



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation of land at Europa Way
Warwick, Warwickshire
November 2012



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: 138656
Project name	Archaeological evaluation of land at Europa Way, Warwick, Warwickshire November 2012	
Short description	In November 2012, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of AMEC plc on land at Europa Way, Warwick, Warwickshire. No archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered during the evaluation.	
Project type	Evaluation	
Site status	None	
Previous work	Geophysical Survey Northamptonshire Archaeology 2012	
Current Land use	Arable	
Future work	unknown	
Monument type/ period	Modern	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Warwickshire	
Site address	Europa Way, Warwick	
Study area	11ha	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 303 646	
Height OD	c 55-65 m AOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	WCC	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Tim Upson-Smith	
Project Manager	Mark Holmes	
Sponsor or funding body	AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Ltd c	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	11/2012	
End date	11/2012	
ARCHIVES	Location	Content
Physical		
Paper		Evaluation pro forma sheets, context sheets, colour slides, black and white contact prints, digital photographs
Digital		Report text and figures
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Archaeological evaluation of land at Europa Way, Warwick, Warwickshire November 2012	
Serial title & volume	12/210	
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Cover: Trench 43 looking west

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: Trial trench location plan

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
OF LAND AT EUROPA WAY, WARWICK, WARWICKSHIRE
NOVEMBER 2012**

Abstract

In November 2012, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of AMEC plc on land at Europa Way, Warwick, Warwickshire. No archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered during the evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Ltd to carry out archaeological trial trenching on a proposed development site at Europa Way, Warwick. The works were undertaken in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

The proposed development area comprises a compact block of land, approximately 38ha in extent, between Warwick and Leamington Spa. The current evaluation extends to c11ha located mainly within the southern part of the proposed development area (Figs 1 and 2).

The programme of archaeological investigation involved the excavation of forty-six trenches across the development area, the results of which are presented in this report.

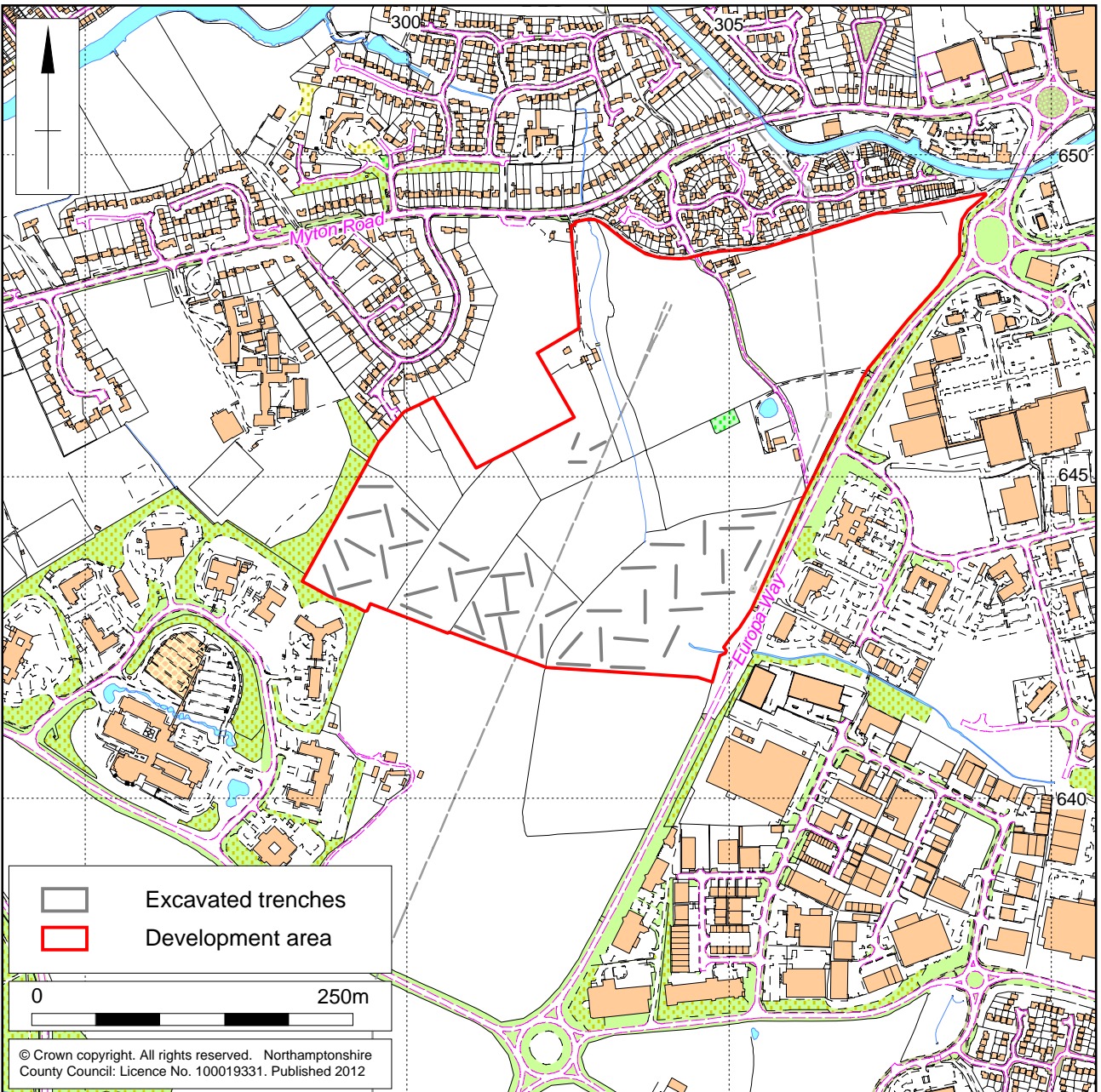
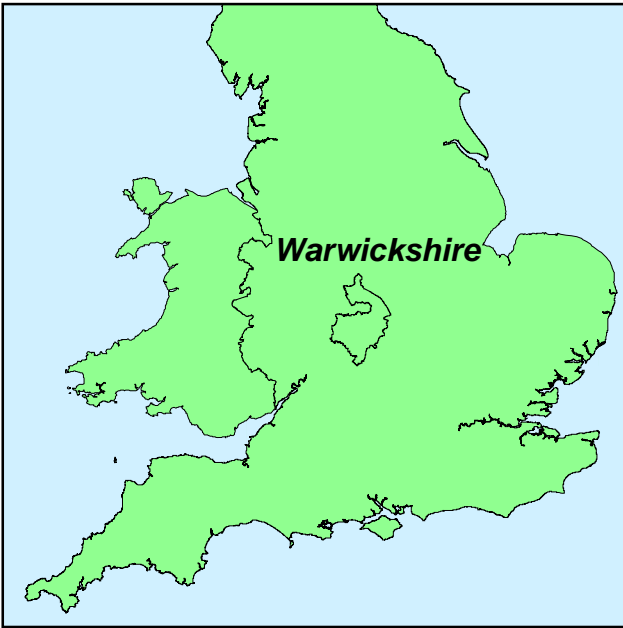
2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, geology and topography

