



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at
Sketchley Brook, Hinckley, Leicestershire
October 2010



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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	Archaeological evaluation of land at Sketchley Brook, Hinckley, Leicestershire	
In October 2010, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land adjacent to Sketchley Brook, Hinckley, Leicestershire. The evaluation was carried out in response to the submission of a planning application for the development of the land for retail and residential use. The evaluation revealed a prehistoric pit and an undated gully, five boundary ditches identified during a geophysical survey, a probable post-medieval field boundary ditch and pit, a brick-supported culvert, the corner foundations of a brick field barn and part of a possible 19th or 20th-century hearth. The ground had been disturbed in recent times, with the laying of a gas pipe and the raising of ground level during the construction of factory buildings. Pottery recovered from the over burden and furrows ranged in date from Roman to 20th century and was similar to that collected during a previous fieldwalking survey.		
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Site Status		
Previous work	Geophysical survey and fieldwalking (Butler 2009 and Kajewski 2009)	
Current land use	Arable and derelict ground	
Future work	Additional trial trenching	
Monument type and period	Prehistoric pit, gully, medieval and post-medieval boundary ditches	
Significant finds	Prehistoric pottery	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	Land at Sketchley Brook, Hinckley	
OS co-ordinates	SP 416927	
Area (sq m/ha)	c21.34 ha	
Height aOD	92-103m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	Leicestershire County Council	
Project Design originator	NA	
Director/Supervisor	Anne Foard-Colby	
Project Manager	Tony Walsh	
Sponsor or funding body	Goodman Logistic Development (UK) Ltd	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	11/10/2010	
End date	26/10/2010	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents
Physical	X.A3.2009	Pottery, bone, tile, clay pipe
Paper		Site records (1 small archive box)
Digital		Client report PDF
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	Archaeological evaluation of land at Sketchley Brook, Hinckley, Leicestershire 2010	
Serial title & volume	11/56	
Author(s)	Anne Foard-Colby	
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF
LAND ADJACENT TO SKETCHLEY BROOK
HINCKLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE
OCTOBER 2010**

Abstract

In October 2010, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on land adjacent to Sketchley Brook, Hinckley, Leicestershire. The evaluation was carried out in response to the submission of a planning application for the development of the land for retail and residential use. The evaluation revealed a prehistoric pit and an undated gully, five boundary ditches identified during a geophysical survey, a probable post-medieval field boundary ditch and pit, a brick-supported culvert, the corner foundations of a brick field barn and part of a possible 19th or 20th-century hearth. The ground had been disturbed in recent times, with the laying of gas pipe and the raising of ground level during the construction of factory buildings. Pottery recovered from the over burden and furrows ranged in date from Roman to 20th century and was similar to that collected during a previous fieldwalking survey.

1 INTRODUCTION

In October 2010, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) on land adjacent to Sketchley Brook, Hinckley, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 416 927; Fig 1). The work was commissioned by Goodman Logistic Development (UK) Ltd and was undertaken to inform a planning application (10/00518/OUT) for the proposed development of the land for retail and residential use.

The scope of works was outlined in discussion with the Leicestershire County Council's Senior Planning Archaeologist (Clark, email 4/10/10) and detailed in the written scheme of investigation prepared by NA (NA 2010).

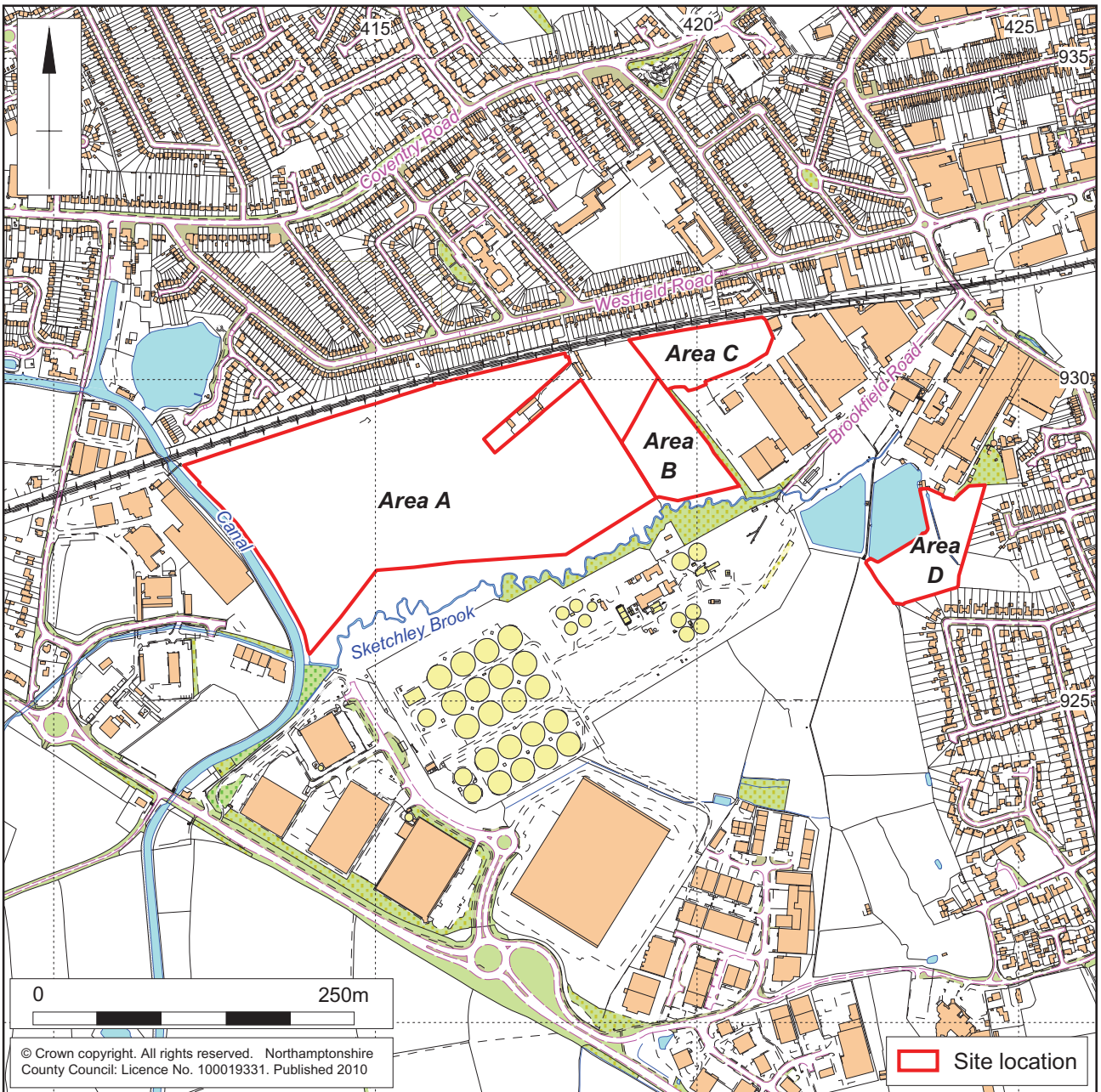
2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and geology

The proposed development lies over a drift geology substrate of Glaciolacustrine deposits of clay and silt with alluvium close to the brook. A deposit of Till intrudes into the area on the eastern side of Jericho Farm (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html>). The site lies between 91m – 100m aOD rising gradually to the east.

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

A desk-based assessment of the site was undertaken (Mills 2008). A gazetteer of the Historic Environment Record data from the assessment has been added to this report as Appendix 3. A summary of the desk-based assessment follows:



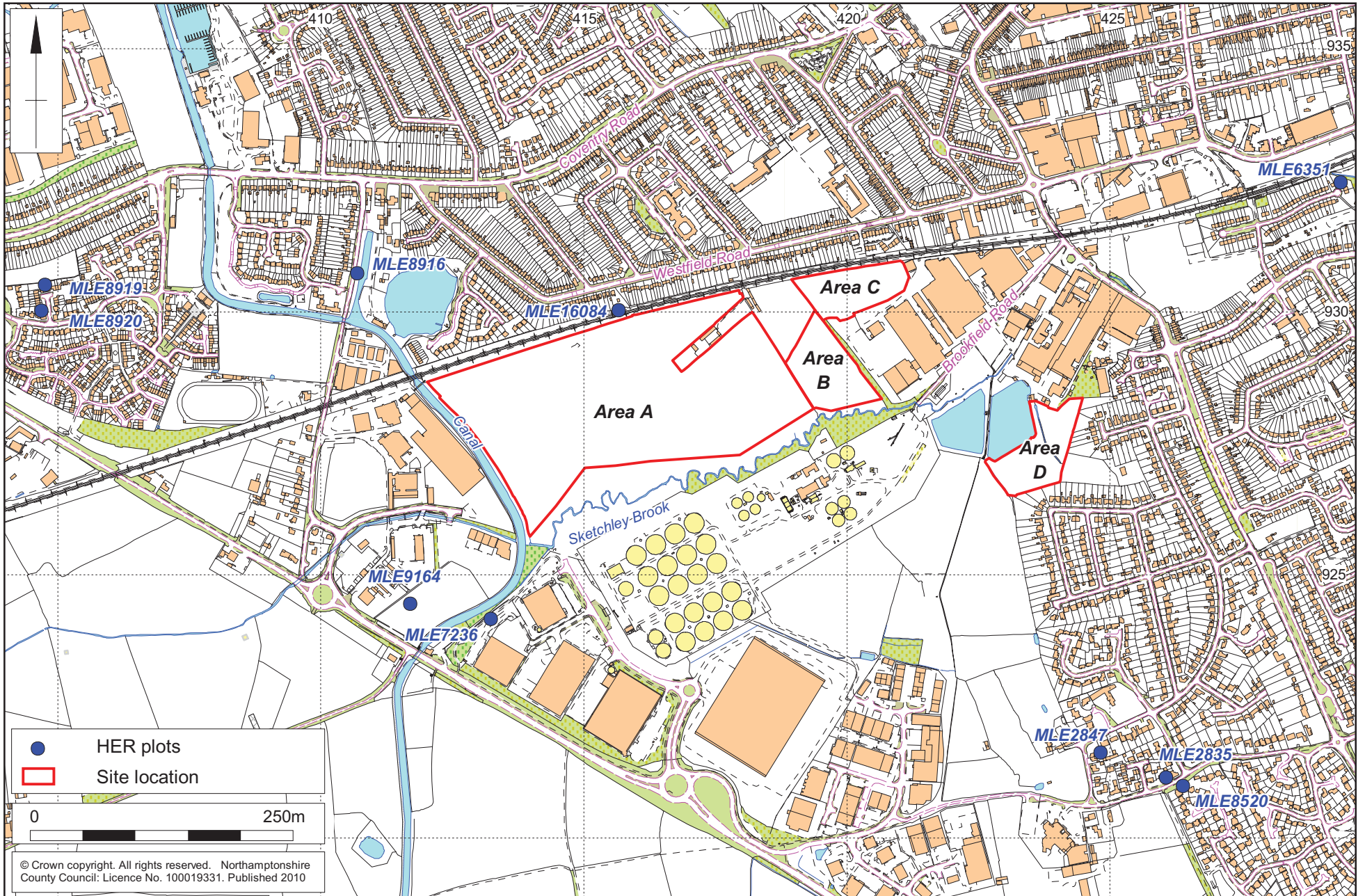
Scale 1:10,000

Areas of evaluation Fig 1

Scale 1:10,000

General site plan showing Historic Environment Record plots

Fig 2



The Leicestershire Historic Environment Record indicates that finds of all periods have been discovered in the local area (Fig 2). A Neolithic polished stone axe head (MLE7236) was recovered south-west of the site and a Middle Bronze Age spearhead (MLE6351) to the east. A settlement site of Middle Iron Age date was excavated by Northamptonshire Archaeology, south of Coventry Road 500m west of Field 1 (MLE8919). (Chapman 2004). An area of probable Bronze Age – Early Iron Age occupation was found to the south at Sketchley (MLE8520).

