

**Land at Braunston Road  
Oakham  
Rutland**

*Archaeological Evaluation*



for:  
Jeakins Weir Ltd

CA Project: MK0918  
CA Site Code: LBRO23  
Accession Number: OAKRM: 2023.29  
CA Report: MK0918\_1

August 2023



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## SUMMARY

<b>Project name:</b>	Land at Braunston Road, Oakham, Rutland
<b>Location:</b>	Oakham, Rutland
<b>NGR:</b>	484670 308430
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	20–23 June 2023
<b>Planning reference:</b>	2021/1124/MAO
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Rutland County Museum and the Archaeology Data Service
<b>Accession Number:</b>	OAKRM: 2023.29
<b>Site Code:</b>	LBRO23

In June 2023, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Braunston Road, Oakham, Rutland. A total of 14 trenches were excavated across the 4.79ha part of the site consented for development, equating to a 3% sample. Trenches were also positioned to investigate a rectilinear geophysical anomaly interpreted as a likely enclosure located in the western part of the site, in an area likely to be subject to tree planting.

The fieldwork results confirmed those of a preceding geophysical survey, with the rectilinear anomaly correlating with ditches crossing trenches 13 and 14. These produced pottery dating to the Middle to Late Iron Age. A quern stone fragment and an assemblage of animal bone was also recovered, including bone commonly associated with waste from the early stages of the butchery process.

Cropmarks recorded by the HER to the west of the site suggest that the enclosure formed part of a wider field/ enclosure system. The presence of the quern stone fragment and evidence for early-stage butchery waste further suggests that the enclosure was located in relative proximity to domestic and/or food processing areas.

The remains of several blocks of ridge and furrow were recorded across the site, corresponding to anomalies identified by the preceding geophysical survey and LiDAR data. Former field boundary ditches identified by the geophysical survey and visible on historic mapping and LiDAR imagery were also observed in trenches 6 and 9. Based on historic mapping the features were dated to between 1888 - 1967.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. In June 2023, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Braunston Road, Oakham, Rutland (centred at NGR: 484670 308430; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for Jeakins Weir Ltd.

1.2. Planning permission has been granted on appeal for the development of up to 100 dwellings including up to 30% affordable housing, open space, green infrastructure, children's play area and SuDS (appeal ref: APP/A2470/W/22/3301737; original planning application ref: 2021/1124/MAO). Condition 10 of this planning permission requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with an approved WSI:

*10) No development shall commence until the necessary programme of archaeological work has been completed. The programme will commence with an initial phase of trial trenching to inform a final archaeological mitigation scheme. Each stage will be completed in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI), which has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed mitigation WSI, which shall include the statement of significance and research objectives, and*

- The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works*

- The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination, and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.*

1.3. Planning advice highlighting the need for archaeological work was provided to Rutland County Council (RCC; the local planning authority) by Chloe Cronogue Freeman, Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council (SPALCC), acting as archaeological advisor to RCC. The scope of this evaluation was defined in subsequent discussions between CA and the SPALCC, and the



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fieldwork was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2019) and approved by the SPALCC.

- 1.4. The evaluation was also in line with *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

### **The site**

- 1.5. The entirety of the development site is approximately 7.99ha in extent, with 4.79ha of housing and associated infrastructure development and the remainder designated as green space. The site currently comprises a single arable field, bounded to the north and west by agricultural land, to the east by residential properties, and to the south by Brauston Road. The ground levels within the site gently undulate, ranging between 128m and approximately 144m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as mudstone of the Whitby Mudstone Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed between 182.7 and 174.1 million years ago during the Jurassic period. No superficial deposits are recorded within the site itself, however deposits of Oadby Member diamicton, a sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 480 and 423 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period, are recorded immediately to the west (BGS 2023).

## **2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. The archaeological background of the site has been previously presented as part of a Heritage Appraisal (CA 2021) and a geophysical survey has also been carried out within the Site (SUMO 2021). The following text represents a summary of these sources.

### **Prehistoric and Roman**

- 2.2. Whilst there is some evidence of earlier prehistoric activity (Mesolithic to Bronze Age) in the vicinity of the Site as recorded on the local Historic Environment Record (HER), there is little definite evidence to suggest that the site formed part of any occupied landscape during these periods. Current evidence suggests that during the early prehistoric periods the site would have been situated within the hinterland of seasonal occupation sites and any remains within the site would likely represent single

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findspots associated with movement through the landscape, such as the Neolithic axe head found at Warn Crescent adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site.

2.3. The site lies within a known later prehistoric and Roman landscape as artefacts from these periods are recorded on the local HER in vicinity to the site. Cropmarks interpreted from aerial photographs as the remains of potential Iron Age enclosures have been identified extending into the western extent of the site, and a possible enclosure of this date was identified by the geophysical survey in this area (SUMO 2012, see below). It has been suggested (Willis 2006) that such enclosures can be associated with the Iron Age having formed part of farmsteads and land management. These enclosures would often be part of a wider enclosure or field system.

2.4. Within the site environs, there is also evidence of the Iron Age to Roman transitional period. The evidence includes Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery contained within ditches and gullies, c.560m to the north-east of the site. A concentration of Roman artefacts, including scatters of pottery sherds and coins were identified c.900m to the west of the Site and were inferred as evidence of a modest Roman occupation site in the vicinity.

#### **Early medieval and medieval**

2.5. Although there is no evidence of early medieval (Anglo-Saxon) activity within the site, the nearby settlements of Barleythorpe (c.1km to the north of the site) and Oakham (the historic centre of which lies c.1.25km to the east of the site) have origins stemming from the early medieval period. The name of Barleythorpe indicates early medieval (Danish) influence, with the suffix '-thorpe' suggesting an early medieval origin (Sargant 1946). Oakham was under control of Queen Edith (the wife of Edward the Confessor) until her death following the Norman Conquest during the 11th century.

2.6. The Domesday survey of 1086 records Oakham as a substantial settlement of 138 villagers and 19 smallholders including 16 ploughlands and 80 acres of meadow (Powell-Smith 2021). Following the conquest, Oakham formed an administrative centre, and the manor of Oakham was redeveloped into Oakham Castle. Over the next few centuries Oakham was held by a number of different families.

2.7. During this period, it is likely that the site lay on the periphery of the core settlement, forming part of the agricultural hinterland. Recent archaeological investigations



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(Headland Archaeology 2021, SUMO 2021) and LiDAR data demonstrates that the site and surrounding areas contain the remains of ridge and furrow. These historic plough marks suggest that the land surrounding the site was cultivated and served to produce crop. The location of a former pond is also visible as an indentation along the south-western site boundary and former field boundaries appear to traverse the landscape and site.

### **Post-medieval and modern**

- 2.8. Historic cartographic sources dated to the early-17th century depict Oakham as an agglomeration of dwellings sprawled along multiple routeways through the settlement. The 17th century map does not depict the location of the site, and therefore it is suggested that the site lay in the periphery of the settlement. The geophysical survey carried out to the south of the site identified the remains of a postmedieval enclosure (Headland Archaeology 2021).
- 2.9. The parish of Oakham was enclosed in 1820, recorded in the enclosure award and act, and no subsequent Tithe map was recorded for Oakham parish and the area of the Site. However, some townships within the parish produced individual Tithe maps and apportionments, such as Langham to the north of the site.
- 2.10. Oakham underwent several phases of development during the late-19th and 20th century. This led to the expansion of the urban settlement further westwards and by the late 1970s, the present western settlement extent of Oakham was established, which is visible in subsequent aerial photographs of the area. Prior to this, the land to the east of the site had been in use as arable fields.

### **Geophysical survey**

- 2.11. The survey (SUMO 2021) identified an enclosure recorded in the HER within the western portion of the site. Measuring some 65m x 75m, the rectilinear enclosure, with rounded corners, appeared to have an entrance in the south-east corner. Possible internal features in the form of a short arcing section of ditch and a number of pits were also identified but the results were partially obscured by ridge and furrow cultivation, which extends across the entirety of the site.
- 2.12. Changes in the direction or density of plough furrows and narrow bands of magnetic noise identified by the survey were seen to coincide with former field boundaries visible on historic mapping dating from 1888 to 1967, and LiDAR imagery. It was also noted that the various separate field plots appeared to have differing 'background

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magnetic levels' perhaps associated with differing intensities of night soiling in the past. Several linear responses visible in the dataset could also be seen in LiDAR imagery of the site; these were interpreted as conjectural former field boundaries.

- 2.13. There were suggestions in the data of responses forming an arc of enhanced magnetic readings, and weak rectilinear responses, which were difficult to interpret. While archaeological interpretations could not be discounted the responses may simply represent an agricultural effect resulting from the ridge and furrow cultivation.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable RCC, as advised by the SPALCC to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposal. This process is in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2021).
- 3.2. The specific objective of the evaluation was to investigate the potential Iron Age enclosure recorded by the geophysical survey (SUMO 2021).
- 3.3. Due to the relatively limited scope and results of the evaluation no meaningful contributions can be made to any research objectives identified in the *East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework* (ALGAO 2023).

### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 14no. 50m by 2m trenches in the locations shown on Figure 2. This represents a 3% sample of the 4.79ha portion of the site which is earmarked for development, and includes trenches targeting the location of the enclosure identified by the geophysical survey in the western portion of the Site. The rest of the trenches were located to provide a representative sample of the development area while also targeting geophysical anomalies in that part of the site.

