

**Newark Farm (GI Works)  
Hempsted  
Gloucester  
Gloucestershire**

*Archaeological Watching Brief*



for  
Newland Homes Ltd

CA Project: 5969  
CA Report: 16396

July 2016



# Newark Farm (GI Works) Hempsted Gloucester Gloucestershire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 5969  
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A	18/07/16	Michael Joyce				Cliff Bateman

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## Summary

<b>Project Name:</b>	Newark Farm (GI Works)
<b>Location:</b>	Hempsted, Gloucester, Gloucestershire
<b>NGR:</b>	SO 81707 17293
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	11-12 July 2016
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with The Museum of Gloucester
<b>Accession Number:</b>	GLRCM: 2016.27
<b>Site Code:</b>	NFG16

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2016 on land at Newark Farm, Hempsted, Gloucester, Gloucestershire. Fifteen geotechnical trial pits and three associated soakaways were excavated alongside a representative from Nicholls Colton.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Newland Homes Ltd at Newark Farm, Hempsted, Gloucester, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SO 81707 17293; Fig. 1). The watching brief was maintained during geotechnical works at the request of Andrew Armstrong, City Archaeologist, Gloucester City Council (GCC).

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016a) that was approved by GCC acting on the advice of Andrew Armstrong. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Andrew Armstrong.

### ***The site***

1.3 The geotechnical works were undertaken within two detached land parcels, totalling approximately 25ha, that are separated by buildings associated with Newark Farm. The site is located to the north of Hempsted village and is situated on a pronounced hill within the Severn Vale at a height of 22m AOD.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as mudstone of the Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (Undifferentiated) that are partially overlain, particularly across the western section of the site, by superficial sand and gravel deposits of the Kidderminster Station Member (BGS 2016). Natural sands and gravels were observed during the current works.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological potential of the site has been assessed within an archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (CgMs 2012), and is summarised below.

2.2 The assessment established that the site lies near to the Scheduled and Grade I listed Lady's Well (a late 14th-century well house) and to the Grade II listed Newark House and Grade II\* listed St Swithun's Church. The site itself contains medieval earthwork remains of pillow mounds, probably associated with the Llanthony Priory



estate. There is also evidence for the remains of a Roman settlement (including burials) present beneath these later earthworks (ibid.).

2.3 Geophysical survey of the current site revealed a series of anomalies, including east/west-aligned ridge and furrow cultivation patterns (Stratascan 2014). Archaeological evaluation trenching was also undertaken throughout the site in 2014 revealing Roman and medieval ditches as well as evidence for a medieval pillow mound and post-medieval quarrying principally throughout the southern-most field and the southern extent of the northern field (CA 2014; see Fig. 2 for location and extent).

2.4 Preceding archaeological works in the locality also include evaluation trenching on land surrounding the (then) extant buildings at Newark Farm that revealed five ditches, one of which most probably dated to the late medieval/early post-medieval period (CA 2013). Subsequent watching briefs undertaken during development works revealed no features pre-dating the post-medieval period (CA 2015 and 2016).

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

### 4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2016). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundwork, comprising the excavation of 15 geotechnical trial-pits and three soakaways (see Fig. 2 for



locations). All of the groundworks measured between 2m and 3m in length, 0.6m in width and were excavated to depths in excess of 2m below present ground level (bpgl), through topsoil and subsoil into the underlying natural sands and gravels.

- 4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble prior to being deposited with The Museum of Gloucester under accession number GLRCM: 2016.27. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-5)

- 5.1 The natural geological substrate, comprising sands and clays with gravel patches, was typically revealed at depths of between 0.58m - 0.90m below present ground level (bpgl) throughout the northern field. This was overlain by red-brown sand silt subsoil, between 0.26m - 0.45 in thickness that was in turn sealed by 0.28m – 0.34m of dark brown grey sand silt topsoil. An exception to this analogous stratigraphic sequence was identified in Pit 8 where modern building rubble associated with a works compound was revealed sealing the topsoil.
- 5.2 In the southern field (Pits 14 and 15) the natural substrate was revealed 0.7m bpgl, and was sealed by a sandy subsoil containing occasional lenses of gravels that was in turn overlain by 0.3m of topsoil.
- 5.3 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within



the area of observed groundworks, although it should be noted that the potential to identify archaeological deposits was constrained due to the limited width of the groundworks. However, the survival of subsoils throughout both the northern and southern fields suggests that the development area has not previously been heavily truncated.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Michael Joyce. The report was written by Michael Joyce. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Michael Joyce, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

