



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial trench evaluation of land  
north of Bill Crane Way, Lutterworth  
Leicestershire, February 2011  
Accession No. X.A15.2011



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**Northamptonshire  
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Report 11/51  
February 2011



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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation of land north of Bill Crane Way, Lutterworth, Leicestershire, February 2011	
Short description	In February 2011, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land north of Bill Crane Way, Lutterworth, Leicestershire. The evaluation was carried out in response to the submission of a planning application for the development of the land for a new residential development and areas of open space. A small area of Middle Bronze Age/Early Iron Age occupation was present at the western edge of the site next to a small watercourse. Other features included an undated gully, furrow, vegetation disturbance and a modern gully.	
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Site Status		
Previous work	Desk based assessment and geophysical survey	
Current land use	Pasture and arable	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	None	
Significant finds	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	Bill Crane Way, Lutterworth	
Post code		
OS co-ordinates	SP 5430 8606	
Area (sq m/ha)	7.5 ha	
Height aOD	120m-130m	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator		
Project Design originator	CgMs Consulting Ltd	
Director/Supervisor	Nathan Flavell (NA)	
Project Manager	Adam Yates (NA), Paul Gajos (CgMs Consulting Ltd)	
Sponsor or funding body	CgMs Consulting Ltd / William Davis Ltd	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	14/02/2011	
End date	17/02/2011	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contents</b>
Physical	X.A15.2011	Pottery, flint
Paper		Site records (1 small archive box)
Digital		Client report PDF
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation of land north of Bill Crane Way, Lutterworth, Leicestershire, February 2011	
Serial title & volume	11/	
Author(s)	Nathan Flavell	
Page numbers		
Date	February 2010	

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION  
OF LAND NORTH OF BILL CRANE WAY  
LUTTERWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE  
FEBRUARY 2011**

**Abstract**

*In February 2011, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land north of Bill Crane Way, Lutterworth, Leicestershire. The evaluation was carried out in response to the submission of a planning application for the development of the land for a new residential development and areas of open space. A small area of Middle Bronze Age/Early Iron Age occupation was present at the western edge of the site next to a small watercourse. Other features included an undated gully, furrow, vegetation disturbance and a modern gully.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

In February 2011, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) on land north of Bill Crane Way, Lutterworth, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 5430 8606; Fig 1). The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their clients William Davis Ltd and was undertaken to inform a planning application for a proposed residential development and areas of public open spaces.

The scope of works was outlined in the specification issued by CgMs Consulting (Gajos 2011).