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- 4.2. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which archaeological features were first encountered.
- 4.3. Archaeological features present were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.4. Deposits were assessed for their paleoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and following the guidelines outlined in *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).
- 4.5. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.6. CA has made arrangements with Rutland County Museum for the deposition of the site archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection, under accession number OAKRM : 2023.29.
- 4.7. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (Archaeological Archives Forum 2007) and *Standard and Guide to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe: EAC Guidelines 1* (Europae Archaeologia Consilium 2019), as well as the relevant Rutland County Museum guidelines.
- 4.8. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material

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recovered from the site can be found in Section 6 and Appendix B, and details of the biological evidence are presented in Section 7 and Appendix C.

- 5.2. The natural substrate was encountered at depths between 0.32m and 0.81m and consisted of mid brown orange silty clay with mid yellow brown and blue patches. This was overlain in trenches 1,11,12,13 by subsoil deposits of light grey brown silty clay; due to safety considerations resulting from the presence of a deep colluvial layer the natural substrate was not revealed in trench 1. All trenches were sealed by topsoil deposits of dark grey brown silty clay measuring 0.35m thick.
- 5.3. Trenches 1, 10, and 12 contained no archaeological features of any type or period and will not be discussed in any further detail as part of this report. Photographs of blank trenches can be found in Figure 4.
- 5.4. Trenches 2-5, 7-8 and 11 contained only the remains of ridge and furrow, and furrows encountered in these trenches were recorded in plan only. In trench 6, a former field boundary ditch was encountered, corresponding with a geophysical anomaly as well as historic mapping. This was also recorded in plan only. A selection of photographs of trenches containing furrows can be found in Figure 5.

#### **Trench 9 (Fig. 2, 6-7)**

- 5.5. Four east/west aligned furrows were encountered within the trench, of which one, furrow 902, was subject to hand-excavation. The furrow measured 2.30m wide and 0.20m deep with gently sloped sides and a flat base and contained one sterile fill of mid red brown silty clay (903).
- 5.6. An east/west aligned ditch, 904, was investigated towards the northern end of trench, measuring 0.8m wide and 0.25m deep, with moderately sloped sides and a concave base. The feature contained a single fill of mid grey brown silty clay, 905. Fragments of modern pottery were noted within the fill but not retained. The ditch corresponded with a geophysical anomaly and a field boundary depicted on Ordnance Survey mapping of the area dating to between 1888 - 1967. A possible continuation of this ditch was observed in trench 13.

#### **Trench 13 (Fig. 2, 8-9)**

- 5.7. At the northern end of the trench an east/west aligned ditch 1303 was excavated, measuring 0.6m wide and 0.12m deep with gently sloped sides and a concave base.

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The feature contained a single fill of light grey orange silty clay, 1304. The ditch did not match any geophysical anomalies and no finds were recovered.

5.8. Near the southern end of the trench north-east/south-west aligned ditch 1309 was recorded, measuring 3.07m wide and 0.85m deep with steep sides and a concave base. The feature contained a lower deposit of mid green yellow silty clay, 1308, formed by redeposited natural, which was overlain by a second fill of mid grey blue clayey silt containing Mid to Late Iron Age pottery and animal bone (1307). This was overlain by deposit 1306, consisting of a mid blue yellow silty clay that contained a single sherd of late prehistoric pot. Context 1306 was in turn sealed by upper fill 1305, a mid green grey clayey silt that produced nine sherds of late prehistoric pottery, a fragment of rotary quern stone of likely contemporary date, and fragments of animal bone. The feature corresponds with part of a large geophysical anomaly interpreted as the southeast arm of a rectilinear enclosure.

5.9. In the central area of the trench, east/west aligned ditch 1311 was investigated, measuring 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep with moderately sloped sides and a concave base. The feature contained a single fill of mid grey brown clayey silt, 1310, which produced no finds. Although the ditch did not directly correspond with any geophysical anomaly it was located within the perimeter of a curvilinear anomaly, which itself did not appear to have any corresponding sub-surface feature, and may represent an internal feature within the Iron Age enclosure.

5.10. Another possible feature was investigated just to the north of ditch 1309; this proved to be of natural origin and therefore was not recorded in any detail.

5.11. An east/west aligned ditch was observed crossing the centre of the trench, corresponding with a geophysical anomaly as well as a field boundary depicted on historic maps. The feature was recorded in plan only.

#### **Trench 14 (Fig. 2, 10)**

5.12. Trench 14 was opened in an L-shape, targeting two sides of the enclosure identified by the geophysical survey. In the eastern part of the trench a north-west/south-east aligned ditch, 1402, was excavated, measuring 2.3m wide and 0.88m deep with moderately sloped sides and a slightly concave base. The feature contained an undated lower fill of light yellow brown clay, 1403. This was overlain by a middle deposit of mid grey red silty clay, 1404, which produced a quantity of Mid to Late Iron

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Age pottery and animal bone. This in turn was sealed by an upper fill, 1405, comprising mid brown grey clay, also containing Iron Age pottery and animal bone.

- 5.13. In the western part of the trench, a north-east/south-west aligned ditch 1406 was identified, representing a continuation of the enclosure ditch investigated in the other half of the trench. It measured 2.25m wide and 0.85m deep with steep sides; the base was not revealed as hand excavation ceased at an overall depth of 1.2m below existing ground level due to safety considerations. The ditch contained a single visible fill of brown grey silty clay (1407) that also produced Middle to Late iron Age pottery, animal bone and two undiagnostic flint flakes.
- 5.14. Two furrows corresponding with geophysical anomalies were also observed within the eastern portion of the trench and recorded in plan only.

## 6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. The artefactual material was recorded from six deposits: the fills of three ditches. (Appendix B). The material was recovered by hand and was recorded in accordance with the ClfA finds Toolkit (ClfA 2023)

### Pottery by Laura Pearson

- 6.2. The pottery from the evaluation has been recorded direct to an Excel spreadsheet from which Appendix B (Table 1) is derived. This forms part of the project archive. The assemblage was examined by context, using a x10 stereo microscope and quantified according to sherd count and weight per fabric type. The fabrics are described in summary (Table 2) in accordance with national guidelines (Barclay *et al.* 2016) and those set out by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 2010). A concordance with the late prehistoric Leicestershire fabric series has been provided where possible (Clay and Pollard 1994, 112-4).
- 6.3. The assemblage comprises 51 sherds, weighing 279g. The condition of the material is poor; the fractures and surfaces are heavily abraded. The mean sherd weight of 5.5g is low for an Iron Age assemblage.

### Iron Age

- 6.4. The assemblage consists entirely of handmade pottery dating to the Middle to Late Iron Age (c. 400 BC – 43 AD). Shell-tempered fabrics (SH1/SH2/SH3), from ditches 1309 and 1402, make up the largest fabric group (32 sherds, 140g). Ten sherds (65g)

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in sandy shell-tempered fabrics (QSH1/QSH2), and nine sherds (74g) in shelly grog-tempered fabrics (SHGR) were recovered from ditches 1309, 1402 and 1406. Feature sherds in these fabrics include a rounded upright rim (12g) from a globular vessel from ditch 1309, a T-shaped or externally expanded rim (20g), from ditch 1402, and three flat topped or rounded upright rim sherds (7g), from ditches 1309 and 1406. Globular vessels are commonly associated with Middle Iron Age activity (c. 400-100 BC) in the Leicestershire region; parallels can be seen at Wanlip (Beamish 1998, 54-62). T-shaped forms occur among both Early and Middle Iron Age assemblages; they are most likely indicative of a Middle Iron Age date at Oakham. Three sherds (46g) in SH1 and SHGR fabrics from ditches 1309 and 1406 exhibit possible scored surface treatment; these may represent examples of pottery from the East Midlands Scored Ware tradition dating from 5th/4th century BC to 1st century AD (Knight 2002, 134). The origin of the late prehistoric pottery is uncertain, but it has most likely been produced locally.

- 6.5. Based on the limited evidence available it is reasonable to conclude that there was activity in the vicinity of the site during the Middle to Late Iron Age. Due to the small size of the assemblage and scarcity of diagnostic sherds it is not possible to provide further meaningful commentary.

#### Flint by Laura Pearson

- 6.6. Two flint flakes (3g) were recovered from ditch 1406. A secondary flake (2g) retains 60% cortex on its dorsal face and exhibits damage to its proximal end. A tertiary flake (1g) exhibits recortication and damage to its bulb, striking platform and edge. The flint assemblage cannot be closely dated.

#### Stone by Laura Pearson

- 6.7. Ditch 1309 produced a fragment of stone, probably granite (Ra.1, 1241g), measuring 146mm by 116mm by 84mm. One surface is flat and worked smooth; it is most likely a fragment of rotary quern; similar shaped querns are commonly found in Leicestershire, including over 40 at Breedon-on-the-Hill (Liddle 1982, 25). The Whitby Mudstone, Marlstone Rock and Dyrham Formations (mud, silt and limestone) underlie and surround the land to the west of Oakham (BGS 2023). The igneous rock fragment is unlikely to have been locally sourced. A comparative example of a rotary quern, and querns in Mountsorrel granite, were found from Iron Age deposits at Elms Farm, Leicester (Roe 2000, 188). The granite quarry at Mountsorrel, Leicester, is located 28km to the west of Oakham and this outcrop of granite may have been the



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source of the stone used to make the quern. The use of rotary querns is thought to have begun during the Middle Iron Age and continued through to the Roman period; it is possible that this quern fragment is contemporary with the pottery recorded from the same deposit (c. 400 BC – 43 AD).

