Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological field evaluation at Park Lane (South), Castle Donington, Leicestershire, September-October 2010
Accession No. X.A170.2010

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Report 10/196

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	Archaeological field evaluation at Park Lane (South), Castle Donington, Leicestershire, September-October 2010	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was carried out between September and October 2010 by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land at Park Lane, Castle Donington, Leicestershire, in response to a planning application for a proposed residential development and associated highway works. The evaluation revealed only limited archaeology, specifically an Iron Age pit and gullies, a Romano-British ditch, an undated ditch and a hedge-line.	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment & geophysical survey 2010	
Current land use	Agricultural	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	Iron Age and Romano-British features	
Significant finds	Pottery – Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	Park Lane, Castle Donington	
Easting Northing	SK 434 270	
Area (sq m/ha)	89.5 ha	
Height aOD	71m-90m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	CgMs	
Project Design originator	NA	
Director/Supervisor	Nathan Flavell (NA)	
Project Manager	Antony Walsh (NA)	
Sponsor or funding body	Miller Homes East Midlands & Charles Clowes Developments	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	20/09/2010	
End date	12/10/2010	
ARCHIVES	**Location (Accession no.)**	**Contents**
Physical	X.A170.2010	Pottery, Flint
Paper		Site records (1 small archive box)
Digital		Client report PDF
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Archaeological field evaluation at Park Lane (South), Castle Donington, Leicestershire, September-October 2010	
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION AT PARK LANE (SOUTH), CASTLE DONINGTON, LEICESTERSHIRE SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2010 ACCESSION NO. X.A170.2010

Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out between September and October 2010 by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land at Park Lane, Castle Donington, Leicestershire, in response to a planning application for a proposed residential development and associated highway works. The evaluation revealed only limited archaeology, specifically an Iron Age pit and gullies, a Romano-British ditch, an undated ditch and a hedge-line.

1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out between September and October 2010 by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) at Park Lane (South), Castle Donington, Leicestershire (NGR: SK 434 270; fig 1). The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of their clients Miller Homes East Midlands Ltd and Charles Clowes Developments Ltd, and was undertaken to inform a planning application for a proposed residential development and associated highway works.

The scope of works was outlined in the specification issued by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2010).

2 BACKGROUND

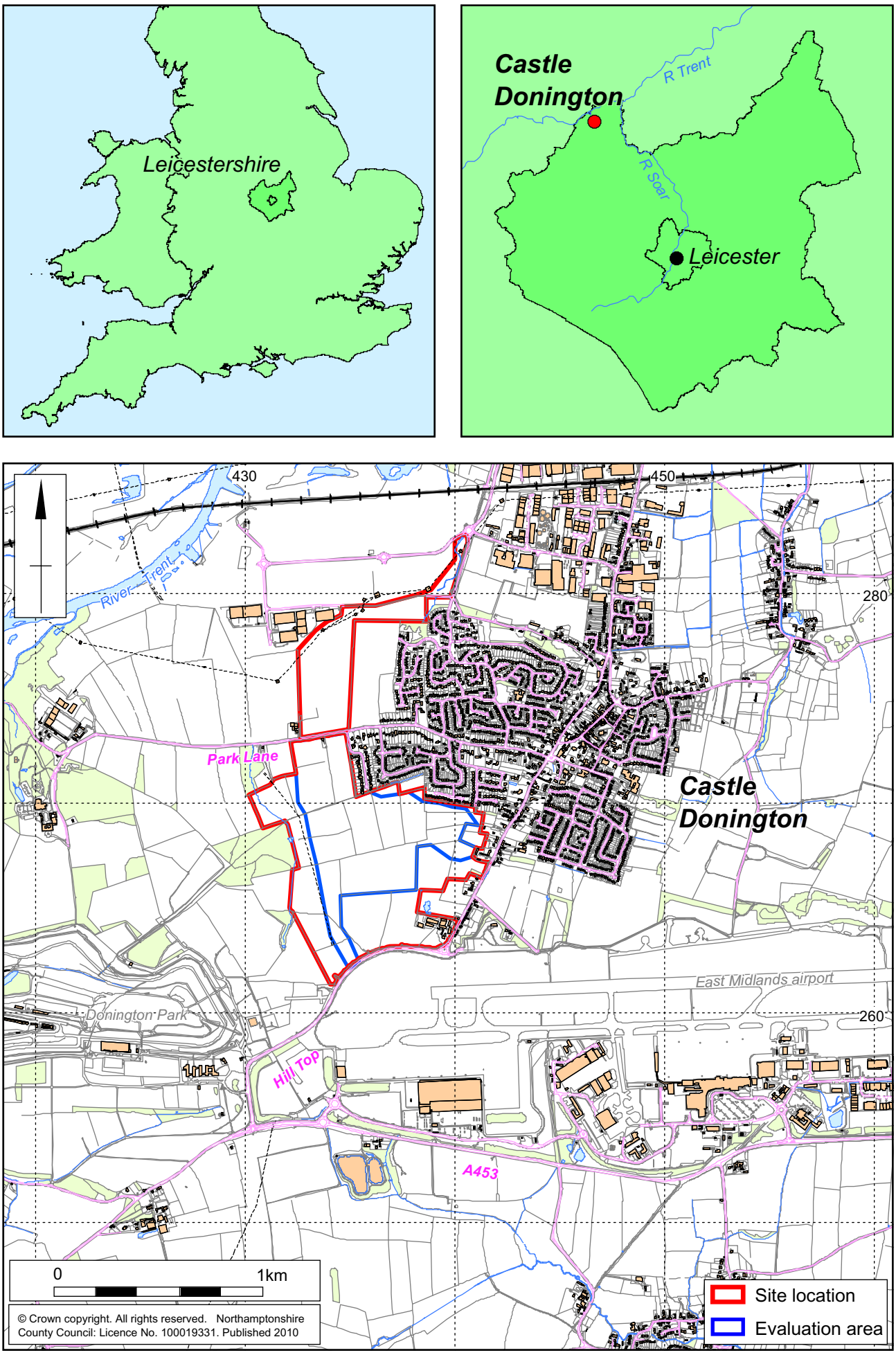
2.1 Topography and geology

The development site comprises a crescent of land on the west side of Castle Donington, Leicestershire, either side of Park Lane. The site is approximately 89.5 hectares in extent and is centred at National Grid Reference SK 434 270. The parts of the application site north of Park Lane were subject to previous archaeological evaluation in 2003; the current field evaluation only considers land south of Park Lane.

The underlying solid geology and soils divide into two areas, reflected by the site topography. The southern and highest part of the site comprises slowly permeable clay soils over Permo-Triassic mudstone (SSEW 1983). The northern part of the current evaluation site roughly north of a line between Hill Top Farm and Dalby Covert, comprises well-drained, mainly coarse, loamy soils of the Bromsgrove association, overlying Permo-Triassic sandstone and siltstone (ibid).

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

A desk-based assessment (DBA) was undertaken for the area of the proposed development within its wider landscape (CgMs 2009 fig 3) The text concerning



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Site location Fig 1

known archaeological sites in the area is reiterated below. The conclusion of the DBA judged that the current evaluation area, south of Park Lane, had a medium potential for further prehistoric remains, a relatively low potential for Roman remains, a medium potential for Saxon period evidence and a low potential for medieval remains.

Evidence of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age activity comes from two areas within the study area. In 2003, late Neolithic flintwork and early Bronze Age pottery including a Beaker were found in association with gullies, ditches, pits and postholes, in an evaluation within the site carried out to the north of Park Lane (MLE10293). Gullies, ditches, pits and postholes were found during a 1998, evaluation approximately 400m south of the proposed development site at East Midlands Airport, along with further late Neolithic flintwork and early Bronze Age pottery (MLE9672). Further flint flakes were found in a pit-like feature slightly to the west (MLE8311), and there is place-name evidence for a barrow slightly further south (MLE4461).