**2 BACKGROUND**

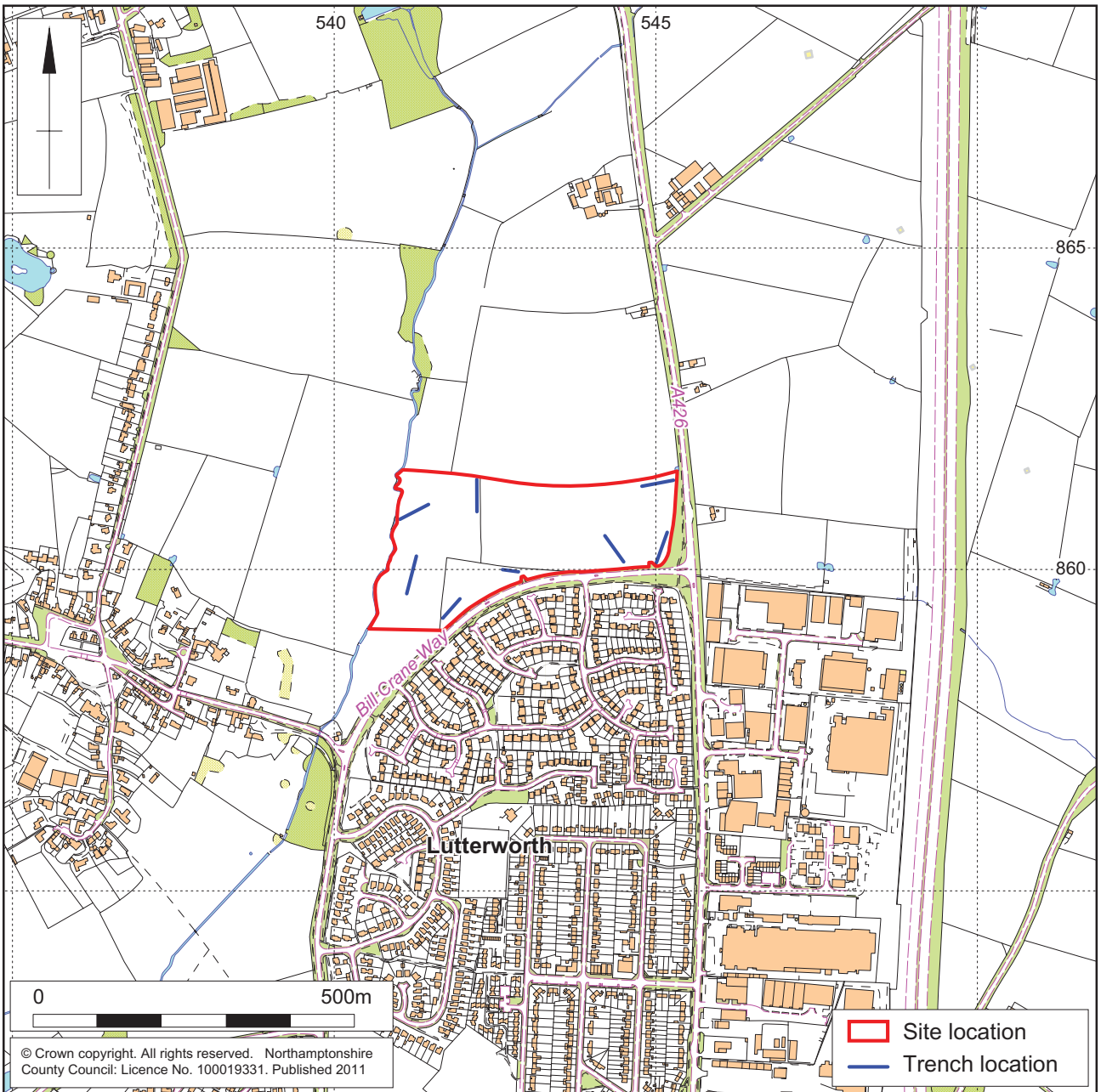
**2.1 Topography and geology**

The site is located on the northern edge of Lutterworth and is approximately 7.5ha in size. It is bounded by Bill Crane Way to the south, the A426 to the east, agricultural land to the north and a small watercourse to the west.

From the east of Bill Crane Way, the land noticeably drops towards a small stream that bounds the site to the west. The north-west field had extant ridge and furrow earthworks. These are bounded by a headland to the west where the land level drops off toward the stream. There is an area that has been eroded by landslide and water action from the stream.

The ridge and furrow earthworks are also bounded to the south where the remains of a ditch are present as an earthwork. This marked the alignment of the hedgeline that still exists as a boundary running to the east. The ground level to the east of the site lies and at an average of 130m aOD, and 120m aOD to the west.

The geology of the site comprises Blue Lias and Charnmouth Mudstone overlain by Pleistocene Till (Diamicton) ([www.bgas.ac.uk](http://www.bgas.ac.uk) accessed 25 February 2011). Soils are mapped by the Soil Survey of England and Wales as slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged chalky till of the Beccles 3 Association (SSEW 1983).



Scale 1:10,000

Site Location Fig 1

## 2.2 Historical and archaeological background

A desk-based assessment (Gajos 2010) and geophysical survey (ARS 2010) have previously been conducted on the site.

The desk-based assessment confirmed that no known archaeological sites were present within the development area, although the A426 immediately to the east of the site is believed to follow the Roman road from *Ratae Corieltauvorum* (Leicester) to *Tripontium* (south of Lutterworth). Prehistoric and Roman finds have been made in the fields to the north and south of the site. Accordingly the site was considered to have potential for previously unknown remains to be present.

The geophysical survey identified a former field boundary and a linear feature of magnetic disturbance. Three amorphous cut features may have been associated with former field boundaries or be geological in origin. A number of discrete bipolar anomalies were thought to represent buried ferrous objects (Fig 2).

## 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Objectives

The specific objectives of the project were set out in the Specification (Gajos 2011) as follows:

