



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at
The Long Shoot, Nuneaton, Warwickshire
November 2013



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Report 13/251
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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		Oasis No: 165520	
Project title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Long Shoot, Nuneaton, Warwickshire		
Short description	In November 2013, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Bellway Homes, on land at The Long Shoot, Nuneaton, Warwickshire. One undated ditch and series of cultivation furrows were identified. No other features or finds were present.		
Project type	Trial trench evaluation		
Previous work	Desk-based Assessment (Gajos 2012); Geophysical Survey (Phase SI 2012)		
Current land use	Arable land		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	Medieval ridge and furrow/modern		
Significant finds	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Warwickshire		
Site address	Long Shoot, Nuneaton		
Easting Northing	SP 3860 9270		
Area (sq m/ha)	7.6ha		
Height aOD	c.85-92m above Ordnance Datum		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)		
Project brief originator	Anna Stocks, Warwickshire County Council Planning Archaeologist		
Project Design originator	CgMs Consulting		
Director/Supervisor	James Ladocha (NA)		
Project Manager	Adam Yates (NA)		
Sponsor or funding body	Bellway Homes		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	01/11/2013		
End date	06/11/2013		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents	
Physical	Warwickshire Museums NLS 13	Site records (1 archive box)	
Paper		Client report PDF. Survey Data, Photographs	
Digital			
BIBLIOGRAPHY			
Title	Archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Long Shoot, Nuneaton, Warwickshire		
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION ON LAND AT THE LONG SHOOT, NUNEATON WARWICKSHIRE

Abstract

In November 2013, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology, commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Bellway Homes, on land at The Long Shoot, Nuneaton, Warwickshire. One undated ditch and series of cultivation furrows were identified. No other features or finds were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Bellway Homes, to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land off the The Long Shoot, Nuneaton, Warwickshire (NGR: SP 3860 9270, Fig 1). The work was undertaken in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

