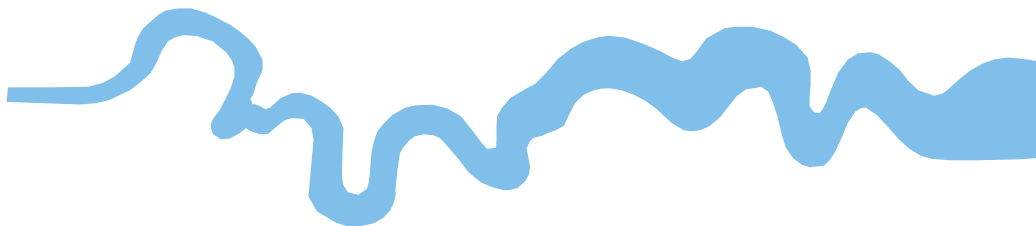


T V A S



NORTH MIDLANDS

**Land west of Swarkestone Nursery, Barrow Lane,
Swarkestone, Derbyshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Stacey Smith

Site Code: SND23/197

(SK 3623 2872)

Land west of Swarkestone Nursery, Barrow Lane Swarkestone, Derbyshire

An Archaeological Evaluation for Swarkestone Nursery

by Stacey Smith

TVAS (North Midlands)

Site Code SND223/197

April 2024

Summary

Site name: Land west of Swarkestone Nursery, Barrow Lane, Swarkestone, Derbyshire

Grid reference: SK 3623 2872

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 26th February to 4th March 2024

Project coordinator: Helen Daniel

Site supervisor: Stacey Smith

Site code: SND23/197

Area of site: 12ha

Summary of results: The evaluation confirmed the archaeological origin of some of the geophysical anomalies. The main area of interest was trench 47 and the surrounding western trenches which located a pit containing pottery and fired clay including two loomweights dated the late Bronze Age to Iron Age and a number of undated ditches. Anomalies across the rest of the site were mostly unsubstantiated aside from the agricultural ridge and furrow which was only identified in six trenches. The remainder of the site revealed few deposits or finds of archaeological interest and appears to have low, if any, potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited at Derby Museum and Art Gallery and The Archaeology Data Service in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 8.04.24 Steve Preston✓ 27.03.24
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Land west of Swarkestone Nursery, Barrow Lane, Swarkestone, Derbyshire **An Archaeological Evaluation**

by Stacey Smith

Report 23/197b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at on land west of Swarkestone Nursery, Barrow Lane, Swarkestone, Derbyshire (SK 3623 2872) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Andrew Josephs of Andrew Josephs Associates, Fulford House, Newbold Terrace, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 4EA on behalf of Swarkestone Nursery, Lowes Lane, Swarkestone, Derby, DE73 7GQ.

A planning application is to be submitted to South Derbyshire District Council for the development of the plot of land west of Swarkestone Nursery, Derby. Any permission granted is likely to require a programme of archaeological investigation. A geophysical survey was initially requested and identified positive linear and circular anomalies, many of which match features identified by aerial photography (Beaverstock 2023). These are likely related to buried archaeological features and necessitated the undertaking of a trial trench evaluation in order to best inform the planning process with regard to the development's potential archaeological implications.

This is in accordance with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2023), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Reuben Thorpe, the Development Control Archaeologist for Derbyshire, the archaeological adviser to South Derbyshire District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Helen Daniel, Stacey Smith, Megan Wiggin, Matthew Kelly, Asher Booth and Megan Shinton between 26th February and 4th March 2024 and the site code is SND23/197. The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited at Derby Museum and Art Gallery and The Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the north-west of the small village of Swarkestone, c.250m north of the River Trent, 7km to the south of Derby (Fig. 1). It is bounded by the A5132 Barrow Lane to the south, arable farmland to the west, the Nottingham to Burton-upon-Trent railway line to the north and Swarkestone Nursery in the east. This

relatively flat sub-rectangular parcel of land is at a height of 40m above Ordnance Datum and was set to grass at the time of the fieldwork. (Pls 1 and 2). The underlying geology is recorded as Holme Pierrepont Sand and Gravel Member deposits which overlie Tarporley Siltstone formation (BGS 2001). The geology observed in all the trenches was a light orange-brown sandy-silt with moderate sub-angular stones.

Archaeological background

The site lies within a landscape of significant prehistoric remains, such as a barrow cemetery 660m to the north (Scheduled Monuments at Swarkestone Lowes (SAM101960)). Some 7km to the west of the site, along the River Trent, extensive occupation deposits were excavated at Willington including Late Neolithic pits, a possible post-built house, Bronze Age barrows and Iron Age roundhouses as well as a Roman farmstead (Wheeler 1979). Some medieval and later structures are also present, such as the 13th-century bridge and causeway at Swarkestone, 650m to the south-east of the site and late 18th-century Swarkestone Mill 1.8km to the north-east (Daniel 2020). Extensive aerial photography has identified potential archaeological features as crop marks, including linear features within the site itself (closely matching the geophysical survey, see below) as well as a *cursus* monument 4.5km to the west at Twyford.

A geophysical survey was undertaken on the site in October 2023 (Beaverstock 2023) which identified positive linear and circular anomalies, many of which match features identified by aerial photography. These are likely related to buried archaeological features. In response to the results of the geophysical survey and in order to further inform the planning process, further investigation was requested in the form of an archaeological evaluation by trial trench.

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.

The specific research aims of this project were;

to determine the nature, date, preservation and extent of the geophysical anomalies identified.

to determine if there are deposits not identified by the geophysical survey present on the site.

It was proposed to dig 54 trenches each measuring 25m long by 1.8-2m wide (equating to a 2% sample of the total developable site area). Trenches were placed to target geophysical anomalies and at random in areas of little to no geophysical response. Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed by a machine fitted with a

ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive levels under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were present these were to be excavated or sampled by hand to an agreed sampling fraction dependent on the nature and significance of the feature. This was to be undertaken without comprising the integrity any feature(s) which might warrant preservation *insitu* or might better be investigated in a subsequent phase of mitigation.

The potential and significance of any such deposits located were to be assessed according to the research priorities set out in *Historic England Research Agenda* (HE 2017) or any more local or thematic research priorities such as *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight *et al.* 2016).

Results

All 54 trenches were dug as intended and ranged from 23.5-28.4m in length, in depth from 0.34-0.84m and were all 1.8m wide. The stratigraphy consisted of dark grey-brown silt-loam topsoil, above mid orange-brown sand-clay subsoil, overlying light orange-brown sand-silt natural geology with varying degrees of gravel banding and superficial deposits of sandstone and mudstone. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features, with dating evidence, are summarized in Appendix 2.

Trenches 3-4, 6, 8-13, 15-19, 21, 23, 25-27, 29-31, 33, 35-36, 40-43, 46, 48-50, 53 and 54 (Figs 2 and 3; Pls 3-6)
These trenches were between 24-28.4m long and between 0.35-0.67m deep. No archaeological features were identified within these trenches. The trenches with archaeological (or potentially archaeological) features are detailed below.

Trenches 1-2, 5 and 7 (Figs 2 and 3)

These trenches were between 24.1-25.2m long and between 0.6-0.84m deep, deeper than most other trenches as later divulged by the land owner that the land had been levelled with topsoil in the eastern corner. No archaeological features were identified within these trenches.

Trenches 14, 20, 22, 24, 32 and 34 (Figs 2-5; Pl. 23)

These trenches were between 25.1-26.9m long and between 0.37-0.49m deep. These trenches contained remnants of agricultural ridge and furrow that appeared on the geophysical survey, though only one was excavated due to what little of the furrows remained intact. Though trench 20 is noted on the geophysical survey as possibly containing a curvilinear feature in the east, which was also supposed to be present in trenches 17-19 and 25, this feature was not located during the evaluation, instead the feature in the east of trench 20 is believed to been misinterpreted on the geophysical survey and was in fact ridge and furrow.

