

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:
LAND OFF LUTTERWORTH ROAD, GILMORTON, LEICESTERSHIRE**

Planning Reference: Pre-Planning
NGR: SP 5709 8734
AAL Site Code: GILR 16
Museum Accession Number: X.A103.2016
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-263549



Report prepared for Landmark Planning
on behalf Sheiling Homes

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
Report Number AAL2016138

September 2016



Allenarchaeology



Contents

Executive Summary	1
1.0 Introduction.....	1
2.0 Site Location and Description.....	1
3.0 Planning Background.....	1
4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	2
5.0 Methodology	2
6.0 Results (Figures 2, 4 and 5).....	2
Trench 2.....	3
7.0 Discussion and Conclusions.....	4
8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology.....	4
9.0 Acknowledgements	4
10.0 References.....	4

List of Plates

Plate 1: Trench 1, looking northeast. Scales are 2m and 1m	3
Plate 2: Ditch [203], looking southwest. Scales are 2x 0.5m.....	3

List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Charred Plant Macrofossils and Other Remains	5
Appendix 2: Context Summary List	6
Appendix 3: Figures	7

List of Tables

Table 1: Charred plant macrofossils and other remains from Gilmorton, Leicestershire.....	5
---	---

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location outlined in red	7
Figure 2: Trench location plan.....	8
Figure 3: Trench 2 plan and sections.....	9
Figure 4: Trench 1, 3 and 4 representative sections	10

Document Control

Element:	Name:	Date:
Report prepared by:	Damian Podlinski MA	22/09/2016
Illustrations prepared by:	Damian Podlinski MA	22/09/2016
Report edited by:	Chris Clay BA MA (Hons)	23/09/2016
Report reviewed by:	Mark Allen BSc (Hons) MCIfA	26/09/2016
Version no.:	1.0	07/10/2016

Allen Archaeology reports are printed double sided on 100% recycled paper to reduce our carbon footprint.

Cover image: General view of the site, looking east

Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Landmark Planning on behalf of Sheiling Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land off Lutterworth Road, Gilmorton, Leicestershire, in advance of the submission of a planning application for a residential development.
- Four trenches were excavated on the site, each measuring 30m long by 1.6m wide.
- Trenches 1, 3 and 4 were devoid of archaeological features or finds, and Trench 2 exposed a single undated curvilinear feature, which may be either a former boundary feature or a natural feature.
- The evidence suggests that the site has a negligible archaeological potential and that the impact of the proposed development will be similarly negligible.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Landmark Planning, on behalf of Sheiling Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land off Lutterworth Road, Gilmorton, Leicestershire, in advance of the submission of a planning application for a residential development.
- 1.2 All archaeological work was undertaken according to a specification prepared by AAL (2016a) and followed current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations*' (ClfA 2014), and the Historic England document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (Historic England 2015).
- 1.3 The documentary archive will be submitted to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service within twelve months of the completion of the report, where it will be stored under the museum accession code X.A103.2016.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The proposed development site (hereafter referred to as 'the site') is located in Gilmorton, in the administrative district of Harborough District Council, Leicestershire. It is situated 5km northeast of Lutterworth and 17km south of Leicester. The site is approximately 0.5ha and is presently pasture. The site is centred at NGR SP 5709 8734 and is approximately 139m above Ordnance Datum.

The bedrock geology comprises sedimentary mudstone, siltstone, limestone and sandstone, belonging to the Lias Group, overlain by superficial deposits of diamicton (glacial till) (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application is due to be submitted for a proposed residential development of the site, comprising eight dwellings. A preceding desk-based assessment identified an archaeological potential for the proposed development area (AAL 2016), and as such, a programme of intrusive trenching has been commissioned in order to provide the planning authority with sufficient information to allow for the determination of the planning application, and to establish any measures that may be required to mitigate the effects of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource.
- 3.2 The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the particular chapter of relevance being '*Chapter 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*' (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The preceding desk-based assessment identified the site as being of archaeological interest (AAL 2016). The results of this study are summarised below.
- 4.2 Other than a single sherd of Roman pottery, there is little evidence for archaeological activity predating the medieval period in the vicinity of the site. Gilmorton was a relatively large settlement in the Domesday Book, with 29 households listed. The place name derives from Old English elements, suggesting some form of activity prior to the Norman Conquest. Medieval earthworks are recorded in the vicinity of the site, including a moated enclosure, house platforms and fishponds. The current site appears to lie well beyond the area of the medieval settlement, and was probably in an agricultural zone on the periphery of the village.

