

Archaeological Evaluation

Raw Energy on behalf of

Underblue Ltd

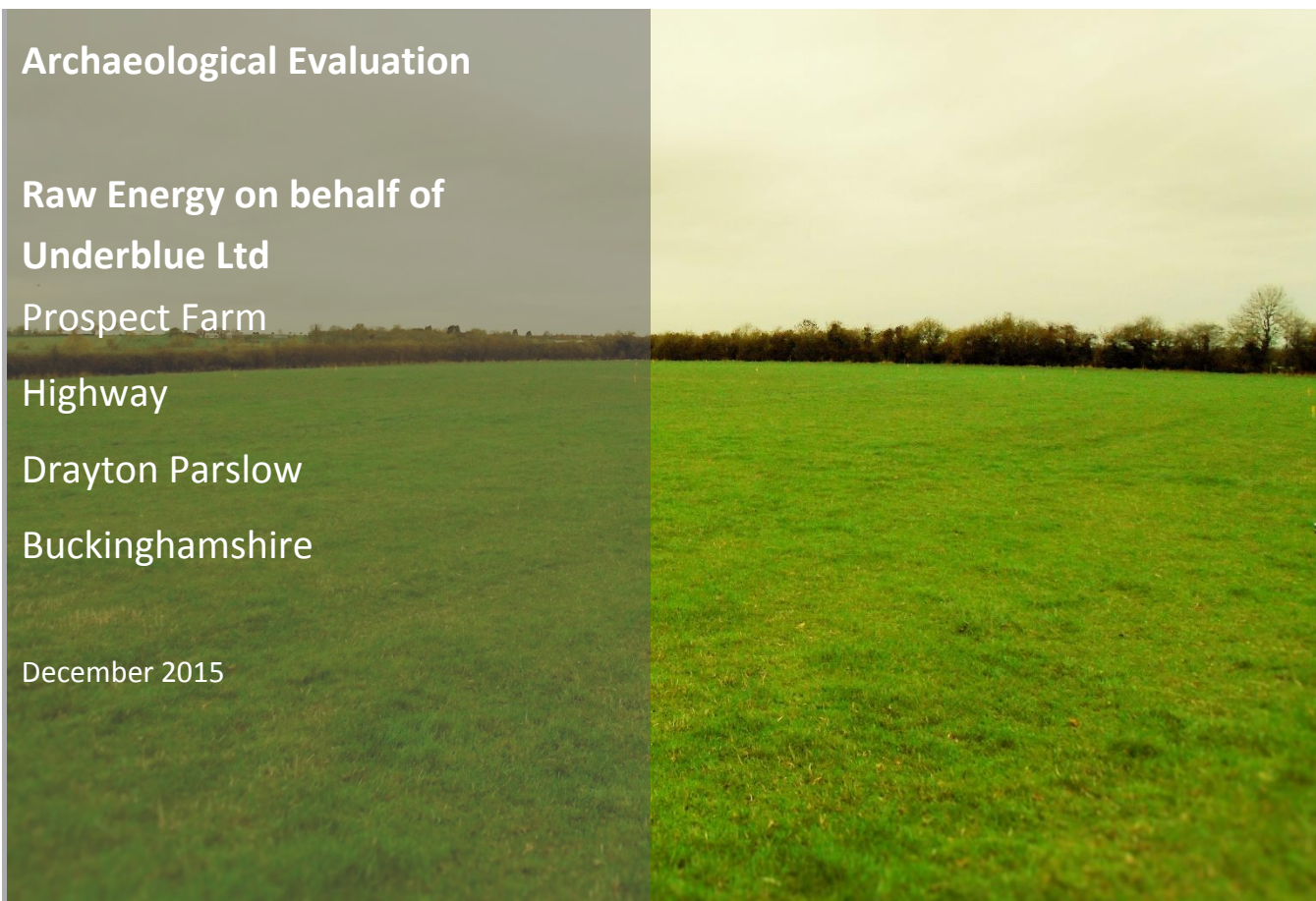
Prospect Farm

Highway

Drayton Parslow

Buckinghamshire

December 2015



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Contents:

1 Executive Summary1

2 Introduction.....2

3 Site Description.....4

 3.1 Soils & Geology.....4

 3.2 Topography.....4

4 Historical and Archaeological Background6

 4.1 Prehistoric.....6

 4.2 Roman.....6

 4.3 Medieval.....7

 4.4 Post-Medieval.....8

 4.5 Second World War.....8

5 Methodology10

6 Results11

 6.1 Results for Ridge and Furrow (all trenches)12

 6.1.1 Discussion13

 6.2 Trench 1.....15

 6.3 Results16

 6.3.1 Discussion17

 6.4 Trench 2.....18

 6.5 Results19

 6.5.1 Discussion20

 6.6 Trench 3.....21

 6.7 Results22

 6.7.1 Discussion23

 6.8 Trench 4.....27

 6.9 Results28

 6.9.1 Discussion29

 6.10 Trench 5.....30

 6.11 Results31

 6.11.1 Discussion32

 6.12 Trench 6.....33

 6.13 Results34

6.13.1 Discussion	35
6.14 Trench 7	36
6.15 Results	37
6.15.1 Discussion	40
6.16 Trench 8	48
6.17 Results	49
6.17.1 Discussion	50
6.18 Trench 9	53
6.19 Results	54
6.19.1 Discussion	55
6.20 Trench 10	56
6.21 Results	57
6.21.1 Discussion	58
6.22 Trench 11	59
6.23 Results	60
6.23.1 Discussion	61
6.24 Trench 12	62
6.25 Results	63
6.25.1 Discussion	64
6.26 Trench 13	65
6.27 Results	66
6.27.1 Discussion	68
6.28 Trench 14	75
6.29 Results	76
6.29.1 Discussion	77
7 Discussion	78
8 Copyright	79
9 Bibliography	79
9.1 Primary Sources	79
9.2 Secondary Sources	79
9.3 Cartography	80
9.4 Aerial Photography	81
10 Appendices	82

1 Executive Summary

Border Archaeology Ltd (BA) was instructed by Raw Energy on behalf of Underblue Ltd to carry out a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation with regard to a proposed solar farm development on land northeast of Prospect Farm Highway Drayton Parslow Buckinghamshire.

Current land use is as pastoral farmland, although the field has been ploughed in modern times. Probable medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation features were encountered in all of the trenching and these features are also shown on aerial photographic records of the area, although they were not clearly visible at ground level.

Of the 14 trenches opened, 10 contained no archaeological deposits, finds or features. A drainage ditch was revealed and excavated in Trench 3 and Trench 7, with an additional drainage ditch or possible boundary feature and pit recorded in Trench 13. No finds were found in association with any of these features.

The lack of occupation material encountered within or associated with the features suggests all were of agricultural origin.

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology Ltd (BAL) was instructed by Raw Energy on behalf of Underblue Ltd to carry out a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation with regard to a proposed solar farm development on land NE of Prospect Farm Highway Drayton Parslow Buckinghamshire (NGR: SP 84481 29313 - centre) (Planning ref. 15/00557/APP) (figs. 1 & 2).

The solar farm development is to comprise PV panels, mounting frames, a control room/inverter house, fencing and four security cameras. Based upon the reduced impact of the solar farm development compared to other forms of development, the Senior Archaeology Planning Officer Buckinghamshire County Council (SAPOBCC) proposed in response to Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) Planning Department that Archaeological Field Evaluation (trial-trenching) would be an appropriate initial form of mitigation.

BAL's previous Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (ADBA) of the proposed development carried out in April 2015 concluded that, as the site has remained as undeveloped agricultural land at least since the medieval period, the potential for encountering archaeological was Low to Moderate. This assessment was based largely upon the lack of recorded archaeological sites in close proximity to the proposed development.

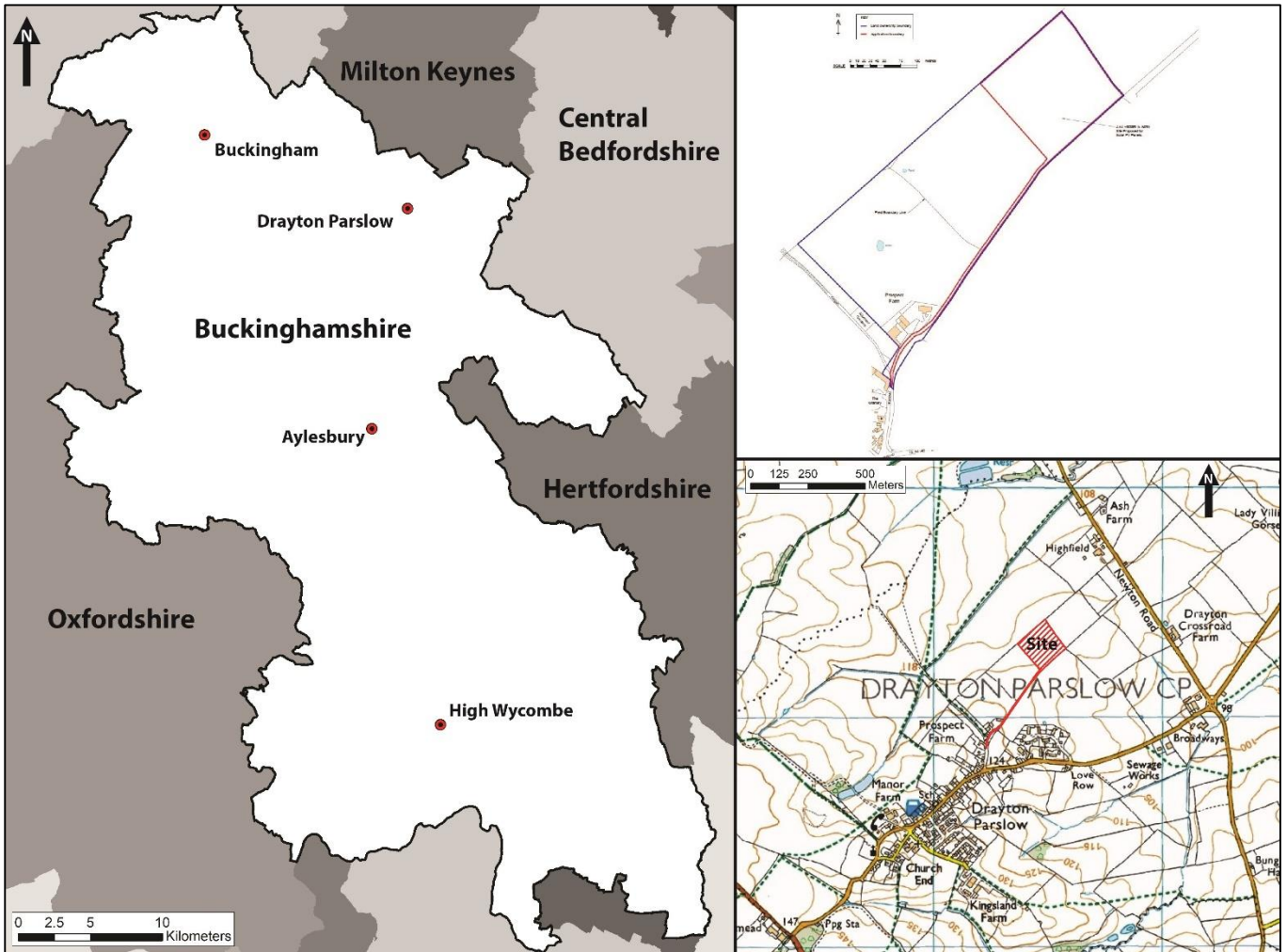
Whilst a significant focus of Roman occupation (including a villa site W of Cowpasture Farm) has been identified to the NW of the study area, little evidence of Roman activity has been found in close proximity to the site.

Evidence of ridge-and-furrow cultivation features of medieval date has been identified within the site from aerial photographic records, although only faint traces of these earthworks now survive at ground level. Although currently pastoral farmland, the field has been ploughed in modern times.

The programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area, with 14 evaluation trenches opened.

The work was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by BAL and a Generic Brief issued by BCC.

Copies of this report will be provided to the Client and to the SAPOBCC. A report relating to the samples recovered from the site will be submitted separately on completion of paleoenvironmental assessment procedures and reporting.



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Fig. 1: Site location plan

3 Site Description

The site of the proposed solar farm (centered on NGR: SP 84481 29313) is located within a pasture field to the NE of Drayton Parslow village, approximately 5.6km S of Bletchley (Bucks).

The proposed development area comprises the site of the solar panel installation (approximately 2.43 ha) which lies within the E half of a large rectangular field, approximately 220m NE of Prospect Farm, which is currently laid to grass (and recently planted with a ryegrass sward); an access route runs along the S boundary of the field towards Prospect Farm.

The 14 trenches were located within the E half of the rectangular field, measuring 30m × 1.80m (*fig. 2*).

3.1 Soils & Geology

The soils in the vicinity of the study area are predominantly typical calcareous pelosols of the HANSLOPE (411d) series, consisting of slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils overlaying chalky till. The superficial till deposits are part of the Oadby Member of Quaternary age consisting of unsorted glacial deposits formed up to two million years ago. The underlying bedrock comprises clay, West Walton Formation and Ampthill Clay Formation (undifferentiated) – Mudstone (British Geological Survey 2015).

The plough-soil (now pasture) ranged from 0.17m to 0.28m in depth and was a firm dark greyish-brown clayey loam containing moderate small to medium –sized angular and sub-rounded stones, occasional small lumps and flecks of chalk and rare charcoal inclusions. This soil was at its shallowest in Trench 9, located in the N corner of the site, and attained its greatest depth in Trench 1, towards the SE end of the field.

The subsoil was a disturbed, re-deposited natural, with plough-scarring visible along the deposit horizon. This disturbed natural layer consisted of compacted, mid-beige silty clay, with frequent flecks and small lumps of chalk, moderate small to medium -sized sub-rounded and angular stones, and undulated from 0.11m to 0.32m in depth. The deposit was at its shallowest in Trench 7 and Trench 8, located centrally within the site, and attained its greatest depth in Trench 10 and Trench 11, located within the E corner of the site.

3.2 Topography

The site occupies farmland within the E half of the large rectangular field orientated NE/SW and defined by substantial tree-lined hedges and drainage ditches. Very faint traces of regularly-spaced linear features are visible within the field oriented NW/SE, which are likely to represent the ridge-and-furrow cultivation features that are more clearly discernible on RAF vertical photographic records of the late 1940s. These linear features have been largely ploughed-out during the postwar period.

The field lies on a terrace to the NE of Drayton Parslow village and falls slightly from 118.77m OD at the E end of the site to 117.42m OD at the W end. The nearest stream runs c.1.67km to the SE of the site towards the Grand

Union Canal, which lies adjacent to the River Ouzel. A pond lies c. 0.92km to the SW of the site within the village of Drayton Parslow and a reservoir c. 0.77km to the NNW of the site.

