

**LAND AT M1 JUNCTION 21A
GLENFIELD AND KIRBY MUXLOE
LEICESTERSHIRE**

ADDITIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

PEGASUS PLANNING

on behalf of

WILSON BOWDEN DEVELOPMENTS

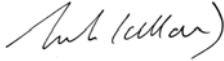
CA PROJECT: 3118
CA REPORT: 10096

JULY 2010

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CA PROJECT: 3118
CA REPORT: 10096

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date	7 July 2010
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signed	
date	7 July 2010
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at M1 Junction 21a
Location: Glenfield and Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire
NGR: SK 5400 0535
Type: Evaluation
Date: 1-4 June 2010
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Leicester County Council Heritage Services
Site Code: KMX 10

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2010 on land at M1 Junction 21a, Glenfield and Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire. Eleven trenches were excavated.

An undated ditch was identified in Trench 2. A further undated ditch, probably representing a field boundary, was identified in Trench 4. Evidence of medieval and/or post-medieval agricultural practice, comprising a series of furrows, was identified in the majority of the remaining excavated trenches in the north-eastern part of the site.

Geophysical anomalies targeted by Trenches 3, 7 and 11 were demonstrated to be of modern origin. Evidence of modern ground make-up/landscaping was identified in Trenches 4 and 5.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Pegasus Planning on behalf of Wilson Bowden Developments on land at M1 Junction 21a, Glenfield and Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire (centred on NGR: SK 5400 0535; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken as part of a programme of additional archaeological works required to inform a planning application for the development of the site as one of the options to accommodate employment/housing growth in Blaby District Council's *Core Strategy Document* (published December 2008).
- 1.2 Discussions between CA and Mr Richard Clark, Senior Planning Archaeologist and Ms Lucy Griffin, Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council (LCC), the archaeological advisors to Blaby District Council, had indicated that a programme of archaeological works, including evaluation, would be required prior to the determination of a planning application for the development of the site. The first phase of archaeological evaluation, within the central part of the site (Field 3) was undertaken in September 2009 (CA 2009a). Following the completion of the first phase of archaeological evaluation a small archaeological excavation was undertaken to recover a number of iron vessels identified during the evaluation. Mr Richard Clark and Ms Lucy Griffin indicated that additional trial trenching was required to inform the planning application. This request arose from a consultation response from Mr Clark and Ms Griffin, and is additional to the scope of works agreed during the pre-application discussions.
- 1.3 A detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by CA (2010) and approved by Mr Clark. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE)* (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Ms Griffin, including a site visit on 3 June 2010.

The site

- 1.4 The site is approximately 63ha in area, and comprises four parcels of agricultural land to the north of Junction 21A of the M1 Motorway. The western edge of the site is bounded by the M1 and the A46, and the parcels are divided by the B5380 and the A46 link road. The current evaluation site is split into two areas within the overall

development area (Figs 1 and 2). Fields 1 and 2 are located immediately to the west of Glenfield, and are approximately 2.5ha in area; they are currently under arable cultivation. Fields 4 to 6 are located immediately to the east of the B5380 and total approximately 5ha in area. The fields are currently used as rough pasture land.

- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Mercia Mudstone of the Triassic era, which is overlain by Glacial Boulder clay (BGS 1975, 1982). The natural substrate, comprising mid brown red sandy clay with frequent mudstone fragments, was identified in all excavated trenches.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 The archaeological potential of the site has been investigated in an archaeological Desk Based Assessment (DBA) by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2009b). Subsequently geophysical survey (PCG 2009) and archaeological evaluation (CA 2009a) were undertaken. The results of these works are summarised below.
- 1.7 Prehistoric and Romano-British settlement and funerary activity (including a Bronze Age barrow) has been recorded to the west of the current evaluation area (LAU 1993). Late Bronze Age activity has also been identified to the south-east of the site (Tura 1982).
- 1.8 The putative line of the *Via Devana* Roman road crosses north-west/south-east through the northern area of the site (outside the current evaluation area) and there may be potential for remains of this to survive below ground (Margary 1973). Conceivably, there may also be potential for associated road-side settlement adjacent to the Roman Road.
- 1.9 In addition, Roman kiln material has been recovered during surface collection within the southern part of the site but no kiln sites have been identified to date (LAU 1995)
- 1.10 Medieval activity in the vicinity appears to have been focused outside the site, at Glenfield to the east and Kirby Muxloe to the west (CA 2009b). Now-removed medieval ridge and furrow earthworks are visible within the site on 1940s aerial photographs and a limited amount of medieval surface material has been recorded within the site. A small area of extant ridge and furrow survives in the central area of the site.

