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Commercial Archaeology  
Working throughout England and Wales

## Archaeological Field Evaluation

Kinsey Hern Esq

Land at Upper House Farm

Lyonshall

Herefordshire

January 2015



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*Cover: View north of trenching in Site C*

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## 1 Executive Summary

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*Border Archaeology was commissioned by Kinsey Hern Esq to undertake a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation of land at Upper House Farm Lyonshall Herefordshire. This programme of work was informed by the results of the Desk Based Assessment (DBA) carried out by Border Archaeology in November 2014.*

*No archaeological features or deposits were encountered, with the exception of the levelled embankment for the late 19<sup>th</sup> -century railway and possible evidence of post-medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation. Very few finds were recovered, suggesting that the site had been in continuous agricultural use and that no settlement activity had been present.*

*It would appear likely that the northern portion of the site may have formed part of the open-field agricultural system surrounding the planned town of Lyonshall. Two sherds of pottery of later medieval date found in the northern part of Site A may have been brought onto the site from the occupied area within midden material spread over the area as fertiliser.*

## 2 Introduction

Border Archaeology was commissioned by Kinsey Hern Esq of Upper House Farm Lyonshall to undertake a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation (AFE) on land at Upper House Farm Lyonshall Herefordshire in advance of a proposed residential development. The AFE followed a Desk-Based Assessment previously submitted by Border Archaeology (BA 2014).

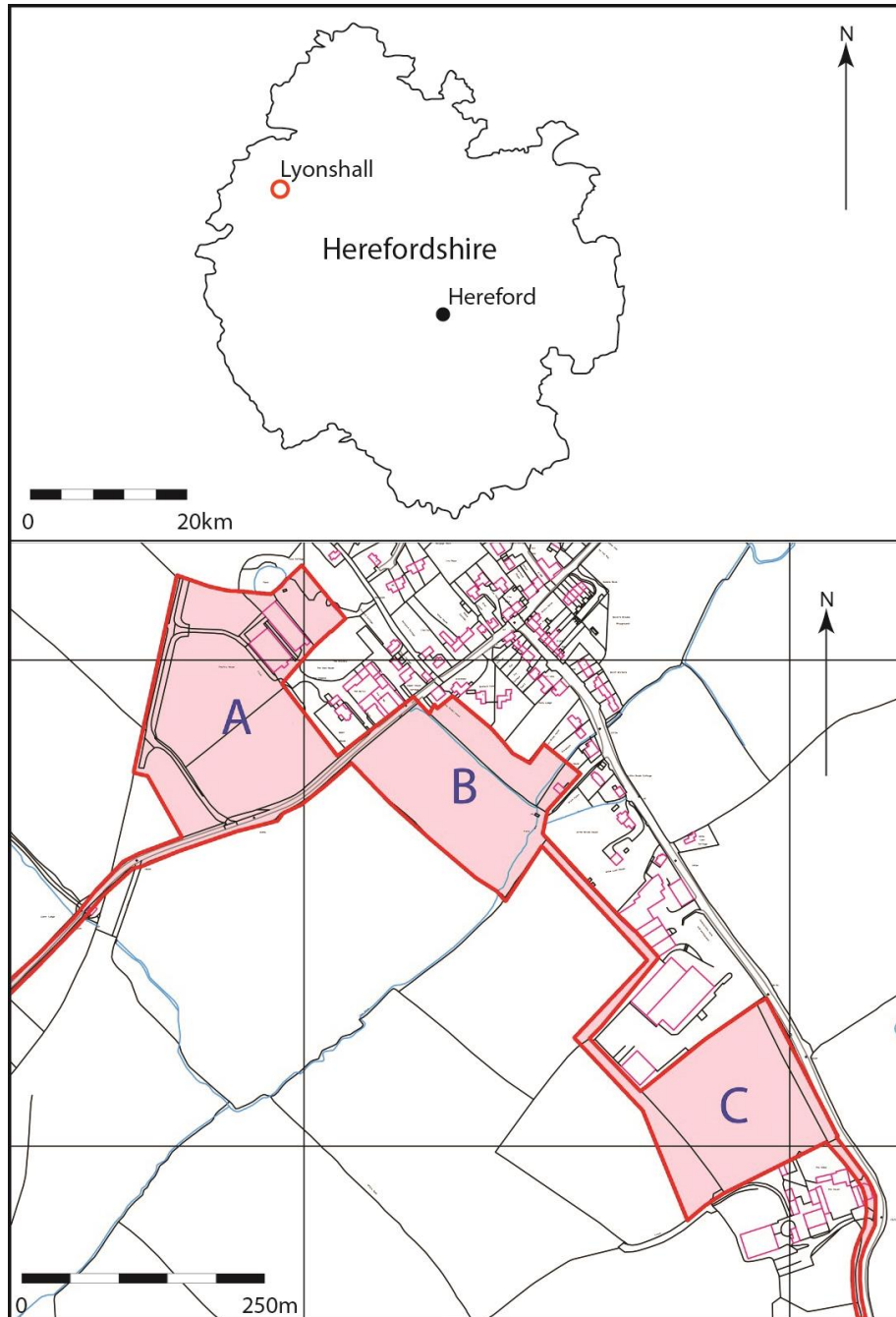


Fig. 1: Site location

The evaluation area comprised three sites (*fig. 1*): Site A to the N (approximately 31000m<sup>2</sup>) was pasture at the time of the evaluation. Site B to the S comprised two areas, one pasture (approximately 6000m<sup>2</sup>) and a larger arable area (approximately 18000m<sup>2</sup>). The third, Site C, to the S, adjacent to the A480, consisted of an area (approximately 20000m<sup>2</sup>) of arable. Work took place between November 18<sup>th</sup> 2014 and December 19<sup>th</sup> 2014.

This Report follows a previous Interim submission and provides detailed results of all fieldwork undertaken. Copies will be submitted to the Client, to Julian Cotton Esq Archaeological Advisor Herefordshire Council and to the Herefordshire Historic Environment Record.

## 2.1 Soils & Geology

The soils identified within the study area consist of typical argillic brown earths of the ESCRICK 1 series (571p), composed of deep well-drained reddish coarse loamy soils overlying reddish till (SSEW 1983).

## 3 Methodology

The programme of archaeological work was carried out in accordance with practices set out in *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014) and *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014).

