



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

## Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Coventry Road, Broughton Astley Leicestershire



### Northamptonshire Archaeology

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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>OASIS NUMBER: 151478</b>	
Project name	Archaeological Evaluation on land at Coventry Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire		
Short description	<p>Northamptonshire Archaeology were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, acting on behalf of their clients William Davis Ltd, to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land south of Coventry Road, Broughton Astley. The works followed a geophysical survey which produced negative results apart from a disused metal water pipe.</p> <p>At the time of trenching the site was under pasture with upstanding ridge and furrow earthworks. The evaluation identified ditches, a possible surface and a pit which appear to relate to medieval or earlier out-field systems. The remnants of this field system continued into the medieval period with one of the ditches being superseded by a surface and then a headland. The artefacts recovered included three pieces of worked flint, single sherd of medieval pottery and a small quantity of animal bone.</p>		
Project type	Evaluation- trial trenching		
Site status	None		
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Roseveare 2012)		
Current Land use	Pasture		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type/ period	Extant medieval ridge and furrow earthworks, undated ditches and a pit		
Significant finds	None		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Leicestershire		
Site address	Land off Coventry Road, Broughton Astley		
Study area	8.4ha		
OS Easting & Northing	451709 293392		
Height OD	96m		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology		
Project brief originator			
Project Design originator	CgMs Consulting Ltd		
Director/Supervisor	C Simmonds		
Project Manager	A Yates		
Sponsor or funding body	P Gajos, CgMs Consulting Ltd		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
Start date	29/4/2013		
End date	8/5/2013		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Content</b>	
Physical	X.A51.2013	1 small box of worked flint, pottery and animal bone	
Paper		1 grey archive box of site forms and records	
Digital		Digital photographs, pdf of report and dxf data	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>			
Title	Archaeological Evaluation on land at Coventry Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire, April- May 2013		
Serial title & volume	NA report 13/89		
Author(s)	Carol Simmonds		
Page numbers	36 pages text and illustrations		
Date	May 2013		

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
ON LAND AT COVENTRY ROAD, BROUGHTON ASTLEY  
LEICESTERSHIRE  
APRIL- MAY 2013**

*Abstract*

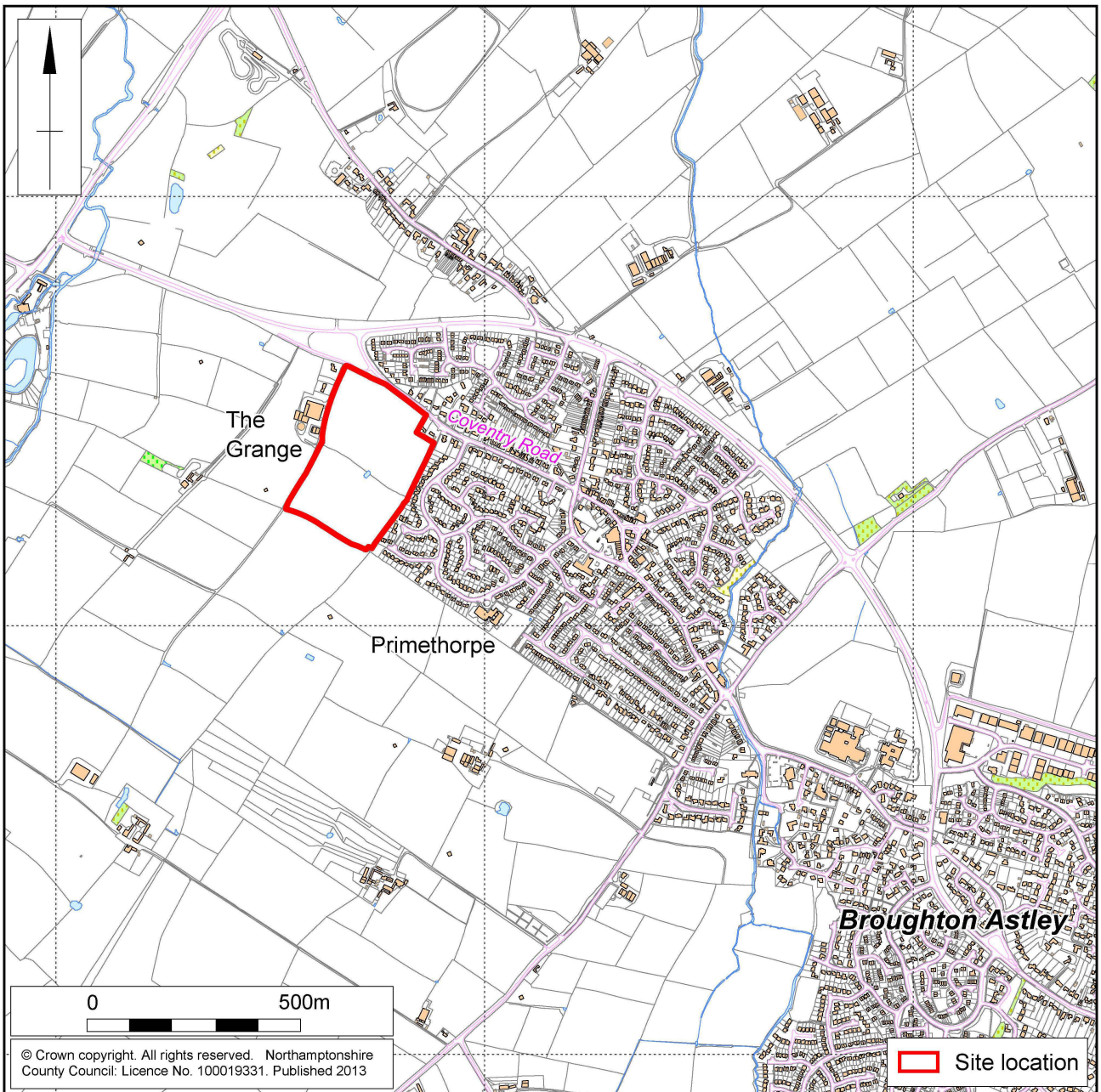
*Northamptonshire Archaeology were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, acting on behalf of their clients William Davis Ltd, to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land south of Coventry Road, Broughton Astley. The works followed a geophysical survey which produced negative results apart from a disused metal water pipe.*

*At the time of trenching the site was under pasture with upstanding ridge and furrow earthworks. The evaluation identified ditches, a possible surface and a pit which appear to relate to medieval or earlier out-field systems. The remnants of this field system continued into the medieval period with one of the ditches being superseded by a surface and then a headland. The artefacts recovered included three pieces of worked flint, single sherd of medieval pottery and a small quantity of animal bone.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

CgMs Consulting Ltd, acting on behalf of William Davis Ltd, commissioned Northamptonshire Archaeology to undertake archaeological work on the proposed development site on land to the south of Coventry Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire (NGR 451709 293392, Fig 1). The archaeological works comprised trial trenching encompassing 850 linear metres and followed a geophysical survey which was undertaken in 2012 by ArchaeoPhysica (Roseveare 2012). The proposed development area comprised two pasture fields which had extant ridge and furrow earthworks and a low earthwork bank indicating the presence of a headland.

The works were required in response to a forthcoming planning application for residential development, in line with National Planning Policy Framework NPPF (DCLG 2010). A Project Specification was produced by CgMs Consulting for the trial trench evaluation work (Gajos 2013). The works were monitored by the Assistant Planning Archaeologist to Leicestershire County Council and by CgMs Consulting.



