



# Kingstand Farm Leicester Forest East, Leicestershire

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## Kingstand Farm, Leicester Forest East, Leicestershire

### *Archaeological Evaluation Report*

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## Summary

In July 2018 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Heritage to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Kingstand Farm in Leicester Forest East, Leicestershire. The site comprises *c* 7.94 hectares of land at the location of a proposed new housing development. The evaluation involved the excavation of 25 trenches, representing a 3% sample of the site.

The results of the evaluation confirmed that areas of the site were crossed by ridge and furrow, and modern features relating to the former golf course were found in the western part of the site. The only archaeological features were in the south-eastern corner of the site, comprising a ditch and two possible pits containing middle Iron Age to early Roman pottery with evidence for metalworking and possibly pottery production. This area appears to represent the periphery of an area of archaeological activity that extends beyond the boundary of the site.

## Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Paul Clark of CgMs Heritage for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Richard Clark, Principal Planning Archaeologist, who monitored the work on behalf of Leicestershire County Council, for his advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Carl Champness. The fieldwork was directed by Rachael Daniel, who was supported by Katie Webster and Daniel Pond. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Katie Webster. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Geraldine Crann, processed the environmental remains under the management of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of Kingstand Farm, Leicester Forest East, Leicestershire, as part of a new 7.94ha housing development. A geophysical and earthworks survey had been previously undertaken across the site to help assess the archaeological potential. A programme of 25 trial trenches was proposed in order to further establish whether archaeological remains would be impacted by the proposed development.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (Planning Ref. 17/1735/FUL) to inform the planning authority in advance of a submission of a planning application. A specification was set by Richard Clark, Principal Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by CgMS detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process (CgMs 2018b). This document presents the results of the evaluation.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (2014) and local and national planning policies.

### 1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site was located at Kingstand Farm, Leicester Forest East, Leicestershire, and comprised c 7.94 hectares of land centered at NGR SK 5195 0231 (Fig. 1). It was bounded to the north by Hinckley Road, to the east by modern residential development, to the west by the former Kingstand Golf Club, and to the south by the access track to the former golf club.
- 1.2.2 The site was located on a very gentle south-east facing slope, falling from 111m aOD at the north-western corner to 103m aOD in the south-eastern corner.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as mudstone belonging to the Edwalton Member across the north of the site, with sandstone belonging to the Arden Sandstone Formation across the south. The bedrock is overlain by superficial deposits of diamicton, belonging to the Oadby Member across the site (British Geological Survey online geological viewer).

### 1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site is outlined in the desk-based assessment (PCA 2017) and an archaeological assessment (CgMs 2018a). The archaeological potential of the site indicated by these documents is briefly summarised below.
- 1.3.2 A LiDAR survey of the site identified parallel, linear ridge and furrow earthworks across much of the site, in two distinct blocks: one to the west of Kingstand Farm, the other in the south-eastern corner of the site (Fig. 3). The ridge and furrow south-east of Kingstand Farm has the general characteristics associated with medieval ridge and

furrow, namely a reverse S-shape curve, and a width around 9m within the typical range expected of medieval ploughing. The ridge and furrow west of the farm is aligned ENE-WSW and does not share the characteristics of medieval ridge and furrow, and appears far more likely to have been formed by 19th-century steam ploughing. A number of bank features and mounds were visible across the west of the area. These are landscaped features of the former golf course. Several cut features are also present across the area, predominantly in the western half of the site, related to the former golf course or modern agricultural activity.

- 1.3.3 The geophysical survey of the site identified a number of widely-spaced, parallel linear responses in the west of the site, caused by the ridge and furrow cultivation, but no magnetic responses which could be interpreted as being of archaeological origin (Fig 2). A number of other linear responses of uncertain origin were detected across the site, though it is likely that they are of modern origin, related to the former golf course or other modern activity. Large areas of magnetic disturbance were identified across the site, with those in the west associated with landscape features belonging to banks, bunkers and tee areas of the former golf course. The survey also identified strong ferrous responses close to field boundaries, caused by gates and fences.
- 1.3.4 Very little evidence has been found for prehistoric remains within the area of the site but there is a higher potential for Roman archaeology. The main focus of occupation and activity during the Roman period was Ratae Corieltauvorum, the site of the tribal capital of the Corieltauvi tribe and a Roman fort, within modern Leicester. There are three HER entries for the Roman period within a 1km search area of the site, two relating to small artefact scatters (1km north of the site and 800m north-west of the site) and the third a Roman brooch found 500m south-east of the site.
- 1.3.5 During the medieval period the site was located within Leicester Forest, which is referred to in the Domesday Survey. The earthwork remains of a medieval rabbit warren are located 195m south-east of the site at its closest point. This is designated as a Scheduled Monument 'Rabbit warren 180m north east of The Lawn', List Entry No. 1018000.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present;
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual, environmental or other evidence;
- iii. To test the results of the geophysical survey;
- iv. To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of any proposed developments to be assessed;
- v. To inform the formulation of a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development to be assessed;
- vi. To disseminate the results through the production of a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicestershire and Rutland HER.

### 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of 24 trenches were excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator, all but two measuring 30m by 1.6m (the two smaller trenches measured 10m and 15m long). The trenches were set out at locations indicated in the WSI.

2.2.2 The trenches were targeted on anomalies from the geophysical survey (Fig. 2), also to test blank areas.

2.2.3 The trenches were machined under close archaeological supervision to the top of the archaeological horizon or the sterile natural geological horizon, whichever was the highest (Plate 1). The topsoil and subsoil were removed in regular spits and spoil was stored at a safe distance from the trench edges.

2.2.4 Where archaeological deposits were identified, a sample of the revealed features was hand excavated. Finds were retrieved and environmental samples taken where appropriate, and the features were recorded in line with the standards outlined in the WSI.

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological features. The full details of all trenches, with dimensions and depths of all deposits, can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot-dates are tabulated in Appendix B.
- 3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers, eg layer 102 is a deposit within Trench 1, while ditch 503 is a feature within Trench 5.

### 3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 A natural geology of clayey silt was overlain by a silty topsoil in the western, northern and south-western areas of site. In the central and south-eastern areas, a geology of mixed sandy silt and clay was overlain by a silty subsoil, which in turn was overlain by a friable silty topsoil.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were dry and baked, and the trenches remained so throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

### 3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features were only present in Trenches 5, 6 and 26, at the southern end of the site. The two blocks of ridge and furrow that had been identified in the Lidar survey were represented by buried ploughsoil in some trenches, although distinct profiles in the trench sections were not visible. The western part of the site comprised a former golf course and the trenches in this area uncovered earthworks and made ground, as well as modern drainage features associated with the golf course.

