LAND NORTH OF NORSE ROAD, BEDFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

This report has been prepared by Christopher Mallows (Archaeological Supervisor) under the management of Jeremy Oetgen (Project Manager). All Albion Archaeology projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager). The desk-based survey was undertaken by Matt Edgeworth (Assistant Project Officer) and Christopher Mallows. Finds were processed and examined for this report by Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) prepared all illustrations in this report. The evaluation was carried out by Christopher Mallows and Teresa Hawtin (Archaeological Technician).

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Key Terms

Throughout this project design the following terms or abbreviations are used:

BLARS Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Services.

CAO Bedfordshire County Council's Archaeological Officer

Clients Eagle Homes, Connolly Homes plc and Twigden Homes ltd

HER Historic Environment Record

[Bedfordshire's sites and monuments record]

SARM Scheme for Archaeological Resource Management





Non-Technical Summary

This report has been prepared by Albion Archaeology on behalf of Eagle Homes, Connolly Homes plc and Twigden Homes ltd. It records the results of trial trench evaluation and non-intrusive investigation carried out on c. 23 hectares of land located to the north of Norse Road, Bedford as a preliminary to preparation of a Scheme of Archaeological Resource Management.

The evaluation area lies on a south-facing slope rising from the Renhold Brook. The geology comprises Jurassic clays overlain by gravely and loamy drift, with colluvial deposits beside the brook. Although, prior to excavation, there were no recorded finds from the evaluation area itself, the surrounding landscape is rich in archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic onwards, and a settlement dating from the middle Iron Age to Roman periods has been excavated on a site c. 1km to the south-east.

The aim of the evaluation was to provide information on the extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that were present and to assess their integrity and state of preservation. This was achieved through a tiered scheme of archaeological research:

- a review of existing archaeological and cartographic evidence for the evaluation area and its immediate vicinity;
- geophysical survey (magnetic survey);
- trial trench excavation.

The land was unsuitable for fieldwalking (i.e. collection of surface artefacts), and so the above techniques were required to compensate for the absence of such evidence.

Each stage of the work was monitored by Bedfordshire County Council's Archaeological Officer to ensure adherence to the agreed Project Design.

The archaeological evaluation indicated that the evaluation area had been predominantly arable since the medieval period and that the land parcel had reached its present shape by the late eighteenth century. Otherwise, there was no evidence that the land had been altered significantly by human activity until recent drainage improvements.

No archaeological remains suggestive of past human occupation were known within the evaluation area prior to trial excavation. Out of thirty-three archaeological trenches investigated only a single, isolated, archaeological feature was noted. This was a pit probably dating from the Iron Age.

The results of non-intrusive and intrusive stages of the evaluation were complementary and suggest that the evaluation area is of very low archaeological potential. On the basis of this evaluation, therefore, no areas within the proposed development can be identified as having particular archaeological significance.





1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

An application for outline planning permission (02/00094/OUT) was made for residential development, including areas of woodland and open space, on *c* 23 hectares of land located to the north of Norse Road, on the eastern outskirts of Bedford, and south of Salph End, Renhold. Following a public inquiry, the Inspector recommended that planning permission be granted, subject to conditions. Condition 13 states that:

No development shall take place until the applicant or developer has secured the implementation of a scheme of archaeological resource management in accordance with a written scheme that has first been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Bedfordshire County Council's Archaeological Officer accordingly issued a detailed *Brief*¹ for a programme of archaeological evaluation leading to an archaeological resource management scheme.

Albion Archaeology was invited by Eagle Homes, Connolly Homes plc and Twigden Homes ltd to undertake the programme of archaeological evaluation and to prepare the Scheme for Archaeological Resource Management according to an agreed Project Design that satisfies the requirements of the CAO's Brief.

1.2 Site Location

The evaluation area was approximately 23 hectares in extent, centred on OS gird reference TL 0810 5202 (see Figure 1). It formed an irregular polygon bounded by the curving line of the public highway (Norse Road) to the south, a tributary of the Renhold Brook (known as Robins Brook) to the west, a field boundary hedge to the east, and a farm track to the north-east. The north-western edge of the evaluation area cut across the middle of a large arable field.

1.3 Landform, Geology and Soils

The evaluation area lies on a south-facing slope rising from the Renhold Brook, a tributary of the Great Ouse. The brook runs in a broad valley and loops around the southern end of the evaluation area, giving the impression of a low promontory. The top of the promontory appears to form a slight hollow.

The solid geology is Jurassic ('Oxford') clay, overlain by gravely and loamy drift deposits. At the foot of the slopes in the vicinity of the Robins Brook there was a considerable accumulation of colluvial sediments.

¹ Brief for a programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation and a Scheme for Archaeological Resource Management of Land North of Norse Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire, version 1, 14th March 2003



The majority of the evaluation area was arable land. A minor part of the evaluation area, the strip of land between Norse Road and the Renhold Brook, was rough grassland with scattered young trees.

1.4 Archaeological Background

Although there are no recorded finds from the evaluation area itself, the surrounding landscape is rich in archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic periods onwards.

A site in a similar topographical location, located c. 1km to the south-east (in an area historically known as *Drinkwater Hill*), was investigated by the former Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service between 1993 and 2000 (*project code NR444*). Following on from a desk based study and field evaluation², excavations in 1996 revealed a small-scale rural settlement/farmstead dating from the middle Iron Age to the Roman period³. The remains comprised a densely interwoven pattern of enclosures, drove ways and boundary ditches occupying a low promontory. The main focus of the excavations was a large Iron Age enclosure, but additional recording recovered evidence of a Romano-British settlement which included some stone buildings.

Geophysical survey had been found to be a reliable and effective technique for the archaeological evaluation of that site, revealing more features than were observed in aerial photographs.

Deposits of alluvium and colluvium up to 2m thick were noted in the land adjacent to the Renhold Brook.

The HER records a considerable archaeological landscape in the wider area. Evidence exists for Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary and ritual practice, with a complex pattern of barrows, mortuary enclosures, cursus and henge monuments ranged across the landscape from Cople and Willington, on the south bank of the Great Ouse, to Goldington and Howbury to the north.

Evidence for occupation in the area of Norse Road in the Iron Age and Roman periods is no less extensive. The hill fort at Mowsbury Hill, which lies c. 1.5km to the north-east of the evaluation area, is thought to date from the early Iron Age, while on the river gravel terraces there is considerable evidence of a pattern of rural settlements and field systems, the use of which spans the period from the middle Iron Age to the Roman period. A Roman villa is known to have existed at Newnham.

During the medieval period the countryside around the evaluation area was cultivated under the open field furlong system. The motte known as Risinghoe Castle lies c. 1.3km to the south; it is thought to date from the 11th-12th centuries.

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² BCAS, 1993, Norse Road Archaeological Assessment, BCAS Report 1993/3

³ Edgeworth, M, 2001, 'Iron Age and Romano-British Farmstead at Norse Road, Bedford', *Bedfordshire Archaeol*, 24, 1–19



1.5 Objectives

The aim of the evaluation was to enable the preparation of a Scheme for Archaeological Resource Management (SARM) that is to be approved by the Local Planning Authority. The CAO's *Brief* indicates that the preparation of the SARM required an archaeological evaluation to be undertaken to identify Areas of Archaeological Significance. The objectives of these respective tasks are set out below; they were achieved through a programme of archaeological fieldwork as outlined in Section 2.