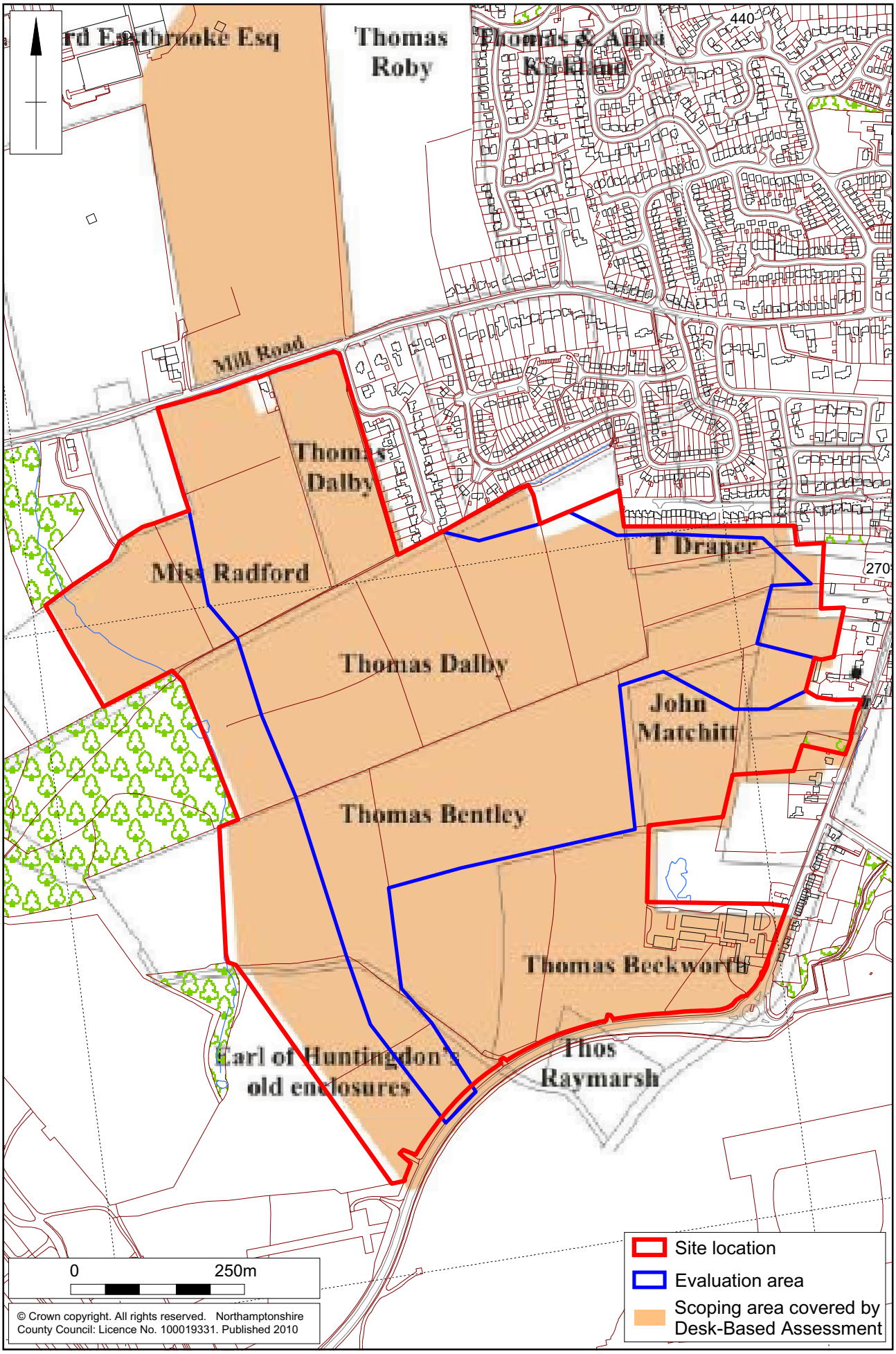
Iron Age remains are also known from elsewhere in the study area. An excavation in the southern part of East Midlands Airport recovered Iron Age pottery and querns, along with animal and plant remains (MLE5931), and the 2003 evaluation carried out to the north of Park Lane found Iron Age pottery. Four sherds of Roman pottery were also recovered (MLE10296), but otherwise, the only evidence of Roman activity from the study area comprises the findspot of a coin of Constantine I from Bondgate in Castle Donington (MLE8036).

The 2003 evaluation carried out to the north of Park Lane found evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity in the form of pits and linear features, a large quantity of pottery, and some iron slag, possibly indicating metalworking (MLE10297).

The open fields, meadow and common pastures of Castle Donington, comprising 1400 acres of arable, 290 acres of meadow and 610 acres of common pasture were enclosed by an Act of Parliament of 1778. The enclosure map of 1779 (Fig 2) shows the Earl of Huntingdon's 'old enclosures' forming the south-western part of the proposed development site – part of the land known as 'The Launde' by 1585, which had been added to the deer park in 1482. The extreme eastern part of the site formed parts of previously enclosed land holdings, most of which by 1779 contained dwellings on their frontages to the High Street. Their long, narrow form suggests early enclosures from the open fields. The remainder of the development site had previously formed part of the township's open fields, and is shown allocated to a variety of large and small landowners. Park Lane is depicted, known at that date as Mill Road. No buildings are shown within the site at that date.

The First Edition 1 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1836 shows the extent of the settlement at that date. The majority of the site appears to have remained in agricultural use, although buildings are shown at Hill Top Farm, and a number of tracks are depicted through the site, the majority of which appear to have been constructed since 1779.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey 6 inch map of 1887 (Fig 3) shows the neat pattern of rectilinear fields into which the development site had been subdivided since enclosure, reflecting the change from arable to pastoral agriculture during the intervening period. Hill Top Farm is depicted, along with a small agricultural building just north of Dalby's Covert. No further building had taken place within the site by this



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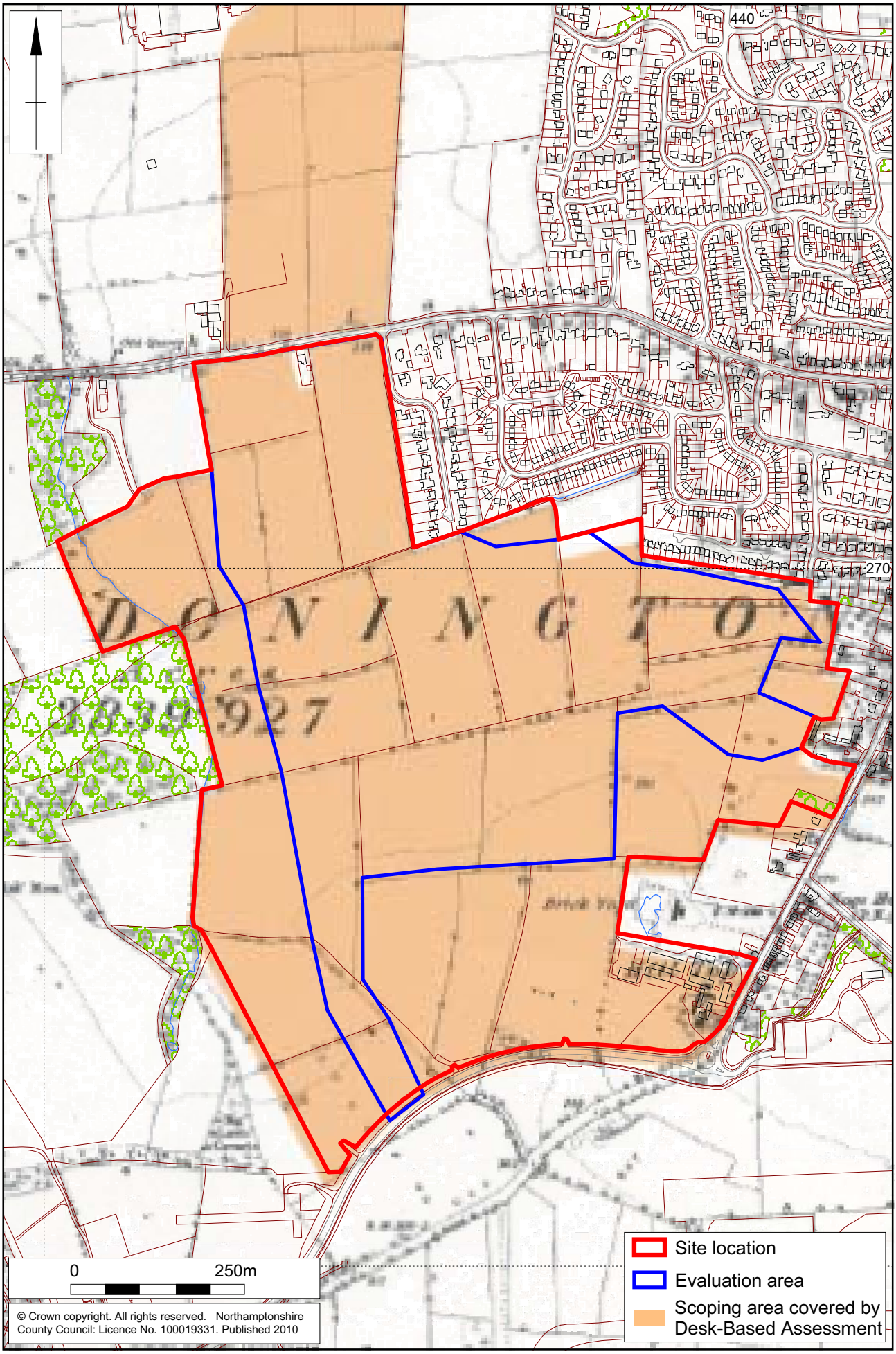
Enclosure map 1779 Fig 2



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First edition Ordnance Survey 1887 Fig 3

date, and the area of woodland which had existed partly within the southern site boundary, had been felled.