Within Trench 24 at 11.6m from the west end of the trench, a furrow (13) aligned north-south was recorded which was 1.3m wide and 0.22m deep and filled with grey-brown sandy-silt (64) with frequent charcoal (10% 10-20mm) and small sub-angular stones (25% 30-100mm). This furrow was identified on the geophysical survey. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Trench 28 (Figs 2-5; Pls 7 and 24)

Trench 28 was aligned NNW–SSE and was 25.6m long and 0.4m deep. At 13.4m from the south-east end of the trench, two ditches (14 and 15) aligned north-east – south-west were recorded. Ditch 14 was 0.8m wide and 0.41m deep and filled with medium orange-brown sand-silt (65) with infrequent charcoal and small/medium pebbles. Ditch 15 was 1.7m wide and 0.55 deep and filled with medium orange-brown sand-silt (66) with infrequent charcoal and 10% small sub-angular stones. Ditch 15 cut ditch 14. These ditches were identified as a single feature on the geophysical survey, apparently an enclosure ditch; however no trace of the same anomaly was present in trenches 23 and 29 also located to intercept it (Fig. 3). No finds were recovered from these features.

Trench 37 (Figs 2-5; Pl. 22)

Trench 37 was aligned east-west and was 24.6m long and 0.44m deep. At 11.9m from the west end of the trench, a ditch (12) aligned north-south was recorded which was 3.18m wide and was excavated to 0.53m as high ground water did not allow for full excavation. The ditch was filled with medium orange-brown sand-silt (63) with infrequent charcoal and 15% small sub-angular stones. This ditch was identified on the geophysical survey and also explored in trenches 39 and 44, and was supposed to continue in trenches 32 and 34 however no trace of the same in the latter two trenches. No finds were recovered from these features.

Trench 38 (Figs 2-5; Pl. 20)

Trench 38 was aligned close to east-west and was 25.9m long and 0.34m deep. At 7.5m from the west end of the trench, a ditch (10) aligned north-south was recorded which was 1.85m wide and 0.5m deep and filled with grey-brown sand-silt (61) with frequent (25%) small sub-angular stones. This ditch is a reasonably close match for an anomaly identified on the geophysical survey. 3 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered from this feature and dated as Post-Medieval.

Trench 39 (Figs 2-5; Pls 8 and 19)

Trench 39 was aligned close to east-west and was 26m long and 0.39m deep. At 8.5m from the west end of the trench, a ditch (9) aligned north-south was recorded which was 2.6m wide and 0.45m deep and filled with medium orange-brown sand-silt (60) with infrequent charcoal and frequent small sub-angular stones. This ditch was again a reasonably close match for an anomaly identified on the geophysical survey that was also investigated in trenches 37 and 44. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Trench 44 (Figs 2-5; Pl. 18)

Trench 44 was aligned north-west – south-east and was 26.1m long and 0.44m deep. At 5.9m from the south-east end of the trench, a ditch (8) aligned north-east – south-west was recorded which was 1.75m wide and 0.5m deep and filled with dark grey-brown sand-silt (59) with infrequent charcoal and 15% small sub-angular stones. This ditch was identified on the geophysical survey and is the same ditch as that in trenches 37 and 39 (Fig. 3) and probably continued in trenches 45 and 52, though there is a gap in the geophysical anomaly, perhaps an enclosure entrance. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Trench 45 (Figs 2-4 and 6; Pl. 17)

Trench 45 was aligned north-west – south-east and was 24.3m long and 0.48m deep. At 10.4m from the south-east end of the trench, a ditch (7) aligned north-east – south-west was recorded which was 2.1m wide and was excavated to 0.5m as high ground water did not allow for full excavation due to safety concerns. The ditch was filled with grey-brown sand-silt (58) with frequent small sub-angular stones (20% 10-100mm). This ditch was identified on the geophysical survey and continues in trench 52 and probably continued in trenches 44, 39 and 37, though there is a gap in the geophysical anomaly, perhaps an enclosure entrance. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Trench 47 (Figs 2-4 and 6; Pls 9 and 12-14)

Trench 47 was aligned north-east – south-west and was 27.8m long and 0.5m deep. At 3.6m from the south-west end of the trench, a sub-circular pit (4) was recorded which was 1.45m wide and 0.37m deep and filled with grey-brown sand-silt (55) with infrequent charcoal (5% 10-15m) and small sub-angular stones (5% 10-40mm). This pit was not identified on the geophysical survey but is close to the location of a penannular anomaly. The pit contained pottery, fired clay including two loom weights and a worked stone in three pieces. The pottery was dated as mid-late Iron Age, the two loomweights were dated as late Bronze to Iron Age but the stone appears likely to be of 19th-or 20th-century origin.

At 8.6m from the south-west end of the trench a possible terminus/pit (3) was recorded which was 0.9m wide and 0.38m deep and filled with grey-brown sand-silt (54) with infrequent charcoal and small sub-angular stones. This possible terminus/pit was not identified on the geophysical survey. At 12.2m from the south-west end of the trench a ditch (2) was recorded which was 1.4m wide and 0.32m deep and filled with grey-brown sand-silt (53) with infrequent charcoal and small sub-angular stones. This ditch does match the penannular anomaly identified on the geophysical survey. No finds were recovered from these features.

Trench 48 (Figs 2-4 and 6; Pl. 21)

Trench 48 was aligned north-west – south-east and was 26m long and 0.54m deep. At 22.5m from the south-east end of the trench, a ditch (11) aligned north-east – south-west was recorded which was 1.4m wide and 0.4m deep and filled with grey-brown sand-silt (62) with infrequent charcoal and small sub-angular stones. This ditch matches the location, if not the dimensions, of an anomaly identified on the geophysical survey which may have also continued in trench 49, though due to high residing ground water this was unable to be confirmed. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Trench 51 (Figs 2-4 and 6; Pl. 11)

Trench 51 was aligned NNW–SSE and was 23.5m long and 0.45m deep. At 6.4m from the south end of the trench, a gully (1) aligned east-west was recorded which was 0.5m wide and 0.25m deep and filled with grey-brown sand-silt (52) with frequent small sub-angular stones. This gully was identified on the geophysical survey. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Trench 52 (Figs 2-4 and 6; Pls 10 and 15-6)

Trench 52 was aligned north-west – south-east and was 25.3m long and 0.43m deep. At 13.4m from the south-east end of the trench, a ditch (6) aligned north-east – south-west was recorded which was 2.45m wide and 0.85m deep and filled with medium grey/orange-brown sand-silt (57) with infrequent charcoal and small sub-angular stones. At 16.1m from the south-east end of the trench, a gully (5) aligned north-east – south-west was recorded as 0.25 wide and 0.24m deep and filled with grey-brown sand-silt (56) with infrequent small sub-angular stones. These features appeared as a single feature on the geophysical survey matching that in trench 45 and probably continued in trenches 44, 39 and 37, though there is a gap in the geophysical anomaly, perhaps an enclosure entrance.. No finds were recovered from these features.

Finds

Mid-late Iron Age Pottery by Cristina Mateos Leal

The prehistoric pottery assemblage comprised a total of 4 sherds from pit 4, weighing 78g. It was recorded using the recommendations outlined in PCRG/SGRP/MPRG (2016). To this end it was examined macroscopically and sorted into fabrics based on inclusions present, the frequency and grade of the inclusions and the firing colour. The sorted fabrics were quantified by sherd count and weigh by recorded context. Fabric codes were used based on the dominant inclusion or inclusions present, followed by a numeric code, which denotes different fabrics within the group.

In term of condition the assemblage comprised small-medium, slightly abraded body sherds.

Table 1. Pottery fabrics

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Feature Type</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
4	55	TR47	Ditch	Sa/1	1	45
4	55	TR47	Ditch	Sa/2	1	22
4	55	TR47	Ditch	Sa/3	2	11

Sandy wares

Sa/1, (coarse), a medium grey sandy ware with brown outer surface. Common, well-sorted sand quartz (1mm); spare elongate voids (4mm); abundant, well-sorted white mica (0.5mm); moderate, poor sorted quartz (up to 5mm) and spare poorly black iron (1mm). Handmade. No featured sherds.