- 1.11 Detailed magnetometry geophysical survey was carried out over suitable areas of the southern three parcels of the site in May and June 2009 (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2009). Anomalies with the greatest potential to represent archaeological features were identified in the centre of the site (Field 3), to the north-east of a known area of prehistoric settlement. The strongest of these comprised a possible ring ditch, c. 20m in diameter and containing a possible area of burning. Other weaker anomalies in the same field potentially represented similar features. Roman kiln material has previously been recorded during field walking within the site and the potential for the presence of a pottery production site was highlighted in the DBA. Given this potential, a number of anomalies which could represent kiln sites were tentatively identified in the geophysical survey. However, these anomalies could equally represent post-medieval/modern dumps of miscellaneous ceramic material (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2009, 4).
- 1.12 A number of weaker anomalies, potentially representing pits and a small number of potential ditches, were also identified, predominantly in the central and eastern parts of the evaluation area, although a natural origin for these features was also thought possible (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2009, 4). Anomalies associated with the below-ground remains of ridge and furrow earthworks were identified in the central and eastern areas of the evaluation area (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2009, 6). Many of these corresponded with earthworks visible on historic aerial photographs. The geophysical survey also identified an anomaly consistent with brick-infilling of a putative quarry site visible on historic aerial photographs. A number of anomalies including potential pits and kilns, the remains of ridge and furrow earthworks and former field boundaries were identified within the current evaluation area (PCG 2009).
- 1.13 The first phase of archaeological evaluation identified archaeological features across the majority of the central part of the site. A single possible Bronze Age pit and a number of Middle Iron Age features were identified within the central part of the evaluation area. A number of the Middle Iron Age features contained large quantities of pottery and a ditch dating to this period contained the remains of an iron vessel (CA 2009). Subsequent excavation of the feature which contained the iron vessel (as required by Mr Richard Clark) identified a total of three iron vessels which were subsequently declared to be *Treasure*.

- 1.14 Evidence for limited Roman activity was identified within the southern part of the evaluation area. Features relating to the agricultural use of this site during the medieval and post-medieval periods were also identified (CA 2009a).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.15 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist in the assessment of the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.16 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 11 trenches measuring 20m in length and 1.8m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The trenches targeted anomalies identified during the geophysical survey. Trench 4 was shortened to 15m in length due to its proximity between two hedged field boundaries.
- 1.17 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.18 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003). However, no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.19 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Leicester County Council Heritage Services, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-5)

2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.

General Stratigraphy

2.2 The natural geological substrate within each of the trenches comprised brown red sandy clay with frequent stone fragments. In Trenches 1-3 and 6-11 the natural substrate was overlain by a sandy silt topsoil c. 0.2m-0.3m in thickness

2.3 In Trench 4 the natural substrate was overlain by a buried subsoil c. 0.12m in thickness and a buried topsoil c. 0.40m in thickness. These deposits were truncated by ditch 4005 which was in turn sealed by a modern make-up deposit measuring c. 0.6m in thickness. This deposit was in turn sealed by topsoil.

2.4 In Trench 5 the natural substrate was overlain by a buried topsoil c. 0.12m in thickness which was in turn overlain by modern make-up deposits totalling c.1.40m in thickness. These deposits were in turn sealed by topsoil.

2.5 In total three trenches, 1, 5 and 6, were devoid of archaeological features. A further three trenches, 8, 9 and 10, contained furrows dating to the medieval and/or post-medieval periods. Two Trenches, 3 and 11, contained features dating to the modern period. Geophysical anomalies targeted by trenches 3, 5, 7 and 11 were demonstrated to be modern in origin. The targeting of geophysical anomalies by Trenches 1, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10 revealed no archaeological features or deposits. All identified archaeological features cut the natural substrate.

Trench 2 (Figs 4 & 5)

2.6 Ditch 204, orientated north-east/south-west, was located towards the north-western end of the trench and contained a single undated fill 203. It had a shallow U-shaped profile and was sealed by subsoil.

Trench 4 (Figs 4 & 5)

2.7 Ditch 405, orientated north-west/south-west, was located towards the eastern end of the trench and contained two undated fills. It cut both buried topsoil 403 and buried subsoil 402 and corresponded to the alignment of an existing field boundary ditch immediately to the east of the trench.