Border Archaeology adheres to the ClfA *Code of conduct* (2014) and to *Regulations for professional conduct* (2014), in addition to *Standards for Archaeological Projects in Herefordshire* (Issue 1) (Herefordshire Archaeology 2004) and *Archaeology and Development: Supplementary planning document* (Herefordshire Council 2010).

A representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened was studied and attention given to sites and remains of all periods (including evidence of past environments). An area representing three per cent of the total site area was thus targeted for evaluation, comprising 2250 sq. m of trenching, and 57 standard archaeological evaluation trenches, each measuring 21m × 1.8m, were opened (*fig. 2*).

Prior to the commencement of site works, an OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) data-capture form was initiated.

Machine-excavation was carried out using an un-toothed bucket. Only undifferentiated topsoil and overburden of recent origin were removed by machine under archaeological supervision, with associated spoil scanned for artefacts. All potentially significant archaeological deposits were excavated by hand sufficient to fulfil the aim of the project, this being to determine, as far as was reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains likely to be threatened by the proposed development.

The evaluation sought to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion and assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits.



### 3.1 Recording

Full written, graphic and photographic records were made in accordance with Border Archaeology's *Archaeological Field Recording Manual* (2014). The written record will comprise detailed stratigraphic recording using a context numbering system.

A temporary benchmark (TBM) was established at appropriate locations and trenches contained grid and level information relative to OS data.

A photographic record was made using a high-resolution digital camera, comprising photographs of archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures. A scale was included in each photograph and all photographic records were indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Subject details and direction of view were listed in a photographic register, indexed by frame number.

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Site A

Site A (*figs. 1 & 2*) was the northernmost of the three areas to be examined and was the closest to the shrunken medieval village or planned town of Lyonshall. The area lay at a height of approximately 147m OD. It comprised three areas and at the time of the evaluation it was occupied by pasture. Twenty-two trenches were dug in Site A.

#### 4.1.1 Trench 1

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	101		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft friable mid reddish-brown silt; 0.18m thick, trench-wide	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	102		Deposit	Subsoil	Soft reddish silt; occasional rounded stones, single sherd of later medieval pottery; 0.45m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (101)	-	✓	-	-	-	-
3	103		Deposit	Natural	Firm mottled reddish-brown red/yellow silt clay; moderate stones; >0.10m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (102)	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.1.2 Trench 2

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	201		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft friable mid reddish-brown silt; 0.20m thick, trench-wide	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	202		Deposit	Subsoil	Soft reddish silt; occasional rounded stones; 0.40m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (201)	-	✓	-	-	-	-
3	203		Deposit	Natural	Firm mottled reddish-brown red/yellow clay; occasional sandstone; >0.10m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (202).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.1.3 Trench 3

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	301		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft friable mid reddish-brown silt; 0.20m thick, trench-wide	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	302		Deposit	Subsoil	Soft reddish silt; occasional rounded stones; 0.40m thick trench-wide. Underlying (301)	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	303		Deposit	Natural	Firm reddish-brown red/yellow clay; moderate sandstone; >0.05m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (302).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.1.4 Trench 4

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	401		Deposit	Topsoil	Friable reddish-brown silt; 0.18m thick trench-wide	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	402		Deposit	Subsoil	Soft reddish silt; occasional rounded stones; 0.10m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (401) and overlying (403)	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	403		Deposit	Former railway embankment	Firm reddish-brown clay; frequent stone – re-deposited natural material, ash/clinker and slag; 0.70m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (404)	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	404		Deposit	Natural	Light yellowish-brown silt. Underlying (404).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.1.5 Trench 5

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	501		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft brown silt clay topsoil; occasional sub-angular sandstone; 0.20m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (502).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	502		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compact pale grey brown silt subsoil; 0.17m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (501).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	503		Deposit	Natural	Compact pale yellow silt; frequent sub-angular stones; >0.20m thick trench-wide. Underlying (502).	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	504		Cut	Cut for land drain	Linear; E/W aligned; sides vertical, base not seen; 0.18m wide. Cut (503), filled by (505).	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	505		Fill	Stone fill of land drain [504]	Large sub-angular stones. Fill of [504].	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.1.6 Trench 6

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	601		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft mid reddish silt; 0.23m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (602).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	602		Deposit	Subsoil	Soft reddish clay silt; occasional rounded stones; 0.23m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (601).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	603		Deposit	Upper fill of [605]	Firm mid brown clay silt 0.40m thick; manganese flecking; ash/clinker. Underlying (602), overlying (604).	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	604		Deposit	Lower fill of [605]	Compact gravel & sandstone; 0.35m thick. Underlying (603), fill of [605].	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	605		Cut	Later post-medieval cut – possibly to extract material for the railway embankment	Linear; aligned c. N/S; measured >3.25m x >2.0m x >0.63m; sides moderately sloping, base flat. Cut (606), filled by (603) & (604).	-	-	-	-	-	E end of feature lay within trench.
6	606		Deposit	Natural	Firm reddish-yellow clay silt; >0.18m thick, trench-wide. Cut by [605].	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.1.7 Trench 7

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	701		Deposit	Topsoil	Friable mid brown silt; 0.20m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (702).	-	-	-	-	-	-

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
2	702		Deposit	Subsoil	Soft mid brown clay silt; occasional rounded stones; 0.38m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (701)	-	✓	-	-	-	--
3	703		Deposit	Reduced/re-deposited railway embankment	Compact red clay, silt & stone; cinder and clinker; >0.08m thick, 12.5m wide at W end of trench. Underlying (702), overlying (704).	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	704		Deposit	Natural	Firm reddish-yellow clay silt; occasional rounded & sub-angular stones. >0.07m thick. Underlying (703)	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.1.8 Trench 8

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	801		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft/friable mid brown silt; 0.24m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (802).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	802		Deposit	Subsoil	Soft mid brown silt; 0.30m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (801), overlying (803).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	803		Deposit	Natural	Firm mottled reddish-brown red/yellow clay; sandstone inclusions; >0.18m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (802).	-	-	-	-	-	Two patches of natural stone present at N end of trench.