Sa/2, (coarse), a fairly hard grey sandy ware with brown surfaces. Moderate, poor sorted quartz (up to 6mm); spare, well-sorted white mica (0.5mm); common, well-sorted sand quartz (0.5mm); spare poorly sorted red ore (2-3mm); spare poorly sorted black iron (1mm); abundant, well-sorted elongate voids (up to 6mm). Handmade. No featured sherds.

Sa/3, (fine), a hard grey sandy ware with brown outer surface. Spare, well-sorted white mica (0.5mm); moderate linear voids (leached out shell?); spare black iron (0.5mm) and common sand quartz (0.5mm). Handmade. No featured sherds.

The characteristics of the assemblage do not allow giving a precise chronology just a generic mid-late Iron Age. Similar fabrics were identified in other mid-late Iron Age sites as Brassington Common (Radley and Radford, 1969, 122). Iron age pottery is mentioned at Swarkstone Lowes (Greenfield, E., 1960, 8; Losco-Bradley, 1993, 14) but without a description of the fabric, it is not possible to compare fabrics.

Post-Medieval Pottery by David Barker

Introduction

A small group of just 59 ceramic sherds (641g) has been examined to determine ware type, vessel form, likely source and significance. Twelve of these (156g) are from stratified contexts, while the remaining 47 sherds (485g) are unstratified. Two sherds of glass (17g) were also present amongst the unstratified material.

Stratified finds

[12] (63)

3 fragments (23g). Undiagnostic CBM (brick) fragments in a coarse orange fabric; post-medieval.

T17 From base of Trench (51)

3 sherds (20g). Two joining body sherds of a coarse earthenware jar or similar; dense orange fabric with a dark brown glaze inside and out; mid 17th to 19th century. The other is a body sherd of a medieval jug in a sandy cream/buff fabric with small quartz inclusion, and an external green-coloured lead glaze; 14th – 15th century.

T46 (509)

2 sherds (22g). Body sherds of coarse earthenware dishes or pans with internal dk brown glazes. One sherd has a coarse orange fabric and a dark red slip coat between the glaze and body; the other has a coarse buff fabric, but no obvious slip coat; mid 17th to 18th century.

T50 (50) Topsoil

1 sherd (8g). Body sherd of a coarse earthenware dish; dense orange fabric with inclusions and an internal dark brown glaze; mid 17th to 19th century.

T51 (50) Topsoil

2 sherds (23g). Body sherd of a coarse earthenware dish or larger pancheon form; orange fabric with an internal dark brown glaze. The other is the base sherd of what appears to be a cup or mug in a fine buff fabric with a black glaze inside and out; the edges of the glaze are smooth in places, suggesting that breakage occurred along an existing 'fault line' in the glaze which had opened up during firing; identification of the ware type is uncertain – from appearances this could be 18th-century slip-coated ware, but no slip coat is visible between the glaze and body. Both sherds are post-medieval in date.

T54 (50) Topsoil

1 sherd (60g). Body sherd of a large coarse earthenware jar or pancheon; orange fabric with internal dark brown/black glaze.

Unstratified

The general unstratified material comprises 41 ceramic sherds (464g). These are a cross-section of what may be found in fields throughout the country, comprising a mixture of later post-medieval and modern refined earthenwares (5 sherds) and stonewares (4 sherds), post-medieval coarse earthenwares (23 sherds) and other finer once-fired earthenwares, in this case blackwares (4 sherds), together with clay tobacco pipes (3 sherds), brick and other ceramic building material (2 sherds), and glass (1 sherd/8g). This is the background noise of human activity and occupation, with material typically being widely dispersed from the place in which it was used through the discard of domestic rubbish and the spreading of human and animal waste containing elements of this rubbish onto fields as part of the manuring process. The significance of such unstratified material, which spans the whole of the post-medieval period, is extremely limited. Other items collected include a piece of flint and slag.

Unstratified material relating to specific trenches is more of the same, and equally limited in its significance.

This includes:

T2 Plough scar: 1 base sherd (7g) of undiagnostic post-medieval coarse earthenware, possibly a plant pot;

T4 subsoil: 1 Bristol glazed stoneware preserve jar body (6g) and a turquoise glass body sherd (9g);

T5: 3 sherds (3g) – the body of a Bristol glazed stoneware preserve jar, an undiagnostic bone china vessel and an undiagnostic coarse sherd;

T6 subsoil: 1 body sherd (5g) of a Bristol glazed stoneware preserve jar.

No further work is required for this material and retention is not considered necessary.

Discussion

All but one of the stratified sherds are post-medieval in date. Most are typical coarse-earthenwares, with forms including dishes, jars and possibly deep pancheons. Such wares are ubiquitous in post-medieval contexts but are difficult to date precisely, with forms remaining largely unchanged between the 17th and early 20th centuries. It is also difficult to identify where exactly they might have been produced, with pottery workshops in Coal Measure areas using similar clays to make similar forms; it would be safe to suggest, however, that these sherds are from vessels likely to have been produced within a short distance of their findspot. The single medieval sherd from T17 is a Midlands white ware type, widely made throughout the region. Its significance here is unknown.

The stratified ceramic material in itself is of limited usefulness in dating the contexts in which it was found, as most has a broad date range and diagnostic forms are absent. There is nothing exceptional or especially informative about the unstratified finds.

Metalwork by Sophie Peng

A total of 9 metal objects (8 iron, 1 possibly copper alloy) were recovered from a range of features encountered during the evaluation. All objects were moderately to heavily corroded. All items were given a catalogue number and are summarised in Appendix 5.

All items were recovered from the topsoil of various trenches across site. Due to the fragmentary nature and levels on corrosion only the nails, a possible handle and a horseshoe were positively identified. The two nails recovered both have square sections which renders them practically undatable as the simple technology required to make them has persisted through time. Only one nail had a discernible head (cat. no. 2), which can be typed according to Goodall's nail typology as a Type 3 nail with a flat head of narrow, rectangular shape (Goodall 2011, 164). The other nail (cat. no. 6) is broken with the head missing and thus cannot be accurately typed.

The possible copper alloy object (cat. no. 3) is likely to be a fixture or fitting (possibly a handle). It has a circular shaft and has been purposefully bent in three places. It is broken at one end. It is likely to be modern due to its form and material.

Cat. no. 8 is a horseshoe. It is incomplete and would have likely served a large horse given its size both in terms of weight and measurement. It is likely to be modern given its form (Sparkes 1976).

All other items likely relate to potential post medieval to modern agricultural equipment given their shapes, size and weights as well as being recovered from the top soil.

Fired clay by Danielle Milbank

Pit 4 (fill 55), produced fired clay weighing 2.582kg, with an additional 10g recovered from a sieved soil sample from the same context. The material was examined under x10 magnification and it is proposed to retain all the material. The pieces are all in one fabric, a low-fired, medium to soft, fairly rough clay with moderate rounded sand inclusions, very occasional medium (up to 5mm) stone inclusions, occasional voids, and a mid red brown colour, and the pieces which could be identified by form are discussed below.

The most intact example is a triangular loomweight, of a form typically considered to be of Late Bronze Age to Iron Age date, and is *c.* 90% complete. The estimated complete dimensions of this weight are 115mm wide and 115mm high, with a thickness of 60mm.

A further example is *c.* 80% complete. The three points of the triangle have each broken along the line of the hole piercing the corner, and the full size when complete can be estimated as 175mm wide and 175mm high, with a thickness of 65mm. A further large piece represents a triangular loomweight of similar size, approximately 20% complete (comprising one corner, pierced with a hole). The dimensions of these examples are comparable to the larger examples recorded at (for example) Dragonby, of similar Late Bronze Age to Iron Age date (Elsdon and Barford 1996).

Environmental sampling by Joanna Pine

Fifteen samples were processed from the deposits encountered during the evaluation. The samples were floated and wet sieved to 0.25mm and air dried. A variable amount of charcoal was present in samples 3, 4, 11, 12 and 13. This charcoal is available for future analysis for species identification if required. Only one indeterminate cereal seed was identified in sample 8 (Appendix 4).