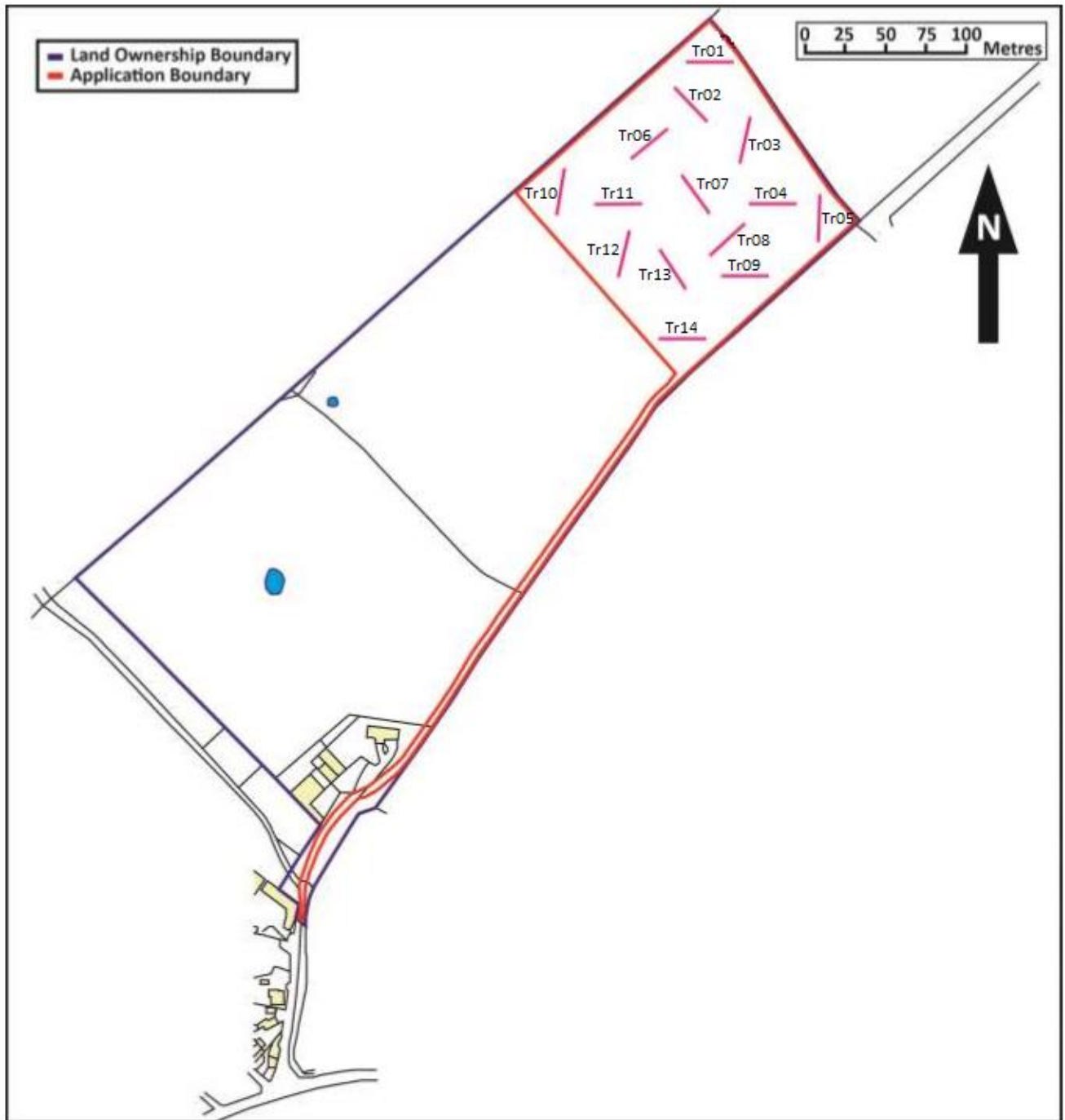


Fig. 2: Trench location plan

4 Historical and Archaeological Background

The following reflects the results of the ADBA previously carried out by BAL (2015) which assessed the likely archaeological potential of the site based on records held by the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record relating to archaeological events, monuments and listed buildings within a 1km search radius of NGR SP 84481 29313.

Of the 34 records examined, the majority related to built heritage assets of post-medieval date; however, it should be noted that relatively little archaeological fieldwork has been previously carried out within the immediate vicinity of the site.

A reference table listing dates of archaeological events, monuments and listed buildings recorded described in this report is provided in Appendix 1. See figures 3 and 4 for location plan of these entries.

4.1 Prehistoric

No recorded evidence of prehistoric activity has been identified within a 1km radius of the site; however, limited evidence of prehistoric occupation has been identified in the wider area.

An archaeological evaluation of allotments adjacent to Holy Trinity Church Drayton Parslow in 1993 (SMR 05935) (NGR: SP 8371 2847) recovered a small flint-work assemblage comprising four worked flints of late prehistoric date and four unworked burnt flints (Hiller 1993). A lozenge-shaped, chipped flint axe of Neolithic date was found in a field E of Salden House Farm (SMR 04125) (NGR: SP 832 297). A small number of isolated lithic finds and scatters of prehistoric date have additionally been recorded in the wider locality.

4.2 Roman

Evidence for Roman activity is limited. Two sherds of coarse sandy ware of unspecified Roman date, together with a fragment of tile, were found in spoil from the excavation of a water main trench SSE of Drayton Crossroads Farm (NGR: SP 85200 29100) in 1965 (MBC 3257). It is difficult to draw conclusions based on the extremely limited nature of the finds, although the occurrence of tile may be indicative of a building somewhere in the vicinity.

However, while evidence of Roman settlement in the immediate locality of the site is poorly attested, a significant focus of Roman occupation has been identified on the NW periphery of the study area. Within a field c. 550m W of Cowpasture Farm Mursley (NGR SP 8326 3038) (approximately 1.6km NW of the site), an extensive programme of trial-trenching carried out in 1973, following the discovery of Romano-British building materials and pottery during ploughing seven years earlier, revealed evidence of what appeared to be a 'corridor type' villa at an approximate depth of 0.30m below the plough-soil. The villa was built around a cobbled courtyard with at least two tessellated floors which had been heavily robbed. Pottery and coin evidence appeared to suggest that the occupation from the early 2nd to the late 4th century AD. Further evidence of possible Roman settlement activity was identified to the E of Salden House Farm (NGR: SP 833 297) (approximately 1.15km WNW of the site), where a

quantity of Romano-British pottery sherds (dated to the 2nd -3rd century AD), tile and a quernstone fragment was found on the surface of a ploughed field.

While these sites lie outside the 1km search radius, they point to a significant focus of Roman occupation to the NW of the site and indicate that the site lay within a wider rural hinterland which was intensively settled during the Roman period.

4.3 Medieval

Drayton Parslow (MBC 24613) is a settlement of Anglo-Saxon origin first recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Draintone* (of OE origin denoting 'a farmstead near a portage used for dragging down loads').

The medieval settlement of Drayton Parslow appears to have had two distinct foci, one occupying higher ground at the SW end of the village centred upon the parish church of Holy Trinity with the second to the NE, along Main Road and close to the junction with Highway.

The parish church of Holy Trinity contains 12th -century fabric, although the majority of the present building is of 14th -15th -century date. An archaeological evaluation undertaken on land immediately N of the church in 1993 recovered quantities of Middle to Late Saxon and Saxo-Norman pottery but little definite evidence of occupation features (Hiller 1993).

Further to the NE, a series of earthworks interpreted as house platforms formerly situated on the S side of Main Road were destroyed in 1970 to make way for housing development; excavations undertaken during the destruction of the house platforms revealed areas of cobbling, building stone, quern fragments and three pits containing pottery ranging in date from the 12th -16th centuries (MBC 3235-3239; Wilson & Moorhouse 1971, 171).

Surrounding Drayton Parslow on all sides were open common fields, attested by the presence of extensive ridge-and-furrow cultivation features visible on RAF vertical photographic records of 1946 and 1947 (CBS Ref. PHX/A/1/54). Portions of these open fields already appear to have been enclosed for pasture by the early 17th century, based on the evidence of a survey of enclosed lands made by the Deputy Lieutenants of Buckinghamshire in 1620 (Reed 1984, 140); however, the majority were enclosed in 1798 as a result of the Drayton Parslow Enclosure Act passed a year earlier.

The site of the solar farm lies at the NE end of a distinct block of NW/SE oriented ridge-and-furrow extending to the NE of the village, its slightly inverted S -shape possibly suggestive of a medieval origin; however, only very faint traces of these features are now visible on the ground. Documentary evidence indicates that this block of ridge-and-furrow formed part of a common field known as 'Barway Furlong', which was enclosed, along with the remaining open fields within the parish of Drayton Parslow, as a result of the 1797 Enclosure Act. It is noticeable that no ridge-and-furrow features are visible within the fields immediately to the NW of the site as these were under the direct ownership of the lord of the manor and were thus not farmed in common.

4.4 Post-Medieval

Drayton Parslow remained primarily an agricultural settlement throughout the post-medieval period, although a small focus of early industrial activity is represented by the site of a 17th-18th-century bell foundry to the rear of the Three Horseshoes Inn, which was established by Richard Chandler in 1634 and operated by several generations of the Chandler family until 1756 (MBC 1172; Turner 1873, 123-7).

Consultation of historic mapping of the study area indicates that the morphology of the settlement of Drayton Parslow, in broad terms, was largely established by the late 18th century, as shown on the Inclosure Award map of 1798. Further building activity appears to have occurred along Main Road during the 19th century, with the rebuilding of older farmsteads, the construction of new cottages (which were chiefly occupied by agricultural labourers and artisans) and the building of two nonconformist chapels in the village in 1830 and 1847. However, examination of 19th-20th-century maps of the study area shows that the site of the proposed development has remained as enclosed agricultural land up to the present day; no evidence of previous building activity within the site has been identified.

A small number of 16th-17th-century buildings are recorded in the vicinity of the study area. These include Chestnut Farmhouse (42 Main Road), a 16th-17th-century timber-framed thatched house (MBC 15607), and two other 17th-century timber-framed houses at Lower Farmhouse (MBC 15608) and No 65 Main Road (MBC 15605). All three houses are Grade II listed; however, none is situated close to the proposed development.

The remaining built heritage assets recorded within the 1km search radius chiefly consist of farmhouses and labourers' cottages of late 18th-or 19th-century date, which are not designated as listed buildings. The closest of these undesignated heritage assets to the site is Bargate Farm (MBC 26015), an 18th-19th-century farmstead first marked on the Drayton Parslow Inclosure Award of 1798. The farm buildings are located about 20m WSW of the proposed access route leading to the solar farm installation, which is situated approximately 400m NE of Bargate Farm.

A programme of historic building recording was undertaken on a pair of cottages at Nos. 59-61 Main Road in 2007, which concluded that the houses were either speculatively built or constructed by a major estate owner or farmer in the early 19th century and extended after 1910 (EBC 16856).

4.5 Second World War

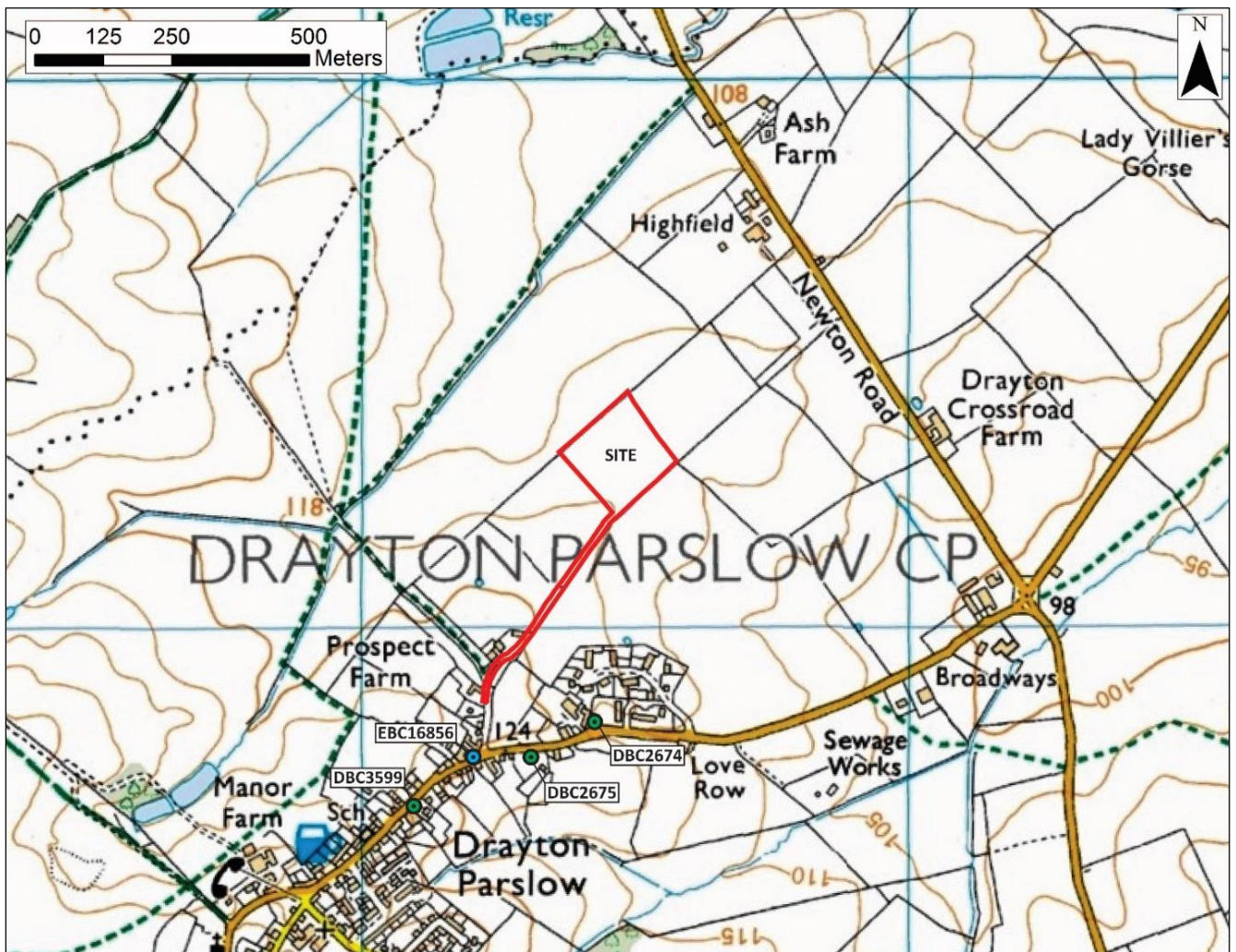
Located approximately 350m SSW of the proposed development is the site of a former Second World War signal station to the N and NE of Prospect Farm (NMR No. 1535598; SP 84476 28884). This complex of buildings was originally established in 1943 as an outstation to the Government Code and Cipher School at Bletchley Park (Monkton *et al.*, 2004, 23; Pidgeon, 2008, 15). The site also appears to have been used as a camp for Prisoners of War, then used to home displaced foreign workers and as a records office for the Royal Navy.

The extent of the complex is visible on aerial photographs dated 1946 and 1947 and on an OS provisional edition 6-inch map of 1952. The buildings were used after the Second World War as a residential training college for Post Office and British Telecom engineers until the late 1980s, when the site was cleared and redeveloped with a housing estate known as Prospect Close and Stones Way. There is no indication the complex ever extended northwards into the site of the proposed development.



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Fig. 3: Plan showing archaeological monuments recorded in the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record within a 1km radius of the proposed site (centred on NGR SP 84481 29313).



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Fig. 4: Plan showing archaeological events and listed buildings recorded in the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record within a 1km radius of the proposed site (centred on NGR SP 84481 29313).

5 Methodology

Methodology for the evaluation followed the agreed WSI (ref no. BA1522DPB, BAL 2015). Archaeological procedures conformed to the Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service *Generic brief for an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching)* (BCAS 2015) and to guidance issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a) in *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014) and *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014). The evaluation was conducted within the context of the relevant regional archaeological framework.

