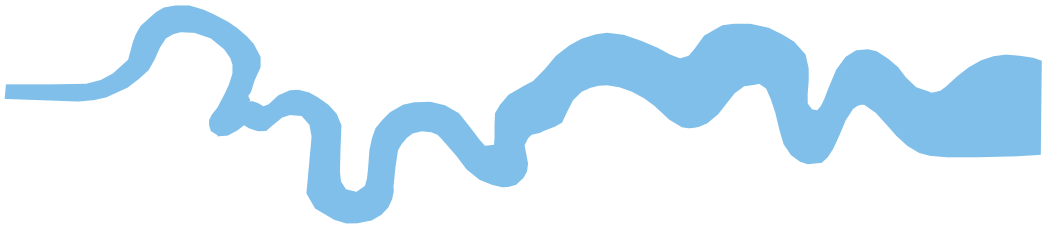
T V A S



EAST MIDLANDS

Grange Farm, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Warwickshire

Archaeological Evaluation

by Pierre-Damien Manisse

Site Code GFR 19/26

(SP 4025 7375)

New Fertiliser Storage Tank, Grange Farm, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Warwickshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Brinklow Quarry

by Pierre-Damien Manisse

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GFR 19/26

March 2019

Summary

Site name: Grange Farm, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Warwickshire

Grid reference: SP 4027 7375

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 11th March 2019

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Pierre-Damien Manisse

Site code: GFR 19/26

Area of site: 6465 sq m

Summary of results: The evaluation was carried out as intended and seven trenches were successfully excavated. No deposits or artefacts of archaeological interest were encountered. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Warwickshire Museum in due course.

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 16.03.19 Steve Preston✓ 15.03.19

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New Fertiliser Storage Tank, Grange Farm, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Warwickshire
An Archaeological Evaluation

by Pierre-Damien Manisse

Report 19/26

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Grange Farm, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Warwickshire, CV23 9HS (SP 4027 7375) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Brinklow Quarry, Coventry Road, Brinklow, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV23 0NJ. Ms Helen Martin-Bacon of Avalon Heritage acted as archaeological consultant to the project.

Planning permission (R18/0505) has been granted by Rugby Borough Council for the erection of a single organic fertilizer storage tank and an associated access track. This approval is subject to a condition (No. 8) which requires the implementation of a programme of work to assess the archaeological potential.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2018) and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by Avalon Heritage (Martin-Bacon 2019) and approved by Warwickshire County Council Planning Archaeologist.

The fieldwork was undertaken Pierre-Damien Manisse on 11th March 2019. The site code is GFR19/26. The archive is presently held at TVAS (East Midlands and will be deposited at Warwickshire Museum or Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in a field bounded to the north by the A45 and on the other sides by farmland. Freeboard Lane lies to the east/south-east. The Avon river flows about 1km to the north-west and the village of Ryton-on-Dunsmore is c. 1km further WNW (Fig. 1). The current site use is as arable land. The site is at a height between 86-89m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), rising gently from the west to the east except towards the extreme east where the slope increases. The recorded underlying geology as shown on maps (BGS 1984) is clay and silt belonging to the Bosworth Clay Member formation with a band of Wolston sand and gravel, both being recent deposits dating from the Quarternary. Bedrock consists of mudstone from the Mercia Mudstone Group.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site, summarised in the WSI (Martin-Bacon 2018) has been identified by previous archaeological investigations in the area, that have found extensive areas particularly of settlement evidence of prehistoric date (Jones and Palmer 1993; Mason 2011), outside the village. A Scheduled area (SAM1020034) around 250m north of the site, covers evidence visible on aerial photographs, of two converging pit alignments, and ditches of a possible short *cursus* monument, north of Barbellows Farm, (MWA4280). Limited excavations in 1998 confirmed the presence of archaeological features containing Iron Age pottery (Jones 1998). *Cursus* monuments, invariably Neolithic, are long (often very long), parallel ditched monuments (although pit-form variants are known from Scotland: Brophy and Millican 2015) and variously interpreted as processional ways or enclosures (Barclay and Harding 1999). Pit alignments are rarely well dated but tend to be Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age, and do quite often intersect, as appears to be the case here.

The Dunsmore suffix to the villages in this area refers to the regional plateau, south of Rugby and adjacent to the River Avon. A number of these settlements are documented from the 11th century, with both Ryton and Stretton thought to be two of the *vills* given to Coventry Priory in 1043 (VCH 1951). Earthworks to the west, south-west and north-east of the High Street are contained within long, narrow fields and a further areas have extensive areas of ridge and furrow (Jones and Greig 2008). Knightlow Cross (SAM1020302, Grade II; 136114) is located in the field almost immediately adjacent to the east (but north of the A45) (MWA4274). Its function is likely to be a Hundred boundary marker, known as the 'wroth stone' dated from the time of King John, in the late 12th century (Bryant 2012, 348), though the mound on which it stands could conceivably by a prehistoric 'tumulus' or barrow.