Worked Stone by Helen Daniel

A worked stone, broken into three pieces, was recovered from pit 4 in Trench 47. The stone is Millstone Grit and although they were found within a feature which yielded Iron Age pottery and loomweights, on closer inspection the stones featured a drilled central hole and the flat side was precision worked, so much so that it was perfectly flat and thus likely to be of 19th or early 20th century date.

Conclusion

The evaluation has clarified the archaeological potential of the site and confirmed the archaeological origin of some of the geophysical anomalies. The majority of trenches, however, were archaeologically blank. The geophysical survey results were on the whole mostly reliable in the western portion of the field with those anomalies eastward being largely unsubstantiated, which could be due to the gravel banding within the natural geology throughout the trenches and superficial deposits of sandstone and mudstone skewing the results. The most archaeologically interesting area of the site lay on the western half, particularly trench 47 where pottery and fired clay including two loomweights were recovered from a pit (4) and dated the late Bronze Age to Iron Age, though the same feature also contained a 19th to 20th century worked stone, which may indicate that the earlier finds could have possibly been residual, given no other finds of this period were recovered from the site. Also, surrounding this trench, many of the other geophysically identified anomalies were confirmed to be ditches, though these were largely undatable. Agricultural ridge and furrow was confirmed in six trenches across the site, this should have been present across the majority of the trenches in the centre of the site, though cultivation over time may have obscured or removed what remained of the ridge and furrowing. The remainder of the site revealed few deposits of archaeological interest, and appears to have low archaeological potential.

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details
0m at S or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	24.1	1.8	0.7	0–0.61m dark grey-brown silt-loam topsoil, 0.61–0.67m mid orange-brown sand-clay subsoil with infrequent charcoal (c. 10% 10–20mm) and sub-angular stones (c. 10% 10–40mm), and 0.67m+light orange-brown sandy-silt natural geology with moderate sub-angular stones (c. 20% 10–40mm) inclusions.
2	24.3	1.8	0.6	0–0.48m topsoil, 0.48–0.54m subsoil and 0.54m+ natural geology.
3	24	1.8	0.41	0–0.30m topsoil, 0.30–0.36m subsoil and 0.36m+ natural geology.
4	25.5	1.8	0.37	0–0.28m topsoil, 0.28–0.33m subsoil and 0.37m+ natural geology.
5	25.2	1.8	0.64	0–0.54m topsoil, 0.54–0.59m subsoil and 0.59m+ natural geology.
6	24.5	1.8	0.42	0–0.31m topsoil, 0.31–0.38m subsoil and 0.38m+ natural geology. [Pl. 3]
7	25	1.8	0.84	0–0.69m topsoil, 0.69–0.79m subsoil and 0.79m+ natural geology. Stone Land Drains
8	25.6	1.8	0.51	0–0.39m topsoil, 0.39–0.46m subsoil and 0.46m+ natural geology. Stone Land Drain
9	25	1.8	0.38	0–0.27m topsoil, 0.27–0.33m subsoil and 0.33m+ natural geology.
10	24.6	1.8	0.39	0–0.30m topsoil, 0.30–0.37m subsoil and 0.37m+ natural geology.
11	24.8	1.8	0.49	0–0.40m topsoil, 0.40–0.46m subsoil and 0.46m+ natural geology.
12	24.9	1.8	0.37	0–0.27m topsoil, 0.27–0.34m subsoil and 0.34m+ natural geology.
13	25.1	1.8	0.39	0–0.29m topsoil, 0.29–0.36m subsoil and 0.36m+ natural geology.
14	25.1	1.8	0.42	0–0.30m topsoil, 0.30–0.38m subsoil and 0.38m+ natural geology. [Pl. 4]
15	25.1	1.8	0.47	0–0.31m topsoil, 0.31–0.42m subsoil and 0.42m+ natural geology.
16	26.6	1.8	0.39	0–0.28m topsoil, 0.28–0.36m subsoil and 0.36m+ natural geology. Land Drain
17	25.6	1.8	0.42	0–0.32m topsoil, 0.32–0.38m subsoil and 0.38m+ natural geology.
18	25.5	1.8	0.37	0–0.28m topsoil, 0.28–0.34m subsoil and 0.34m+ natural geology.
19	25.7	1.8	0.4	0–0.28m topsoil, 0.28–0.35m subsoil and 0.35m+ natural geology. [Pl. 5]
20	24.4	1.8	0.43	0–0.32m topsoil, 0.32–0.39m subsoil and 0.39m+ natural geology. Furrow
21	25	1.8	0.35	0–0.27m topsoil, 0.27–0.33m subsoil and 0.33m+ natural geology.
22	26.9	1.8	0.37	0–0.27m topsoil, 0.27–0.34m subsoil and 0.34m+ natural geology.
23	25	1.8	0.47	0–0.32m topsoil, 0.32–0.42m subsoil and 0.42m+ natural geology. [Pl. 6]
24	25.9	1.8	0.39	0–0.28m topsoil, 0.28–0.34m subsoil and 0.34m+ natural geology. Furrow 13 [Pl. 23]
25	25	1.8	0.38	0–0.29m topsoil, 0.29–0.34m subsoil and 0.34m+ natural geology.
26	26	1.8	0.41	0–0.29m topsoil, 0.29–0.38m subsoil and 0.38m+ natural geology.
27	25.5	1.8	0.38	0–0.31m topsoil, 0.31–0.36m subsoil and 0.36m+ natural geology.
28	25.6	1.8	0.40	0–0.31m topsoil, 0.31–0.38m subsoil and 0.38m+ natural geology. Ditches 14 and 15 [Pls 7 and 24]
29	27	1.8	0.41	0–0.3m topsoil, 0.3–0.38m subsoil and 0.38m+ natural geology. Furrow
30	26	1.8	0.38	0–0.3m topsoil, 0.3–0.35m subsoil and 0.35m+ natural geology.
31	27	1.8	0.43	0–0.31m topsoil, 0.31–0.39m subsoil and 0.39m+ natural geology.
32	26	1.8	0.49	0–0.39m topsoil, 0.39–0.45m subsoil and 0.45m+ natural geology. Furrow
33	25.9	1.8	0.38	0–0.29m topsoil, 0.29–0.35m subsoil and 0.35m+ natural geology.
34	25.6	1.8	0.42	0–0.3m topsoil, 0.3–0.39m subsoil and 0.39m+ natural geology. Furrow
35	26	1.8	0.4	0–0.26m topsoil, 0.26–0.38m subsoil and 0.38m+ natural geology.
36	25.5	1.8	0.4	0–0.29m topsoil, 0.29–0.35m subsoil and 0.35m+ natural geology.
37	24.6	1.8	0.44	0–0.33m topsoil, 0.33–0.4m subsoil and 0.4m+ natural geology. Ditch 12 [Pl. 22]
38	25.9	1.8	0.34	0–0.26m topsoil, 0.26–0.31m subsoil and 0.31m+ natural geology. Ditch 10 and 11 [Pls 20 and 21]
39	26	1.8	0.39	0–0.28m topsoil, 0.28–0.37m subsoil and 0.37m+ natural geology. Land Drain and Ditch 9 [Pls 8, 19]
40	25.4	1.8	0.45	0–0.3m topsoil, 0.3–0.4m subsoil and 0.4m+ natural geology.
41	26.3	1.8	0.44	0–0.31m topsoil, 0.31–0.4m subsoil and 0.4m+ natural geology.
42	26	1.8	0.39	0–0.3m topsoil, 0.3–0.37m subsoil and 0.37m+ natural geology. Land Drain
43	27	1.8	0.52	0–0.27m topsoil, 0.27–0.5m subsoil and 0.5m+ natural geology.
44	26.1	1.8	0.44	0–0.27m topsoil, 0.27–0.38m subsoil and 0.348m+ natural geology. Land Drain and Ditch 8. [Pl. 18]
45	24.3	1.8	0.48	0–0.3m topsoil, 0.3–0.4m subsoil and 0.4m+ natural geology. Ditch 7. [Pl. 17]
46	24.7	1.8	0.44	0–0.3m topsoil, 0.3–0.42m subsoil and 0.42m+ natural geology.
47	27.8	1.8	0.5	0–0.4m topsoil, 0.4–0.47m subsoil and 0.47m+ natural geology. Pit 4, Gully 2 and Ditch 3 [Pls 9, 12–14]
48	26	1.8	0.54	0–0.3m topsoil, 0.3–0.46m subsoil and 0.46m+ natural geology. Ditch
49	24.4	1.8	0.67	0–0.42m topsoil, 0.42–0.62m subsoil and 0.62m+ natural geology. Possible Ditch
50	25.4	1.8	0.48	0–0.38m topsoil, 0.38–0.45m subsoil and 0.45m+ natural geology.
51	23.5	1.8	0.45	0–0.35m topsoil, 0.35–0.4m subsoil and 0.4m+ natural geology. Gully 1. [Pl. 11]
52	25.3	1.8	0.43	0–0.35m topsoil, 0.35–0.38m subsoil and 0.38m+ natural geology. Gully5 and Ditch 6 [Pls 10, 15 and 16]
53	28.4	1.8	0.38	0–0.26m topsoil, 0.26–0.35m subsoil and 0.35m+ natural geology.
54	26.7	1.8	0.49	0–0.39m topsoil, 0.39–0.47m subsoil and 0.47m+ natural geology.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence, finds</i>
51	1	52	Gully		
47	2	53	Ring Gully		
47	3	54	Pit/Terminus		Charcoal
47	4	55	Pit	Mid-late Iron Age or 19th/20th century	Pottery, loomweights, Stone, Charcoal
52	5	56	Gully		
52	6	57	Ditch		
45	7	58	Ditch		
44	8	59	Ditch		
39	9	60	Ditch		
38	10	61	Ditch		
48	11	62	Ditch		Charcoal
37	12	63	Ditch	Post-medieval	Ceramic Building Material/Charcoal
24	13	64	Furrow		Charcoal
28	14	65	Ditch		
28	15	66	Ditch		