The evaluation programme was based upon 3% of the development area of 2.7ha, namely 729m², and consisted of 14 trenches, each 30m in length and 1.80m in wide.

Trench locations are shown in Fig. 2. A site grid was established at the commencement of fieldwork using semi-permanent survey stations. Use was made of Total Station Theodolite (TST) and Survey Grade Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment. Trench locations were plotted to within $\pm 1\text{m}$ relative to the national grid. Internal grid points were located to within an error of no more than $\pm 0.1\text{m}$ relative to the site grid. All levels were recorded relative to an Ordnance Survey datum level. The temporary benchmark used during the course of this work had a value of 120.02m OD, located centrally within the site.

Machine excavation was carried out by a hydraulic 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. All mechanical excavation was constantly and directly monitored by a suitably experienced archaeologist. Machining was halted at the first identifiable archaeological deposits or natural geology.

Each trench was cleaned by hand sufficient to allow the identification and planning of archaeological features. Where archaeological features appeared to be absent, sufficient confirmatory investigation was carried out. Each trench was planned at an appropriate scale. Upon completion of the work all trenches were backfilled by machine.

Spoil heaps and trenches were scanned and all such scanning operations were undertaken in accordance with the Company's Policy on Metal Detecting (BA 2014).

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using BAL's *pro forma* context record sheets and archive-stable drawing film. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Monochrome 35mm negatives and digital photographs were taken of all relevant archaeological features and deposits where appropriate.

Site conditions were good and the work took place in fine to wet weather.

All site work was undertaken with respect to Health and Safety provision. Hard hats, high-visibility vests and steel toe-capped boots were worn by all staff at all times.

5.1 Results

The results for each trench are tabulated below in numerical order. A photograph of each trench accompanies the trench description with additional images of features where appropriate. Plans and sections are provided where features are present.

5.2 Results for Ridge and Furrow (all trenches)

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Dating
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	[001]	Cut	Furrow	Master No. for Furrows encountered within all 14 trenches.						Medieval?
2	(002)	Deposit	F.O [001]	A mid grey brown silty clay, moderate small-medium angular and sub-rounded stones, occasional flecks & small lumps of chalk, rare charcoal, frequent pieces and flecks of CBM				x		Medieval?
3	(003)	U/S	U/S	Un-stratified Find (Trench 3)		x				

5.2.1 Discussion

In all, 14 trenches were opened on the site. The furrows encountered are associated with ridge-and-furrow cultivation and correlate with the information shown on the RAF vertical photograph of the site, which show faint ridge-and-furrow aligned NW–SE (*Plate. 1; fig. 5*).



*Fig. 5: RAF vertical photograph of the site and surrounding fields (August 1947)
(Reproduced courtesy of the Centre for Buckingham Studies Ref. PHX/A/1/53).*

This ridge-and-furrow may originally have been medieval in origin, lying within a larger common field known as 'Barway Furlong', one of several extensive common fields within Drayton Parslow, which had been subdivided into three enclosures by the end of the 18th century and was further subdivided by c.1900.

It appears that the ridge-and-furrow identified within the site may well originally have continued into the two fields to the S; the slight curve visible at the southern end of the ridges again suggests a medieval date.

It is possible that earlier features may have been obscured by the extensive blocks of ridge-and-furrow, though no clear evidence for this was discerned from aerial photographs of the site (dating back to 1947).

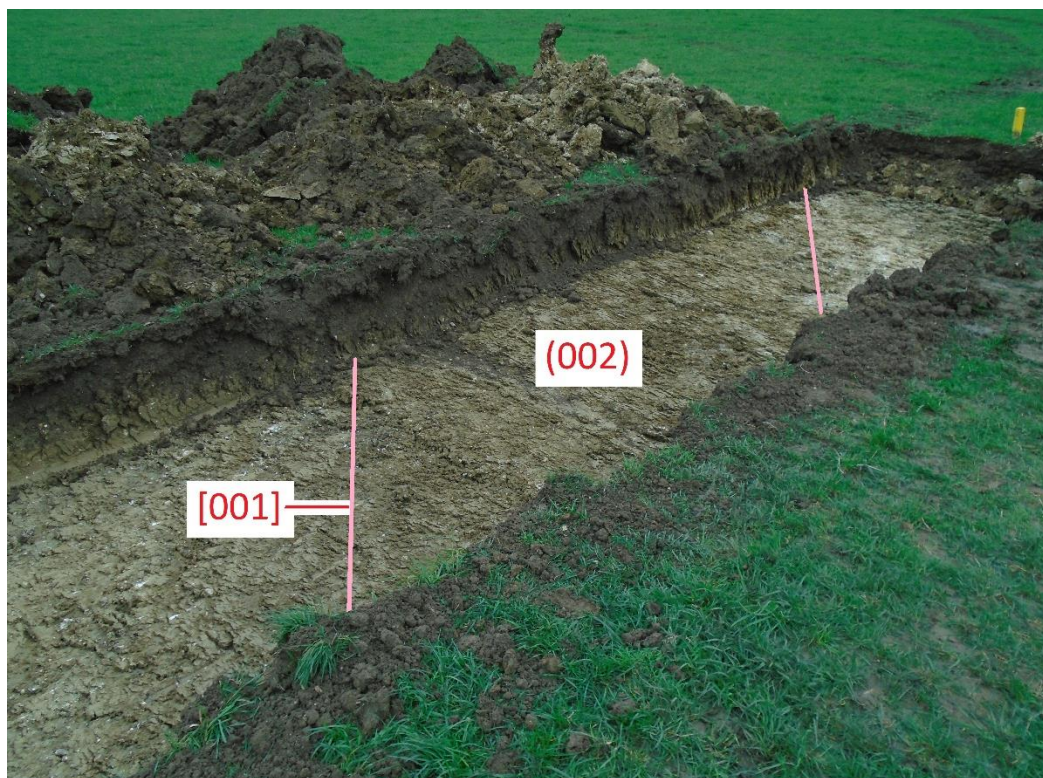


Plate 1: SSW end of Trench 3, showing furrow [001] and deposit (002). View to the SE.

5.3 Trench 1



Plate 2: View E along Trench 1

Location		Dimensions	
Orientation	E–W	Length	30m
East end	484502.994E / 229398.974N	Width	1.80m
West end	484472.888E / 229398.96N	Depth	E end: 0.52m W end: 0.55m
Levels			
East end top	118.41m OD		
West end top	118.34m OD		

5.4 Results

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Dating
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(1000)	Layer	Plough soil, now pasture field	Firm, dark grey brown clayey loam, moderate small-medium angular & sub-rounded stones, occasional flecks & small lumps of chalk, rare charcoal. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.28m.						Modern
2	(1001)	Layer	Subsoil - churned, re-deposited Natural	Compact, mid-beige silty clay, frequent flecks & small lumps of chalk, moderate small-medium, sub-rounded & angular stones. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.18m.						Medieval?
3	(1002)	Layer	Natural	Compact, pale beige silty clay, moderate small-large sub-rounded and angular stones, frequent flecks & small-medium lumps of chalk. Extending length and width of easement, average depth >0.04m.						N/A

5.4.1 Discussion

A superficial geological deposit consisting of pale beige silty clay (1002) was encountered at an average depth of 118.39m OD below ground level.

Overlying this natural deposit was the churned, re-deposited natural deposit 'subsoil' (1001), which was seen throughout the site (same as (2001), (3001), (4001), (5001), (6001), (7001), (8001), (9001), (10001), (11001) (12001), (13001) and (14001)). This layer appears to have developed prior to the formation of the possible medieval ridge-and-furrow and could be assigned to earlier periods of cultivation.

Cutting through the natural (1002) and re-deposited natural (1001) were two furrows (master no. [001] for the cut of the feature, with fill (002) as the fill), which were part of the open-field system present in all trenches and visible on aerial photographic records.

Capping (1001) and (002) was the topsoil (1000), a dark grey brown clayey loam plough soil (now used as a pasture field). Plough scars were visible with an approximate NE/SW orientation throughout the interface of the topsoil (1000) and 'subsoil' (1001).

No finds were recovered within this trench.

5.5 Trench 2



Plate 3: View SE along Trench 2

Location		Dimensions	
Orientation	NW–SE	Length	30m
Northwest end	484469.993E / 229382.023N	Width	1.80m
Southeast end	484488.044E / 229358.923N	Depth	NW end: 0.42m SE end: 0.44m
Levels			
Northwest end top	118.40m OD		
Southeast end top	118.96m OD		

5.6 Results

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Dating
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(2000)	Layer	Plough soil, now pasture field	Firm, dark grey brown clayey loam, moderate small–medium angular & sub-rounded stones, occasional flecks & small lumps of chalk, rare charcoal. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.26m.						Modern
2	(2001)	Layer	Subsoil, churned, re-deposited Natural	Compact, mid-beige silty clay, frequent flecks & small lumps of chalk, moderate small–medium sub-rounded & angular stones. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.14m.				x		Medieval?
3	(2002)	Layer	Natural	Compact, pale beige silty clay, moderate small-large sub-rounded & angular stones, frequent flecks & small–medium lumps of chalk. Extending length & width of easement, average depth >0.02m.						N/A

5.6.1 Discussion

A superficial geological deposit consisting of pale beige silty clay (2002) was encountered at an average depth of 118.38m OD below ground level.

Overlying this natural deposit was the churned, re-deposited natural deposit 'subsoil' (2001), which was seen throughout the site (same as (1001), (3001), (4001), (5001), (6001), (7001), (8001), (9001), (10001), (11001) (12001), (13001) and (14001)). This layer appears to have formed prior to the development of the possible medieval ridge-and-furrow and could be assigned to earlier periods of cultivation.

Cutting through the natural (2002) and re-deposited natural (2001) was furrow (master no. [001] for the cut of the feature, with fill (002) as the fill), which was part of the open-field system present in all trenches and visible on aerial photographs.

Capping (2001) and (002) was the topsoil (2000), a dark grey brown clayey loam plough soil (now used as a pasture field). Plough scars were visible with an approximate NE—SW orientation throughout the interface of the topsoil (2000) and 'subsoil' (2001).

Ceramic building material (CBM) was found within subsoil (2001).

5.7 Trench 3



Plate 4: View SSW along Trench 3

Location		Dimensions	
Orientation	NNE–SSW	Length	30m
NNE end	484523.997E / 229366.028N	Width	1.80m
SSW end	484516.965E / 229336.962N	Depth	NNE end: 0.42m SSW end: 0.38m
Levels			
NNE end top	118.815m OD		
SSW end top	119.222m OD		

5.8 Results

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Dating
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(3000)	Layer	Plough soil, now pasture field	Firm, dark grey brown clayey loam, moderate small-medium angular & sub-rounded stones, occasional flecks & small lumps of chalk, rare charcoal. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.25m.						Modern
2	(3001)	Layer	Subsoil - churned, re-deposited Natural	Compact, mid-beige silty clay, frequent flecks & small lumps of chalk, moderate small-medium sub-rounded & angular stones. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.16m.						Medieval?
3	(3002)	Layer	Natural	Compact, pale beige silty clay, moderate small-large sub-rounded & angular stones, frequent flecks & small-medium lumps of chalk. Extending length & width of easement, average depth >0.01m.						N/A
4	[3003]	Cut	Possible drainage ditch feature	Linear, aligned NE/SW, break of slope top sharp, sides steeply sloping (V-shape profile), break of slop sharp, base concave. >6.60m x 0.40m x 0.22m. Same as [7005] [13003]						Undated
5	(3004)	Deposit	Single fill of [3003]	Moderately compacted, mid-grey brown silty clay, moderate small flecks of chalk & flint gravel, very occasional manganese flecks. Measuring 76.6m x 0.4m x 0.22m.					<004>	Undated

5.8.1 Discussion

A superficial geological deposit consisting of pale beige silty clay (3002) was encountered at an average depth of 118.39m OD below ground level.

Cutting the natural geology was NE–SW linear [3003], located 12.58m from the N end of the trench (*Plate 6; fig. 5*). It had a V-shape profile and concave base with a single fill of mid-grey brown silty clay (3004) (*figs. 7 & 8*).

In plan, the ditch appeared to be aligned with ditch [7005] in Trench 7 and ditch [13003] in Trench 13. Potentially, this ditch predated the possible medieval ridge-and-furrow within the field; however, no finds were found associated with the feature and no relationship between the furrows and ditch could be established in excavation to determine this.



