AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT LAND ADJACENT TO ARBOUR CLOSE, MICKLETON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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Contents

An archaeological evaluation at Arbour Close, Mickleton, Gloucestershire

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Arbour Close, Mickleton, Gloucestershire (NGR SP 156 432) in September 2013. It was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Ltd whose client intends development of the site, for which a planning application is in preparation.

Prior to the evaluation, a desk-based assessment established a low to nil potential for the survival of archaeological remains of all periods, other than those related to agricultural practices. However, a detailed gradiometry survey identified areas of ridge and furrow and a number of other anomalies, that were thought potentially to relate to past human activity. These included ditches and a possible pond. Consultation with Gloucestershire County Council established the requirement for evaluation of an initial 2% of the site to assess these anomalies.

Mickleton lies on the northern edge of Gloucestershire on the southern edge of the Vale of Evesham, close to the borders of Warwickshire and Worcestershire. The site comprises two fields and a small paddock on the western edge of the village. At the time of the evaluation the northern of the two fields and the paddock were in pasture whilst the field to the south was under arable cultivation.

Fifteen evaluation trenches, each approximately 30m long, were excavated across the site. These were located to assess the archaeological significance of geophysical anomalies and to achieve as wide as possible coverage of the remainder of the site. Topsoil and subsoil were removed by tracked excavator and subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand.

The natural substrate was revealed in all fifteen trenches and comprised variations of an orange brown silty clay. The base of shallow furrows, the ploughed-out remains of ridge and furrow cultivation, were cut into the natural substrate in the majority of trenches corresponding to the layout shown in the geophysical survey. A number of undated features were recorded, largely in the northern part of the site including five narrow ditches, an area of burnt clay and an infilled pond. Most of these features corresponded with anomalies detected in the geophysical survey

It is concluded that it is likely that all archaeological activity within the site relates to medieval or post-medieval agriculture and is of minor archaeological significance and therefore no further archaeological work is recommended..

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at land adjacent to Arbour Close, Mickleton, Gloucestershire (NGR SP 156 432) in September 2013. It was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting whose client intends development of the site, for which a planning application is in preparation

Prior to the evaluation, a desk-based assessment (CgMs 2013) established a low to nil potential for the survival of archaeological remains of all periods, other than those related to agricultural practices. However geophysical survey (Stratascan 2013) identified areas of ridge and furrow and a number of other anomalies that were thought to be of probable or possible archaeological origin. The proposed development site was therefore considered to have the potential to affect archaeological assets, and consultation with Charles Parry (Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council) established the requirement for an archaeological evaluation of an initial 2% of the site. This aimed to investigate the geophysical anomalies, and included a contingency for a further 2% evaluation of the site.

The project conforms to a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2013) and also to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009).

2 Aims

The aims of this evaluation were:

- to describe and assess the significance of the heritage assets with archaeological interest;
- to establish the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological site;
- to assess the potential impact of the application on the archaeological site.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was undertaken by Andrew Walsh (BSc MSc AIfA) who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2013 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers (BA, MSc). Tom Rogers and Andrew Walsh were authors of the report which was reviewed by Simon Woodiwiss. Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt.

3.2 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2013). As a result of the documentary search, adjustments were made to the fieldwork strategy.

Fieldwork was undertaken in two phases. The northern part of the site (Trenches 1-11) which was in pasture, was evaluated between 19th and 21st August 2013 and the southern part of the site (trenches 12-15) was evaluated on 9th and 10th September 2013 after the crop on this field had been harvested.

Fifteen trenches amounting to just over 900m² in area, were excavated over the site area of 4.6ha, representing a sample of approximately 2%. A contingency to assess a further 2% of the site in order to further assess the archaeological potential of the site was not implemented. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

The following trenches were placed in specific locations to evaluate possible or probable geophysical anomalies (not including ridge and furrow (1)):-

- Trench 2 - Positive anomaly 2 (northern of two) and negative anomaly 3.
- Trench 3 - Positive anomaly (2) as above
- Trench 5 - Discrete positive anomaly (4 – one of four)
- Trench 6 - Discrete positive anomaly (4 – one of four)
- Trench 7 - A positive anomaly (5) indicative of a former cut feature and may be related to a former pond or pit.
- Trench 9 - Positive anomaly 2 (southern of two)
- Trench14 - Discrete positive anomaly (4 – one of four)