Widening of the Coventry-London Road (A45) close to the village, has formed a separation of northern part of Ryton (Church Road) from the remains of the settlement. Much of the extant settlement is smaller than it was in the 19th century, with contraction first described in the 16th century (VCH 1951).

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. That includes determining their level of preservation and the potential impact of the proposed development in order to inform a mitigation strategy. More specifically:

- when was the site first occupied/abandoned, how does the archaeological remains are distributed, is there any pattern?
- can we characterize multiple phases of occupation? how does features relate to each other?
- can it be compared to other known sites nearby?
- can a palaeo-environmental profile be established?

The potential and significance of any archaeological deposits were to be assessed in terms of research priorities such as set out in *The West Midlands Research Framework* (Watt 2011) or *Archaeological Resource Assessment of the Aggregates Producing Areas of Warwickshire* (Alexander *et al*. 2008). A particular emphasis was to be put on questions relating to the Bronze Age and Iron Age.

The methodology was outlined in the associated WSI (Martin-Bacon 2019). It was proposed to excavate seven trenches, each 20m long and 1.6m wide, randomly positioned to target the area subject to any groundwork. This was to be done by a machine under constant archaeological supervision, down to the geological horizon or the uppermost archaeological layer. Possible archaeological deposits were to be hand cleaned and sufficiently sampled and appropriately recorded to satisfy the aims outlined in the WSI.

Results

Trenches were dug using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, 1.8m wide (Pl. 1). The trenches were dug as close as possible to their intended locations (Fig. 2) but trench 7 was shifted slightly due to existing drainage ditches. The trenches ranged in length from 20.4m to 21.7m and in depth from 0.40 to 0.50m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3; Pls 2 and 3)

Trench 1 was aligned ESE-WNW and was 21.2m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying natural geology. A test pit at the eastern end was dug to confirm the interpretation of the geology. No archaeological features were present and no finds were recovered.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2; Pl. 4)

Trench 2 was aligned roughly S-N and was 21m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered and no features observed.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2; Pl. 5)

Trench 3 was aligned almost west–east and was 20.5m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25-0.30m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological features were present and no finds were recovered.

Trench 4 (Fig. 2; Pl. 6)

Trench 4 was aligned ESE-WNW and was 21.7m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25-0.30m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered. A modern E-W orienated land drain was observed.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2; Pl. 7)

Trench 5 was aligned S–N and was 20.4m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered and no features observed.

Trench 6 (Figs 2 and 3)

Trench 6 was aligned SE-NW. It was 21.7m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30/0.40m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No deposits or features of archaeological interest were present and no finds were recovered.

Trench 7 (Fig. 2; Pl. 8)

Trench 7 was aligned SW-NE and was 21m long and 0.42m deep at most. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered and no features observed.

Finds

No finds were collected.

Conclusion

The programme of archaeological trial trenching was carried out as intended with seven trenches excavated. No archaeology was observed in any of those. As a consequence the archaeological potential is considered very low.