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 A trenching strategy, comprising four trenches, each measuring 30m long by 1.6m (Figure 2) was agreed with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council. The trenches were located on site using a Leica GS08 RTK NetRover GPS, allowing centimetre accurate real-time precision.
- 5.2 In each trench, topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits were removed by mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket in spits no greater than 0.1m in thickness. The process was repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon was exposed. All further excavation was then by hand.
- 5.3 The fieldwork was undertaken by a team of experienced field archaeologists between 15th and 16th August 2016 and were supervised by the author.
- 5.4 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets. Archaeological deposits were drawn to scale, in plan and section (at scale 1:20 or 1:50), with Ordnance Datum heights being displayed on each class of drawing. Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy, with all photographs incorporating scales, an identification board and directional arrow.

6.0 Results (Figures 2, 4 and 5)

- 6.1 The stratigraphic sequence remained broadly consistent throughout the site, comprising a topsoil of dark brown sandy clay, 0.2m to 0.3m thick and sealing a c.0.2m thick subsoil of brown to orange brown sandy clay. This in turn sealed a natural geology of brown sandy clay with gravel. Trenches 1, 3 and 4 only exposed this stratigraphic sequence, with no further features or artefacts recorded.



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking northeast. Scales are 2m and 1m

Trench 2

- 6.2 Trench 2 was located towards the northeast corner of the site, aligned west-northwest to east-southeast, and was the only trench to expose an archaeological feature.
- 6.3 At the eastern end of the trench was a slightly curvilinear feature aligned broadly east to west. It had moderately steep side and a concave base, and was filled by an undated natural silting deposit of brownish grey silty clay with occasional pebbles and gravel. A soil sample from this deposit was very limited in composition, and contained a low density of charcoal, and other burnt organics, interpreted as scattered hearth waste, accidentally incorporated into the feature.



Plate 2: Ditch [203], looking southwest. Scales are 2x 0.5m

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

7.1 The evaluation trenching has indicated a negligible archaeological potential for the site, with three of the four trenches being entirely archaeologically sterile. A single undated feature was recorded in Trench 2. The lack of finds and the small area of the feature exposed make interpretation difficult, this could be part of a former boundary feature, or a natural feature such as an animal burrow. Environmental sampling recovered low densities of burnt material, likely to be accidentally incorporated into the fill, perhaps as a result of manuring of the fields, and this offers no further assistance in the date or interpretation of the feature.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

8.1 The trial trenching methodology employed was suited to the scale and nature of the project in determining the nature of the archaeology present on site and the potential impacts of the proposed development, which are considered to be negligible.

9.0 Acknowledgements

9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Landmark Planning for this commission.

10.0 References

AAL, 2016a, *Specification for an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching: Land Off Lutterworth Road, Gilmorton, Leicestershire*, Allen Archaeology Limited

AAL, 2016b, *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Land Off Lutterworth Road, Gilmorton, Leicestershire*, Allen Archaeology Limited

CifA, 2014, *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*. Department for Communities and Local Government, London

Historic England, 2015, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*. Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England. London

Appendix 1: Charred Plant Macrofossils and Other Remains

By Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Excavations at Gilmorton, undertaken by Allen Archaeology Ltd, recorded a single undated feature. A single sample for the retrieval and assessment of the plant macrofossil assemblage was taken from this feature, ditch fill 204.

The sample was processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed below in Table 1. All plant remains were charred. Modern roots were also recorded.

Results

The recovered flot is extremely small (<0.1 litres in volume) and very limited in composition. Charcoal/charred wood fragments are recorded, but the assemblage is largely composed of small pellets of burnt or fired clay, fragments of coal (coal 'dust') and mineralised soil concretions.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, it would appear most likely that the assemblage is derived from a very small quantity of hearth waste, which was probably accidentally incorporated within the ditch fill.

Because of the paucity of material, no further analysis is recommended.