Plate 5: Ditch [3003], view SW

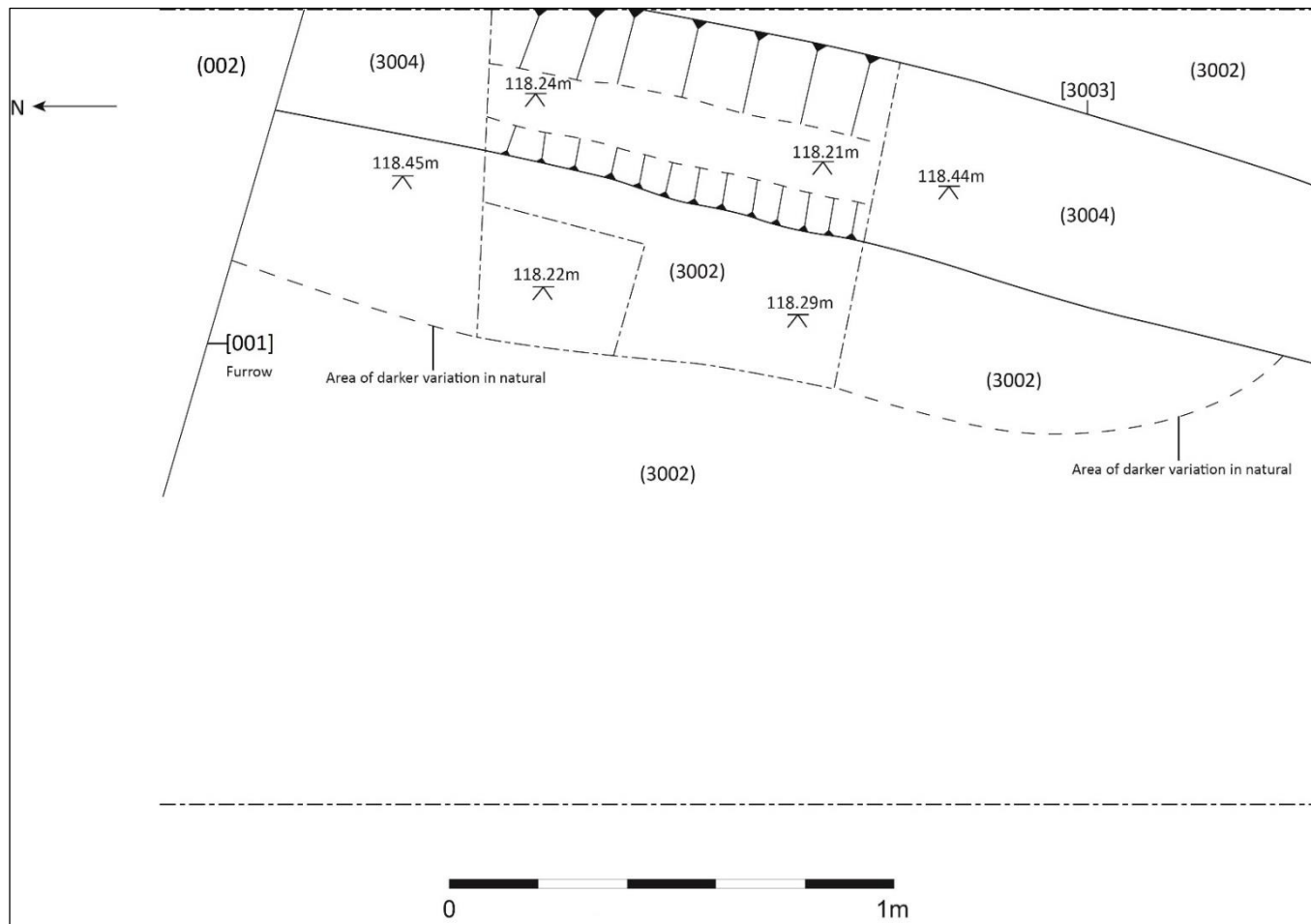


Fig. 6: Plan of [3003], within Trench 3

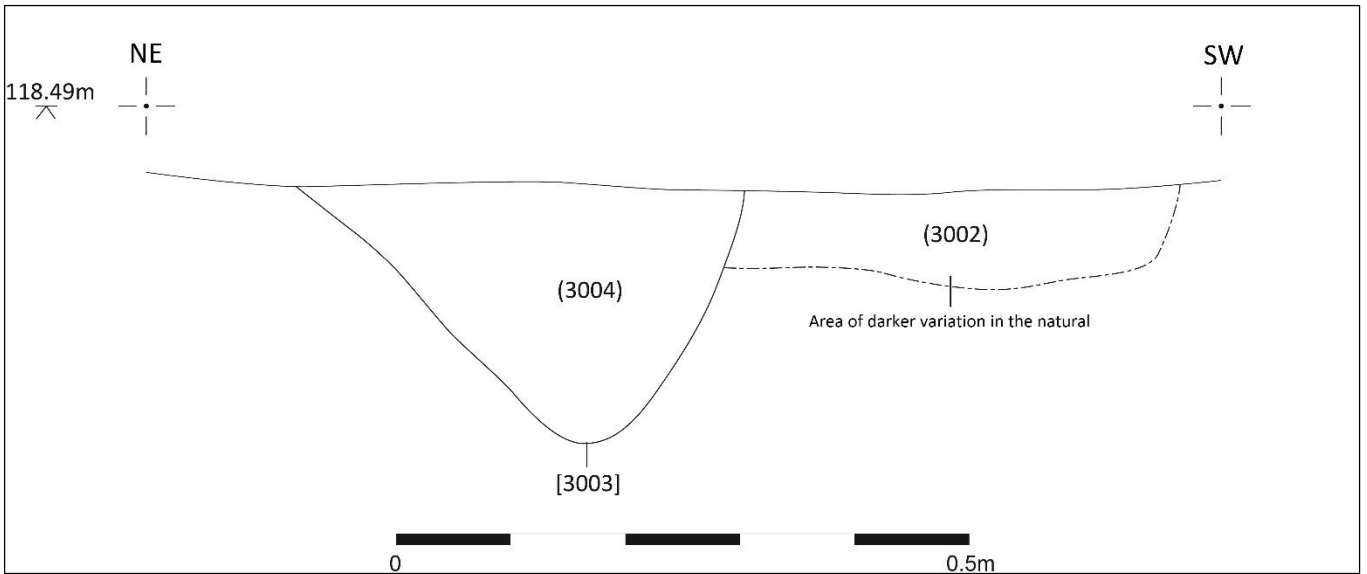


Fig. 7: NE-facing section of Ditch [3003].

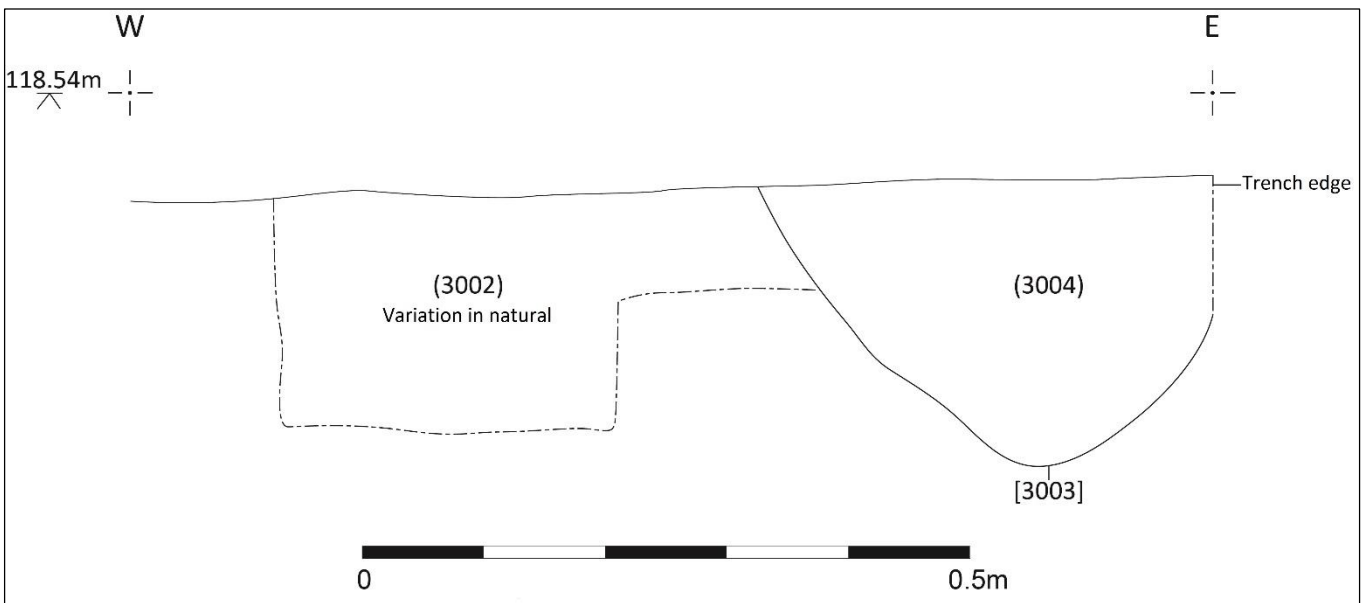


Fig. 8: S-facing section of Ditch [3003]

Examination of aerial photographic records and historic mapping indicates that the ditch does not appear to cut the ridge-and-furrow, suggesting it would have been a field boundary drainage ditch predating the Inclosure Act.

Overlaying (3004) and the natural deposit (3002) was the churned, re-deposited natural deposit 'subsoil' (3001), which was seen throughout the site (same as (1001), (2001), (4001), (5001), (6001), (7001), (8001), (9001), (10001), (11001) (12001), (13001) and (14001)). This layer appears to have formed prior to the possible medieval, ridge-and-furrow and could be assigned to earlier periods of cultivation and tillage.

Cutting through the natural (3002) and re-deposited natural (3001) were three furrows (master no. [001] for the cut of the feature, with fill (002) as the fill), which were part of the open-field system present in all trenches and visible on aerial photographs.

Capping (3001) and (002) was the topsoil (3000), a dark grey brown clayey loam plough soil (now used as a pasture field). Plough scars were visible with an approximate NE/SW orientation throughout the interface of the topsoil (3000) and 'subsoil' (3001).

5.9 Trench 4



Plate 6: View E along Trench 4

Location		Dimensions	
Orientation	E-W	Length	30m
East end	484552.978E / 229308.978N	Width	1.80m
West end	484523.003E / 229308.982N	Depth	E end: 0.40m W end: 0.38m
Levels			
East end top	118.92m OD		
West end top	119.405m OD		

5.10 Results

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Dating
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(4000)	Layer	Plough soil, now pasture	Firm, dark greyish-brown clayey loam, moderate small–medium angular & sub-rounded stones, occasional flecks & small lumps of chalk, rare charcoal. Extending length and width of easement, average depth 0.23m.						Modern
2	(4001)	Layer	Subsoil, churned, re-deposited Natural	Compact, mid-beige silty clay, frequent flecks & small lumps of chalk, moderate small–medium sub-rounded & angular stones. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.17m.						Medieval
3	(4002)	Layer	Natural	Compact, pale beige silty clay, moderate small-large sub-rounded & angular stones, frequent flecks & small–medium lumps of chalk. Extending length & width of easement, average depth >0.01m.						N/A

5.10.1 Discussion

A superficial geological deposit consisting of pale beige silty clay (4002) was encountered at an average depth of 118.76m OD below ground level.

Overlaying this natural deposit was the churned, re-deposited natural deposit 'subsoil' (4001), which was seen throughout the site (same as (1001), (2001), (3001), (5001), (6001), (7001), (8001), (9001), (10001), (11001) (12001), (13001) and (14001)). This layer appears to have formed prior to the construction of the possible medieval ridge-and-furrow and could be assigned to earlier periods of cultivation of the land.

Cutting through the natural (4002) and re-deposited natural (4001) were two furrows (master no. [001] for the cut of the feature, with fill (002) as the fill), which were part of the open-field system present in all trenches and visible on aerial photographs.

Capping (4001) and (002) was the topsoil (4000), a dark grey brown clayey loam plough soil (now used as a pasture field). Plough scars were visible with an approximate NE/SW orientation throughout the interface of the topsoil (4000) and 'subsoil' (4001).

No finds were recovered within this trench.

5.11 Trench 5



Plate 7: View S along Trench 5

Location		Dimensions	
Orientation	N-S	Length	30m
North end	484563.949E / 229316.995N	Width	1.80m
South end	484563.976E / 229287.021N	Depth	N end: 0.38m S end: 0.48m
Levels			
North end top	118.77m OD		
South end top	118.70m OD		

5.12 Results

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Dating
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(5000)	Layer	Plough soil, now pasture field	Firm, dark grey brown clayey loam, moderate small-medium angular & sub-rounded stones, occasional flecks & small lumps of chalk, rare charcoal. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.26m.						Modern
2	(5001)	Layer	Subsoil, churned, re-deposited Natural	Compact, mid-beige silty clay, frequent flecks & small lumps of chalk, moderate small-medium, sub-rounded & angular stones. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.22m.						Medieval?
3	(5002)	Layer	Natural	Compact, pale beige silty clay, moderate small-large sub-rounded & angular stones, frequent flecks & small-medium lumps of chalk. Extending length & width of easement, average depth >0.01m.						N/A

5.12.1 Discussion

A superficial geological deposit consisting of pale beige silty clay (5002) was encountered at an average depth of 118.35m OD below ground level.

Overlaying this natural deposit was the churned, re-deposited natural deposit 'subsoil' (5001), which was seen throughout the site (same as (1001), (2001), (3001), (4001), (6001), (7001), (8001), (9001), (10001), (11001) (12001), (13001) and (14001)). This layer appears to have formed prior to the construction of the possible medieval ridge-and-furrow and could be assigned to earlier periods of cultivation.

The natural (5002) and re-deposited natural (5001) were truncated by three furrows, with a possible fourth faint furrow towards the N end of the trench (master no. [001] for the cut of the feature, with fill (002) as the fill), which were part of the open-field system present in all trenches and visible on aerial photographic records.

Capping (5001) and (002) was the topsoil (5000), a dark grey brown clayey loam plough soil (now used as a pasture field). Plough scars were visible with an approximate NE/SW orientation throughout the interface of the topsoil (5000) and 'subsoil' (5001).

No finds were recovered within this trench.

5.13 Trench 6



Plate 8: View NE along Trench 6

Location		Dimensions	
Orientation	NE-SW	Length	30m
Northeast end	484469.032 / 229359.978N	Width	1.80m
Southwest end	484445.996E / 229342.045N	Depth	NE end: 0.35m SW end: 0.38m
Levels			
Northeast end top	118.77m OD		
Southwest end top	118.64m OD		

5.14 Results

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Dating
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(6000)	Layer	Plough soil, now pasture field	Firm, dark greyish-brown clayey loam, moderate small-medium angular & sub-rounded stones, occasional flecks & small lumps of chalk, rare charcoal. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.24m.						Modern
2	(6001)	Layer	Subsoil, churned, re-deposited Natural	Compact, mid-beige silty clay, frequent flecks & small lumps of chalk, moderate small-medium, sub-rounded & angular stones. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.11m.						Medieval?
3	(6002)	Layer	Natural	Compact, pale beige silty clay, moderate small-large sub-rounded & angular stones, frequent flecks & small-medium lumps of chalk. Extending length & width of easement, average depth >0.01m.						N/A

5.14.1 Discussion

A superficial geological deposit consisting of pale beige silty clay (6002) was encountered at an average depth of 118.39m OD below ground level.

Overlaying this natural deposit was the churned, re-deposited Natural deposit 'subsoil' (6001), which was seen throughout the site (same as (1001), (2001), (3001), (4001), (5001), (7001), (8001), (9001), (10001), (11001) (12001), (13001) and (14001)). This layer appears to have formed prior to the construction of the possible medieval ridge-and-furrow and could be assigned to earlier periods of cultivating and tillage of the land.

Natural (6002) and re-deposited natural (6001) were truncated by three furrows (master no. [001] for the cut of the feature, with fill (002) as the fill), which were part of the open-field system present in all trenches and visible on aerial photographic records.

Located 3.70m from the SW end along the NW edge of the trench, a modern N/S linear was encountered truncating the 'subsoil' (6001) and natural (6002).

Capping (6001) and (002) was the topsoil (6000), a dark grey brown clayey loam plough soil (now used as a pasture field). Plough scars were visible with an approximate NE/SW orientation throughout the interface of the topsoil (6000) and 'subsoil' (6001).

No finds were recovered within this trench.

5.15 Trench 7



Plate 9: View SE along Trench 7

Location		Dimensions	
Orientation	NW–SE	Length	30m
Northwest end	484482.034E / 229327.009N	Width	1.80m
Southeast end	484506.027E / 229306.967N	Depth	NW end: 0.42m SE end: 0.35m
Levels			
Northwest end top	119.449m OD		
Southeast end top	119.575m OD		

5.16 Results

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Dating
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(7000)	Layer	Plough soil. now pasture field	Firm, dark greyish-brown clayey loam, moderate small-medium angular & sub-rounded stones, occasional flecks & small lumps of chalk, rare charcoal. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.25m.						Modern
2	(7001)	Layer	Subsoil, churned, re-deposited Natural	Compact, mid-beige silty clay, frequent flecks & small lumps of chalk, moderate small-medium, sub-rounded & angular stones. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.17m.						Medieval?
3	(7002)	Layer	Natural	Compact, pale beige silty clay, moderate small-large sub-rounded & angular stones, frequent flecks & small-medium lumps of chalk. Extending length & width of easement, average depth >0.01m.						N/A
4	[7003]	Cut	Hedgerow? Feature continues beyond limit of excavation, only	Irregular semi-circular in plan (as visible); aligned NE/SW (?); base and sides irregular (frequent rooting). Dimensions 0.35m × 0.60m × 0.07m. Associated with Ditch [7005]?						Undated

			semi-circular, possible linear feature terminus visible.							
5	(7004)	Deposit	Single fill of Hedgerow (?) [7003]	Firm, pale beige brown slightly silty clay, frequent flecks & small lumps of chalk, & rare small stones. Dimensions >0.36m × 0.60m × 0.07m.					<001>	Undated
6	[7005]	Cut	Possible drainage ditch feature	Linear plan; aligned NE/SW; break of slope top sharp, sides steeply sloping (V-shape profile), base slightly concave. Dimensions >1.80m x 1.48m x 0.53m. Same as [3003]						Undated
7	(7006)	Deposit	Primary fill of [7005]	Firm, mid beige brown slightly silty clay, moderate flecks & small lumps of chalk, occasional small-medium angular stones & pea gravels. Dimensions >0.52m × 0.80m × 0.01–0.15m.					<002>	Undated
8	(7007)	Deposit	Secondary fill of [7005]	Firm, dark beige brown silty clay, rare flecks & small lumps of chalk, occasional small angular stones, rare gravels. Dimensions >0.52m × 1.48m × 0.42m.						Undated
9	[7008]	Cut	Shallow pit-like feature, probable tree bowl	Semi-circular in plan; break of slope top moderate, sides irregular, base irregular (representing rooting). Dimensions 2.55m × >0.84m × 0.48m.						N/A

10	(7009)	Deposit	Single fill of Tree Bowl [7008]	Firm, mid-beige brown slightly silty clay, frequent flecks & small lumps of chalk, occasional small angular & sub-rounded stones. Dimensions 2.55m x >0.84m x 0.48m.					<003>	N/A
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5.16.1 Discussion

A superficial geological deposit consisting of pale beige silty clay (7002) was encountered at an average depth of 118.39m OD below ground level.