The aim of the evaluation was to provide information on the extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present and to assess their integrity and state of preservation. This was achieved through a tiered scheme of archaeological research, comprising:

- a review of existing archaeological and cartographic evidence for the evaluation area and its immediate vicinity;
- geophysical survey (magnetic scanning of the entire evaluation area, followed by a detailed survey of up to 40% of the evaluation area);
- trial excavation (initially up to 11,700 square metres in total, with provision for a further 2,000 square metres of contingency).

The CAO advised that the land was unsuitable for fieldwalking (i.e. collection of surface artefacts, as specified in the *Brief*), and so the above techniques were designed to compensate for the absence of evidence from surface artefact collection.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

The present section summarises the methodological approach to the project and indicates how the various stages of the work contributed to the objectives.

2.2 Stage 1 – Desk-based Review of Existing Archaeological and Cartographic Evidence

The review consulted readily accessible sources to provide the level of background information required for inclusion within this Evaluation Report. Information collected in this review was also used, where appropriate, to assist the interpretation of data retrieved in **Stages 3–4** of the evaluation.

The primary foci of this review were:

- Aerial photographs held in Bedfordshire's HER
- Historic maps and surveys held by Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service

2.2.1 Stage 2 – Fieldwalking

The *Brief* specified that the evaluation should include a programme of fieldwalking (systematic collection of artefacts from the surface of the fields, after ploughing has taken place, which can identify significant clusters of material that may be indicative of past human occupation or other activity).

However, because of the advanced state of the final crop, the CAO considered that none of the land within the evaluation area was suitable for fieldwalking. This stage was therefore omitted from the evaluation, but geophysical survey and trial trenching strategy were designed to compensated for the lack of fieldwalking evidence.

2.2.2 Stage 3 – Geophysical survey

The entire evaluation area was subjected to magnetic scanning, carried out by the specialist sub-contractor West Yorkshire Archaeology Service. The scanning was followed by detailed survey of selected zones of the evaluation area.

By identifying variations in residual magnetism within the soil, the magnetometry survey results contributed to the development of the trial trenching strategy.

2.2.3 Stage 4 - Trial excavation

The results of the desk-based review and geophysical survey were combined to formulate a proposal for trial excavation. This was submitted for the approval of the CAO. The purpose of the trial excavation was to locate, define and characterise any sub-surface archaeological remains, to confirm the absence of features in areas that appeared blank and to test the veracity of geophysical results.



The initial trench strategy, agreed with the CAO, comprised thirty trenches (see Section 4.1). An extra trench (trench 31) was opened up as a result of an error in locating trench 26. Nonetheless this trench has been included in the study. A further two trenches (trenches 32 and 33) were opened up to examine the extent of features revealed by the initial trenches.

The trenches were opened by a 360° tracked excavator, operated by an experienced driver, under archaeological supervision by Christopher Mallows. Experienced Albion Archaeology staff carried out all archaeological excavation and recording.



3. RESULTS OF THE NON-INTRUSIVE STAGES OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

3.1 Desk based Review of Existing Archaeological and Cartographic Evidence from the Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service (BLARS) and Historic Environment Records (HER)

Specific documentary evidence relating to the site is limited. The evidence, such as it is, shows a relatively static landscape with no significant alterations to the environment until the nineteenth century. Ridge and furrow has been noted on aerial photographs⁴ (see Figure 2), in various alignments, within the evaluation area. The observed pattern of the ridge and furrow possibly indicates sub-divisions with the field, although this is not corroborated by the historic map evidence.

Prior to 1650⁵, the zone under investigation was located in an area called *Bradefield*, bounded by *Robins Broc* to the west and *Athines Broc* (modern day Renhold Brook) to the south. The area appears to have been part of an open field system.

The earliest surviving cartographic survey dates from 1781 [*Plan of the Manor of Howbury in the Parish of Renhold*⁶] (see Figure 3). By this date the field had taken on the shape that it continues to exhibit today. It shows the evaluation area as belonging to *Salph End Fields*. The pattern of the field is the same in the next map available from 1836 [*Plan of the Parish of Renhold in the County of Bedford*⁷].

The first significant change occurred in 1858 when the Renhold Brook had its course straightened to its present position [*Plan of watercourse from Castle Mills to Putnoe Wood*⁸] (see Figure 4). A further change had occurred by 1883 when the field had been subdivided into *Long Hill* and *Long Pole*⁹ (see Figure 5). *Long Hill* is the envelope of land from Robins Brook to the west, through to the top of the promontory in the centre of the modern field. *Long Pole* was the remainder of the evaluation area [*Copy of 1883 plan on deed of Howbury Estate*¹⁰]. The Polhill family sold off the land in 1919; it continued to be used as arable farmland until the present day.

Of note is the trackway that forms the north-east boundary of the evaluation area. It is said to be an ancient route known as *Langlands*. Agricultural labourers walked from Barnet, Hertfordshire to Boston, Lincolnshire each year, working casually on farms as they went. It appears to have crossed the

⁴ From HER records.

⁵ Based on an HER composite plan of landscape features identified from archaeology.

⁶ BLARS ref: X 1/9.

⁷ BLARS ref: MAT 37.

⁸ BLARS ref: R 1/34.

⁹ From HER records.

¹⁰ From HER records.



River Great Ouse in the vicinity of Castle Mill and continued on past the Polhill Arms¹¹.

3.2 Results of the Geophysical Survey

The rapid magnetic scanning and the detailed survey results, undertaken by West Yorkshire Archaeology Service, produced almost entirely negative results. Some small discrete anomalies were identified during the scanning and confirmed during the detailed survey. However, West Yorkshire Archaeology Service considered it probable that these anomalies had a geological or recent origin, although an archaeological cause could not be completely dismissed. In the light of these results, the trail trenching strategy targeted a sample of the areas containing small discrete anomalies to test the veracity of the results ¹².

¹¹ Markham, L. 1993. Renhold, a Pen and Sketch.

¹² Land north of Norse Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire: Geophysical Survey, June 2003, Report Number 1137. Archaeological Services, WYAS.



4. RESULTS OF TRIAL EXCAVATION

4.1 Introduction

The purpose of the trial excavation was to locate and characterise any subsurface archaeological remains. To achieve this a total of thirty-three trenches were opened covering the area to the north of Norse Road (see Figures 6–10). Primarily, an evenly spaced distribution pattern was used. However, nine trenches (nos. 2, 8, 10, 11, 19, 23, 24, 25, and 30) were specifically located to test the veracity of the geophysical results (see Section 3.2). The majority of the trenches were approximately 30 metres in length and 2.2 metres in width and machined to the top of natural deposits.

On completion of machining of the initial trenches it was agreed with the CAO that a period of weathering would be beneficial, since the clay soils had become extremely hard during the unusually dry summer. It was also considered that weathering would improve the visibility of archaeological features. However, although the trenches were allowed to weather for around three weeks, the limited rainfall did little to improve ground conditions.

The topsoil was a dark-brown silty-clay, approximately 0.2 metres through to 0.3 metres in depth across the site. It contained small to medium sized stones and occasional fragments of modern debris, such as remains of land drains or modern ploughing implements. No pottery of archaeological significance was noted in the topsoil either during machining or hand excavation. Nor were any artefacts recovered subsequently from the spoil heaps, despite the fact that the trenches were open for several weeks so that the spoil was well weathered.