The Watling Street Roman Road (MLE1388) is situated approximately 300m south of the site and ditches, postholes and a cobbled surface were found 200m south-west (MLE9164). Romano-British period features were also found at the Coventry Road Iron Age settlement (MLE8920).

No finds of Anglo-Saxon date have been made in the area, although Hinckley is recorded before the Norman Conquest (Mills 2008, 12). Locally, Sketchley (MLE2847) is a medieval settlement with a 13th-century chapel (MLE2835). Ridge and furrow cultivation remains are known from the area (Butler 2009). The open fields were subject to enclosure in 1759 (Mills 2008, 12-13).

The Ashby de-la-Zouch canal (MLE8916) was constructed in the early 18th century. Hinckley's hosiery industry developed during the post-medieval period and by the mid-18th century had become a local centre. The 19th century saw the construction of the London and Western Railway (MLE16084) through Hinckley in 1864 and development of Hinckley Sewage Works to the south of Sketchley Brook (Mills 2008, 14).

Dye Works were erected adjacent to the west of the B4109 Rugby Road in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These expanded through the 1920s to form a large complex, now demolished (Mills 2008, 15).

Fieldwalking and geophysical surveys were conducted as part of a non-intrusive archaeological evaluation of the development area (Kajewski 2009 and Butler 2009). The fieldwalking recovered a very low concentration of Roman and medieval pottery, an increased number of manure scattered early post-medieval finds with 95% of pottery and other finds from the 18th-20th centuries. The increase in finds during this period coincides with the construction of the canal and railway line that border the fields. Geophysical survey revealed the former landscape of enclosed medieval ridge and furrow in the large western field. A small group of ditches and a pit detected may constitute evidence of earlier archaeology in that area.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Following on from the geophysical and fieldwalking surveys, the objectives of the evaluation were to investigate and further determine the presence of any archaeological features or deposits within the application area and characterise their extent, depth of burial and state of preservation. The Research Agenda for the region has been published in *The Archaeology of the East Midlands* (Cooper 2006).

4 METHODOLOGY

Forty-nine trial trenches were excavated in accordance with the trench plan approved by Leicestershire County Council Archaeological Advisor (Figs 3 and 4). Generally measuring 50m long by 1.8m wide, Trenches 1, 7, 9, 19 and 42 were

shortened due to vegetation constraints. A total length of 2,187m trenching was excavated (total area 3937m²). Trench 10 was extended at the east end by a 5m x 5m excavation from the southern edge of the trench, to further define the extent of the features and investigate the surrounding area, following discussion with the county planning archaeologist.

The trenches were positioned using a Leica 1200 GPS surveying system. All trenches were scanned for underground services using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT). A 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide ditching bucket was used in areas A and B. A JCB 3CX excavator was used in areas C and D, due to access restrictions.

Overburden was removed to archaeological levels or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of archaeological features. A hand-drawn plan of archaeological features was made at scale 1:50 and medieval furrows at 1:100, these were related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Archaeological deposits were examined by hand excavation to determine their nature. Recording followed standard NA procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (NA 2006). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships, interpretation and a checklist of associated finds. Context sheets were cross-referenced to scale plans, section drawings and photographs. Photography was with 35mm black and white film, supplemented with digital images. Sections were drawn at scale 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate and related to Ordnance Survey datum. Spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector to maximise the recovery of metal objects.

All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA1994, revised 2008), and English Heritage *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (EH 2006).

5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

5.1 General stratigraphy

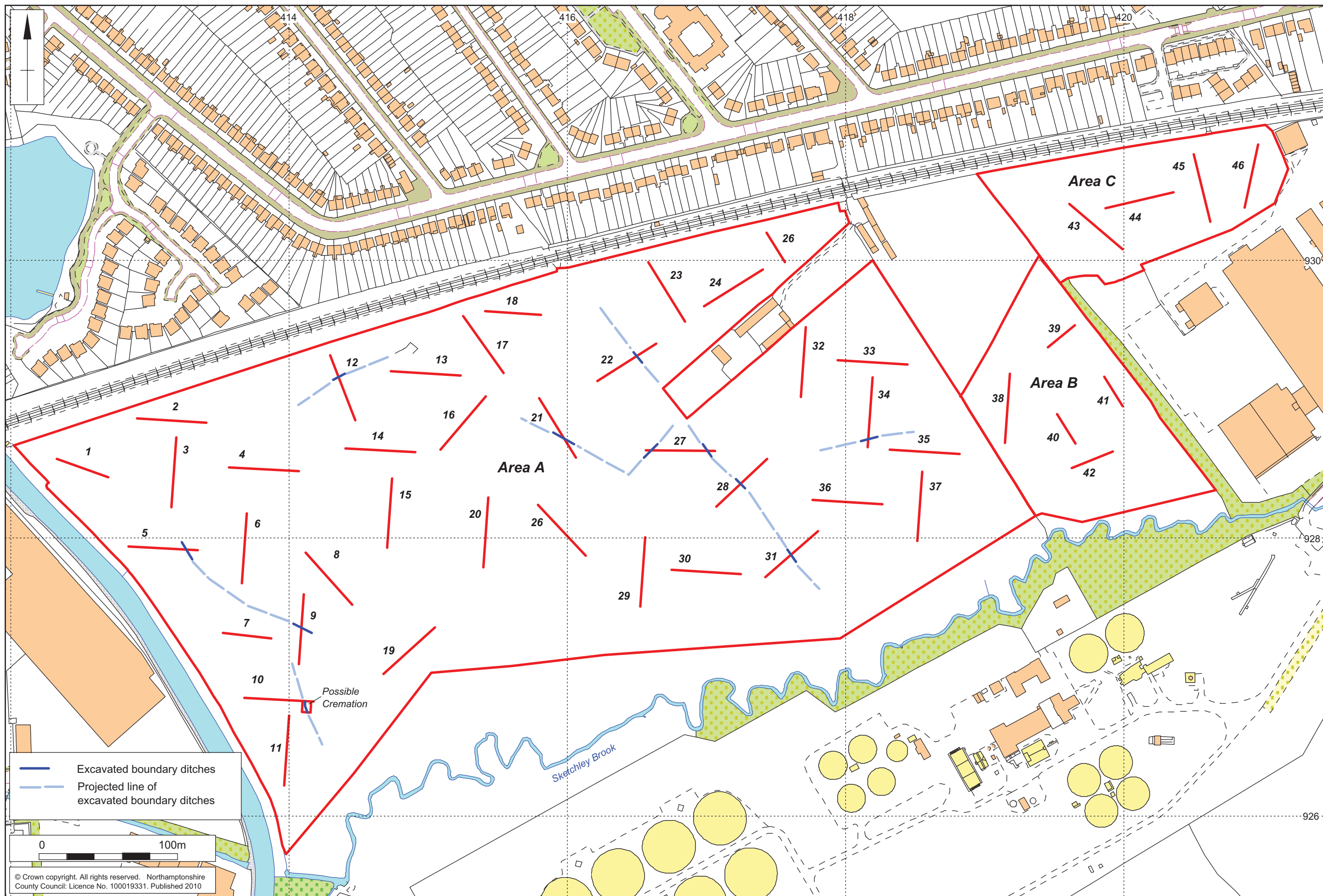
Areas A, B and C

The natural sandy clay substrate was encountered between 0.2 and 0.6m below the modern ground surface in all trenches. In the majority of the site the clay was a mid yellow-brown. To the east it tended to be red-brown. At the far south-west corner, close to the Sketchley Brook, was a gravel river terrace.

The subsoil was intermittent and not present in all the trenches. The fields had been deep ploughed resulting in the mixing up of both subsoil and topsoil, and plough scars were visible in the natural clay. Where the subsoil was present it was mid brown sandy clay loam. The topsoil was dark greyish-brown slightly clayey loam. Both topsoil and subsoil contained gravel and sandstone fragments.