The Ordnance Survey 6 inch map of 1904 shows no further changes within the proposed development site, although by 1924, a number of field boundaries had been removed to create larger fields, as shown on the Ordnance Survey 6˝ map of that year.

Geophysical survey was undertaken by ArchaeoPhysica Ltd in November 2009 of previously un-surveyed areas south of Park Lane. The survey was commissioned in order to provide additional clarification of the potential and baseline conditions in this part of the site. The geophysical survey methodology involved extensive survey of the fields south of Park Lane using a tracked and recorded line scan method and intensive survey of sample blocks within each land parcel.

Further detailed geophysical survey was carried out by ArchaeoPhysica Ltd on areas immediately prior to the trial trenching.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

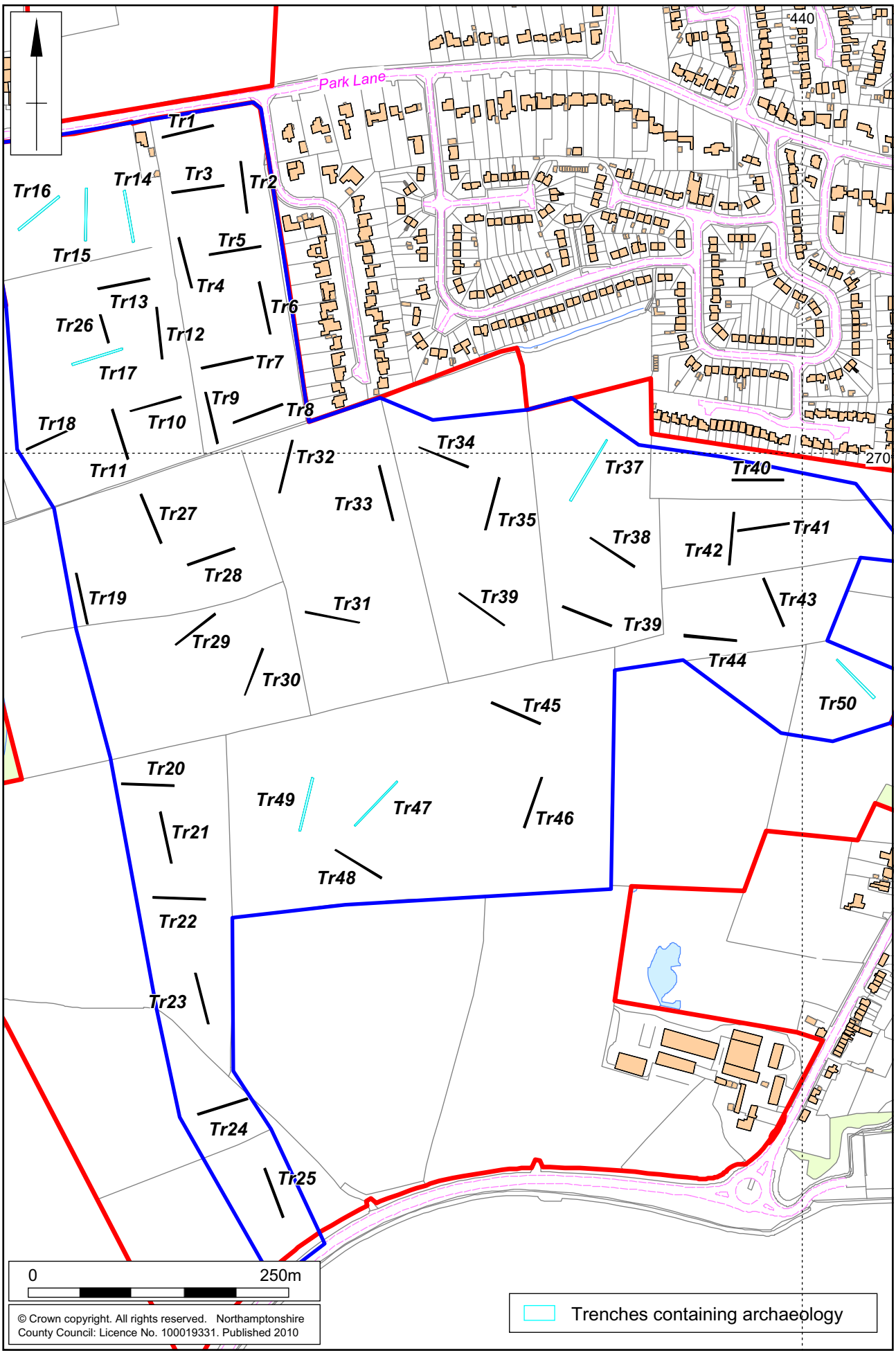
The specific objectives of the project were to:

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

3.2 Methodology

A total of 50 trenches were excavated in the proposed development area by a 360 tracked excavator (Fig 4). Forty-eight trenches were 50m long and 1.8m wide. Trench 26 was 25m long, and trench 37 was extended to 65m long.

Trenches 14-16 and trench 37 were located to target the specific anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The remainder of the trenches were designed to provide an effective sample of the development area in order to evaluate for the objectives of the project, as listed above (3.1); and to confirm the geophysical data.



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Location of trenches Fig 4

Topsoil and subsoil were removed under archaeological supervision to reveal the natural substrate. The topsoil and subsoil were stacked separately at the side of the excavated area. All procedures complied with Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at Work Guidelines.

Each trench was cleaned sufficiently to define the exposed features, and the features were then excavated by hand to determine their date and character. All archaeological deposits were fully recorded, following standard NA procedures. The archaeological features and deposits were given separate context numbers. They were described on pro-forma context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Unstratified animal bones and modern material were not retained.

The location of the trenches was surveyed using GPS and related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Trenches with archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:50 and Sections or profiles through features were drawn at a scale of 1:10, and related to Ordnance Datum. A full photographic record comprising 35mm black and white negatives was maintained, supplemented with digital images. The field data, including that from the evaluation, has been compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

Monitoring of the programme of fieldwork was carried out by HNET. All works were conducted in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008) and the *Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists* (1985, revised 2010). In addition, all works complied with the guidelines detailed in *The Archaeology of the East Midlands* (Cooper 2006).