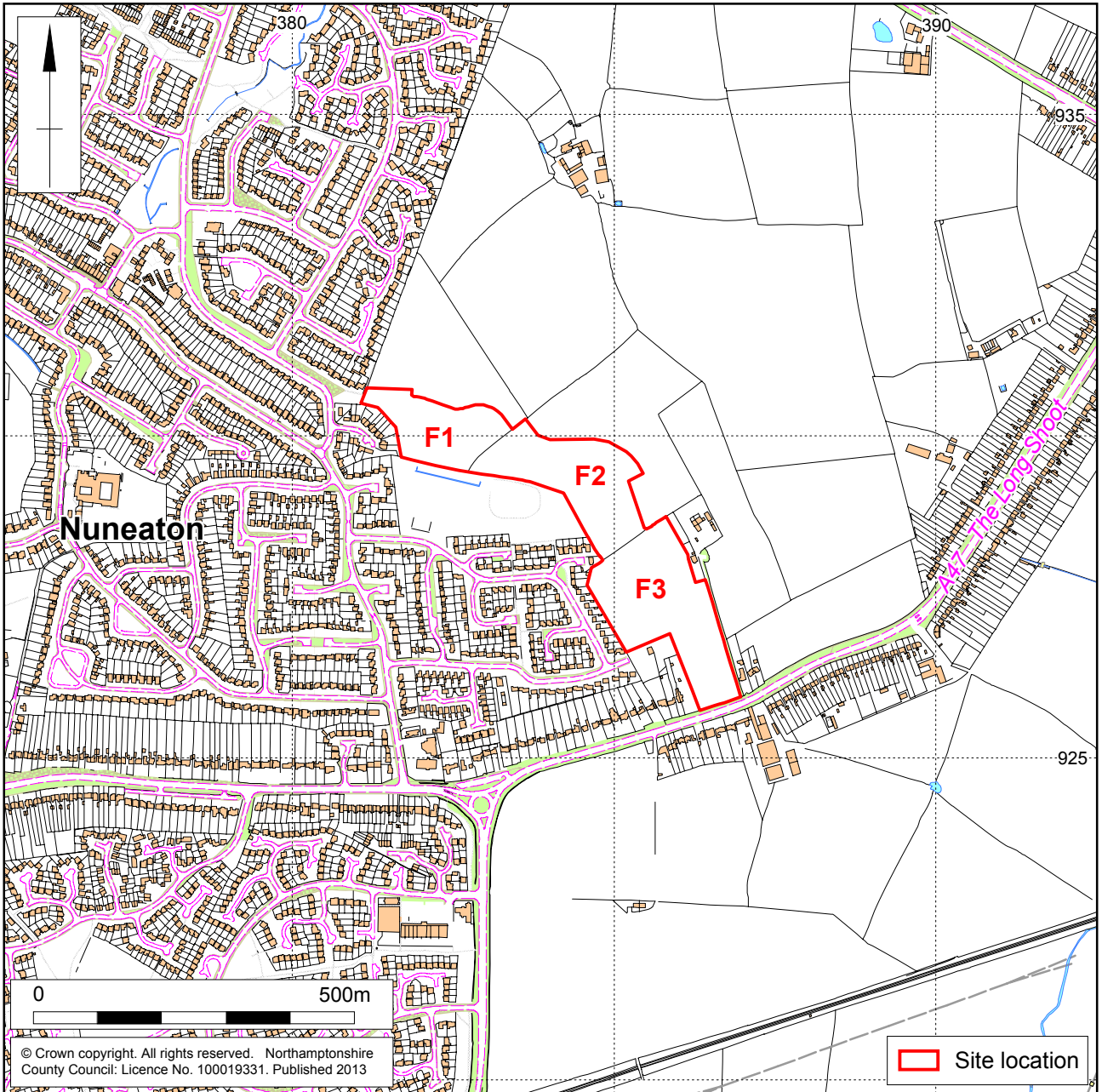
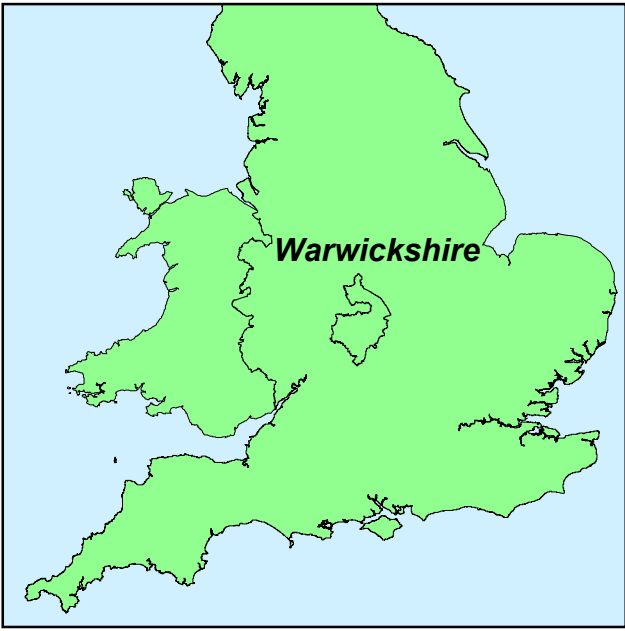
The scope of works was outlined and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by CgMs Consulting (Gajos 2012). Northamptonshire Archaeology is an Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Registered Organisation and all works were conducted in accordance with the procedural documents of English Heritage (EH 2006; 2008) and the appropriate standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (IfA 2008a-b).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

The site covers approximately 7.6ha in area, spread over three arable fields (Fields 1-3) on the eastern edge of Nuneaton. It is bounded to the south by The Long Shoot (A47), to the west by extant development, and farmland to the north and east. The site lies on a north-west facing slope between c.85-92m aOD, with the steepest incline occurring in Field 3 (Fig 2).

The British Geological Survey records the bedrock underlying the development area as mudstone with a band of siltstone running approximately north south, both of the Mercia Mudstone Group. The superficial geology of the main part of the site was Thrussington Member diamicton (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

A desk-based assessment of the site has been carried out along with a subsequent geophysical survey (Gajos 2013). Both of these reports give a full description of the archaeological background of the site. In summary, the site does not contain any previously recorded 'undesigned' heritage assets and there is very little archaeological information recorded for the surrounding area. The desk-based assessment therefore concluded that the site had a low potential to contain significant archaeological remains of any period.

The geophysical survey did not identify any archaeological features other than possible evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation.