The subsoil was variable both in type and depth across the site. Principally, the subsoil consisted of a mid red and/or orange-brown silty-clay, ranging from 0.05 metres through to 0.3 metres in depth (but on average c 0.15 metres). However, in the north-east and eastern trenches the subsoil was a mid greybrown silty-clay, ranging from 0.08 metres through to 0.22 metres in depth. A colluvial subsoil layer was found in the west of the evaluation area. It was primarily located in trenches 9, 13, 18 and 24, on a west facing slope leading down towards Robins Brook. The colluvial deposits consisted of a friable, mid red-brown silty-sand. The depth of the deposits was variable, ranging from a minimum of 0.10 metres in trench 24, through to a maximum of 0.71 metres in trench 18. No pottery of archaeological significance was noted in the subsoil either during machining or excavation.

The natural geology varied from trench to trench, but was predominantly a mixture of mid brown and blue-grey clay, with occasional patches of loose orange-brown silty-gravel. In places the clay was more similar in appearance to Boulder Clay than Oxford Clay. There were a number of changes in the colour of the natural clay geology, which upon further inspection turned out to be variations in the natural rather than archaeological features.



4.2 Description of Deposits and Features Revealed by Trial Excavation

The outcome of the trial trenching strategy complemented the results from the desk-based assessment and the geophysical survey. Full details of all trenches, including descriptions of each recorded context can be found in the trench tables (Appendix 1).

4.2.1 A probable late Iron Age pit

The only feature of any archaeological significance was found in trench 21 (see Figure 10). This was an isolated, sub-oval pit [2104] that was located underneath the subsoil horizon [2101]. The pit, its long axis on a north to south alignment, had a maximum length of 2.3 metres and a maximum breadth of 1.68 metres. It was U-shaped in profile, with concave sides and a flat base. In accordance with recognised procedures¹³, fifty percent of the feature was excavated by hand. The pit was shallow (0.31 metres in depth). The fill (2103) had the consistency of a firm clay-silt and was dark brown in colour.

The feature contained fifteen sherds (44g) of pottery and twenty-four fragments (178g) of animal bone. The pottery comprises small, abraded sherds (average sherd weight 3g) in grog tempered fabrics (types F06B and F09¹⁴) characteristic of the late 'Belgic' Iron Age period (c. 100BC–AD100). Two highly abraded and leached sherds in a shell-tempered fabric (type F24) were also recorded, which are likely to be of similar date. A single residual sand and organic tempered sherd (type F19), of probable early-middle Iron Age date (c. 650–350BC) was also identified. No diagnostic vessel forms were present.

The animal bone survived in moderate condition, with some evidence of surface erosion. Recognisable elements comprised long bone fragments and a partial tooth, none of which were identifiable to species.

Trench 21 was extended to expose the full extent of the pit in plan, and additional trenches (32 and 33) were opened up within 20m of the trench. No further archaeological features were located. Furthermore, no artefacts were observed within the soil removed from the trenches – despite the fact that trench 21 was open for several weeks so that its spoil heaps were well weathered. The only other archaeological feature in the vicinity, [2204], was probably modern (see Section 4.2.2). These observations confirm that no other evidence for ancient human activity survived in the area and suggest that pit [2104] was an isolated feature dug on land some distance from contemporary habitation.

4.2.2 Furrows, land drains and other features

Various features noted in trenches 10, 12, 22, 28, 29, 30 and 31 were revealed to be of relatively modern origin, since they either contained modern debris/drainage pipes, or were located directly below the topsoil (cutting through the subsoil horizon).

¹³ Albion Archaeology Procedures Manual, Volume 1: Fieldwork. 2001.

¹⁴ Pottery fabric types identified in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, held by Albion Archaeology.



A shallow gully [3106] was found in trench 31. It was aligned north to south and located directly below the topsoil [3100]. It contained modern brick and tile.

Modern field drains tended to lie on the same alignment as the ridge and furrow cultivation identified from aerial photographs (compare Figure 4 with Figures 7–10). For this reason the distinction between land drains and furrows was not very clear. These linears were found in trenches 22, 28, 29, 30 and 31. They were aligned north-west to south-east in trench 28 and trench 29, north to south in trench 31 and east to west in trench 30. The land drain in trench 28 was clearly cut either through a furrow or a shallow ditch [2806]. This feature was stratigraphically directly under the topsoil. The feature in trench 22, [2204], appeared to be a robbed-out land drain; it was aligned north-west to south-east, located directly under the topsoil and of similar dimensions to other modern intrusions located elsewhere in the evaluation. As the furrow-like features were not sealed by subsoil horizons, it is possible that strip cultivation was practised well into the post-medieval period – as is indicated on the plan of Howbury manor estate (Figure 3), which shows long, narrow fields still in existence at the northern and eastern edges of the *Salphend Field* in 1781.

The features investigated in trenches 10 and 12, [1003], [1203] and [1205], were naturally derived tree-throws that were irregular in shape and profile

4.2.3 Palaeotopograhphical evidence

Evidence of the old course of the Renhold Brook was found in trenches 18 and 27 in the form of a surviving palaeochannel [1806] and [2704]. However, the palaeochannel deposits exposed appeared to be of relatively modern origin. They were located directly underneath the topsoil.



5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 Desk-Based Assessment

The desk-based assessment demonstrated that the evaluation area was part of a relatively static landscape, altered little through human agency until modern times. The Historic Environment Record show that no archaeological remains suggestive of past human occupation were known within the evaluation area prior to the trial excavation.

Originally part of an open field system, the evaluation area had taken on its current form by 1781. The first significant alterations to the landscape occurred in the nineteenth century, with the straightening of the course of the Renhold Brook and the division of the field into *Long Hill* and *Long Pole*. Surviving aerial photographs show evidence of the agricultural usage of this field through the presence of ridge and furrow. The field continued to be used as arable farmland until the present day.

5.1.2 Geophysical Survey

Previous investigations in the vicinity had been encouraging: at a site 1 kilometre to the south-east (in an area historically known as *Drinkwater Hill*), geophysical survey had accurately located the majority of features visible on the aerial photographs and had identified many previously unknown features ¹⁵. The two sites have a similar geology and topography and the survey of the present evaluation had been expected to yield similar results.

Despite expectations, the rapid magnetic scanning and the detailed survey of the evaluation area produced almost entirely negative results. Although some small discrete anomalies were identified, the subsequent trial trenching confirmed that these were of a non-archaeological origin. Given the proven effectiveness of geophysical techniques as applied at *Drinkwater Hill*, it appears that the absence of positive geophysical evidence from the evaluation area truly reflects a lack of archaeological features, rather than an inability of the techniques to detect such features.

5.1.3 Trial Trenching

The trial trenching results complement those from the desk based assessment and geophysical survey. They suggest a predominantly arable landscape, otherwise untouched by human agency, until the more recent land drainage works were undertaken.

A total of thirty-three trenches were opened and investigated. Trenches specifically targeted on areas of detailed geophysical survey confirmed the absence of any archaeological features that may have been undetectable by

¹⁵ Edgeworth, M, 2001, 'Iron Age and Romano-British Farmstead at Norse Road, Bedford', *Bedfordshire Archaeol*, 24, 1–19



magnetic survey. The majority of the trenches, which were distributed evenly across the evaluation area, located only one feature of any archaeological significance – the small Iron Age pit of unknown function found in trench 21. The excavation of additional trenches adjacent to trench 21 showed that there were no further features in the vicinity.

Overall, trial excavation confirmed the conclusion of the geophysical survey: that there was a genuine absence of archaeological features and that archaeological deposits had not been masked by geological or other factors.