Overlying this natural deposit was the churned, re-deposited natural deposit 'subsoil' (7001), which was seen throughout the site (same as (1001), (2001), (3001), (4001), (5001), (6001), (8001), (9001), (10001), (11001) (12001), (13001) and (14001)). This layer appears to have formed prior to the construction of the possible medieval, ridge-and-furrow and could be assigned to earlier periods of cultivating and tillage of the land.

At the SE end of the trench (*Plate 10; fig. 9*) the natural (7002) and 'subsoil' (7001) was truncated by three features: ditch [7005], possible hedgerow [7003] and tree bowl [7008].



Plate 10: General view of SE end of Trench 7, showing [7003], [7005] and [7008]. View S.

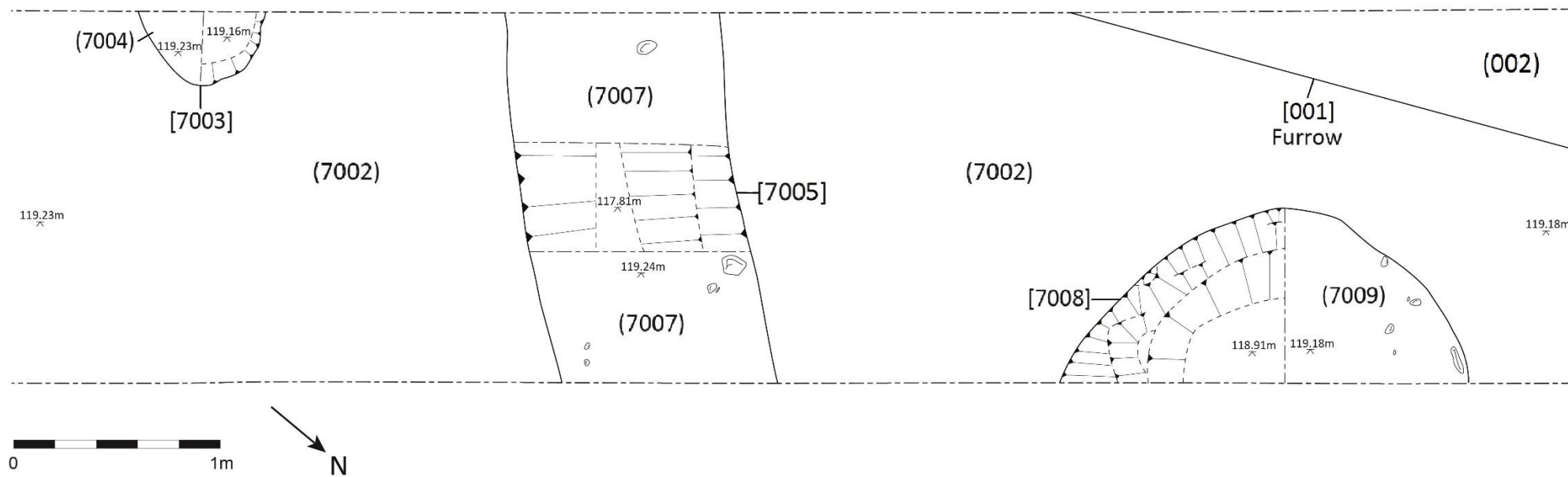


Fig. 9: Plan of SE end of Trench 7

Cutting the natural geology was NE–SW linear [7005], located 6.10m from the SE end of the trench (*Plates 10 & 11; fig. 9*). It had a V-shape profile and concave base with a single fill of mid-grey brown silty clay (3004) (*figs. 10 & 11*) and could be seen to cut the ‘subsoil’ layer (7001) in the NE -and SW -facing trench baulks.

In plan, the ditch appears to be aligned with ditch [3003] in Trench 3 and ditch [13003] in Trench 13. Potentially, this ditch predated the possible medieval ridge-and-furrow within the field; however, no finds were identified associated with the feature and no relationship between the furrows and ditch could be established in excavation to determine this.

The aerial photographic records in conjunction with the historic map evidence suggest the ditch does not cut the ridge-and-furrow, suggesting a field boundary drainage ditch predating the field Inclosure Act.



Plate 11: SW -facing section of ditch [7005]

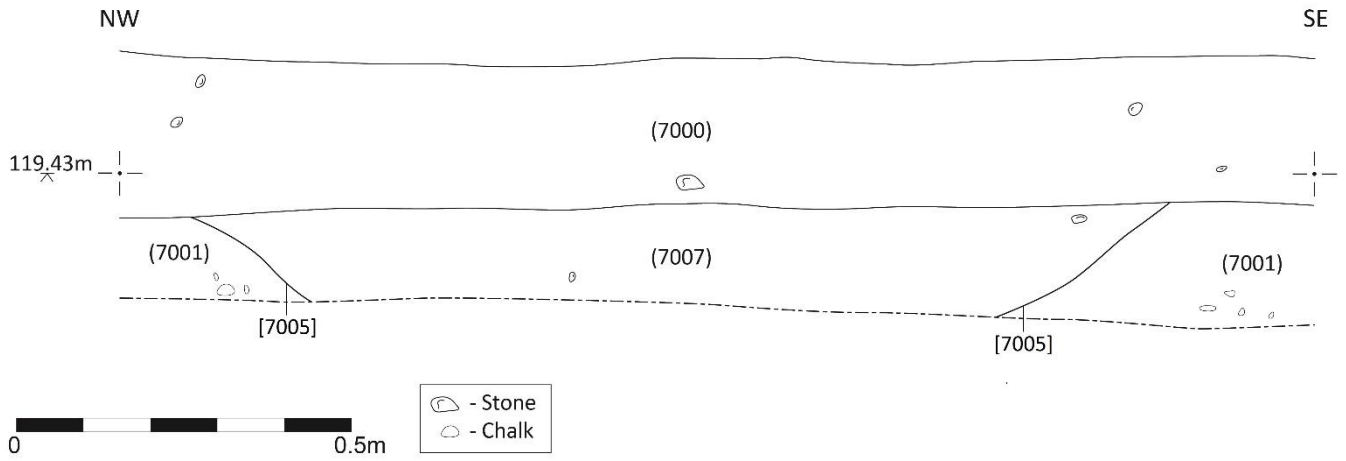


Fig 10: SW-facing section of ditch [7005], within the trench bank.

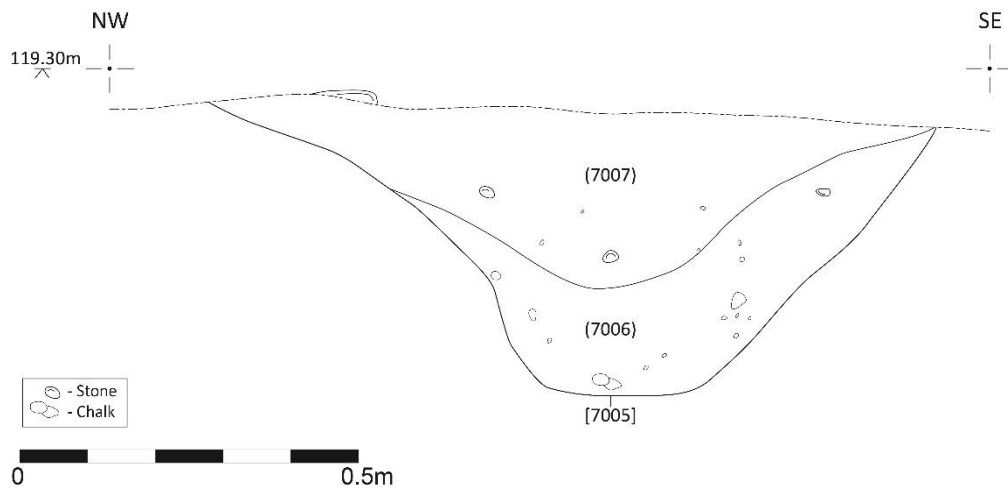


Fig 11: SW-facing section of ditch [7005]

Cutting the natural geology was a very shallow feature [7003], located 1.06m SE of ditch [7005] (*Plates 10 & 12; figs. 9 & 12*). It had an irregular profile and base, indicative of rooting, with a single fill of pale beige brown, slightly silty clay (7004) and could be seen to cut the 'subsoil' layer (7001) in the NE -facing trench baulk.

It seems conceivable that the feature was a hedgerow and possibly associated with the adjacent ditch [7005]; however, only a small proportion of the feature was visible and its nature could not be clearly determined.



Plate 12: Possible hedgerow [7003]. View SW

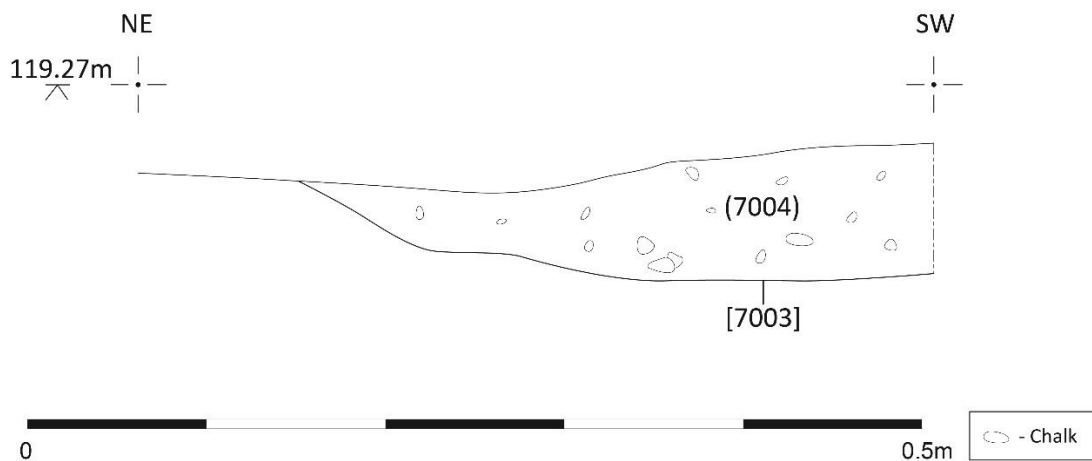


Fig. 12: NW-facing section of possible hedgerow [7003]

Truncating the natural geology (7002) and 'subsoil' layer (7001) was tree bowl [7008], located 1.38m NW of ditch [7005] (*Plates 10 & 13; figs. 9, 13 & 14*). The feature, as seen, revealed a semi-circular plan and continued NE, beyond the limit of excavation, it had an irregular shape profile and irregular base, indicative of rooting, with a single fill of mid-beige brown, slightly silty clay (7009).



Plate 13: Tree bowl [7008]. View to the NE

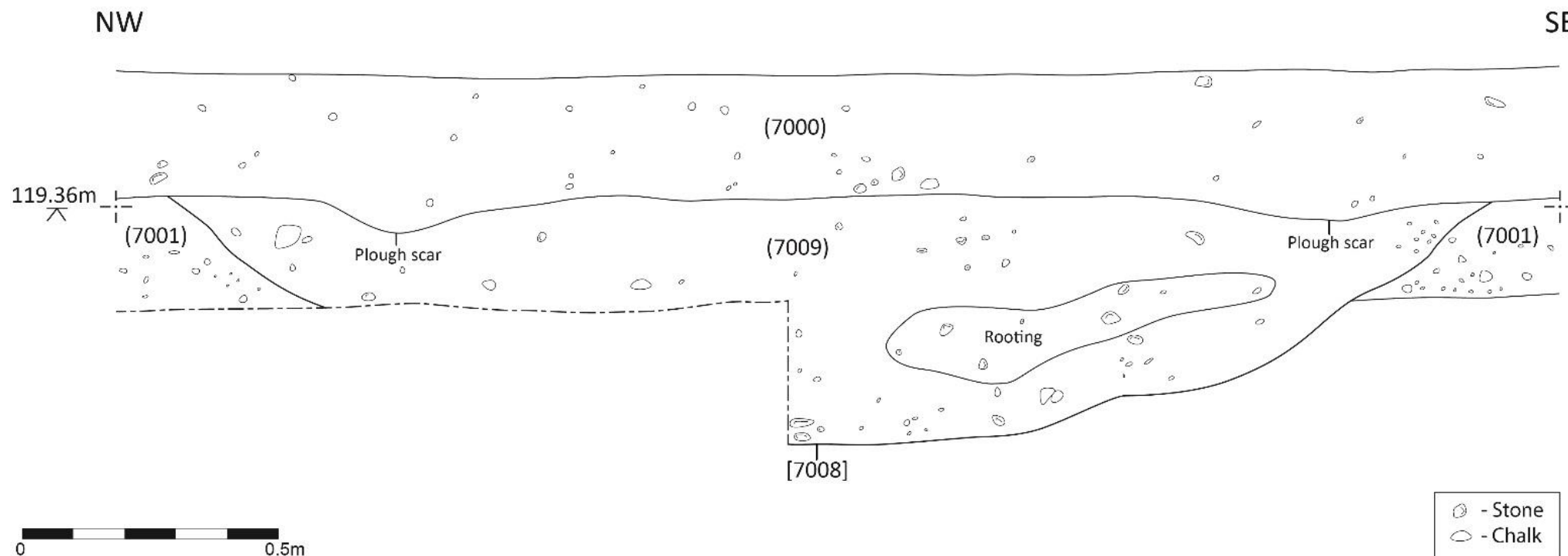


Fig. 13: SW -facing section of tree bowl [7008].

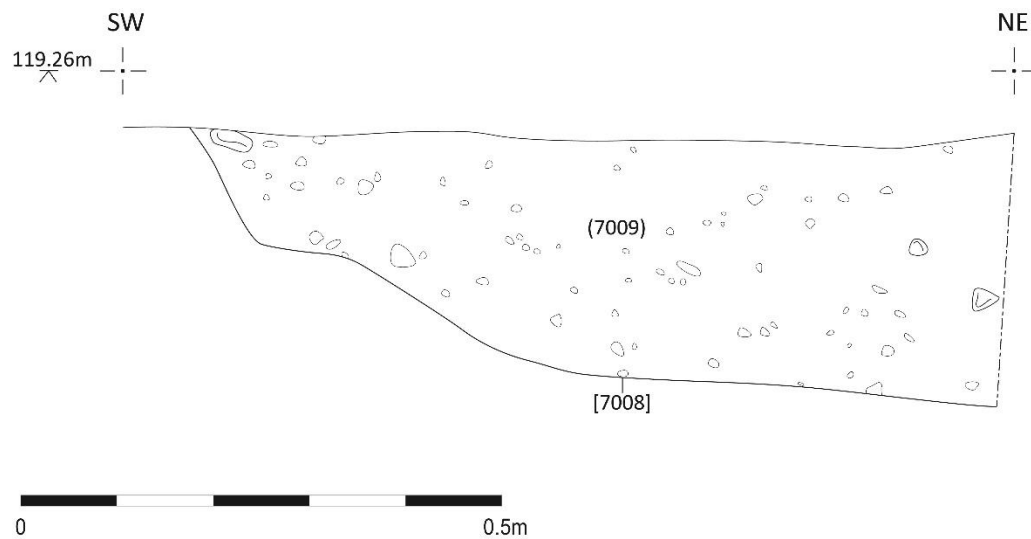


Fig. 14: SE facing section of tree bowl [7008]

Natural (7002) and re-deposited natural (7001) were truncated by two furrows (master no. [001] for the cut of the feature, with fill (002) as the fill), which were part of the open-field system present in all trenches and visible on aerial photographs.