#### Further work and selection strategy by Laura Pearson

- 6.8. The finds have been recorded in sufficient detail at this stage and no further work is required. The artefactual material has the potential for further analysis, as part of a larger assemblage resulting from any additional archaeological works at this location, and the pottery, worked stone and flint are recommended for long-term curation.

## 7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

### Animal Bone by Andy Clarke

- 7.1. A small assemblage of animal bone, amounting to 77 fragments (1535g) was recovered from deposits 1305, 1307, 1404, 1404 and 1407, fills of ditches 1309, 1402 and 1406 revealed in Trenches 13 and 14. Artefactual material dating from the Iron Age was also recovered from these features (See Table 1, Appendix C). The material was highly fragmented, with 62% of the bone unidentifiable, but was well preserved enough to identify the remains of cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*), pig (*Sus scrofa sp.*) and horse (*Equus caballus*).
- 7.2. The remains of cattle were most common with 17 fragments (1133g) while sheep/goat were represented by seven fragments (42g). Each was identified exclusively by fragments of the skull or mandible or the bones of the lower limbs, such as the radius or the metapodials. The low recovery of these two species severely limits the amount of useful information that can be inferred. However, they are represented by bones that are common to the waste from the early stages of the butchery process.
- 7.3. Pig and horse were identified from only two and three fragments each, amounts that are too low to provide any information other than a species identification. However, as with the cattle and sheep/goat remains, both pig and horse were common domestic species that are to be expected in assemblages of this period.

## 8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1. The evaluation results confirmed those of the preceding geophysical survey, with the rectilinear anomaly investigated in trenches 13 and 14 confirmed as the remains of a

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rectangular enclosure. All slots excavated through the enclosure ditch produced handmade pottery dating to the Middle to Late Iron Age, as well as a mixed assemblage of animal bone. Although the animal bone assemblage was relatively small and highly fragmented, it was possible to identify evidence for waste generated by the early stages of the butchery process. A fragment of a likely rotary quern stone was also recovered along with two undated worked flints.

- 8.2. Two smaller, parallel, ditches were also identified in trench 13, possibly representing internal features or subdivisions. However, it must be noted that the alignment of these ditches did not match that of the main enclosure boundaries and no datable material was recovered from either feature. The features were both located in the area of a curvilinear geophysical anomaly but did not directly match any anomalies and could not be identified on historic maps of the area, although both run parallel to a field boundary depicted on historic maps located between the two features and may therefore be contemporary in date.
- 8.3. Cropmarks recorded by the HER to the west of the site suggest that the enclosure formed part of a wider field/enclosure system, possibly associated with a small settlement of some sort. The presence of the quern stone fragment and evidence for early stage butchery waste also suggests that the enclosure was located in relative proximity to domestic and/or food processing areas.
- 8.4. The remains of two distinct blocks of ridge and furrow were encountered across the majority of the trenches, corresponding with anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The furrows/ strips identified by the geophysical survey were partially respected by later field boundaries, indicating that the alignment of surviving blocks of furrows had at least partially influenced the process of enclosing the formerly open fields.
- 8.5. Trenches 6 and 9 revealed ditches corresponding with field boundaries depicted on historic Ordnance Survey mapping dating from 1888 to 1967. These features are also visible on available LiDAR imagery of the area and were identified during the preceding geophysical survey.

## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Dan Riley, assisted by Rachel Alexander, Dominic Allen, Richard Knight and Ben Carrick. This report was written by Joao Heitor. The

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finds and biological evidence reports were written by Laura Pearson and Andy Clarke. The report illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Molly Agnew-Henshaw. The project was managed for CA by Adrian Scruby.

## 10. REFERENCES

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Oxbow Books

## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench #	Context	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	layer		Topsoil	Friable Dark grey, brown Silty clay 1% small, rounded stones 1-5mm	50	1.8	0.34
1	101	layer		Subsoil	Friable Light grey, brown Silty clay 5% small, rounded stones 1-10mm	50	1.8	0.2
1	102	layer		Colluvial Layer	Compact Mid brown, orange Silty clay 5% small, rounded stones 1-10mm	50	1.8	0.38
1	103	layer		Natural	Compact Mixed mid brown, orange with yellowish blue patches Silty clay 10% small, rounded stones 1-5mm, 1% large sub-rounded stones 30-50mm	50	1.8	
2	200	layer		Topsoil	Friable Dark grey, brown Silty clay 10% small, rounded stones 1-10mm	50	1.8	0.34
2	201	layer		Natural	Compact Mixed mid brownish orange with yellowish blue patches Silty clay 10% small, rounded stones	50	1.8	
3	300	layer		Topsoil	Friable Dark greyish brown Silty clay 1% small, rounded stones 1-5mm	50	1.8	0.36
3	301	layer		Natural	Compact Mid brownish orange with blue grey patches silty clay 5% small, rounded stones 1-5mm	50	1.8	
4	400	layer		Topsoil	Friable Dark greyish brown Silty clay 1% small, rounded stones 1-3mm	50	1.8	0.3
4	401	layer		Natural	Compact Mid brownish yellow with blue grey patches silty clay 5% small, rounded stones 1-10mm	50	1.8	
5	500	layer		Topsoil	Friable Dark greyish brown Silty clay 10% small, rounded stones 1-5mm	50	1.8	0.32
5	501	layer		Natural	Compact Light brown yellowish with blue grey patches Silty clay 5% small, rounded stones 1-5mm	50	1.8	
6	600	layer		Topsoil	Friable Dark greyish brown Silty clay 1% small, rounded stones 1-5mm	50	1.8	0.37
6	601	layer		Natural	Compact Mid brown yellowish with blue grey	50	1.8	

					patches Silty clay 5% small, rounded stones 1-10mm			
7	700	layer		Topsoil	Friable Dark greyish brown Silty clay 1% small, rounded stones 1-5mm	50	1.8	0.36
7	701	layer		Natural	Compact Mid brown yellowish with blue grey patches Silty clay 5% small, rounded stones 1-10mm	50	1.8	
8	800	layer		Topsoil	Friable Dark greyish brown Silty clay 1% small, rounded stones 1-5mm	50	1.8	0.32
8	801	layer		Natural	Compact Mid brownish yellow with blue grey patches Silty clay 5% small, rounded stones 1-10mm	50	1.8	
9	900	layer		Topsoil	Friable Dark greyish brown Silty clay 5% small, rounded stones	50	1.8	0.33
9	901	layer		Natural	Compact Mid brownish orange with blue grey patches Silty clay 25% small rounded	50	1.8	
9	902	cut		Plough Furrow	Linear E-W with shallow concave and flat	1.8	2.3	0.2
9	903	fill	902	Secondary Fill	Hard mid red brown silty clay 5 % sub angular stone	1.8	2.3	0.2
9	904	cut		Ditch	Linear E-W with moderate straight sides and concave base	1.8	0.8	0.25
9	905	fill	904	Secondary Fill	Soft mid greyish brown silty clay -	1.8	0.8	0.25
10	1000	layer		Topsoil	Friable Dark greyish brown Silty clay 5% small, rounded stones 1-5mm	50	1.8	0.37
10	1001	layer		Natural	Compact Mid brownish orange with blue grey patches Silty clay 25% small, rounded stones 1-5mm	50	1.8	
11	1100	layer		Topsoil	Friable Dark greyish brown Silty clay 1% small, rounded stones 1-5mm	50	1.8	0.27
11	1101	layer		Subsoil	Friable Mid orangish brown Silty clay 5% small, rounded stones 1-5mm	50	1.8	0.24
11	1102	layer		Natural	Compact Mid brownish orange with blue grey patches Silty clay 5% small, rounded stones 1-5mm, 1% large sub-rounded stones 40-60mm	50	1.8	
12	1200	layer		Topsoil	Friable Dark greyish brown Silty clay 5% small, rounded stones 1-3mm	50	1.8	0.24