## 8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 8 July 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Newark Farm, Hempsted, Gloucester; Archaeological Evaluation*. CA Typescript report **13575**

CA 2014 *Land at Newark Farm, Hempsted, Gloucester, Archaeological Evaluation*. CA Typescript report **14240**

CA 2015 *Newark Farm, Hempsted, Gloucester, Archaeological Watching Brief*. CA Typescript report **15101**

CA 2016a *Newark Farm (GI works), Hempsted, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CA 2016b *Newark Farm (garage and access lane), Hempsted, Gloucester, Gloucestershire; Archaeological Watching Brief*. CA Typescript report **16320**

CgMs Consulting 2012 *Newark Farm, Hempsted, Gloucester. Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

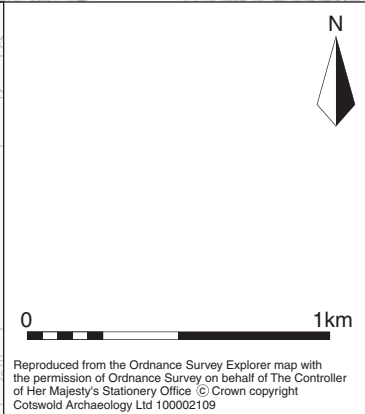
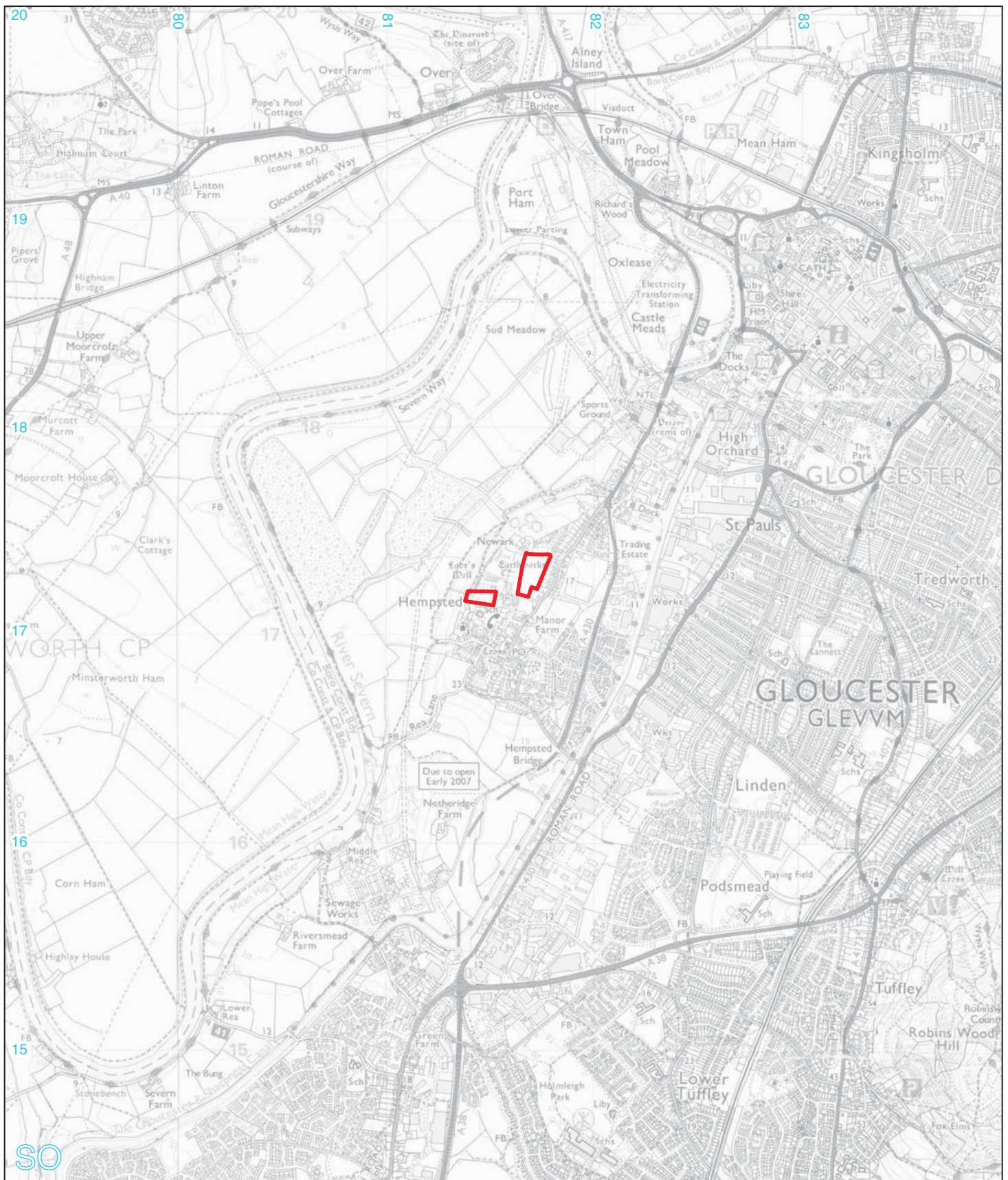
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	topsoil	dark grey-brown sand-silt	>2	>0.6	0.32
1	101	Layer	subsoil	mid red-brown sand-silt	>2	>0.6	0.26
1	102	Layer	natural substrate	mid grey-blue clay, red-orange and brown sand patches	>2	>0.6	
2	200	Layer	topsoil	mid orange-brown sand-silt, rare stone	>2	>0.6	0.38
2	201	Layer	subsoil	mid orange-grey sand-silt	>2	>0.6	0.24
2	202	Layer	natural substrate	mid grey-blue clay, sand patches	>2	>0.6	
3	300	Layer	topsoil	mid-light orange-brown sand clay, occasional stone	>2	>0.6	0.25
3	301	Layer	subsoil	mid orange-grey sand clay, occasional stone	>2	>0.6	0.37
3	302	Layer	natural substrate	mid brown-blue sand silt, small gravel patches	>2	>0.6	
4	400	Layer	topsoil	dark grey-brown sand-silt	>2	>0.6	0.32