Area D

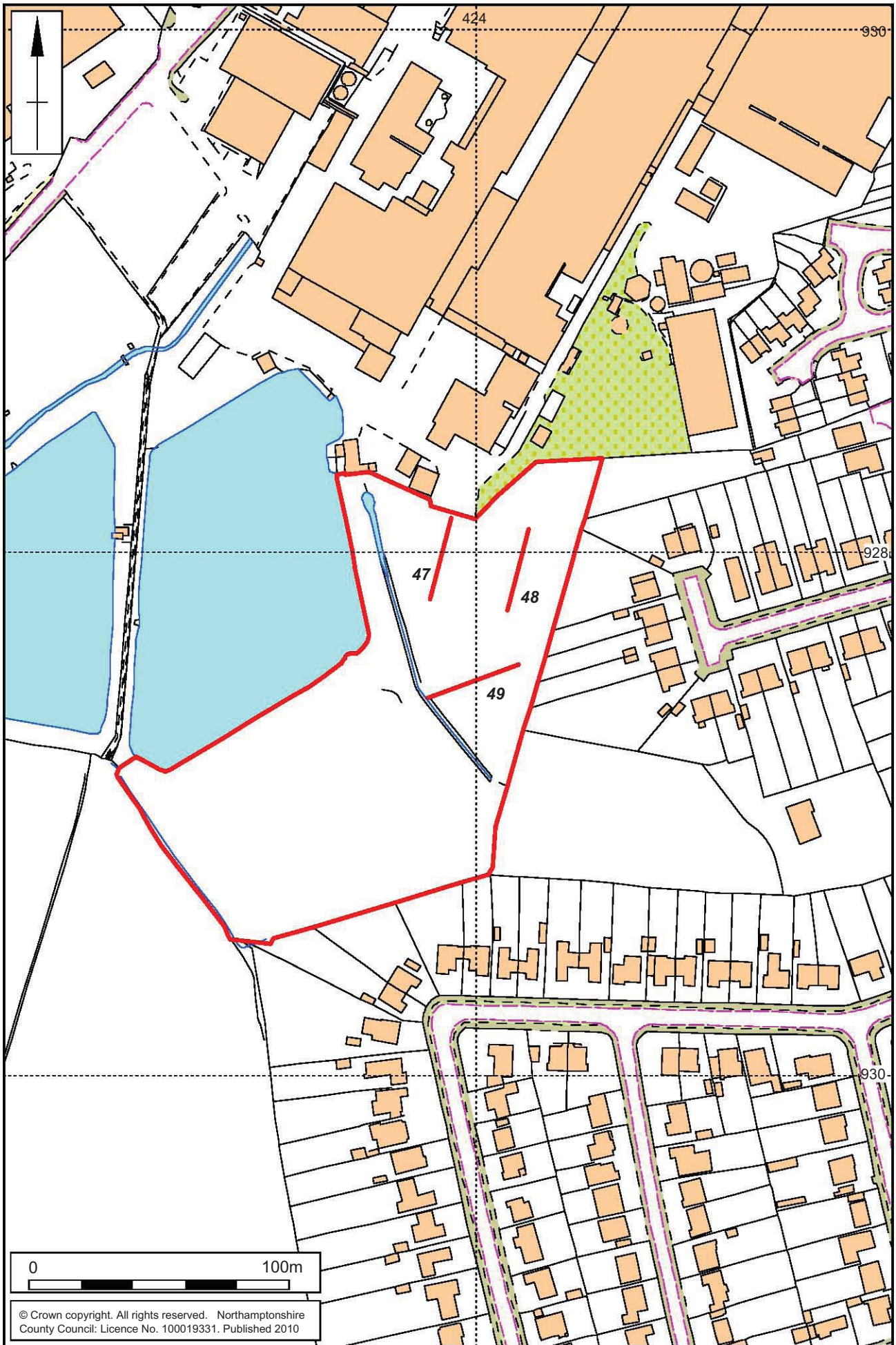
The natural substrate in Area D was mid orange-brown sandy gravel which was encountered between 0.4 and 0.6m below the modern ground surface. There was no subsoil present and the topsoil had also been truncated. The topsoil was dark greyish-brown slightly clayey loam, where present. Over much of the east part of the area was a recent 'chipping' surface. The remainder of Area D was covered by impenetrable vegetation consisting of trees, shrubs and brambles.



Scale 1:2,500

Areas A-C with trench locations, 1-46 and main boundary features Fig 3

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Scale 1:2000

Area D and locations of trenches 47-49 Fig 4

5.2 Archaeological features, Area A

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered in Trenches 1-4, 6-8, 13-20, 23-25, 29-33, 35-46, 48 and 49 inclusive. The trench locations are shown in Figures 3 and 4 and an inventory of contexts is provided in Appendix 1.

Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age pit, Trench 10

Trench 10 was positioned in the south-west of the site and was aligned east to west. At its eastern end there was an isolated pit [1003]. The pit, which was disturbed by later ploughing was oval 1.0m long and 0.5m wide (Figs 5 and 7). The fill (1002) dark grey-brown and orange mottled silty clay loam contained sherds of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age pottery, a quantity of charcoal fragments and a small quantity (7g) of burnt bone.



Trench 10, pit [1003], looking south

Fig 5

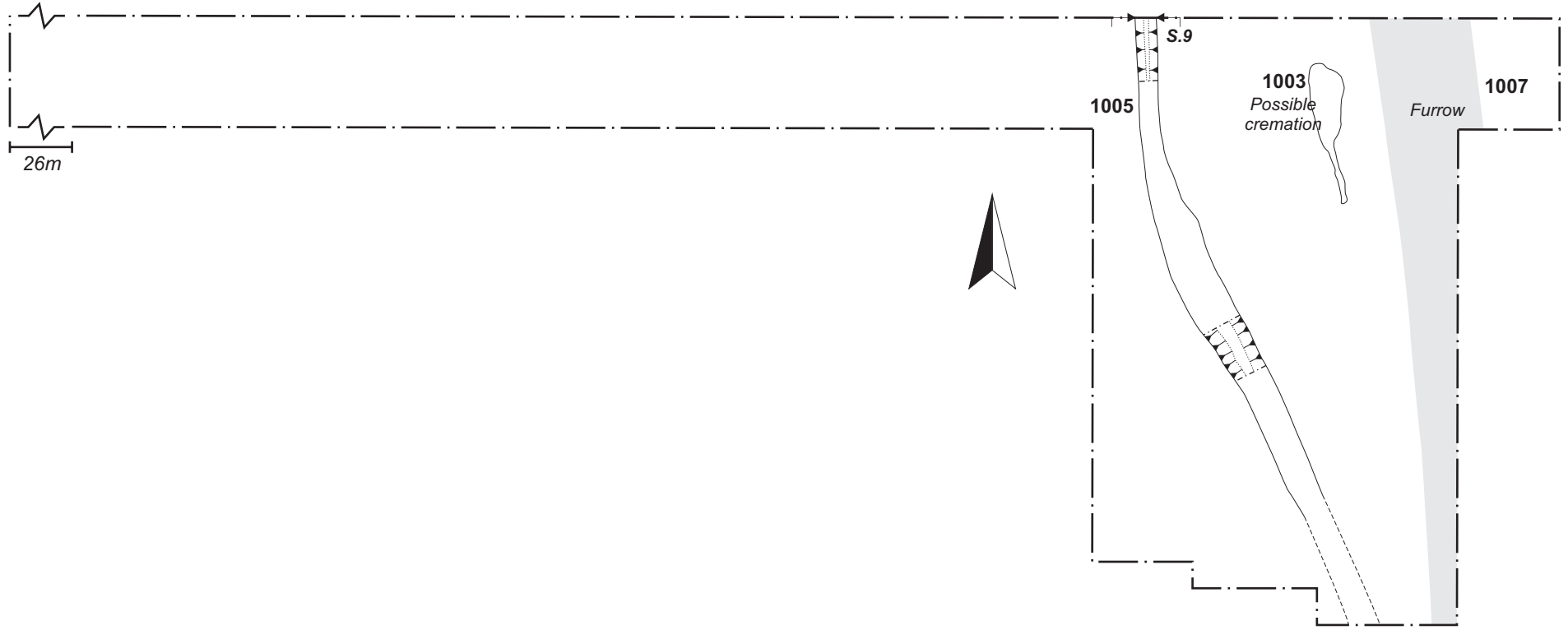


Trench 10, gully [1005], looking north

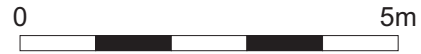
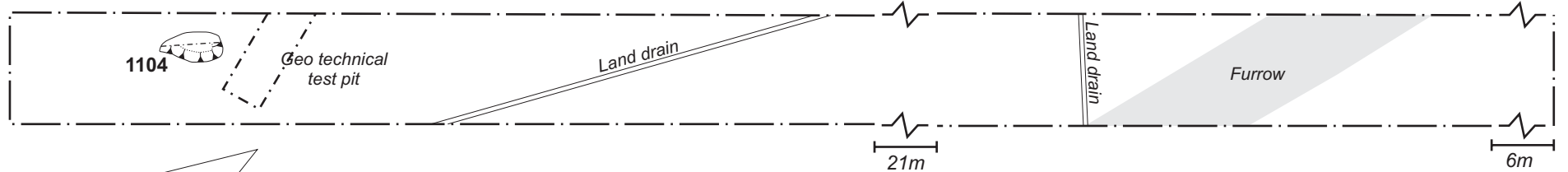
Fig 6

Scale 1:100

Trench 10



Trench 11



Plans of Trenches 10 and 11 Fig 7

To the west of the pit was a linear gully [1005], aligned north-west to south-east (Figs 6, 7 and 12, Section 9). It had a U-shaped profile, 0.70m wide, 0.27m deep. There were no finds present, however, its proximity to the Prehistoric pit and the sterile fill may indicate it is of similar date.

Trench 11

A shallow pit [1104] was located 20m to the south-west of the pit (Figs 7 and 8). It was irregular in plan and had an uneven base and measured 0.82m long, 0.45m wide and 0.25m deep. The fill (1103) mid grey silt contained gravel and a piece of animal bone. Though its function is unclear, the similar fill, and proximity (c12m) to the gully in Trench 10 may indicate a similar date.



Trench 11, pit [1104], looking east

Fig 8

Boundary ditches

Five boundary ditches were present in Area A. All the ditches had been previously identified by the geophysical survey (Butler 2009, Fig 5). In all cases they respected the alignment of the medieval ridge and furrow and appeared to be boundaries between the furlongs.

The fills of the boundary ditches were similar, consisting of mid to dark grey brown sandy clay with gravel inclusions.

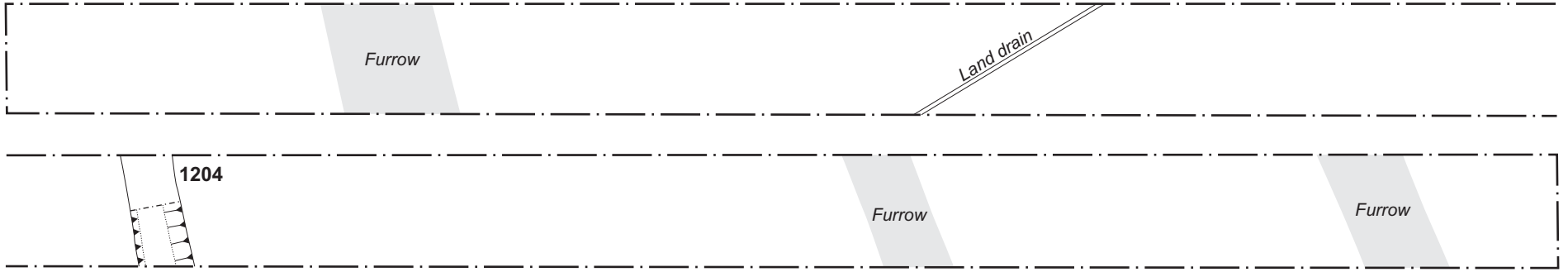
Trenches 22, 27, 28, 31

A continuous boundary ditch was present in four trenches [2204], [2705], [2805] and [3104], aligned north-west to south-east (Figs 3, 9, 10 and 11). The ditch also survived as an existing boundary marking the south-west side of the farm, between Trenches 22 and 27. The ditch profile was V- or U-shaped, up to 1.40m wide and 0.47m deep (Fig 12 Section 3 and Fig 13).