12	1201	layer		Subsoil	Friable Light orange yellow Silty clay 5% small, rounded stones 1-3mm	50	1.8	0.23
12	1202	layer		Colluvial Layer	Compact Mid brownish orange Silty clay 5% small, rounded stones 1-10mm, 1% large sub-rounded stones 40-60mm	40	0.8	0.31
12	1203	layer		Natural	Compact Mid brownish yellow Silty clay 5% small, rounded stones 1-5mm	10	1.8	
13	1300	layer		Topsoil	Loose mid greyish brown silty clay infrequent (5-10%) small (1-6cm) round stones	50	1.8	0.28
13	1301	layer		Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orangey brown silty clay infrequent (5-10%) small (1-6cm) round stones infrequent (<1%) chalk flakes	50	1.8	0.21
13	1302	layer		Natural	Compact light pinkish blueish brown on SE side changing to mid brownish orange on NW side Silty clay 25% small to large stones 1-30mm	50	1.8	
13	1303	cut		Ditch	E-W linear with gentle concave sides and concave base	1.8	0.6	0.12
13	1304	fill	1303	Secondary Fill	Compact light grey-orange silty clay subangular ironstone (1%, 20-50mm), surrounded limestone (5%, 20-70mm)	1.8	0.6	0.12
13	1305	fill	1309	Other Fill	Firm mid greenish grey clayey silt moderate gravel, occasional charcoal, medium sized peddles, Iron stone fragments, shattered flint and animal bone, rare pot, and worked stone (retained as SF1)	1.8m	3.07	0.39
13	1306	fill	1309	Other Fill	Plastic mid blueish yellow with grey tinge silty clay occasional lenses of materials similar to above (1305), possibly caused by bioturbation, rare charcoal, pot and animal bone	1.8m	1.9	0.5
13	1307	fill	1309	Other Fill	Firm mid grayish blue clayey silt moderate gravel and dull orange mottled, occasional charcoal and animal bone, rare pot	1.8m	2	0.42
13	1308	fill	1309	Primary Fill	Plastic mid greenish yellow with blue tinge	1.8m	1.2	0.34

					silty clay occasional charcoal			
13	1309	cut		Ditch	NW-SE linear with outside edge has a gentle break of slope top (likely due to erosion), steep side and rounded break of slope base, the inside edge has a sharp break of slope top, steep sides which turn gentle after roughly 0.5m and a gentle break of slope and concave base	1.8m	3.07	0.85
13	1310	fill	1311	Other Fill	Firm mid grayish brown clayey silt moderate gravel and occasional charcoal	4m	0.5	0.1
13	1311	cut		Ditch	NW-SE linear (or possibly curvilinear) with sharp break of slope top, moderate sides, gentle break of slope base and concave	4m	0.5	0.1
14	1400	layer		Topsoil	Friable Dark greyish brown Silty clay 10% small stones 1-5mm	50	1.8	0.26
14	1401	layer		Natural	Compact Mixed mid brownish orange with yellowish blue clay 25% small stones 1-5mm and 1% large stone 40-60mm natural layer	50	1.8	
14	1402	cut		Ditch	NW-SE linear with straight moderate slope slightly stepped on SE side and semi rounded base	1	2.3	0.88
14	1403	fill	1402	Primary Fill	Compact light yellowish brownish grey Clay 5% semi round mid-size ironstones	1	1.1	0.08
14	1404	fill	1402	Secondary Fill	Compact mid greyish reddish Silty clay 10% mid-sized semi rounded ironstones <5% charcoal	1	2.3	0.55
14	1405	fill	1402	Secondary Fill	Compact mid Brownish grey Clay	1	1.84	0.44
14	1406	cut		Ditch	NE-SE Linear with Steep concave edges and Base not excavated stopped at 1.2	1	2.25	0.85
14	1407	fill	1406	Secondary Fill	Compact Mid brown, grey Silty clay 25% medium angular stones 25-30mm, 5% chalk flecks	1	2.25	0.85

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds Concordance

Context	Class	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
1305	Late prehistoric pottery	Medium sandy shell-tempered fabric	QSH2	3	14	MIA-LIA
	Late prehistoric pottery	Medium shell-tempered fabric	SH2	3	7	
	Late prehistoric pottery	Shelly grog-tempered fabric	SHGR	3	53	
	Stone	Quern stone		1	1241	
1306	Late prehistoric pottery	Shelly grog-tempered fabric	SHGR	1	3	MIA-LIA
1307	Late prehistoric pottery	Coarse shell-tempered fabric	SH3	3	21	MIA-LIA
	Late prehistoric pottery	Shelly grog-tempered fabric	SHGR	1	12	
1404	Late prehistoric pottery	Fine sandy shell-tempered fabric	QSH1	3	21	MIA-LIA
	Late prehistoric pottery	Medium sandy shell-tempered fabric	QSH2	1	3	
	Late prehistoric pottery	Fine shell-tempered fabric	SH1	2	11	
	Late prehistoric pottery	Medium shell-tempered fabric	SH2	5	38	
	Late prehistoric pottery	Coarse shell-tempered fabric	SH3	18	57	
1405	Late prehistoric pottery	Fine sandy shell-tempered fabric	QSH1	1	4	IA
	Late prehistoric pottery	Coarse shell-tempered fabric	SH3	1	6	
1407	Late prehistoric pottery	Fine sandy shell-tempered fabric	QSH1	2	23	MIA-LIA
	Late prehistoric pottery	Shelly grog-tempered fabric	SHGR	4	6	
	Flint	Flakes		2	3	

Table 2: Summary fabric descriptions and concordance

Class	Description	Fabric Code	Leicestershire Fabric Codes**	Count	Weight (g)
Late prehistoric pottery	Fine sandy shell-tempered fabric	QSH1	CG2A	6	48
	Medium sandy shell-tempered fabric	QSH2	CG2A	4	17
	Fine shell-tempered fabric	SH1	CG1A	2	11
	Medium shell-tempered fabric	SH2	CG1A	8	45
	Coarse shell-tempered fabric	SH3	CG3A	22	84
	Shelly grog-tempered fabric	SHGR	MG2	5	68
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>51</b>	<b>279</b>

\*\* Leicestershire pottery fabric series (Clay and Pollard 1994)

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## APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

**Table 1:** Number of Identifiable Specimens (NISP) by fragment count and weight and context.

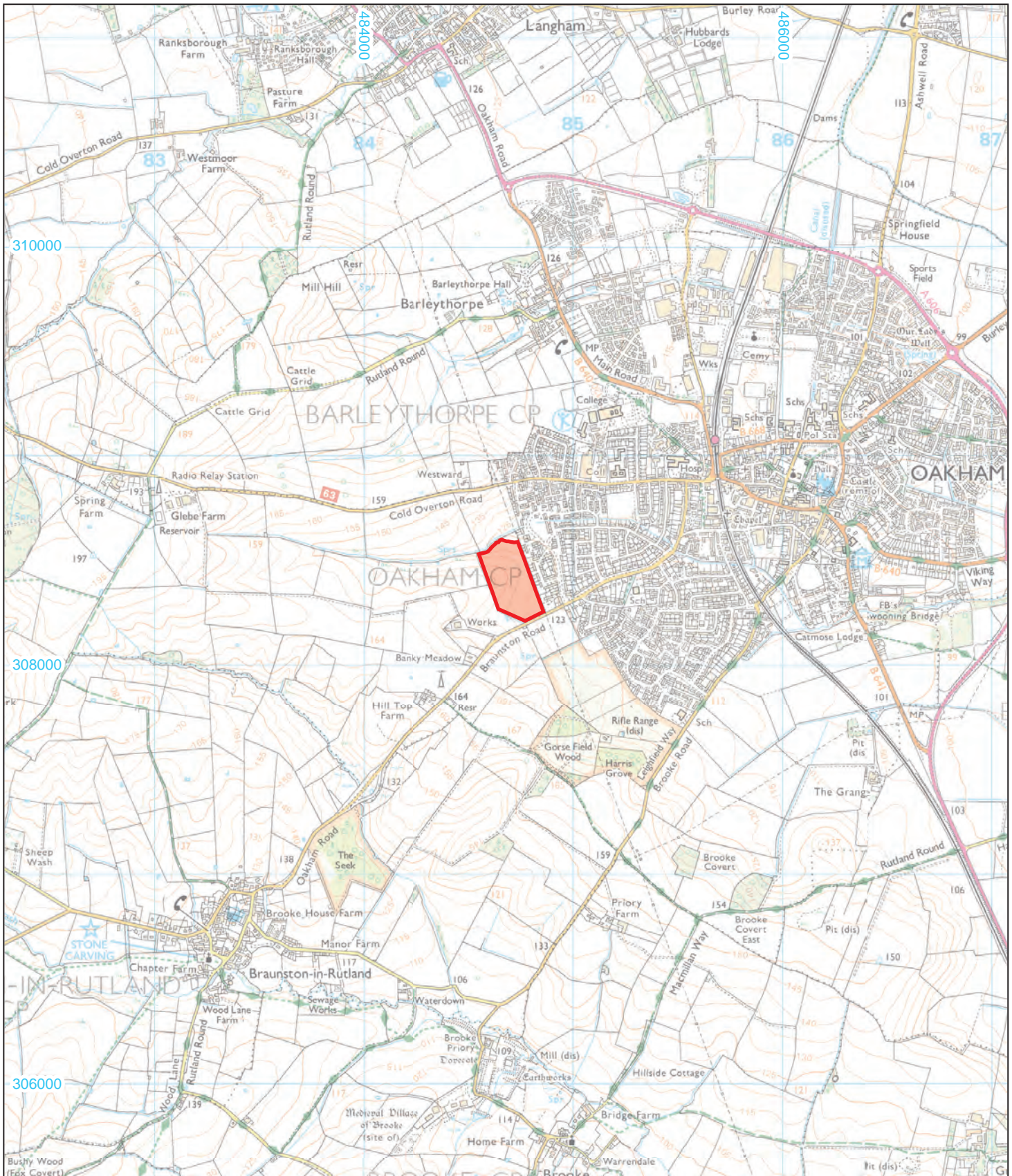
Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	SUS	EQ	LM	Total	Weight (g)
1309	1305	2			3	35	40	320
1309	1307		1			13	14	99
1402	1404	4	3	2			9	486
1402	1405	7	3				10	392
1406	1407	4					4	238
<b>Total</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>77</b>	
<b>Weight</b>		<b>1133</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>1535</b>	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; SUS = pig; EQ – horse; LM = large size mammal

## APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Land at Braunston Road, Oakham, Rutland	
Short description	<p>In June 2023, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Braunston Road, Oakham, Rutland. A total of 14 trenches were excavated across the 4.79ha portion of the site which is earmarked for development, equating to a 3% sample. Trenches were across the proposed development footprint in the eastern half of the site, and positioned to investigate a rectilinear geophysical anomaly interpreted as a likely enclosure in the western portion of the site. The fieldwork results confirmed those of the preceding geophysical survey, with the rectilinear anomaly correlating with ditches crossing trenches 13 and 14. These produced pottery dating to the Middle to Late Iron Age. A quern stone fragment and an assemblage of animal bone was also recovered, including bones commonly associated with the waste from the early stages of the butchery process.</p> <p>Cropmarks recorded by the HER to the west of the site suggest that the enclosure formed part of a wider field/ enclosure system. The presence of the quern stone fragment and evidence for early-stage butchery waste further suggests that the enclosure was located in relative proximity to domestic and/or food processing areas.</p> <p>The remains of several blocks of ridge and furrow were recorded across the site, corresponding to anomalies recorded by the preceding geophysical survey and available LiDAR data. A former field boundary ditch identified by the geophysical survey and visible on historic mapping and LiDAR imagery was identified in trench 9. Based on historic mapping of the area the ditch was dated to between 1888 - 1967.</p>	
Project dates	20–23 June 2023	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Heritage Appraisal (CA 2021) Geophysical survey (SUMO 2021)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site location	Land at Braunston Road, Oakham, Rutland	
Study area (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)	4.79ha	
Site co-ordinates	484670 308430	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Adrian Scruby	
Project Supervisor	Daniel Riley	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	Iron Age enclosure	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical	Rutland County Museum	Pottery and animal bone
Paper	Rutland County Museum	Section drawings, context sheets
Digital	Archaeological Data Service (ADS)	Database, digital photos etc
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Cotswold Archaeology 2023 <i>Land at Braunston Road, Oakham, Rutland: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report MK0918_1		





 Site boundary



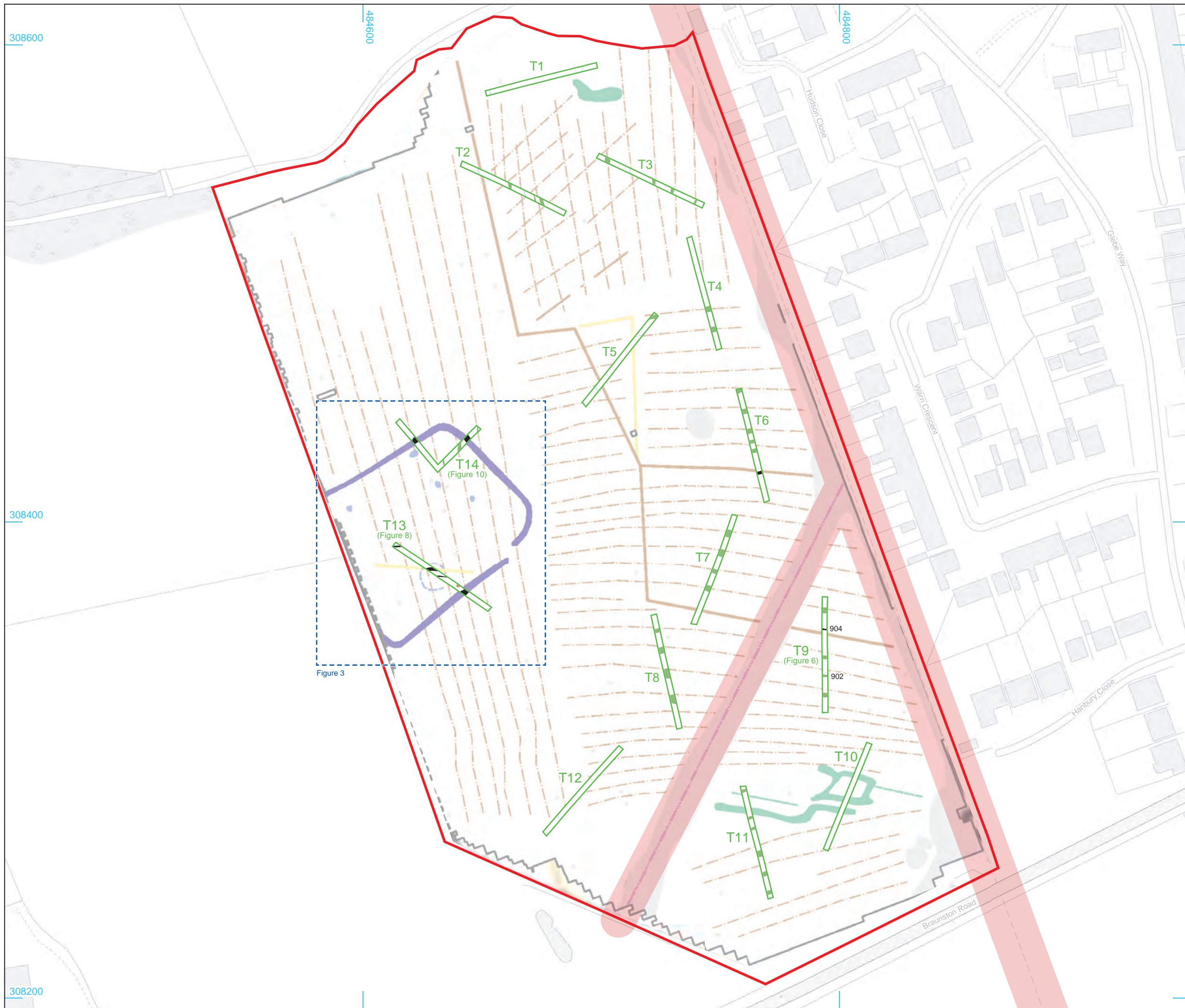
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Braunston Road, Oakham,  
 Rutland

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	MK0918	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	20/07/2023	1
APPROVED BY	JH	SCALE	@A4 1:25,000	





- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Furrow
- Drain
- Natural
- Service buffer

- Geophysical survey results (SUMO 2021)*
- Survey boundary
  - Probable archaeology
  - Possible archaeology
  - Uncertain origin
  - Former field boundary (corroborated / conjectural)
  - Ferrous
  - Agricultural
  - Service



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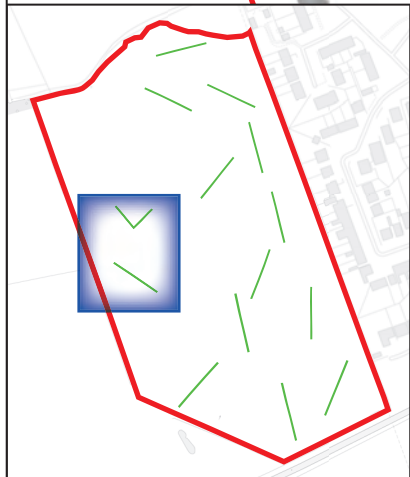
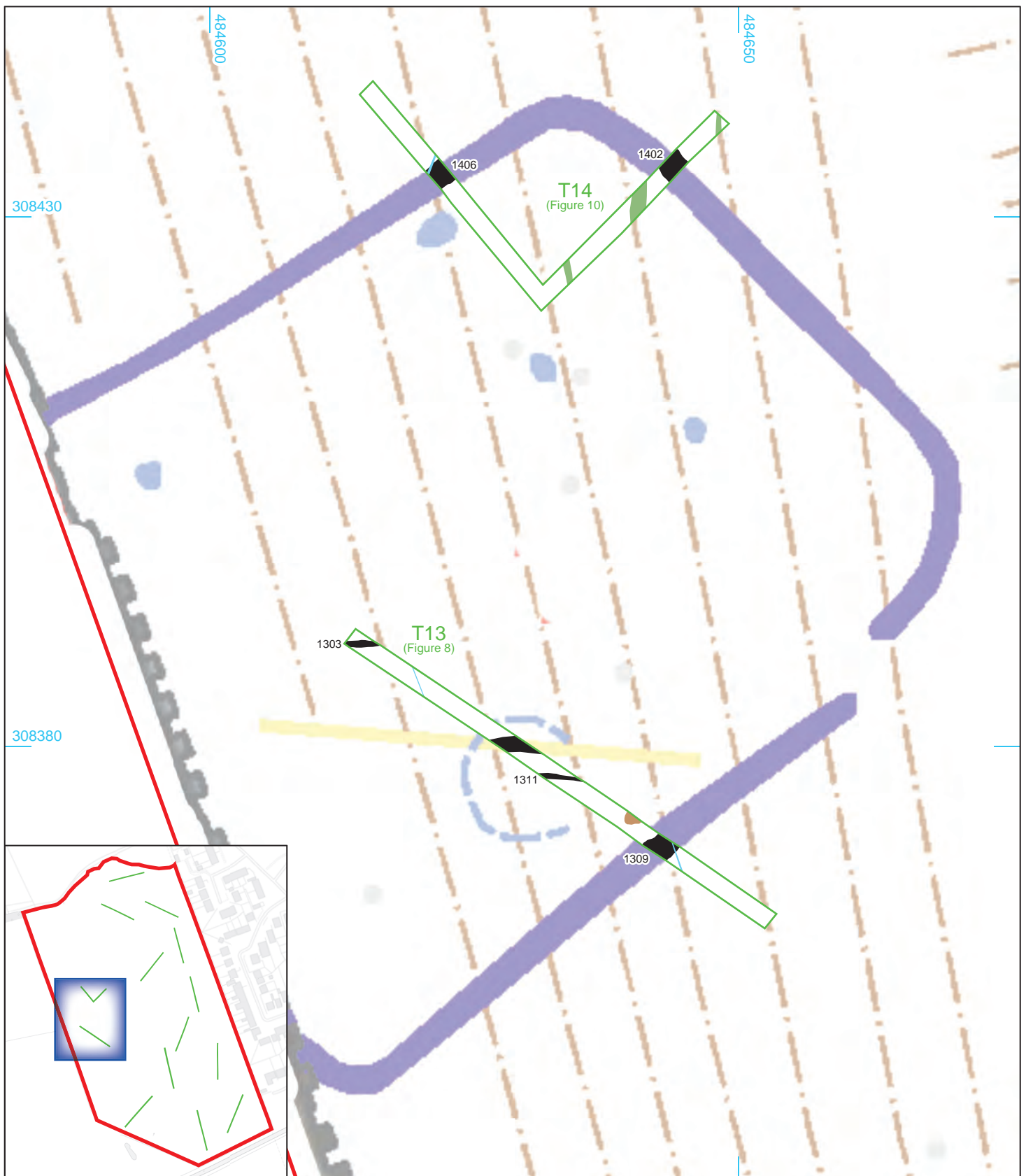
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Braunston Road, Oakham, Rutland