Scale 1:15,000

Site Location Fig 1

## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location and topography**

The site encompassed 8.4ha of pasture land situated on the north-western edge of the Broughton Astley, Leicestershire. Its northern boundary was defined by Coventry Road and the western edge by a farm track accessing The Grange. To the east were the modern suburbs of Primethorpe and Broughton Astley and to the south lay open fields. The proposed development area lies at an average height of 94m aOD rising to a centrally placed ridge of higher ground at approximately 96m aOD

The proposed development area comprised two fields (Field 1 to the north and Field 2- to the south) which were subdivided into smaller rectangular shaped paddocks defined by wooden posts and electric wire-fencing. The wire-fencing had been removed to allow the trenching to take place. A public footpath crossed Field 1 from the houses in the north-east and into Field 2.

### **2.2 Geology by Steve Critchley**

The geology of the site consists of a solid geology of Upper Triassic Mercia Mudstones Group rocks, none of which were seen on site, overlain by glacial tills and sands and gravels of the of the Pleistocene Wolston Formation.

The tills were exposed in the trenches on the south and west side of the site with the gravels forming a central ridge across the fields. The tills were observed to be sandy reddish to greyish-brown clays with abundant rounded to irregular clasts of Carboniferous sandstones and subordinate limestones along with Triassic sandstones. They also showed evidence of periglacial ground ice features such as ice wedges and partial ice wedge polygons picked out by their fine aeolian sandy silt infills.

The glacial gravels consisted of coarse reddish-brown sandy gravels with abundant well rounded clasts, predominantly of Carboniferous sandstones, some of which had diameters of 0.2- 0.4m.

### **2.3 Archaeological background**

The proposed development area is situated within an area where prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and medieval artefacts and sites have been identified. Historic Environment Record data (Fig 2) has been made available from Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record and augmented by a search of 'Heritage Gateway' website (<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>) and of 'Old Maps' website (<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/index.html>).

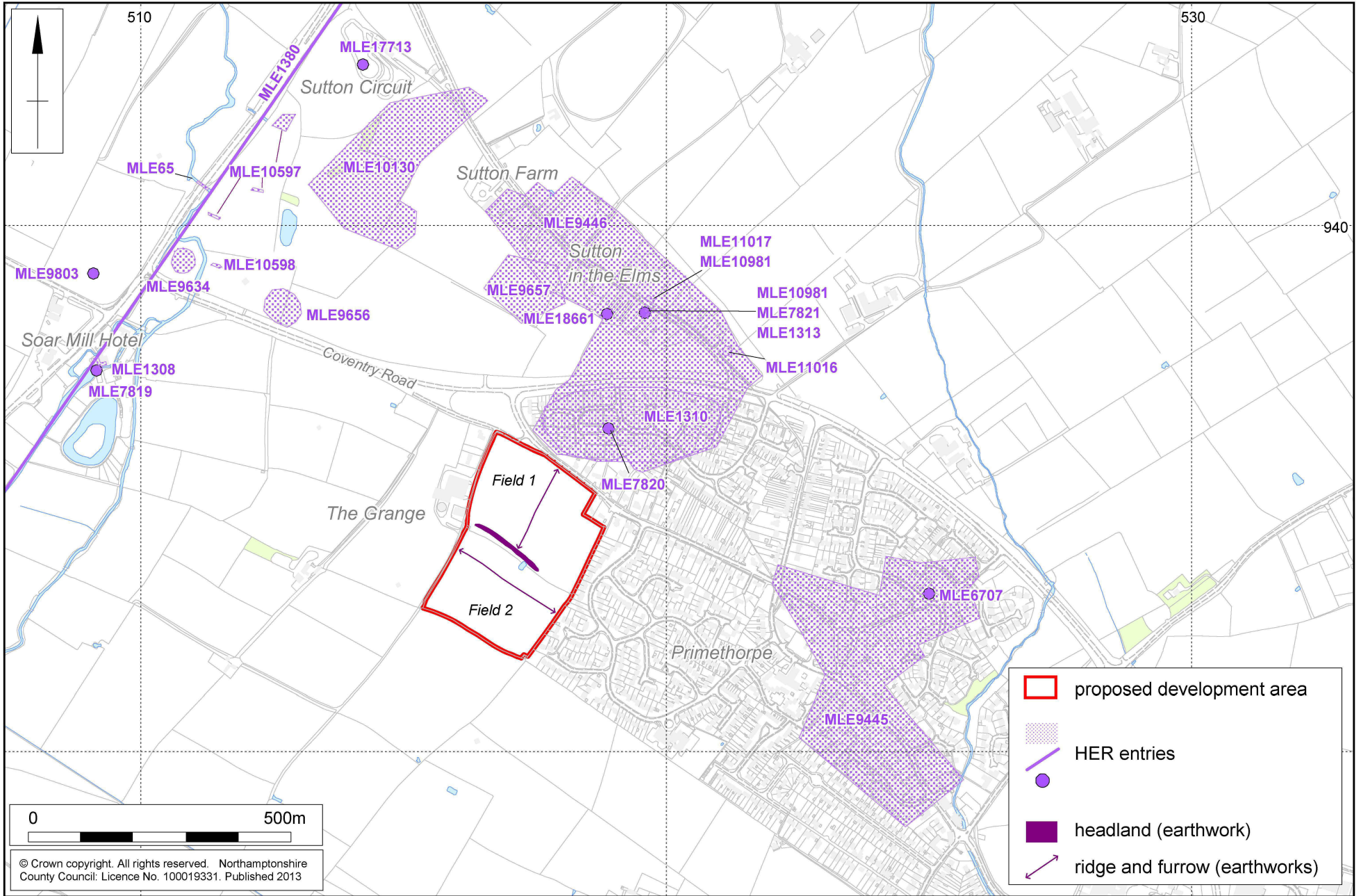
The only known archaeological features within the proposed development area were upstanding ridge and furrow earthworks pertaining to the medieval open field system and an earthwork headland bank. A geophysical survey (Roseveare 2012) was undertaken prior to the trial trenching and did not identify any sub-surface remains apart from a linear magnetic anomaly indicative of a buried service. On speaking to the farmer (Mr Cooper) the anomaly was probably a disused water pipe which once fed the farm.



Scale 1:10,000 (A4)

Historic Environment Record data

Fig 2



Within 1km of the proposed development area the principal areas of occupation were focussed on Sutton Farm and Sutton in the Elms to the north (prehistoric, Saxon and medieval). A focus for medieval and post-medieval occupation was located at Primethorpe to the east.

To the west of Sutton Farm, 2005 excavations revealed a number of burnt tree boles, suggesting ancient land clearance (**MLE10597**) and immediately to the west a undated ditch was found (**MLE10598**). Excavations at Sutton Farm in 2002 revealed a Bronze Age burnt mound (**MLE9634**) as well as a number of undated features (**MLE10130**). Sherds of Iron Age pottery (**MLE17713**) were found at Sutton Circuit.