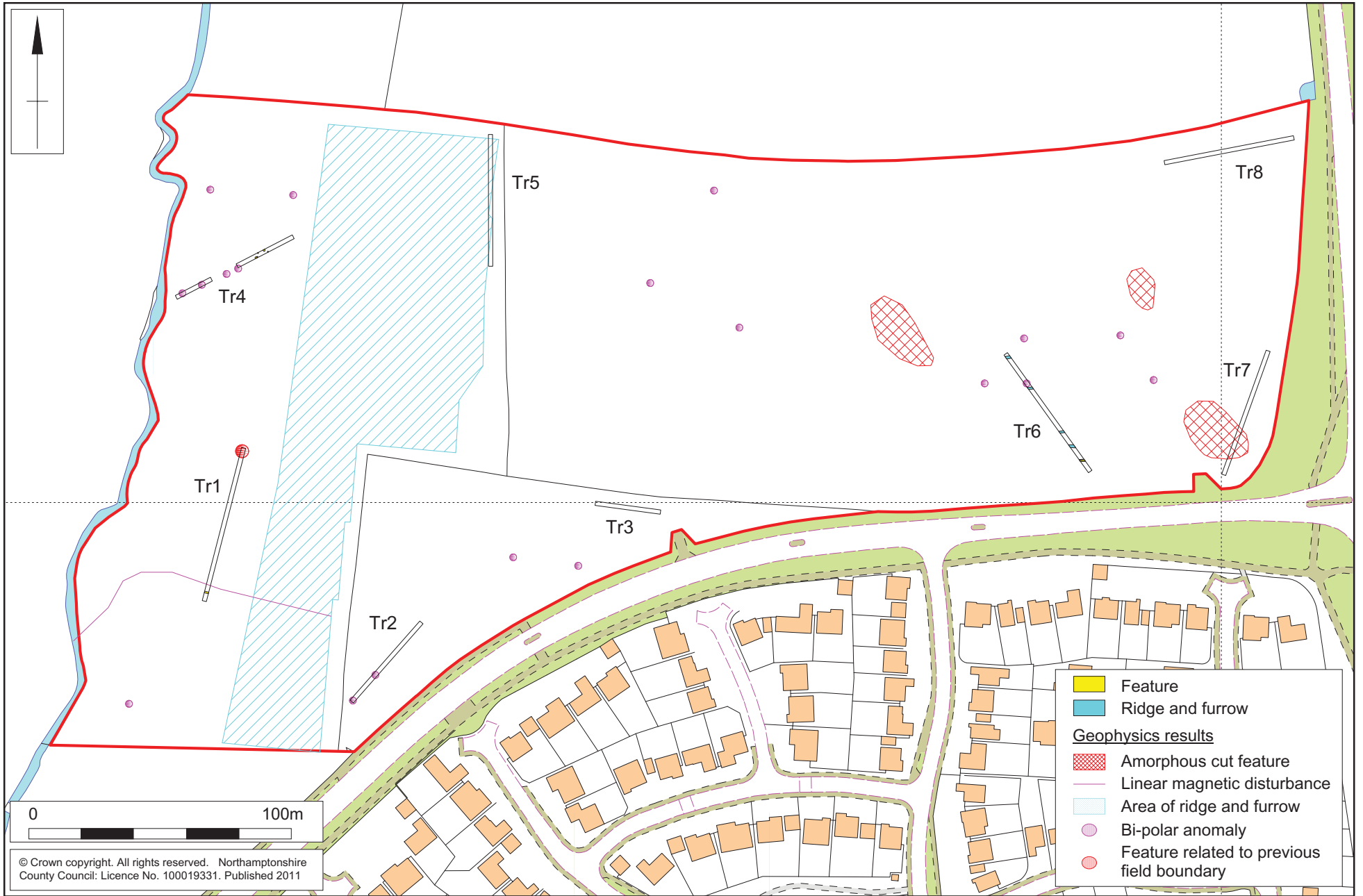
- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site
- To assess the artefactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits encountered
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological 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.



1:2000

Trench locations with geophysical interpretation

Fig 2



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### 3.2 Methodology

Eight trial trenches of varying length were excavated in accordance with the specification (Fig 2). These were targeted on anomalies identified by the geophysical survey and blank areas as follows:

- Trench 1 (60m x 1.6m): Targeted on a linear area of magnetic disturbance and a feature associated with former field boundary
- Trench 2 (40m x 1.6m): Targeted on a bipolar anomaly
- Trench 3 (25m x 1.6m): Blank area
- Trench 4 (50m x 1.6m): Targeted on a bipolar anomalies
- Trench 5 (50m x 1.6m): Blank area
- Trench 6 (50m x 1.6m): Targeted on a bipolar anomalies
- Trench 7 (50m x 1.6m): Targeted on amorphous cut feature of possible geological origin
- Trench 8 (50m x 1.6m): Blank area

A JCB 3CX mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket was used to remove overburden to archaeological levels or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Furrows, where visible during machining were removed with the machine to reveal any potential archaeology. Trench 4 was found on site to be positioned across a footpath, and so was excavated in two separate sections in order to avoid cutting the path.

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 (NA 2006). 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 film and colour slides 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 the Leicestershire Planning Archaeologist and CgMs Consulting Ltd. 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 for 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 underlying natural comprised superficial glacial till deposits and was encountered between 0.22-0.55m below the modern ground surface in Trenches 2-3 and 5-8. This varied markedly across the site, generally occurring as brown-orange or yellow-orange sandy clay with occasional angular to sub-angular pebbles, although patches of gravels and light grey clay were also noted. In Trenches 1 and 4 it comprised grey-orange sandy clay, and grey-blue alluvial silty-clay was present at the south-west end of Trench 4. Colluvium of orange-brown silty clay up to 0.5m deep was noted in Trenches 1 and 4. The subsoil was orange-brown silty clay and generally varied between 0.12m-0.55m thick across the site. The topsoil was dark brown silty-clay with some occasional small pebble inclusions, 0.15m-0.35m thick.

Trenches 2-3, 5, 7 and 8 did not contain any archaeological features. A number of amorphous features were present in Trenches 6 and 7 which, when excavated, proved to be vegetational disturbance.

Trenches 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8 contained remnants of ridge and furrow. In Trench 2 they were aligned north-west to south-east. In trench 5 they had an approximate east-west alignment. Trench 6 marked a change in the alignment of ridge and furrow to north-east to south-west, from a more east to west direction as evidenced in Trenches 7 and 8, following the curve of the field boundary. The furrows were generally 1m in width, with some variations, and could be up to 5m apart. Land drains were also encountered in Trenches 2, 3, 7 and 8.

A full inventory of contexts is included as an Appendix.