2.3 Planning background

Outline planning permission (ref: 031589) has been granted for residential development of the site by Nuneaton and Bedworth District Council. Condition 24 attached to the permission stated that:

No development shall commence on site until the applicant, their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Council. The development shall not be carried out other than in accordance with the approved details.

The Planning Archaeologist for Warwickshire County Council recommended that an initial phase of trial trenching be undertaken in order to allow the formulation of a full mitigation strategy. This report details the results of this trial trenching.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

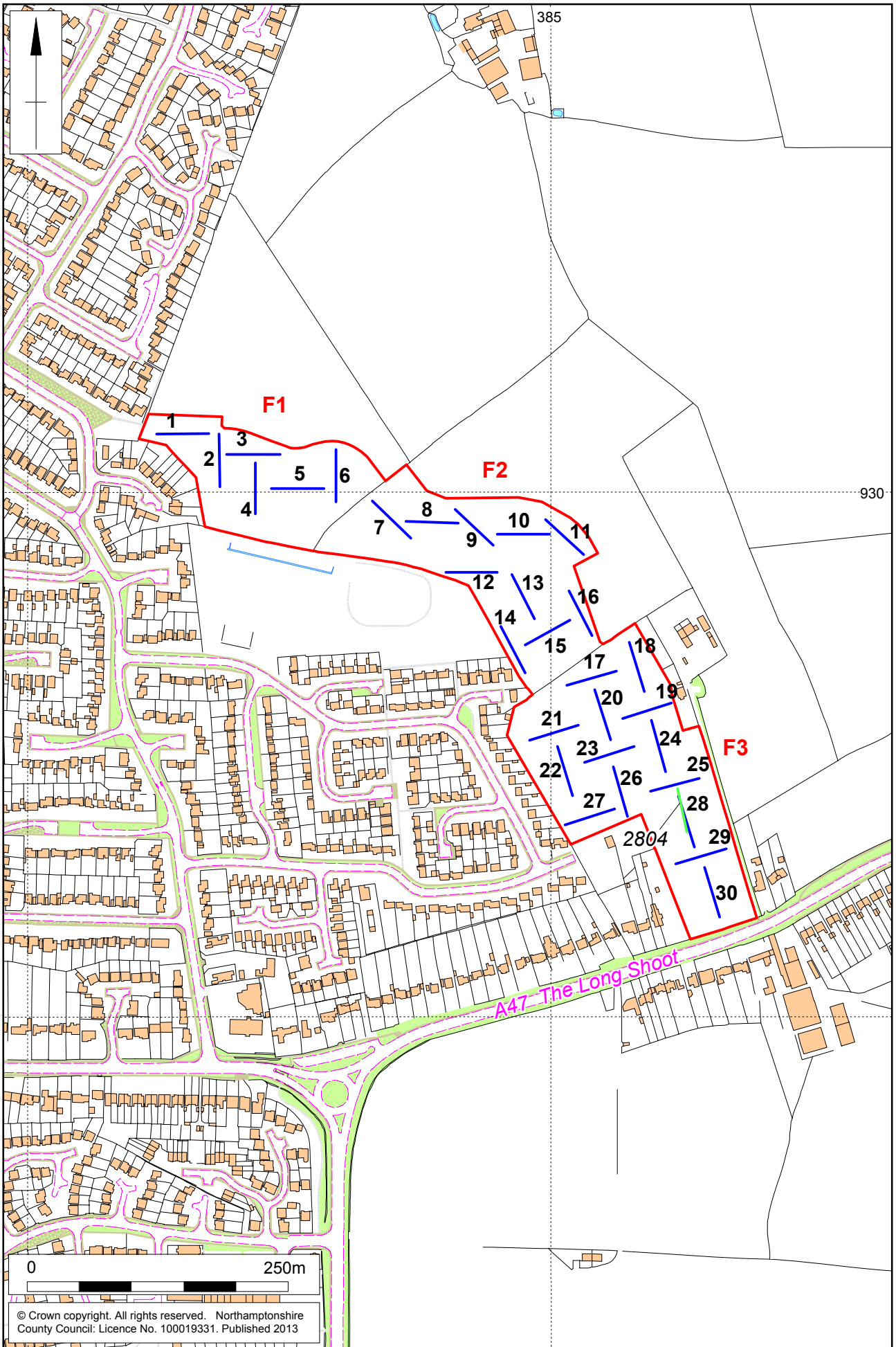
3.1 Objectives

The objectives of the evaluation, as stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Gajos 2013), were:

- 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 assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
- To inform formulation of a strategy to mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Warwickshire HER.