5.2 Assessment of Archaeological Significance

The archaeological evaluation of the land north of Norse Road, Bedford, indicated that the evaluation area had been predominantly arable since the medieval period and that the land parcel had reached its present shape by the late eighteenth century. Otherwise, there was no evidence that the land had been significantly altered by human activity until recent drainage improvements were carried out.

No archaeological remains suggestive of past human occupation were known within the evaluation area prior to trial excavation, and investigation of thirty-three archaeological trenches revealed only one archaeological feature of any note: a single, isolated pit dating from the Iron Age. The pit was not associated with any other features and its contents (pottery and animal bone) were unremarkable. It is therefore considered to have very little archaeological significance, other than to indicate that an Iron Age habitation site must lie close by, albeit outside the area covered by the present evaluation.

The results of non-intrusive and intrusive stages of the evaluation were complementary and suggest that the evaluation area has very low archaeological potential. On the basis of this evaluation, therefore, no areas within the proposed development can be identified as having particular archaeological significance.



APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES.





Max Dimensions: Length: 29.10 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.33 m. Max: 0.33 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0819952329

OS Grid Ref.: TL0819952300

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
100	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	✓	
101	Subsoil	Compact mid grey brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones	~	
102	Natural	Compact light grey brown clay moderate small-medium stones The natura stratum is a mottled mix of grey-brown and orange-brown clay.	ı 🗆	



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.31 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0817052299

OS Grid Ref.: TL0816952269

Reason: To test the veracity of geophysical survey results.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	Present:
200	Topsoil	Firm dark brown silty clay frequent small-medium stones	V	
201	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones	✓	
202	Natural	Firm mid blue grey clay occasional small-medium stones The natural strature consists of a mixture of brown and blue-grey clay.	m \square	



Max Dimensions: Length: 29.10 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.34 m. Max: 0.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0825952299

OS Grid Ref.: TL0825952270

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds I	Present:
300	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small stones	V	
301	Subsoil	Compact mid grey brown silty clay moderate small stones	✓	
302	Natural	Compact light grey brown clay occasional small stones The natural stratum consists of a mixture of brown and blue-grey clay.	n \square	



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.27 m. Max: 0.3 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0813952239

OS Grid Ref.: TL0816952239

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
400	Topsoil	Firm dark brown silty clay frequent small-medium stones	✓	
401	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones	✓	
402	Natural	Firm mid blue grey clay occasional small-medium stones The natural stratuconsists of a mixture of brown and blue-grey clay.	ım 🗆	



Max Dimensions: Length: 28.80 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0831952239

OS Grid Ref.: TL0813952210

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
500	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	V	
501	Subsoil	Compact mid brown grey silty clay moderate small stones	~	
502	Natural	Compact light brown grey clay The natural stratum consists of a mixture of brown and blue-grey clay.	of \square	



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.38 m. Max: 0.39 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0801952209

OS Grid Ref.: TL0801952179

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds	Present:
600	Topsoil	Firm dark brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	✓	
601	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty clay occasional small stones	✓	
602	Natural	Loose mid orange brown silty gravel frequent small-medium stones The nate stratum consists of alternating bands of loose orange-brown silty-gravel and firm, sticky, blue-grey clay.	ıral 🗌	



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.34 m. Max: 0.42 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0816952180

OS Grid Ref.: TL0819952180

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pi	resent:
700	Topsoil	Firm dark brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	~	
701	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty clay occasional small stones	✓	
702	Natural	Firm mid blue grey clay occasional small stones The natural stratum consist a mixture of brown and blue-grey clay.	ts of	



Max Dimensions: Length: 29.10 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.37 m. Max: 0.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0826052179

OS Grid Ref.: TL0828952179

Reason: To test the veracity of geophysical survey results.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds	s Present:
800	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	✓	
801	Subsoil	Compact mid orange brown silty clay moderate small stones	✓	
802	Natural	Compact mid grey brown clay moderate small stones The natural stratum consists of a mixture of brown and blue-grey clay with patches of mid orange brown clay-gravel.	e-	



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.24 m. Max: 0.59 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0785252173

OS Grid Ref.: TL0787852158

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds l	Present:
900	Topsoil	Firm dark brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	✓	
901	Subsoil	Friable mid red brown sandy silt occasional small stones	✓	
902	Natural	Loose mid orange brown silty gravel moderate small stones The natural strategies consists of a mixture of blue-grey clay patches and orange-brown silty-gravel		



Max Dimensions: Length: 28.80 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.38 m. Max: 0.5 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0799052119

OS Grid Ref.: TL0801952119

Reason: To test the veracity of geophysical survey results.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	Present:
1000	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt frequent small stones	~	
1001	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones	~	
1002	Natural	Firm mid orange brown silty gravel occasional small stones The natural strat consists of a mixture of blue-grey clay patches and orange-brown silty-gravel.		
1003	Treethrow	Sub-oval NW-SE profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.67 max depth 0.2m, max length 0.81m	'm, ✓	
1004	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt moderate small stones	~	



Max Dimensions: Length: 29.30 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.32 m. Max: 0.33 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0810952149

OS Grid Ref.: TL0810952120

Reason: To test the veracity of geophysical survey results.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:	
1100	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	V	
1101	Subsoil	Compact mid orange brown silty clay occasional small stones	✓	
1102	Natural	Compact mid grey brown clay occasional small stones The natural stratum consists of a mixture of mid grey-brown clay and mid orange-brown grayel-c		



Max Dimensions: Length: 28.70 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.29 m. Max: 0.34 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0832052119

OS Grid Ref.: TL0834952119

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1200	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	✓	
1201	Subsoil	Compact mid brown grey silty clay moderate small-medium stones	✓	
1202	Natural	Compact mid grey brown clay moderate small stones The natural stratum consists of a mixture of brown and blue-grey clay, with patches of mid orange brown clay-gravel.	-	
1203	Treethrow	Sub-oval N-S profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.87m, max depth 0.22m, max length 1.34m	V	
1204	Fill	Compact dark grey brown silty clay moderate small stones	✓	
1205	Treethrow	Sub-oval NW-SE profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.19 max depth 0.29m, max length 2.3m	m,	
1206	Fill	Compact dark grey brown silty clay moderate flecks charcoal, moderate small ston	es 🗸	



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.69 m. Max: 0.69 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0786952119

OS Grid Ref.: TL0786952089

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:	
1300	Topsoil	Firm dark brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	✓	
1301	Subsoil	Friable mid red brown sandy silt occasional small stones	✓	
1302	Natural	Loose mid orange brown silty gravel moderate small stones The natural strat consists of a mixture of patches of orange-brown silty-gravel and blue-grey cla		



Max Dimensions: Length: 29.10 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.33 m. Max: 0.34 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0808052090

OS Grid Ref.: TL0810952090

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:	
1400	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	V	
1401	Subsoil	Compact mid grey brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones	V	
1402	Natural	Firm mid grey brown clay moderate small stones The natural stratum cons of a mixture of grey-brown and orange-brown clay, with occassional lenses of mid orange-brown clay gravel.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.32 m. Max: 0.36 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0822952119

OS Grid Ref.: TL0822952089

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
1500	Topsoil	Firm dark brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	✓	
1501	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty clay occasional small stones	✓	
1502	Natural	Compact mid brown clay The natural stratum consists of a mixture of broand blue-grey clay.	wn 🗆	



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.3 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0792952089

OS Grid Ref.: TL0792952059

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
1600	Topsoil	Firm dark brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	✓	
1601	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty clay occasional small stones	✓	
1602	Natural	Loose mid orange brown silty gravel moderate small stones The natural stra	atum 🗌	