Sample No.	1
Context No.	204
Charcoal <5mm	x
Charred root/stem	x
Black porous residue	x
Burnt/fired clay	xx
Burnt stone	x
Mineralised soil concretions	xxx
Small coal	xx
Sample volume (litres)	30
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%

Key: X = 1–10 specimens xx = 11–50 specimens xxx = 51–100 specimens

Table 1: Charred plant macrofossils and other remains from Gilmorton, Leicestershire

Appendix 2: Context Summary List

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer	Compact dark brown sandy clay; 0.30m thick, seals 101	Topsoil
101	Layer	Compact brown sandy clay, 0.20m thick; sealed by 100, seals 102	Subsoil
102	Layer	Compact, orangey brown sandy clay and gravel; sealed by 101	Natural geology
200	Layer	Compact dark greyish brown sandy clay; 0.25m thick; seals 201	Topsoil
201	Layer	Compact mid orangey brown sandy clay; occasional inclusion rounded pebbles; 0.3m thick; sealed by 200, seals 204	Subsoil
202	Layer	Compact dark yellowish orange clay and gravel, frequent rounded pebbles, sealed by 201	Natural geology
203	Cut	Cut of slightly curvilinear ditch aligned E-W, moderately steep sides and concave base; c.0.8m wide, 0.4m deep; contains 204, cuts 202	Cut of ditch
204	Fill	Dark brownish grey silty clay, frequent inclusions of rounded pebbles; 0.4m thick; contained by [203], sealed by 201	Natural silting of ditch
300	Layer	Compact, dark brown sandy clay; 0.32m thick; seals 301	Topsoil
301	Layer	Compact, orange brown sandy clay; 0.2m thick; sealed by 300, seals 302.	Subsoil
302	Layer	Compact orange brown clay and gravel, sealed by 301	Natural geology
400	Layer	Compact dark brown sandy clay, 0.3m thick, seals 401	Topsoil
401	Layer	Compact, mid brown silty clay, 0.45m thick, sealed by 400, seals 402	Subsoil
402	Layer	Compact mid orangey brown clay, sealed by 401	Natural geology