### 4.2 The archaeological evidence

In total seven features were found, in Trenches 1, 4, and 6. These were two pits and three postholes in Trench 4 dated to the Middle Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age. Pits and post holes were segregated on the basis of size alone. An undated gully was present in Trench 1, and a modern gully was present in Trench 6.

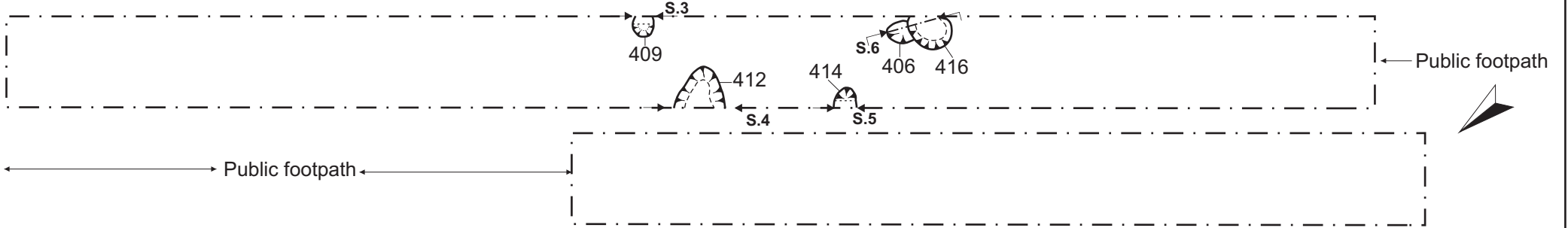
#### *Trench 4*

Natural geology was encountered at a depth of between 0.55m-0.87m across the trench. The two pits and three postholes were grouped together (Figs 3 and 4).

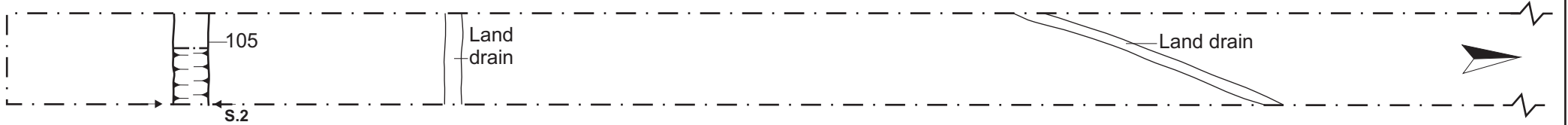
Posthole [409] (Figs 4 and 5) was partially in the north-west facing baulk of the trench. It was circular in shape with a diameter of 0.35m, and was 0.12m deep. The primary fill (408) was mid brown silty-sand with occasional pebble inclusions, 0.04m thick. This was overlain by dark grey silty-sand (407) with charcoal inclusions, 0.08m thick that contained seven sherds of prehistoric pottery, five flint flakes and one blade.

A posthole [414] (Figs 4 and 6) was in the north-west side of the trench, was also only partially visible. It was sub-circular, 0.3m wide, with an almost-shaped profile 0.15m deep. It was filled with dark grey-brown sandy-clay (413) with occasional pebble inclusions.

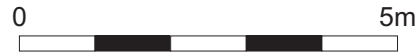
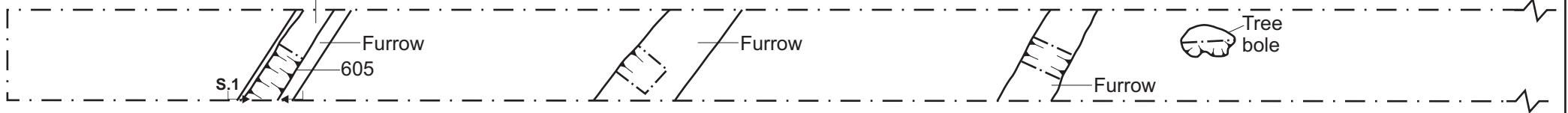
### Trench 4