The evidence for Roman occupation in the landscape is sparse apart from the course of the Fosse Way (**MLE1380**), a major Roman road linking Exeter (*Isca Dumnonorium*) with Leicester (*Ratae Corieltaurum*). The projected course of the road lies approximately 700m to the west of the proposed development area. During a 2002 evaluation 450m to the east of the site, the remains of a circular structure of Roman date (**MLE9656**) was recorded. The locations of three isolated find spots comprising Roman coins (**MLE7819** and **MLE7821**) and sherds of Roman or Early Saxon pottery (**MLE7820**) are also listed on the LHER.

In the Anglo-Saxon period, the known focus of occupation appears to have been situated around Sutton Farm, on the outskirts of Sutton in the Elms which is itself a recorded medieval settlement (**MLE9446**). Here a 'grubenhau' (sunken featured building) as well as evidence of metal working was found (**MLE9657**). The Saxon and early medieval settlement at Sutton in the Elms may have been fairly extensive, as rescue excavations in the 1970s identified evidence of occupation (Gajos 2013; **MLE1310**).

Less is recorded in the surveyed literature about the development of Primethorpe (**MLE9445**) which has medieval origins. A medieval carving was found at Thorpe House, Primethorpe (**MLE6707**).

Both the villages of Primethorpe and Sutton in the Elms would have had open field systems associated with them. The proposed development area has an example of a relict open field system surviving as earthworks. The surviving ridge and furrow and headland earthworks are generally well preserved, although the remains in Field 1 were more discrete probably due to recent ploughing (Mr Cooper, pers comm).

#### *Earthworks*

The ridge and furrow in Field 1 are aligned north-north-east to south-south-west, measuring at least 160m long. The ridges are characterised by gradual gentle slopes and rounded tops and are between 6m and 8m apart and up to 0.10m high. The headland bank in Field 1 and the ridge and furrow earthworks in Field 2 are aligned perpendicular to the earthworks in Field 1. The ridge and furrow is characterised by an 'S-shaped' curve and are up to 210m long. The ridges are between 9m apart and up to 0.30m high with gradual slopes and rounded tops (Fig 3).



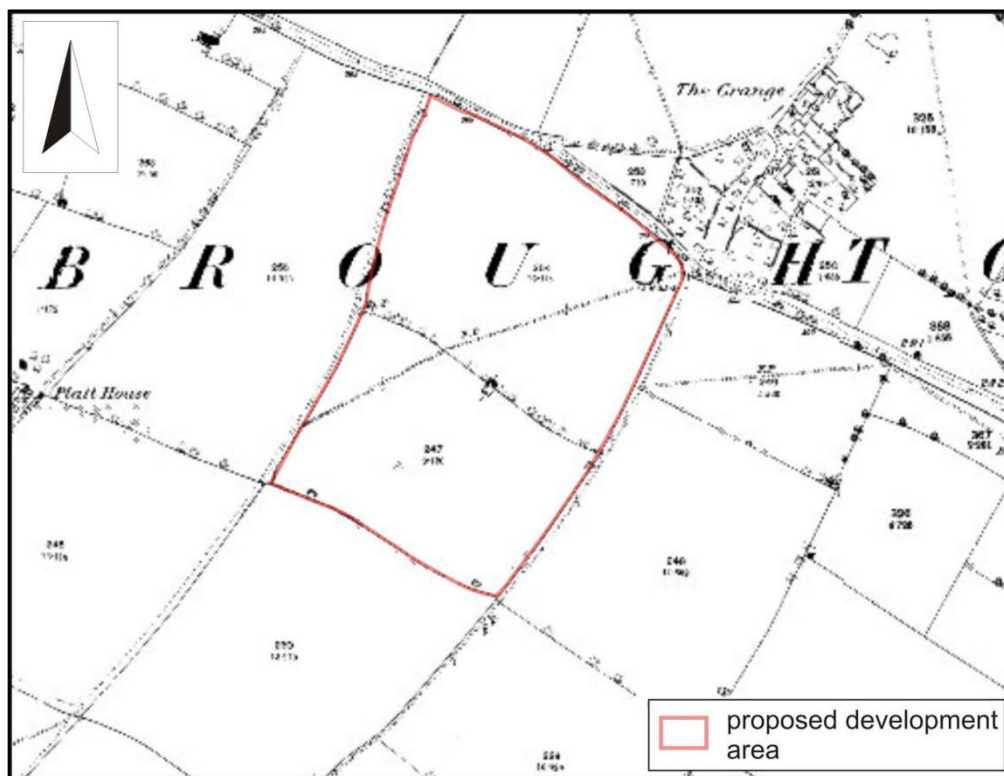
The well defined ridge and furrow earthworks in Field 2, looking north-east Fig 3

The headland, between the two fields, is a low earthwork bank, up to 150m long, 13m wide and 0.20m high. It has a gradual rounded top and an even gradual north facing slope (Fig 4). The modern hedge line lies approximately 10m to the south-west.



The headland in Field 1 as a low earthwork bank, looking north-west Fig 4

From the 17th century, Sutton in the Elms was a locus of religious dissenter groups. The Society of Friends (Quaker) had a cottage (**MLE10981**) in the village and there was also a Baptist Chapel (**MLE11016**). A windmill (**MLE18661**) was situated on the southern outskirts of Sutton in the Elms. By the end of the nineteenth century the proposed development area would have been enclosed into small, rectangular shaped fields, an arrangement which was documented in the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig 5). The public footpath which is still in use is shown crossing the site.



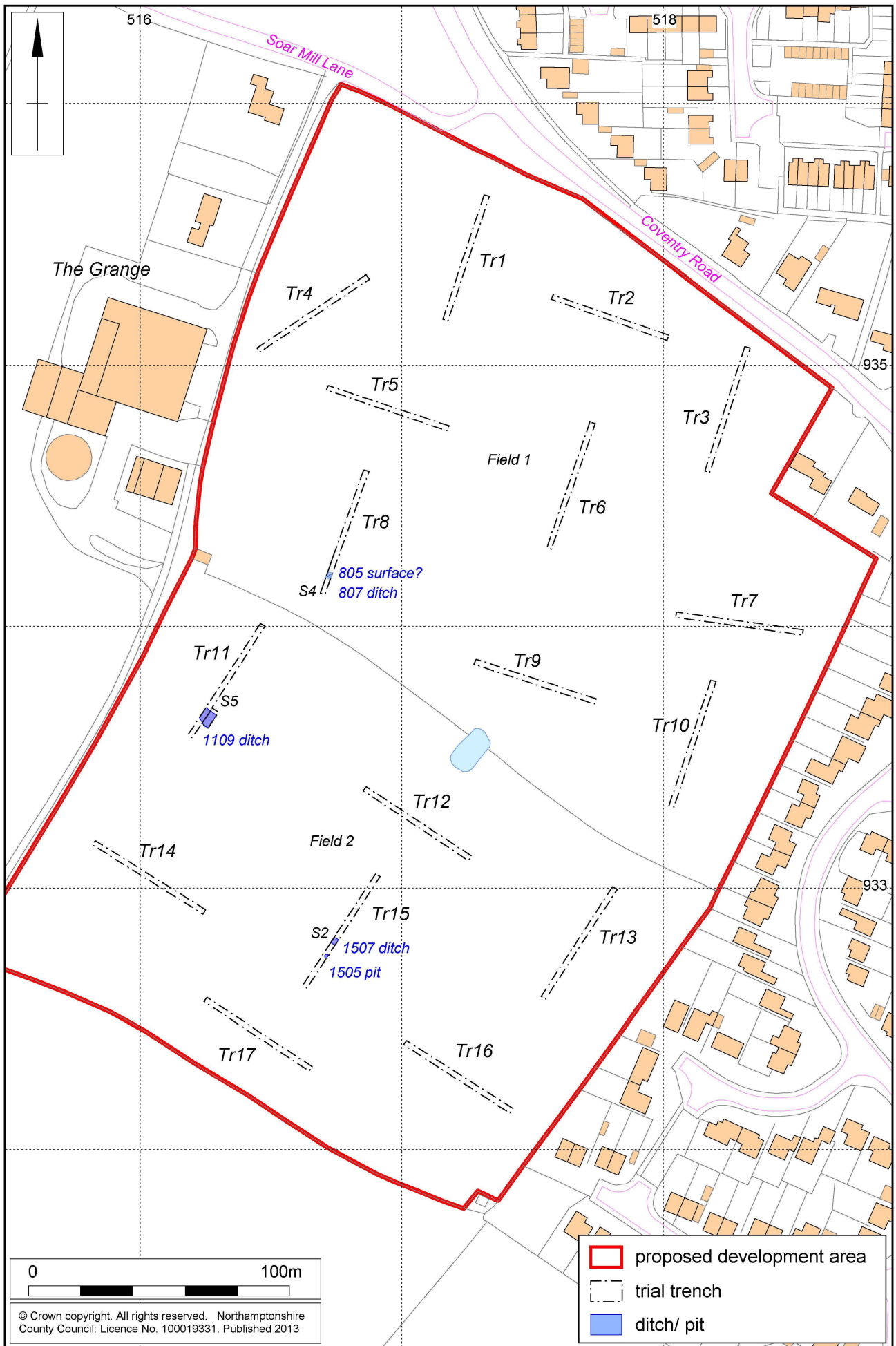
Extract from 1887 Ordnance Survey (1:2,500 Leicestershire) Fig 5