### 3.4 Trench 5

- 3.4.1 A large ditch (503) aligned WNW-ESE was found at the north-eastern end of Trench 5 (Fig. 4; Plate 2). The sides sloped steeply, becoming shallower towards the base, which was concave. The basal fill (504) consisted largely of a dense charcoal deposit and contained a small sherd of late Iron Age or early Roman pottery, fired clay from a furnace, slag, hammerscale and a small piece of worked sandstone. The deposit was directly overlain by fill 505, a sterile deposit which was likely to have been natural infilling of the feature after the original use of the ditch had ceased. The overlying fill (506) appears to have been deposited from the south-west side of the ditch. It contained some charcoal inclusions but no other finds, indicating that it represents natural infilling of the ditch. Fill 507 directly overlay 506, and was a silty deposit which may again have been naturally deposited, although it contained some residual middle Iron Age pottery and early Roman sherds that may be contemporary with the filling of the ditch.

### 3.5 Trench 26

- 3.5.1 Ditch 503 was identified in Trench 26 as ditch 2606. A further two features were identified (2603 and 2607). Feature 2603 was probably a pit, although the full extent was not uncovered within the confines of the trench (Plate 3). The basal fill (2602) contained part of a kiln or firebar dating to the Roman period, as well as a single sherd of early Roman pottery. The upper fill (2605) appeared to have been naturally deposited and was sterile. The feature was cut into the subsoil (2601), a buried ploughsoil thought to be related to the ridge and furrow features noted on the Lidar, and may therefore be medieval or later in date, with the Roman finds redeposited.
- 3.5.2 Feature 2607 also appeared to be a pit, although as it was not being completely uncovered in plan it may have been the terminus of a linear feature. It was not excavated.

### 3.6 Trench 6

- 3.6.1 A pit or ditch terminus (603) was located in the middle of the trench, against the south-west baulk (Fig. 5). It did not appear to correlate with any geophysical anomaly. The feature had gently sloping concave sides which were steeper towards the bottom of the feature and a concave base (Plate 4). It contained three fills (604, 605 and 606) of which only middle fill (605) contained finds. This included 23 sherds of middle-late Iron Age and early Roman pottery, a small amount of fired clay, a possible quern fragment and a single burnt, unworked flint flake.

### 3.7 Finds summary

#### *Pottery by Paul Booth*

- 3.7.1 Sixty-two sherds (517g) of later middle Iron Age to early Roman pottery were recovered from four contexts from Trenches 5, 6 and 26.
- 3.7.2 The 'later prehistoric' material can be assigned to the middle Iron Age, and might belong entirely to the later part of that period, the 2nd-1st centuries BC, but that is uncertain given the size of the assemblage. The close association of later prehistoric and late Iron Age-early Roman pottery suggests that activity may have been continuous through these periods, although close dating is not possible. It is possible that the activity reflected in this material did not continue after the end of the 1st century AD, and no later than the early-middle 2nd century.

#### *Slag and hammerscale by Geraldine Grann*

- 3.7.3 53 pieces of slag (690g) and 195g of hammerscale were recovered from ditch fill 504.

#### *Other finds by Cynthia Poole and Ruth Shaffrey*

- 3.7.4 Three adjacent features within Trench 5, 6 and 26 produced fired clay. Most, if not all, of this derived from one or more furnaces or kilns of probable Roman origin. The fired clay assemblage gives evidence for metal working and pottery production.
- 3.7.5 Two pieces of stone were recovered, one possibly from a quern in a Roman context, the other a piece of natural sandstone.

### **3.8 Environmental summary**

- 3.8.1 Two environmental samples were taken, from ditch fill 504 and pit fill 605. Both were rich in charcoal. Both flots are likely to be a result of the deliberate deposition of hearth rake-out material and the presence of slag within ditch fill 504 may indicate that these are the result of metalworking or other industrial processes as opposed to domestic material.



## 4 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The results of the investigation provide a reliable picture of the preservation, density, character, and depth of archaeological deposits throughout the site. The weather conditions were reasonable throughout the fieldwork and the soils were free draining, all contributing to the good visibility of archaeological features and deposits. The deposits were generally significantly darker than the surrounding natural silts and were easy to identify. There was also a good correspondence between the archaeological features seen in the trenches and the anomalies identified in the geophysical survey.

### 4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The evaluation fulfilled the aims and objectives, in terms of locating, identifying and characterising archaeological features.

4.2.2 By establishing the depth, significance and stratigraphic sequence of geological and archaeological deposits, the evaluation has provided information suitable to inform any archaeological mitigation or the design phase for future development with regard to the potential impacts upon buried remains.

### 4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The geophysical survey data proved to be a reliable indicator for the presence/absence of features across the southern and western part of the site. The evaluation trenches confirmed the presence of a low-density of features present in the south-eastern corner of site. The western side of the site, comprising the former golf course, contained no archaeological features, the trenches uncovering only earthworks relating to the golf course and modern ploughscars and land drains. The north-eastern end of site was similarly devoid of archaeology, as were the central and southern areas (Plate 5).

4.3.2 The features in the south-eastern area of site correlated with anomalies identified on the geophysical survey. The main feature, a linear ditch aligned WNW-ESE, was partially excavated in Trench 5 and exposed in Trench 26. It appears to be early Roman in date. The lower fills contained charred plant remains and finds indicating nearby iron production and settlement activity. Pit 2603, excavated in Trench 26, contained part of a Roman kiln or fire bar, further supporting the interpretation of nearby industrial activity. The discovery of residual middle and possibly late Iron Age pottery in Roman and later features suggests the presence of Iron Age activity, and this may have been continuous into the Roman period.

4.3.3 Trenches 1-5, 11, 12, 25 and 26 were all situated on ridge and furrow anomalies, as shown on the Lidar survey (Fig 3 and Plate 6). This corresponded with the presence of a silty subsoil deposit in each of these trenches, representing a buried ploughsoil created by ridge and furrow ploughing.

4.3.4 Trenches 2, 3 and 4 uncovered a geological anomaly originally identified in the geophysical survey (Plate 7). Here the Lidar map shows that this anomaly also

corresponds to a linear depression in the topography of the field, which further identifies this feature as a geological deposition, perhaps related to colluvial deposits and drainage of the hillside.

#### **4.4 Significance**

- 4.4.1 The evaluation confirmed that the majority of the site is devoid of archaeological features. A ditch and a pit of early Roman date were discovered in the south-eastern part of the site, along with middle and possible late Iron Age pottery, as well as evidence of early Roman industrial activity including both metalworking and possibly pottery production. The finds suggest a possibly protracted period of activity, although the paucity of features even in the south-eastern part of the site suggests that the focus of activity may have lain outside the boundaries of the site.
- 4.4.2 Evidence for Roman metalworking and pottery production would be of regional significance, and non-intensive middle and late Iron Age settlement activity would be of local significance. However, as the focus of this activity appears to be outside the site, the significance therefore may be lessened.

## APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					Length (m)	29.4
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.29
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.29	Topsoil – mid greyish brown, friable silty clay.	-	-
101	Layer	-	-	Natural – mid brownish orange, moderately compact sandy clay. Poorly sorted sub angular stones.	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural – dark brownish red moderately compact sandy clay. Occasional poorly sorted sub angular rare stones.	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	29.6
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.24
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil – friable, mid greyish brown sandy clay.	-	-
201	Layer	-	-	Natural – light greyish orange, moderately compact sandy clay. Rare, poorly sorted flint inclusions.	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural- dark, greyish red, moderately compact sandy clay.	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					Length (m)	29.2
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

300	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil – mid greyish brown, friable silty clay.	-	-
301	Layer	-	-	Natural – Light brownish orange, moderately compact sandy clay. Moderately frequent poorly sorted, sub angular stones.	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural – brownish red, moderately compact sandy clay. Rare, poorly sorted, angular stones.	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					Length (m)	29.6
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil – mid greyish brown friable silty clay.	-	-
401	Layer	-	-	Natural – light orangey yellow moderately compact sandy clay. Moderately frequent, poorly sorted sub angular stones.	-	-
402	Layer	-	-	Natural – dark orangery red moderately compact sandy clay with poorly sorted sub angular stones.	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained a single WNW-ESE aligned ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					Length (m)	29.6
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil – mid greyish brown friable silty clay.	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.11	Subsoil – light greyish brown moderately compact silty clay. Infrequent, poorly sorted sub angular stone inclusions.	-	-

502	Layer	-	-	Natural – mid brownish orange moderately compact sandy clay. Poorly sorted sub angular stone inclusions.	-	-
503	Cut	2.98	0.62	Linear ditch aligned WNW-ESE, shallow concave sides (steepening towards the surface) and a wide concave base.	-	ER
504	Fill	2.32	0.12	Fill of 503. Dark greyish black soft silty loam, abundant poorly sorted charcoal inclusions.	LIA/ER pottery; Fired clay; Slag; Hammerscale; Worked stone; Sample 1	ER
505	Fill	2.85	0.15	Fill of 503. Friable, pale brownish grey silty clay, infrequent charcoal inclusions.	-	ER
506	Fill	1.12	0.17	Fill of 503. Friable, dark brownish grey silty clay. Frequent charcoal inclusions.	-	ER
507	Fill	2.66	0.33	Fill of 503. Moderately compact light greyish brown silty clay. Rare, poorly sorted stone inclusions.	MIA and ER pottery	ER

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench contained a single feature, either the terminus of a linear or a discrete feature. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil – mid – light greyish brown silt, infrequent poorly sorted stones and modern debris.	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil – pale mid greyish brown silty clay, infrequent, poorly sorted small stones.	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Natural – mid brownish orange, moderately compact clay, poorly sorted, moderately frequent small stones.	-	-

603	Cut	1.02	0.26	Cut of possible linear, shallow straight sides (steepening towards surface), wide concave base.	-	ER
604	Fill	0.07	1.02	Fill of 603. Moderately compact, light brownish grey sandy clay. Infrequent poorly sorted stones.	-	ER
605	Fill	0.09	0.93	Fill of 603. Moderately compact dark blackish grey silty clay. Infrequent stones and charcoal inclusions.	M-LIA and ER pottery; Fired clay; Burnt flint; Worked stone; Sample 2	ER
606	Fill	0.13	0.97	Fill of 603. Moderately compact pale grey silty clay with poorly sorted stone inclusions.	-	ER

**Trench 7**

<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	29.6
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.6
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.27
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
700	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil – light greyish brown friable silty clay.	-	-
701	Layer	-	-	Natural – light brownish orange moderately compact clay. Poorly sorted sub angular stones.	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Natural – dark brownish red very compact clay, rare stone inclusions.	-	-

**Trench 8**

<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	29.4
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.6
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.29
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
800	Layer	-	0.29	Topsoil – mid greyish brown friable silty clay.	-	-
801	Layer	-	-	Natural – mid brownish orange, moderately compact sandy clay. Poorly	-	-

				sorted, moderately frequent stones.		
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Trench 9						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.30
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
1000	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil – mid greyish brown friable silty clay.	-	-
1001	Layer	-	-	Natural – mid greyish orange moderately compact sandy clay. Infrequent, poorly sorted stones.	-	-

Trench 11						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of clayey silt.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.33
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
1100	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil – mid greyish brown, friable sandy silt.	-	-
1101	Layer	-	-	Natural – mid yellowish orange, clayey silt. Occasional flints/stones.	-	-

Trench 12						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					<b>Length (m)</b>	29.4
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.6
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.32
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
1200	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil – mid greyish brown friable silty clay.	-	-
1201	Layer	-	-	Natural – mid yellowish orange, moderately compact clay, poorly sorted sub angular stones.	-	-

Trench 13						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and modern made ground overlying natural geology of clayey silt. The south					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8

end of the trench was significantly deeper than the north due to made ground forming a green for the (now derelict) golf course.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil – mid brownish grey sandy silt, frequent small stones.	-	-
1301	Layer	-	0.5	Modern made ground – gravel and pink sand.	-	-
1302	Layer	-	0.5	Modern made ground – backfill layer.	-	-
1303	-	-	-	Natural – mid yellowish brown clayey silt. Occasional small stones and flint inclusions.	-	-

Trench 14						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	29.3
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.6
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.25
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil – mid greyish brown clayey silt.	-	-
1401	Layer	-	-	Natural – mid orangey yellow, moderately compact clay, poorly sorted frequent flint inclusions.	-	-

Trench 15						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	29.4
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.6
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.25
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil – mid greyish brown clayey silt.	-	-
1501	Layer	-	-	Natural – orangey yellow moderately compact clay. Poorly sorted, moderately frequent flint inclusions.	-	-

Trench 17						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	ENE-WSW
					<b>Length (m)</b>	30



Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.6
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.20
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
1700	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil – light greyish brown, friable clayey silt.	-	-
1701	Layer	-	-	Natural – mid orangey yellow very compact clay. Moderately frequent poorly sorted stones.	-	-

Trench 18						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of gravelly clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	29.5
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.6
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.34
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
1800	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil – mid greyish brown friable clayey silt.	-	-
1801	Layer	-	-	Natural – mid orangey yellow moderately compact gravelly clay. Moderately frequent flint inclusions.	-	-