The Finds and Palaeoenvironmental Evidence

- 2.7 Small quantities of modern glass, modern and post-medieval pottery, and one iron object were recovered from two deposits. In addition, one unstratified pottery sherd was collected (Appendix B). The unstratified pottery sherd consisted of a coarse oxidised fabric, and is probably Derbyshire ware, dating to the Roman period.
- 2.8 Two pottery sherds were recovered from deposit 1104: one is a modern refined whiteware and the other is identifiable as a Staffordshire glazed earthenware of post-medieval date. Pottery from deposit 303 consists of two sherds of Nottingham/Derby stoneware. A glass milk bottle from this deposit indicates a 20th-century date.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation identified two undated ditches within the southern part of the evaluation area. Ditch 405 cut both buried topsoil 403 and buried subsoil 402. It also appeared to follow the alignment of an existing field boundary ditch immediately to the east of the trench, and would therefore appear to be relatively recent in date.
- 3.2 The archaeological features identified in the remaining trenches, located within the north-eastern part of the site, consisted entirely of medieval/post-medieval furrows along with a number of demonstrably modern features which, in general, corresponded to anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. Evidence of substantial, modern ground make-up/landscaping was identified in Trenches 4 and 5 and may relate to the construction of the M1 motorway and/or B3580 immediately to the west of the site.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Sheldon, assisted by Sam Hall, Michael Keetch and Luke Yates. The report was written by Steven Sheldon. The finds report was compiled by Angela Aggujaro. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Steven Sheldon, and prepared for deposition by Jon Hart. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

5. REFERENCES

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Tura, E. 1982 'A late Bronze Age site at Glenfield (SK 537054) – Interim Report, *The Leicester Archaeological and Historical Society LVIII 1981-2*, 81

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1; North-western end 81.07m AOD, South-eastern end 81.14m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil			0.31	
101	Layer	Natural			>0.08	

Trench 2 North-western end 81.22m AOD, south-eastern end 81.27m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil			0.24	
201	Layer	Natural			>0.14	
202	Fill	Fill of 203	>1.8	0.8	0.07	
203	Cut	Ditch	>1.8	0.8	0.07	

Trench 3 North-eastern end 80.98m AOD, south-western end 80.80m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil			0.42	
301	Layer	Natural			>0.02	
302	Cut	Modern ditch/pit	>1.8	7.5	N/A	
303	Fill	Fill of 302	>1.8	7.5	N/A	C20

Trench 4 Western end 83.88m AOD, eastern end 83.88m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Topsoil			0.29	
401	Layer	Modern make-up			0.6	
402	Layer	Buried topsoil			0.4	
403	Layer	Buried subsoil			0.12	
404	Layer	Natural			>0.05	
405	Cut	Ditch	>1.8	2.69	0.62	
406	Fill	Primary fill of 405	>1.8	2.69	0.42	
407	Fill	Secondary fill of 405	>1.8	2.69	0.2	

Trench 5 Western end 84.01m AOD, eastern end 84.09m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Topsoil			0.28	
501	Layer	Modern make-up			0.06	
502	Layer	Modern make-up			1.34	
503	Layer	Buried topsoil			0.12	
504	Layer	Natural			>0.14	

Trench 6 South-western end 80.85m AOD, north-eastern end 81.01m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Topsoil			0.28	

601	Layer	Natural			>0.08	
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Trench 7 South-western end 80.81m AOD, north-eastern end 80.77m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Layer	Topsoil			0.28	
701	Layer	Natural			>0.06	
702	Cut	Modern ditch/service trench	2.1	0.52	N/A	
703	Fill	Fill of 702	2.1	0.52	N/A	

Trench 8 North-western end 77.11m AOD, south-eastern end 78.02m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
800	Layer	Topsoil			0.36	
801	Layer	Natural			>0.02	

Trench 9 South-western end 78.10m AOD, north-eastern end 78.21m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
900	Layer	Topsoil			0.17	
901	Layer	Natural			>0.19	

Trench 10 North-eastern end 78.52m AOD, south-western end 78.71m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1000	Layer	Topsoil			0.26	
1001	Layer	Natural			>0.19	

Trench 11 North-eastern end 79.20m AOD, south-western end 79.17m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1100	Layer	Topsoil			0.45	
1101	Layer	Natural			>0.03	
1102	Cut	Modern ditch/pit	>1.8	8.4	>0.45	
1103	Fill	Secondary fill of 1102	>1.8	8.4	0.25	
1104	Fill	Primary fill of 1102, contained modern glass and metal	>1.8	>2.75	0.20	C19-C20