### 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Objectives

The aims of the work as defined in the Specification (Gajos 2013) were:

- To determine and understand the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development area;
- To assess the artefactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits encountered;
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
- To inform formulation of a strategy to mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- To provide a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicestershire HER.



Scale 1:2,000 (A4)

The trenches and archaeological features Fig 6

The following specific regional research aims may be considered (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012):

- Investigate the landscape context of rural settlements (Research Objective 5H).

In light of the presence of the remnants of the medieval open field system on the site, the following may be considered:

- Investigate the development of the open field system (Research Objective 7I);
- Identify agricultural improvements of the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries (Research Objective 8E);
- Assess the landscape impact of the early industrialisation of agriculture (Research Objective 9G).

### **3.2 Methodology**

The works were conducted in accordance with the specification (Gajos 2013) and the following guidance documents: *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008) and the *Code of Conduct* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2010).

Trial trenching comprised the excavation of 17 trenches, each one measuring 50m long by 2m. The trenches were machine-excavated using a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were positioned in accordance with the trench location plan approved by CgMs Consulting acting on behalf of their clients and the Assistant Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council and have been related to Ordnance Survey National Grid (Fig 6). 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 archaeological remains or where absent to the natural. The grass and topsoil was stacked separately from the subsoil and other deposits. The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification of any features.

The sequence of 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, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds.

The trenches were planned at a scale of 1:100. The archaeological features in each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 and related to Ordnance Datum. Where there was clear evidence for ridge and furrow earthwork the long sections (Trenches 9 and 15) were drawn at a scale at 1:50 to illustrate the survival and character. The excavated area and spoil heaps were scanned visually and with a metal detector to ensure maximum finds retrieval.

A full photographic record comprising both 35mm black and white negatives and high resolution digital photographs was maintained. The field data was compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

## 4 EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

### 4.1 General comments

Detailed context information is situated in the Appendix (Context Inventory). In general the trenches were between 0.50m and 0.80m deep with natural soils overlain by subsoil and then topsoil.

The natural soils comprised glacial tills and sands and gravels (section 2.2) and lay between 0.45m and 0.68m below modern ground level. The natural was overlain by a well developed subsoil generally comprising sterile yellowish-brown or greyish-brown sands and clays. The topsoil was a layer of dark reddish-brown or dark greyish brown-sands, measuring between 0.20m and 0.30m thick.

In each trench the subsoil and topsoil was of a consistent thickness even where it lay beneath pronounced ridge and furrow earthworks (Fig 7). The metal detecting survey did not identify any artefacts apart from modern foil detritus in the trenches adjacent to Coventry Road.



The sequence of deposits beneath the ridge and furrow earthworks in Trench 13, looking south Fig 7

Archaeological features (Fig 6) were concentrated on the slightly higher ground in the southern part of Field 1 (Trench 8) and the northern part of Field 2 (Trenches 11 and 15). They comprised ditches and a pit. All features were overlain by subsoil.

## 4.2 Trench 8

A narrow ditch [807], aligned west-south-west by east-north-east was located in the south south-western end of Trench 8 (Fig 8) underlying the headland. The ditch was 1m wide and up to 0.30m deep. Its bowl-shaped profile was filled with a firm dark orange with patches of grey, sandy clays with very rare charcoal flecks and few small rounded cobbles (806). Two flint artefacts comprising a flake of early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age and a bladelet core of Late Mesolithic to early Neolithic date were recovered from the fill of the ditch.