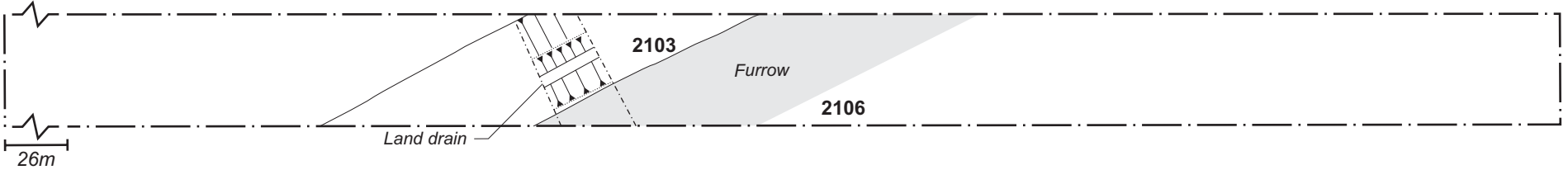
No finds were recovered from the fill of the ditch, and it is likely to be of late 18th or early 19th-century date. However, the boundary is on the same alignment as the furrows shown in the geophysical survey to the west, and it may preserve an earlier layout present in the open fields. A William III half penny (1694-1702) was found in the topsoil.

Scale 1:100

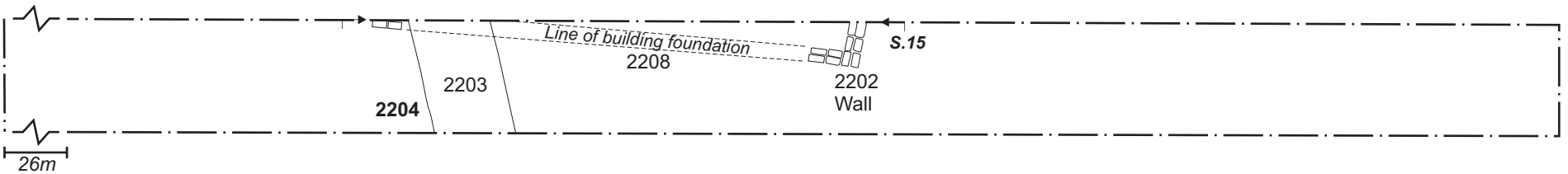
Trench 12



Trench 21



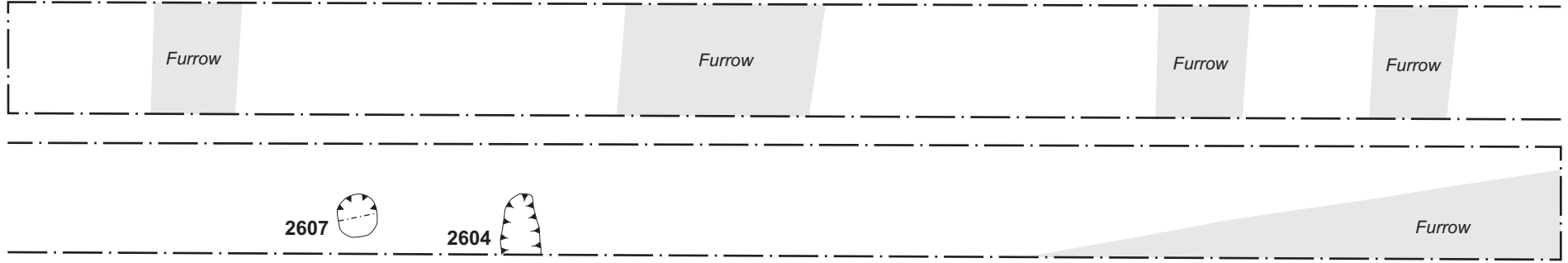
Trench 22



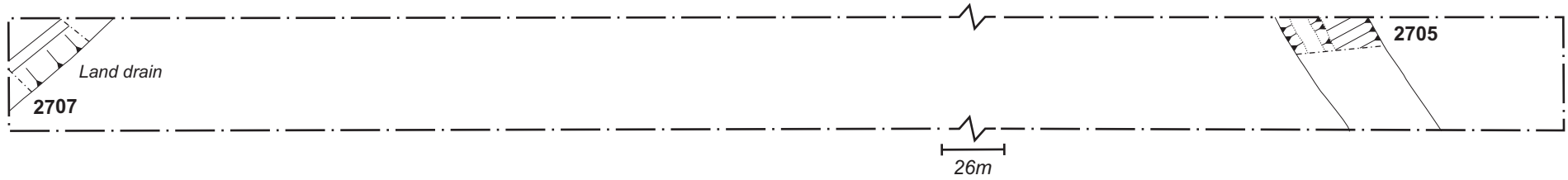
Plans of Trenches 12, 21 and 22 Fig 9

Scale 1:100

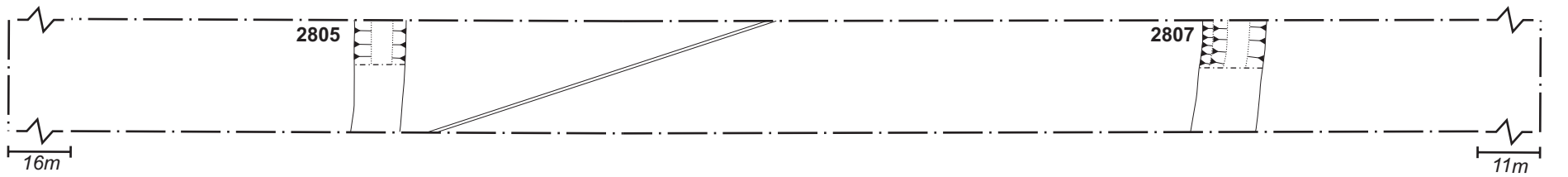
Trench 26



Trench 27



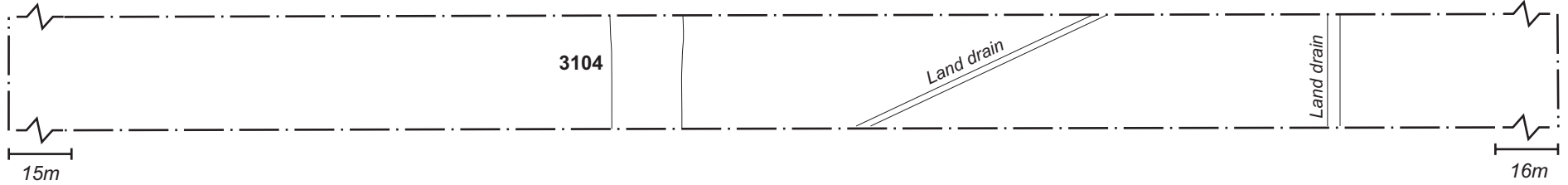
Trench 28



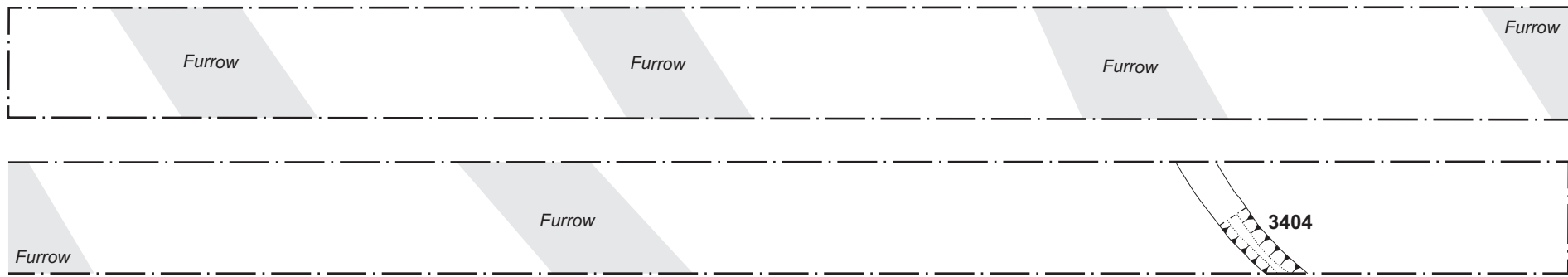
Plans of Trenches 26, 27 and 28 Fig 10

Scale 1:100

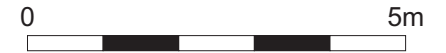
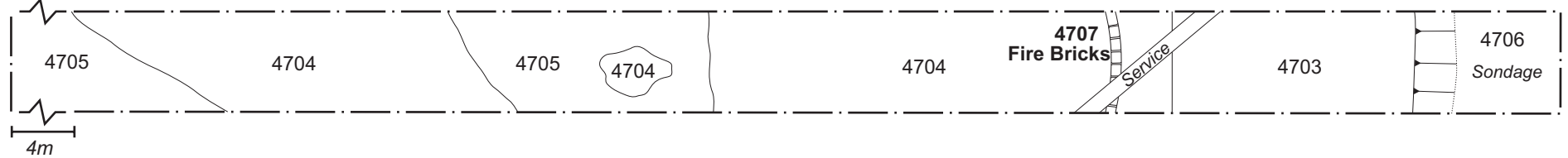
Trench 31



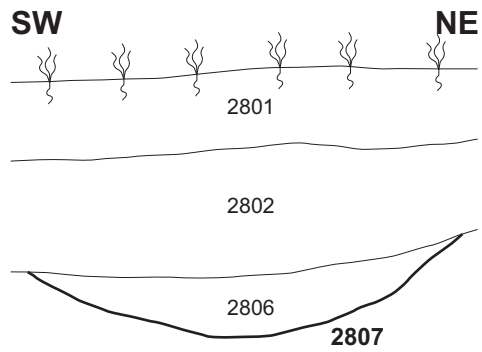
Trench 34



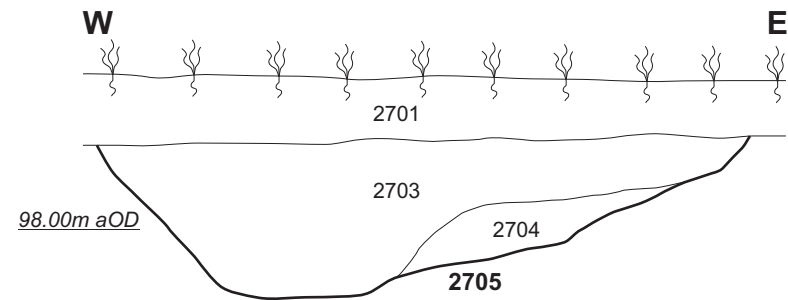
Trench 47



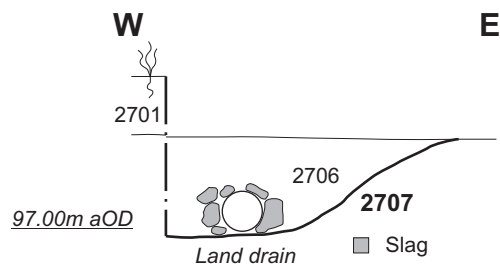
Section 2



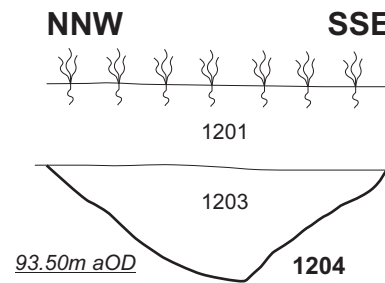
Section 3



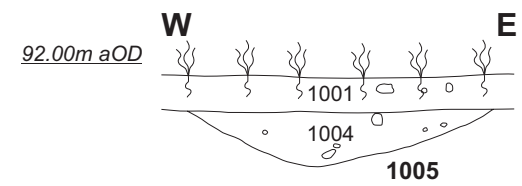
Section 4



Section 8



Section 9



Sections 2, 3, 8 and 9 Fig 12



Trench 28, boundary ditch [2805], looking north-west Fig 13

Trenches 21 and 27

A boundary ditch, [2103]/[2707], was present in both trenches. The boundary ditch [2103] aligned north-west to south-east in Trench 21 and ditch [2707] aligned north-east to south-west in Trench 27 formed the south-west corner of an enclosure (Figs 3, 9, 10 and Fig 12, Section 4). The ditch was 1.45m wide and 0.33m deep with a flat base.