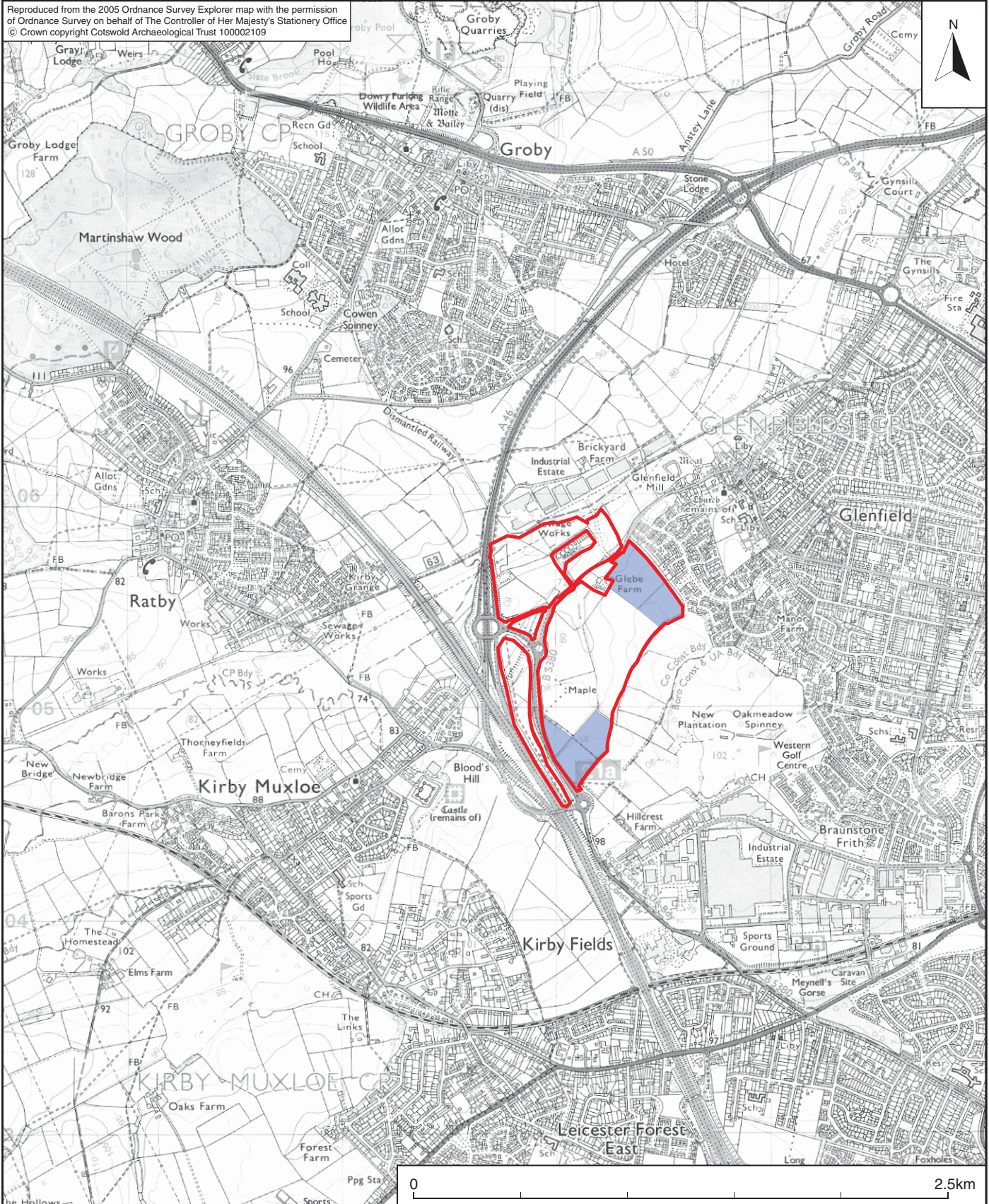
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Artefact type	Ct.	Wt.	Date
303	Modern glass bottle	1	494	C20
	Modern pottery: Nottingham stoneware	2	14	
1104	Fe object	1	15	C19-C20
	Post-medieval pottery/Modern pottery: refined white ware	2	8	
	Staffordshire glazed earthenware	1	3	
	Modern opaque glass			
u.s.	Roman pottery: Derbyshire ware?	1	17	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at M1 Junction 21A	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2010 on land at M1 Junction 21a, Glenfield and Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire, eleven trenches were excavated.</p> <p>An undated ditch was identified in Trench 2. A further undated ditch, probably representing a field boundary, was identified in Trench 4. Evidence of medieval and/or post-medieval agricultural practice, comprising a series of furrows, was identified in the majority of the remaining excavated trenches in the north-eastern part of the site.</p> <p>Geophysical anomalies targeted by Trenches 3, 7 and 11 were demonstrated to be of modern origin. Evidence of modern ground make-up/landscaping was identified in Trenches 4 and 5.</p>	
Project dates	1-4 June 2010	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-Based Assessment; Evaluation	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land at M1 Junction 21A, Glenfield and Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	7.5ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SK 5400 0535	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Steven Sheldon	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	Leicester Council Services	County Heritage Ceramics, glass
Paper	Leicester Council Services	County Heritage Context sheets, trench recording sheets, section drawings, trench plans, colour and black and white photographs
Digital	Leicester Council Services	County Heritage Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 <i>Land at M1 Junction 21A, Glenfield and Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 10096		