4	401	Layer	subsoil	mid red-brown sand-silt	>2	>0.6	0.34
4	402	Layer	natural substrate	mid grey-blue clay, red-orange and brown sand patches	>2	>0.6	
5	500	Layer	topsoil	dark grey-brown sand-silt	>2	>0.6	0.32
5	501	Layer	subsoil	mid red-brown sand-silt	>2	>0.6	0.30
5	502	Layer	natural substrate	mid grey-blue clay, red-orange and brown sand patches	>2	>0.6	
6	600	Layer	topsoil	dark grey-brown sand-silt	>2	>0.6	0.28
6	601	Layer	subsoil	mid red-brown sand-silt	>2	>0.6	0.45
6	602	Layer	natural substrate	mid grey-blue clay, red-orange and brown sand patches	>2	>0.6	
7	700	Layer	topsoil	dark grey-brown sand-silt	>2	>0.6	0.34
7	701	Layer	subsoil	mid red-brown sand-silt	>2	>0.6	0.31
7	702	Layer	natural substrate	mid grey-blue clay, red-orange and brown sand patches	>2	>0.6	
8	800	Layer	make up layer	stone crush, top layer of compound	>2	>0.6	0.12
8	801	Layer	make up layer	rubble, sand, modern brick layer	>2	>0.6	0.18
8	802	Layer	buried topsoil	dark grey-brown sand-silt	>2	>0.6	0.38
8	803	Layer	subsoil	mid grey-brown sand-silt	>2	>0.6	0.22
8	804	Layer	natural substrate	mid-light grey-orange clay with sand patches	>2	>0.6	
9	900	Layer	topsoil	dark grey-brown sand-silt	>2	>0.6	0.28
9	901	Layer	subsoil	mid orange-grey sand clay, occasional stone	>2	>0.6	0.24
9	902	Layer	natural substrate	mid grey-blue clay, red-orange and brown sand patches	>2	>0.6	
10	1000	Layer	topsoil	dark grey-brown sand-silt	>3	>0.6	0.30
10	1001	Layer	subsoil	mid orange-grey sand clay, occasional stone	>3	>0.6	0.32
10	1002	Layer	natural substrate	mid grey-blue clay, red-orange and brown sand patches	>3	>0.6	
11	1100	Layer	topsoil	dark grey-brown sand-silt	>3	>0.6	0.28