3.2 Methodology

Thirty trial trenches were excavated in reference to a trench plan prepared by CgMs Consulting and approved by the Warwickshire County Council Planning Archaeologist. The trial trench locations were recorded using Leica System 1200 Global Positioning System (GPS) survey equipment (Fig 2).



Scale 1: 5000

Trench location Fig 2

A mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was used to remove overburden to archaeological levels or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification and definition of possible archaeological features. Deposits were examined by hand excavation to determine their nature. Recording followed standard NA procedures as described in the *Fieldwork Manual* (NA 2011). Deposits were described on *pro-forma* sheets to include measured and descriptive details of the context, its relationships and interpretation. A photographic record was compiled using 35mm black and white film, and colour digital images.

4 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

4.1 General stratigraphy

The undisturbed natural geological stratum varied in colour across the site but was predominantly reddish-brown silty clay. This was overlain in Trenches 2-5 by a thin layer of redeposited natural material described as light greyish-blue silty clay with yellow gravel. In Trenches 5-9 and 12-15 the natural was overlain by mid blue-grey colluvium with orange-brown mottling. Subsoil was present in approximately half the trenches on the south and east side of the development area including Trenches 1-10 and 15. In all other trenches the natural was directly overlain by dark brown, dark greyish-brown loam topsoil that was 0.30m thick. Due to the lack of subsoil the natural substrate interface was heavily plough-scarred.

4.2 The excavated remains

In Trench 28 there was a ditch, [2804], 0.99m wide by 0.28m deep, aligned near north-south, with a fill of mottled yellow-brown sandy silty clay. No finds were recovered. There was no evidence to indicate that the ditch continued into either Trench 29 to the south, or Trench 25 to the north.