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

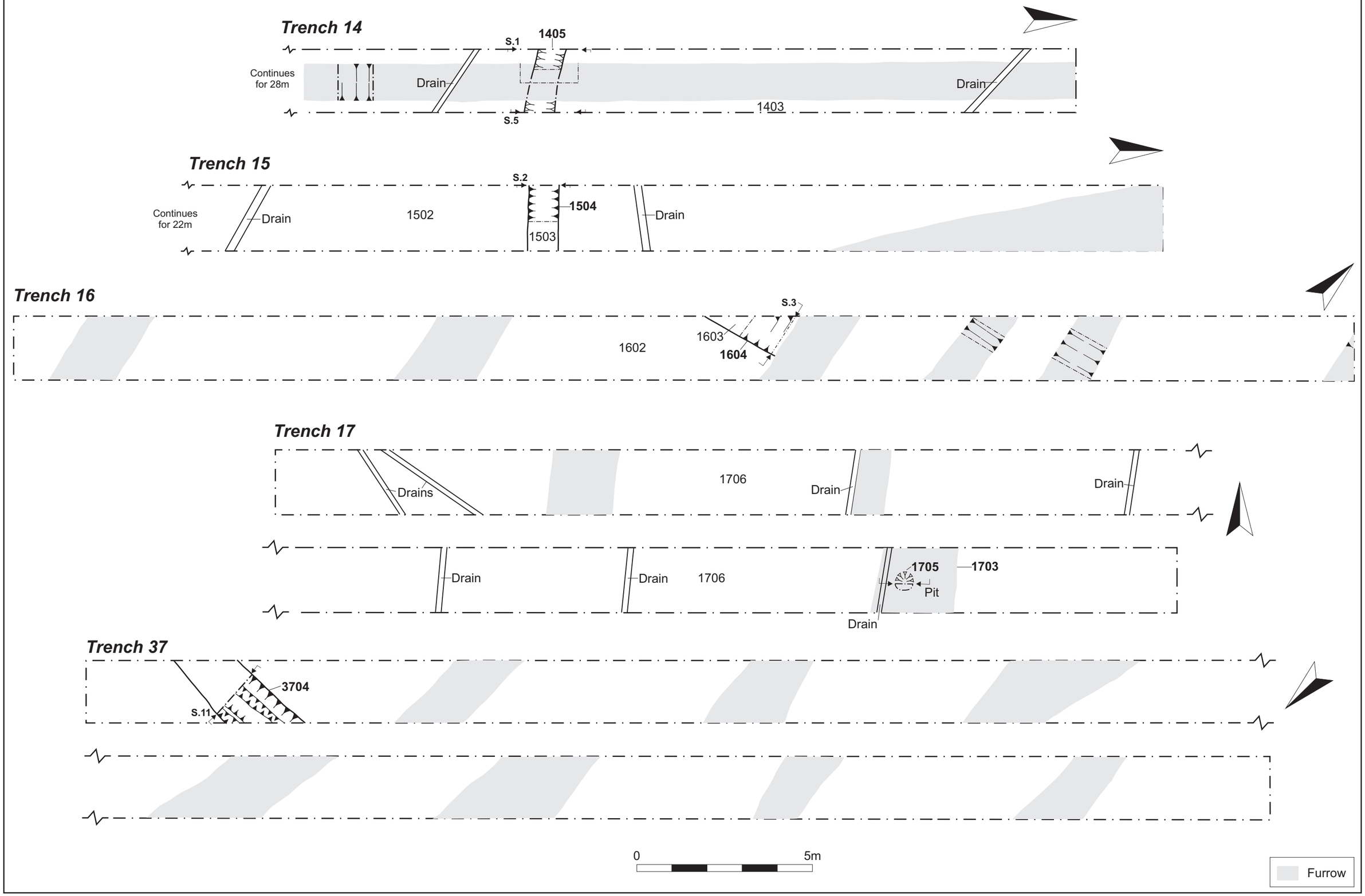
4.1 General stratigraphy

The natural substrate was Mercia Mudstone, red (sometimes sandy) clay with patches of broken sandstone encountered at approximately between 0.25m and 0.68m below ground level across the site. Slight variations in the amount of sandstone were noted across the site. Subsoil was uncommon on the site, and only occurred in twelve trenches; 1, 7, 13, 14, 26, 39, 42-44, 47, 49, and 50. When present it was a mid brown-red sandy-clay generally between 0.1m and 0.2m thick (with slight variations) with occasional stone inclusions, encountered at a depth generally between 0.25 and 0.3m below topsoil. The topsoil was a dark brown sandy loam.

4.2 The archaeological evidence

The majority of the trenches did not contain any archaeological features (Trenches 1-13, 18-46, and 48).

In total six features were found, in Trenches 14-16, Trench 17, Trench 37, Trench 47, 49 and Trench 50 (Figs 5 and 6). These were a single Iron Age pit (Trench 17), a pair of small Iron Age gullies (trenches 47 and 49), a Romano-British boundary ditch (Trench 50), an undated ditch-type feature (Trenches 14-17), and a hedge line (Trench 37).



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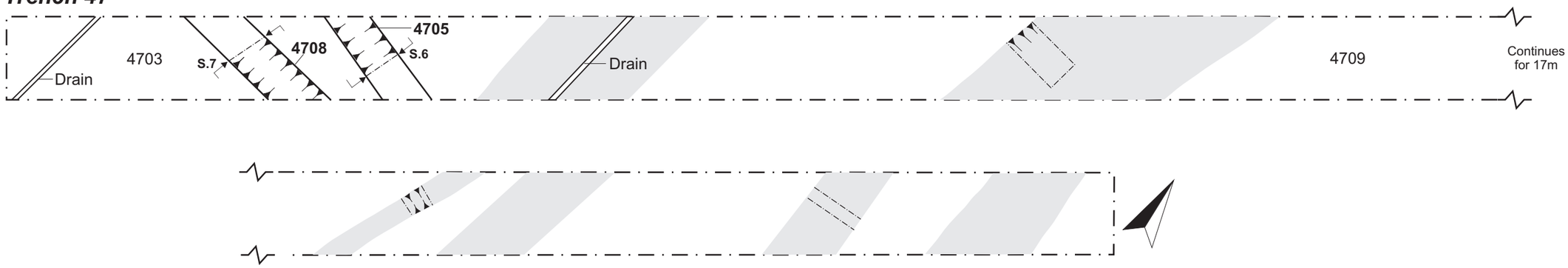
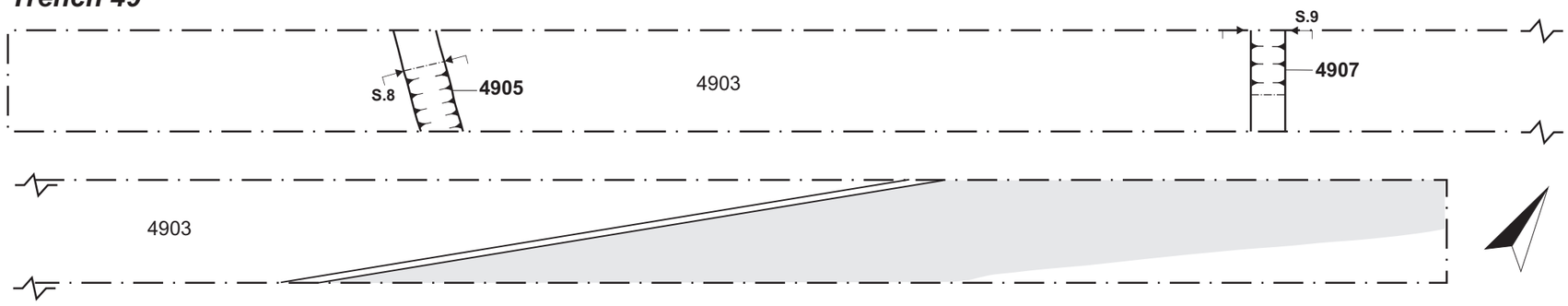
Plans of Trenches 14-17 and 37 Fig 5

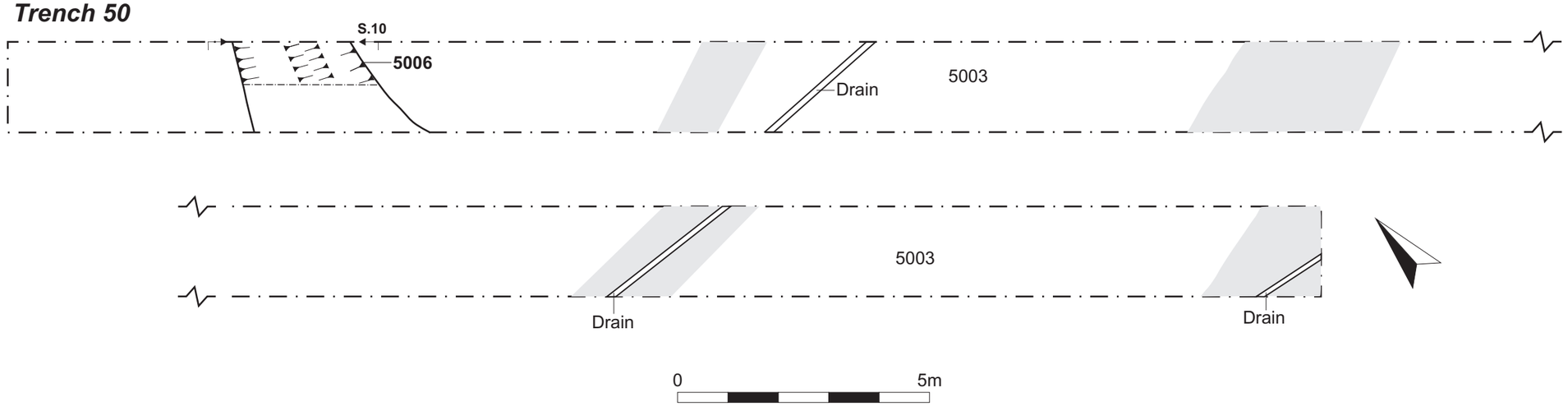
Trench 47



Trench 49



Trench 50



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Plans of Trench 47, 49 and 50 Fig 6

Trenches 14-16

A possible boundary ditch was aligned east-west through trenches 14, 15 and 16 (Fig 5). The feature corresponded with a possible linear anomaly found by the geophysical survey (Catalogue Map 1 from geophysical report). In trench 14, the ditch [1405] (Fig 7, section 1) was 0.9m wide, 0.25m deep, with moderately steep slopes and a concave, but uneven base. It was filled with (1404) red-brown sand with some minor fragments of sandstone.

In trench 15 ditch [1504] (Fig 8, section 2) was on the same alignment, 0.8m wide and 0.3m deep, with steep sides, but a similar base. It had a similar fill (1503) of a red-brown sand with some occasional pebbles.