Trenches 5, 9

A boundary ditch [510] and [904] aligned north-west to south-east was present in both trenches (Figs 5 and 14). The ditch had a V-shaped profile, 1.20m wide and 0.20m deep (Figs 15 and 16, Sections 10 and 14). No finds were recovered from the fill of the ditch.

Trenches 12 and 34

Trenches 12 and 34 each contained a single, unrelated boundary ditch. The ditch [1204] was aligned north-east to south-west with a V-shaped profile, was 1.10m wide and 0.38m deep. In Trench 34 ditch [3404] was on a similar alignment, with a U-shaped profile, 0.54m wide and 0.22m deep.

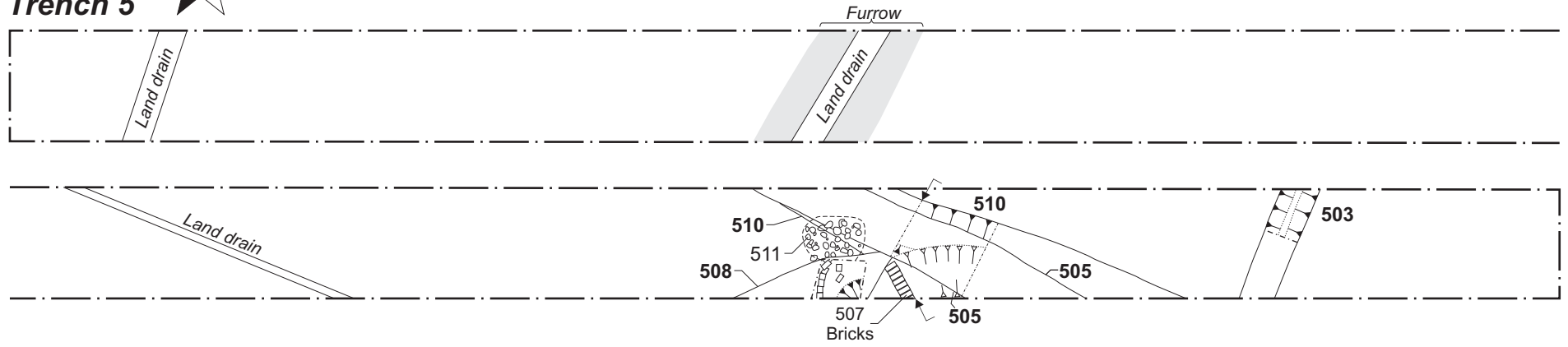


Trench 9, boundary ditch [904], furrow [906], looking east

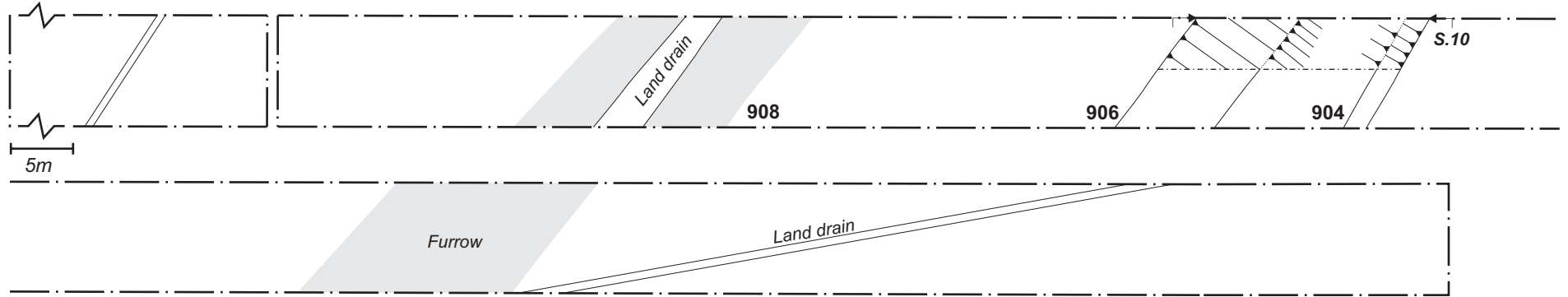
Fig 14

Scale 1:100

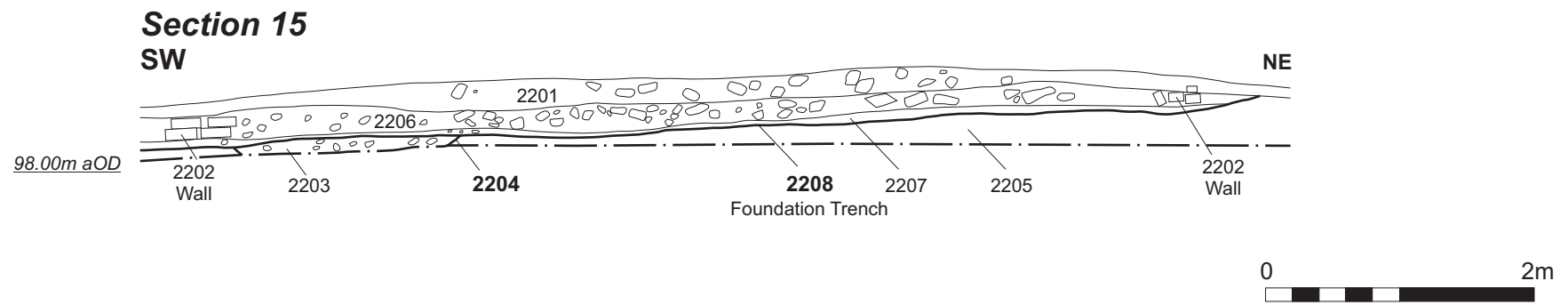
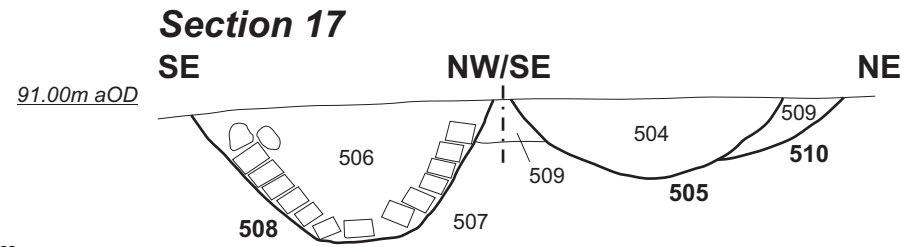
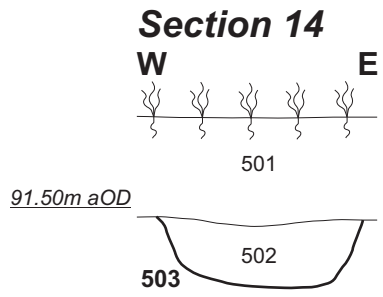
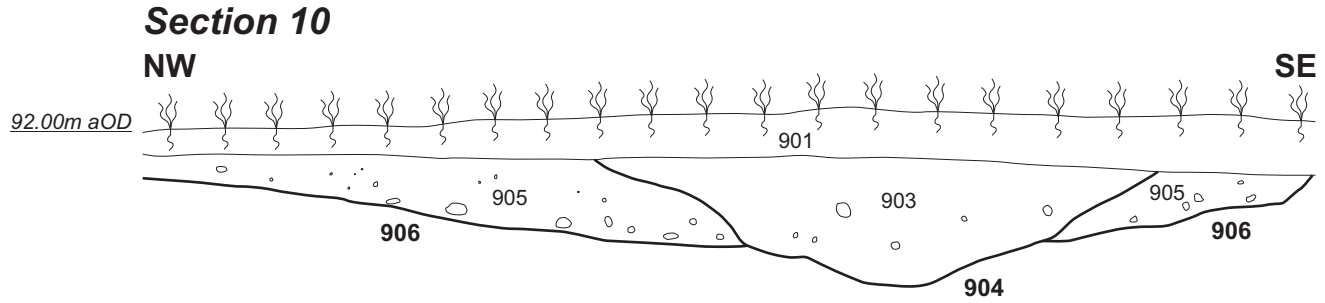
Trench 5



Trench 9



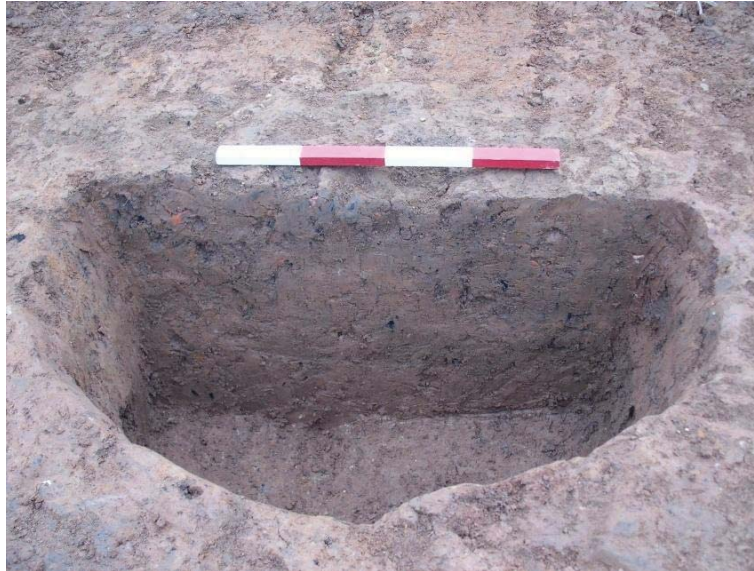
Plans of Trenches 5 and 9 Fig 15



Sections 10, 14, 15 and 17 Fig 16

Trench 26

In this trench was the terminal of a ditch [2604] and a small pit [2607]. The boundary ditch was aligned north to south, 0.55m wide and 0.30m deep. Nearby was a small, vertical-sided pit, 0.68m in diameter and 0.38m deep (Figs 10 and 17). Both features contained quantities of 19th-century brick and tile, and may represent a gated entrance within the post-medieval fields.