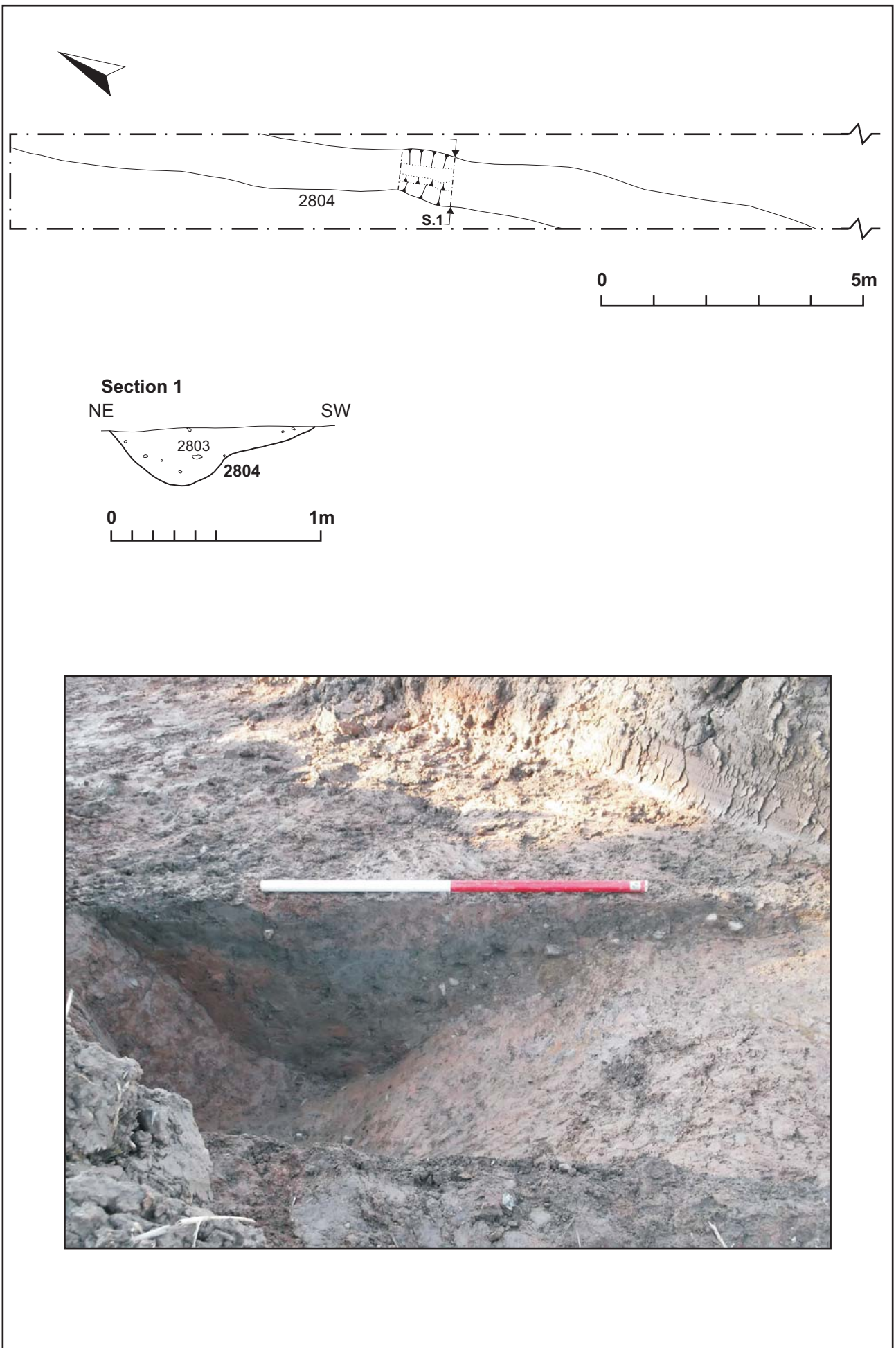
4.3 Ridge and furrow cultivation

Truncated furrows of ridge and furrow cultivation was identified in Trenches 9-11, 13, 16-27 and 29. They were present in the north-west of the site where the ground level was higher and also in the north part of the shallow valley that ran across the site and extended up part of the west facing slope.

The furrows were aligned near north-south and, where excavated in Trenches 25 and 29, they were 1.2m wide by 0.13m deep (Fig 4).

5 DISCUSSION

The evaluation identified an undated ditch and furrows pertaining to an extensive ridge and furrow cultivation system. The ditch shared the same alignment as the furrows and may have been a boundary dividing separate areas of cultivation. The ditch is likely to be contemporary with the furrows which are of either medieval or post-medieval origin.



Scale 1:100 & 1:25

Ditch 2804, Trench 28 Fig 3



Furrow (Trench 29), looking north-west Fig 4

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APPENDIX: CONTEXT INDEX

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
1	50m x 1.8m N-S	438146 293056	71.54- 71.19m	0.40- 0.61m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
101	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey clay loam	0.27-0.29m thick	
102	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0.04-0.07m thick	
103	Colluvium	Dark grey-blue silty clay	0.08m thick	
104	Colluvium	Light grey-blue silty clay with yellow mottling	0.08m-0.17m thick	
105	Natural	Mid red clayey silt with yellow- blue mottling		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
2	50m x 1.8m W-E	438184 293032	71.39- 70.38m	0.65- 0.80m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type Feature & type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Artefacts/ Samples</i>
201	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey clay loam	0.22-0.27m thick	
202	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0.07m-0.09m thick	
203	Colluvium	Dark grey-blue silty clay	0.07m-0.09m thick	
204	Colluvium	Light grey-blue silty clay with yellow mottling	0.20m-0.29m thick	
205	Redeposited natural	Light greyish-blue silty clay with yellow gravel	0.03m-0.07m thick	
206	Natural	Mid red clayey silt with yellow- blue mottling		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
3	50m x 1.8m N-S	438218 293036	70.71- 69.73m	0.56- 0.76m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
301	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey clay loam	0.26-0.30m thick	
302	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0.08m-0.10m thick	
303	Colluvium	Dark grey-blue silty clay	0.09m-0.21m thick	
305	Redeposited natural	Light greyish-blue silty clay with yellow gravel	0.05m-0.10m thick	
306	Natural	Mid red clayey silt with yellow-blue mottling		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
4	50m x 1.8m W-E	438218 293004	70.14- 68.08m	0.58- 0.68m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
401	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey clay loam	0.26-0.30m thick	
402	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0.11m-0.12m thick	
403	Colluvium	Dark grey-blue silty clay	0.12m-0.15m thick	
405	Redeposited natural	Light greyish-blue silty clay with yellow gravel	0.06-0.08m thick	
406	Natural	Light red silty clay with mottled clay silt patches		