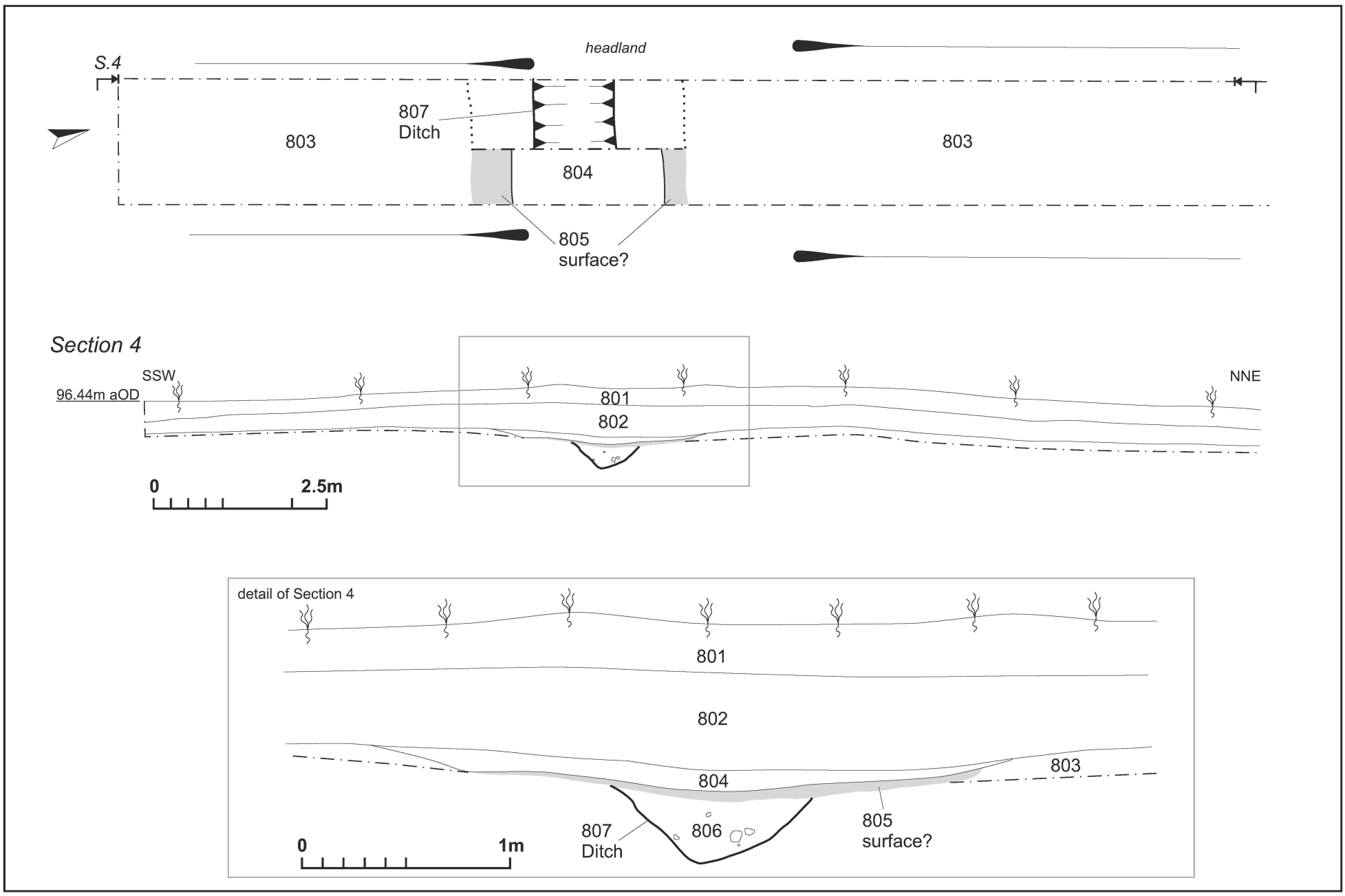
After the ditch went out of use a deposit (805) of rounded and sub-rounded cobbles of varying sizes was laid over the top. The cobbles appear to have been roughly set and sat within a matrix of mottled grey and orange clay. This may represent a rough surface or an attempt to consolidate the surface of the infilled ditch.

A layer (804) of friable, mid yellowish-grey medium grained sand with rare poorly sorted small sub angular pebbles overlay the surface (805). This was filling a shallow hollow on the same alignment as the ditch. The subsoil (802) is thicker, at 0.44m as opposed to 0.32m average, where it overlies (804) and corresponds with the top of the headland earthwork.



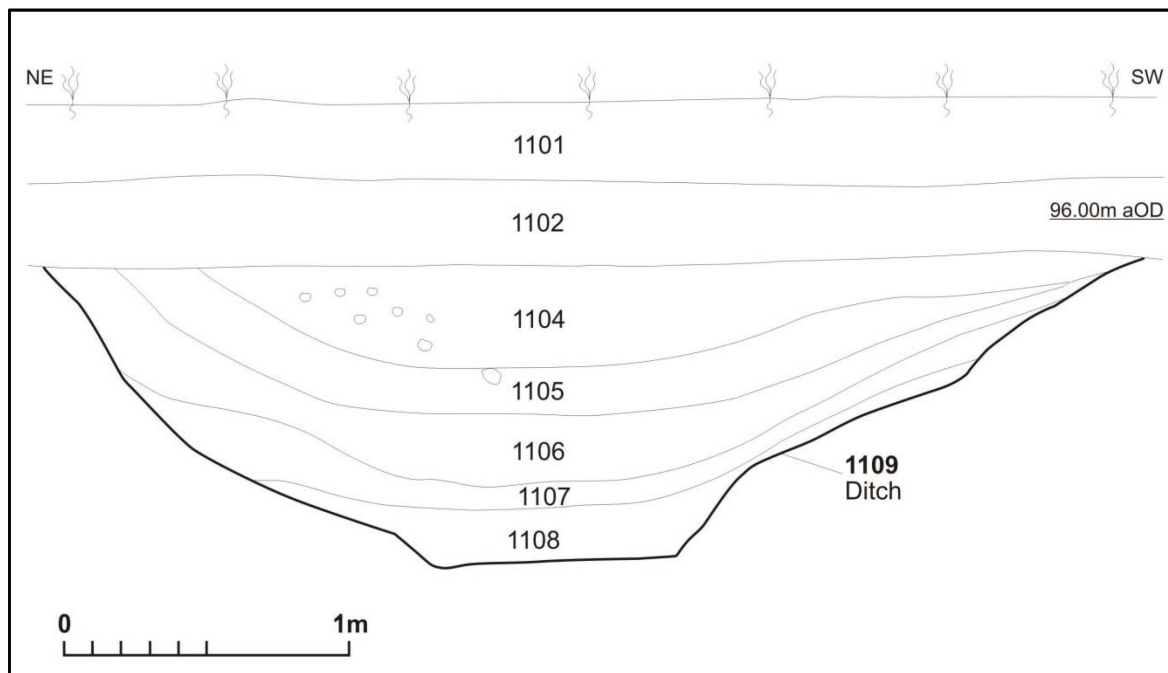
Scales 1:1.75 and 1:1.25

Trench 8, plan and sections across the headland Fig 8



### 4.3 Trench 11

At the south-western end of Trench 11 was a ditch [1109] aligned north-west to south-east. It was 3.90m wide and up to 1.04m deep (Fig 9). Owing to the constrictions of the trench and depth of the ditch, a portion of the baulk (topsoil and subsoil) was mechanically removed to widen the area of working (see Back Cover). This was done with the agreement of the consultant and the Assistant Planning Archaeologist.



Trench 11, Section 5: north-west facing section of ditch [1109], 1:25 Fig 9

The ditch had an asymmetrical bowl-shaped profile comprising a flattish base rising to a gradual slightly stepped south-western slope. By contrast, the north-eastern slope was a steep and concave. The primary fill of the ditch (1108) comprised loose sterile orangey-pink sands, probably as a result of water silting and erosion of the base of the ditch. Overlying this was a sequence of at least four secondary fills (1107), (1106), (1105) and (1104) which generally comprised sterile greyish-pink or brownish-orange silty or sandy clays. A single worked flint flake of early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age date was recovered from the upper fill (1104), no other artefacts were recovered.