Trench 26, pit [2607], looking north-east

Fig 17

Medieval ditch and culvert

In Trench 5 was a possible medieval ditch [510] which was cut by a later culvert or drain [508] (Figs 15, 18). The ditch was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 1.2m wide and 0.20m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. The fill (509) yellow-brown silty clay contained a single sherd of late 13th-century pottery. The culvert was 0.80m wide and 0.45m deep. The bricks were laid following the angle of the cut. It is possible that the culvert was situated at a field entrance, as there was a large support stone and cobbles overlying the brick supports (Fig 16, Section 17 and Fig 18). The culvert was later cut by ditch [505] which may be a later cleaning out of the earlier boundary on the same north-west to south-east alignment as ditch [510].



Trench 5, ditch [510] and culvert [505], looking north-west Fig 18

Field barn

The south wall and south-east corner of a brick-built field barn was present in Trench 22. The foundation survived to one course high and the wall was two bricks thick. The south side of the barn was approximately 7.80m long. There were remnants of a tile floor within the interior of the building (Figs 9, 16; Section 15 and Fig 19).

The scatter of building rubble included black chamfered bricks, key stones, ribbed yard bricks and cobbles. The remains of another building, including an opening for a doorway, partially survived c160m to the west, to a maximum height of approximately 1.30m. The fabric of the building was similar to that of the field barn which suggests that the buildings were probably contemporary.



Trench 22, remains of field barn, looking north-east

Fig 19

Trench 35

Trench 35 contained five furrows, aligned north to south. A 4 oz conical lead weight, was recovered from the fill (3504) of a furrow.

5.3 Archaeological features, Area B

All five trenches in Area B, 38-42, contained medieval furrows identified in the geophysical survey (Fig 3).

5.4 Archaeological features, Area C

All four trenches in Area C, 43-46, (Fig 3) contained medieval furrows. The overburden in Trench 46 was deeper than the other three trenches; it is possible that the difference is due to the addition of topsoil during the construction of the near-by factory sites (to the south). In Trench 44 was a modern rubbish pit.

5.5 Archaeological features, Area D

Three trenches were located in Area D, 47-49 (Fig 4).

In Trench 47 was the edge of a modern hearth [4707], lined with fire bricks, and truncated by a later service trench (Figs 11 and 20). The firebricks were laid long edge to edge at an angle of approximately 45°, which sloped down within the slightly

curving length of bricks. The hearth was very truncated, and probably dates to an earlier stage of factory building.



Area D, Trench 47, fire bricks, looking north Fig20

The west end of trench 49 was constrained by the large north-south aligned drain shown on the current mapping, which was not excavated.

Area D was very disturbed with a series of modern makeup layers up to 1.1m deep. Above the patchy natural clays were dumps of demolition rubble (4704), (4803) and (4902) up to 0.5m deep. Above this was a layer of orange clay (4703), (4802), interpreted as a generally levelling layer, 0.35-0.7m deep. The clay was sealed by a layer of hard core and sand, 0.15m deep, which was sealed by the current topsoil, 0.1m deep.

The deposits were possibly laid down during the construction of or cleaning out of the reservoirs and quarrying in the 1960s to the south of the site and more recently by the partial demolition of the factory buildings.

6 THE FINDS

6.1 The flint by William Boismier

Three flint artefacts were recovered from three separate contexts from Trenches 10, 28 and 29. The raw material for all three was a brown flint. The surviving cortex on one artefact from the fill (2903) of a furrow suggests terrace or river gravel origin as source of the raw material. Edge damage was minor and isolated nicks were present on all three pieces.

From the prehistoric pit fill (1002), an un-retouched blade fragment; proximal end missing. Mottled, bluish-grey patina.

From the subsoil (2802) an un-retouched blade fragment; proximal (eg platform missing) end missing, unpatinated.

From the fill (2903) of a furrow, small retouched flake; retouch on left lateral ventral; possible scraper, unpatinated.

6.2 Prehistoric pottery by Andy Chapman

A total of 18 sherds, weighing 145g, come from a single vessel recovered from the fill (1002) of a pit [1003]. The fabric contains a wide range of mineral inclusions, including rounded pieces of granitic rock, measuring up to 6mm, angular fragments of quartz, up to 4mm, and rounded pellets of grey-brown grog. The surface also shows sparse flat platelets of a gold-coloured mineral, 1mm across, and the larger mineral inclusions protrude through the vessel surface. This fabric may equate with Leicestershire Fabric RP, Acid Igneous Rocks (Local). The fabric has a grey-black core and inner surface and dark brown to dark orange-brown outer surface. The group comprises only small fragments and plain body sherds, 8-11mm thick, with a single sherd from a concave neck.

Lacking decoration or a definable vessel form, this hand-built vessel can be only assigned a broad middle Bronze Age/iron Age date, although vessels in the same fabric group have come from a nearby Iron Age settlement (Jackson 2004, 64, Fabric 5).

6.3 The medieval and post-medieval pottery by Iain Soden

A total of 22 sherds of medieval and post medieval pottery were recovered in nine fabrics or types from 15 trenches and contexts, and weighing in total 269g.

The pottery recovered is tabulated in Appendix 2. It has been related to the published Leicestershire Type Series to be found in the report on excavations at Causeway Lane, Leicester (Connor and Buckley 1999, 166).

The pottery indicates nearby occupation from the 13th to the 19th centuries but is present in such small quantities to suggest most if not all has been discarded in the fields as a manure scatter. The sherd size is very small and insignificant while some of the material has been abraded by wind and rain. There is no suggestion of any concentration of occupation in the immediate vicinity from the pottery during these periods.

The pottery contains no surprising types. The medieval fabrics are relatively local and derive from the major production centre at Chilvers Coton (Nuneaton, Warwickshire), whose products would have travelled up and down the Watling Street in huge quantities. The later material may reflect a growth of a post-medieval reliance upon Staffordshire products, in keeping with much of the Midlands. Beyond that the assemblage is too small to make any wider suggestions.

6.4 Clay pipe by Tora Hylton

Five small fragments of clay pipe stem (total 25g) were recovered from topsoil and subsoil in five trenches (Trenches 17, 19, 26, 32 and 43). Broad dates can be assigned as shown in table 1. They probably represent post medieval manuring and/or detritus from the nearby canal.

Table 1: Clay pipe stems, date and quantity

Trench no.	Context/ feature	Description	Quantity
17	1701/ topsoil	Late 17th-century	1
19	1902/subsoil	18th-century	1
26	2608/furrow	Late 17th-century	1
32	3203/furrow	17th and 19th-century	2
43	4303	Late 17th-century	1

6.5 Building materials by Pat Chapman

This is a small assemblage comprising small sherds of ceramic tile, two complete bricks and some fragments, three small sherds of slate tile and one small fragment of fired clay.

Ceramic tile

The 20 small sherds of tile, weighing 420g, are from flat roof tile with one possible floor tile (Table 2). They are made from either sandy orange or red-brown clay, with two made from fine pinkish-brown clay. The measurable fragments are 14mm and 16mm thick. Just one sherd, from the fill (903) of a ditch [904], has the remains of a nib which has been deliberately sheared off. One of the fine clay tiles, from the fill of a furrow (3305), is c 20mm thick and may be part of a floor tile.

Table 2: Quantification of ceramic tile

Context / feature	No	Wt (g)	Description
903 /ditch	7	254	14mm thick, 1 destroyed nib 6 orange and one dark red-brown
1203 /ditch	4	16	Fragments, 3 orange, 1 fine pinkish-brown
2701 /topsoil	3	36	14mm thick dark coarse sandy orange 2 fine orange fragments
2801 /topsoil	2	66	16mm thick, sandy dark red-brown 14mm thick finer orange
3203 /furrow	1	8	Sandy orange fragment
3303 /furrow	1	10	Fine silty pink fragment
3305 /furrow	2	20	Fine sandy pinkish-brown, c20mm, floor tile Fine sandy orange fragment
Totals	20	420	

Brick

There are two almost complete yellow bricks from the base of a hearth (4707). One is a probable firebrick from Stourbridge in the West Midlands. It is made from dense coarse yellow clay, 110mm wide by 74mm thick and over 180mm long (7+ x 4½ x 3 inches), but badly damaged. It has no frog, but on the top is a fragmentary inscription:

MADE A

BEST
'TOU . . . DGE'

with a fragmentary probable R after the U. In the middle gap are the two indentations of 'screwheads' 25mm in diameter. The firebricks from Stourbridge were highly regarded during the 19th century (Brunskill 1990, 42), and have been found in Sao Paulo, Brazil - *J B Fisher, Stourbridge* - and the Island of Nevis in the Carribean - *Rufford*, with *Stourbridge* upside down - (www.stourbridge.com).

Table 3: Quantification of brick

Context/feature	No	Wt (g)	Description
2605/pit	2	90	Fine reddish-brown fragments
3303 /furrow	1	68	Fine sandy orange fragment
3304 /furrow	1	7	Overfired dark red fragment
3403 /ditch	1	332	60mm thick, red and yellow streaked
4301 /topsoil	1	7	Fine reddish-brown fragment
4707 /brick hearth	1	2337	Stourbridge 180+ x 110 x 74mm 7+ x 4½ x 3 inches
4707 /brick hearth	1	3047	Glenboig 230 x 112 x 75mm 9 x 4¾ x 3 inches
Totals	8	6788	

The other yellow brick, measuring 230x112x75mm (9 x 4¾ x 3 inches), and made from a similar coarse dense fabric is stamped GLENBOIG (www.v-smirnov.ru/brit3.htm). The Glenboig Union Fire Clay Co, Ltd near Coatbridge in Lanarkshire, Scotland was originally formed in 1836, but eventually merged with several others in 1882. This particular brick is similar to those produced in the 1870s when the new Star-works was built by James Dunnachie in 1872 (www.monklands.co.uk, www.calbricks.netfirm.com). These firebricks were regarded as being superior to the Stourbridge bricks at the time.

The remaining bricks comprise five fragments made from sandy orange clay, and a larger piece, 60mm thick, made from a badly mixed yellow and red streaked fabric.

Slate tile

There are three small fragments of Swithland slate roof tile, each with one surviving perforation, from the fill (903) of a ditch [904], the fill of a furrow (1006) and the topsoil (4301) of trench 43. The sherds are 8-10mm thick, the two complete pegholes are 8mm in diameter, and the broken one may be wider.

Discussion

The firebricks are from the late 19th to early 20th centuries, however, the remainder of the brick and tile could date from the late medieval to the late post-medieval periods.

7 THE ANIMAL BONE by Karen Deighton

A total of 189g of animal bone was collected from four contexts during the course of trial trenching. This material was analysed to determine the taxa present, the level of preservation and the contribution to the understanding of the site.