APPENDIX 3: Metalwork catalogue (for studs or nails only the weight was recorded)

<i>Cat no.</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Object</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Measurements (LxWxD mm)</i>
1	43	50	Topsoil	Fe	uncertain	1	84	39x30x32
2	44	50	Topsoil	Fe	Nail	1	21	
3	46	50	Topsoil	Fe/CuA	handle?	1	15.1	73x30x4
4	46	50	Topsoil	Fe	poss blade	1	61.6	72x39x10
5	49	50	Topsoil	Fe	unidentifiable	1	22	
6	51	50	Topsoil	Fe	Nail	1	16	
7	52	50	Topsoil	Fe	unidentifiable	1	10	
8	53	50	Topsoil	Fe	horseshoe	1	455	190x30x25
9	54	50	Topsoil	Fe	agricultural related?	1	397	210x25x15

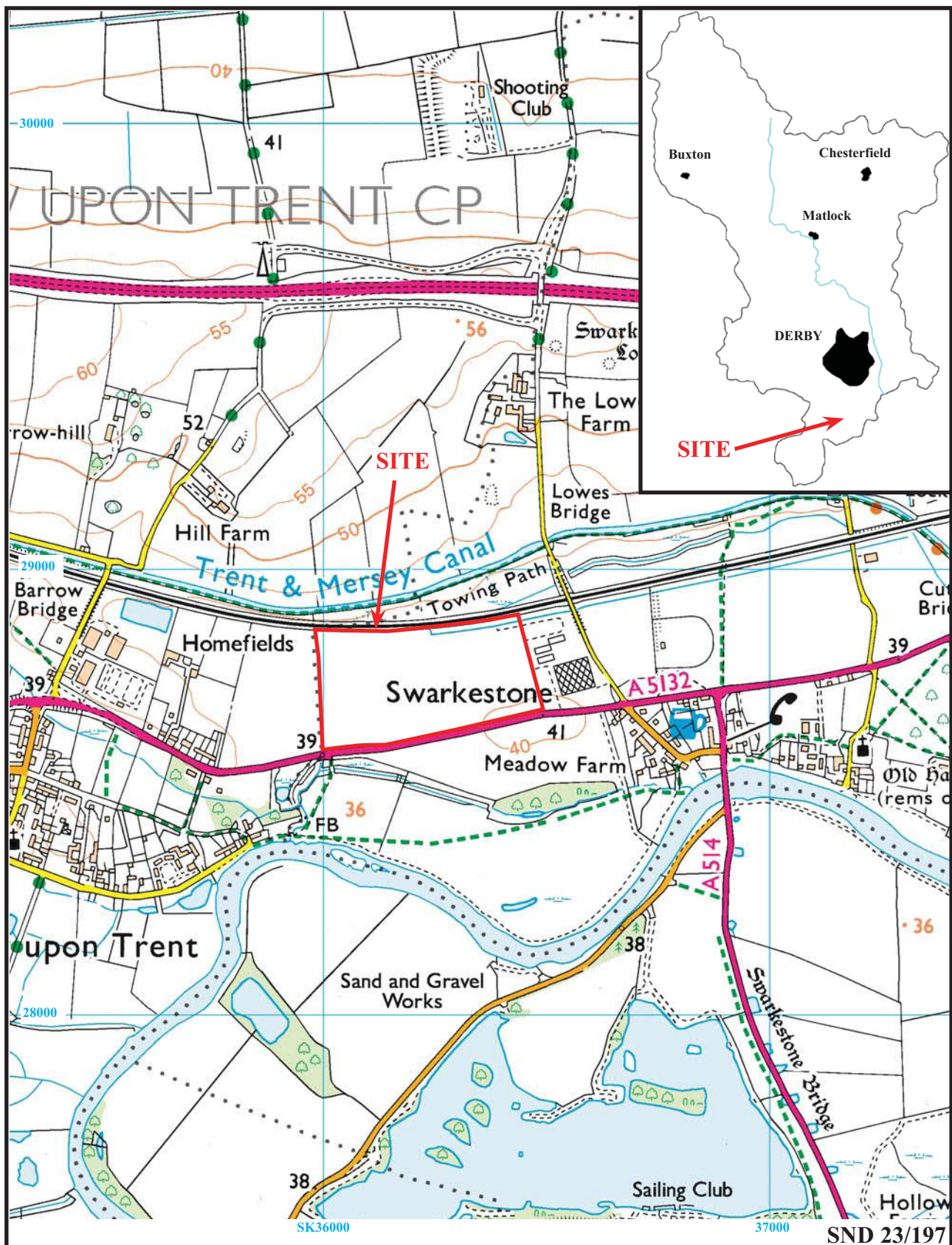
APPENDIX 4: Flot catalogue

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Y/N</i>	<i>Charcoal (no), Comments</i>
51	1	52	Gully	1	N	
47	2	53	Ditch	2	N	
47	3	54	Pit/Terminus	3	Y	2
47	4	55	Pit	4	Y	13
52	5	56	Gully	5	N	
52	6	57	Ditch	6	N	
45	7	58	Ditch	7	Y	
44	8	59	Ditch	8	N	cereal indet. Seed
39	9	60	Ditch	9	N	
38	10	61	Ditch	10	N	
48	11	62	Ditch	11	Y	2
37	12	63	Ditch	12	Y	1
24	13	64	Furrow	13	Y	1
28	14	65	Ditch	14	Y	Flakes, too small
28	15	66	Ditch	15	Y	Flakes

APPENDIX 5: Metal catalogue

<i>Cat no.</i>	<i>Tr no.</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Object</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>	<i>Measurements (LxWxD mm)</i>
1	43	50	Topsoil	Fe	uncertain (poss pipe or ferrule)	1	84	39x30x32
2	44	50	Topsoil	Fe	Nail	1	21	
3	46	50	Topsoil	Fe/CuA?	handle?	1	15.1	73x30x4
4	46	50	Topsoil	Fe	poss blade	1	61.6	72x39x10
5	49	50	Topsoil	Fe	unidentifiable	1	22	
6	51	50	Topsoil	Fe	Nail	1	16	

7	52	50	Topsoil	Fe	unidentifiable	1	10	
8	53	50	Topsoil	Fe	horseshoe	1	455	190x30x25
9	54	50	Topsoil	Fe	agricultural related?	1	397	210x25x15



**Land west of Swarkestone Nursery, Barrow Lane
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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Swarkestone and Derbyshire.