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
5	50m x 1.8m W-E	438258 293005	69.57- 67.63m	0.58- 0.77m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
501	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey clay loam	0.24-0.29m thick	
502	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay	0.13m-0.30m thick	
503	Colluvium	Dark grey-blue silty clay	0.10m-0.13m thick	
504	Redeposited natural	Light greyish-blue silty clay with yellow gravel	0.04-0.07m thick	
505	Natural	Light red silty clay with mottled clay silt patches		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
6	50m x 1.8m N-S	438294 293019	70.50- 69.43m	0.52- 0.58m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
601	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silty loam	0.27-0.30m thick	
602	Subsoil	Mid brown-orange silty clay	0.06m-0.11m thick	
603	Colluvium	Light grey-green silty clay	0.11m-0.13m thick	
604	Natural	Mid red-brown silty clay with light grey-white patches		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
7	50m x 1.8m W-E	438348 292975	69.62- 68.11m	0.55- 0.75m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
701	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silty loam	0.29-0.32m thick.	
702	Subsoil	Mid brown-orange silty clay	0.10m-0.16m thick	
703	Colluvium	Light grey-green silty clay	0.10m-0.20m thick	
704	Natural	Mid red-brown silty clay with light grey-white patches		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
8	50m x 1.8m W-E	438387 292972	67.96- 65.51m	0.60- 0.75m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
801	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silty loam	0.30-0.35m thick.	
802	Subsoil	Mid brown-orange silty clay	0.09m-0.12m thick	
803	Colluvium	Light grey-green silty clay	0.19m-0.20m thick	
804	Natural	Mid red-brown silty clay with light grey-white patches		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
9	50m x 1.8m N-S	438420 292968	67.69- 66.28m	0.59-0.81m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
901	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silty loam	0.29-0.33m thick.	
902	Subsoil	Mid brown-orange silty clay	0.09-0.17m thick.	
903	Colluvium	Light grey-green silty clay	0.20-0.30m thick.	
904	Natural	Mid red-brown silty clay with light grey-white patches		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
10	50m x 1.8m W-E	438475 292961	66.02- 63.65m	0.48-0.71m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1001	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown silty loam	0.30-0.33m thick	
1002	Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown silty clay	0.21m thick	
1003	Natural	Mid reddish-brown silty clay with light green-white patches		

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
11	50m x 1.8m N-S	438514 292957	67.71- 65.52m	0.30-0.32m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1101	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown silty loam	0.22-0.26m thick	
1102	Natural	Mid reddish-brown silty clay with light green-white patches		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
12	50m x 1.8m N-S	438426 292924	63.49- 61.80m	0.77-0.97m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1201	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey clay loam	0.30-0.33m thick	
1202	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown loam	0.10m-0.33m thick	
1203	Colluvium	Mid blue-grey silty clay with orange-brown mottling	0.24m-0.30m thick	
1204	Natural	Mixed orange-red silty clay with gravel patches		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
13	50m x 1.8m W-E	438473 292903	66.56- 65.20m	0.63-0.73m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1301	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey clay loam	0.30m thick	
1302	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown loam	0.10m-0.20m thick	
1303	Colluvium	Mid blue-grey silty clay with orange-brown mottling	0.18m-0.25m thick	
1304	Natural	Mixed orange-red silty clay with gravel patches		

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
14	50m x 1.8m W-E	438463 292852	62.73- 63.10m	0.62-0.74m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1401	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey clay loam	0.30m thick	
1402	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown loam	0.10m-0.20m thick	
1403	Colluvium	Mid blue-grey silty clay with orange-brown mottling	0.18m-0.25m thick	
1404	Natural	Mixed orange-red silty clay with gravel patches		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
15	50m x 1.8m W-E	438496 292866	61.35- 60.06m	0.58-0.77m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1501	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey clay loam	0.29-0.31m thick	
1502	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown loam	0.13m-0.25m thick	
1503	Colluvium	Mid blue-grey silty clay with orange-brown mottling	0.14m-0.20m thick	
1504	Natural	Mixed orange-red silty clay with gravel patches		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
16	50m x 1.8m N-S	438527 292886	60.95- 58.62m	0.46-0.50m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1601	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown silty loam	0.22-0.29m thick	
1602	Natural	Mid red-brown silty clay with light green-white patches		