Capping (7001), (7004), (7007), (7009) and (002) was the topsoil (7000), a dark grey brown clayey loam plough soil (now used as a pasture field). Plough scars were visible with an approximate NE/SW orientation throughout the interface of the topsoil (7000) and 'subsoil' (7001).

No finds were recovered within this trench.

5.17 Trench 8



Plate 14: View NE along Trench 8

Location		Dimensions	
Orientation	NE–SW	Length	30m
Northeast end	484527.967E / 229297.938N	Width	1.80m
Southwest end	484502.959E / 229281.034N	Depth	NE end: 0.40m SW end: 0.38m
Levels			
Northeast end top	119.351m OD		
Southwest end top	119.77m OD		

5.18 Results

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Dating
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(8000)	Layer	Plough soil, now pasture field	Firm, dark grey brown clayey loam, moderate small–medium angular & sub-rounded stones, occasional flecks & small lumps of chalk, rare charcoal. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.27m.						Modern
2	(8001)	Layer	Subsoil, churned, re-deposited Natural	Compact, mid-beige silty clay, frequent flecks & small lumps of chalk, moderate small–medium, sub-rounded & angular stones. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.11m.						Medieval?
3	(8002)	Layer	Natural	Compact, pale beige silty clay, moderate small-large sub-rounded & angular stones, frequent flecks & small–medium lumps of chalk. Extending length & width of easement, average depth >0.01m.						N/A
4	[8003]	Cut	Ditch	Linear; aligned NW/SE, break of slope top sharp, sides near vertical (near U-shape profile), base flat. Possible drainage ditch. Dimensions >2.14m × 0.44m × 0.28m.						Undated
5	(8004)	Deposit	Single fill of Ditch [8003]	Moderately compacted dark yellow-grey-brown slightly silty clay, moderate angular stones & flint, & occasional charcoal. Dimensions >2.14m × 0.44m × 0.28m.					<005>	Undated

5.18.1 Discussion

A superficial geological deposit consisting of pale beige silty clay (8002) was encountered at an average depth of 119.16m OD below ground level.

Truncating (8002) was linear ditch [8003], orientated NW/SE and located 13.53m from the NE end of the trench (*Plate 15; fig. 15*). It had an almost U-shape profile with a flat base, containing a single fill (8004), consisting of a dark yellow-grey-brown slightly silty clay (*fig. 16*). As this feature was sealed by layer (8001) it predated the period of possible medieval ridge-and-furrow and may represent a drainage ditch associated with an earlier phase of land management.



Plate 15: Ditch [8003]. View to the SE

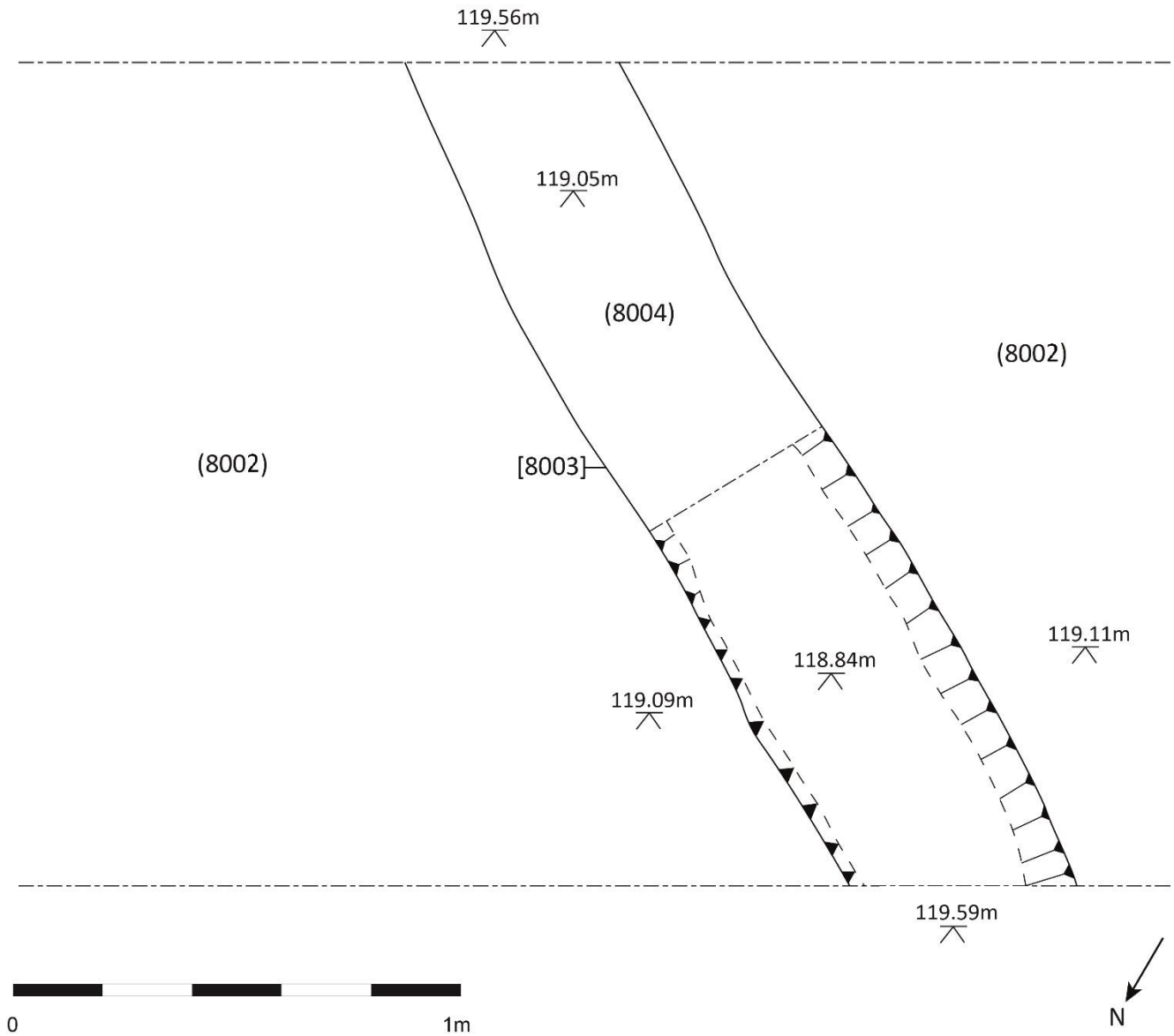


Fig. 15: Plan of ditch [8003] in Trench 8

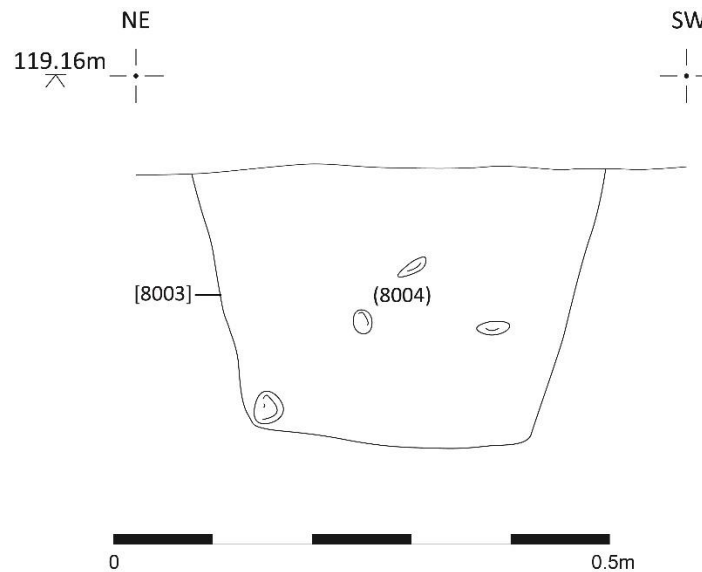


Fig. 16: NW-facing section of ditch [8003]

Overlaying the natural deposit and (8004) was the churned, re-deposited Natural deposit 'subsoil' (8001), which was seen throughout the site (same as (1001), (2001), (3001), (4001), (5001), (6001), (7001), (9001), (10001), (11001) (12001), (13001) and (14001)). This layer appears to have formed prior to the construction of the possible medieval ridge-and-furrow and could be assigned to earlier periods of cultivation activity.

Natural (8002) and re-deposited natural (8001) were truncated by three furrows and one possible faint furrow at the NE end (master no. [001] for the cut of the feature, with fill (002) as the fill), which were part of the open-field system present in all trenches.

Capping (8001) and (002) was the topsoil (8000), a dark grey brown clayey loam plough soil (now used as a pasture field). Plough scars were visible with an approximate NE/SW orientation throughout the interface of the topsoil (8000) and 'subsoil' (8001).

No finds were recovered within this trench.

5.19 Trench 9



Plate 16: View E along Trench 9

Location		Dimensions	
Orientation	E–W	Length	30m
East end	484543.994E / 229269.023N	Width	1.80m
West end	484513.964E / 229268.975N	Depth	E end: 0.66m W end: 0.50m
Levels			
East end top	119.132m OD		
West end top	119.58m OD		

5.20 Results

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Dating
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(9000)	Layer	Plough soil, now pasture field	Firm, dark grey brown clayey loam, moderate small–medium angular & sub-rounded stones, occasional flecks & small lumps of chalk, rare charcoal. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.17m.						Modern
2	(9001)	Layer	Subsoil, churned, re-deposited Natural	Compact, mid-beige silty clay, frequent flecks & small lumps of chalk, moderate small–medium, sub-rounded & angular stones. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.26m.						Medieval?
3	(9002)	Layer	Natural	Compact, pale beige silty clay, moderate small-large sub-rounded & angular stones, frequent flecks & small–medium lumps of chalk. Extending length & width of easement, average depth >0.01m.						N/A

5.20.1 Discussion

A superficial geological deposit consisting of pale beige silty clay (9002) was encountered at an average depth of 118.78m OD below ground level.

Overlaying this natural deposit was the churned, re-deposited Natural deposit 'subsoil' (9001), which was seen throughout the site (same as (1001), (2001), (3001), (4001), (5001), (6001), (7001), (8001), (10001), (11001) (12001), (13001) and (14001)). This layer appears to have formed prior to the construction of the possible medieval ridge-and-furrow and may represent earlier cultivation activity.

Cutting through the natural (9002) and re-deposited natural (9001) were three furrows (master no. [001] for the cut of the feature, with fill (002) as the fill), which were part of the open-field system present in all trenches and visible on aerial photographs.

Capping (9001) and (002) was the topsoil (9000), a dark grey brown clayey loam plough soil (now used as a pasture field). Plough scars were visible with an approximate NE/SW orientation throughout the interface of the topsoil (9000) and 'subsoil' (9001).

No finds were recovered within this trench.

5.21 Trench 10



Plate 17: View SSW along Trench 10

Location		Dimensions	
Orientation	NNE–SSW	Length	30m
NNE end	484409.971E / 229336.981N	Width	1.80m
SSW end	484406.032E / 229306.043N	Depth	NNE end: 0.76m SSW end: 0.47m
Levels			
NNE end top	117.42m OD		
SSW end top	117.94m OD		

5.22 Results

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Dating
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(10000)	Layer	Plough soil, now pasture field	Firm, dark grey brown clayey loam, moderate small-medium angular & sub-rounded stones, occasional flecks & small lumps of chalk, rare charcoal. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.21m.						Modern
2	(10001)	Layer	Subsoil, churned, re-deposited Natural	Compact, mid-beige silty clay, frequent flecks & small lumps of chalk, moderate small-medium, sub-rounded & angular stones. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.32m.						Medieval?
3	(10002)	Layer	Natural	Compact, pale beige silty clay, moderate small-large sub-rounded & angular stones, frequent flecks & small-medium lumps of chalk. Extending length & width of easement, average depth >0.19m.						N/A

5.22.1 Discussion

A superficial geological deposit consisting of pale beige silty clay (10002) was encountered at an average depth of 117.25m OD below ground level.

Overlying this natural deposit was the churned, re-deposited natural deposit 'subsoil' (10001), which was seen throughout the site (same as (1001), (2001), (3001), (4001), (5001), (6001), (7001), (8001), (9001), (11001) (12001), (13001) and (14001)). This layer appears to have formed prior to the development of the possible medieval ridge-and-furrow and could be assigned to earlier periods of cultivating and tillage.

Cutting through the natural (10002) and re-deposited natural (10001) were three furrows (master no. [001] for the cut of the feature, with fill (002) as the fill), forming part of the open-field system present in all trenches.

Capping (10001) and (002) was the topsoil (10000), a dark grey brown clayey loam plough soil (now used as a pasture field). Plough scars were visible with an approximate NE/SW orientation throughout the interface of the topsoil (10000) and 'subsoil' (10001).

No finds were recovered within this trench.

5.23 Trench 11



Plate 18: View E along Trench 11

Location		Dimensions	
Orientation	E-W	Length	30m
East end	484453.005E / 229312.02N	Width	1.80m
West end	484422.998E / 229311.964N	Depth	E end: 0.62m W end: 0.67m
Levels			
East end top	119.335m OD		
West end top	118.54m OD		

5.24 Results

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Dating
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(11000)	Layer	Plough soil, now pasture	Firm, dark grey brown clayey loam, moderate small–medium angular & sub-rounded stones, occasional flecks & small lumps of chalk, rare charcoal. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.19m.						Modern
2	(11001)	Layer	Subsoil, churned, re-deposited Natural	Compact, mid-beige silty clay, with frequent flecks & small lumps of chalk, moderate small–medium, sub-rounded & angular stones. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.32m.						Medieval?
3	(11002)	Layer	Natural	Compact, pale beige silty clay, moderate small-large sub-rounded & angular stones, frequent flecks & small–medium lumps of chalk. Extending length & width of easement, average depth >0.13m.						N/A

5.24.1 Discussion

A superficial geological deposit consisting of pale beige silty clay (11002) was encountered at an average depth of 118.42m OD below ground level.

Overlaying this natural deposit was the churned, re-deposited natural deposit 'subsoil' (11001), which was seen throughout the site (same as (1001), (2001), (3001), (4001), (5001), (6001), (7001), (8001), (9001), (10001) (12001), (13001) and (14001)) and which appears to have formed prior to the possible medieval ridge-and-furrow features and could be assigned to earlier periods of cultivation.

Cutting through the natural (11002) and re-deposited natural (11001) were three furrows (master no. [001] for the cut of the feature, with fill (002) as the fill), forming part of the open-field system present in all trenches and visible on the aerial photography.