Within trench 16 [1604] (Fig 9, section 3), it was again on an east-west alignment, and measured 1.1m wide and 0.23m deep. It had a steep side to the south, but more gradual to the north, with again a concave but uneven base. It was filled with (1603) mixed red-brown and beige sand with some fragments of red clay. The ditch was undated.

Trench 17

Within trench 17 was a pit [1705] (Fig 10, section 4), at a depth of 0.35m (Fig 5). It was oval in shape, 0.63m long, 0.5m wide, 0.1m deep. It had moderately steep sides and a vaguely concave base. It was filled with dark brown-orange silty-clay (1704). The fill included a large number of sherds (100+) of Iron Age pottery, probably derived from a single vessel; a fragment of a Neolithic polished stone axe (originating from Langdale in Cumbria) a small quantity of burnt and broken pebbles and charcoal flecks.

The pit was truncated by a furrow [1703], aligned north-east to south-west, 1.85m wide and 0.15m deep. It was filled with (1702), orange-brown sandy-clay. It was typical of most of the furrows found throughout the site. This was covered by topsoil, 0.3m thick.

Trench 37

The base of a hedge-line was uncovered in trench 37 (Fig 11, section 11) [3704]. It was aligned east-west, 1.45m wide and 0.13m deep. The feature had steep but uneven sides, with a concave base and suggestions of root disturbance. It was filled with (3703), red-brown sandy-clay with some small stone inclusions.

The hedge-line corresponds with a linear anomaly identified in the geophysical survey. There were no artefacts present in the fill, therefore the feature could not be dated by excavation.

Trenches 47 and 49

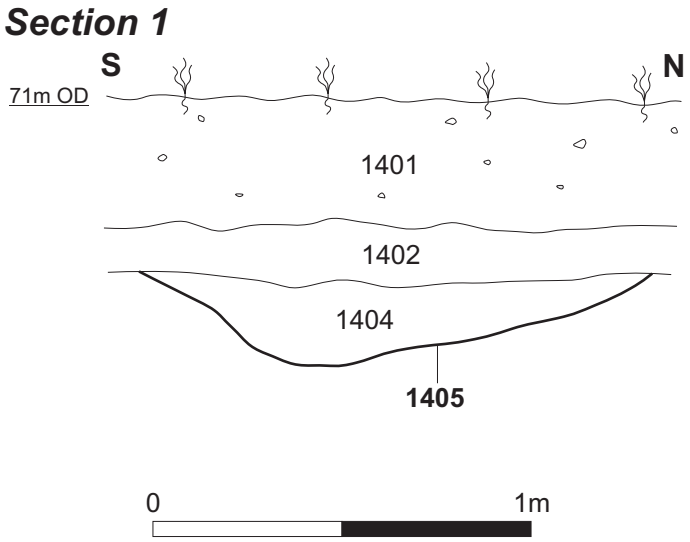
A pair of small gullies was encountered in trenches 47 and 49 (Fig 6. Gully [4708] (Fig 12, section 7) was 0.35m deep, cut into natural geology (4703). It was aligned east-west, 1m wide, 0.21m deep. It had steep sloping sides to a fairly flat base. The lower fill (4707), was light beige-brown silty sand with ironstone flecking, 0.2m thick. The upper fill (4706) was mid grey-brown silty sand, 0.18m thick and contained five sherds of Iron Age pottery. The same gully was in trench 49, [4905] (Fig 12, section 8) also aligned east-west, 0.8m wide, 0.19m deep, the fill (4904) was orange-brown sandy-clay with medium sized sandstone fragments. No finds were present in the segment excavated in trench 49.

An almost parallel gully within trench 47, [4705] (Fig 13, section 6), at a depth of 0.3m, aligned north-east to south-west, 1m wide and 0.2m deep, with moderately steep sides and flat base. It was filled with (4704) orange-brown, clay-sand with stone inclusions with a single sherd of Iron Age pottery. This also continued through trench 49, [4907] (Fig 13, section 9), at a depth of 0.44m, aligned north-west to south-east, 0.72m wide, 0.14m deep, with slightly shallower sides, and had a similar fill to gully [4705]. No finds were present in the segment excavated in trench 49.

Trench 50

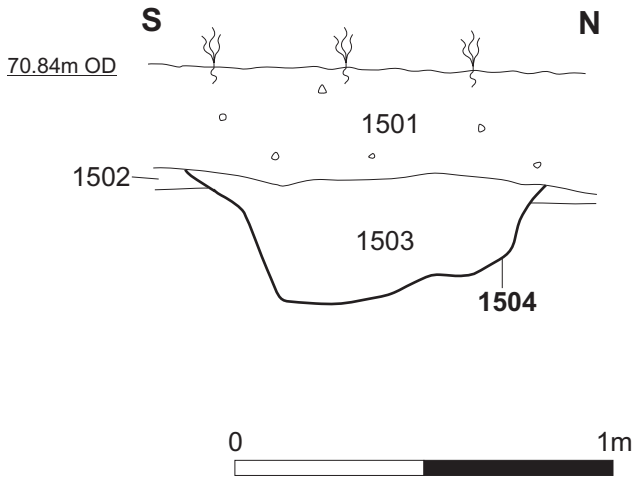
A ditch [5006] (Fig 14, section 10) was encountered in trench 50 cut into the natural geology (5003) at a depth of 0.45m (Fig 6). It was aligned north-east to south-west, with a slight curve. It measured 2.2m wide and 0.6m deep. The sides of the ditch were moderately sloping to a shelf on each side, these dropped down at a steep angle to a narrow concave base. The lower fill (5005) was a compact mid red-brown silty-sand with occasional small stone inclusions and charcoal flecks, and contained a single sherd of possible Romano-British pottery. The upper fill (5004), was a mid to light grey-brown silty-sand with medium to large sized stone fragments and some charcoal flecks. This fill also contained five sherds of Romano-British pottery and six flints. The upper fill of the ditch was overlain by subsoil (5002), 0.1m thick, and then covered by topsoil, 0.4m thick.

Ditch [1405] section looking west



Ditch [1504] section looking west

Section 2



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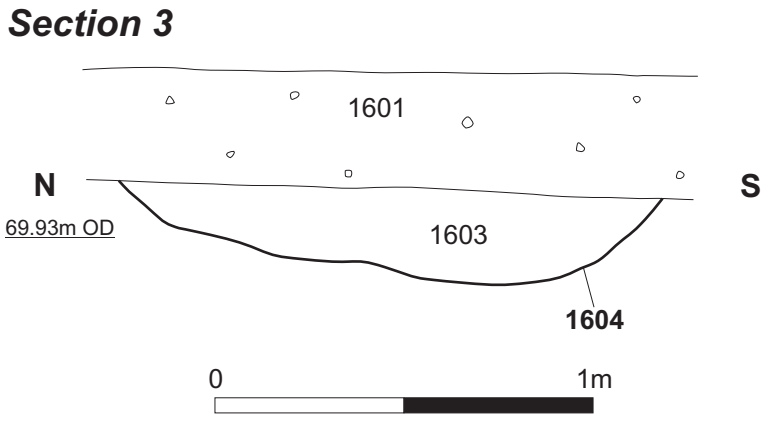
Section 2 Fig 8

Ditch [1604] section looking east



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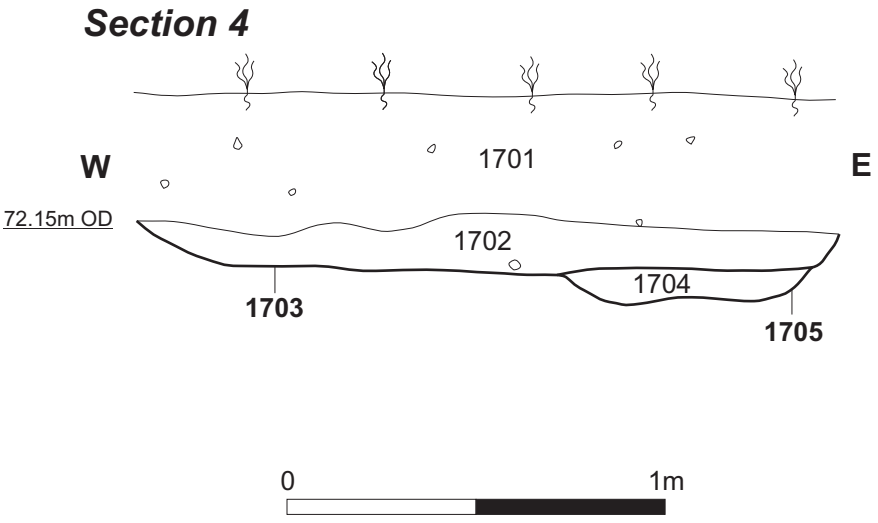
Section 3 Fig 9