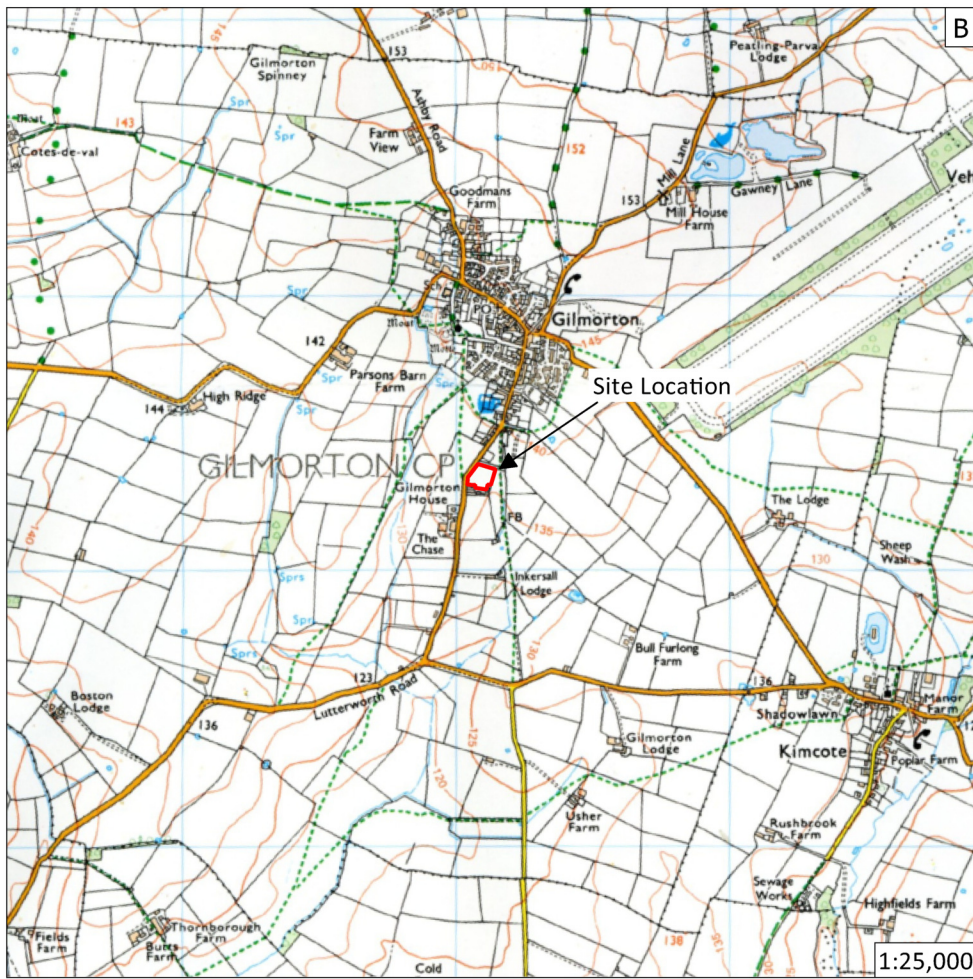
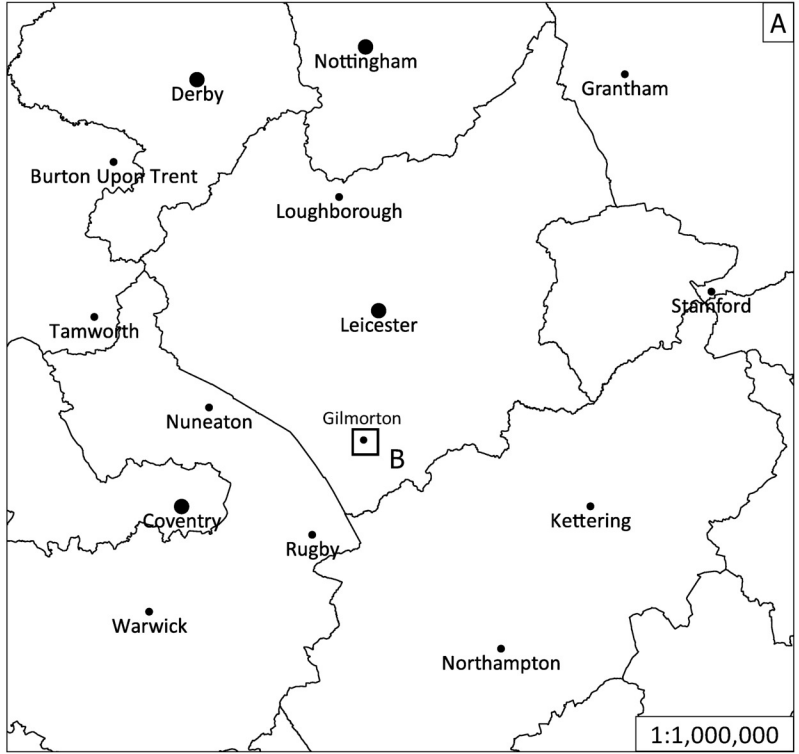


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

© Crown copyright 2000. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100047330

Site Code	GILR 16
Scale	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	D.Podlinski
Date	17/08/16

Allenarchaeology
 Lincoln
 Birmingham
 Cambridge
 Southampton
 www.allenarchaeology.co.uk