Max Dimensions: Length: 29.10 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.31 m. Max: 0.38 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0814052059

OS Grid Ref.: TL0816952059

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	Present:
1700	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	✓	
1701	Topsoil	Compact mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones	~	
1702	Natural	Compact mid brown grey clay The natural stratum consists of a mixture o brown and blue-grey clay.	f 🗆	



Max Dimensions: Length: 28.00 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.69 m. Max: 0.92 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0789951969

OS Grid Ref.: TL0792951969

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds	Present:
1800	Topsoil	Firm dark brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	~	
1801	Subsoil	Friable mid red brown sandy silt occasional small stones	✓	
1802	Natural	Loose mid orange brown silty gravel frequent small stones		
1806	Palaeochannel	Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 2.2m, max length 24.8m This palaeochannel remains unexcavated.		
1803	Fill	Friable mid brown silty clay		
1804	Fill	Loose mid brown sandy silt		
1805	Fill	Loose mid red brown silty clay		



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.28 m. Max: 0.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0802052059

OS Grid Ref.: TL0802052029

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:	
1900	Topsoil	Firm dark brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	✓	
1901	Subsoil	Firm mid brown clay silt occasional small stones	V	
1902	Natural	Compact mid blue grey clay The natural stratum consists of a mixture of brown and blue-grey clay.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.43 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0822952029

OS Grid Ref.: TL0825952029

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
2000	Topsoil	Firm dark brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	✓	
2001	Subsoil	Firm mid brown silty clay occasional small stones	~	
2002	Natural	Loose mid orange brown silty sand occasional small stones The natural stra consists of a mixture of blue-grey clay patches, orange brown silty sand.	tum	



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.29 m. Max: 0.33 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0807951999

OS Grid Ref.: TL0810951999

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Fi	inds Present:
2100	Topsoil	Firm dark brown silty clay frequent small-medium stones	✓	
2101	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones	✓	✓
2102	Natural	Firm mid blue grey clay The natural stratum consists of a mixture of brow and blue-grey clay.	n 🗆	
2104	Pit	Sub-oval N-S profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.68m, ma depth 0.31m, max length 1.35m	x 🗸	
2103	Fill	Firm dark brown clay silt occasional medium stones	✓	✓



Max Dimensions: Length: 28.20 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.28 m. Max: 0.39 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0813952028

OS Grid Ref.: TL0813952000

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds	Present:
2200	Topsoil	Firm dark brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	✓	
2201	Topsoil	Firm mid orange brown silty sand occasional small stones	✓	
2202	Natural	Firm mid brown silty clay occasional small stones		
2204	Modern Intrusion	Linear NW-SE profile: vertical base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.2m max depth 0.15m, max length 1.m	, v	
2203	Fill	Loose mid brown silty sand	✓	✓



Max Dimensions: Length: 28.80 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.33 m. Max: 0.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0831952029

OS Grid Ref.: TL0831952000

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:	
2300	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	V	
2301	Subsoil	Compact mid grey brown silty clay moderate small stones	V	
2302	Natural	Compact mid grey brown silty gravel The natural stratum consists of a mixt of grey-brown silty gravel, mid orange-brown gravel-clay and pale brown-gr clay.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.37 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0789951969

OS Grid Ref.: TL0792951969

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
2400	Topsoil	Firm dark brown clay silt occasional small stones	✓	
2401	Subsoil	Friable mid red brown sandy silt occasional small stones	✓	
2402	Natural	Loose mid orange brown silty gravel moderate small stones The natural stra		



Max Dimensions: Length: 29.00 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.37 m. Max: 0.39 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0814051969

OS Grid Ref.: TL0816951969

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds I	Present:
2500	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	✓	
2501	Subsoil	Compact mid orange brown silty clay frequent small stones	✓	
2502	Natural	Compact mid brown grey clay occasional small stones The natural stratum consists of a mixture of brown-grey clay and mid orange-brown grayel-silt.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 28.70 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.32 m. Max: 0.36 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0801951969

OS Grid Ref.: TL0802051940

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds I	Present:
2600	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	✓	
2601	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones	✓	
2602	Natural	Compact light brown grey clay occasional small stones The natural stratum consists of a mixture of brown-grey clay and mid orange-brown silty-grayel		



Max Dimensions: Length: 28.50 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.46 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0825051950

OS Grid Ref.: TL0826951928

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:	
2700	Topsoil	Firm dark brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	V	
2701	Subsoil	Firm mid brown silty clay occasional small stones	V	
2702	Natural	Loose mid brown silty gravel moderate small stones		
2704	Palaeochannel	Linear E-W dimensions: max breadth 2.2m, max length 18.3m This palaeochannel was not excavated.		
2703	Fill	Loose light brown silty clay moderate small stones		



Max Dimensions: Length: 28.50 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.43 m. Max: 0.43 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0796851912

OS Grid Ref.: TL0794851892

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2800	Topsoil	Firm dark brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	✓	
2801	Subsoil	Loose light brown silty gravel frequent small stones	✓	
2802	Natural	Loose mid orange brown silty gravel frequent small stones The natural strate consists of a mixture of orange-brown silty-gravel and blue-grey clay.	um 🗆	
2804	Modern Intrusion	Linear NW-SE profile: vertical dimensions: max breadth 0.38m, max length 1.2m This feature was not fully excavated. It was stopped when a modern lar drain was exposed.	✓	
2803	Fill	Firm dark brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones	~	
2806	Furrow	Linear NW-SE profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, ma depth 0.14m, max length 1.62m	x 🗸	
2805	Fill	Firm light brown silty clay frequent small stones	✓	



Max Dimensions: Length: 28.50 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.35 m. Max: 0.38 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0811051909

OS Grid Ref.: TL0813951909

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2900	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	✓	
2901	Subsoil	Compact mid orange brown silty clay frequent small-medium stones	✓	
2902	Natural	Mid orange brown silty gravel occasional small stones The natural stratum consists of a mixture of orange-brown silty-gravel and blue-grey clay.		
2903	Modern Intrusion	Linear NW-SE profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, max depth 0.46m, max length 2.3m	✓	
2904	Fill	Compact mid grey brown silty clay moderate small stones	✓	
2905	Modern Intrusion	Linear NW-SE This feature remains unexcavated. The fill and alignment of feature is consistent with [2903] and [2907] - modern land drains.	this	
2906	Fill	Compact mid orange brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones		
2907	Modern Intrusion	Linear NW-SE profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.7m, max depth 0.44m, max length 2.4m	Y	
2908	Fill	Compact mid orange brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones	✓	
2909	Modern Intrusion	Linear NW-SE This feature remains unexcavated. The fill and alignment of feature is consistent with [2903] and [2907] - modern land drains.	this	
2910	Fill	Compact mid orange brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones		



Max Dimensions: Length: 28.70 m. Width: 2.10 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.37 m. Max: 0.49 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0807951879

OS Grid Ref.: TL0807951850

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:	
3000	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt frequent small stones	✓	
3001	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt frequent small stones	~	
3002	Natural	Firm mid orange brown silty gravel frequent small stones The natural stratu consists of a mixture of orange-brown silty-gravel and brown-grey clay.	m 🗆	
3003	Modern Intrusion	Linear E-W profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.06m, r depth 0.59m, max length 2.1m	nax 🗸	
3004	Fill	Compact mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones	✓	\checkmark



Max Dimensions: Length: 43.50 m. Width: 2.20 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.36 m. Max: 0.36 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0801951939

OS Grid Ref.: TL0800051900

Reason: Additional trench (opened due to error in marking out trench 26).