Trench 19						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	29.5
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.6
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.39
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
1900	Layer	-	0.21	Topsoil – mid greyish brown friable silty clay.	-	-
1901	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil – light greyish brown moderately compact silty clay. Poorly sorted, moderately frequent flint inclusions.	-	-
1902	Layer	-	-	Natural – mid orangey yellow moderately compact clay. Poorly sorted moderately frequent flints and stones.	-	-

Trench 20		
<b>General description</b>		
<b>Orientation</b>		ENE-WSW

Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.30
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
2000	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil – mid greyish brown clayey silt, occasional sub angular stones.	-	-
2001	Layer	-	-	Subsoil – mid orangey brown silty clay with frequent small stone inclusions.	-	-

<b>Trench 21</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	SSE-NNW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.40
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
2100	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil – mid brownish grey sandy silt. Occasional stone inclusions.	-	-
2101	Layer	-	-	Natural – mid brownish orange sandy clay with light grey mottling.	-	-

<b>Trench 22</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	ESE-WNW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.40
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
2200	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil – mid brownish grey sandy silt with occasional sandy inclusions.	-	-
2201	Layer	-	-	Natural – mid brownish orange sandy clay with light grey mottling and large flint nodules.	-	-

<b>Trench 23</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8

					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2300	Layer	-	0.46	Topsoil – mid brownish grey sandy silt, occasional small sub rounded stones.	-	-
2301	Layer	-	-	Natural – mid brownish orange sandy clay with light grey mottling and occasional flint/stone inclusions.	-	-

Trench 24						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench contained a modern truncation towards the NW end of the trench. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	29.8
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.57
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2400	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil – mid brownish grey friable silty clay.	-	-
2401	Layer	-	0.31	Subsoil – light brownish grey, moderately compact silty clay with modern CBM inclusions.	-	-
2402	Layer	-	-	Natural – mid orangey yellow moderately compact clay.	-	-
2403	Cut	4.4	0.19	Modern truncation, irregular in plan. Potential tree throw.	-	-
2404	Fill	4.4	0.19	Moderately compact dark brownish grey silty clay. Contained modern rubble and CBM.	-	-

Trench 25						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silt.					Length (m)	12.5
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2500	Layer	-	0.05	Topsoil – mid greyish brown moderately compact, infrequent moderately sorted small stones.	-	-

2501	Layer	-	0.65	Subsoil – pale yellowish silt, moderately compact. Potentially a plough ridge.	-	-
2502	Layer	-	-	Natural – compact mid orangey yellow silt, orange patches with areas of frequent stone inclusions.	-	-

Trench 26						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained a large ditch (a continuation of the feature in trench 5), a possible pit and a pit which was excavated. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silt.					Length (m)	10
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2600	Layer	-	0.05	Topsoil – pale mid greyish brown silt with infrequent, poorly sorted small stone inclusions.	-	-
2601	Layer	-	0.6	Subsoil – pale yellowish brown silty clay.	-	-
2602	Fill	1.4	0.33	Fill of 2603. Firm, dark greyish brown fine silt, poorly sorted small stone and CBM inclusions.	ER pottery; Fired clay	Post-med
2603	Cut	1.4	0.7	Irregular in plan pit cut. Concave sloping sides, irregular flattish base. Cut subsoil.	-	Post-med
2604	Layer	-	-	Natural – pale orangey yellow silt. Frequent stony inclusions.	-	-
2605	Fill	1.7	0.39	Fill of 2603. Firm mid greyish brown fine silt. Frequent, poorly sorted stone inclusions.	-	Post-med
2606	Cut	2.89	-	Cut of ditch running SE-NW.	-	ER
2607	Cut	0.8	-	Possible pit cut. Ovoid in plan.	-	-

## APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 Pottery

*By Paul Booth*

#### *Introduction*

- B.1.1 Sixty-two sherds (517g) of pottery of later middle Iron Age to early Roman date were recovered from four contexts. These included 22 sherds (99g) from soil samples 1 and 2, from contexts 504 and 605 respectively. The pottery was recorded by context group using the system employed for later prehistoric and Roman pottery from OA projects (Booth 2014). Details of fabrics, vessel forms and decoration etc were recorded using standardised codes within this system. Quantification was by sherd count, weight and rim equivalents (REs). The methodology is in line with recently-published standards (PCRG *et al.* 2016). The full records are on paper sheets which are contained in the project archive.
- B.1.2 The pottery was in relatively poor condition with a mean sherd weight (MSW) of only 10.5g for the hand-excavated material and 4.5g for the sherds from soil samples. A few sherds were specifically noted as being abraded, but evidence for surface treatment such as burnishing survived occasionally. The pottery is summarised by context in Table 1.

*Table 1: Summary of the pottery*

Context	No. sherds	Weight (g)	Ceramic date	Comment
504	1	2	Late Iron Age/early Roman?	From SS1. Rim fragment overfired/refired?
507	37	388	Later 1C-early 2C	10 sherds (84g) later prehistoric (2 jar rims). Rest is late Iron Age-early Roman, with 4 jar rims
605	23	118	Probably later 1C	21 sherds (97g) from SS2. Mostly middle-late Iron Age (1 jar rim)
2602	1	9	Mid/late 1C-2C	
Total	62	517		

- B.1.3 In total 29 sherds (175g) were assigned a later prehistoric rather than a late Iron Age-early Roman date range. This pottery was all handmade but in view of the low MSW (6g) was not easily characterised and fabric groups were not clearly defined. The range of inclusions (defined by letter codes in the OA recording system) comprised quartz sand of various sizes (A), clay pellets (P), organic material (V), uncertain (probably but not certainly burnt out organic) voids (Z) and uncertain flat dark grey inclusions currently only defined as 'R'. Grog (G) was identified in fabrics of late Iron Age-early Roman character but not certainly in the later prehistoric material. The latter fabrics contained varying combinations of the inclusion types mentioned, but in all cases the primary (most frequent) inclusion was either quartz sand or the uncertain voids. In a number of cases these two were combined as the first and second principal inclusion types, though in a number of cases clay pellets occurred as the second principal inclusion type, always secondary to quartz sand. Occasionally there was no clearly

identified secondary inclusion type (N). A simplified summary of the main fabrics is as follows:

- AN 6 sherds, 15g
- AP 6 sherds, 32g, 1 jar rim.
- AV 4 sherds, 20g
- AZ 5 sherds, 48g, 1 jar rim.
- ZN 2 sherds, 4g
- ZA 6 sherds, 56g, 2 jar rims.

B.1.4 The four vessel rims were all probably from jars of simple barrel-shaped form with slightly insloping rims, but only one sherd (in context 507) was large enough for this to be clear, and was from a small vessel of this type, with a rim diameter of c 110mm. This vessel was smoothed on the exterior. Three other sherds had rough vertical combing on the exterior, while a fourth was the only one with linear marks of 'scored ware' character.