Capping (11001) and (002) was the topsoil (11000), a dark grey brown clayey loam plough soil (now comprising pasture). Plough scars were visible with an approximate NE/SW orientation throughout the interface of the topsoil (11000) and 'subsoil' (11001).

No finds were recovered within this trench.

5.25 Trench 12



Plate 19: View SSW along Trench 12

Location		Dimensions	
Orientation	NNE–SSW	Length	30m
NNE end	484451.081E / 229286.995N	Width	1.80m
SSW end	484451.039E / 229257.021N	Depth	NNE end: 0.56m SSW end: 0.62m
Levels			
NNE end top	119.57m OD		
SSW end top	119.74m OD		

5.26 Results

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Dating
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(12000)	Layer	Plough soil, now pasture	Firm, dark grey brown clayey loam, moderate small–medium angular & sub-rounded stones, occasional flecks & small lumps of chalk, rare charcoal. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.27m.						Modern
2	(12001)	Layer	Subsoil, churned, re-deposited Natural	Compact, mid-beige silty clay, frequent flecks & small lumps of chalk, moderate small–medium, sub-rounded & angular stones. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.22m.						Medieval?
3	(12002)	Layer	Natural	Compact, pale beige silty clay, moderate small-large sub-rounded & angular stones, frequent flecks & small–medium lumps of chalk. Extending length & width of easement, average depth >0.13m.						N/A

5.26.1 Discussion

A superficial geological deposit consisting of pale beige silty clay (12002) was encountered at an average depth of 119.18m OD below ground level.

Overlaying this natural deposit was the churned, re-deposited Natural deposit 'subsoil' (12001), which was seen throughout the site (same as (1001), (2001), (3001), (4001), (5001), (6001), (7001), (8001), (9001), (10001) (11001), (13001) and (14001)), evidently forming prior to the development the ridge-and-furrow and could be assigned to earlier periods of cultivation activity.

Cutting through the natural (12002) and re-deposited natural (12001) were two furrows (master no. [001] for the cut of the feature, with fill (002) as the fill), which formed part of the open-field system present in all trenches.

Capping (12001) and (002) was the topsoil (12000), a dark grey brown clayey loam plough soil (now used as a pasture field). Plough scars were visible with an approximate NE/SW orientation throughout the interface of the topsoil (12000) and 'subsoil' (12001).

No finds were recovered within this trench.

5.27 Trench 13



Plate 20: View SE along Trench 13

Location		Dimensions	
Orientation	NW–SE	Length	30m
Northwest end	484475.997E / 229273.001N	Width	1.80m
Southeast end	484497.018E / 229248.991N	Depth	NW end: 0.53m SE end: 0.50m
Levels			
Northwest end top	119.968m OD		
Southeast end top	119.87m OD		

5.28 Results

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Dating
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(13000)	Layer	Plough soil, currently pasture	Firm, dark grey brown clayey loam, moderate small-medium angular & sub-rounded stones, occasional flecks & small lumps of chalk, rare charcoal. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.23m.						Modern
2	(13001)	Layer	Subsoil, churned, re-deposited Natural	Compact, mid-yellow brown silty clay, frequent flecks & small lumps of chalk, moderate small-medium, sub-rounded & angular stones. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.27m.						Medieval?
3	(13002)	Layer	Natural	Firm, light yellow white & yellow (mottled) silty clay, frequent flecks & pieces of chalk, moderate small-medium sub-rounded & angular stones & patches of sand. Extending length & width of easement, average depth >0.14m.						N/A
4	[13003]	Cut	Ditch - possible boundary feature, although function unclear	Linear; aligned NNE/SSW; break of slope top sharp, sides concave, break of slope base gradual, base concave (shallow semi-circular profile). Dimensions >2m x 0.55m x 0.32m.						Undated
5	(13004)	Deposit	Single fill of [13003]	Firm, light greyish brown silty clay, frequent small chalk flecks & small-medium stones & flints. Dimensions >2m x 0.55m x 0.32m.					<006>	Undated

6	[13005]	Cut	'Square' Pit	Square or rectangular in plan (as visible); break of slope top sharp, sides near vertical (stepped), break of slope base concave, base concave (near U-shape profile, undercut along SW edge). Dimensions 2.54m x >0.60m x 0.67m.						Undated
7	(13006)	Deposit	Single fill of [13005]	Firm, mid-orange/grey brown silty clay, occasional charcoal, moderate small stones & flints, chalk & sands. Dimensions 2.54m x >0.6m x 0.67m.					<007>	Undated

5.28.1 Discussion

A superficial geological deposit consisting of light yellow white and yellow (mottled) silty clay (13002) was encountered at an average depth 119.54m OD below ground level.

Truncating (13002) was pit [13005], located 6.70m from the SE end of the trench (*Plate 21; fig. 17*). Feature [13005] was a square or rectangular, vertical-sided and flat-based pit, with evidence of erosion at the base. It continued beyond the limit of excavation along the NE edge and its full extent and shape in plan were not discernable.

The single fill of mid-orange/grey brown silty clay (13006) was a result of natural silting and the gradual accumulation of deposition within the feature. The function of the pit is unclear, with no associated finds or material, suggesting that it was not intended for use either as a refuse or storage pit; as its overall dimensions are unknown, it remains unclear whether the feature was associated with extractive activity.

As it appeared to underlie the 'subsoil' layer and the horizon from which the ridge-and-furrow features were cut, the pit may be said to predate the use of the area for ridge-and-furrow cultivation and may represent an extraction pit associated an earlier phase of land use.



Plate 21: SW -facing section of pit [13005] in Trench 13

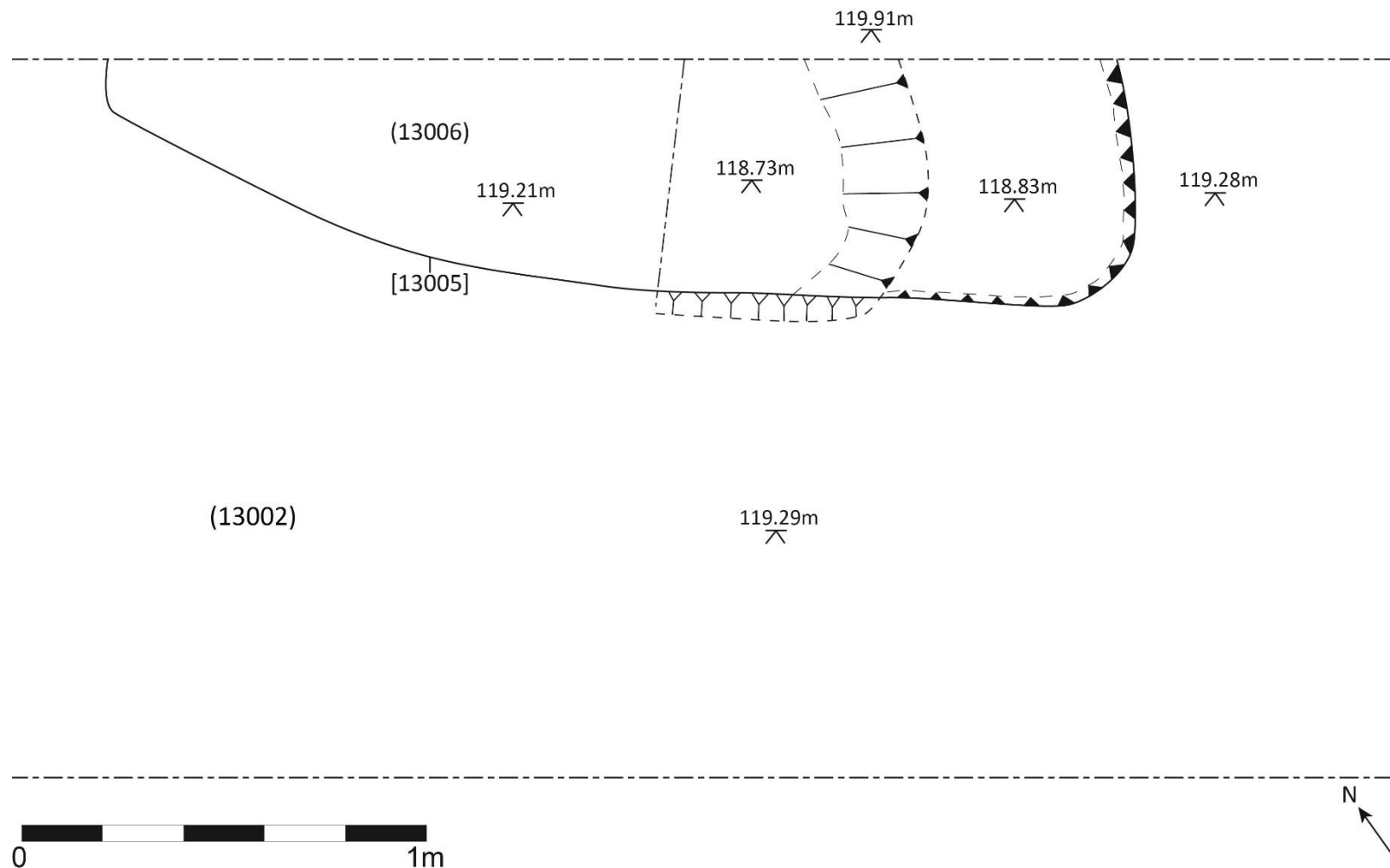


Fig. 17: Plan of pit [13005] at SE end of trench

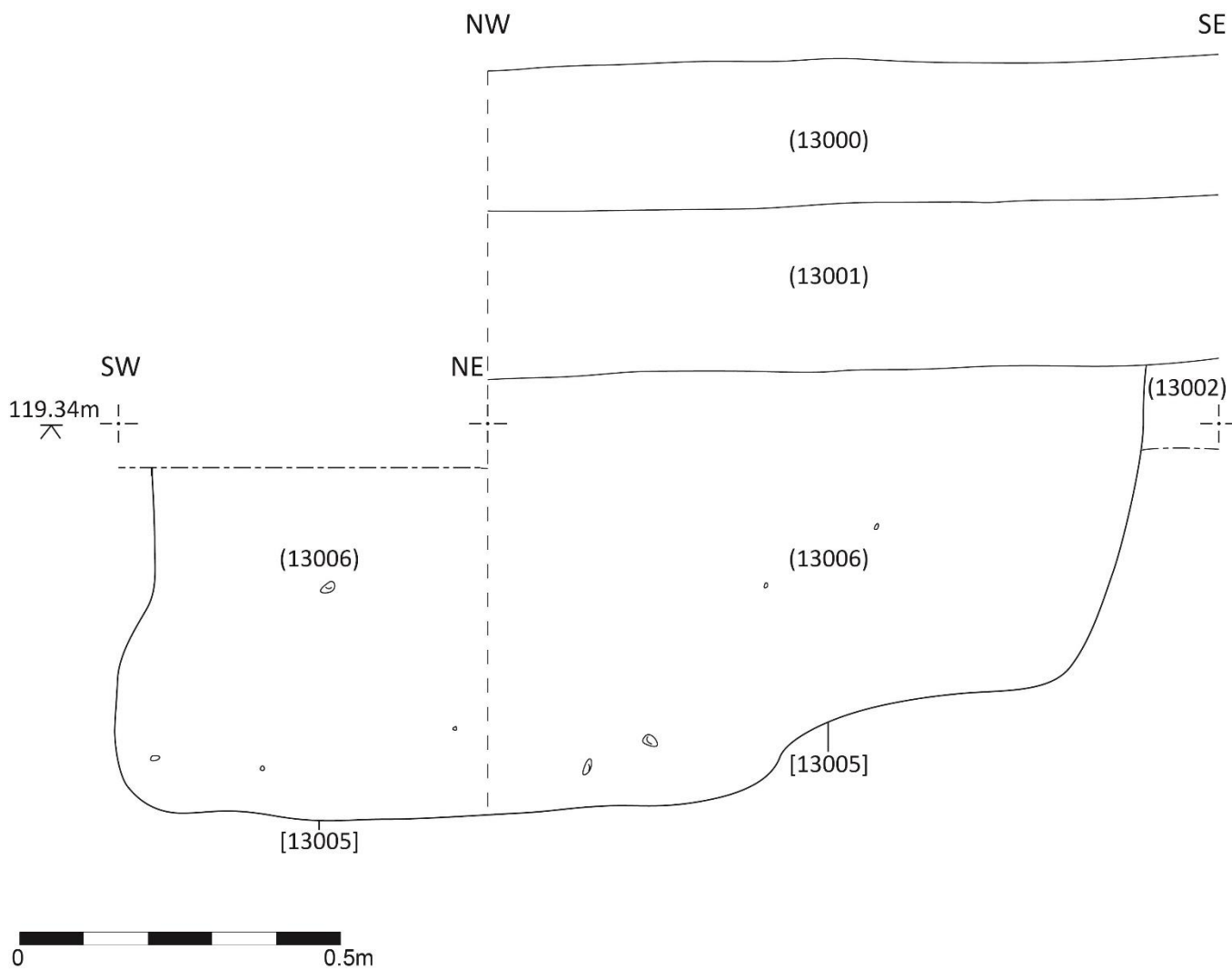


Fig. 18: SE -and SW -facing sections of [13005]

Truncating (13002) was NNE/SSW linear [13003], located 5m from the NW end of the trench (*Plate 22; fig. 19*). It revealed a semi-circular profile and concave base, with a single fill of light greyish-brown silty clay (13004) (*figs. 20 & 21*)

In plan, the ditch appeared to be aligned with ditch [3003] in Trench 3 and ditch [7005] in Trench 7; however, as the feature was sealed by 'subsoil' (13001), rather than cutting through it, as it does with [3003] and [7005], it must predate them. Its function is unclear, although the profile was not indicative of drainage. The feature could represent a boundary feature and is likely to be of agricultural origin, due to the lack of occupation material both in this and surrounding trenches.