Fragmentation was fairly heavy with evidence for both old and new breaks. Bone surface abrasion was moderate. Evidence for canid gnawing was noted on indeterminate bone fragments from trench 11. No evidence for butchery or burning was noted.

Table 4: The taxa present by context

Context	Taxa
Fill (506) of ditch [508]	A cattle maxillary pre-molar and a cattle metatarsal shaft
Fill (509) of pit [510]	A fragment of cattle mandibular hinge
Fill (1103) of pit [1104]	Indeterminate fragments
Fill of furrow (1502)	A fragment of cattle Ilium (pelvis)

Discussion

It is a small assemblage, comprised mostly of fragmentary cattle bone. Little can be added to the understanding of the site, due to the paucity of bone available, other than to say that cattle were associated with it.

A small amount of burnt bone (7g) was recovered from the area of Iron Age pottery within a pit [1005] in Trench 10. Due to the small size of the bone fragments it was not possible to identify the bone to species.

8 DISCUSSION

The trial trench evaluation identified a number of isolated features and a series of boundary ditches, together with evidence of ground disturbance.

The earliest archaeology found was a prehistoric pit containing Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age pottery and a small amount of burnt bone, Trench 10. Following further investigation no additional features or areas of burnt bone were found. Due to the small size of the fragments recovered and their condition it was not possible to identify the bone to a species, human or animal. It is suggested that the feature represents a truncated pit. The nearby gully was undated and may be of a similar date or later.

The archaeological evaluation found five boundary ditches within the development area. All were identified in the previous geophysical survey as boundaries between different alignments of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. Furrows were present in most trenches, some having modern land drains inserted into them.

A brick-supported culvert was found on the west side of the site, and may drain into the nearby canal. An area of overlying cobbles and large stone blocks suggest a possible field entrance was once present.

The scattered remains of a demolished 19th-century field barn were found. Its form of construction was that of a similar type to another collapsed building, c160m west that has part of a standing wall still *in situ* and the building foundation. The barn was recorded on the historic maps.

Deep topsoil was found in Area C, especially Trench 46. It was suggested that the topsoil was partly re-deposited; possibly from the area of the nearby industrial units to the south and a bund which was visible along the south side of the field.

Apart from the discovery of the prehistoric pottery and burnt bone, the findings of the evaluation reinforce the results of the previous geophysical and field walking surveys. The low level occurrence of artefacts of the 18th to 20th centuries is indicative of manure scatter and or waste produced by the construction of the canal and the railway line during the 18th and 19th century respectively.

Made-ground occurred in Area D, with deep mixed soils which appeared to be largely re-deposited. This may have occurred during the creation of the nearby reservoirs, sometime before 1924, which is the first date they are shown on an Ordnance Survey map. A narrow, slightly curving structure made of firebricks is possibly the remains of an industrial fireplace associated with a dye works which occupied that part of the site in the 19th century. During the 1960s, quarrying had taken place to the south of the site.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Dimensions /thickness (m)	Artefact type
1	101	Layer	Topsoil	0.22-0.28m thick	
	102	Layer	Natural grey-brown and orange mottled sandy clay		
2	201	Layer	Topsoil	0.22-0.30m thick	
	202	Layer	Natural yellow-brown sandy clay		
3	301	Layer	Topsoil	0.20-0.32m thick	
	302	Layer	Natural yellow-brown sandy clay		
4	401	Layer	Topsoil	0.25m thick	
	402	Layer	Natural mid brown-orange sandy clay		
5	501	layer	Topsoil	0.25m thick	
	502	Fill of [503]	Light to mid grey-brown with orange mottled silty clay with charcoal lumps	0.70m wide 0.20m thick	
	503	Cut of ditch	Linear , NE-SW, U-shaped profile		
	504	Fill of [505]	Dark grey-brown silty clay, charcoal lumps	0.90m wide 0.26m thick	Pottery
	505	Cut of ditch	Linear, NW-SE, U-shaped profile		
	506	Fill of [508]	Light grey and yellow-brown silty clay with large cobbles, gravel and a line of bricks (507)	1.00m wide 0.45m thick	
	507	Bricks	At least one line of single brick width lining the base and sides of ditch	1.00m wide 0.45m deep	
	508	Cut of ditch	Linear, E-W, sloping to SW, U-shaped profile		
	509	Fill of [510]	Yellow-brown silty clay with occasional gravel	1.20m wide 0.20m thick	
	510	Cut of ditch	Linear, NW-SE, U-shaped profile		
	511	Layer	Patch of cobbles and limestone fragment overlying the brick structure in ditch [508], cut by [505]	1m diameter	
	512	Layer	Natural mid orange-brown sandy clay		
6	601	Layer	Topsoil	0.27m thick	
	602	layer	Natural mid brown sandy clay		
7	701	Layer	Topsoil	0.28m thick	
	702	Layer	Natural yellow-brown and grey sandy clay		
8	801	Layer	Topsoil	0.23m thick	
	802	Layer	Natural yellow-brown sandy clay		
9	901	Layer	Topsoil	0.08m thick	
	902	Layer	Subsoil	0.10-0.21m thick	
	903	Fill of [904]	Dark brown sandy clay with some gravel and charcoal lumps	1.97m wide 0.43m thick	Pottery, tile
	904	Cut of ditch	Linear, E-S, U-shaped profile		

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Dimensions /thickness (m)	Artefact type
	905	Fill of [906]	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal and small pebbles	3.80m wide 0.28m thick	
	906	Cut of furrow	Linear E-W, shallow U-shaped profile		
	907	Fill of [908]	Mid brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal and small pebbles	2.50m wide 0.20m thick	
	908	Cut furrow of	Linear, NW-SE, wide shallow profile		
	909	Layer	Natural yellow-brown sandy clay		
10	1001	Layer	Topsoil	0.06m thick	
	1002	Fill of [1003]	Dark grey-brown and orange mottled silty clay loam with occasional gravel. Finds recovered but not excavated	1.20m long 0.05m wide	Prehistoric pot, burnt bone, flint flake, burnt natural flint
	1003	Cut of pit	Oval shaped pit		
	1004	Fill of [1005]	Mixed backfill and copper water pipe	0.70m wide 0.19m thick	
	1005	Cut of gully	Linear N-S turning to SE-NW alignment, U-shaped profile		
	1006	Fill of [1007]	Mid grey-brown silty clay with gravel inclusions		
	1007	Cut of furrow	N-S aligned furrow		
	1008	Layer	Natural yellow-brown silty clay		
11	1101	Layer	Topsoil	0.05m thick	
	1102	Layer	Natural grey and orange mottled sandy clay with patches of gravel		
	1103	Fill of [1104]	Mid grey silty clay with gravel	0.82m long 0.45m wide 0.25m thick	Animal bone
	1104	Cut of pit	Irregular shaped, N-S, steep sided, irregular base		
12	1201	Layer	Topsoil	0.28m thick	
	1202	Layer	Natural light orange-brown sandy clay		
	1203	Fill of [1204]	Dark brown sandy clay with some gravel	0.85m wide, 0.36m thick	Pottery, ceramic tile
	1204	Cut of ditch	Linear SW-NE steep, U-shaped profile		
13	1301	Layer	Topsoil	0.30m thick	
	1302	Layer	Natural blue-grey and orange-brown mottled silty clay with gravel patches		
14	1401	Layer	Topsoil	0.30-0.50m thick	
	1402	Layer	Natural yellow-grey with orange-brown and gravel sandy clay		
15	1501	Layer	Topsoil	0.30m thick	
	1502	Fill of furrow	Mid grey-brown silty clay with some gravel		Animal bone, ceramic tile
	1503	Layer	Natural blue-grey with orange mottled sandy clay		

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Dimensions /thickness (m)	Artefact type
16	1601	Layer	Topsoil	0.30m thick	
	1602	Layer	Natural grey-brown with patches of red-brown and gravel silty clay		
17	1701	Layer	Topsoil	0.28m-0.34m thick	Clay pipe stem
	1702	Layer	Natural yellow-orange mottled with blue-grey silty clay		
18	1801	Layer	Topsoil	0.30m thick	
	1802	Layer	Natural yellow-grey silty clay		
19	1901	Layer	Topsoil at NE end only, rest stripped	0.30m thick	
	1902	Fill of furrow	Mid grey-brown silty clay with some gravel		Clay pipe stem
	1903	Layer	Natural yellow-grey silty clay		
20	2001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25m thick	
	2002	Layer	Natural yellow-brown and grey mottled sandy clay		
21	2101	Layer	Topsoil	0.21m-0.29m thick	
	2102	Fill of [2103]	Dark brown-grey silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks	1.38m wide, 0.30m thick	
	2103	Cut of ditch	Linear, NWN-SES, wide, shallow U-shaped profile		
	2104	Fill of furrow	E-W aligned, mid to dark brown-grey silty clay		
	2105	Layer	Natural yellow and orange mottled silty clay		
22	2201	layer	Topsoil	0.10-0.22m thick	
	2202	Wall	Double brick wall of building	7.85m long, 0.30m wide, 0.16m deep	
	2203	Fill of [2204]	Dark brown sandy clay with some gravel	1.70m wide, more than 0.20m thick	
	2204	Cut of ditch	Linear, NW-SE, not excavated but same as ditch in Trenches 27, 28, 31		
	2205	Layer	Natural yellow-grey with orange mottled silty clay		
23	2301	Layer	Topsoil	0.21-0.29m thick	
	2302	Layer	Natural yellow-brown silty clay		
24	2401	Layer	Topsoil	0.26-0.34m thick	
	2402	Layer	Natural orange-brown and grey mottled sandy clay		
25	2501	Layer	Topsoil	0.30m thick	
	2502	Layer	Natural orange-brown and grey mottled sandy clay		
26	2601	Layer	Topsoil	0.30m thick	
	2602	Layer	Natural red-brown sandy clay		
	2603	Fill of [2604]	Dark brown and orange mottled sandy clay	0.54m wide, 0.32m thick	
	2604	Cut of ditch	Linear NE-SW, butt end of steep sided U-shaped profile		