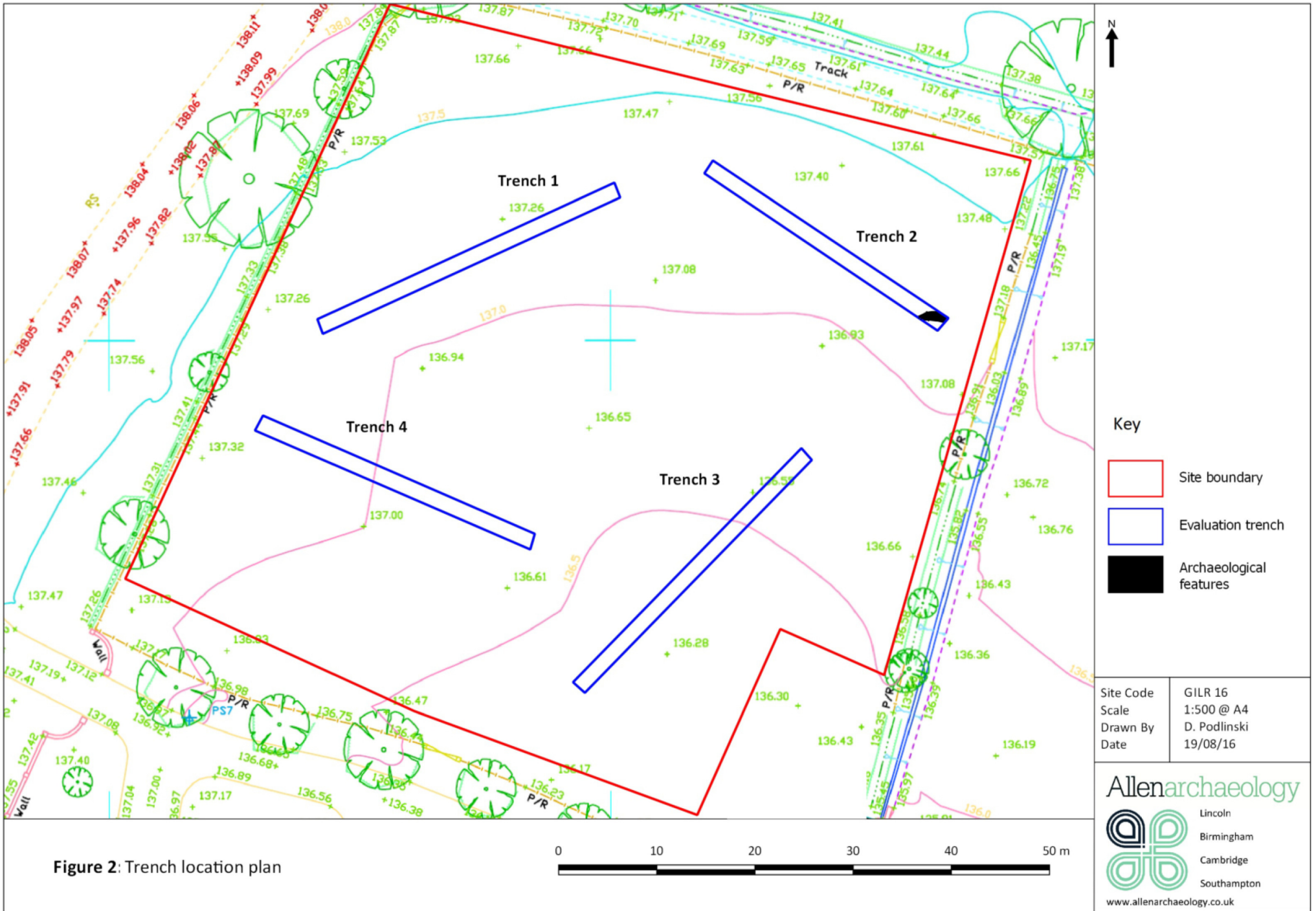
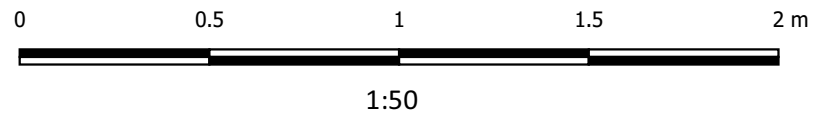
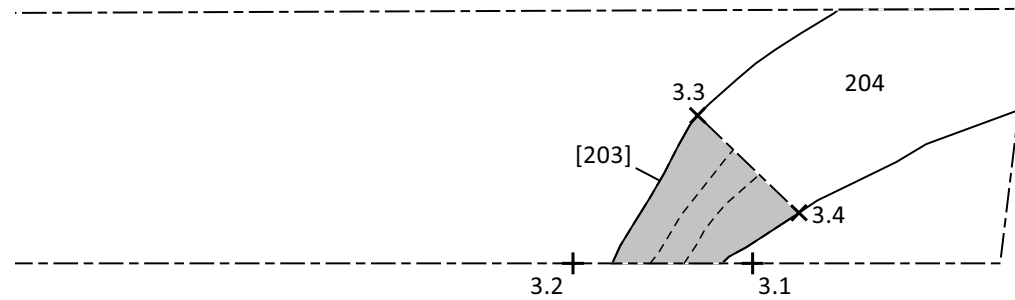