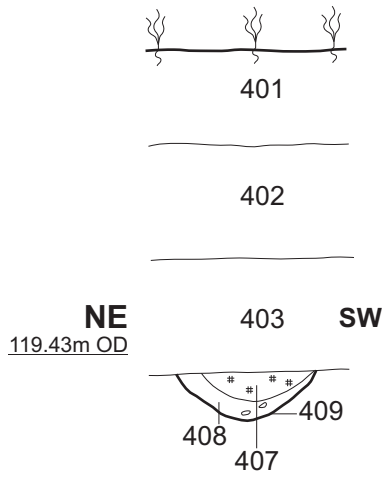
### Trench 1



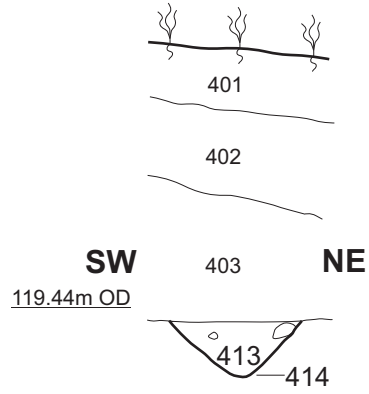
### Trench 6



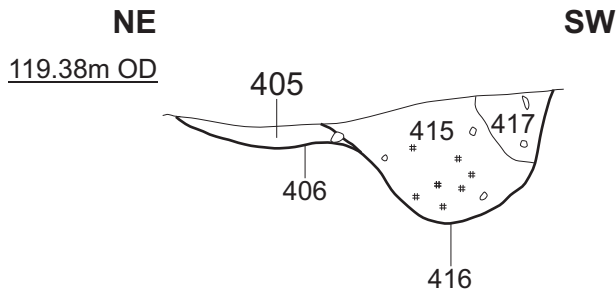
**Posthole 409**



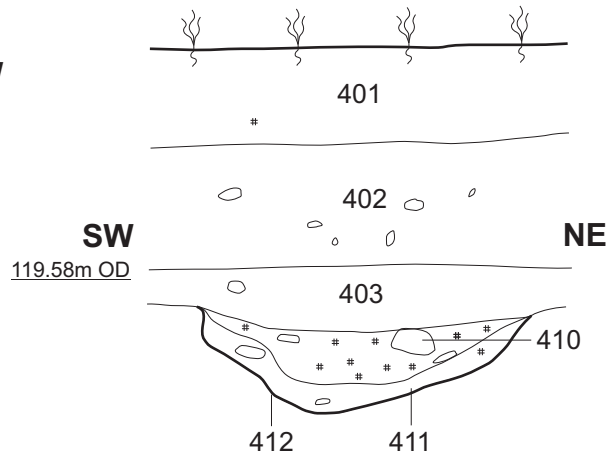
**Posthole 414**



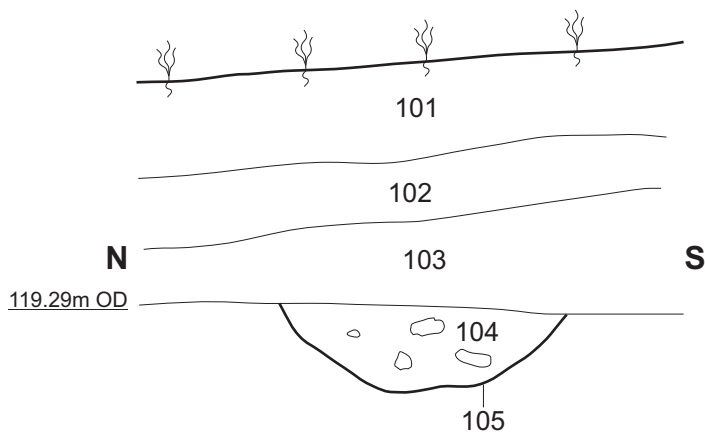
**Posthole 406, Pit 416**



**Pit 412**



**Gully 105**



# Charcoal



Directly to the south in the opposite side of the trench was the third posthole [406] (Figs 4 and 7). This was circular in plan, 0.4m in diameter, with a shallow, concave profile 0.13m deep. It was filled with mixed dark grey and mottled brown silty-sand (405), which contained four sherds of prehistoric pottery.

Cutting the south side of the posthole was a pit [416] (Figs 4 and 7). The pit was circular in plan. It measured 0.7m wide and 0.4m deep. The sides were fairly steep going into a concave base. The primary fill was dark-grey sandy-clay (415), with very frequent charcoal flecking, up to 0.4m thick. It contained thirty-nine sherds of prehistoric pottery, eight flint flakes, two blades and a small quantity of burnt mammal bone. This was partially overlain by mid-brown russet mottled sandy-clay (417), 0.15m thick, deriving from slumping of the south side of the pit.

Directly to the north in the north-west side of the trench was the second pit [412] (Figs 4 and 8). Partially obscured by the section baulk it was semi-circular in shape, and at least 0.85m in diameter and was 0.21m deep. It had moderately sloping sides into a shallow concave base. The primary fill was grey-brown silty-clay with charcoal flecking (411), 0.08m thick and contained six sherds of pre-historic pottery. This was overlain by dark brown silty-clay (410) with abundant charcoal and pebble inclusions, 0.14m thick, containing twenty-three sherds of prehistoric pottery, four flint flakes, one blade and a small quantity of burnt mammal bone.

Overlying all these features was an orange-brown silty-clay layer of colluvium (403), 0.3m-0.35m thick. This was in turn sealed by the subsoil comprising brown-orange sandy clay (402), 0.15m-0.35m thick. Above the subsoil was the current topsoil (401).



Post hole [409], looking south-east

Fig 5



Posthole [414], looking north-east

Fig 6



Posthole [406] and pit [416], looking south-east

Fig 7



Pit [412], looking north-east

Fig 8

### ***Trench 1***

There was a single gully [105] in Trench 1, cut into the natural geology at 0.61m below the current ground surface (Figs 3, 4 and 9). It was aligned east-west, 0.74m wide and 0.24m deep. It had a single fill of mid-grey sandy-silt with orange patches (104). This was also sealed by colluvial layer (103), probably the same as that encountered in Trench 4. It was made up of mid brown-orange silty-clay, 0.2m-0.25m thick. This was in turn sealed by the subsoil, orange-brown silty-clay (102), 0.36m-0.55m thick. The current topsoil (101) overlay this layer.