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Dimensions /thickness (m)	Artefact type
	2605	Upper fill of [2307]	Mid-dark orange-brown silty clay with brick flecks, charcoal lumps	0.68m diameter, 0.16m thick	
	2606	Lower fill of [2307]	Mid orange-brown silty clay and charcoal flecks	0.68m diameter, 0.20m thick	
	2607	Cut of pit	Circular, vertical sides and flat base	0.68m diameter, 0.36m deep	
	2608	Fill of furrow	Dark brown sandy clay		Clay pipe stem
27	2701	Layer	Topsoil	0.26-0.33m thick	
	2702	Layer	Natural mid brown sandy clay		
	2703	Fill of [2705]	Dark brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal and brick fragments	2.00m wide 0.45m thick	
	2704	Fill of [2705]	Grey brown mottled orange sandy clay with charcoal and some gravel	0.52m wide 0.18m thick	
	2705	Cut of ditch	Slightly curving linear, NNW-SSE, U-shaped profile with sharp angled west edge, gentle east edge and uneven base	1.30m wide, 0.45m deep	
	2706	Fill of [2707]	Dark brown silty clay with land drain in centre	Greater than 1.00m wide, 0.33m thick	
	2707	Cut of ditch	Liner, NE-SW, wide, shallow U-shaped profile		
28	2801	Layer	Topsoil	0.25m thick	
	2802	Layer	Subsoil	0.13-0.28m thick	Flint
	2803	Layer	Natural mid yellow-brown sandy clay		
	2804	Fill of [2805]	Dark brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal and brick fragments	1.20m wide 0.55m thick	
	2805	Cut of ditch	Linear, NW-SE wide, shallow U-shaped profile		
	2806	Fill of [2807]	Yellow-grey with orange silty clay with ironstone fragments and charcoal lumps	1.40m wide, 0.25m thick	
	2807	Cut of ditch	Linear, SE-NW, wide shallow U-shaped profile		
29	2901	Layer	Topsoil	0.30m thick	
	2902	Layer	Natural yellow-grey silty clay		
	2903	Fill of furrow	Mid orange-brown sandy clay loam		Flint scraper
30	3001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30m thick	
	3002	layer	Natural mid brown sandy clay		
31	3101	Layer	Topsoil	0.28m thick	William III half-penny, 1694-1702 Copper alloy
	3102	Layer	Natural mid brown sandy clay		
	3103	Fill of [3104]	Dark brown sandy clay with frequent charcoal and brick fragments	1.10m wide	

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Dimensions /thickness (m)	Artefact type
	3104	Cut of ditch	Linear, NNW-SSE, U-shaped profile with sharp angled west edge, gentle east edge and uneven base		
32	3201	Layer	Topsoil	0.05-0.16m thick	
	3202	Layer	Natural mid red-brown sandy clay		
	3203	Fill of furrow	Dark brown sandy clay with some gravel		2 clay pipe stems
	3204	Fill of furrow	Dark brown sandy clay with some gravel		
33	3301	Layer	Topsoil	0.15m thick	
	3302	Layer	Natural mixed patches of yellow-grey and mid orange-brown silty clay		
	3303	Fill of furrow	Mid-dark grey-brown silty clay		
	3304	Fill of furrow	Mid-dark grey-brown silty clay		
	3305	Fill of furrow	Mid-dark grey-brown silty clay		
34	3401	Layer	Topsoil	0.28m thick	
	3402	Layer	Natural light yellow-brown silty clay		
	3403	Fill of [3404]	Mid grey-brown silty clay with some gravel and charcoal flecks	0.55m wide, 0.20m thick	
	3404	Cut of ditch	Linear NE-SW, U-shaped profile		
	3405	Fill of furrow	Mid-dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional gravel		
35	3501	Layer	Topsoil	0.27m thick	
	3502	Layer	Subsoil	0.08-0.25m thick	
	3503	Layer	Natural clay		
	3504	Fill of furrow	Mid brown sandy clay		Lead weight
36	3601	Layer	Topsoil	0.25m thick	
	3602	Layer	Natural mid brown sandy clay		
37	3701	Layer	Topsoil	0.20-.029m thick	
	3702	Layer	Natural orange-brown and red-brown sandy clay		
38	3801	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.32m thick	
	3802	Layer	Natural mid brown and orange mottled sandy clay		
39	3901	Layer	Topsoil	0.23-0.36m thick	
	3902	Layer	Natural mid brown and orange mottled sandy clay		
40	4001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.38m thick	
	4002	Layer	Natural mid brown and orange mottled sandy clay		
41	4101	Layer	Topsoil	0.23-0.31m thick	
	4102	Layer	Natural mid brown and orange mottled sandy clay		

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Dimensions /thickness (m)	Artefact type
42	4201	Layer	Topsoil	0.30m thick	
	4202	Layer	Natural yellow-brown with orange patches sandy clay		
43	4301	Layer	Topsoil	0.30m thick	
	4302	Layer	Natural orange-brown sandy clay		
	4303	Fill of furrow	Dark brown sandy clay		Clay pipe stem
44	4401	Layer	Topsoil	0.22-0.32m thick	
	4402	Layer	Natural orange-brown sandy clay		
45	4501	Layer	Topsoil	0.26-0.60m thick	
	4502	Layer	Natural mid brown sandy clay		
46	4601	Layer	Topsoil	0.18-0.27m thick	
	4602	Layer	Natural orange-brown sandy clay		
47	4701	Layer	Surface soil	0.10m thick	
	4702	Layer	Hardcore and sand	0.15m thick	
	4703	Layer	Mid grey-orange clay sealing layer	0.40-0.70m thick	
	4704	Layer	Modern dump of rubble	0.10-0.50m thick	
	4705	Layer	Natural mid orange-brown and grey sandy clay		
	4706	Layer	Natural dark grey silty clay ?water course		
	4707	Layer	Slightly curved E-W Firebrick foundation (?hearth)	0.20m wide 0.18m high	
48	4801	Layer	Hardcore and sand	0.15m thick	
	4802	Layer	Mid grey-orange clay sealing layer	0.35m thick	
	4803	Layer	Modern dump of rubble	0.25m thick	
	4804	Layer	Natural dark grey silty clay ?water course		
	4805	Layer	Natural mid yellow-brown silty clay		
49	4901	Layer	Surface soil	0.15m thick	
	4902	Layer	Dark grey-brown with red silty clay with frequent demolition rubble	0.25-0.80m thick	
	4903	Layer	Natural mid orange and grey patchy sandy clay		
	4904	Layer	Natural mid blue-grey silty clay		

APPENDIX 2: MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY

Pottery bysherd count and weight (g)

Type/origin	Leics Type series	date	506	509	903	1006	1701	1801	2606	2701	3101	3204	3304	3305	3403	4302	4303	Total
ChilversCoton A ware	CC1	Later C13th						1/5g			1/14g					2/33g		4/52g
ChilversCoton B ware	CC	Later 13 th century		1/6g														1/6g
Medieval sandy ware	OS	C13th-15					1/3g								1/2g			2/5g
Midland Purple	MP	C15-17				1/14g								1/16g				2/30g
Midland Blackware	MB	C18th			1/4g	1/6g									1/1g		1/3g	4/14g
Midland Yellow	MY	C17								1/1g								1/1g
Manganese mottled ware	EA	1680-1740											1/8g					1/8g
Creamware	EA8	C18th	1/5g															1/5g
Pancheon	EA6	C19th			1/31g				1/11g			2/77g			1/1g		1/28g	6/148g
Total			1/5g	1/6g	2/35g	2/20g	1/3g	1/5g	1/11g	1/1g	1/14g	2/77g	1/8g	1/16g	3/4g	2/33g	2/31g	22/269g

APPENDIX 3: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

(source: Mills 2008)

Appendix 1: HER Entries

MLE ID	Name	NGR	Description	Period
1388	Watling Street	SP 46 89	Roman Road	Roman
2835	Chapel Field	SP 426 921	Chapel known in 1220 - ploughing produced stone foundations	Medieval
2847	Sketchley	SP 424 921	Medieval core of village	Medieval
2876	Church Walk	SP 427 938	Site of timber-framed cottage	17 th C
2877	Lower Bond St	SP 426 941	25' deep stone well. 18 th C brick at top	Medieval
2878	Hinckley Priory	SP 427 937	Documentary evidence of Benedictine priory	11 th C - ?
2879	Hinckley Priory	SP 427 937	Hall House - residence of Priors. Demolished 1827	Post-med
2880	Hinckley Priory	SP 426 937	Documentary evidence of ponds - possibly fishponds	Med - Post-med
2881	Hinckley Priory	SP 427 937	Documentary evidence of formal gardens	Post-med
2885	Lancaster Road	SP 424 937	Cobbled surface, possibly road	Medieval
2886	Mill Hill	SP 423 941	Doc evidence of windmill	Post-med
2889	South of Hollycroft Park	SP 422 938	Doc evidence of tower windmill	Post-med
2890	Hinckley Castle	SP 428 938	Motte & bailey castle. SAM 17039	12 th - 16 th C
2891	Hinckley Castle	SP 428 938	Oak lined well at foot of castle hill	Unknown
2896	Regent Street	SP 425 938	Pavement, piece of quern stone, stone mortar	Medieval
2901	Hinckley	SP 426 941	Historic core of the medieval - post-med town	Med - Post-med
6351	Recreation Ground	SP 430 932	Side-looped spearhead	Middle Bronze Age
6500	Hinckley Castle	SP 428 938	Boat shaped brooch. Italian	Iron Age
6791	Rugby Road Railway Bridge	SP 424 931	Stone mortar with lugs	Medieval
7236	NE of the Lime Kilns Inn	SP 413 924	Polished stone axe Group 6 type	Neolithic
7369	Sketchley Industrial Estate	SP 420 919	Horse harness mount	Late med - early post-med
7939	Recreation Ground	SP 430 932	Polden Hill type brooch	Roman
7941	Walton Terrace	SP 422 936	2 coins	Roman

8520	Stables Riding School, Sketchley Lane	SP 425 921	Probable Bronze Age - Early Iron Age occupation	LBA - EIA
8916	Ashby Canal	SP 41 92	Early 19 th century canal from Ashby to Coventry	19 th century
8919	Coventry Road	SP 40536 93087	Settlement comprising 6 roundhouses within and external to enclosure	LBA - MIA
8920	Coventry Road	SP 40537 93087	Enclosure and boundary ditch overlying IA site	Roman 2 nd - 3 rd C
8921	North of Coventry Road	SP 40652 93578	Postholes, pits & gullies	Iron Age
9162	St Albert's Nursing Home	SP 430 940	Dominican Priory (demolished)	Late post-med
9163	Nutts Lane	SP 409 929	Negative evaluation	Natural
9164	Land near Nutts Lane	SP 412 924	Undated cobbled surfaces with postholes and ditches	Unknown
10136	Coventry Road	SP 40565 92912	Gullies	Undated
10141	Coventry Road	SP 40537 93086	Ploughed out ridge and furrow	Medieval
10509	Wood Street	SP 429 940	3 wells found during evaluation	Post-med - modern
10609	Trinity Lane	SP 425 940	Hosiery factory of Bott & Sons, now demolished	1904-2005
15728	Atkins Site, Lower Bond St	SP 425 941	Site of half-timber house with brick infill	Early post-med
16050	Hinckley & Stoke Branch Line	SP 40 93	Railway line completed but never used	19 th C
16084	London & North Western Railway	SP 50 95	Railway from Leicester to Birmingham	1864 -
16342	Argents Mead	SP 428 938	Layer of redeposited clay possibly part of the castle rampart	?Medieval
16343	Argents Mead	SP 428 938	Medieval topsoil containing 5 sherds of med pottery	13 th C
16344	Argents Mead	SP 428 938	Pits	18 th C - modern