The presence of an 11kv overhead electric power line which runs close to and parallel to the western edge of the site restricted the excavation of trenches in this area.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360º tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012) and trench and feature locations were surveyed using a differential GPS. At the suggestion of the client and curator, sections excavated across undated linear features were extended following recording in order to increase the retrieval of datable material. On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

3.3 Structural analysis

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

3.4 Artefact methodology,

3.4.1 Artefact recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (WA 2012a; appendix 2), although in the event none were recovered from the site, the only artefacts encountered being infrequent post-medieval pottery within the topsoil likely to have been deposited through the process of manuring and therefore not directly relevant to the archaeological potential of the site.

3.5 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The proposed development site is located on the western edge of the village of Mickleton (centred on NGR SP 156 432), which lies approximately 41 km north-east of Gloucester and 12km east of Evesham. The proposed site covers an area of approximately 4.6ha. It is bounded by housing to the east and south, and an unnamed boundary ditch and drain to the west and north.

The site lies on flat agricultural land at a height of approximately 65m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is mapped as undifferentiated Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation overlain by superficial head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel (BGS

2013). The soils are mapped as typical brown calcareous earths of the Badsey 1 association (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

The historic and archaeological background to the site is set out in the desk-based assessment of the site carried out by CgMs Ltd (Gidman 2013). In summary, the site lies in an area not thought to be conducive to prehistoric settlement and no evidence for later activity is recorded, the site lying outside the historic core of the village. Historic mapping confirms that the site and its immediate vicinity have changed little over the last 200 years.

4.2 Current land-use

At the time of evaluation the site was in pasture apart from the southern field which lay under arable cultivation.

5 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Fig 2. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The natural substrate was encountered in all fifteen of the trenches excavated. This was variable but generally comprised a firm light grey or orange-brown sandy clay with occasional patches of blue-grey clay. It was encountered at between 0.5-0.92m below the current ground surface across the site.

5.1.2 Phase 2: Medieval/post medieval deposits

Within all trenches the base of furrows were recorded cutting the natural substrate. As suggested by the geophysical survey, these ran NNW-SSE across the site. The furrows were generally 1.5m wide and filled with material similar to the subsoil. Two sections were excavated across furrows but no dating evidence was retrieved, however it is thought that these features are likely to be medieval in origin with continued use into the post-medieval period.

5.1.3 Phase 2: Modern deposits

Topsoil, generally a grey-brown sandy silt was present across the site to a depth of between 0.2m and 0.36m. Subsoil which was present in all trenches between c0.3 and 0.55m depth was described as an orange brown sandy clay with occasional patches of blue clay and red mottling. In Trench 13 in the south-eastern part of the site, iron rich material was present within the subsoil which are thought to be of natural origin.

Ceramic field drains were recorded lying just within the natural substrate within most trenches.

South of Trench 2 geophysical anomaly 3 was visible as a shallow linear depression, orientated north-east to south-west measuring *c*0.05m in depth. It was not visible within Trench 2.

5.1.4 Phase 3: Undated deposits

Five small linear features were recorded in the northern part of the site, (Figs 2, 3, 4, 5, Plates 1 and 3). Within Trench 2, feature [204] a narrow ditch, 0.71m wide and 0.33m deep (Fig. 3, Plate 1) was filled with (203), a homogenous light brown clay. Within Trench 3, feature [307] which was a regular flat bottomed ditch 0.86m wide and 0.3m deep (Fig 4, Plate 3) crossed the trench approximately east-west and was cut by ditch [305] which was 0.6m wide and 0.24m deep orientated north-south. Ditches [204] and [305] correspond with one of two positive anomalies identified in the geophysical survey as (2) and may therefore represent the same ditch although their orientations within the trenches do not suggest this (Fig 2).