Furrow [1703] and pit [1705] section looking south



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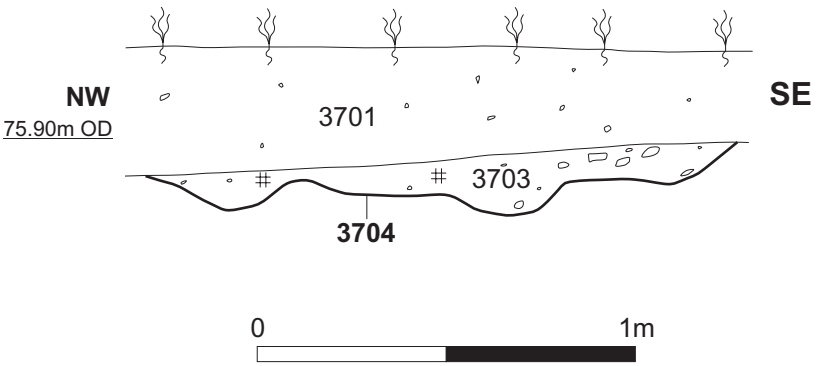
Section 4 Fig 10

Ditch [3704] section looking east

Section 11



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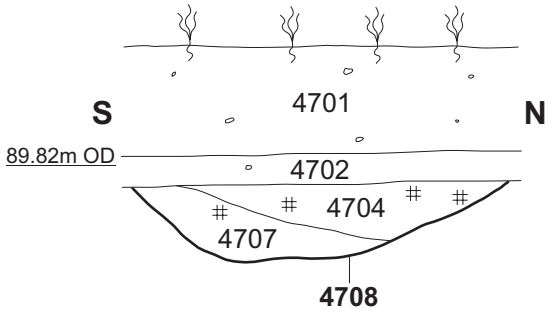
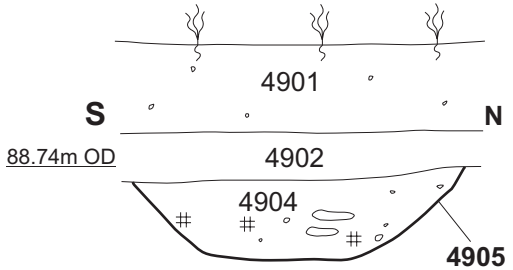
Gully [4708] section looking west

Gully [4905] section looking west

Section 7



Section 8



Sections 7 and 8 Fig 12

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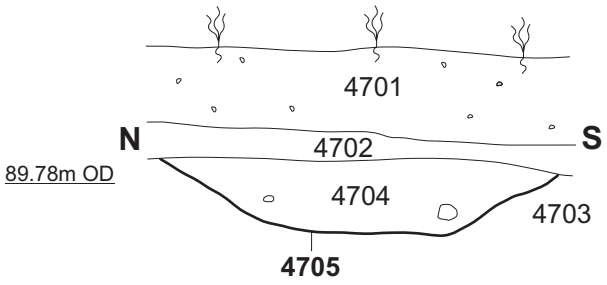
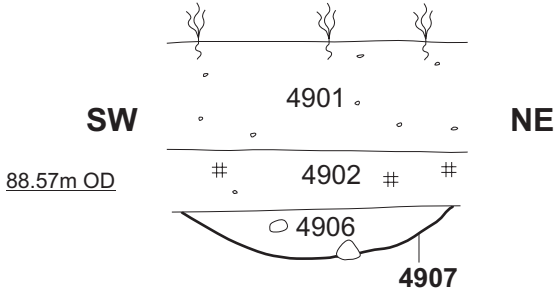
Gully [4705] section looking east

Gully [4907] section looking north west

Section 6



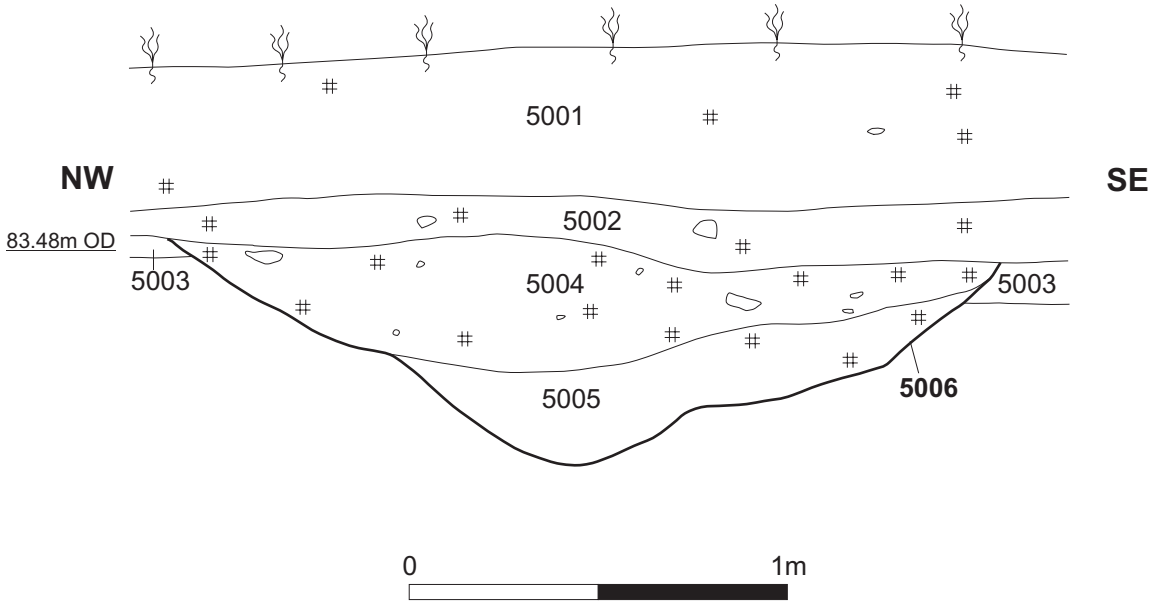
Section 9



Sections 6 and 9 Fig 13

Ditch [5006] section looking north east

Section 10



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Section 10 Fig 14

5 THE FINDS

5.1 **The worked stone** by Yvonne Wolframm-Murray

In total eleven pieces of worked stone were recovered. The artefacts comprised of two cores, five flakes, two blades, and one polished stone axe fragment, summarised in Table 1 below. Post-depositional edge damage was present on all artefacts consisting of occasional irregular nicks on one or both lateral edges. Patination was present on one of the flints, which was a slight cloudy white discolouration of the surface. Burning is evident on one flake in the form of thermal fracturing.

Table 1: Summary of worked stone

Context/ Feature	SF	Flake/ Blade	Portion	Material	Cortex	Comments
1704/1705 pit	26	Flake	Whole	Group VI epidotised tuff		Langdale axe fragment
4304	31	Flake	Whole	vitreous mid brown-grey	mid brown	smooth cortex
501	1	Core		vitreous dark grey		Flake core with min of two striking platforms
1301	23	Blade	Proximal	vitreous light brown-grey	light brown	break is old, heavy post-depositional edge damage; slight patination
1101	25	Flake	Medial	vitreous light brown	patination	-
5004/5006 ditch	32	Flake	Proximal	vitreous mid grey-brown	light brown	slight post-depositional edge damage
5004/5006 ditch	33	Flake	Whole	vitreous light brown		Possible utilisation
5004/5006 ditch	34	Blade	Distal	vitreous mid grey-brown		post-depositional edge damage
5004/5006 ditch	35	Core		vitreous mid brown-grey	light brown	flake core with two opposing striking platforms
5004/5006 ditch	36	Flake	Proximal	vitreous dark brown	light brown	-
5004/5006 ditch	38	Fragment		vitreous light grey	mid brown	extensive thermal fracturing and pink hue to cortex

The raw material was a vitreous flint ranging from mid to dark greyish-brown and an opaque grey coloured flint. The cortex present on the dorsal surfaces of one six pieces was light to mid brown and worn. Raw material from two sources was present. The flints were probably locally procured gravel flints. The two flake cores had each two striking platforms. There were five flakes, of which three were broken, and two blade fragments. One flake was possibly utilised, the scars on the distal end suggest a possible use as a scraper. There was also one polished greenstone axe fragment recovered, which was possibly from the lateral edge of the axe.

There was also a flake from a polished stone axe of Group VI epidotsied tuff from Great Langdale, Cumbria. It was probably from the lateral edge of the axe.

The axe fragment is of a mid-to-late Neolithic date. The remainder of the worked flint is not directly dateable but the technological characteristics suggest a broadly Neolithic date. The presence of the non-local greenstone axe fragment suggests the involvement in exchange networks. No further work is recommended.

5.2 Prehistoric pottery by Andy Chapman

The assemblage comprises a small quantity of hand-built pottery probably dating to the middle Iron Age pottery, with the material from ditch [5006] residual in fills that also produced two sherds of probable Roman pottery.