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 The site, showing evaluation trenches, geophysical survey results and identified archaeological features

<small>DRAWN BY</small> RW	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> MK0918	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 20/07/2023	<b>2</b>
<small>APPROVED BY</small> JH	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:1500	





- Site boundary
  - Evaluation trench
  - Archaeological feature
  - Furrow
  - Drain
  - Natural
- Geophysical survey results (SUMO 2021)*
- Survey boundary
  - Probable archaeology
  - Possible archaeology
  - Former field boundary (corroborated / conjectural)
  - Agricultural



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*PROJECT TITLE*

Land at Braunston Road, Oakham, Rutland

*FIGURE TITLE*

**Detail from western part of site, showing trenches, geophysical survey results and identified archaeological features**

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 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 20/07/2023  
 APPROVED BY JH SCALE@A4 1:500

*FIGURE NO.*

**3**







Trench 1, looking west (1m scales)



Trench 10, looking north-east (1m scales)



Trench 12, looking north-east (1m scales)


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PROJECT TITLE  
**Land at Braunston Road, Oakham,  
 Rutland**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Selection of blank trenches  
 photographs**

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	MK0918	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	20/07/2023	4
APPROVED BY	JH	SCALE	@A3 NA	





Trench 2, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 3, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 6, looking north (1m scales)



Trench 11, looking south (1m scales)

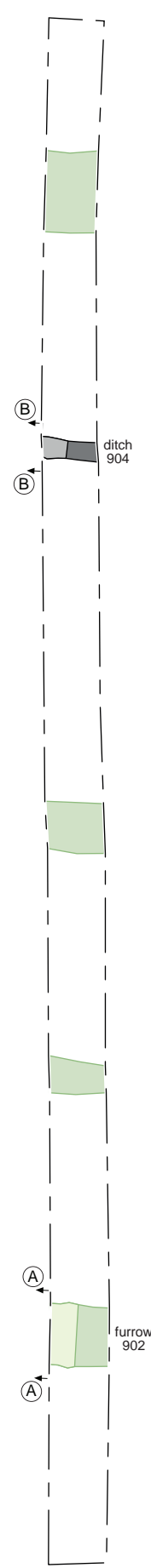

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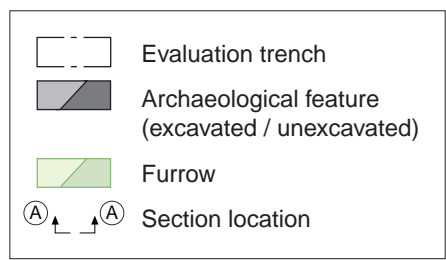
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 Selection of trenches with furrows  
 only: photographs

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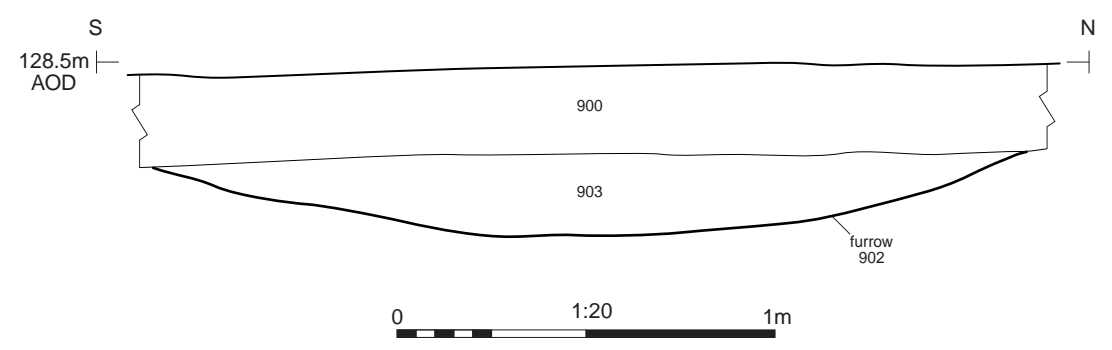




Trench 9



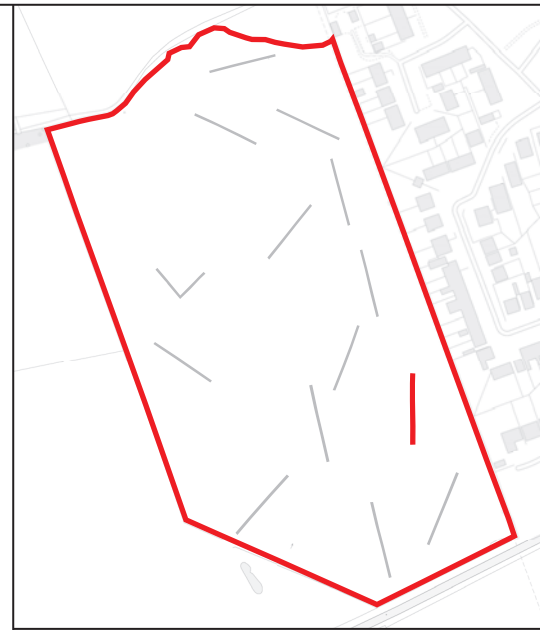
Section AA



Trench 9, looking north (1m scales)



Furrow 902, looking west (1m scale)



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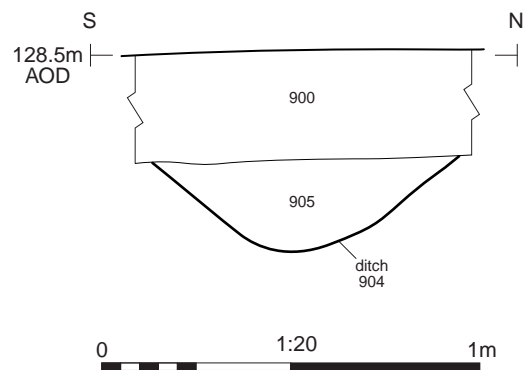
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 Land at Braunston Road, Oakham,  
 Rutland

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 9: plan, section and  
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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	20/07/2023	6
APPROVED BY	JH	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	



Section BB



Ditch 904, looking west (0.4m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