B.1.5 The late Iron Age and early Roman pottery was assigned to generalised ware groups as follows:

E30. Coarse sand-tempered LIA/ERB fabrics. 8 sherds, 91g. 2 jar rims.

E80. Grog-tempered LIA/ERB ('Belgic type') fabrics (Tomber and Dore 1998, **SOB GT**). 2 sherds, 21g.

O10. Fine oxidised wares. 1 sherds, 5g.

O20. Coarse sand-tempered oxidised wares. 1 sherd, 11g.

O90. Miscellaneous coarse tempered oxidised wares. 1 sherd, 28g.

R20. Coarse sand-tempered reduced wares. 1 sherd, 26g.

R30. Medium sand-tempered reduced wares. 10 sherds, 90g.

R60. Organic and sand-tempered reduced wares. 7 sherds, 39g. 1 jar rim, 1 uncertain rim.

R90. Coarse grog-tempered reduced wares. 2 sherds, 31g. 1 jar rim.

B.1.6 At present none of the sherds is assigned to a known source, although most if not all of the material is likely to have been of relatively local origin. Several certain or probable production sites, mostly of early Roman date, are known in the area west and south-west of Leicester and may have provided the pottery described here, but in most cases detailed fabric descriptions have not been published. The character of the late Iron Age-early Roman pottery is consistent with origins in small-scale local production centres.

B.1.7 The close association of later prehistoric and late Iron Age-early Roman pottery suggests that activity through these periods may have been continuous, although close dating is not possible. The 'later prehistoric' material can be assigned to the middle Iron Age, and might belong entirely to the later part of that period, the 2nd-1st centuries BC, but that is uncertain given the size of the assemblage

B.1.8 The limited typological evidence supports an early date for the Roman pottery, as does a complete lack of clearly non-local material of any kind. It is possible that the activity

reflected in this material did not continue after the end of the 1st century AD, and certain that none of it was later than the early-middle 2nd century.

- B.1.9 This small assemblage is of value for dating and should be retained. In the event of further work it should be reconsidered in association with any additional material and the fabrics linked to ones known from other work in the region.

## B.2 Fired clay

*By Cynthia Poole*

- B.2.1 Three contexts produced fired clay (Table 2).

*Table 2: Summary of the fired clay*

Context	Description	Date
504	1 piece fired clay with smooth, flat surface, possibly part of furnace structure, 37g 1 piece of furnace lining with tuyere hole 180mm across extant edge, 57g <1> 13 pieces fired clay from environmental sample, 70g	-
605	<2> 2 pieces fired clay from environmental sample, 16g	-
2602	Part of a kiln or fire bar, slightly tapered, in fine sandy fabric, 631g. 144mm long x 69mm widest part and 61mm at narrowest.	Roman

### *Discussion and recommendations*

- B.2.2 The fired clay assemblage gives evidence for metal working and pottery production. The fired clay from the evaluation should be fully integrated into any future analysis arising from further investigation on the site.

## B.3 Slag

*By Geraldine Crann*

- B.3.1 A single context produced slag that appears to be related to metalworking (Table 3).

*Table 3: Summary of the slag*

Context	Description
504	3 pieces slag, 118g <1> 50+ pieces slag from environmental sample, 572g

### *Discussion and recommendations*

- B.3.2 The slag assemblage gives evidence for metal working and should be fully integrated into any future analysis arising from further investigation on the site.

## B.4 Hammerscale

*By Geraldine Crann*

B.4.1 A single context produced hammerscale (Table 4).

*Table 4: Summary of the hammerscale*

Context	Description
504	<1> Hammerscale from environmental sample, 195g

### *Discussion and recommendations*

B.4.2 The hammerscale assemblage gives evidence for metal working and should be fully integrated into any future analysis arising from further investigation on the site.

## B.5 Burnt unworked flint

*By Geraldine Crann*

B.5.1 A single piece of burnt, unworked flint was found (Table 5).

*Table 5: Summary of the burnt unworked flint*

Context	Description
605	<2> single fragment of burnt unworked flint from environmental sample, 2g

### *Discussion and recommendations*

B.5.2 The burnt unworked flint has been fully recorded and can be discarded.

## B.6 Stone

*By Ruth Shaffrey*

B.6.1 A total of two pieces of stone were retained and submitted for analysis. One is a thin slabby piece of sandstone, which could be from roofing, but which is too small to be certain (context 504, 71g). The other is a piece of granite, probably Mount Sorrel granite, which has one rounded edge (context 605, 261g). It may be from a quern, but no diagnostic pecking survives and the fragment is too small to be sure.

### *Discussion and recommendations*

B.6.2 The worked stone has been fully recorded and can now be discarded.



## APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

### C.1 Environmental samples

*By Sharon Cook and Julia Meen*

#### *Introduction*

C.1.1 Two bulk samples were taken, primarily for the retrieval of charred plant remains (CPR) and artefacts.

#### *Method*

C.1.2 The bulk samples were processed in their entirety at Oxford Archaeology using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine. The flot was collected in a 250µm mesh and heavy residues in a 500µm mesh and dried. The residue fractions were sorted by eye while the flot material was sorted using a low power (x10) binocular microscope to extract cereal grains and chaff, smaller seeds and other quantifiable remains.

#### *Results and discussion*

C.1.3 Table 6 gives details of the samples and the results of the preliminary scan.

C.1.4 Both samples produced flots rich in charcoal and of a good size although the scanned portions of both flots produced no further charred material. Both flots are likely to be a result of the deliberate deposition of hearth rakeout material and the presence of slag within sample 1 may indicate that these are the result of metalworking or other industrial processes as opposed to domestic material. Pottery and Fired Clay were extracted from the residues of both samples. In addition, slag and fine magnetic material were extracted from sample 1.

C.1.5 The charcoal in sample 1 was abundant and well preserved while that from sample 2 was of lower quantity and was in a poor state of preservation, being often mineral encrusted and friable. A scan of the charcoal at low magnification suggested that both samples were dominated by oak, with a smaller diffuse porous element to the assemblages. In order to provide a more detailed indication of the range of wood taxa present, a small number (15) of pieces were selected from each sample for species identification. Identification involved the fracturing of each piece on the transverse, radial and tangential sections as required, and examining the exposed sections at up to x400 magnification using a Brunel Metallurgical SP-400BD microscope to observe diagnostic anatomical characteristics. Identifications were made using keys in Schweingruber (1990) and Hather (2016), and nomenclature follows Stace (2010).