This feature corresponds with the linear area of magnetic disturbance identified by the geophysical survey, and a substantial depression in the current ground surface.





Gully [105] looking east

Fig 9

### ***Trench 6***

A single modern gully [605] was encountered at 0.32m below the current ground surface, cut into the fill of a ploughed-out furrow (Fig 3). It was aligned east-west, 0.6m wide and 0.34m deep, with fairly straight sides and a flattish base. It was filled with brown-grey sandy-clay (604), with a single sherd of late nineteenth/early twentieth century white glazed stoneware. It was sealed by the topsoil (601).

## **5 THE FINDS**

### **5.1 The worked flint by Yvonne Wolfram-Murray**

Twenty 20 pieces of worked flint were recovered possibly as *in situ* and residual finds from Bronze Age pits and one posthole. The flint comprised 15 flakes, four blades and one serrated blade, these are listed in Table 1.

#### ***Condition***

The condition of the assemblage is good, with flints showing post-depositional edge damage comprising the occasional nick to the edges. One flake fragment shows heat damage in the form of pot-lidding and patination is only present on the serrated blade.

#### ***Raw material***

The raw material is a vitreous flint, light to mid coloured greys and browns, and a light to mid grey opaque flint. The quality of the raw material was variable ranging from good to poor. The cortex present on the dorsal surface of the pieces ranges from a light to mid brown colour and generally had a smooth, rolled and weathered surface, suggesting the use of locally sourced flints as the raw material.

**Composition**

The flints recovered consist of waste flakes and blades. The small assemblage was dominated by 15 flakes (including 6 broken) and two blades (including 1 broken). A cortical striking platform was present on one flake. Two flakes were utilised, evident through small removals on one or both lateral edges.

*Table 1: Catalogue of worked flint*

Context	SF	Flake/ Blade	Portion	Tool/ utilised	Material	Comments
410	7	Blade	Whole		vitreous light grey-brown	overshot termination; smooth cortex surface
410	9	Flake	Whole		vitreous mid brown-grey	slight edge damage
410	8	Flake	Proximal		vitreous light grey	Heat; pot-lidding
407	6	Flake	Whole		opaque light grey	
407	4	Flake	Whole		opaque light grey	
407	2	Flake	Whole		vitreous mid grey	crushing around the striking platform
407	3	Flake	Whole		opaque light grey	hinge termination; flawed raw material
407	5	Blade	Whole		opaque light grey	
407	1	Flake	Whole	utilised	vitreous light red-brown	small flake removal along soft hammer struck
415	10	Blade	Whole	serrated blade	vitreous light grey-brown	retouch at regular intervals; worn and polish
415	11	Flake	Proximal		vitreous light grey-brown	
410	20	Flake	Whole		vitreous mid grey-brown	
410	19	Flake	Whole		vitreous slight grey- brown	overshot termination
415	18	Flake	Whole		vitreous light grey-brown	cortical striking platform
415	17	Blade	Distal		vitreous light grey-brown	soft-hammer struck, bladelet; proximal end snapped off
415	16	Flake	Distal		vitreous mid grey-brown	slight post-depositional edge damage
415	15	Blade	Whole		vitreous mid grey-brown	slight post-depositional edge damage
415	14	Flake	Distal		vitreous mid grey-brown	
415	13	Flake	Medial		vitreous mid grey-brown	
415	12	Flake	Distal	utilised	vitreous dark grey	small utilisation scars on lateral edge, possibly a blade fragment

**Tools**

There is one serrated blade, which has fine and regular retouch along one lateral edge. The retouch is worn and some polish is notable on the edges, this is suggestive of utilisation.

**Dating**

The worked flints are not directly dateable but their technological characteristics suggest a broadly Neolithic to Bronze Age date. The serrated blade and the soft-hammer struck bladelet are of an earlier Neolithic date and probably are residual finds derived from the land surface rather than forming part of the contemporary assemblage of the finds from the pit, which are technologically of a later date. The assembles recovered from the pits and posthole are associated with Middle Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery, the later flint artefacts may be contemporary to the earlier dated pottery.

**5.2 Prehistoric pottery by Andy Chapman**

A total of 79 sherds and crumbs of pottery, weighing 210g, was recovered from five contexts, the fills of two postholes, [406] and [409], and two pits [412] and [416]. The material includes both pottery collected by hand and small sherds from sieved soil samples. The average sherd weight is only 2.7g, reflecting the small size of the sherds and the light corky nature of much of the assemblage, where the inclusions of shell have been leached, leaving the sherds full of voids and with pitted surfaces.