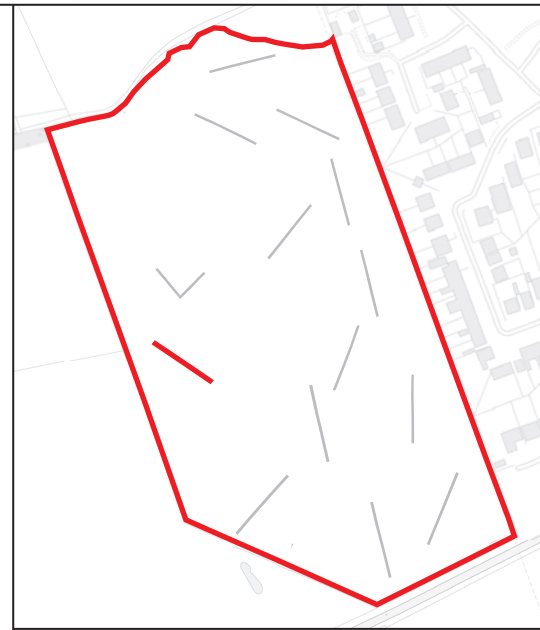
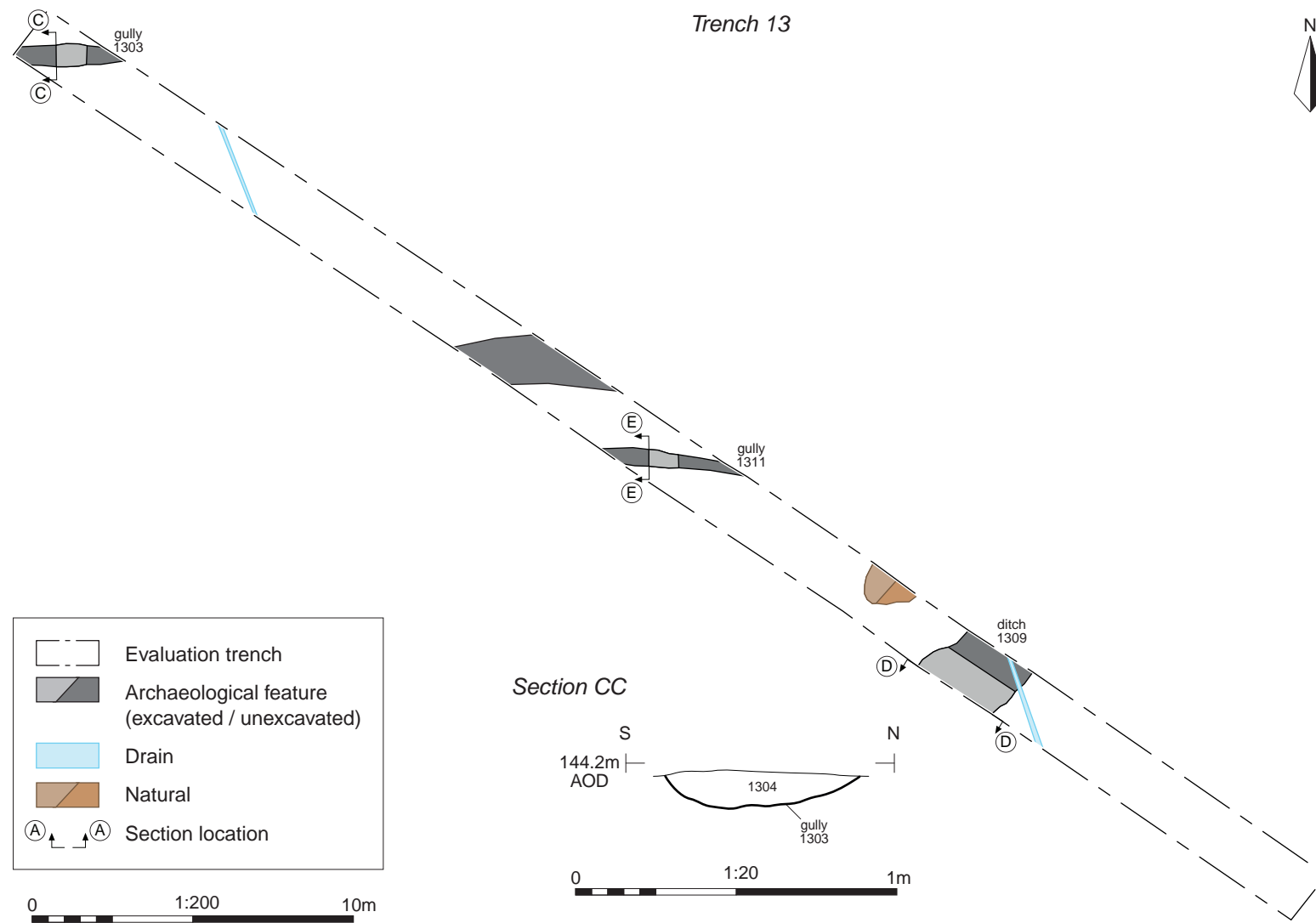
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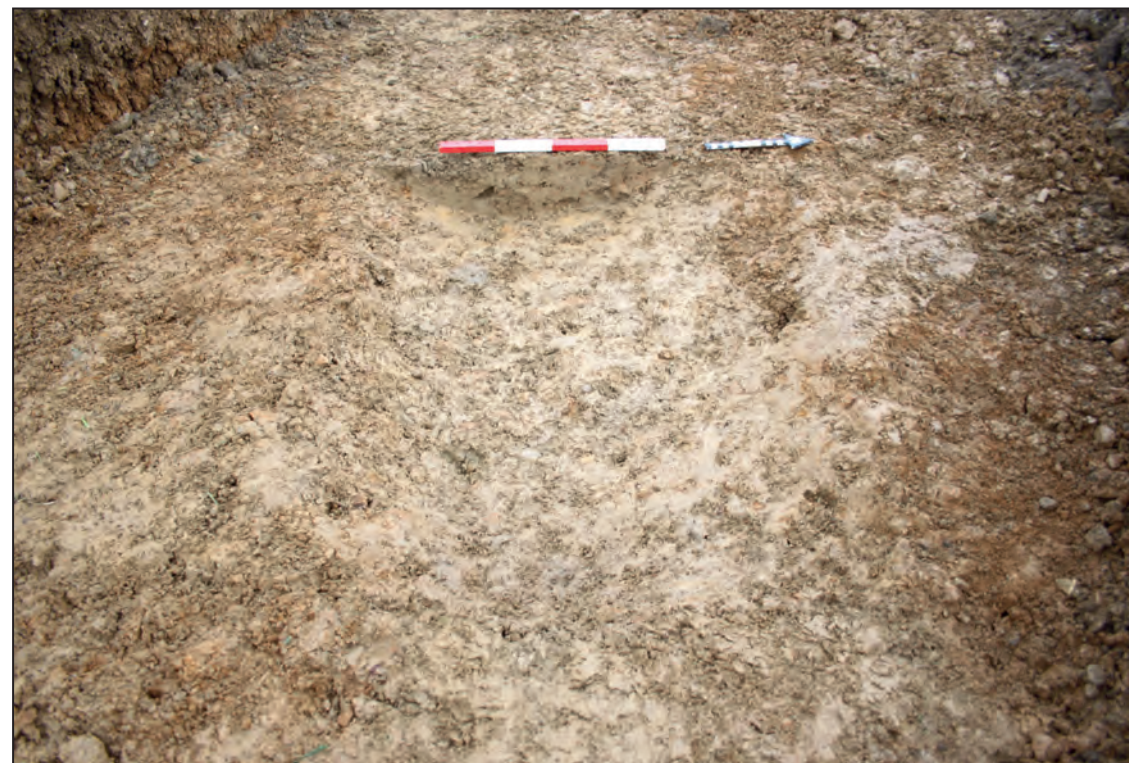
FIGURE NO.

**7**





Trench 13, looking south-east (1m scales)



Gully 1303, looking west (0.4m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE  
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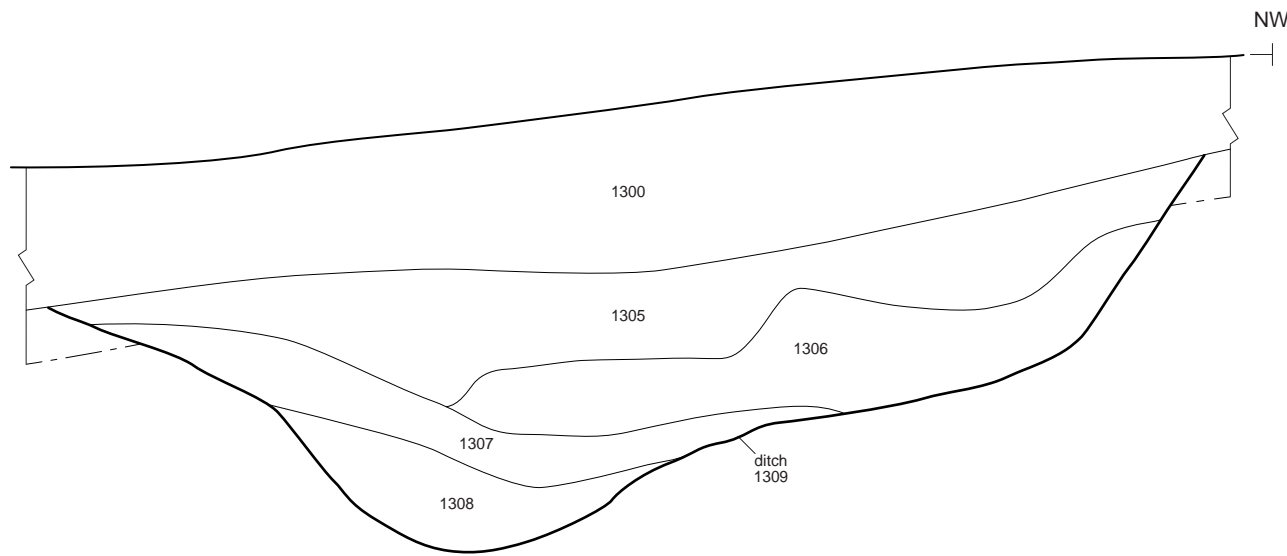
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**Trench 13: plan, section and photographs**

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APPROVED BY	JH	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	



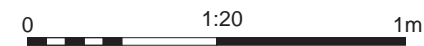
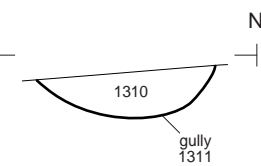
Section DD

SE  
142.1m  
AOD



Section EE

S  
142.7m  
AOD



Ditch 1309, looking south-west (1m scales)



Gully 1311, looking west (0.4m scale)