11	1101	Layer	subsoil	mid orange-grey sand clay, occasional stone	>3	>0.6	0.24
11	1102	Layer	natural substrate	mid grey-blue clay, red-orange and brown sand patches	>3	>0.6	
12	1200	Layer	topsoil	dark grey-brown sand-silt	>3.1	>0.6	0.36
12	1201	Layer	subsoil	mid orange-grey sand clay, occasional stone	>3.1	>0.6	0.18
12	1202	Layer	natural substrate	mid grey-blue clay, red-orange and brown sand patches	>3.1	>0.6	
13	1300	Layer	topsoil	dark grey-brown sand-silt	>3	>0.6	0.32
13	1301	Layer	subsoil	mid orange-grey sand clay, occasional stone	>3	>0.6	0.30
13	1302	Layer	natural substrate	mid grey-blue clay, red-orange and brown sand patches	>3	>0.6	
14	1400	Layer	topsoil	mid brown-orange silt-sand, heavily rooted by grass	>3	>0.6	0.28
14	1401	Layer	subsoil	mid red-orange sand clays with gravel lenses	>3	>0.6	0.70
14	1402	Layer	natural substrate	mid yellow-orange sand, occasional gravel	>3	>0.6	
15	1500	Layer	topsoil	mid brown-orange silt-sand, heavily rooted by grass	>3	>0.6	0.30
15	1501	Layer	subsoil	mid red-orange sand clays with gravel lenses	>3	>0.6	0.72
15	1502	Layer	natural substrate	mid yellow-orange sand, occasional gravel	>3	>0.6	1.58
15	1503	Layer	natural substrate	mid blue-grey clay	>3	>0.6	
16	1600	Layer	topsoil	dark grey-brown sand-silt	>3	>0.6	0.30
16	1601	Layer	subsoil	mid orange-grey sand clay, occasional stone	>3	>0.6	0.28
16	1602	Layer	natural substrate	mid grey-blue clay, red-orange and brown sand patches	>2.6	>0.6	
17	1700	Layer	topsoil	dark grey-brown sand-silt	>2.6	>0.6	0.30
17	1701	Layer	subsoil	mid orange-grey sand clay, occasional stone	>2.6	>0.6	0.28
17	1702	Layer	natural substrate	mid grey-blue clay, red-orange and brown sand patches	>2.6	>0.6	
18	1800	Layer	topsoil	dark grey-brown sand-silt	>3	>0.6	0.32
18	1801	Layer	subsoil	mid orange-grey sand clay, occasional stone	>3	>0.6	0.32
18	1802	Layer	natural substrate	mid grey-blue clay, red-orange and brown sand patches	>3	>0.6	

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Newark Farm (GI Works)	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with trial pits and soakaways at Newark Farm, Hempsted, Gloucester, Gloucestershire.  No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	11-12 July 2016	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Desk-based Assessment (CgMs Consulting 2012) Field Evaluation (CA 2013) Field Evaluation (CA 2014) Watching Brief (CA 2015) Watching Brief (CA 2016)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Hempsted, Gloucester, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	2.62ha	
Site co-ordinates	SO 81707 17293	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Michael Joyce	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
Physical	n/a	None
Paper	The Museum of Gloucester. GLRCM: 2016.27	Context sheets, registers
Digital	The Museum of Gloucester. GLRCM: 2016.27	Database, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Newark Farm (GI Works), Hempsted, Gloucester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief, CA typescript report 16396</i>		







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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Newark Farm (GI Works), Hempsted  
 Gloucester, Gloucestershire

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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

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- site boundary
- ground investigation
- evaluation trench (CA 2014)
- archaeological feature

**Geophysical Survey (Stratascan)**

- earthwork
- positive linear anomaly related to known earthwork
- strong magnetic debris related to a former pond present on available mapping pre-1900
- linear area of scattered magnetic debris - probable former field boundary not present on available mapping
- widely spaced curving parallel linear anomalies - probably related to ridge-and-furrow
- positive anomaly/weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
- linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain
- Linear anomaly related to a former field boundary present on available mapping in 1970
- magnetic disturbance associated with former building present on available mapping in 1970
- magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object
- strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground
- magnetic spike - fenced tree
- magnetic spike - probable ferrous object

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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 The site, showing observed ground  
 investigation works and 2014  
 evaluation trenches

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*Trial pit 1, looking west*



*Trial pit 1, looking north-west*



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**FIGURE TITLE**

**Photographs**

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*Trial pit 7, looking north-east*



*Trial pit 7, looking north-west*



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*FIGURE TITLE*

**Photographs**

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Trial pit 14, looking north



Trial pit 14, looking west



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FIGURE TITLE

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