### 4.4 Trench 15

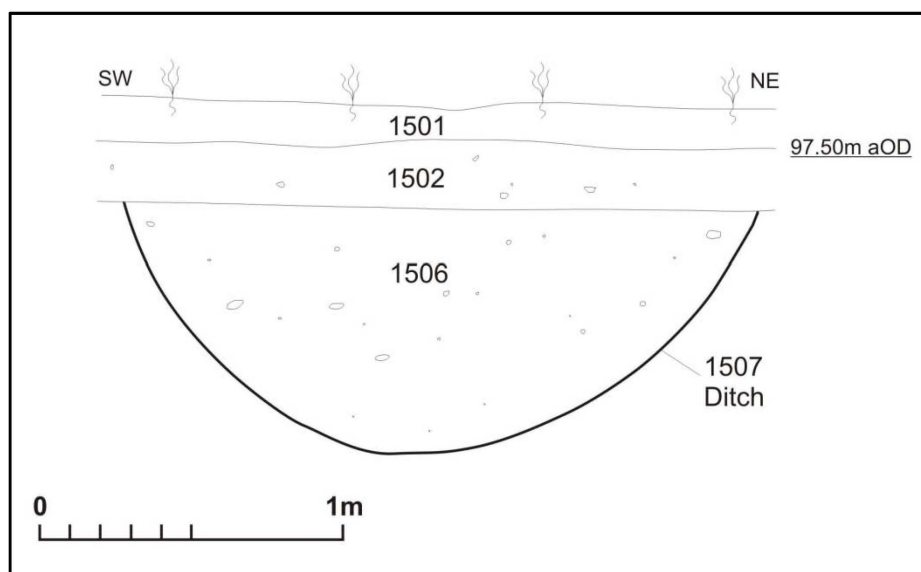
At the south-western end of the trench was a sub-circular pit [1505], its full width was not identified as its east south-eastern edge lay under the baulk (Fig 10). It measured 1.10m long, 1.54m wide (NNE-SSW) and 0.32m deep. On excavation it had a bowl-shaped profile comprising an undulating base rising to gradual (45°-55°) sloping sides.



General view of Pit [1505] before full excavation, looking east-south-east Fig 10

The pit was filled with a friable to firm mottled orange and grey silty sandy clay with few charcoal flecks. There was a moderate amount of medium to large-sized rounded cobbles largely in the north-eastern part of the fill, No artefacts were recovered from the pit.

Approximately 4.50m to the north-east of pit [1505] was a ditch [1507] (Fig 11) which crossed the trench on a north-west to south-east axis. Initially excavated to a depth of 0.90m below modern ground level, manual excavation had to cease due to very high ground-water. Agreement to ascertain the full depth and for artefact retrieval by mechanical means was obtained. On machine excavation the base of the ditch was approximately 1.15m below modern ground level.



Trench 15, Section 2: Ditch [1507], 1:25 Fig 11

The ditch, measuring 2.30m wide and 0.80m deep, had a broad bowl-shaped profile comprising a rounded base rising to gradual (45°-55°) sloping sides. It was filled with a sterile, friable mid yellowish-brown silty sand, occasional small to medium-sized stones. A fragment of a 12th/13<sup>th</sup>-century pot rim was recovered from the upper portion of the fill.

## 5 THE ARTEFACTS

### 5.1 Worked flint by Yvonne Wolfram-Murray

In total three pieces of worked flint were recovered during the evaluation as residual finds from ditches. The artefacts comprised of two flakes and one core, listed in Table 1 below.

The condition of the artefacts is moderate. Post-depositional edge damage is present on all artefacts consisting of frequent irregular nicks on one or both lateral edges. The raw material was dark grey-brown vitreous flint and a mid brown opaque flint. The cortex present on the surfaces of the flakes was light brown and worn. It is likely that the raw material was locally procured gravel flints.

A conical bladelet core was recovered from the fill of a ditch, it had a single striking platform from which bladelets and flakes had been struck. It was relatively small in size and possibly exhausted.

The small assemblage of worked flints is not directly dateable but their technological characteristics suggest a broadly early Neolithic to late Bronze Age date. However, the bladelet core is of a late Mesolithic/early Neolithic date.

*Table 1 Summary of worked flint*

Context	Flake/ Blade	Portion	Tool/Date	Material	Comments
1104	Flake	Whole		dark grey-brown	post-depositional edge damage
806	Flake	Whole		dark grey-brown vitreous flint	heavy post-depositional edge damage
806			Core, bladelet Late Mesolithic/ early Neolithic	mid brown opaque flint	one striking platform, cylindrical in shape; small-exhausted

### 5.2 Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

A single sherd of pottery weighing 49g occurred in context (1506). It is a jar rimsherd in Potters Marston Ware, fabric PM in the Leicestershire County type-series (Sawday 1994), and dated to c AD1100-1300.

The sherd has combed decoration on the rim-top, and the rim diameter is 290mm. It represents 10% of the original complete rim. It is a typical product of the tradition, is in good condition, and appears reliably stratified.

### 5.3 Animal bone by Stephanie Vann

#### **Introduction**

An assemblage of 15 fragments was recovered from ditches lying below medieval ridge and furrow and thus presumed to be of medieval or earlier date, and consisted of cattle and large mammal.

#### **Method**

The assemblage was subjected to macroscopic examination. Species identification was undertaken at a context level. Fragments of mammal bone that could not be attributed to a taxonomic group equal or lower than genus were categorised as either 'large mammal' or 'medium mammal'. A summary of the results is presented in Table 2. Fused and unfused elements were recorded. For the main domestic species – cattle, sheep/goat and pig – tooth wear on loose mandibular teeth and mandibles was recorded to calculate age where possible following Grant (1982) and the results are presented in Table 3. This is a widely used, published procedure that records the stage of tooth eruption and wear based on a series of defined stages, enabling an age to be assigned to individual animals and thus analysis of age at death patterns to be undertaken. There were no bones suitable to be measured.

#### **Results**

Preservation of the animal bone at this site was poor to moderate. Fragmentation was moderate to high and surface abrasion was moderate to high with bone exhibiting signs of erosion, weathering and other taphonomic damage in many instances. Fragmentation was the result of both old and fresh breaks. There was no evidence of burning, butchery, gnawing or pathology, although the numerous root marks and other evidence of taphonomic damage could explain this.

Table 2: Total number of fragments per species per context

Context	Bos Cattle	Large Mml
806	1	0
1504	5	7
TOTAL	6	7

The total number of fragments was 15, of which 15 (100%) were identifiable. The species present were cattle and large mammal (most likely cattle). There was no evidence of bird or fish remains.

Table 3: Ageing of species by tooth wear (Grant 1982)

Context	Species	DP4	M1	M2	M3
1504	Cattle	-	-	-	g

#### **Discussion**

Whilst it is true that the small size of the assemblage makes it difficult to draw any significant conclusions, there is nothing about it that is in any way extraordinary for a domestic assemblage of the pre-medieval period. Cattle are regularly exploited throughout the Iron Age and Romano-British periods, along with other domestic species such as ovicaprids (sheep/goat) and pigs (Maltby 1981). The dominance of such remains within the assemblage from Broughton Astley is therefore not unusual. The good survivability of large, strong bones such as those of cattle does also need to be taken into consideration, however, as this dominance may be a reflection of preservation rather than husbandry practices at this site.