#### 4.1.9 Trench 9

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	901		Deposit	Topsoil	Friable mid brown silt; 0.18m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (902).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	902		Deposit	Subsoil	Soft mid brown silt; 0.15m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (901), overlying (903)	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	903		Deposit	Natural	Compact red silt clay & stone; >0.05m thick. Underlying (902).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.1.10 Trench 10

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	1001		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft mid reddish-brown silt; occasional sub-angular stones; 0.20m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (1002).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	1002		Deposit	Subsoil	Reddish-brown silt gravel; 0.19m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (1001).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	1003		Deposit	Natural	Strongly red/pink gravel; larger rounded & sub-angular stones interspersed with bands of yellow silt. Underlying (10002).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.1.11 Trench 11

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	1101		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft friable mid reddish-brown silt; clay 0.20m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (1102).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	1102		Deposit	Subsoil	Orange-brown silt subsoil; 0.20m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (1101), overlying (1103)	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	1103		Deposit	Natural	Firm yellow silt natural; medium gravel, gravel patches & flecks of manganese; >0.10m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (1102).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.1.12 Trench 12

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	1201		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft reddish-brown silt clay; occasional small stones; 0.17m thick, trench-wide	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	1202		Deposit	Subsoil	Pale reddish-yellow clean silty clay; 0.20m thick trench-wide. Underlying (1201), overlying (1203).	-	✓	-	-	-	-
3	1203		Deposit	Natural	Firm bright reddish-brown silt; sandstone inclusions; >0.20m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (1202).	-	-	-	-	-	-



#### 4.1.13 Trench 13

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	1301		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft friable mid reddish-brown silt; 0.20m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (1302).	-	✓	-	-	-	----
2	1302		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm yellowish-red silt; occasional sub-angular stones; 0.26m thick trench-wide. Underlying (1301), overlying (1303).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	1303		Deposit	Natural	Firm strongly reddish-brown clay; gravel patches; >0.10m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (1302).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.1.14 Trench 14

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	1401		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft friable mid reddish-brown silt clay; 0.18m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (1402).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	1402		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm reddish-brown silt; 0.20m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (1401), overlying (1403).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	1403		Deposit	Natural	Firm to hard bands of gravel; some larger angular stones & silt natural. Underlying (1402).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.1.15

4.1.16 Trench 15

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	1501		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft reddish-brown silt clay; 0.20m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (1502).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	1502		Deposit	Subsoil	Strongly reddish-brown silt; 0.25m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (1501), overlying (1503).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	1503		Deposit	Natural	Firm reddish-yellow silt; sandstone inclusions; >0.10m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (1502).	-	-	-	-	-	-

4.1.17 Trench 16

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	1601		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft reddish-brown silt clay; 0.19m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (1602).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	1602		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm reddish-brown silt; moderate gravel; 0.20m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (1601), overlying (1603).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	1603		Deposit	Natural	Strongly reddish-brown silt; gravel patches; >0.10m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (1602).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.1.18 Trench 17

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	1701		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft brown silt clay; 0.19m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (1702).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	1702		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compact yellowish-brown silt; 0.20m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (1702), cut by [1704], [1705].	-	✓	-	-	-	-
3	1703		Deposit	Natural	Strongly reddish-brown silt; gravel patches; >0.10m thick, trench-wide.	-	-	-	-	-	Substantial gravel patch at N end of trench.
4	1704		Cut & fill	Ceramic land drain	Linear; aligned NW/SE. Cutting (1702).	-	-	-	-	-	Located 7m from N end of trench
5	1705		Cut & fill	Ceramic land drain	Linear; aligned NW/SE. Cutting (1702).	-	-	-	-	-	Located 10m to N of (1704)

#### 4.1.19 Trench 18

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	1801		Deposit	Topsoil	Firm reddish-brown silt clay; 0.20m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (1802).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	1802		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm reddish-brown silt; moderate gravel; <0.30m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (1801), overlying (1803).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	1803		Deposit	Natural	Strongly reddish-brown silt, water-rolled cobbles at N end of trench, bright red gravel to S; >0.10m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (1802).	-	-	-	-	-	-

4.1.20 Trench 32

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	3201		Deposit	Topsoil	Disturbed reddish-brown silty clay; 0.20m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (3202).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	3202		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm yellowish-brown silt; moderate gravel; 0.20m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (3201), cut by [3204] & [3206].	-	-	-	-	-	Cut by modern disturbance
3	3203		Deposit	Fill	Stony natural & rubble, plastic & polystyrene; >0.90m deep. Fill of [3204], underlying (3201).	-	-	-	-	-	Mixed stony natural & re-deposited rubble filling areas of disturbance.
4	3204		Cut	Modern disturbance	Incorporates two areas of modern disturbance; straight sided and machine cut. >0.90m deep, aligned NW/SE. Cut (3207), filled by (3203).	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	3205		Deposit	Fill	Stony natural & rubble, polystyrene. Underlying (3201), fill of (3206).	-	-	-	-	-	Stony re-deposited natural with rubble, including polystyrene.
6	3206		Cut	Possible service trench	Linear; aligned NW/SE; not excavated. Filled by (3205).	-	-	-	-	-	In NE corner of trench.
7	3207		Deposit	Natural	Firm red/pink natural clay gravel. Cut by [3204].	-	-	-	-	-	-

4.1.21 Trench 33

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	3301		Deposit	Topsoil – reduced railway embankment	Firm red/pink clay gravel; 0.30m deep. Overlying (3302).	-	-	-	-	-	Re-deposited natural-shallower at S end of trench.
2	3302		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm yellowish-grey silt; occasional stones; 0.30m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (3301), overlying (3303).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	3303		Deposit	Natural	Yellow silt (becoming strongly pink to S end of trench), manganese flecking. Underlying (3302).	-	-	-	-	-	-

4.1.22 Trench 34

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	3401		Deposit	Topsoil	Firm reddish-brown silt clay; 0.20m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (3402).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	3402		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm reddish-brown silt clay; moderate gravel; <0.30m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (3401), overlying (3403).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	3403		Deposit	Natural	Firm mid yellow silt (W end of trench), red gravel (to E); >0.10m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (3402).	-	-	-	-	-	-

4.1.23 Trench 35

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	3501		Deposit	Topsoil	Firm reddish-brown silt clay; 0.23m thick, trench-wide	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	3502		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm reddish-brown stony clay; moderate gravel; <0.20m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (1601), overlying (3503)	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	3503		Deposit	Mixed levelling deposit	Firm mixed red clay; occasional sub-angular stones, pottery & modern brick; up to 0.60m deep	-	✓	-	-	-	C19-C20 pottery
4	3504		Deposit	Natural	Firm reddish-brown gravel. Underlying (3503).						Seen in <i>sondage</i> at N end of trench

#### 4.1.24 Site B

Site B (figs. 1 & 3) comprised two areas, one of which had been more heavily cultivated than Site A and was under a cereal crop at the time of the evaluation. It lay at a height of approximately 144.60m OD. The topsoil was frequently deeper than in Site A, presumably as a result of cultivation. The smaller area, to the N, consisted of a paddock (Figure 1) in which four trenches were dug. A total of 17 trenches were dug in Site B.