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Prese	
3100	Topsoil	Firm dark brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	✓	
3101	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silty sand frequent small stones	✓	
3102	Natural	Loose mid orange brown sandy gravel frequent small stones The natural stratum consists of a mixture of brown orange-brown sandy-gravel and blue grey clay.	<u> </u>	
3104	Modern Intrusion	Linear N-S profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.21m, max depth 0.44m, max length 1.7m	✓	
3103	Fill	Firm yellow brown silty sand occasional small-medium stones	✓	\checkmark
3106	Gulley	Linear N-S profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.82m, max depth 0.21m, max length 1.m	✓	
3105	Fill	Firm mid red brown clay silt frequent small stones	✓	



Max Dimensions: Length: 15.50 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.25 m. Max: 0.29 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0809451979

OS Grid Ref.: TL0810951977

Reason: Additional trench placed near Trench 21 to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological

features close to [2104].

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	xcavated: Finds Present:	
3200	Topsoil	Firm mid brown silty clay frequent small-medium stones	V		
3201	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty clay occasional small stones	✓		
3202	Natural	Firm mid blue grey clay The natural stratum consists of a mixture of brow and blue-grey clay.	n 🗆		



Max Dimensions: Length: 20.90 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.35 m. Max: 0.37 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL0808952026

OS Grid Ref.: TL0810952024

Reason: Additional trench placed near Trench 21 to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological

features close to [2104].

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:	
3300	Topsoil	Firm mid brown silty clay frequent small stones	V	
3301	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones	V	
3302	Natural	Firm mid blue grey clay The natural stratum consists of a mixture of brow and blue-grey clay.	n 🗆	



FIGURES



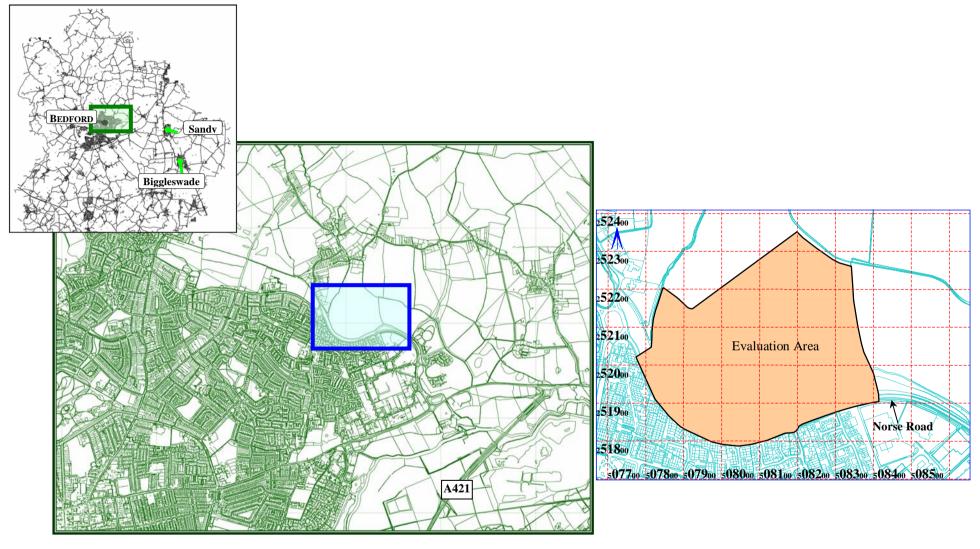


Figure 1: Location of the evaluation area



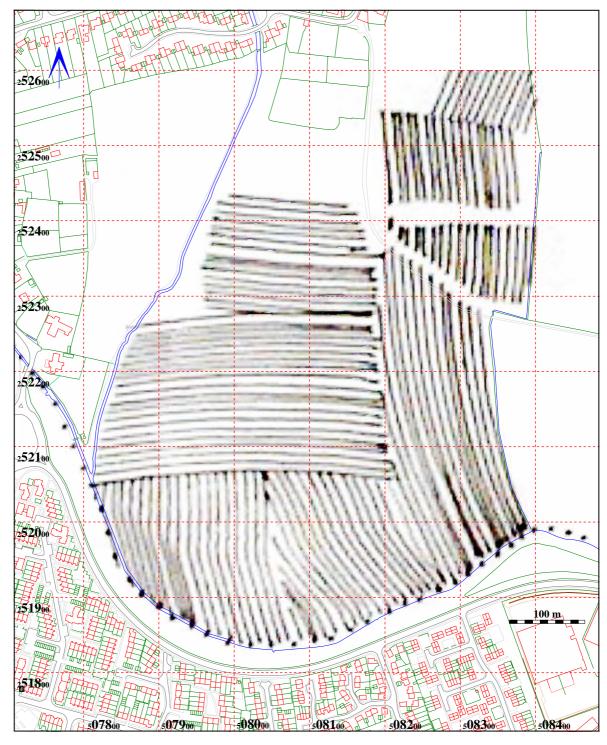


Figure 2: Ridge and furrow visible on aerial photographs, mostly 1945-76 (after Bedfordshire HER)





Figure 3: Detail from a plan of the manor of Howbury in the parish of Renhold, 1781 (BLARS ref: X 1/9)



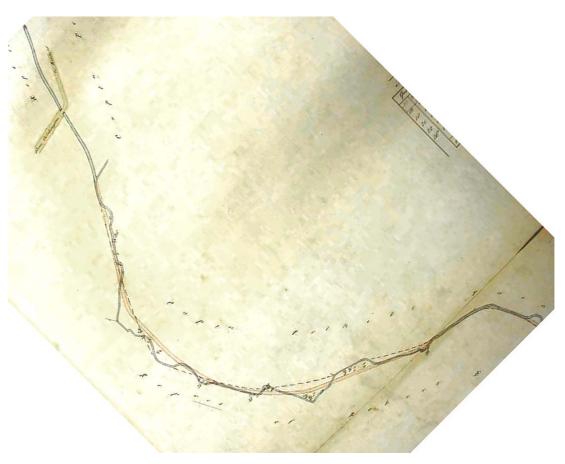


Figure 4: Renhold Brook – detail of a plan of the watercourse from Castle Mills to Putnoe Wood, 1858 (BLARS ref R 1/34)



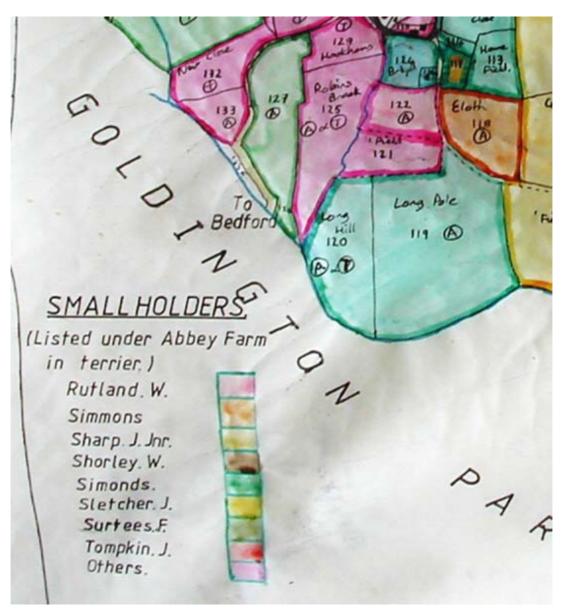


Figure 5: Detail of a copy of 1883 plan on deed of Howbury estate (Bedfordshire HER)