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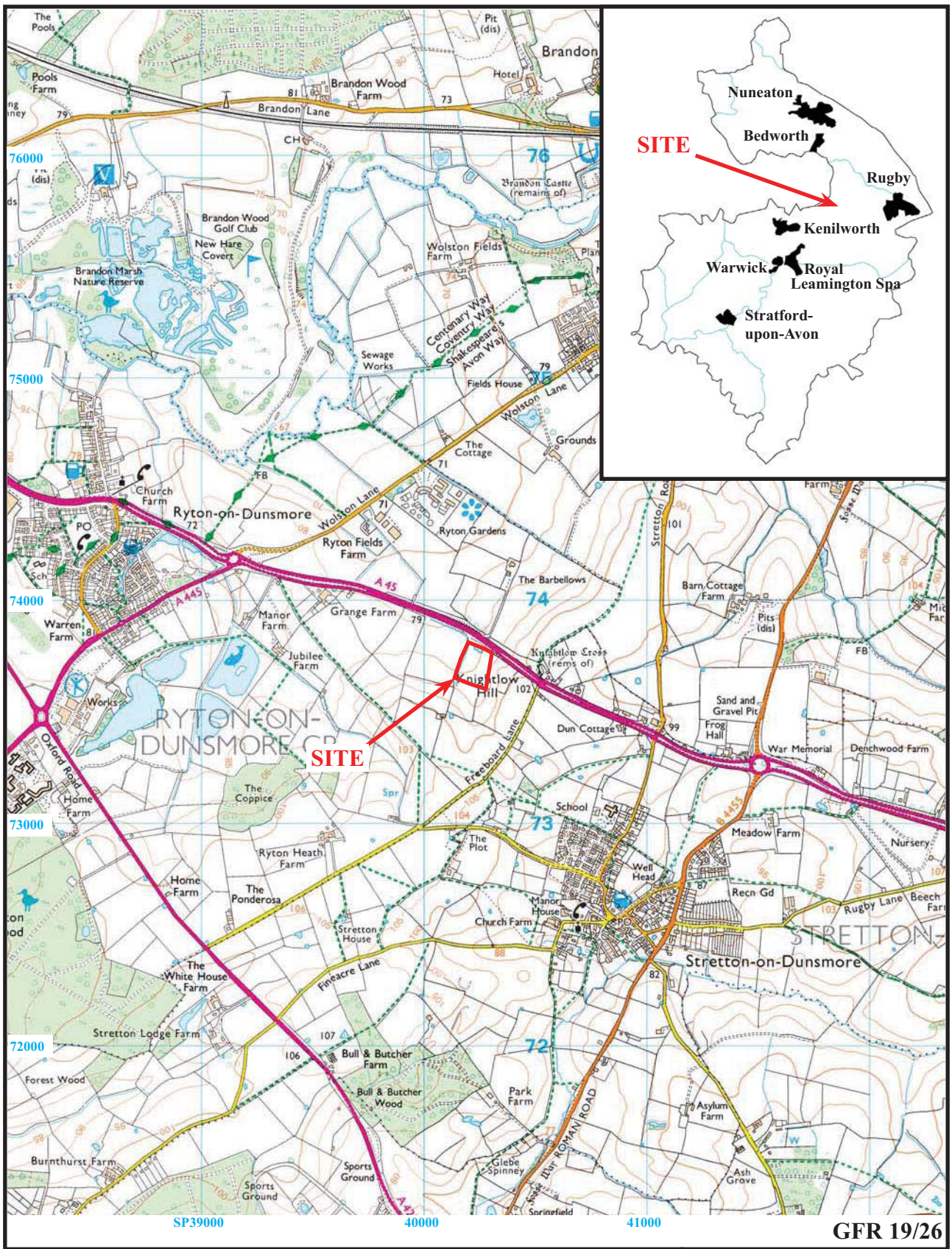
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

Trench	*Length (m)*	*Breadth (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Comment*
1	21.2	1.8	0.40	0–0.30m topsoil, >0.30m natural geology; **Pl. 2-3**
2	21.0	1.8	0.40	0–0.30m topsoil, >0.30m natural geology; **Pl. 4**
3	20.5	1.8	0.40	0–0.25/0.30m topsoil, >0.25/0.30m natural geology; **Pl. 5**
4	21.7	1.8	0.40	0–0.25/0.30m topsoil, >0.25/0.30m natural geology; **Pl. 6**
5	20.4	1.8	0.40	0–0.30m topsoil, >0.30m natural geology; **Pl. 7**
6	21.7	1.8	0.50	0–0.30/0.40m topsoil, >0.30/0.40m natural geology
7	21.0	1.8	0.42	0–0.30m topsoil, >0.30m natural geology; **Pl. 8**



GFR 19/26

Land at Grange Farm, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Warwickshire, 2019
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Ryton and within Warwickshire.