#### 4.1.25 Trench 19

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	1901		Deposit	Plough soil	Soft reddish-brown silt clay; 0.26m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (1902).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	1902		Deposit	Subsoil	Reddish-brown silt clay subsoil; moderate gravel; 0.20m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (1901), overlying (1903).	-	-	-	-	-	With exception of gravel, very similar to (1901) above
3	1903		Deposit	Natural	Strongly reddish-brown clay, occasional medium/large water rolled cobbles. Underlying (1902).	-	-	-	-	-	Natural deposit similar to (1902) but more clay

#### 4.1.26 Trench 20

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	2001		Deposit	Plough soil	Soft reddish-brown silt clay; 0.30m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (2002).	-	-	-	-	-	

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
2	2002		Deposit	Subsoil	Yellowish-red silt, occasional gravel; 0.20m thick trench-wide. Underlying (2001), overlying (2003).	-	-	-	-	-	
3	2003		Deposit	Natural	Yellowish-grey & red grey silt. Underlying (2002), overlying (2004).	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	2004		Deposit	Natural	Yellowish-grey clay. Underlying (2003).						-

#### 4.1.27 Trench 21

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	2101		Deposit	Plough soil	Soft reddish-brown silt; 0.25m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (2102).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	2102		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted yellowish-red silt; 0.14m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (2101), Overlying (2103).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	2103		Deposit	Natural	Gravel, water-rolled cobbles. Underlying (2102).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.1.28 Trench 22

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	2201		Deposit	Plough soil	Soft reddish-brown silt clay; 0.30m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (2202).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	2202		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm reddish-yellow silt; moderate gravel; <0.20m thick trench-wide. Underlying (2201), overlying (2203).	-	-	-	-	-	-



Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
3	2203		Deposit	Natural	Firm reddish-brown silt clay; 0.20m thick. Underlying (2202), overlying (2204).	-	-	-	-	-	Contained more clay & stone than (2202)
4	2204		Deposit	Natural	Gravel/stone. Underlying (2203).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.1.29 Trench 23

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	2301		Deposit	Plough soil	Soft mid reddish-brown silt clay; 0.30m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (2302).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	2302		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted yellowish-red clay; moderate gravel; 0.20m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (2301), overlying (2303).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	2303		Deposit	Natural	Firm reddish-brown stony gravel. Underlying (2302).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.1.30 Trench 24

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	2401		Deposit	Plough soil	Soft reddish-brown silt clay; 0.30m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (2402).	-	-	-	-	-	
2	2402		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted yellowish-red silt; occasional gravel; 0.14m thick trench-wide. Underlying (2401), overlying (2403).	-	-	-	-	-	

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
3	2403		Deposit	Natural	Firm red/pink stony gravel; >0.20m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (2402).	-	-	-	-	-	Natural deposit

#### 4.1.31 Trench 25

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	2501		Deposit	Plough soil	Soft reddish-brown silt clay; 0.25m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (2502).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	2502		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted yellowish-brown silt; rounded gravel; 0.18m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (2501), overlying (2503).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	2503		Deposit	Natural	Firm orange-brown gravel. Underlying (2502).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.1.32 Trench 26

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	2601		Deposit	Plough soil	Soft reddish-brown silt clay; 0.20m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (2602).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	2602		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted yellowish-brown silt; occasional gravel; 0.15m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (2601), overlying (2603).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	2603		Deposit	Natural	Firm orange-brown gravel; silt patches. Underlying (2602).	-	-	-	-	-	-

4.1.33 Trench 27

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	2701		Deposit	Plough soil	Soft reddish-brown silt clay; occasional gravel; 0.30m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (2702).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	2702		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted yellowish-brown silt; occasional gravel; 0.10m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (2701), overlying (2703).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	2703		Deposit	Natural	Firm strongly reddish-brown silt; water-rolled cobbles (at N end of trench), bright red gravel (to S); >0.10m thick trench-wide. Underlying (2702).	-	-	-	-	-	-

4.1.34 Trench 28

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	2801		Deposit	Plough soil	Soft reddish-brown silt clay; 0.25m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (2802).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	2802		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm yellowish-brown silt; 0.20m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (2801), overlying (2803).	-	✓	-	-	-	-
3	2803		Deposit	Natural	Firm pink silt; patches of pink gravel. Underlying (2802).	-	-	-	-	-	-

4.1.35 Trench 29

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	2901		Deposit	Plough soil	Soft reddish-brown silt clay; 0.25m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (2902).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	2902		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted yellowish-brown silt; occasional small gravel; 0.15m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (2901), overlying (2903).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	2903		Deposit	Natural	Firm reddish-brown silt; frequent gravel patches. Underlying (2902).	-	-	-	-	-	-

4.1.36 Trench 30

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	3001		Deposit	Plough soil	Soft reddish-brown silt clay; 0.25m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (3002).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	3002		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted yellowish-brown silt; occasional gravel; 0.14m thick trench-wide. Underlying (3001), overlying (3003).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	3003		Deposit	Natural	Firm pinkish-brown stony gravel; occasional medium-to-large water-rolled cobbles. Underlying (3002).	-	-	-	-	-	-

4.1.37 Trench 31

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	3101		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft reddish-brown silt clay; 0.30m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (3102).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	3102		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted yellowish-brown silt clay; 0.14m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (3101), overlying (3103).	-	-	-	-	-	Siltier composition than (3101).
3	3103		Deposit	Natural	Firm gravel; silt patches. Underlying (3102).	-	-	-	-	-	-

4.1.38 Trench 36

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	3601		Deposit	Topsoil	Moderately compacted mid greyish-brown silt clay; 0.15m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (3605).	-	-	-	-	-	At S end of trench lay beneath modern surface (3605).
2	3602		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted mid-brown silt; manganese flecking; 0.90m thick, trench-wide. Cut by [3606], overlying (3603).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	3603		Deposit	Natural	Firm pinkish-brown stony silt. Underlying (3602).	-	-	-	-	-	In base of trench
4	3604		Deposit	Fill - may fill ditch or former service	Moderately compacted reddish-brown silt; >1.80m x 1m x 0.80m. Underlying (3605), fill of [3606].	-	-	-	-	-	Re-deposited natural
5	3605		Deposit	Surface	Compacted scalplings. Underlying (3601), overlying (3604).	-	-	-	-	-	Forming previous hard surface.

