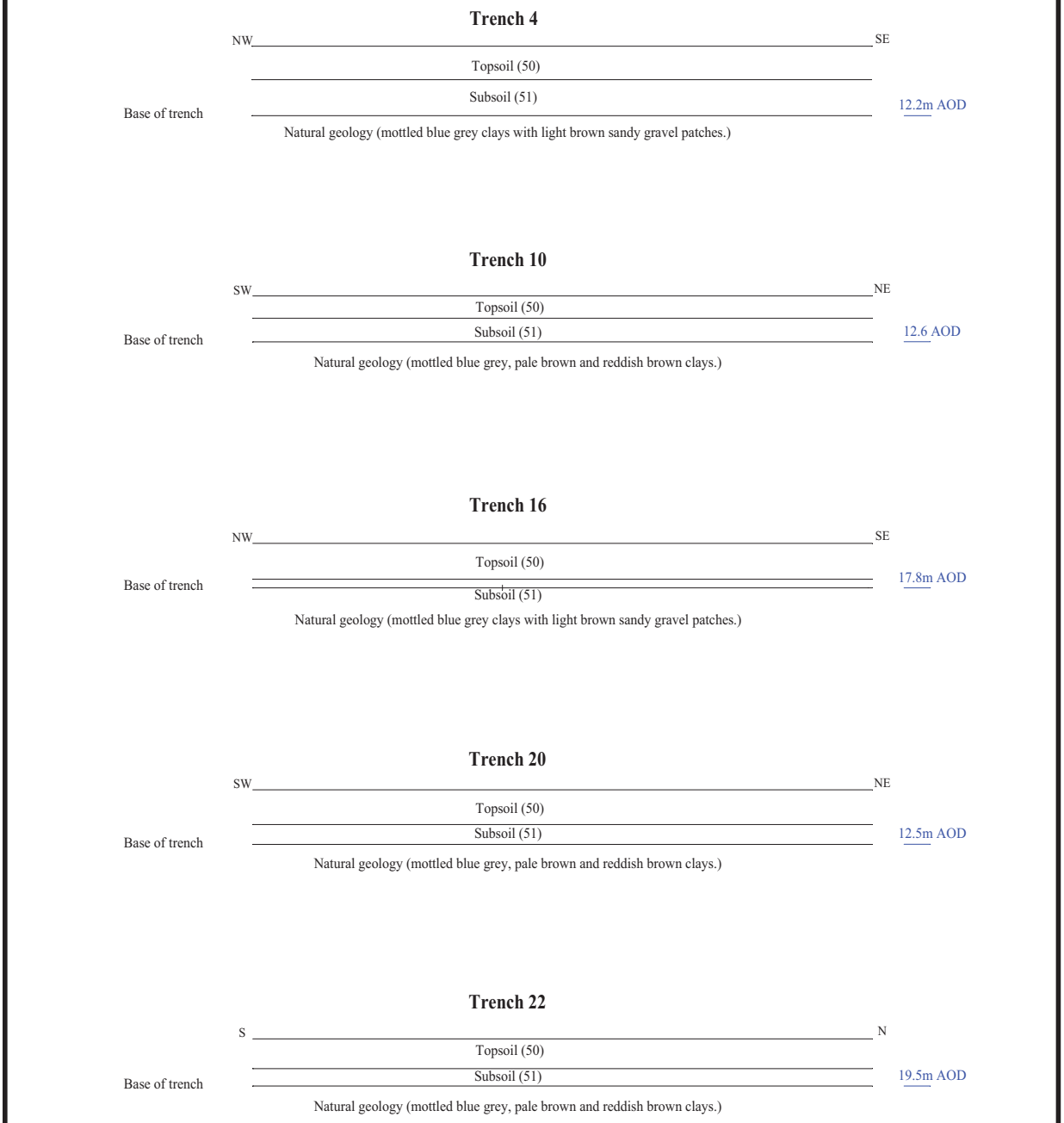

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Figure 4. Representative sections

0 5m

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

Plate 2. Trench 7, looking north,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m

Plate 3. Trench 11, looking north-east
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m

Plate 4. Trench 14, looking west,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m

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Plates 1 to 4.

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Plate 5. Trench 16, looking south east,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m

Plate 6. Trench 18, looking south east,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m

Plate 7. Trench 20, looking south west
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m

Plate 8. Trench 22, looking north,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m

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Plates 5 to 8.

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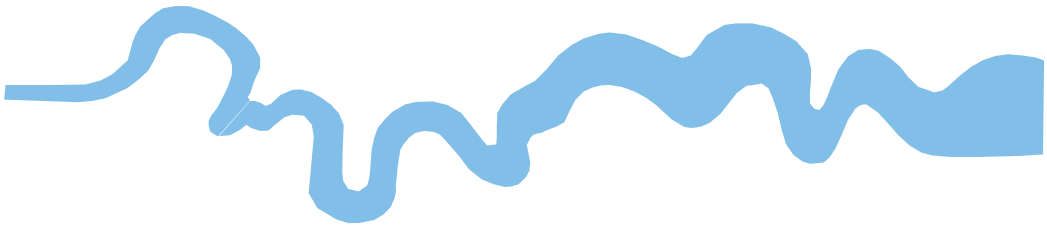
TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern	AD 1901
Victorian	AD 1837
Post Medieval	AD 1500
Medieval	AD 1066
Saxon	AD 410
Roman	AD 43
	AD 0 BC
Iron Age	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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