*Table 2: Quantification of prehistoric pottery*

Fill/cut	Number	Weight (g)	Comments (Fabrics, no of sherds)	Sherd families
405/406 posthole	4	3	Crumbs only (F1?, 4)	1
407/409 posthole	7	17	Small abraded body sherds and crumbs (F1, 7)	1
410/412 pit	23	82	Body sherds; flat-topped rim with incised decoration and externally chamfered rim (F1, 3; F2,19; F3, 1)	3
411/412 pit	6	14	Body and rim, internal thickening with incised decoration (F2, 6)	1
415/416 pit	39	94	Body sherds only (F2, 39)	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>210</b>		<b>9</b>

**The fabrics**

- Fabric 1 Sandy, quartz tempered, typically up to c0.5mm but with sparse larger grains (Leicestershire Code Q1, Marsden 1998)  
14 sherds, 18%
- Fabric 2 Shell tempered, but generally soft and corky due to leaching of the shell (Leicestershire Code S)  
64 sherds, 81%

Fabric 3      Acid Igneous Rocks and sparse quartz (Leicestershire Code RQ1)  
 1 sherd, 1%

There is an imbalance in the representation of the fabrics due to the small size of the assemblage and the presence of soft, friable leached sherds of shelly ware from a limited number of highly fragmented vessels.

***The pottery***

The group is consistent in comprising mainly thin-walled sherds, 6-7mm thick, in either a sandy or a shelly fabric. The sherds have a grey-brown to grey core and oxidised, orange-brown to red-brown surfaces. The single sherd in a fabric containing small igneous inclusions is also thicker, 8mm, with a black inner surface.

There are very few diagnostic features, but the assemblage from pit [412] does contain two rim sherds. From the primary fill (411) there is a damaged rim sherd that is probably from the same vessel as a T-shaped flattened rim from the upper fill (410). Both are decorated with transverse incised lines on the flattened surface. From the upper fill there is also a slightly thickened rim with an oblique external chamfer, with faintly surviving possible shallow transverse incisions on the outer edge.

***Chronology***

Given the lack of diagnostic features in this small assemblage, it is difficult to provide a definitive date, but the absence of thicker-walled sherds and the incidence of only decorated rims is not typically of Middle Iron Age assemblages. Both the pottery and the nature of the features from which they have come, small pits and postholes, seems most likely to indicate a broad date somewhere between the Middle Bronze Age to Early Iron Age. The presence of some worked flint in these features may favour a Bronze Age date.

**5.3 The post-medieval pottery** by Iain Soden

A single sherd of post-medieval pottery, weighing 1.3g was recovered from a single context. It is a fragment of white glazed stoneware dating from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth century.

**5.4 The animal bone** by Karen Deighton

A total of 6g of burned mammal bone was recovered by hand and from sieving (sieve sizes 1mm, 2mm and 3.4mm).. This derived from two contexts; 4g from pit fill (410) and 2g from pit fill (415). None could be identified to species.

**5.5 Charred plant material and molluscs** by Karen Deighton

Four samples were collected by hand from the fills of prehistoric pit and postholes. Sample sizes comprised the entirety of the excavated portions of the fills of the features. This material was processed and assessed to determine the presence, preservation and nature of any ecofacts and to inform on further sampling strategies.

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).

Preservation was solely by charring. Abrasion was at a low level and fragmentation varied with taxon.

**Taxa present**

Taxa present are summarised in Table 3.

*Table 3: Ecofacts by sample and context*

<b>Sample</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2(flot)</b>	<b>2(residue)</b>	<b>3(flot)</b>	<b>3(residue)</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Cut/fill</b>	<b>409/407</b>	<b>416/415</b>	<b>416/415</b>	<b>412/410</b>		<b>413/414</b>
<b>Feature type</b>	<b>posthole</b>	<b>pit</b>	<b>pit</b>	<b>pit</b>		<b>posthole</b>
<b>Volume</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>20</b>		<b>10</b>
Charcoal	300	1,000	-	500	-	20
Possible cereal	1	-	-	1	-	-
Cerealia sp						
Possible grass	1	-	-	-	-	-
Poa sp						
Nutshell	1	9	58	8	57	-
Corylus sp						

**Discussion**

Hazelnut (*Corylus* sp.) was the most common taxa noted, in the form of broken empty shells. Its presence suggests that collection of some wild resources may have formed an aspect of site economy. In two instances (ie samples 2 and 3), given the nature of the ecofacts observed and the feature type(pits) from which they derived, it seems the most likely origin of the charred plant remains is refuse deposits following small burning events. The genesis of samples 1 and 4 is slightly more problematic; however refuse could have been deposited in postholes after they fell into disuse. Whether the results represent single events or are cumulative (eg sweepings) is unclear. The presence of possible grass seed and possible cereal grains suggests dry grass or straw was burned, possibly as kindling, however with such a small amount of data this statement is tentative.

**Potential**

The presence of reasonably well preserved, identifiable charred plant material suggests similar deposits may be encountered should any further excavation take place. The collection and study of this material could help to define the function and economy of the site. This would be particularly important as environmental data from prehistoric contexts is not common in the region (Monckton 2001). It is therefore recommended that samples be taken from a range of suitable phaseable/dateable contexts should there be any subsequent excavation.