Table 2: Quantification of Iron Age pottery

Context/ feature	Feature type	sherds	Fabric	weight (g)	sherd families
1704/1705	Pit	100+	A	570	1
4704/4705	Gully	1	B	15	1
4706/4708	Gully	5	1x A 4x C	15	2
5004/5006	Ditch Upper fill	5	4 x C (1 x RB)	10	2
5005/5006	Ditch Lower fill	1	1 xRB?	5	1
Totals		***c*112**		**615**	**7**

Fabrics

A: Quartz Sand temper, coarse
A sandy fabric, similar to C, but dominated by the presence of larger angular white quartz, measuring 1-5mm.

B: Acid Igneous Rocks; Local (Leicestershire fabric RQ1)
A sandy fabric that contains angular quartz (very similar to Fabric A), but also contains frequent hard rounded stone inclusions, measuring 2-4mm, probably granitic rock.

C: Quartz sand temper (Leicestershire fabric Q1)
A sandy fabric containing fine angular quartz, rarely larger than 1mm

There are two hand-built vessels in fabrics containing inclusions of angular quartz (Fabric A), from contexts (1704) and (4706), and from context (4704) there is a vessel in a similar base fabric, but with the addition of granitic rock (Fabric B). There are two vessels in sandy fabrics containing fine quartz (Fabric Q1).

Forms

The fill (1704) of pit [1705] contained a single near complete jar that had been crushed. As a result, it comprised over 100 small sherds, weighing 570g, with few sherds refitting. The fabric contains quantities of large angular quartz, and has a dark grey core and internal surface and a patchy grey to grey-brown external surface. The surfaces have been smoothed or wiped, although larger inclusions frequently protrude through. The vessel is a small rounded jar, with a flat base, and a concave neck. The rounded everted rim, *c*150mm diameter, has been formed by folding the rim back on itself externally, and this has broken away in places (Fig 15). A single body sherd retains an applied and pinched lug (Fig 15).

The small groups from the other contexts comprise undiagnostic body sherds.

Chronology
The jar from pit [1705] in trench 17 is probably late Iron Age in date. Further sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered from a gully [5006] that also contained two sherds of probable Roman pottery, perhaps suggesting a late Iron Age and Roman date for activity in the vicinity of trench 50.

The pottery jar from pit [1705] showing the folded rim and applied lug Fig 15

5.3 Medieval and later pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

All the medieval and later pottery came from unstratified topsoil and subsoil contexts.

The pottery assemblage comprised 16 sherds with a total weight of 142g. It was recorded using the conventions of the Leicestershire County type-series (Sawday 1994), as follows

CC2: Chilvers Coton 'C' ware, 1200-1475. 5 sherds, 40g
EA: Post-medieval Red Earthenware, mid 16th century. 3 sherds, 34g
EA6: Post-medieval Blackwares, late 17th century +. 1 sherd, 7g
LY4: Shelly wares, 1100-1400. 1 sherd, 17g
NO1: Nottingham Ware, 1250 – 1300. 3 sherds, 27g
PM: Potter's Marston ware, 1100-1300. 2 sherds, 9g

In addition, a single sherd (5g) of early/middle Saxon (E/MS; *c* AD450 – 850) granite-tempered pottery was also noted. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 3. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of contemporary sites in the region. It would appear that the main phase of activity was during the 12th – 14th centuries, as common late medieval fabric types are entirely absent.

Table 3: Medieval and post-medieval pottery occurrence (weight in g)

	E/MS		PM		LY4		NO1		CC2		EA		EA6		
Context	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**Date**
101	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	14	-	-	-	-	13thC
201	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	M16thC
301	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	M13thC
401	-	-	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12thC
501	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12thC
601	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	15	-	-	-	-	M13thC
704	-	-	-	-	1	17	-	-	1	11	-	-	-	-	13thC
1402	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	29	-	-	M16thC
1802	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	L17thC
Total	1	5	2	9	1	17	3	27	5	40	3	34	1	7	

5.4 The tile by Pat Chapman

There is one fragment of ceramic tile from the toposil (401), weighing 70g and 30mm thick, made from very hard, fine orange clay.

It has most likely come from a late post-medieval floor tile.

5.5 The small finds by Tora Hylton and Nathan Flavell

The excavations produced 16 small finds. The majority of the finds were recovered from topsoil deposits overlying trenches 2-4, 7, 8, 11, 14, 17, 30 and 47. With the exception of a medieval strap-end, all the finds are post-medieval/modern.

The medieval strap-end was recovered from trench 3 (301). It is a tongue-shaped composite strap-end and remains of the leather strap survive in between the plates. Stylistically it dates to the 14th/15th centuries.

The remaining finds are all post-medieval and they are represented by a range of objects, most of which would have been casually lost. They include dress-accessories (buttons, strap-slide, buckle) , and coinage (Victorian half penny dated 1888), together with a small group of domestic related items (spoon, teaspoon and window fitting) and undiagnostic fragments.

A single regimental button was found in trench 8 (801) topsoil. It is round, 20mm in diameter, 7mm deep with a small circular loop on the back for attaching to a split pin. The button is made of a copper alloy, possibly with a silver coating. The front depicts the Stafford Knot in the centre surround by the legend 'THE QUEENS OWN ROYAL

YEOMANRY', with the St Edward's Crown (also called the Queen Victoria Crown or QVC) above it. The button dates from between 1838 and 1901.

5.6 Charred plant material and molluscs by Karen Deighton

A total of three samples were collected by hand from a range of contexts during the course of excavation. This material was processed and assessed to determine the presence, preservation and nature of any ecofacts and to inform on further sampling strategies. The contribution to the understanding of the site was also considered.

Method

The samples were processed using a modified siraf tank fitted with a 250micron mesh and flot sieve. The resulting flots and residues were dried. The flots were then sorted with the aid of a stereoscopic microscope (10x magnification) and residues were scanned. Any charred plant remains were identified with the aid of the author's small reference collection, Cappers *et al (*2006) and Jacomet (1996).

Results

Preservation was solely by charring. Fragmentation and surface abrasion was at a moderate level.

Taxonomic distribution is sown in Table 4.

Table 4: Plant Taxa by context

Cut/fill	**1503/1504**	**5004/5006**	**5005/5006**
Sample	1	2	3
Feature	Ditch	ditch	Ditch
Date	-	IA	IA
Volume (litres)	40	40	40
Charcoal	100	300	50
Spelt(chaff) *Triticum spelta*	2	-	-
Wheat(chaff) Triticum sp	-	4	-
Naked barley *Hordeum vulgare* var nudum	-	2	-
Hulled barley *Hordeum vulgare*	-	1	-
Wheat/Barley Triticum/Hordeum	3	-	1
Cereal indet	-	9	-
Pea *Pisum sativa*	-	1	-
Fat hen *Chenopodium album*	-	1	10

All samples produced charcoal fragments which were large enough to permit further identification

Discussion

The small number of ecofacts observed in all three samples suggests the origin of this material could be background, ie material blown or washed into features from activities taking place elsewhere. Unfortunately it adds little to the understanding of the site.

Potential

Ecofacts were recovered from all three samples, although they add little to the interpretation of the site at present, their presence and reasonable level of preservation suggests that further sampling should not be ruled out should any

further excavation take place. The fact that well preserved identifiable ecofacts are present indicates that further sampling of suitable phaseable/dateable contexts could result in the recovery of material that could aid the understanding of the site.

6 DISCUSSION

The evaluation found a small number of archaeological features which confirmed the low density of archaeological activity indicated by the geophysical survey.

The earliest archaeological evidence found are the flint artefacts and the fragment of Langdale polished stone axe which date to the Neolithic period. The majority of the flints were present in the topsoil and within the fills of furrows, which indicates they are residual, consistent with a background level of non-settlement activity.

The ditch, gullies and pit all appear to be prehistoric (Iron Age) from the pottery recovered. The majority of the early pottery came from an isolated pit in trench 17, and is probably from a single vessel, the discard of a used pot in a pit. The shallowness of the twin gullies in trenches 47 and 49 suggest that they are not major land boundaries, but rather are the truncated remnants of secondary land divisions, internal to larger fields. It is possible they are contemporary with the prehistoric features found during evaluation in 2003, north of Park Lane.

Small amounts of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery, possibly residual, were present in the large ditch in trench 50. The size of the feature suggests that the ditch was a substantial boundary.

The two undated features (trenches 15-17 and trench 37) may be medieval or post-medieval boundary divisions within the Open Fields pre-dating the enclosure of the fields in 1779.