Following the York System (Table 3), the cattle tooth from context 1504 would be classified as Adult (A3). Other cattle teeth from the same context were too poorly preserved to be recorded, although it is possible that they originally came from a single mandible. Adult stages are defined by reference to Tooth Wear Stage *sensu* Grant (1982; also Reitz and Wing 1999: 163-5). After O'Connor (2003: table 31)

Table 4: Definitions of dental eruption and attrition stages used in analysis of age at death, using mandibles with at least one recordable molar or 4th premolar

<b>Cattle and Sheep Mandibles</b>		
N	Neonatal	DP4 Unerupted or just in the process of eruption
J	Juvenile	DP4 in wear, M1 not in wear
I	Immature	M1 in wear, M2 not in wear
SA	Subadult	M2 in wear, M3 not in wear
SA1		M3 forming, to just erupting
SA2		M3 erupting
A	Adult	M3 in wear
A1		M3 up to minor dental exposure (stages a and b)
A2		M3 dentine exposure across central column (stages c and d)
A3		M3 dentine exposure on distal column (stages e to h)
E		Elderly
<b>Pig Mandibles</b>		
N	Neonatal	DP4 Unerupted or just in the process of eruption
J	Juvenile	DP4 in wear, M1 not in wear
I	Immature	M1 in wear, M2 not in wear
I1		M2 present in crypt
I2		M2 erupting
SA	Subadult	M2 in wear, M3 not in wear
SA1		M3 present in crypt
SA2		M3 erupting
A	Adult	M3 in wear
A1		M3 with enamel attrition only (stage a)
A2		M3 with minor dentine exposure (stages b to d)
A3		M3 dentine exposure merging on mesial cusps (stages e to h)
E	Elderly	Three main zones of dentine exposure across M3 merging (stage j)

## 6 DISCUSSION

The trial trench evaluation succeeded in identifying archaeological remains which lay beneath upstanding medieval ridge and furrow earthworks, but which were not visible on the geophysical survey. The features, comprising three ditches, a possible cobbled surface and a pit, were characterised by sterile soils and the paucity of artefacts. These factors all suggest that the site lay outside or in the area of settlement and probably relate to agricultural land use.

It is likely that the ditches formed the boundaries of out-field systems of medieval or earlier date. A sherd of medieval (*circa* 1100-1300) pottery was recovered from the fill of ditch [1507], but this came from the upper portion of the ditch fill and so may be intrusive. The three pieces of worked flint indicate that there was prehistoric activity within the area but post-depositional edge damage suggests its presence is likely to residual as a result of later ploughing and silting of features.

The sequence of deposits in Trench 8 provides a possible narrative of the evolution of the agricultural landscape. An initial ditch can be seen as an early field boundary which has been replaced by a possible track when the ditch has become infilled, defined by a shallow hollow with a rough cobbled surface as its base. The boundary ditch and surface coincided with the position of a headland, and so was probably an influence of the open field system.

The pit seen in Trench 15 appears to be an isolated feature and did not produce any datable material. The cobbles were unburnt and no charcoal was observed, meaning that it is unlikely to contain waste from cooking or heating.

The medieval cultivation is represented by broad ridges and shallow furrow earthworks. The furrows did not extend very deep into the subsoil indicating that this part of the open field was short-lived and may have been relatively late in the medieval period.

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**APPENDIX: CONTEXT INVENTORY**

**Field 1 (north)**

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height (aOD)</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>50m x 2m, NNE-SSW</b>	<b>451724 293540</b>	<b>95.20m</b>	<b>0.68m &amp; 94.52m</b>
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Friable/ loose on touch, dark reddish-brown medium grained sands	0.30m thick	-
102	Subsoil	Loose, mid brownish-pink medium to fine grained sands, occasional small and poorly sorted (0.02m-0.05m) rounded pebbles. Diffuse/merging with (103) below	0.38m thick	-
103	Natural	Loose pinkish-orange fine-medium grained sands, with isolated patches of rounded flint cobbles.	-	-

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height (aOD)</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>50m x 2m, WNW-ESE</b>	<b>451781 293517</b>	<b>95.60m</b>	<b>0.58m &amp; 95.02m</b>
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
201	Topsoil	Friable/ loose on touch, dark reddish-brown medium grained sands	0.30m thick	-
202	Subsoil	Loose, light brownish-yellow fine to medium grained sands, few small poorly sorted rounded pebbles. Merging with (203) below.	0.33m thick	-
203	Natural	Predominantly friable orangey-yellow sandy clays, bands of light greyish-yellow sands with manganese flecking. Isolated flint patches	-	-

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height (aOD)</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>50m x 2m, NNE-SSW</b>	<b>451824 293483</b>	<b>95.70m</b>	<b>0.52m &amp; 95.18m</b>
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
301	Topsoil	Friable/ loose on touch, dark reddish-brown medium grained sands	0.21m thick	-
302	Subsoil	Loose, mid yellowish-pink transforming to a light brownish-yellow (basal 0.10m) medium grained sands. Occasional small rounded pebbles merging with (303) below	0.31m thick	-
303	Natural	Predominantly friable greyish-yellow sandy clays with patches of rounded pebbles. Firm grey clays to SSW.	-	-

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height (aOD)</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>50m x 2m, SW-NE</b>	<b>451666 293519</b>	<b>94.40m</b>	<b>0.52m &amp; 93.88m</b>
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
401	Topsoil	Well defined friable, dark yellowish/greyish brown sandy loam, rare small sub rounded pebbles.	0.25m thick	-
402	Subsoil	Firm, mid reddish-brown sandy clays, occasional rounded pebbles (0.02m to 0.08m), merging (403)	0.30m thick	-
403	Natural	Compact brownish-red clays with patches of flint gravels	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
5	50m x 2m, WNW-ESE	451696 293482	95.20m	0.56m & 94.64m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
501	Topsoil	Well defined, friable mid greyish-brown sandy loam with few poorly sorted small rounded pebbles. Disturbed by disused metal water pipe.	0.22m thick	-
502	Subsoil	Friable mid orangey-brown clayey sand, few poorly sorted small rounded pebbles. Merging with (503) below.	0.30m thick	-
503	Natural	Predominantly mid orangey-pink sands banded with grey clays with flint nodules	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
6	50m x 2m, SSW-NNE	451764 293454	96.00m	0.64m & 95.36m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
601	Topsoil	Well defined, friable dark greyish-brown sandy loam	0.20m thick	-
602	Subsoil	Friable light brownish-grey clayey sand	0.46m thick (max)	-
603	Natural	Compact dark orange and mid grey clays with flint nodules throughout. Patches of red sand.	-	-

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height (aOD)</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>50m x 2m, W-E</b>	<b>451828 293401</b>	<b>96.00m</b>	<b>0.55m &amp; 95.45m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
701	Topsoil	Well defined, loose greyish-brown sand	0.28m thick	-
702	Subsoil	Friable dark yellowish-brown clayey sands few small rounded pebbles, merging with (703) below.	0.28m thick	-
703	Natural	Mixed compact grey and orangey-yellow clays, occasional flint patches.	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
8	50m x 2m, SSW-NNE	451678 293435	96.00m	0.54m & 95.46m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
801	Topsoil	Well defined friable, dark greyish-brown sandy loam.	0.25m thick	-
802	Subsoil	Friable mid brownish-yellow clayey sand. Few small flint nodules. Merging with (803) below	0.32m thick	-
803	Natural	Primarily yellowish- grey clays and flint patches with bands of red sand and also grey sands with manganese flecking.	-	-
804	Layer	Friable, mid yellowish-grey medium grained sand. Rare poorly sorted small (0.01m) sub angular pebbles. Overlies (805).	3.05m wide 0.10m thick	-
805	Surface?	Rounded and sub-rounded cobbles of varying sizes ranging from 0.05m up to 0.15m size within a matrix of mottled grey and orange clay. Cobbles appear to have been roughly set.	2.40m wide 0.05m thick	-
806	Fill of ditch [807]	Clearly defined, firm mainly dark orange with patches of grey sandy clays with very rare charcoal flecks and few small rounded cobbles (0.01m to 0.08m). sealed by (805).	1.0m wide 0.30m thick	SF2 Flint scraper SF3 Bladelet core Animal Bone
807	Cut of ditch Filled with (806)	Ditch aligned WSW-ENE, bowl shaped profile comprising rounded base rising to gradual (c50°) slopes. Sharp breaks of slope.	1.0m wide 0.30m deep	-