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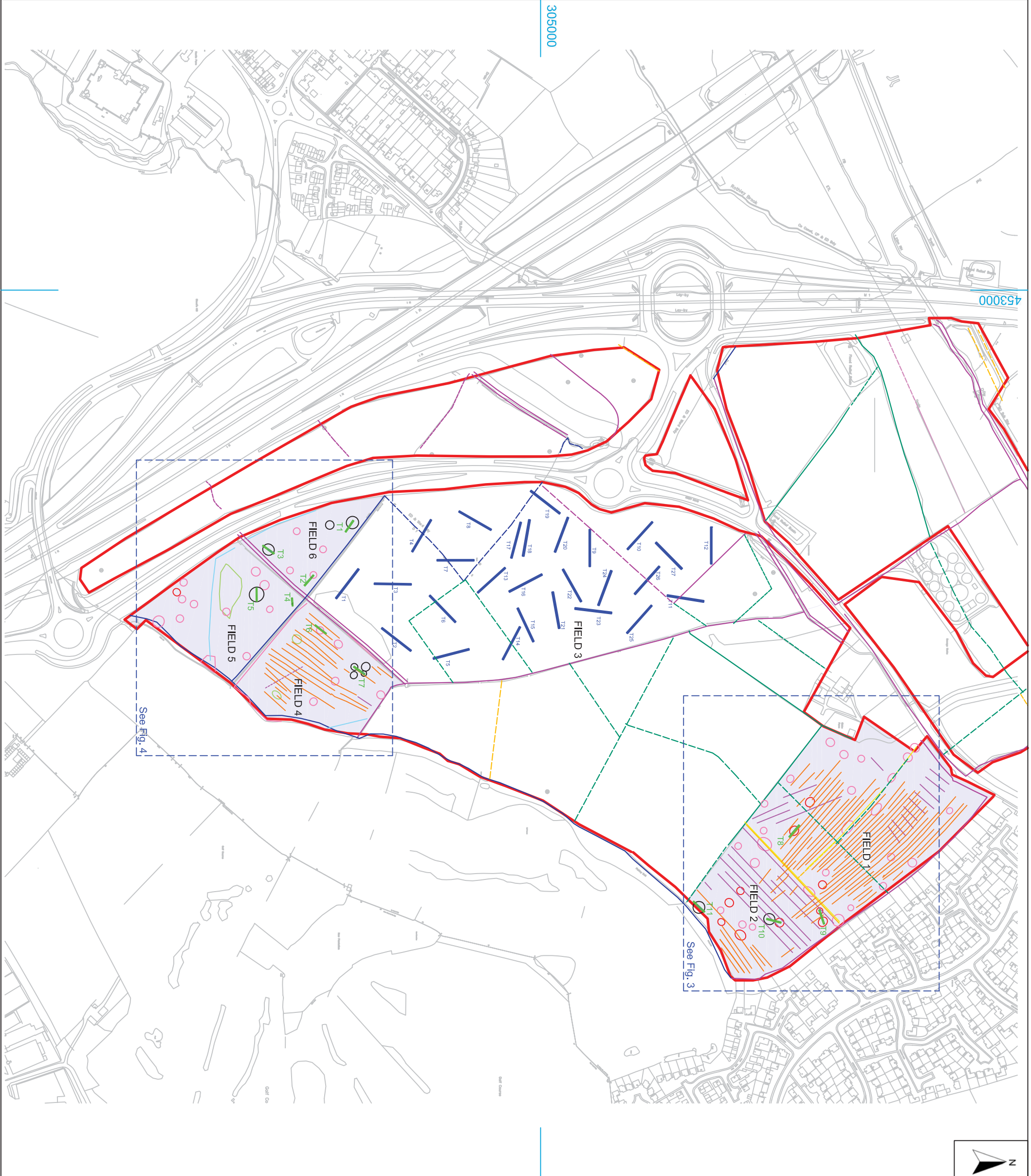
- site
- current evaluation area