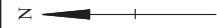
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Figure 2. Excavated trench locations showing those with archaeological features.



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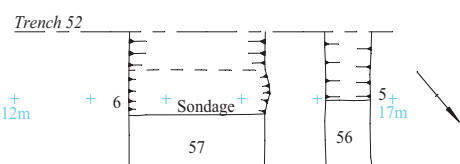
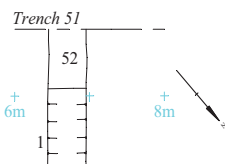
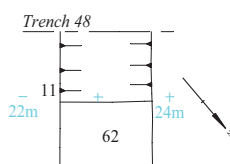
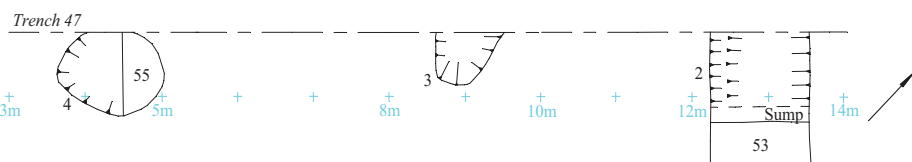
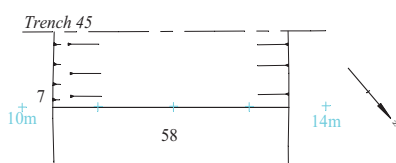
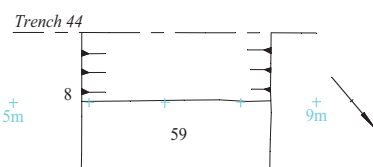
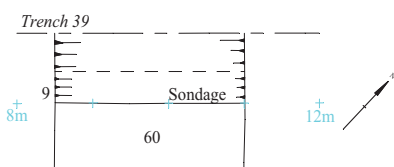
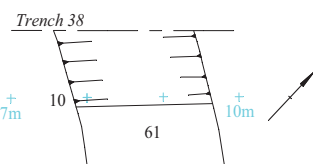
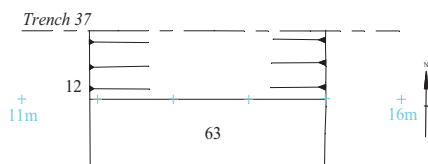
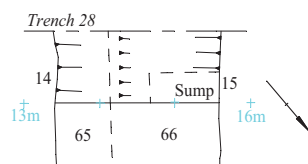
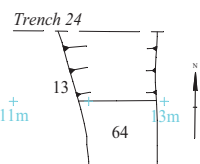
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Figure 3. Excavated trenches overlaid on geophysical survey (Beaverstock 2023).

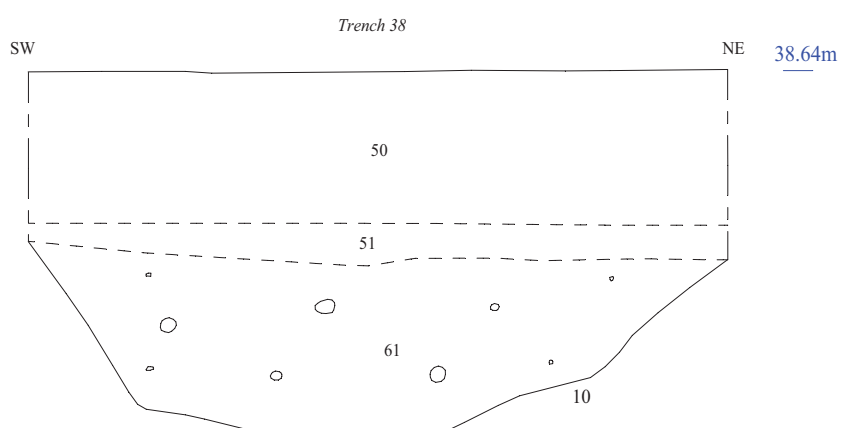
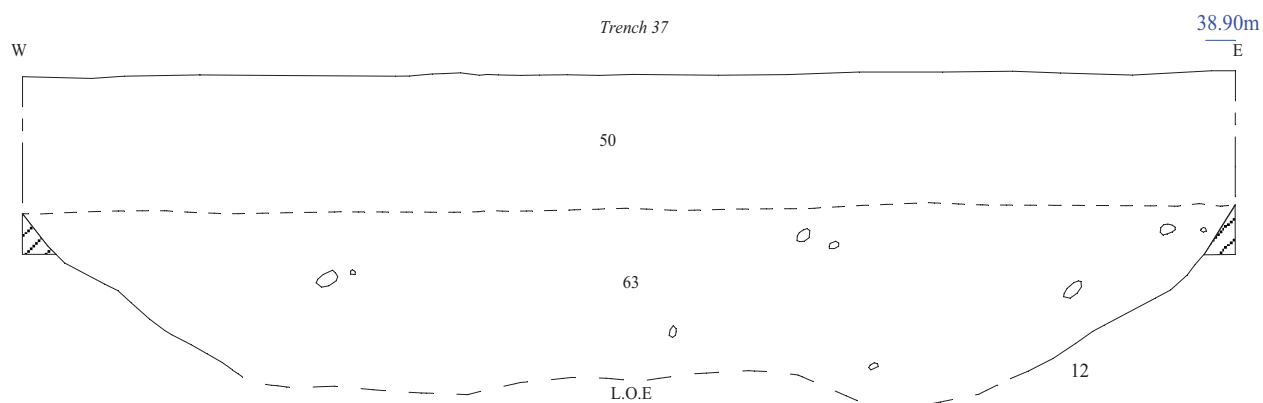
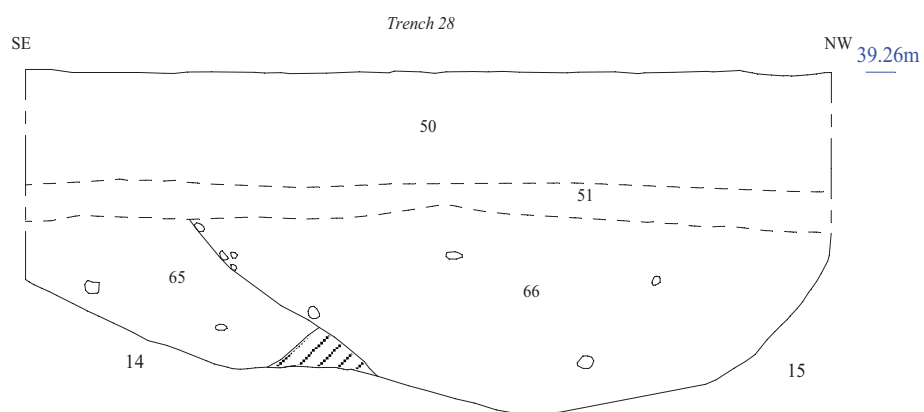
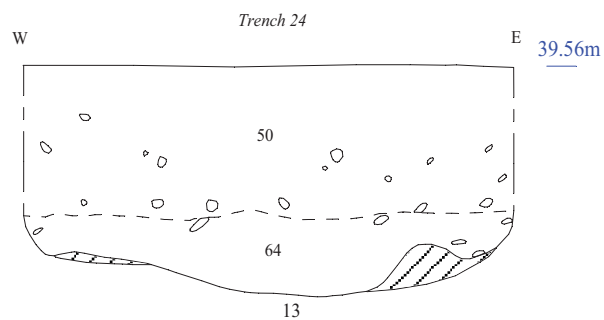


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**Land west of Swarkestone Nursery, Barrow Lane,
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Figure 4. Trench plans.