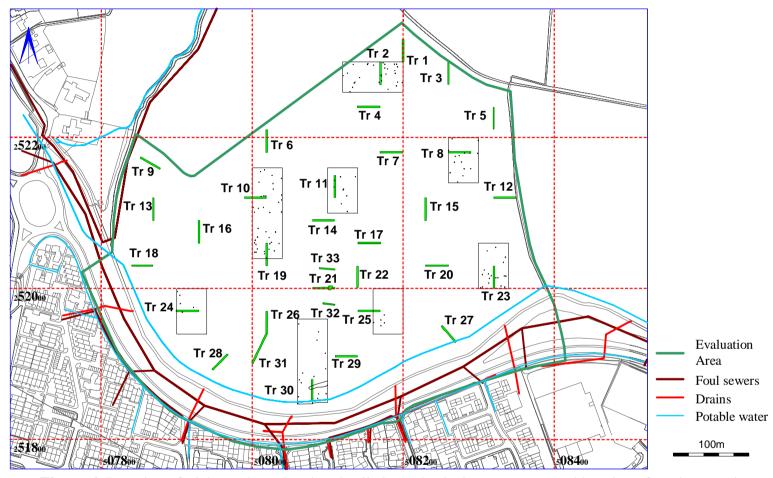


Figure 6: Location of trial trenches, showing detailed geophysical survey areas and location of modern services