Plate 22: NE-facing section of ditch [13003]

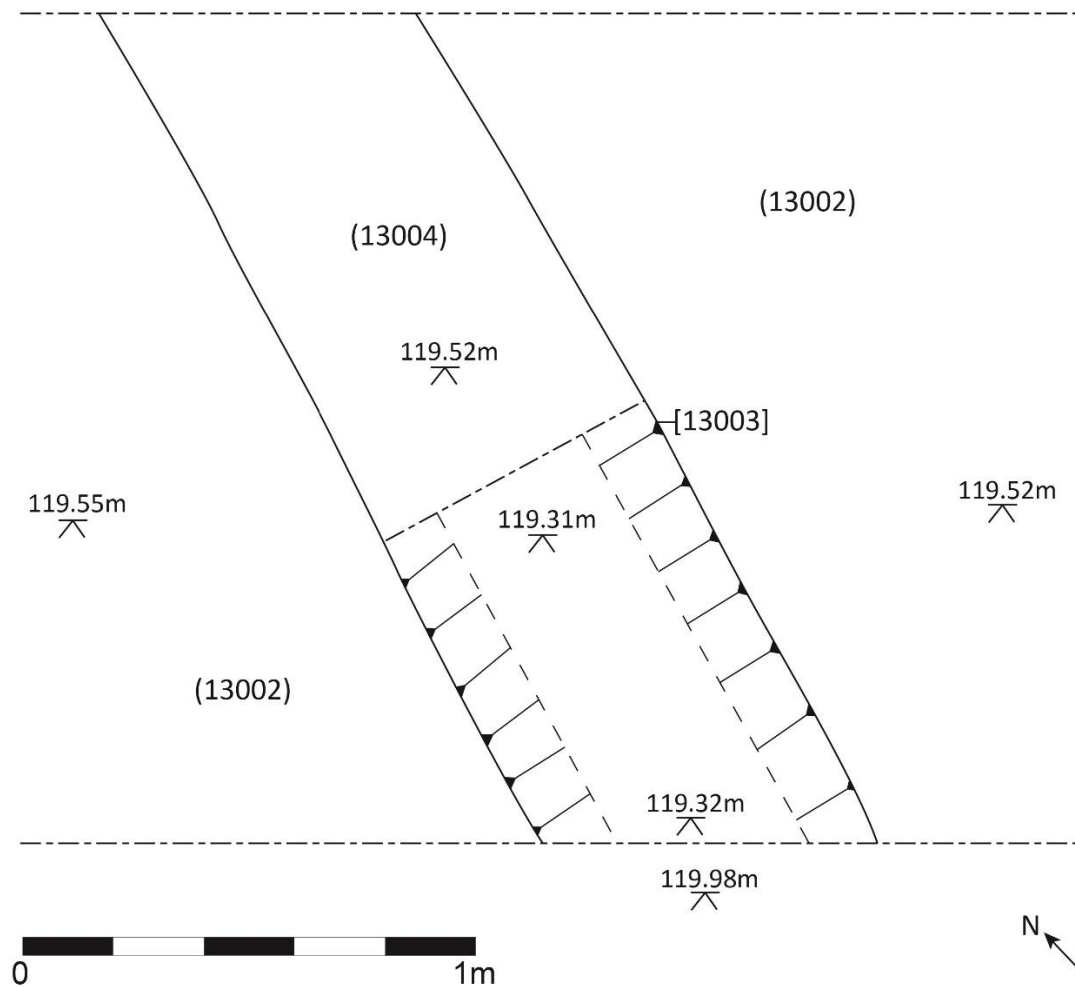


Fig. 19: Plan of ditch [13003] at NW end of the trench

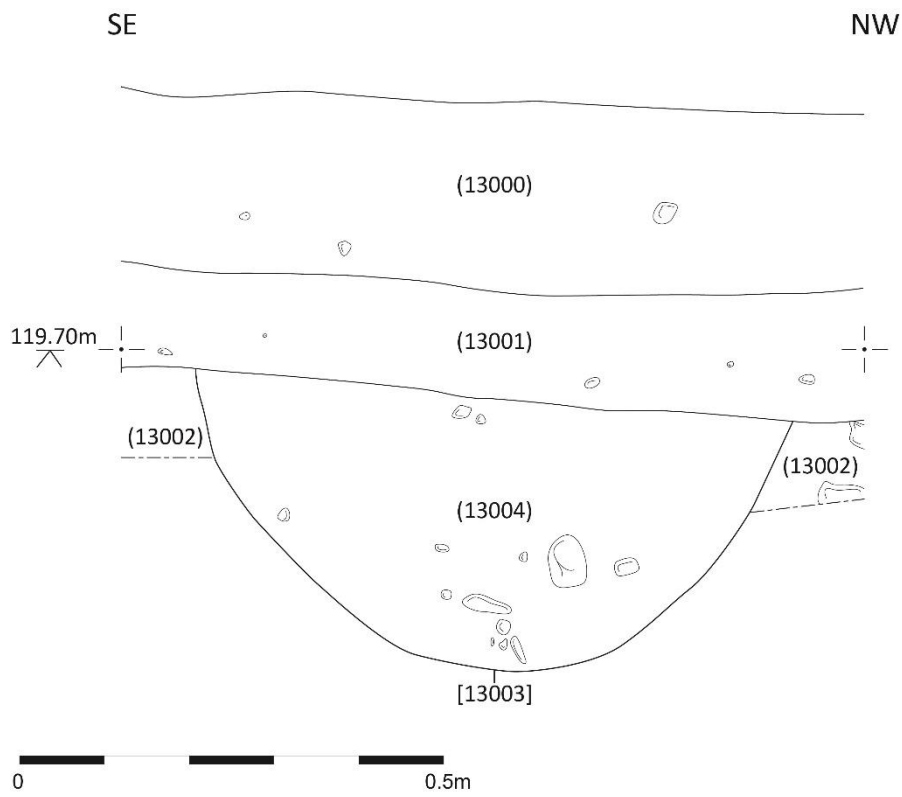


Fig. 20: NE-facing section of ditch [13003]

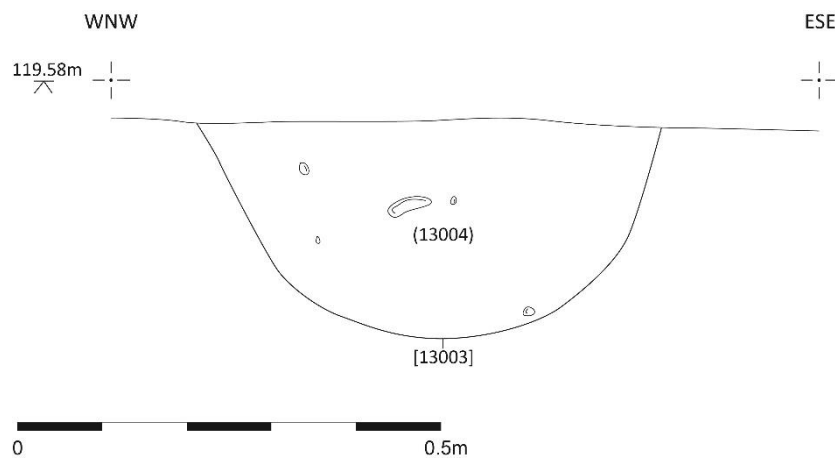


Fig. 21: SSW-facing true section of ditch [13003]

Overlying the natural (13002), (13006) and (13004) was the churned, re-deposited Natural deposit 'subsoil' (13001), which was seen throughout the site (same as (1001), (2001), (3001), (4001), (5001), (6001), (7001), (8001), (9001), (10001) (11001), (12001) and (14001)). This layer appears to have formed prior to the possible medieval ridge-and-furrow and could be assigned to earlier periods of cultivation.

Cutting through the natural (13002) and re-deposited natural (13001) were two furrows visible in the trenches NE and SW sections (master no. [001] for the cut of the feature, with fill (002) as the fill), which were part of the open-field system present in all trenches and visible on the aerial photography.

Capping (13001), (13006), (13004) and (002) was the topsoil (13000), a dark grey brown clayey loam plough soil (now pasture). Plough scars were visible with an approximate NE/SW orientation throughout the interface of the topsoil (13000) and 'subsoil' (13001).

No finds were recovered within this trench.

5.29 Trench 14



Plate 23: View E along Trench 14

Location		Dimensions	
Orientation	E-W	Length	30m
East end	484489.029E / 229226.028N	Width	1.80m
West end	484459.048E / 229225.979N	Depth	E end: 0.62m W end: 0.58m
Levels			
East end top	120.17m OD		
West end top	119.95m OD		

5.30 Results

Item	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Dating
					Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	(14000)	Layer	Plough soil, now pasture	Firm, dark grey brown clayey loam, moderate small-medium angular & sub-rounded stones, occasional flecks & small lumps of chalk, rare charcoal. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.20m.						Modern
2	(14001)	Layer	Subsoil, churned, re-deposited Natural	Compact, mid-beige silty clay, frequent flecks & small lumps of chalk, moderate small-medium, sub-rounded & angular stones. Extending length & width of easement, average depth 0.25m.						Medieval?
3	(14002)	Layer	Natural	Compact, pale beige silty clay, moderate small-large sub-rounded & angular stones, frequent flecks & small-medium lumps of chalk. Extending length & width of easement, average depth >0.17m.						N/A

5.30.1 Discussion

A superficial geological deposit consisting of pale beige silty clay (14002) was encountered at an average depth of 119.63m OD below ground level.

Overlaying this natural deposit was the churned, re-deposited Natural deposit 'subsoil' (14001), which was seen throughout the site (same as (1001), (2001), (3001), (4001), (5001), (6001), (7001), (8001), (9001), (10001) (11001), (12001) and (13001)). This layer appears to have formed prior to the construction of the possible medieval ridge-and-furrow and could be assigned to earlier periods of cultivating and tillage of the land.

Cutting through the natural (14002) and re-deposited natural (14001) were two furrows (master no. [001] for the cut of the feature, with fill (002) as the fill), which were part of the open-field system present in all trenches and visible on aerial photographs.

A single ceramic land drain was encountered 6.90m from the W end of the trench, orientated NE/SW. This land drain truncated the 'subsoil' (13001) and natural (13002).

Capping (14001) and (002) was the topsoil (14000), a dark grey brown clayey loam plough soil (now pasture). Plough scars were visible with an approximate NE/SW orientation throughout the interface of the topsoil (14000) and 'subsoil' (14001).

No finds were recovered within this trench.

6 Discussion

The evaluation trenching provided very little evidence of significant archaeological finds, features or deposits, the absence of associated occupation material suggesting an agricultural origin for each of the features encountered.

All trenches revealed evidence of extensive landscape change associated with two clear phases of agricultural activity, with a churned, re-deposited natural 'subsoil' seen across the site, together with additional land management features represented by ditches [3003], [7005] [8003] and [13003], reflecting a probable earlier phase of activity, which was subsequently overlain by ridge-and-furrow cultivation [001] associated with an open-field system which was established during the medieval period within a large common field known as 'Barway Furlong'. This field and the remaining open fields within the parish of Drayton Parslow was enclosed with the passing of an Inclosure Act in 1797.

The area thus appears to have been in agricultural use, at least since the medieval period, and has remained as enclosed agricultural land since the late 18th century. The plough scars and medieval system of furrows identified in all trenches suggest that any earlier archaeological features or deposits had been disturbed during successive phases of cultivation. The plough scars reached a depth of 119.30m OD and the presence of furrows may account for the lack of an adequate subsoil, with only reworked natural deposition present in all trenches.

By the late 19th /early 20th century (and quite possibly at an earlier date), the field containing the site had been subdivided and converted from arable land to pasture. No evidence was found to indicate that the Second World War signal station complex established at Prospect Farm extended northwards into the site.

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8 Bibliography

8.1 Primary Sources

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8.2 Secondary Sources

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8.3 Cartography

(All maps were obtained from the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, Aylesbury, unless otherwise stated)

1770: Thomas Jefferys' Map of Buckinghamshire

1798: Inclosure Award Map for Drayton Parslow parish (IR 107)

1813: Ordnance Survey drawing of Winslow and district (BL)

1825: Bryant's Map of Buckinghamshire

1880: OS 1st edition 25-inch map

1884: OS 1st edition 6-inch map

1899: OS 2nd edition 25-inch map

1900: OS 2nd edition 6-inch map

1924: OS 3rd edition 6-inch map

1934: Land Utilisation Survey map

1952: OS provisional edition 6-inch map

1978: OS 1:2500 map

1982: OS 1:10000 map

8.4 Aerial Photography

Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies

1947: RAF Vertical Photograph of Drayton Parslow (PHX/A/1/54)

UK Aerial Photographs 2015. [online] Available at: <http://www.ukaerialphotos.com/>. [Accessed 25 November 2015]

9 Appendices

Event/Mon UID	SMR Ref.	Name	NGR	Date
EBC 16856	N/A	59-61 Main Road building recording (2007)	SP 8420 2876	C19
MBC11433	0430200000	Drayton Parslow Parish	SP 85000 29000	Post-Medieval
MBC11719	0442800000	Three Horseshoes, Drayton Parslow Site of Bell Foundry	SP 83900 28500	C17 to C18
MBC11720	0442800001	Three Horseshoes, Drayton Parslow	SP 83900 28500	Undated
MBC11721	0442801000	Three Horseshoes, Drayton Parslow Site of Bell Foundry	SP 83900 28500	C17 to C18
MBC15607 DBC3599	1000500000	Chestnut Farmhouse, 42 Main Road (Grade II LB)	SP 84123 28664	C16 to C17
MBC15605 DBC2674	1000300000	65 Main Road (Grade II LB)	SP 84432 28826	C17 to C19
MBC15608 DBC 2675	1000600000	The Lower Farmhouse, Main Road (Grade II LB)	SP 84314 28760	C17 to C18
MBC3235	0107400000	Main Road, Drayton Parslow	SP 84070 28610	Medieval to Post-Medieval
MBC3236	0107400001	Main Road, Drayton Parslow	SP 84070 28610	Undated
MBC3237	0107401000	Main Road, Drayton Parslow	SP 84070 28610	C12 to C16
MBC3238	0107401001	Main Road, Drayton Parslow	SP 84070 28610	Undated
MBC3239	0107402000	Main Road, Drayton Parslow	SP 84070 28610	Medieval to Post-Medieval
MBC3257	0107800000	Drayton Crossroad Fm (SSE of)	SP 85200 29100	Undated
MBC24613	0934000000	Drayton Parslow village	SP 83984 28565	C11 to Post-Medieval
MBC25050	0955200000	59-61 Main Street, Drayton Parslow	SP 84208 28763	C19 to Modern
MBC25549	0979900000	Former Primitive Methodist Chapel	SP 84195 28786	C19
MBC26005	1363800000	5-15, Church End, Drayton Parslow	SP 83914 28530	C19 to Modern
MBC26006	1363900000	49, Main Road, Drayton Parslow	SP 84166 28780	C19 to Modern
MBC26007	1364000000	59-61, Main Road, Drayton Parslow	SP 84208 28763	C19 to Modern
MBC26008	1364100000	56, Main Road, Drayton Parslow	SP 84242 28756	C19 to Modern
MBC26009	1364200000	58, Main Road, Drayton Parslow	SP 84277 28760	C19 to Modern
MBC26010	1364300000	1-10, Main Road, Drayton Parslow	SP 83908 28499	C19 to Modern
MBC26011	1364400000	Drayton Parslow Methodist Church	SP 84094 28649	Modern
MBC26012	1364500000	The Mill, Drayton Parslow	SP 84205 28737	C19 to Modern
MBC26013	1364600000	The Lodge, Main Road, Drayton Parslow	SP 84375 28802	C19 to Modern
MBC26014	1364700000	1-5, Love Row, Drayton Parslow	SP 84610 28783	C19 to Modern
MBC26015	1364800000	Bargate, Drayton Parslow	SP 84208 28887	C19 to Modern
MBC26016	1364900000	1, Highway, Drayton Parslow	SP 84219 28777	C19 to Modern
MBC26017	1365000000	5, Highway, Drayton Parslow	SP 84217 28802	C19 to Modern

Event/Mon UID	SMR Ref.	Name	NGR	Date
MBC26018	1365100000	27, Main Road, Drayton Parslow	SP 84008 28619	C19 to Modern
MBC26019	1365200000	46-48, Main Road, Drayton Parslow	SP 84161 28722	C19 to Modern
MBC26020	1365300000	50, Main Road, Drayton Parslow	SP 84184 28736	C19 to Modern
MBC26021	1365400000	45-47, Main Road, Drayton Parslow	SP 84177 28749	C19 to Modern

Table 1: Gazetteer of archaeological events, monuments and listed buildings recorded within a 1km radius of the site (centred on NGR SP 84481 29313) based on consultation of the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record

Report Title		Report Ref	
Archaeological Evaluation: Prospect Farm Drayton Parslow Buckinghamshire		BA1522DPB	
Report written by	Elizabeth Govier BA MA		
Reported edited by	George Children MA MCIfA		
Issue No.	Status	Date	Approved for issue
1	Final	December 2015	Neil Shurety Dip. M G M Inst. M