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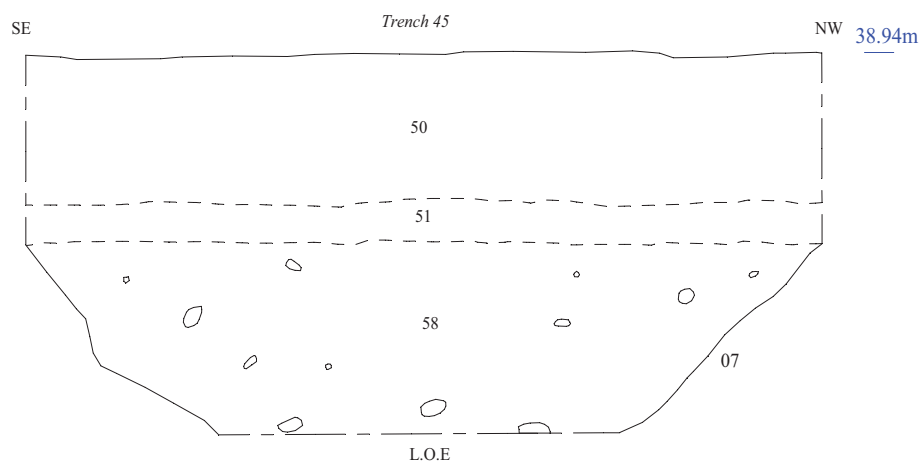
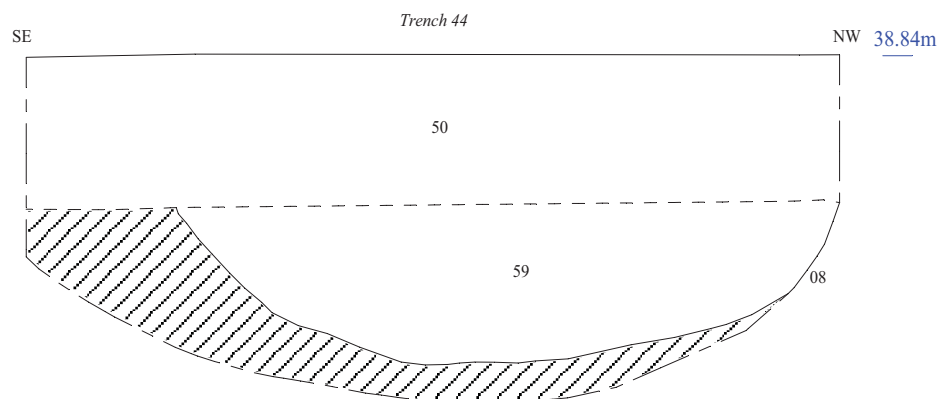
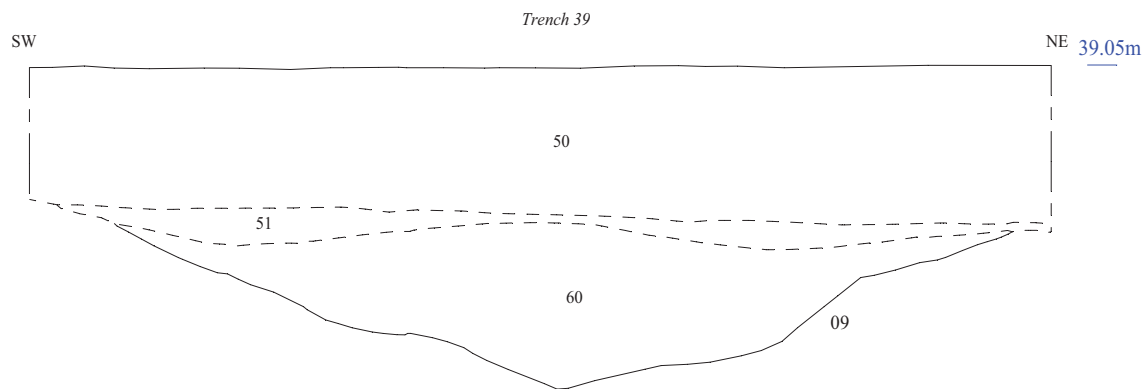
**Land West of Swarkestone Nursery, Barrow Lane,
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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 5. Sections.



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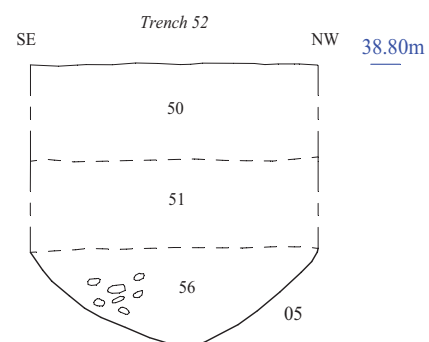
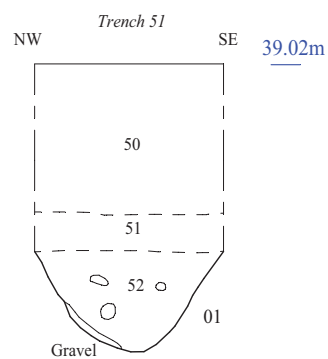
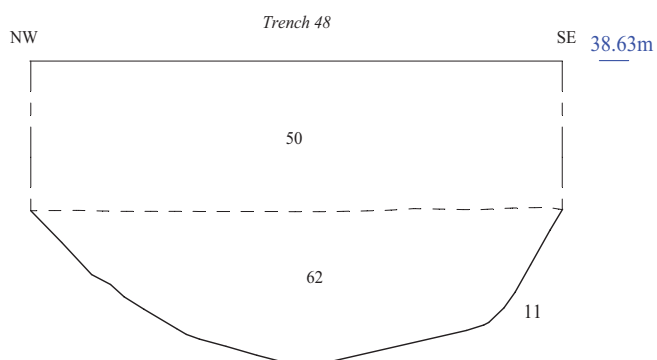
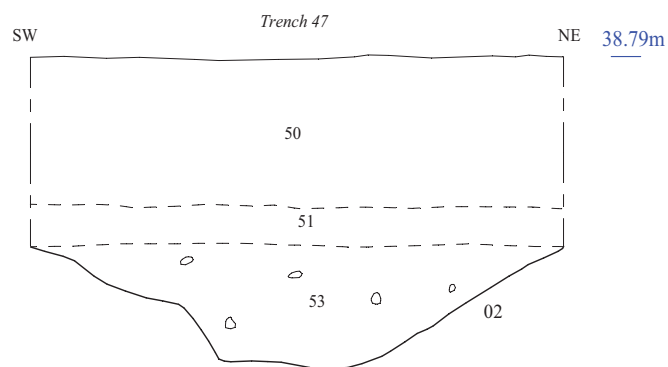
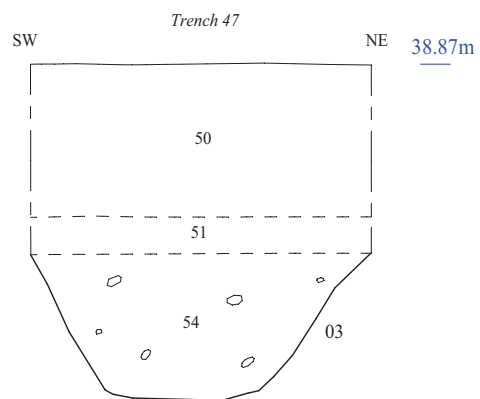
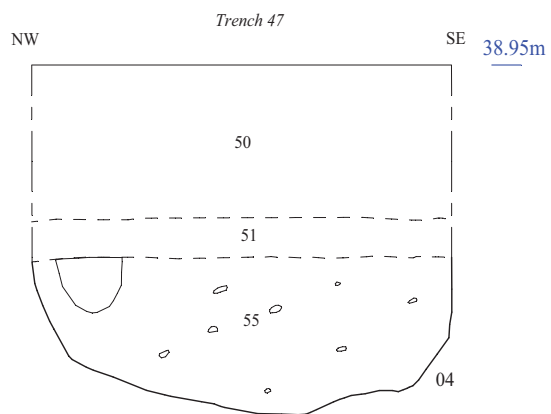


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**Land West of Swarkestone Nursery, Barrow Lane,
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Figure 6. Sections.