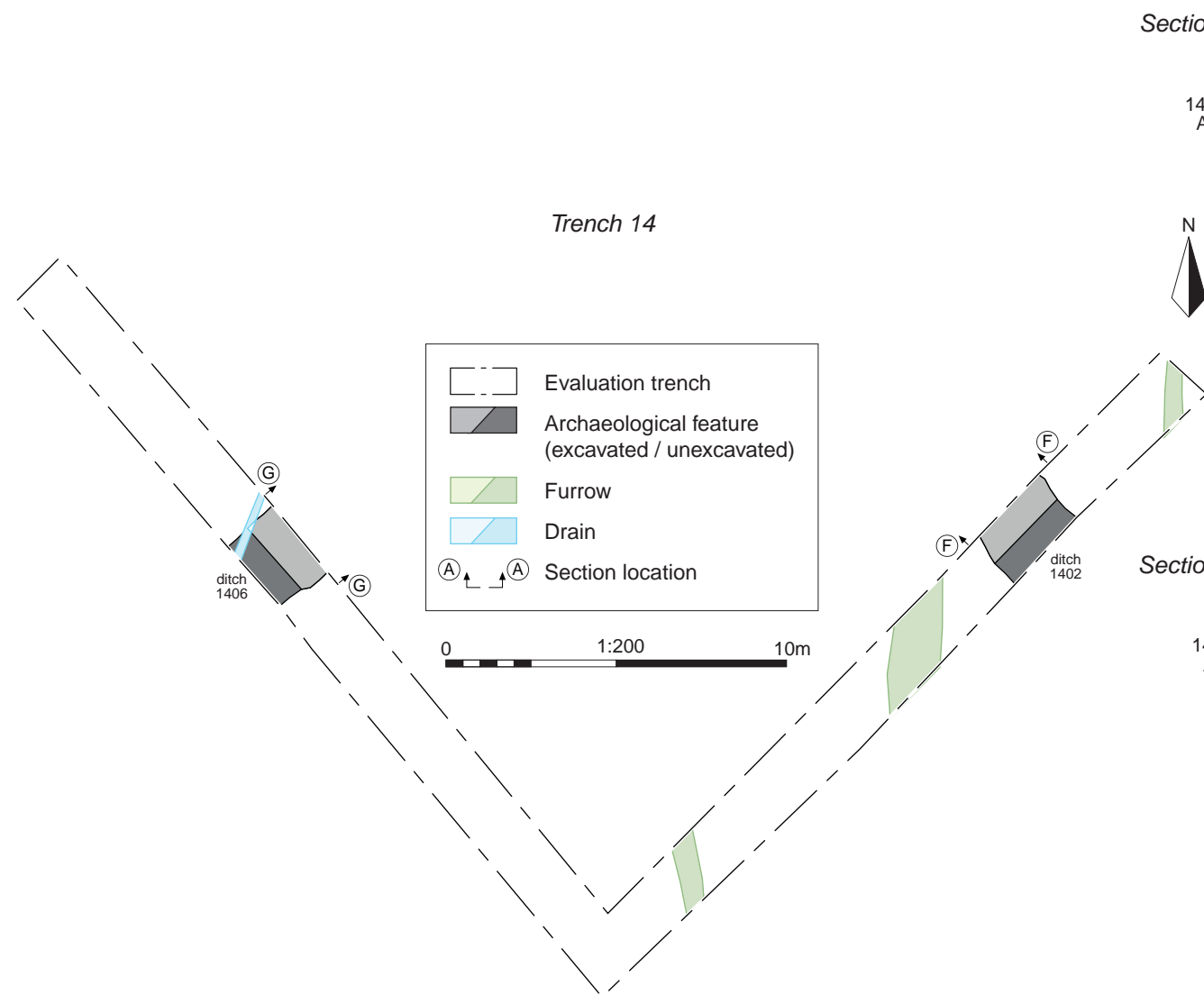

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PROJECT TITLE  
**Land at Braunston Road, Oakham, Rutland**

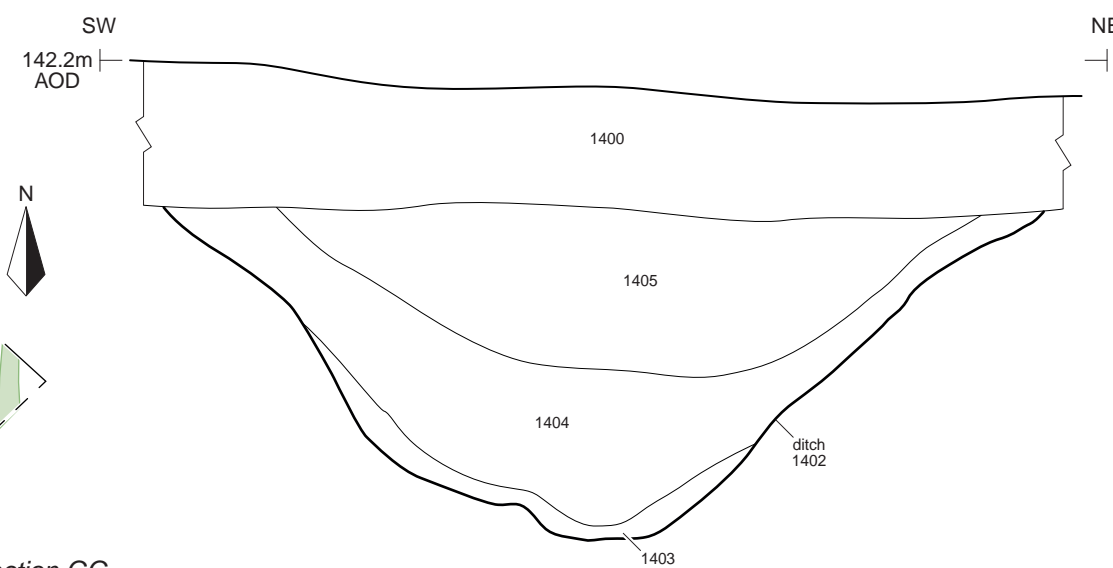
FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 13: sections and photographs**

DRAWN BY	<b>RW</b>	PROJECT NO.	<b>MK0918</b>	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	<b>DJB</b>	DATE	<b>20/07/2023</b>	<b>9</b>
APPROVED BY	<b>JH</b>	SCALE	<b>@A3 1:20</b>	

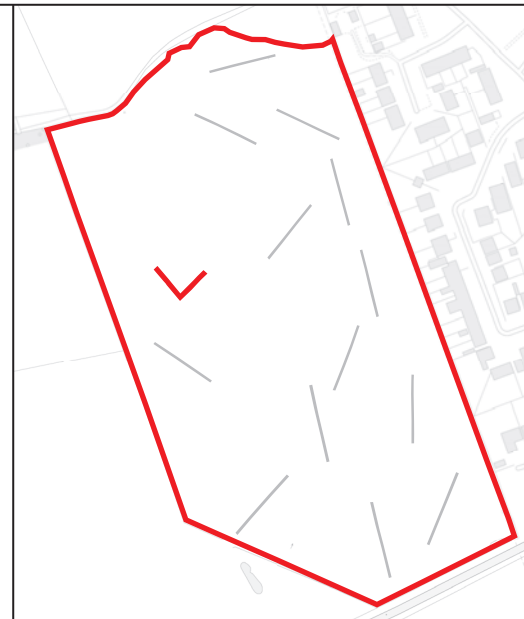
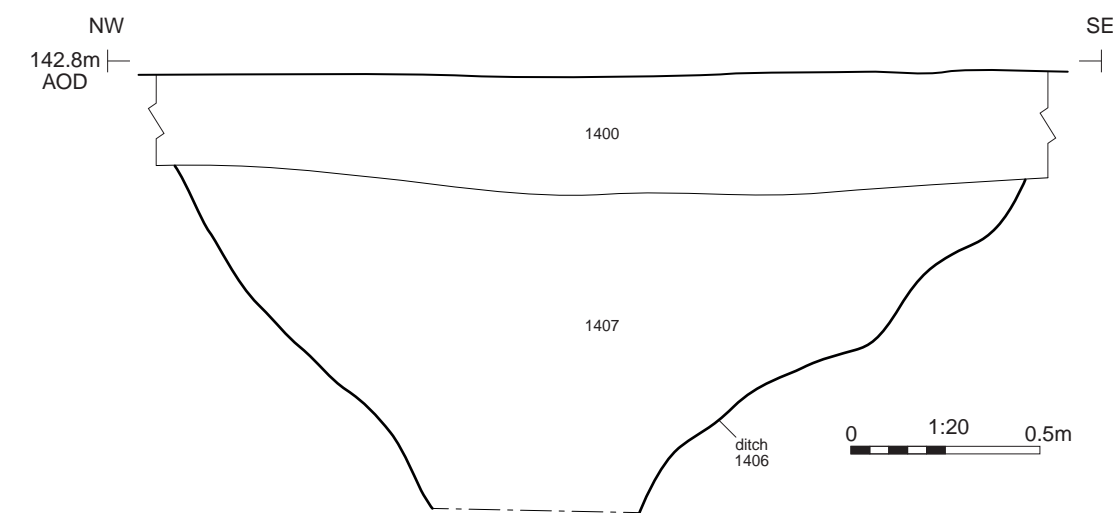




**Section FF**



**Section GG**



Ditch 1402, looking north-west (2m scale)



Ditch 1406, looking north-east (2m scale)

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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Braunston Road, Oakham, Rutland

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench 14: plan, sections and photographs

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	MK0918	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	20/07/2023	10
APPROVED BY	JH	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	



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