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Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
17	50m x 1.8m N-S	438540 292823	66.78- 63.84m	0.40-0.45m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1701	Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown silty loam	0.25-0.34m thick	
1702	Natural	Mid red-brown silty clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
18	50m x 1.8m W-E	438580 292836	64.52- 64.16m	0.45-0.53m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1801	Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown silty loam	0.32-0.33m thick	
1802	Natural	Mid red-brown silty clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
19	50m x 1.8m W-E	438596 292794	65.52- 66.41m	0.39-0.45m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
1901	Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown silty loam	0.29-0.36m thick	
1902	Natural	Mid red-brown silty clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
20	50m x 1.8m N-S	438549 292789	62.76- 58.80m	0.40-0.49m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
2001	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.21-0.27m thick	
2002	Natural	Mid brown-red silty clay with patches of mid white-yellow silty clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
21	50m x 1.8m W-E	438503 292770	58.19- 57.23m	0.37-0.42m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
2101	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.31-0.34m thick	
2102	Natural	Mid brown-red silty clay with patches of mid white-yellow silty clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
22	50m x 1.8m SW-NE	438513 292737	56.97- 57.95m	0.38-0.44m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
2201	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.30-0.33m thick	
2202	Natural	Mid brown-red silty clay with patches of mid white-yellow silty clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
23	50m x 1.8m W-E	438558 292751	61.82- 58.56m	0.34-0.41m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
2301	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.29-0.32m thick	
2302	Natural	Mid brown-red silty clay with patches of mid white-yellow silty clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
24	50m x 1.8m N-S	438602 292760	64.32- 61.02m	0.38-0.47m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
2401	Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown silty loam	0.29-0.32m thick	
2402	Natural	Mid red-brown silty clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
25	50m x 1.8m N-S	438619 292721	67.08- 65.37m	0.39-0.48m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
2501	Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown silty loam	0.26-0.40m thick	
2502	Natural	Mid red-brown silty clay		
2503	Furrow fill	Light orange-brown silty clay	0.13m thick	
2504	Furrow cut	No description given	1.74m wide 0.13m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
26	50m x 1.8m W-E	438565 292720	66.12- 63.89m	0.34-0.37m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
2601	Topsoil	Dark brown-sandy clay loam	0.30-0.36m thick	
2602	Natural	Mid brown-red silty clay with patches of mid white-yellow silty clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
27	50m x 1.8m SW-NE	438537 292691	59.36- 60.40m	0.36-0.42m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
2701	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay loam	0.30-0.34m thick	
2702	Natural	Mid brown-red silty clay with patches of mid white-yellow silty clay		

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
28	50m x 1.8m SW-NE	438627 292691	59.36- 60.40m	0.38-0.44m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
2801	Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown silty loam	0.30-0.44m thick	
2802	Natural	Mid red-brown silty clay		
2803	Ditch fill	Mid yellow brown sandy silty clay	0.28m thick	-
2804	Ditch cut	Shallow profile, stepped on one side, steep on the other, concave base	0.99m wide 0.28m deep	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
29	50m x 1.8m SW-NE	438643 292653	59.36- 60.40m	0.40-0.59m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
2901	Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown silty loam	0.29-0.59m thick	
2902	Natural	Light pinkish red-brown silty clay		
2903	Furrow fill	Light orange-brown sandy silty clay	None given	-
2904	Furrow cut	Shallow profile, stepped on one side, steep on the other, concave base	None given	

Trench No	Length, width & alignment	NGR	Surface height	Depth of natural
30	50m x 1.8m SW-NE	438653 292620	59.36- 60.40m	0.35-0.40m
Context	Context type Feature & type	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts/ Samples
3001	Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown silty loam	0.30-0.40m thick	
3002	Natural	Light pinkish-red-brown silty clay		



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