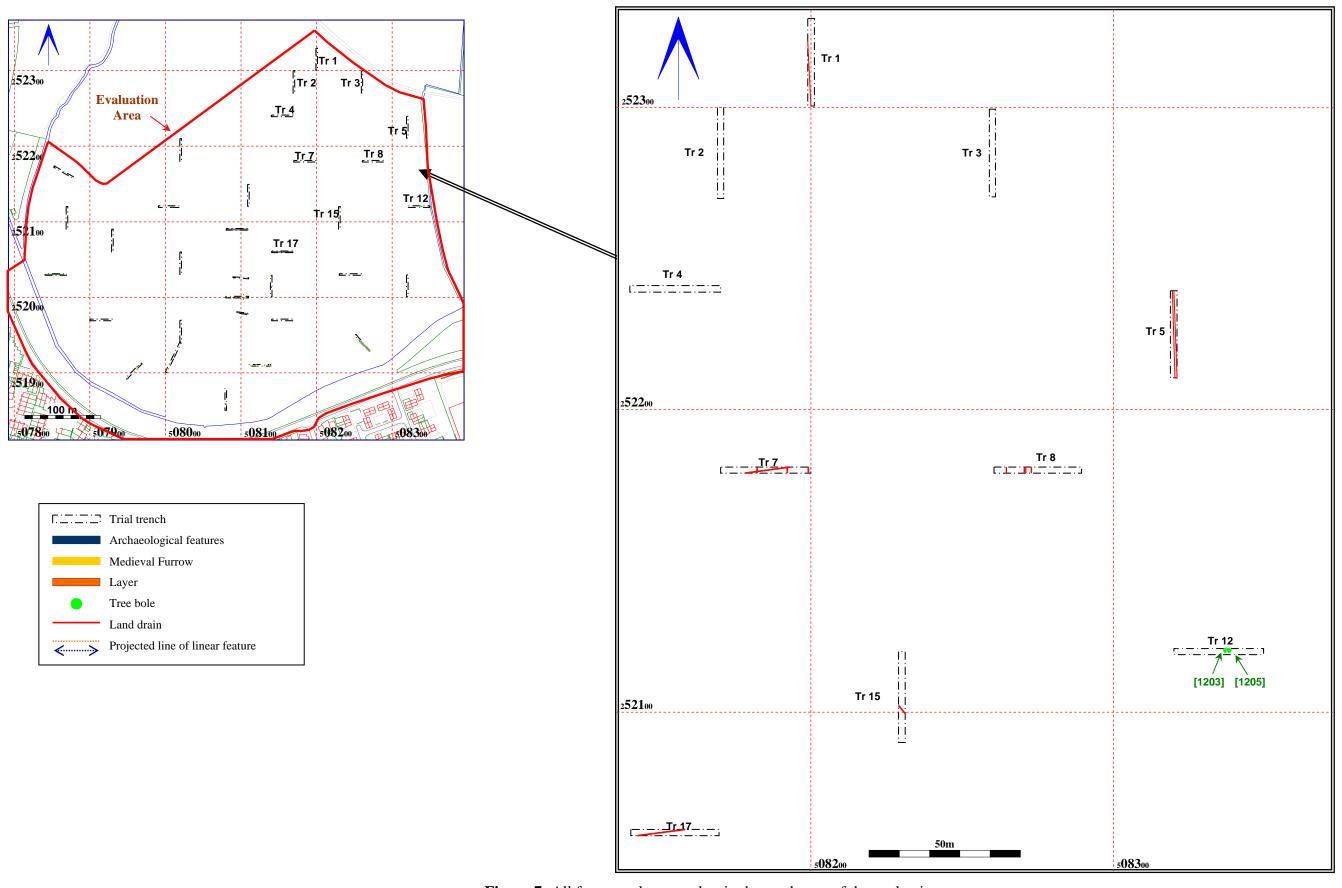


Figure 7: All features plan; trenches in the north-east of the evaluation area



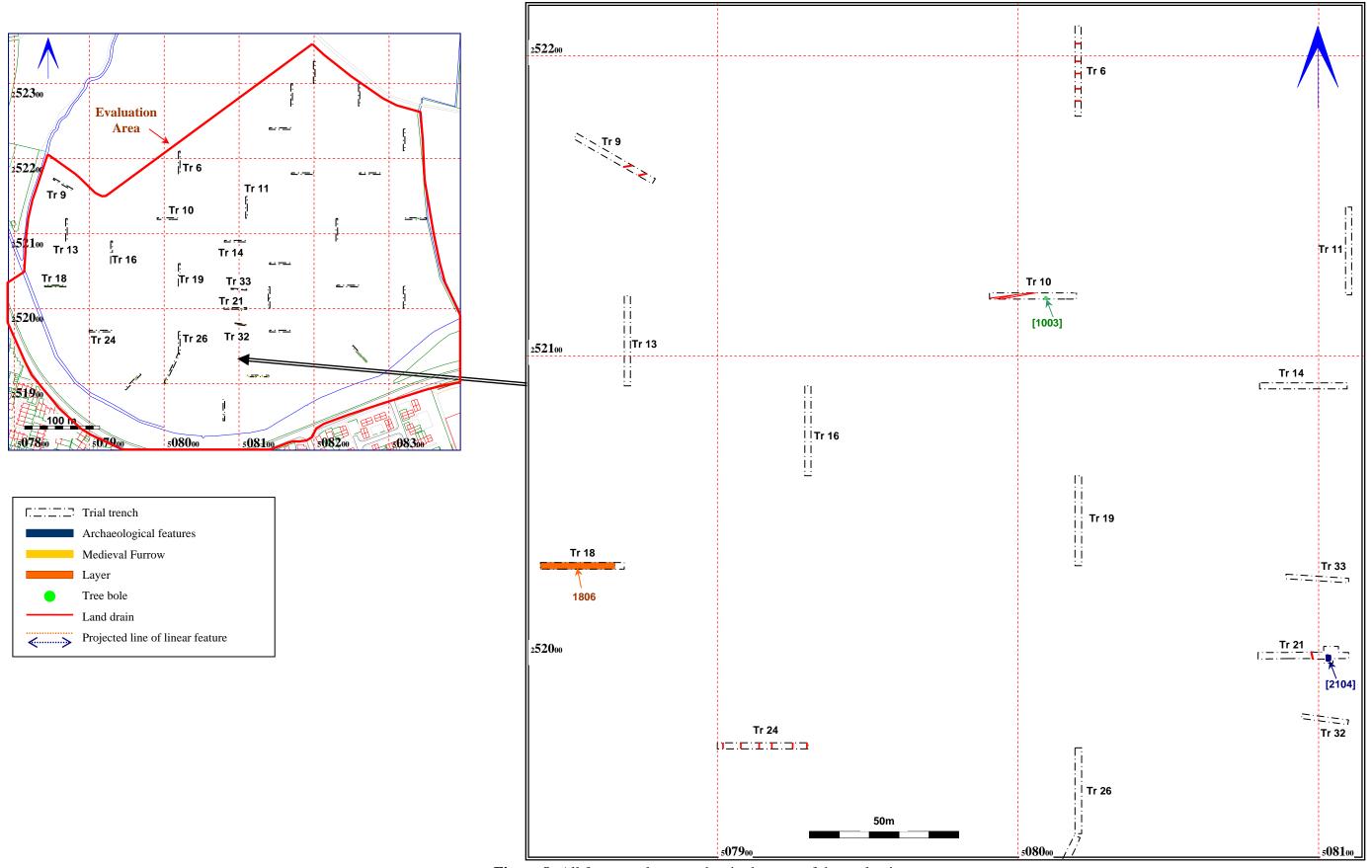


Figure 8: All features plan; trenches in the west of the evaluation area



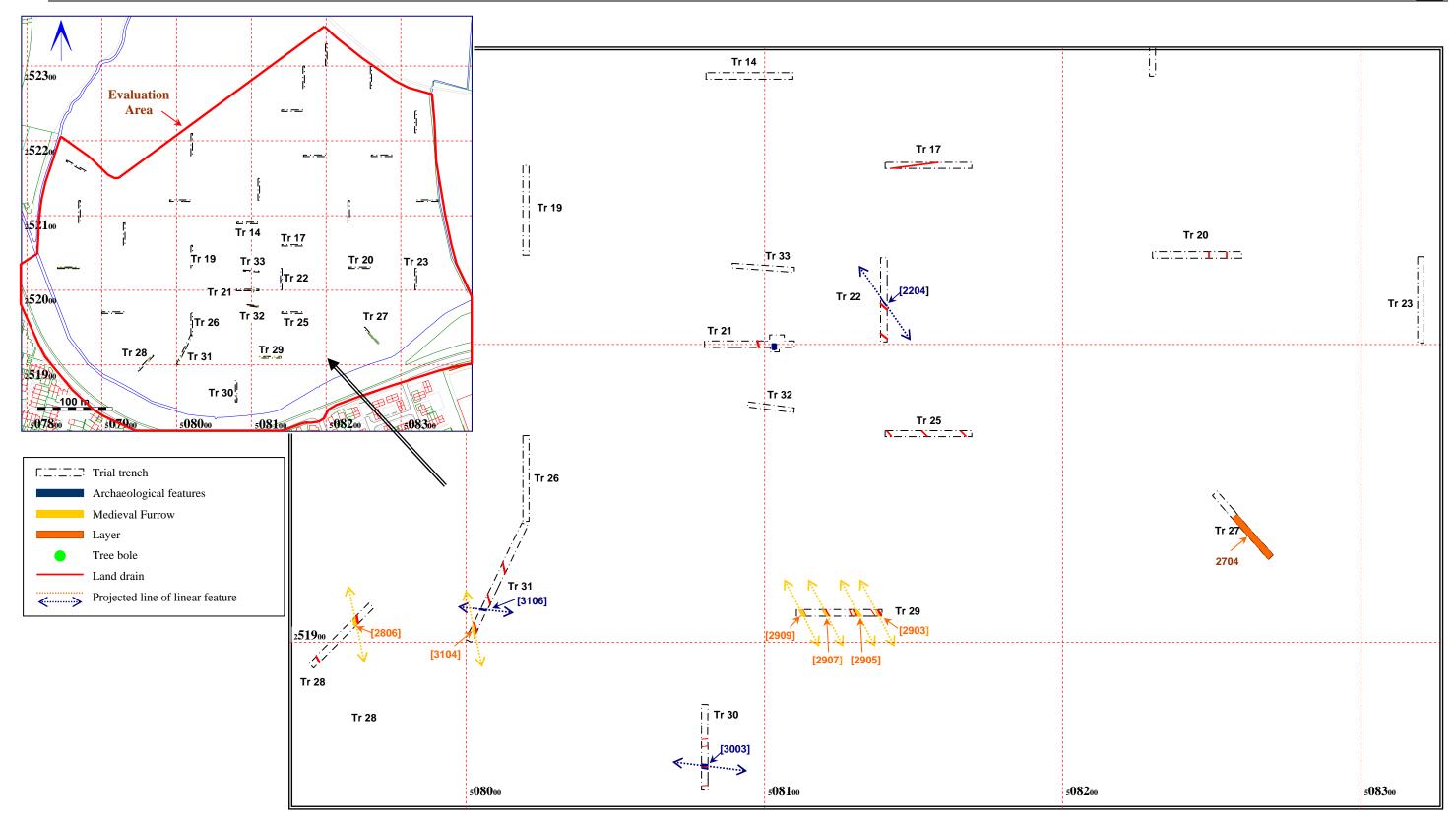


Figure 9: All features plan; trenches in the south-east of the evaluation area



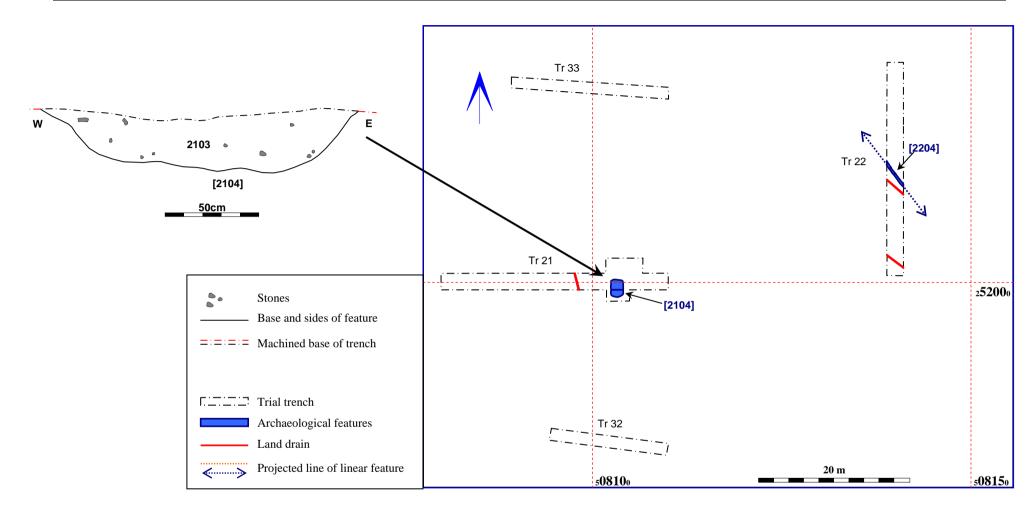


Figure 10: Plan and section of isolated pit [2104] in trench 21