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
 Land at M1 Junction 21a, Glenfield and Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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453000

305000



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site

current evaluation area

evaluation trench

previous evaluation trench

geophysical anomalies

- Former boundary (1st edition OS)
- Potential pit (examples)
- Potential kiln
- Service
- Cultivation
- Probable land drain
- ?Natural
- Zone containing probable modern ferrous
- Boundary ferrous
- Discrete ferrous (examples)

cartographic evidence

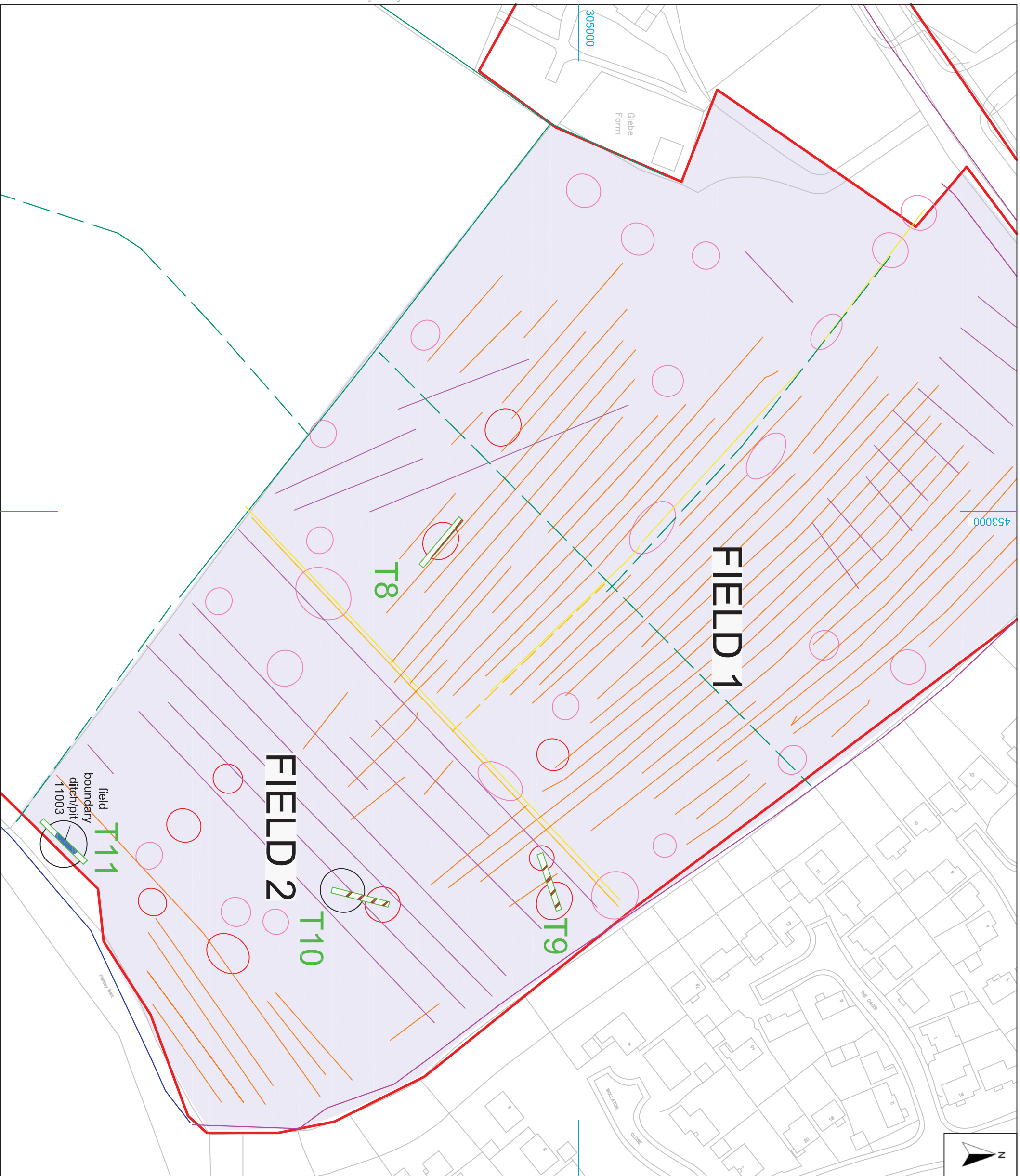
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- parish/township boundary first depicted on an 18th century map - removed
- boundary first depicted on an 18th century map - extant
- boundary first depicted on an 18th century map - removed
- boundary first depicted on a map of 1873 - extant
- boundary first depicted on a map of 1873 - removed
- boundary first depicted on a map of 1885/1889 - extant
- boundary first depicted on a map of 1885/1889 - removed