C.1.6 Table 7 shows the wood taxa identified in the two samples. As suggested by the preliminary scan, oak (*Quercus*) was the dominant species in both samples. However, both assemblages included a mix of other wood species, including hazel (*Corylus avellana*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), and Maloideae type (a group of anatomically similar woods, which includes apple, rowan, wild service and hawthorn). No roundwood was observed in either sample, but some of the oak in sample 1 contained tyloses within vessels, which are indicative of heartwood. If these

two charcoal deposits are to be interpreted as the remains of industrial fuels, then these results do not provide evidence for careful selection of particular species in order to utilise specific burning properties, although it may be that the assemblages represent a mixture of fuel residues from more than one activity.

### ***Recommendations***

- C.1.7 Charred remains clearly survive at the site, although mineral encrustation is evident at least in Trench 6 which may hamper the identification of charred remains in this area. Further work on the flots from sample 1 from this evaluation may be warranted if the site proceeds to excavation, to further identify the woods used and gain further data with regard to industrial processes carried out on site.
- C.1.8 In general, if further excavation is carried out at the site it is recommended that sampling is carried out on a variety of features with spatial sampling considered for areas of industrial activity if this is applicable. The development of large-scale iron production was a major technological and economic change during the Roman period (Dark and Dark 1997), although the low level domestic iron work also appears to have continued. These and other related industries produced a profound effect on the landscape and the exploitation of natural resources such as woodland which has not been well studied except in specific areas such as the Weald. Techniques for sampling should be in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (e.g. Oxford Archaeology 2017 and Historic England 2011).

### ***Retention/discard***

- C.1.9 The flots warrant retention at least until all works on this site are complete, when the relationships of these features are better understood, at which point a firm decision on discard and retention will be more easily made.

**Table 6: Summary of the charred plant material**

Sample	Context	Area/trench	Sample vol. (L)	Feature/Deposit	Date	Flot vol. (ml)	Charcoal >2mm	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Molluscs	Other	Notes
1	504	5	40	Fill of Ditch [503]	Roman	950	++++						100ml scanned. Charcoal rich with large numbers of robust fragments. Mixture of heavily encrusted fragments and cleaner pieces. No other charred material in scanned portion.
2	605	6	25	Fill of Pit [603]	Roman	120	++++						100ml scanned. Charcoal rich flot with fine modern roots and occasional modern seeds. Charcoal is heavily encrusted externally and as a result does not float well. No other charred material in scanned portion.

Key: +=present (up to 5 items), +=frequent (5-25), +++=common (25-100) ++++=abundant (>100)

**Table 7: Charcoal identifications**

	Sample	1	2
	Context	504	605
<i>Quercus</i> sp.	oak	9 (h)	8
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	hazel	3	1
cf <i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	cf hazel		2
cf <i>Prunus</i> sp.	cf blackthorn/cherry	2	
cf Maloideae	cf hawthorn/rowan/apple type		1
<i>Acer campestre</i> L.	field maple		2
cf <i>Acer campestre</i> L.	cf field maple	1	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> L.	ash		1

h = heartwood

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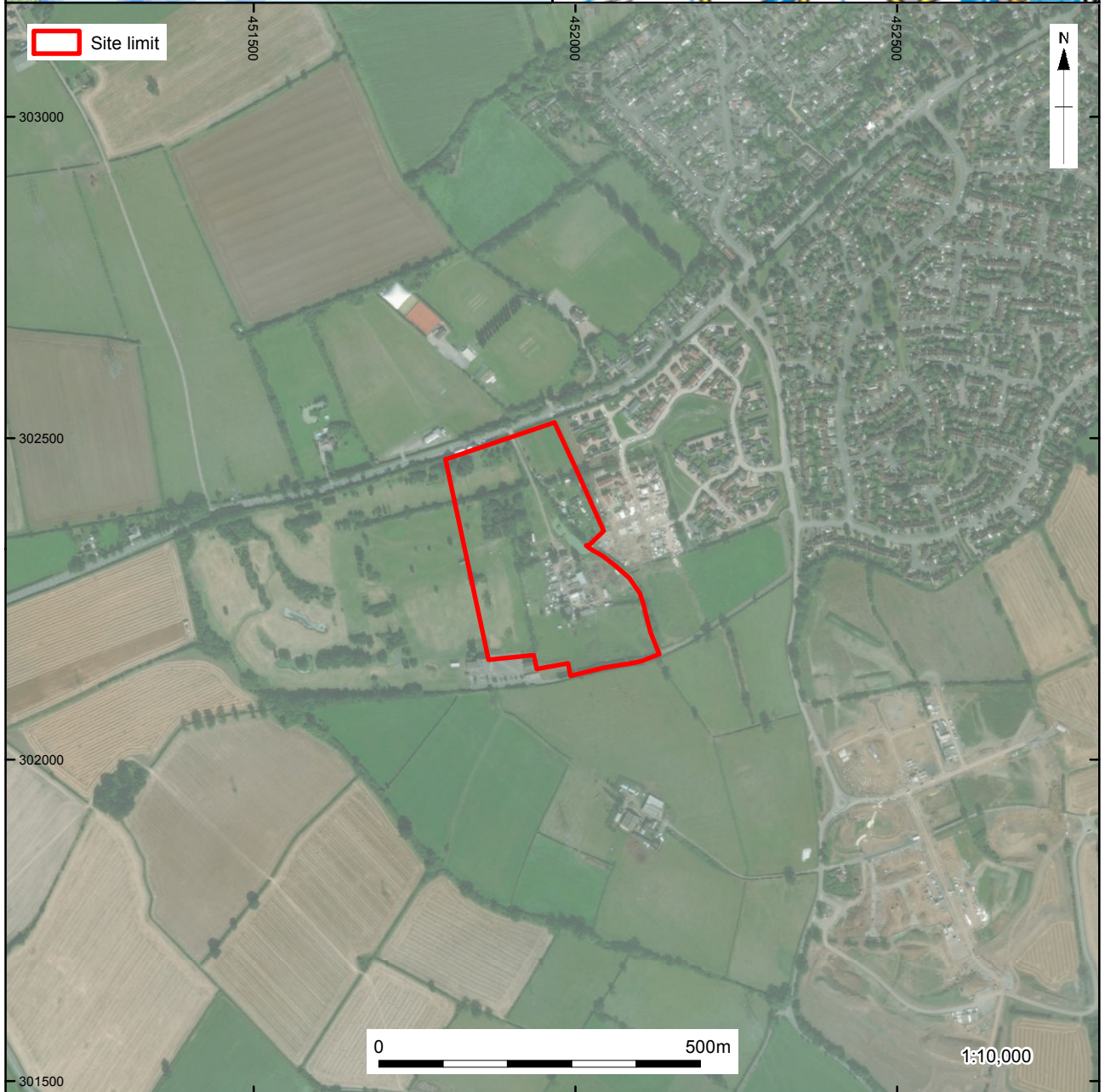
## APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

<b>Site name:</b>	Kingstand Farm, Leicester Forest East, Leicestershire, Leicester Forest East
<b>Site code:</b>	X.A79.2018
<b>Grid Reference</b>	SK 5195 0231
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date and duration:</b>	July 2018
<b>Area of Site</b>	7.94 ha
<b>Location of archive:</b>	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums in due course, under the following accession number: X.A79.2018.