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
6	3606		Cut	Service trench or ditch	Linear; aligned c. N/S; sides steeply sloping curving to flat base; measures >1.8m × 1m × 0.80m. Cuts (3602), filled by (3604).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.1.39 Trench 37

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	3701		Deposit	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid reddish-brown silt clay; 0.26m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (3702).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	3702		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted reddish-brown silt; occasional gravel; 0.14m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (3701), Overlying (3703).	-	-	-	-	-	Siltier than (3101) - generally fairly clean.
3	3703		Deposit	Natural	Firm gravel; silt patches. Underlying (3702).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.1.40 Trench 38

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	3801		Deposit	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid brown silt clay; 0.20m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (3802).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	3802		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted yellowish-brown silt; 0.25m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (3801), overlying (3803).	-	-	-	-	-	-

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
3	3803		Deposit	Natural	Firm gravel; silt patches. Underlying (3802)	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.1.41 Trench 39

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	3901		Deposit	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid greyish-brown silt clay; 0.26m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (3902).	-	✓	-	-	-	-
2	3902		Deposit	Subsoil	Firm pinkish-brown silt clay; 0.4m thick trench-wide. Underlying (3901), overlying (3903).	-	✓	-	-	-	C18 finds from topsoil/subsoil interface
3	3903		Deposit	Natural	Firm pink/ochre silt natural, gravel patches. Underlying (3902).	-	-	-	-	-	-

## 4.2 Site C

The site (*figs. 1 & 4*) was the southernmost to be excavated and was under a cereal crop at the time of the excavation. It lay adjacent to the A480. Levels on this area varied between 166.0m OD and 172.5mOD. Eighteen trenches were dug on Site C

### 4.2.1 Trench 40

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	4001		Deposit	Plough soil	Soft mid brown clay silt; 0.24m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (4002).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	4002		Deposit	Subsoil	Soft light brown clay silt; frequent small rounded stones; 0.24m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (4001), overlying (4003).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	4003		Deposit	Natural	Firm light brown clay silt; small & medium rounded stones; 0.40m thick. Underlying (4002).	-	-	-	-	-	Deeper towards lower limit of excavation.

### 4.2.2 Trench 41

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	4101		Deposit	Plough soil	Soft mid greyish-brown silt clay; 0.25m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (4102).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	4102		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted pinkish-brown silt clay; 0.45m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (4101), overlying (4103).	-	-	-	-	-	-



Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
3	4103		Deposit	Natural	Firm pink/ochre silt, gravel patches. Underlying (4102).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.2.3 Trench 42

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	4201		Deposit	Plough soil	Soft mid brown silt clay; 0.25m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (4202).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	4202		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted light brown clay silt; frequent stones; 0.28m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (4201), overlying (4203).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	4203		Deposit	Natural	Firm patchy light reddish-brown clay silt; angular stones; >0.08m trench-wide. Underlying (4202).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.2.4 Trench 43

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	4301		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft mid brown clay silt; 0.24m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (4302).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	4302		Deposit	Subsoil	Soft light brown clay silt; moderate rounded stones; 0.28m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (4301), overlying (4303).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	4303		Deposit	Natural	Firm reddish-yellow silty clay & pink/ochre silt; gravel patches. Underlying (4302).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.2.5 Trench 44

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	4401		Deposit	Plough soil	Soft mid brown clay silt; 0.28m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (4402).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	4402		Deposit	Subsoil	Soft light brown clay silt; moderate tree rooting (at the N end); 0.43m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (4401), overlying (4403).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	4403		Deposit	Natural	Firm red clay silt; angular stones; >0.08m thick. Underlying (4402).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.2.6 Trench 45

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	4501		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft mid brown clay silt; 0.23m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (4502).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	4502		Deposit	Subsoil	Soft light brown clay silt; moderate stones; 0.3m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (4501), overlying (4503).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	4503		Deposit	Natural	Firm red clay silt; occasional stones & yellow patches; >0.05m, trench-wide. Underlying (4502).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.2.7 Trench 46

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	4601		Deposit	Plough soil	Loose & friable mid-to-dark brown silt clay, organic matter; 0.25m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (4602).	-	-	-	-	-	Darker than topsoil in Trench 45 to W.
2	4602		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted mid brown clay silt; 0.28m thick trench-wide. Underlying (4601), overlying (4603).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	4603		Deposit	Natural	Firm reddish clay silt; angular stones; >0.05m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (4602).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.2.8 Trench 47

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	4701		Deposit	Plough soil	Soft mid brown clay silt soil; 0.24m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (4702).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	4702		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted light brown clay silt; 0.35m thick trench-wide. Underlying (4701), overlying (4703).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	4703		Deposit	Natural	Firm red clay silt; moderate angular stones; >0.11m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (4702).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.2.9 Trench 48

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	4801		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft & friable mid reddish-brown clay silt; 0.26m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (4802).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	4802		Deposit	Subsoil	Soft light brown clay silt; 0.22m thick trench-wide. Underlying (4801), overlying (4803).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	4803		Deposit	Natural	Firm reddish clay silt; moderate angular degraded stone; >0.03m depth. Underlying (4802).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.2.10 Trench 49

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	4901		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft & friable mid reddish-brown clay silt plough soil 0.28m thick trench-wide. Overlying (4902).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	4902		Deposit	Subsoil	Soft light brown clay silt; 0.30m thick trench-wide. Underlying (4801), overlying (4903).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	4903		Deposit	Natural	Firm reddish clay silt; moderate angular degraded stone; >0.05m depth. Underlying (4902).	-	-	-	-	-	-