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height (aOD)</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>50m x 2m WNW- ESE</b>	<b>451752 293378</b>	<b>96.90m</b>	<b>0.51m &amp; 96.39m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
901	Topsoil	Well defined, loose greyish-brown sand	0.25m thick	-
902	Subsoil	Thin band of firm yellowish mottled with greyish brown sandy clay, few poorly sorted small rounded pebbles. Merging (903)	0.26m thick	-
903	Natural	Firm/compact grey and orangey red clays, with red sand pockets. Flint nodules throughout.	-	-

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height (aOD)</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>50m x 2m SSW-NNE</b>	<b>451811 293355</b>	<b>96.50m</b>	<b>0.54m &amp; 95.96m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
1001	Topsoil	Well defined, loose greyish-brown sand	0.20m thick	-
1002	Subsoil	Thin layer of light brownish-yellow clayey sand, few small rounded pebbles. Merging with natural (1003)	0.34m thick	-
1003	Natural	Mixed grey and yellow clays with bands red sand, occasional small rounded pebbles throughout.	-	-

**Field 2 (south)**

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height (aOD)</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>50m x 2m SSW-NNE</b>	<b>451633 293379</b>	<b>96.40m</b>	<b>0.67m &amp; 95.73m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
1101	Topsoil	Well defined, friable mid yellowish-brown sandy clays, few poorly sorted small flint nodules.	0.33 m thick	-
1102	Subsoil	Friable mid brownish-yellow clayey sand, few small flint nodules. Merging (1103).	0.35m thick	-
1103	Natural	Primarily orangey-grey clay with patches of poorly sorted rounded and variable sized flint nodules.	-	-
1104	Upper fill of ditch [1109]	Firm, sterile yellowish-grey slightly sandy clay. Few poorly sorted small rounded pebbles.	3.40m wide 0.36m thick	SF1 Flint
1105	Fill of ditch [1109]	Firm sterile mottled dark grey and dark brownish-orange sandy clays. Rare medium/large rounded stones and rare very small sub-angular pebbles. Tipping from SSW	3.70m wide 0.20m thick	-
1106	Fill of ditch [1109]	Firm sterile, pale grey mottled with yellowish-grey slightly silty clay. Rare poorly sorted very small sub-rounded pebbles.	3.90m wide 0.23m thick	-
1107	Fill of ditch [1109]	Friable sterile, dark greyish-pink silty sands	3.22m wide 0.22m thick	-
1108	Basal fill of ditch [1109]	Loose, sterile mid orangey-pink sands	2.50m wide 0.19m thick	-
1109	Ditch Filled with (1104) to (1108)	NW-SE aligned ditch with an asymmetrical bowl shaped profile comprising flattish base and sharp breaks of slope. NE side has a concave, eroded steep slope and SW side has a gradual slope	3.90m wide 1.04m deep	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
12	50m x 2m WNW-ESE	451706 293323	97.70m	0.55m & 97.15m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1201	Topsoil	Well defined, friable dark yellowish-brown sandy clay. Few poorly sorted small flint nodules.	0.22m thick	-
1202	Subsoil	Friable, mid reddish-brown sandy clay. Occasional poorly sorted small flint nodules. Merging with (1203).	0.23m thick	-
1203	Natural	Firm/compact bands of red clayey sands and pinkish-grey clays with flint nodules.	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
13	50m x 2m SSW-NNE	451767 293278	96.80m	0.48m & 96.32m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1301	Topsoil	Well defined, friable mid yellowish-brown sandy clays. Few poorly sorted small flint nodules.	0.25m thick	-
1302	Subsoil	Friable, mid brownish-yellow slightly clayey-sand. Few small sub-rounded pebbles.	0.23m thick	-
1303	Natural	Mixed patches friable light red sands and pinkish-grey clays. Patches of flint nodules throughout.	-	-



<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height (aOD)</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>50m x 2m ENE-WSW</b>	<b>451603 293303</b>	<b>97.00m</b>	<b>0.59m &amp; 96.41m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
1401	Topsoil	Friable and crumbly (but hard and dry) mid brownish-grey sands, rare small stones. Frequent root disturbance from grass.	0.26m thick	-
1402	Subsoil	Friable to firm mid greyish-brown silty clayey sand. Occasional small stones. Diffuse boundary with (1403).	0.33m thick	-
1403	Natural	Compact pinkish-grey clays with bands of red sands and brownish grey sands. Medium sized flint nodules in the clays.	-	-

<b>Trench No</b>	<b>Length, width &amp; alignment</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Surface height (aOD)</b>	<b>Depth &amp; height of natural (aOD)</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>50m x 2m NNE-SSW</b>	<b>451677 293283</b>	<b>97.70m</b>	<b>0.53m &amp; 97.17m</b>
<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts/Samples</b>
1501	Topsoil	Friable and crumbly (but hard and dry) mid brownish-grey sands, rare small stones. Frequent root disturbance from grass.	0.30m thick	-
1502	Subsoil	Friable to firm mid greyish-brown silty clayey sand. Occasional small stones. Diffuse boundary with (1503).	0.23m thick	-
1503	Natural	Friable to firm, mixed mid yellowish-brown sandy clays and gravel, with orange sand patches.	-	-
1504	Fill of Pit [1505]	Friable to firm mottled orange and grey silty sandy clay. Moderate medium to large sized rounded cobbles, few charcoal flecking. Clear boundaries, sealed by subsoil (1502)	At least 1.10m long 1.54m wide (NNE-SSW) 0.32m thick	Animal bone
1505	Pit Filled with (1504)	Circular shaped pit with a bowl shaped profile comprising undulating base rising to gradual (45°-55°) sloping sides.	At least 1.10m long 1.54m wide (NNE-SSW) 0.32m deep	-
1506	Fill of Ditch [1507]	Friable mid yellowish-brown silty sand, occasional small to medium sized stones. Clear boundaries with (1502)	2.30m wide 0.80m thick	Pottery rim sherd Animal bone
1507	Ditch Filled with (1506)	NW-SE aligned ditch, broad bowl shaped profile comprising rounded base rising to gradual (45°-55°) sloping sides.	2.30m wide 0.80m deep	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
16	50m x 2m WNW-ESE	451722 293226	97.50m	0.56m & 96.94m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1601	Topsoil	Well defined, friable between fingers, compact beneath grass. Mid yellowish-brown sandy clay. Few poorly sorted very small flint nodules.	0.27m thick	-
1602	Subsoil	Compact mid brownish-yellow clays, few poorly sorted small flint nodules. Diffuse (1603) below.	0.29m thick	-
1603	Natural	Compact mottled grey and pinkish-grey clays with patches of flint.	-	-

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height (aOD)	Depth & height of natural (aOD)
17	50m x 2m NW-SE	451646 293243	97.50m	0.45m & 97.05m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/Samples</i>
1701	Topsoil	Friable mid brownish-grey sands with rare small stones.	0.25m thick	-
1702	Subsoil	Firm mid brown silty sand, few small stones. Diffuse with (1703).	0.20m thick	-
1703	Natural	Firm mid yellow with bands of reddish-orange sandy clays. Occasional small stones.	-	-



Northamptonshire County Council

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