PROJECT TITLE
 Land at M1 Junction 21a, Glenfield and Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan

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JB	1:5000@A3	3118	2



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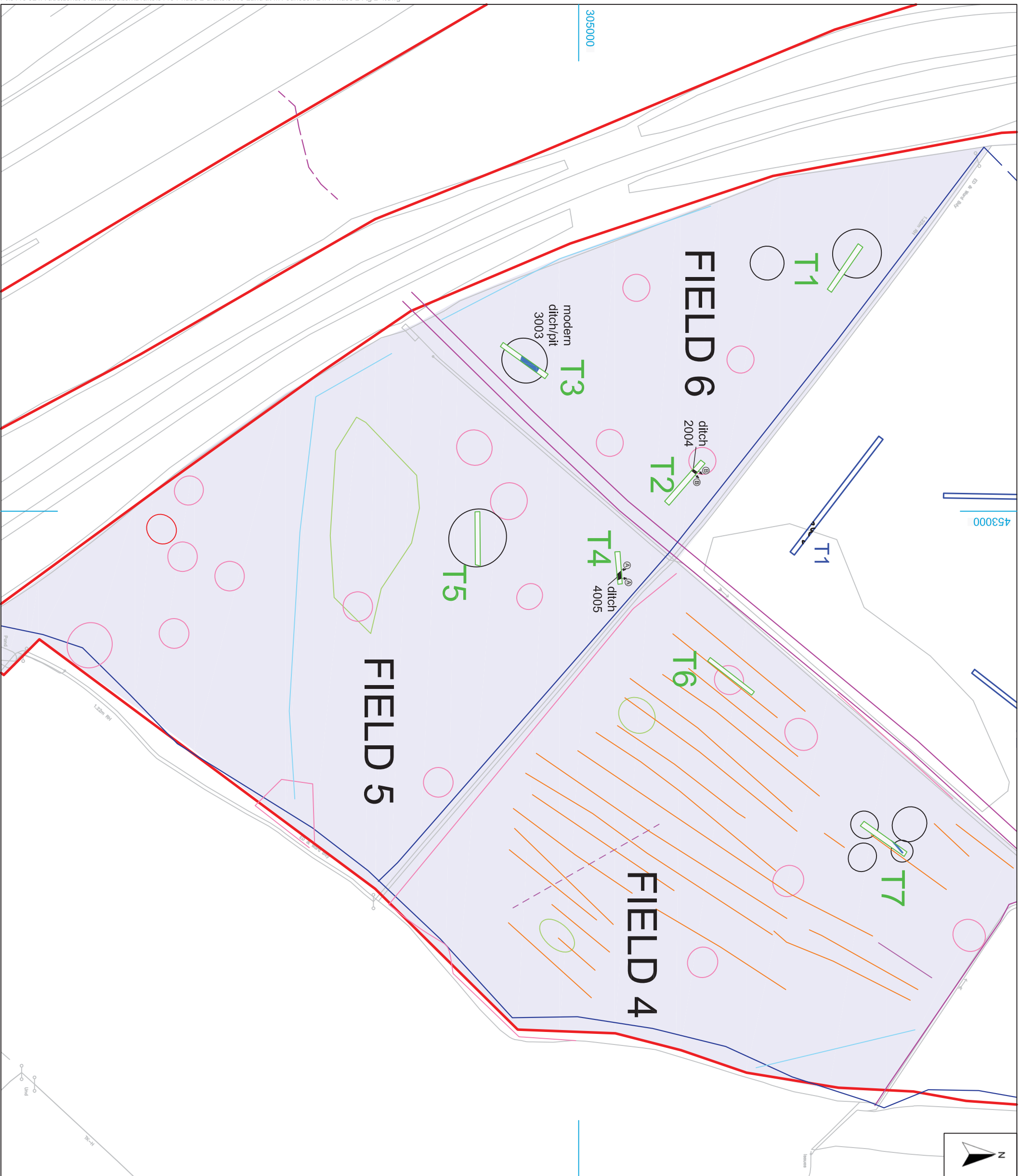
- site
 - current evaluation area
 - evaluation trench showing archaeological features
 - previous evaluation trench showing archaeological features
 - furrow
 - modern
- geophysical anomalies**
- Former boundary (1st edition OS)
 - Potential pit (examples)
 - Potential Kiln
 - Service
 - Cultivation
 - Probable land drain
 - ?Natural
 - Zone containing probable modern ferrous
 - Boundary ferrous
 - Discrete ferrous (examples)
- cartographic evidence**
- parish/township boundary first depicted on an 18th/early 19th century map - extant
 - parish/township boundary first depicted on an 18th/early 19th century map - removed
 - boundary first depicted on an 18th/early 19th century map - extant
 - boundary first depicted on an 18th/early 19th century map - removed
 - boundary first depicted on a map of 1873 - extant
 - boundary first depicted on a map of 1873 - removed
 - boundary first depicted on a map of 1885/1889 - extant
 - boundary first depicted on a map of 1885/1889 - removed