The site is bounded to the east by Europa Way, to the north by modern suburban housing and to the south and west by fields and encompasses two farms, King Henry VIII Farm and Cottage Farm. The fields are a mixture of arable land and permanent pasture. The field in the south-eastern part of the site was very overgrown.

The topography of the area is gently undulating, with a general slope down from c65m AOD in the south to c55m AOD in the north. A small and apparently canalised brook flows from south to north through the middle of the area.

The solid geology of the area comprises Mercia Mudstone, but this is overlain in most places by various drifts. Fourth terrace deposits of the River Avon occur in the southernmost part of the site, and second terrace deposits in the north. There is also a narrow band of alluvium along the line of the brook (<http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html>).



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1

2.2 Archaeological background

A geophysical survey of the site has previously been undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Walford 2012)..

The proposed development area lies close to the deserted medieval village of Myton, and records held by the Warwickshire HER suggest that a chapel, a well and other medieval remains associated with that village may occur in the fields north of Brook Farm (MWA 1976; MWA5522; MWA5523). Also, some medieval ridge and furrow is known to survive within the development area. One set of earthworks extends south-westwards from Cottage Farm, covering Fields 1 and 2 and another occurs in Field 12, to the south of Myton Crescent.

To the immediate south of the development area, the Warwickshire HER records an extensive group of cropmark enclosures of probable late prehistoric or Roman date (MWA 4562). Further to the south and west, in the vicinity of Warwick Business Park, there are many recorded findspots of coins and metal artefacts. However, these finds span a very wide date range, and their distribution probably reflects the search area of a particular metal detectorist rather than the location of an archaeological site.

None of the farms within the development area appears to be of particular antiquity. All of the farm buildings are of 19th to 20th century date and none are shown on the Ordnance Survey surveyors draft of 1813 (BL 2012).

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

The aims of the archaeological evaluation are specified in the Written Scheme of Investigation (NA 2012).

The main aim of the investigation was to determine if archaeological remains were present within the application area.

The specific objectives of the project were to provide further information on the following:

- The location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present at the proposed development site;
- The integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present at the proposed development site.

3.2 Methodology

The works were conducted in accordance with the specification, *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008) and the *Code of Conduct* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 1985, revised 2010). The written scheme of investigation was approved in advance of a start on site by the Archaeological Information and Advice team, Warwickshire County Council, who also monitored the completion of the work on site.

Forty-three 50m trenches and three 25m trenches were machine-excavated using a toothless ditching bucket (Fig 2). The trenches were positioned in accordance with the trench location plan approved by County Archaeological Advisor to Warwickshire and have been related to Ordnance Survey National Grid (Fig 2). On completion of archaeological recording the trenches were backfilled. There was no requirement for specialist re-instatement.

The topsoil, subsoil and non-structural post-medieval and later deposits were removed to reveal the natural. The topsoil was stacked separately from the subsoil and other deposits. The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification of any features.