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7 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Dimensions /thickness (m)	Artefact type
1	101	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam	0.27m-0.32m thick	Medieval pottery
	102	Subsoil	Mid brown-red sandy clay with occasional sandstone pieces	0.05m-0.11m thick	
	103	Natural	Red sandy clay with broken sandstone		
2	201	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam	0.3m thick	Post-medieval pottery, Button
	202	Natural	Yellow sandstone and red sandy clay		
3	301	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam	0.32m thick	Strap end, button, coin, cu fitting, post-medieval pottery
	302	Natural	Red sandy clay with broken sandstone		
4	401	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam	0.25m-0.3m thick	Spoon, tile, medieval pottery
	402	Natural	Red clay with patches of yellow-green clay		
5	501	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam	0.28m-0.3m thick	Flint, coin, medieval pottery
	502	Natural	Red clay with sandstone patches		
6	601	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam	0.3m-0.35m thick	Medieval pottery
	602	Natural	Red-brown sandy clay		
7	701	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam	0.25m-0.3m thick	Window fitting
	702	Subsoil	Mid brown-red sandy clay with occasional sandstone pieces	0.15m-0.2m thick	
	703	Natural	Red clay with sandstone patches		
	704	Fill of furrow	Red-brown sandy clay with charcoal flecking	0.1m deep	Medieval pottery
	705	Cut of furrow	N-S linear feature	1.6m wide	
8	801	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam	0.3m-0.36m thick	Cu object, regimental button
	802	Natural	Red clay with sandstone patches		
9	901	Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty loam	0.3m thick	
	902	Natural	Red clay with sandstone patches		

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Dimensions /thickness (m)	Artefact type
10	1001	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.2m-0.3m thick	
	1002	Natural	Red clay		
11	1101	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.25m-0.3m thick	Buckle, flint
	1102	Natural	Red clay that changes to broken sandstone		
12	1201	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.3m-0.35m thick	
	1202	Natural	Red clay		
13	1301	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.3m thick	Flint
	1302	Subsoil	Red-brown sandy clay	0.04m-0.15m thick	
	1303	Natural	Mixed red clay and sandstone		
14	1401	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.27m-0.38m thick	Cu object
	1402	Subsoil	Red-brown clay sand with charcoal flecking	0.14m-0.18m thick	Post-medieval pottery
	1403	Natural	Broken sandstone		
	1404	Fill of ditch	Red-brown sand with small sandstone fragments	0.25m thick	
	1405	Cut of ditch	E-W linear feature	0.9m wide	
15	1501	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.25m-0.4m thick	
	1502	Natural	Broken sandstone with patches of red clay		
	1503	Fill of ditch	Red-brown sand with occasional pebbles	0.3m deep	Bead
	1504	Cut of ditch	E-W linear	0.8m wide	
16	1601	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.3m-0.4m thick	
	1602	Natural	Mixed clay and broken sandstone		
	1603	Fill of ditch	Mixed red-brown and beige sand	0.23m deep	
	1604	Cut of ditch	E-W linear	1.1m wide	
17	1701	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.25m-0.3m thick	Spoon
	1702	Fill of furrow	Red-brown clay sand with charcoal flecking	0.17m thick	
	1703	Cut of furrow	N-S linear	1.93m wide	
	1704	Fill of pit	Orange-brown silty clay	0.1m deep	Iron Age pottery, hand-axe fragment
	1705	Cut of pit	Oval pit	0.63m wide	
	1706	Natural	Red clay with patches of sandstone		
18	1801	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.2m-03m thick	

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Dimensions /thickness (m)	Artefact type
	1802	Natural	Red clay with patches of sandstone		Post-medieval pottery
19	1901	Topsoil	Dark brown-red silty clay loam	0.2m-0.35m thick	
	1902	Natural	Red clay with patches of sandstone		
20	2001	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	0.3m-0.32m thick	
	2002	Natural	Brown-red sandy clay with broken sandstone		
21	2101	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	0.3m-0.35m thick	
	2102	Natural	Brown-red sandy clay with broken sandstone		
22	2201	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	0.28m-0.3m thick	
	2202	Natural	Brown-red sandy clay with broken sandstone		
23	2301	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	0.26m-0.29m thick	
	2302	Natural	Brown-red sandy clay with broken sandstone		
24	2401	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	0.28m-0.3m thick	
	2402	Natural	Brown-red sandy clay with broken sandstone		
25	2501	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	0.25m-0.31m	
	2502	Natural	Patchy red clay and orange sandy clay		
26	2601	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.31m-0.33m thick	
	2602	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy-clay with charcoal flecking	0.1m-0.12m thick	
	2603	Natural	Red clay with patches of sandstone		
27	2701	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam	0.26m-0.33m thick	
	2702	Natural	Red sandy clay		
28	2801	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam	0.26m-0.3m thick	
	2802	Natural	Red sandy clay		
29	2901	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam	0.27m-0.36m thick	
	2902	Natural	Red clay with patches of sandstone		
30	3001	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam	0.28m thick	Button
	3002	Natural	Red clay with patches of sandstone		
31	3101	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam	0.3m thick	
	3102	Natural	Red sandy clay		
32	3201	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam	0.27m-0.32m thick	
	3202	Natural	Red sandy clay		
33	3301	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam	0.35m-0.38m thick	
	3303	Natural	Red brown sandy clay		

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Dimensions /thickness (m)	Artefact type
34	3401	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam	0.28m-0.33m	
	3402	Natural	Red sandy clay		
35	3501	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam	0.27m-0.33m	
	3502	Natural	Red sandy clay		
36	3601	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam	0.2m-0.3m	
	3602	Natural	Red sandy clay		
37	3701	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.19m-0.26m	
	3702	Natural	Red clay with patches of beige clay		
	3703	Fill of ditch	Red brown silty sand-clay	0.13m deep	
	3704	Cut of ditch	E-W linear feature	1.45m wide	
38	3801	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.22m-0.25m thick	
	3802	Natural	Red clay with patches of sandstone		
39	3901	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.17m thick	
	3902	Subsoil	Orange-brown clay sand with stone inclusions	0.06m-0.16m thick	
	3903	Natural	Red clay with patches of beige clay		
40	4001	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.2m-0.25m thick	
	4002	Natural	Red brown sandy clay		
41	4101	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.15m-0.29m thick	
	4102	Natural	Red brown sandy clay		
42	4201	Topsoil	Dark brown clay loam	0.16m-0.25m thick	
	4202	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.08m thick	
	4203	Natural	Red clay with patches of sandstone		
43	4301	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand loam	0.18m-0.3m thick	
	4302	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.1m-0.2m thick	
	4303	Natural	Red clay with patches of sandstone		
	4304	Fill of furrow	Red-brown clay sand with charcoal flecking		Flint
	4305	Cut of furrow	NE-SW linear feature		
44	4401	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.16m-0.2m thick	
	4402	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay	0.08m thick	
	4403	Natural	Red clay with patches of sandstone		
45	4501	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.29m thick	
	4502	Natural	Brown-red sandy clay with sandstone patches		
46	4601	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.25m-0.3m thick	
	4602	Natural	Brown-red sandy clay with sandstone patches		
47	4701	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.2m-0.28m thick	Button, buckle

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Dimensions /thickness (m)	Artefact type
	4702	Subsoil	Yellow-brown sandy clay	0m-0.12m thick	
	4703	Natural	Red-brown clay to yellow clay sand		
	4704	Fill of gully	Orange-brown clay sand	0.095m thick	Iron Age pottery
	4705	Cut of gully	NE-SW linear feature	0.83m wide	
	4706	Fill of gully	Grey-brown silty sand with charcoal flecking	0.18m thick	Iron Age pottery
	4707	Fill of gully	White-brown silty sad with ironstone flecking	0.2m thick	
	4708	Cut of gully	E-W linear feature	1m wide	
48	4801	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.26m-0.29m thick	
	4802	Natural	Red sandy clay with sandstone patches		
49	4901	Topsoil	Dark brown clay-sand loam	0.2m-0.3m thick	
	4902	Subsoil	Mid brown-orange clay sand with occasional stones	0m-0.15m thick	
	4903	Natural	Red clay with sandstone patches		
	4904	Fill of gully	Orange-brown sandy clay	0.19m deep	
	4905	Cut of gully	E-W linear feature	0.8m wide	
	4906	Fill of gully	Orange-brown clay sand	0.14m deep	
	4907	Cut of gully	SE-NW linear feature	0.72m wide	
50	5001	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam	0.27m-0.3m thick	
	5002	Subsoil	Orange-brown loamy sand	0.28m thick	
	5003	Natural	Red clay		
	5004	Fill of ditch	Light grey-brown silty sand	0.36m thick	Iron Age and Roman pottery
	5005	Fill of ditch	Grey-orange silty sand	0.27m thick	Iron Age and Roman pottery
	5006	Cut of ditch	NE-SW curvilinear feature	2.2m wide	

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