PROJECT TITLE
Land at M1 Junction 21a, Glenfield and Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Fields 1 -2, showing archaeological features

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JB	1:12500@A3	3118	3



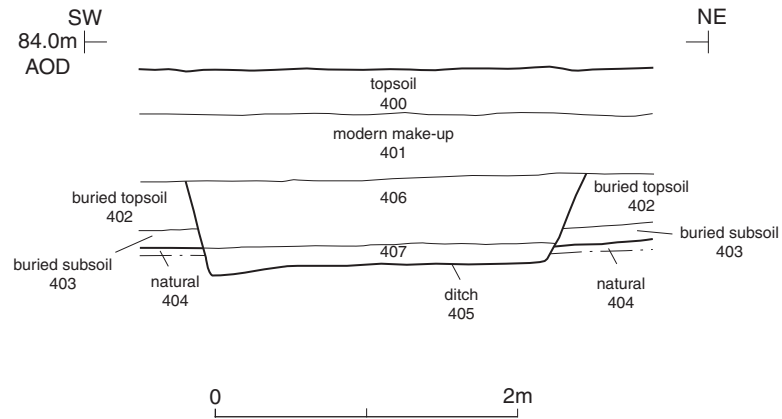
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PROJECT TITLE Land at M1 Junction 21a, Glenfield and Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire			
FIGURE TITLE Fields 4 - 6, showing archaeological features			
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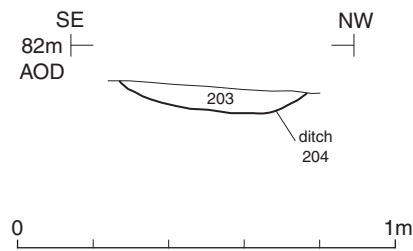
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> site current evaluation area evaluation trench showing archaeological features previous evaluation trench features furrow modern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former boundary (1st edition OS) Potential pit (examples) Potential Kiln Service Cultivation Probable land drain ?Natural Zone containing probable modern ferrous Boundary ferrous Discrete ferrous (examples)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> parish/township boundary first depicted on an 18th/early 19th century map - extant parish/township boundary first depicted on an 18th/early 19th century map - removed boundary first depicted on an 18th/early 19th century map - extant boundary first depicted on an 18th/early 19th century map - removed boundary first depicted on a map of 1873 - extant boundary first depicted on a map of 1873 - removed boundary first depicted on a map of 1885/1889 - extant boundary first depicted on a map of 1885/1889 - removed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cartographic evidence



Section AA



Section BB



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Land at M1 Junction 21a, Glenfield and Kirby Muxloe, Leicestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**Ditch 2004 and Ditch 4005:
section drawings**

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JB

SCALE

1:20 & 1:50@A4

PROJECT NO.

3118

FIGURE NO.

5