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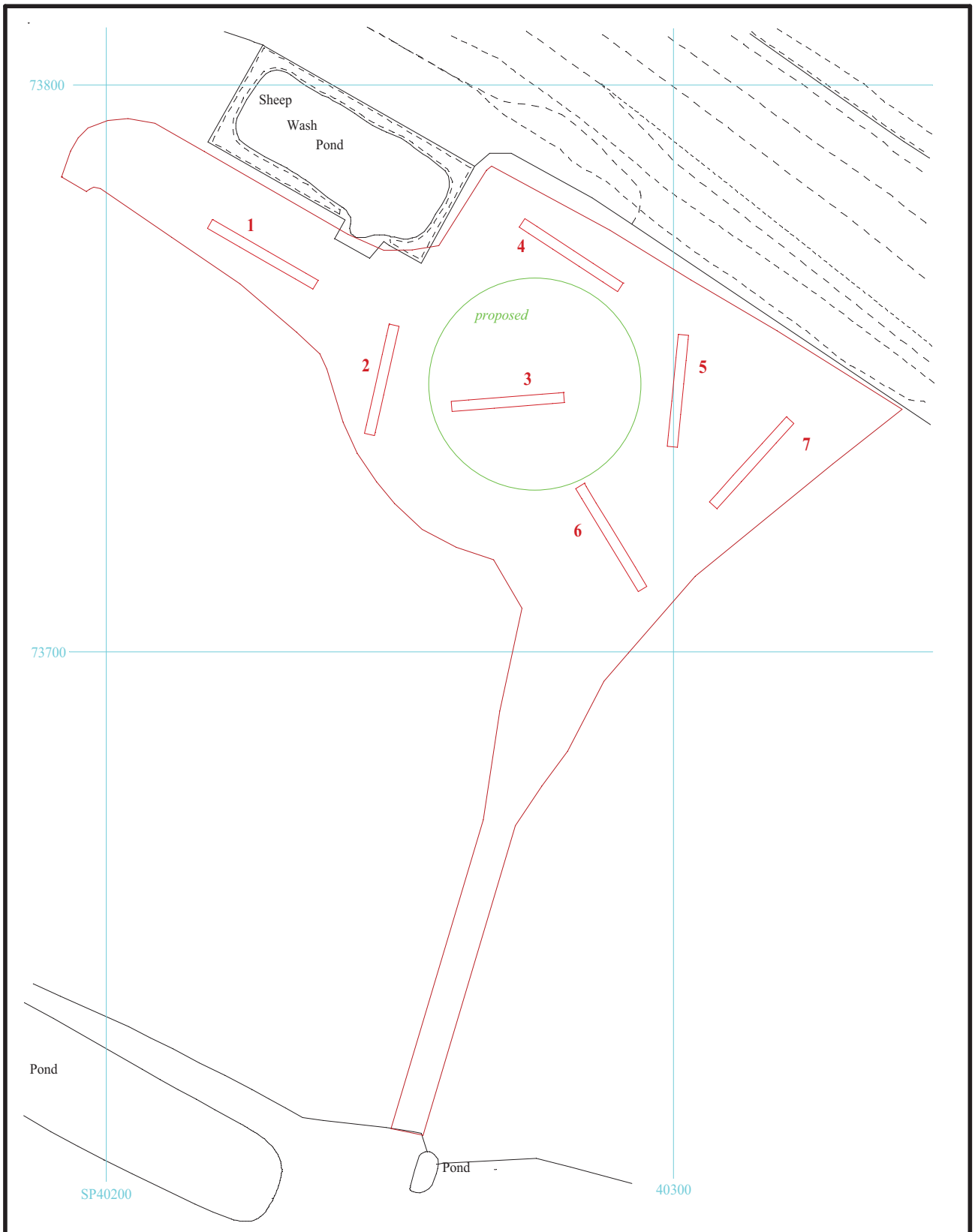

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Land at Grange Farm, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Warwickshire, 2019
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 2. Location of trenches.

0 50m

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Land at Grange Farm, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Warwickshire, 2019 Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 3. Representative sections.

0 1m

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Plate 1. General site view in the background, looking N.

Plate 2. Section in Trench 1, looking NE, Scales: 1m and 0.30m.

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Grange Farm, Ryton-on-Dunsmore
Warwickshire, 2019
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 1, looking NW, Scales: 2x1m.

Plate 4. Trench 2, looking N, Scales: 2x1m.

Plate 5. Trench 3, looking WSW, Scales: 2x1m.

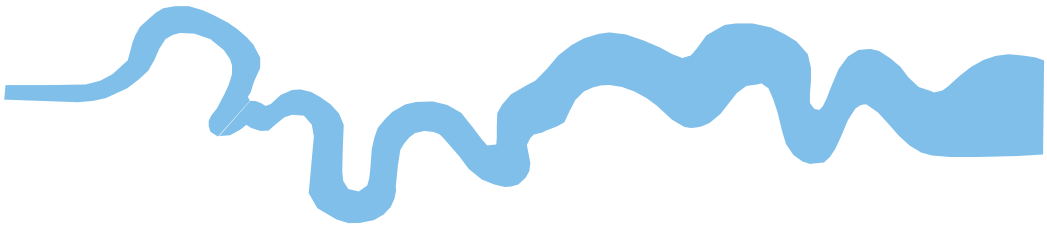
Plate 6. Trench 4, looking NW, Scales: 2x1m.

Plate 7. Trench 5, looking N, Scales: 2x1m.

Plate 8. Trench 7, looking SW, Scales: 2x1m.

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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