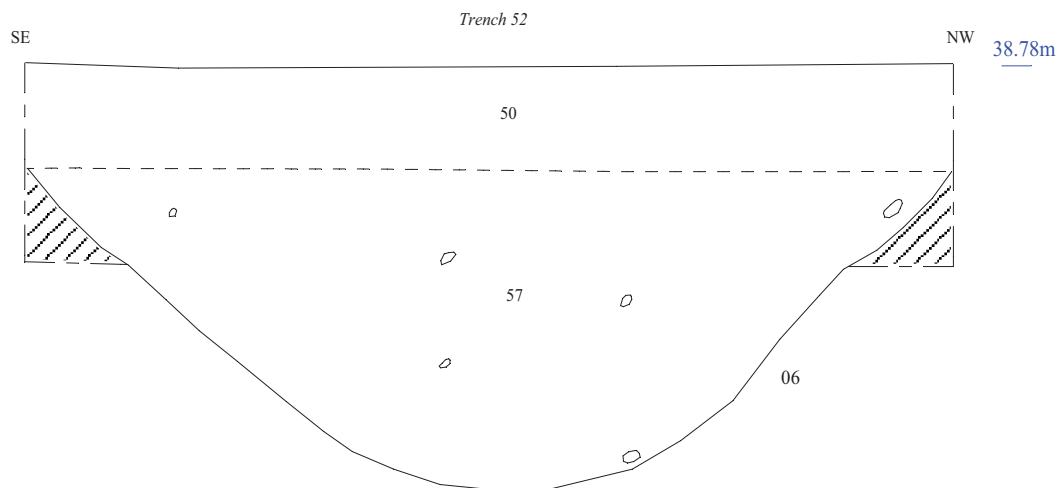


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**Land West of Swarkestone Nursery, Barrow Lane,
Swarkestone, Derbyshire
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 7. Sections.





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**Land West of Swarkestone Nursery, Barrow Lane,
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Figure 8. Sections.





Plate 1. General site shot, facing north-east.



Plate 2. General site shot, facing south-west.



Plate 3. Trench 6, looking north-east,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 14, looking north-east,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 5. Trench 19, looking east.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 6. Trench 23, looking north-east.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

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**Land west of Swarkestone Nursery, Barrow Lane
Swarkestone, Derbyshire
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1-6**





Plate 7. Trench 28, facing north-west.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 8. Trench 39, looking east.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 9. Trench 47, looking north-east.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 10. Trench 52, looking north-west.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 11. Gully 1, , Trench 51, looking east,
Scales: 0.5 and 0.3m.



Plate 12. Gully 2, Trench 47, looking north-west.
Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.

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Land west of Swarkestone Nursery, Barrow Lane
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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 7-12





Plate 13. Trench 47, pit or ditch terminus 3, looking north-west. Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.



Plate 14. Trench 47, pit 4, looking north-east. Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.



Plate 15. Gully 5, Trench 52, looking south-west. Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 16. Ditch 6, Trench 52, looking south-west. Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 17. Ditch 7, Trench 45, looking south-west. Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 18. Ditch 8, Trench 44, looking south-west. Scales: 2m and 0.5m.

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Land west of Swarkestone Nursery, Barrow Lane
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Archaeological Evaluation
 Plates 13-18





Plate 19. Ditch 9, Trench 39, looking north-west.
Scales: 2m and 0.5m.



Plate 20. Ditch 10, Trench 38, looking north.
Scales: 2m and 0.5m.



Plate 21. Ditch 11, Trench 48, looking north-east.
Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 22. Ditch 12, Trench 37, looking north.
Scales: 2m and 0.5m.



Plate 23. Furrow 13, Trench 24, looking north,
Scales: 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 24. Trench 28, ditches 14 and 15, looking south-west.. Scales: 2m and 0.5m.

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**Land west of Swarkestone Nursery, Barrow Lane
Swarkestone, Derbyshire
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 19-24.**

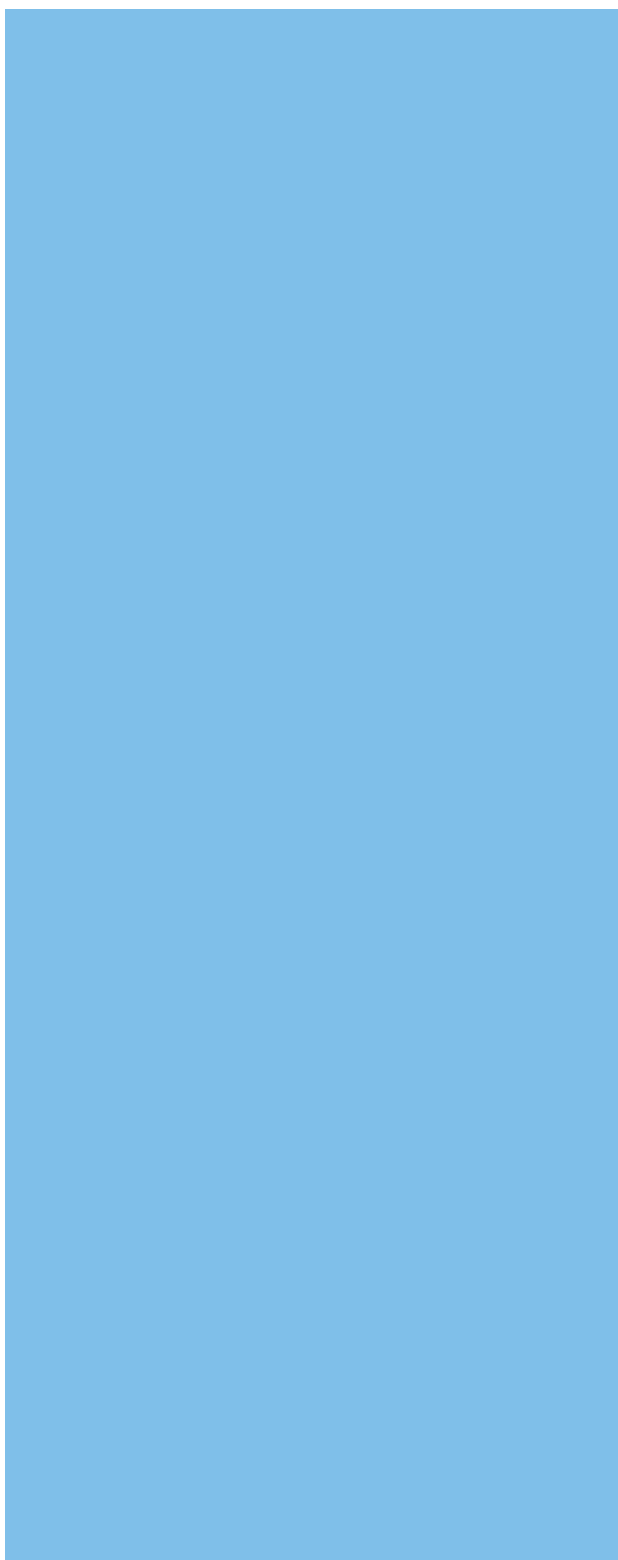
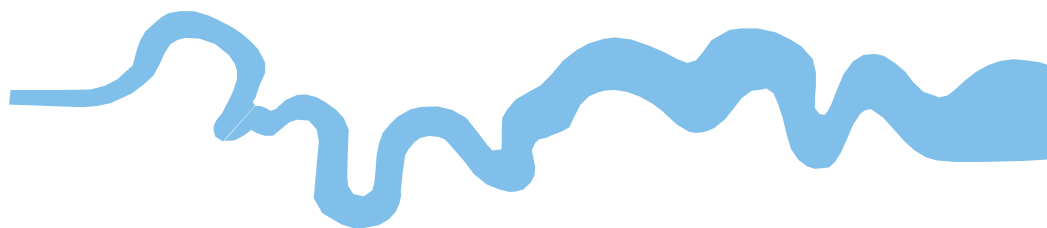


TIME CHART

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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