4.2.11 Trench 50

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	5001		Deposit	Plough soil	Soft mid brown clay silt; 0.28m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (5002).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	5002		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted light brown clay silt; 0.30m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (5001), overlying (5003).	-	-	-	-	-	--
3	5003		Deposit	Natural	Firm reddish stony clay silt; >0.05m thick. Underlying (5002).	-	-	-	-	-	-

4.2.12 Trench 51

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	5101		Deposit	Plough soil	Soft mid brown clay silt; 0.25m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (5102).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	5102		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted light brown clay silt; 0.31m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (5101), overlying (5103).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	5103		Deposit	Natural	Firm reddish clay silt; occasional stone; >0.12m thick. Underlying (5102).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.2.13 Trench 52

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	5201		Deposit	Plough soil	Soft & friable mid reddish-brown clay silt; 0.27m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (5202).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	5202		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted light brown clay silt; 0.40m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (5201), overlying (5203).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	5203		Deposit	Natural	Firm reddish clay silt; occasional to moderate angular degraded stone; >0.35m thick. Underlying (5202).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.2.14 Trench 53

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	5301		Deposit	Plough soil	Soft mid brown clay silt; 0.25m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (5302).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	5302		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted light brown clay silt; 0.35m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (5301), overlying (5303).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	4803		Deposit	Natural	Firm reddish stony clay silt; > 0.20m deep. Underlying (5302).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.2.15 Trench 54

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	5401		Deposit	Plough soil	Loose soft mid brown clay silt; 0.26m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (5402).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	5402		Deposit	Subsoil	Soft/moderately compact light brown clay silt; 0.30m thick trench-wide. Underlying (5401), overlying (5403).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	5403		Deposit	Natural	Firm reddish stony clay silt; to a depth of >0.20m. Underlying (5402).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.2.16 Trench 55

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	5501		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft & friable mid reddish-brown clay silt; 0.26m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (5502).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	5502		Deposit	Subsoil	Soft light brown clay silt; 0.28m thick trench-wide. Underlying (5501), overlying (5503).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	5503		Deposit	Natural	Firm reddish clay silt; moderate angular degraded stone; present to a depth of >0.16m. Underlying (5502)	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.2.17 Trench 56

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	5601		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft & friable mid brown clay silt; 0.24m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (5602).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	5602		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted light brown clay silt; 0.37m thick trench-wide. Underlying (5601), overlying (5603).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	5603		Deposit	Natural	Firm reddish clay silt & stone; seen to a depth of >0.3m. Underlying (5602).	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 4.2.18 Trench 57

Item	Context No.	Matrix Phase	Type	Interpretation	Discussion	Finds					Comments
						Small Find	Pot	Bone	Misc.	Sample No.	
1	5701		Deposit	Topsoil	Soft and friable mid brown clay silt; 0.24m thick, trench-wide. Overlying (5702).	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	5702		Deposit	Subsoil	Moderately compacted light brown clay silt; 0.34m thick, trench-wide. Underlying (5701), overlying (5703).	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	5703		Deposit	Natural	Firm light brown-reddish stony clay silt; seen to a depth of >0.20m. Underlying (5702).	-	-	-	-	-	-



## 5 Discussion

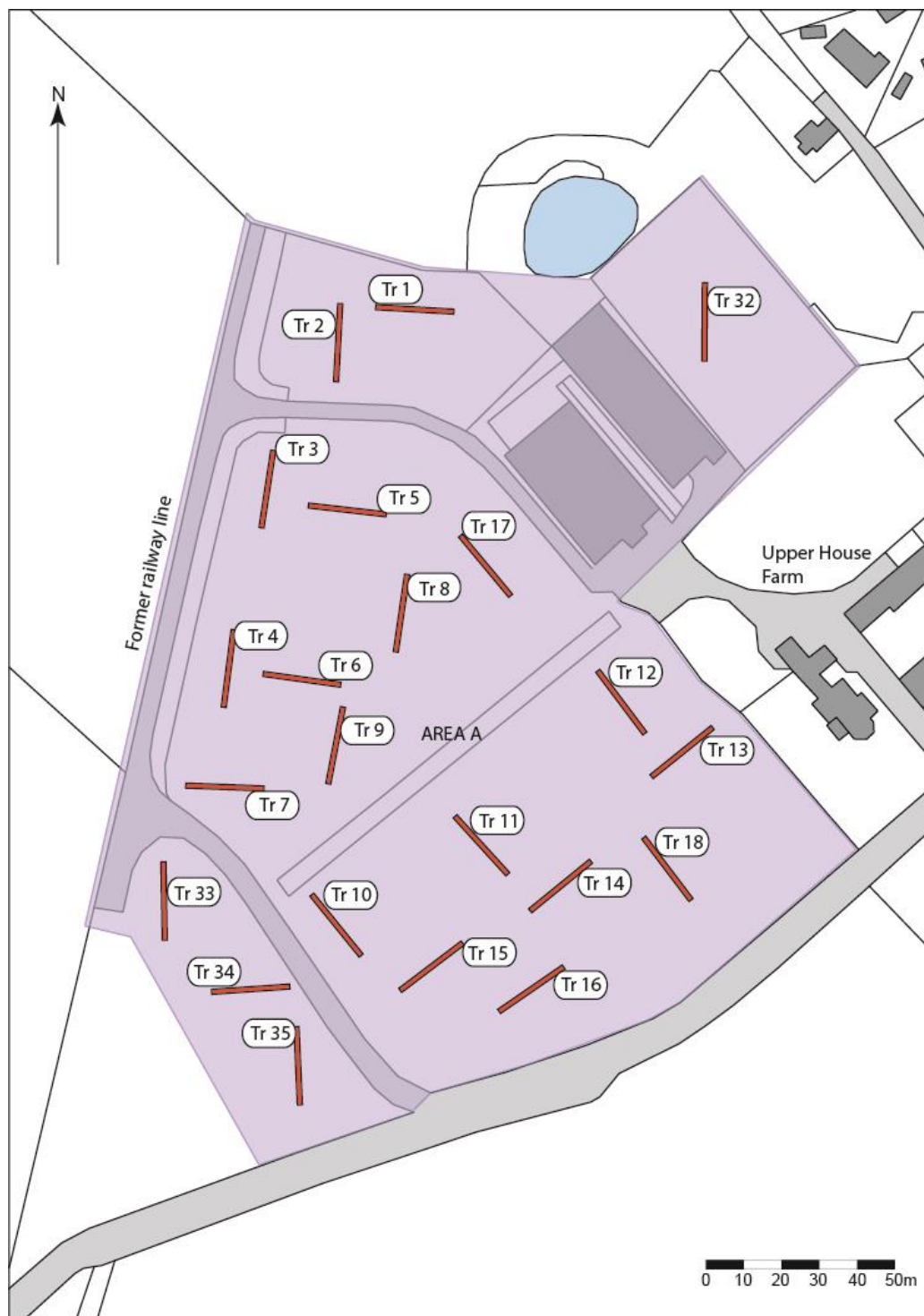


Fig. 2: Trench locations: Site A.