**Summary of Results:** In July 2018 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Heritage to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Kingstand Farm in Leicester Forest East, Leicestershire. The site comprises c 7.94 hectares of land centered at NGR SK 5195 0231. The site is the location of a proposed housing development. The evaluation involved the excavation of 25 trenches, represent a 3% sample of the site.

The results of the evaluation confirmed that areas of the site were crossed by ridge and furrow, and modern features relating to a former golf course were found in the western part of the site. The only archaeological features were in the south-eastern part of the site, comprising a ditch and two possible pits containing middle Iron Age to early Roman pottery, with evidence for metalworking and possibly pottery production. This area of the site appears to represent the periphery of an area of archaeological activity that extends beyond the site boundary.





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 Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA,

Figure 1: Site location

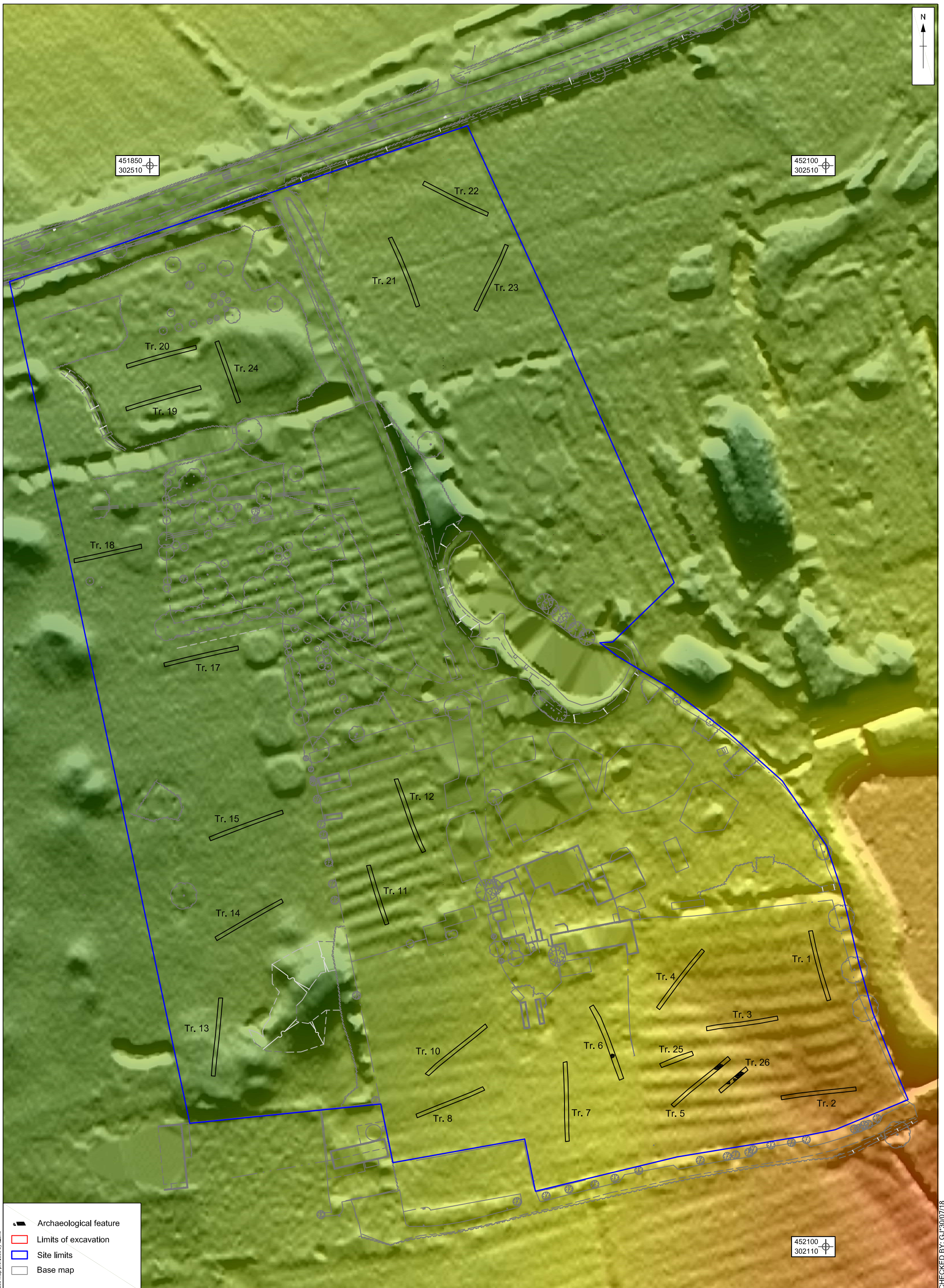






Figure 2: Trench location plan

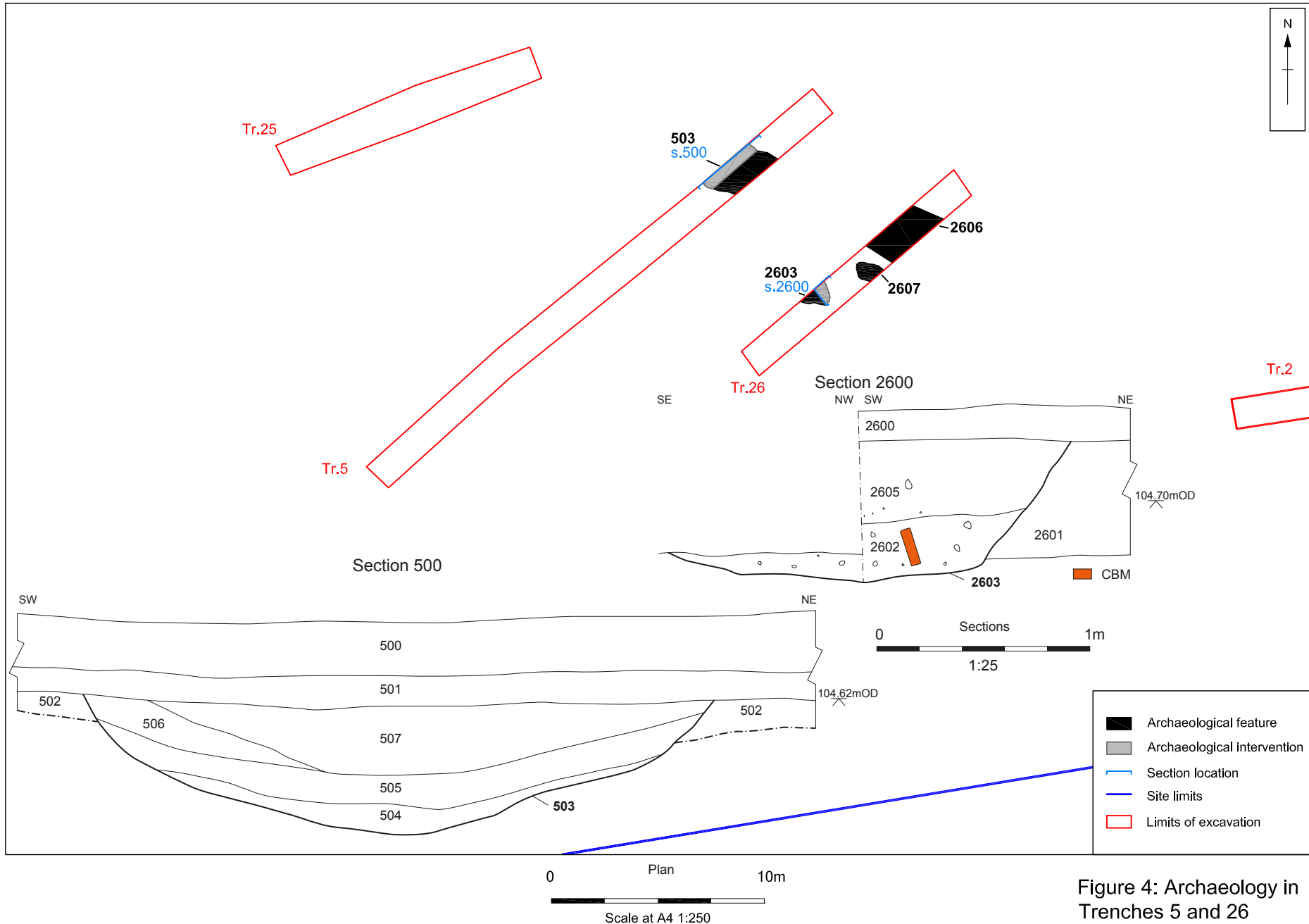




0 50m  
Scale at A3 1:1250

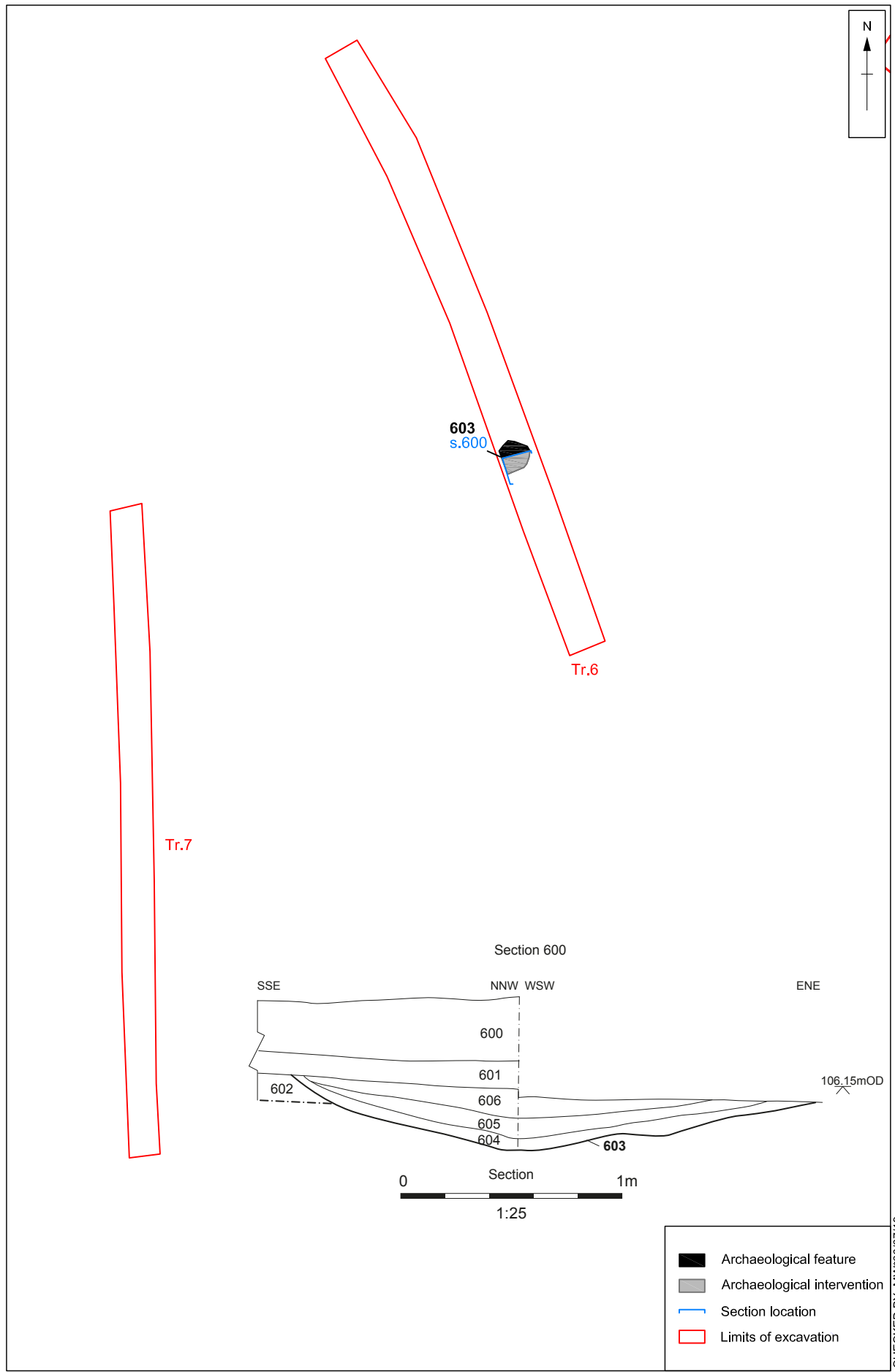
Figure 3: Trenches located over 1m DTM LiDAR data





CHECKED BY: MMW/30/07/18





CHECKED BY: MW\*30/07/18

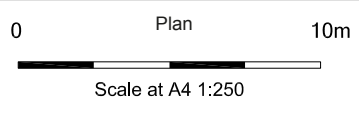


Figure 5: Archaeology in Trench 6







Plate 1: Working shot of machine supervision



Plate 2: Ditch 503, Section 500





Plate 3: Pit 2603, Section 2600



Plate 4: Feature 603, Section 600





Plate 5: Trench 19



Plate 6: Trench 12





Plate 7: Trench 4, showing linear geological anomaly









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