## 6 DISCUSSION

The Middle Bronze Age/early Iron Age features identified in Trench 4 appear to represent a small area of settlement or occupation adjacent to a water course. Although preserved under a depth of colluvium, which would have protected them from disturbance in recent times, none were particularly substantial, perhaps suggesting truncation in antiquity. Segregation between postholes and pits was based on size alone, and the form of any structure implied by the presence of post holes could not be determined from the limited exposure within one evaluation trench.

Individual artefact counts were quite high, with 79 sherds and crumbs of pottery and 20 flints. However, much of the pottery comprised very small fragments, many recovered from sieving, and the actual vessel count may be quite low. Samples taken from these features produced significant quantity of charcoal and hazelnut shells, with only 3 charred cereal or grass remains. This may imply an economy that included the exploitation of woodland resources, with little evidence for pastoralism or crop production.

Although no dating material was recovered from the gully in Trench 1, the colluvial layer that sealed the features in Trench 4 also sealed the gully [105]. This suggests that this could be contemporary with the features in Trench 4. It corresponded with a linear pattern of magnetic disturbance identified by the geophysical survey and there is a visible dip in the ground for at least some of its alignment.

The only other feature, gully [605] was modern in date. The various geophysical anomalies tested by the evaluation were found not to be of archaeological origin.

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**APPENDIX: CONTEXT DATA**

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Dimensions /thickness (m)	Artefact type
1	101	Topsoil	Mid brown silty-clay	0.15m-0.25m thick	
	102	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silty-clay	0.36m-0.55m thick	
	103	Colluvial	Grey-brown silty-clay	0.2m-0.25m thick	
	104	Fill of gully	Mid grey silty-sand	0.24m thick	
	105	Cut of gully	E-W linear	0.74m wide	
	106	Natural	Grey-orange sandy-clay		
2	201	Topsoil	Grey-brown silty-clay	0.3m-0.35m thick	
	202	Subsoil	Light-grey-brown silty-clay	0.15m-0.2m thick	
	203	Natural	Mid orange sandy-clay with occasional pebbles		
3	301	Topsoil	Grey-brown silty-clay	0.2m-0.35m thick	
	302	Subsoil	Light-grey-brown silty-clay	0m-0.13m thick	
	303	Natural	Mixed patches of orange/brown-grey clay		
4	401	Topsoil	Mid brown silty-clay	0.13m-0.25m thick	
	402	Subsoil	Brown-orange sandy-clay	0.15m-0.35m	
	403	Colluvial	Mid orange-brown silty-clay	0.3m-0.35m	
	404	Natural	Brown-orange sandy clay with stone inclusions		
	405	Fill of posthole	Mixed dark grey and mottled brown silty-sand	0.13m thick	Pottery
	406	Cut of posthole	Circular, shallow profile	0.4m diameter	
	407	Fill of posthole	Dark grey silty-sand with charcoal flecking	0.08m thick	Pottery SF: 1-6, 20 flint Sample 1
	408	Fill of posthole	Mid brown silty-sand	0.04m thick	
	409	Cut of posthole	Circular with a concave profile	0.35m wide	
	410	Fill of pit	Dark brown silty-clay with frequent charcoal flecking	0.14m thick	Pottery Bone SF: 7-9, 19-20 flint Sample 3
	411	Fill of pit	Grey-brown sandy-clay	0.08m thick	Pottery
	412	Cut of pit	Sub circular with shallow profile	0.85m wide	
	413	Fill of posthole	Dark grey-brown sandy-clay with charcoal flecking	0.15m thick	Sample 4
	414	Cut of posthole	Sub circular, v-shaped profile	0.3m wide	
	415	Fill of pit	Dark grey sandy-clay with frequent charcoal flecking	0.4m thick	Pottery SF: 10-18 flint Sample 2



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Trench	Context	Type	Description	Dimensions /thickness (m)	Artefact type
	416	Cut of pit	Circular, steep concave profile	0.7m diameter	
	417	Fill of pit	Mid brown mottled sandy-clay with small stones	0.15m thick	
	418	Alluvial	Blue-grey silty-clay with charcoal flecking	0.25m thick	
5	501	Topsoil	Mid brown silty-clay	0.2m-0.3m thick	
	502	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silty-clay	0.1m-0.25m thick	
	503	Natural	Mid range-brown sandy-clay with grey patches		
6	601	Topsoil	Dark brown silty-clay	0.25m-0.3m thick	
	602	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silty-clay	0.2m thick	
	603	Natural	Mid orange clay with stone inclusions		
	604	Fill of gully	Brown-grey silty-clay	0.34m thick	Pottery
	605	Cut of gully	E-W linear, straight sides and flat base	0.6m wide	
7	701	Topsoil	Dark brown silty-clay	0.27m-0.3m thick	
	702	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silty-clay	0.1m-0.15m thick	
	703	Natural	Mid orange clay with stone inclusions		
8	801	Topsoil	Dark brown silty-clay	0.24m-0.32m thick	
	802	Subsoil	Grey-brown silty-clay	0.13m-0.18m thick	
	803	Natural	Mid brown-orange clay with stone inclusions		



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