Figure 2: Trench location plan

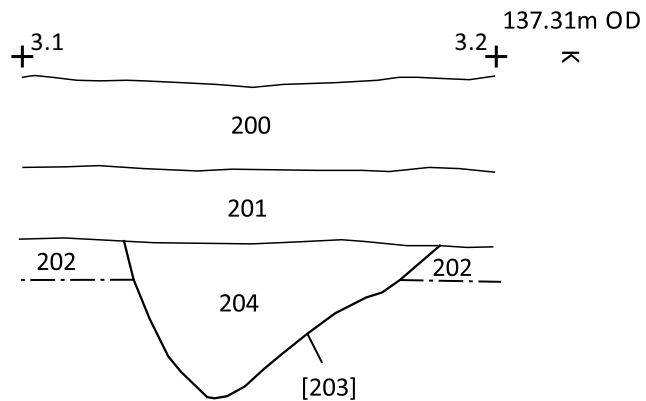




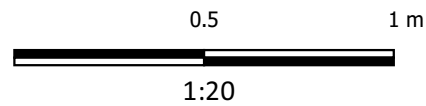
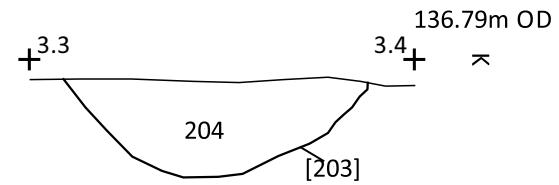
Trench 2



Northeast-facing section of ditch [203]



West-facing section of ditch [203]



Site Code	GILR 16
Scale	1:50, 1:20 @ A4
Drawn By	D. Podlinski
Date	19/08/16

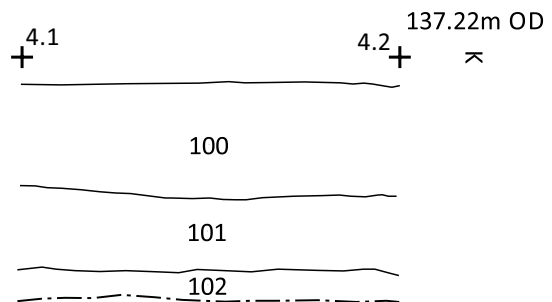
Allenarchaeology



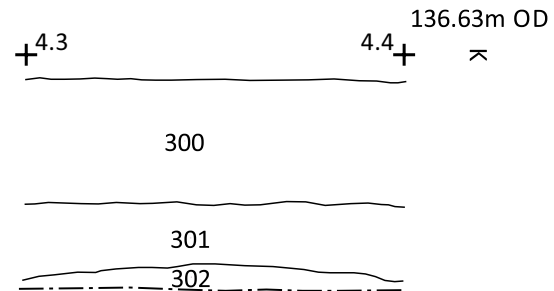
www.allenarchaeology.co.uk

Figure 3: Trench 2 plan and sections

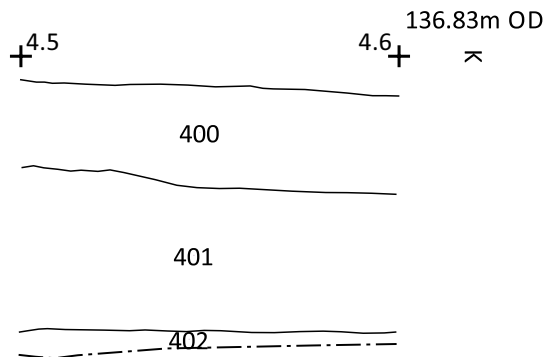
Northwest-facing representative section of Trench 1



Northwest-facing representative section of Trench 3



Northeast-facing representative section of Trench 4



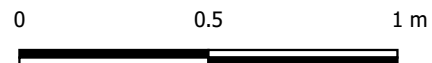
Site Code	GILR 16
Scale	1:20 @ A4
Drawn By	D.Podlinski
Date	19/08/16

Allenarchaeology



www.allenarchaeology.co.uk

Figure 4: Trench 1, 3 and 4 representative sections





Allen Archaeology Limited
Website: www.allenarchaeology.co.uk

Company Registered in England and Wales No: 6935529

Lincoln
Whisby Lodge
Hillcroft Business Park
Whisby Road
Lincoln
LN6 3QL

Birmingham
Arion Business Centre
Harriet House
118 High Street
Birmingham
B23 6BG

Cambridge
Wellington House
East Road
Cambridge
CB1 1BH

Southampton
International House
Southampton International Business Park
George Curl Way
Southampton
SO18 2RZ

Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 1522 685356
Email: info@allenarchaeology.co.uk

Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 800 610 2545
Email: birmingham@allenarchaeology.co.uk

Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 800 610 2550
Email: cambridge@allenarchaeology.co.uk

Tel: +44 (0) 800 610 2555
Email: southampton@allenarchaeology.co.uk