## 5.1 Site A

The only deposits of significance observed on the site were the remains of the late 19<sup>th</sup> -century railway branch line (MHE11096) connecting Lyonshall to the Leominster to Kington railway, which were recorded in Trenches 4, 6, 7 and 33.

In Trench 4, a substantial 0.70m-deep deposit (403) of red re-deposited natural stony clay with occasional discrete patches of clinker and ash, extending trench-wide, was thought to comprise the subgrade for the railway embankment. The levelled embankment was also seen at the W end of Trench 7, where it extended for 12.5m into the trench. In Trench 33, the topsoil (3301) at the S end of the trench was also thought to consist of levelled embankment material; this deposit became shallower at the S end of the trench.

A large feature (*Plate 1*) at the W end of Trench 6 appears to have been associated with the construction of the railway embankment subgrade. It comprised a large ditch [605], possibly dug for the extraction of embankment material. The feature continued beyond the trench limit to the N and S. The upper fill (603), a firm mid brown clay silt, contained flecks of manganese, possibly suggesting waterlogging, but also patches of ash and clinker, similar to those within embankment deposit (403). The lower fill (604) was a compact mixture of gravel and sandstone. The cut had fairly steeply sloping sides and a flat base.



*Plate 1: View S of section of large ditch possible associated with the construction of the railway.*

Some variation in the depth of the topsoil was observed on Site A; it is possible that this was a result of the presence of post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, as recorded on the Herefordshire Sites and Monuments record (BA 2014). Although two sherds of late medieval pottery were recovered from Site A, the small quantity suggests that it was imported with midden material used as fertiliser rather than indicating occupation of that date in the vicinity.

Trench 35 revealed that a substantial layer of pink clay (3503), incorporating modern rubbish, including 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery and modern brick, had been dumped at the S side of the field, presumably as a levelling deposit close to the hedge line and road.

## 5.2 Site B

No features of archaeological significance were seen within Site B. However, considerable variation in the natural deposits was encountered across the site. On the N part of the field, closest to the road, the natural deposits and subsoil deposits were very similar to the topsoil. For this reason, a *sondage* was dug at the N end of Trench 20 to confirm natural deposits. These showed very little variation to a depth of 1.5m (Plate 2).

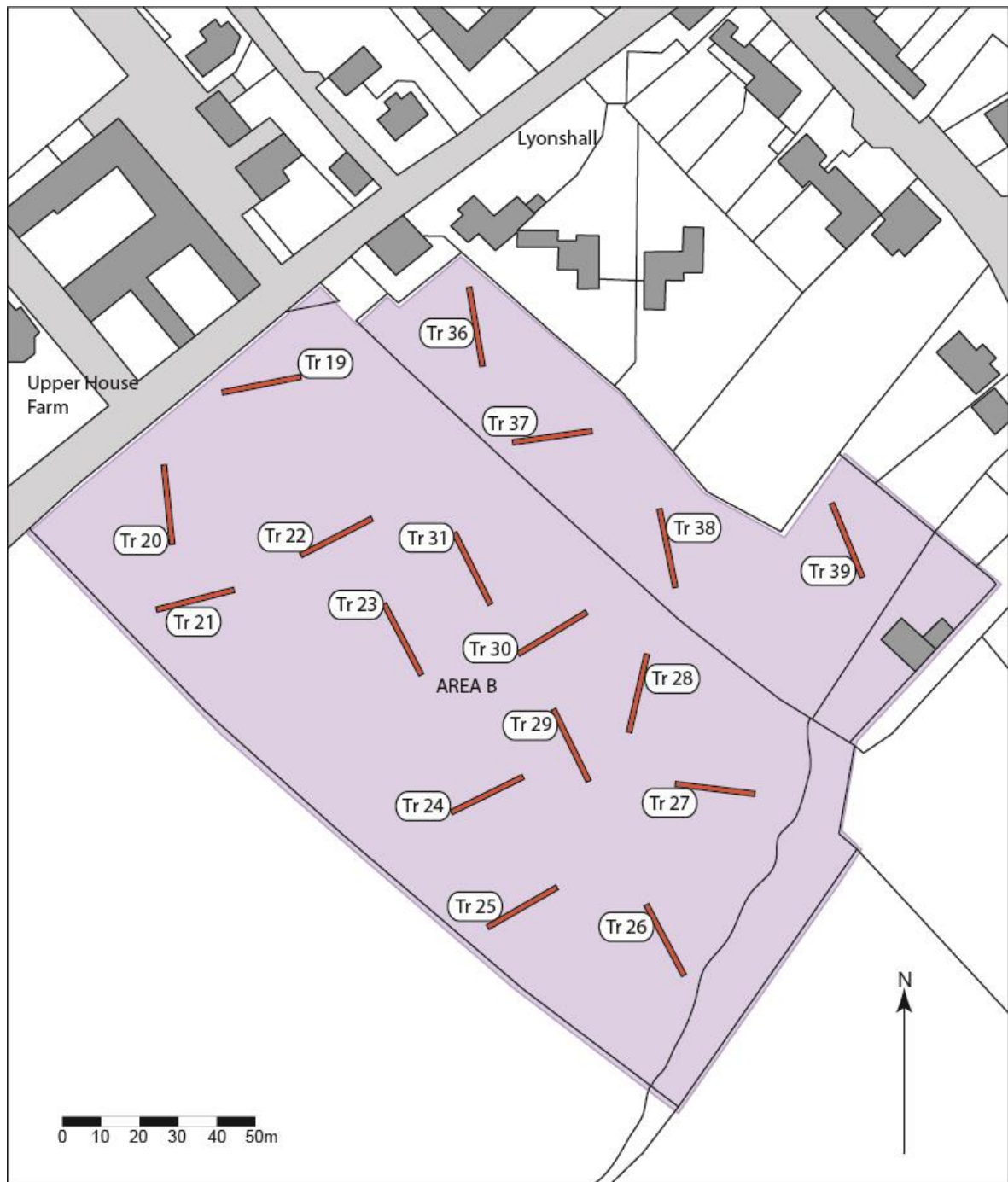


Fig. 3: Trench locations: Site B.