All deposits encountered during the course of the excavation were given a separate context number and fully recorded. Recording followed standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures (NA 2011). Deposits were described on pro-forma context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships and interpretation.

A full photographic record comprising both 35mm black and white negatives and colour transparencies was maintained, supplemented with digital images. The field data was compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

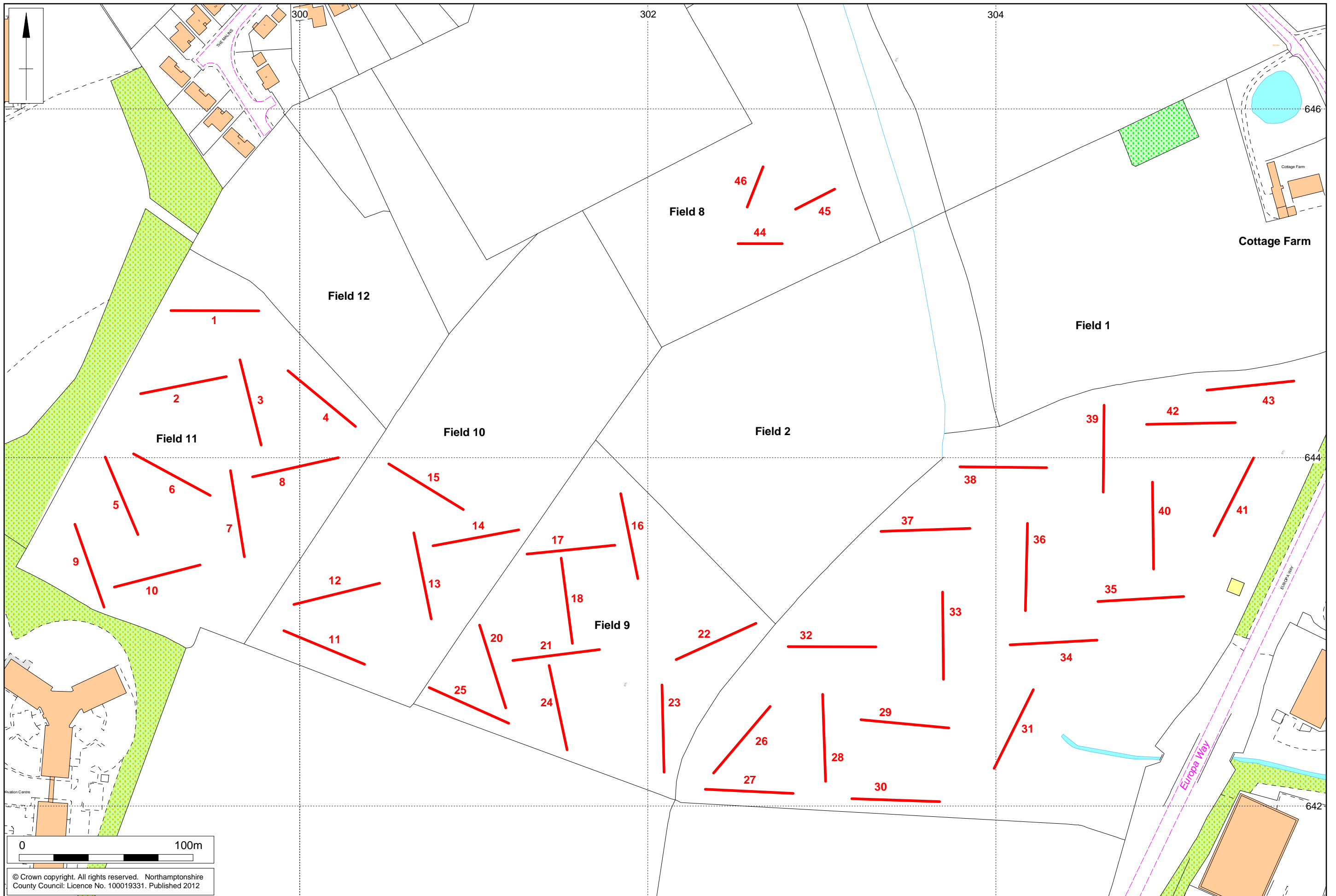
The trenches were typically aligned broadly north-south or east-west. The trenches were placed to give a broad coverage of the southern part of the development area and to provide more detailed coverage where the geophysical survey had identified any possible archaeological features (Fig 2).

The trenches were located in fields 8, 9, 10 and 11 and the field which was not subject to geophysical survey in the south-eastern part of the site. Natural orange sandy clay was exposed at a depth of, on average, 0.5m below present ground surface.

Modern disturbance was noted in trenches 6, 10, 31 and 34. No archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered during the course of the evaluation.

5 DISCUSSION

The trial trenching has confirmed the negative results of the geophysical survey. The magnetic anomaly of uncertain origin observed during the geophysical survey in Field 11 was modern in date and comprised a build up of dumped soil, possibly infilling a hollow from quarrying. No features of archaeological interest or artefacts were recovered or observed during the evaluation.



Scale 1:2,000

The excavated trenches Fig 2

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Web sites

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