Further to the S, on the same site, natural deposits consisted of gravel and water-rolled stones, together with bands of silt. Further *sondages* were excavated into natural gravel deposits in Trenches 22 and 24.

Trench 39 was situated in the paddock on the E side of Site B. It was close to existing gardens and a number of finds of 18<sup>th</sup> -century date were recovered from the topsoil/subsoil interface.



*Plate 2 View E of Trench 20 showing sondage into natural deposits.*

### 5.3 Site C

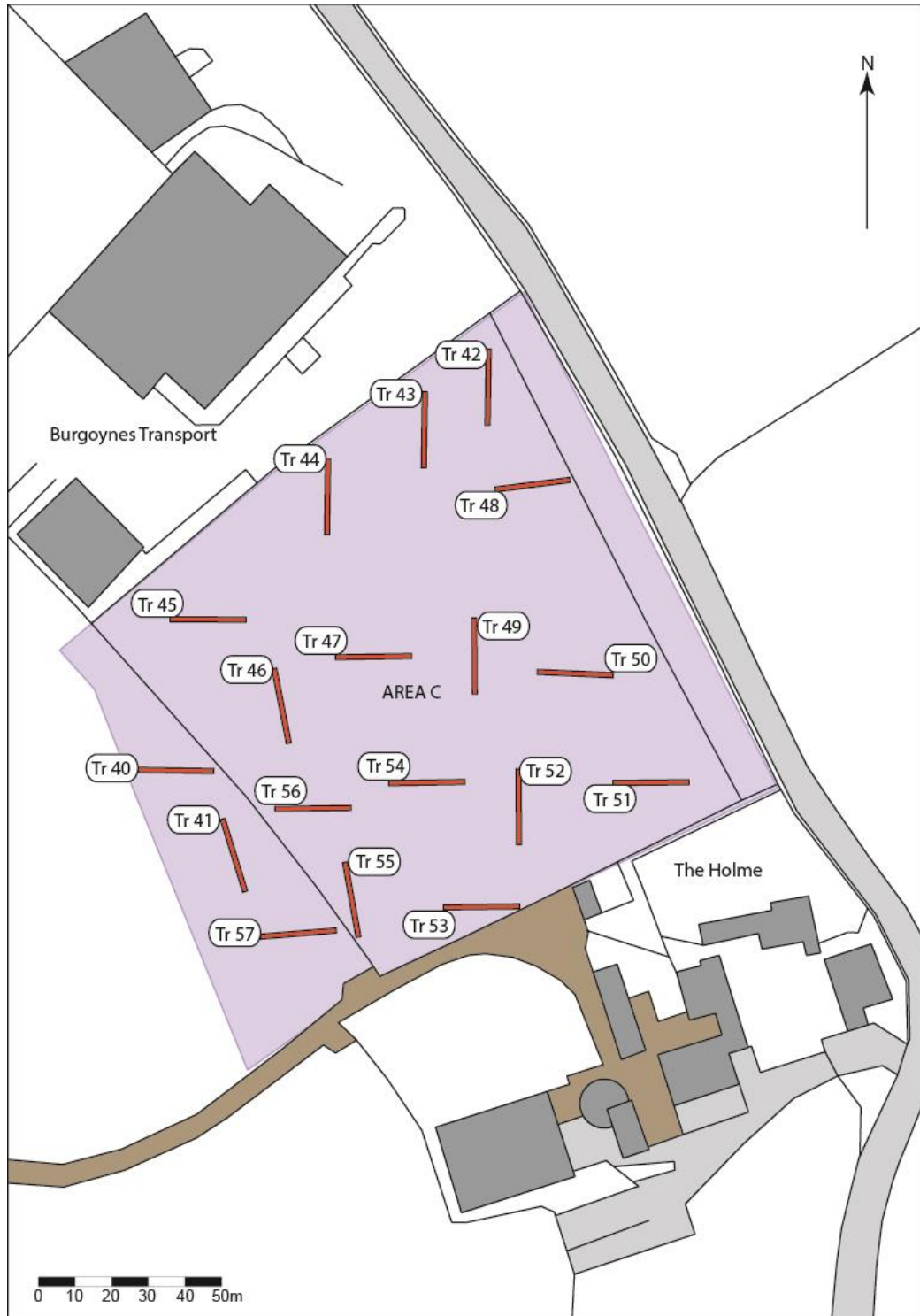


Fig. 4: Trench locations: Site C.

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were seen within Site C. The area has probably always been in agricultural use; at the time of the 1842 Tithe Map, it was mainly occupied by orchard. There were no finds from Site C.

## 6 Conclusions

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The paucity of finds and features make it certain that the area lay at some distance from the area of the medieval planned town. The very few sherds of medieval pottery recovered during the field evaluation (all from Site A) were of similar date (14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century) to pottery found during excavations carried out in the area of the shrunken medieval village. However, such small quantities of pottery were probably introduced onto the field with midden material used as fertiliser.

At the time of the Tithe Map, the field was meadow (BA 2014). Site A most probably formed part of the open-field system surrounding the planned medieval town and continued in agricultural use throughout. The paddock on the E side of Site A had been subject to disturbance during 20<sup>th</sup>-century construction of agricultural buildings.

Natural deposits varied widely across the site. Where topsoil and subsoil were very similar (Trenches 19 & 20), *sondages* were excavated to confirm that natural deposits had been reached.

The Tithe Map of 1842 shows Sites A and B as meadow, with the majority of Site C as orchard. It seems likely that the areas examined during the field evaluation have been in continuous agricultural use throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods.

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