Within Trench 5, feature [506] a small north to south oriented ditch 0.54m wide and 0.24m deep, filled with a light brown silty clay (507) corresponded with one of a number of discrete positive anomalies (4) identified in the geophysical survey. A narrow ditch (Fig 5) within Trench 7 appears to have led into and been contemporary with pond [704] (see below). No dating evidence was retrieved from the five ditches.

A sub circular pit ([503], Fig. 2, Plate 4), was partially revealed on the northern edge of Trench 5. This pit contained a sterile primary fill, ([508] Fig 2) overlain by two upper fills ([504, 505], Fig 2) from which burnt clay and charcoal were recovered. To the east it was cut by a furrow. The pit corresponds with one of the discrete positive anomalies labelled (4). An area of burnt clay recorded within Trench 6 ([604], Fig 2) corresponds with another of these anomalies.

A large sub-circular cut feature (Fig 5) partially revealed on the eastern side of Trench 7 is interpreted as a pond [704] corresponding to positive anomaly (5). A sondage was excavated within the fill and a depth of 1.1m below ground surface (0.04m below the top of natural substrate) was achieved before the water table was reached and excavation ceased. The fills (704,706) were an archaeologically sterile clay, which appeared to have accumulated over time in a low energy environment, consistent with gradual sedimentation within a pond.

Within Trenches 10 and 11, an earlier subsoil was recorded lying between subsoil and the natural substrate, into which furrows were partially cut.

6 Synthesis

The evaluation confirmed that the majority of anomalies detected in the geophysical survey represented archaeological features. These were, however, agricultural in origin and of only minor archaeological significance.

The most widespread features recorded were furrows crossing the site generally from NNW to SSE. These represent the remains of ridge and furrow earthworks, the product of strip field agriculture, levelled by ploughing to the extent that only the bases of the furrows survive. These were clearly recorded on the geophysical survey as anomaly 1.

Ridge and furrow was a product of the open field system of farming in which individuals cultivated ridges or groups of ridges between which furrows were allowed to form. The system, had its origins in the medieval period but often remained in use until the structure of agriculture was transformed by the process of enclosure (Muir 1984). The ridges in the western part of the site are more widely spaced and regular than those in the east suggesting that these may have been formed at a later date.

The small ditches in the northern part of the site (204, 305, 307, 506, 708) are likely to represent boundaries or drainage ditches. The sterility of the material filling these ditches implies that these are agricultural in origin and are not associated with settlement or other more intense forms of activity. Ditch [204] and [305] correspond to the locations of a linear positive anomaly (2) within Trenches 2 and 3, but the orientation of the ditches within these two trenches suggest that they are two different features unrelated to the anomaly (Fig 2).

The large cut feature [704] recorded in Trench 7 clearly corresponds to the large positive anomaly detected in this area (5). As surmised in the geophysical survey report, this is likely to have been a pond. There is no indication of a pond in this location on the 1812 Ordnance Survey map, the 1840 tithe map, or subsequent maps implying that the pond has been out of use for at least 200 years. Although it seems unlikely that a pond would have existed within the block of cultivation ridges, the geophysical survey does indicate that the ridges appear to respect the pond.

No indication of a negative anomaly (3) indicative of a former bank or earthwork feature was detected in Trench 2 but it was noted as a visible earthwork to the south of the trench.

In Trench 13 a positive anomaly (4) is likely to have been the product of an iron-rich deposit within the subsoil.

7 Significance

7.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

Archaeological features recorded within the site comprise ridge and furrow, a small cluster of small undated ditches and an infilled pond. No artefacts were recovered from the site but there is potential for the survival of environmental remains within the pond deposits which may bear information about past environments.

7.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

The archaeological features within the site are likely to relate to relatively recent past agricultural practices, such features are common and are generally considered to be of little significance.

7.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

Archaeological features recorded lay to the west and north of the site, although, as they relate to agricultural practice, similar features are likely to be found beyond the boundary of the development.

8 Publication summary

Worcestershire Archaeology has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, Worcestershire Archaeology intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

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It is concluded that it is likely that all archaeological activity within the site relates to medieval or post-medieval agriculture and is of minor archaeological significance.

9 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, James Gidman (CgMs) for commissioning the project and Jenny Kinchin for providing access to the land.

10 Bibliography

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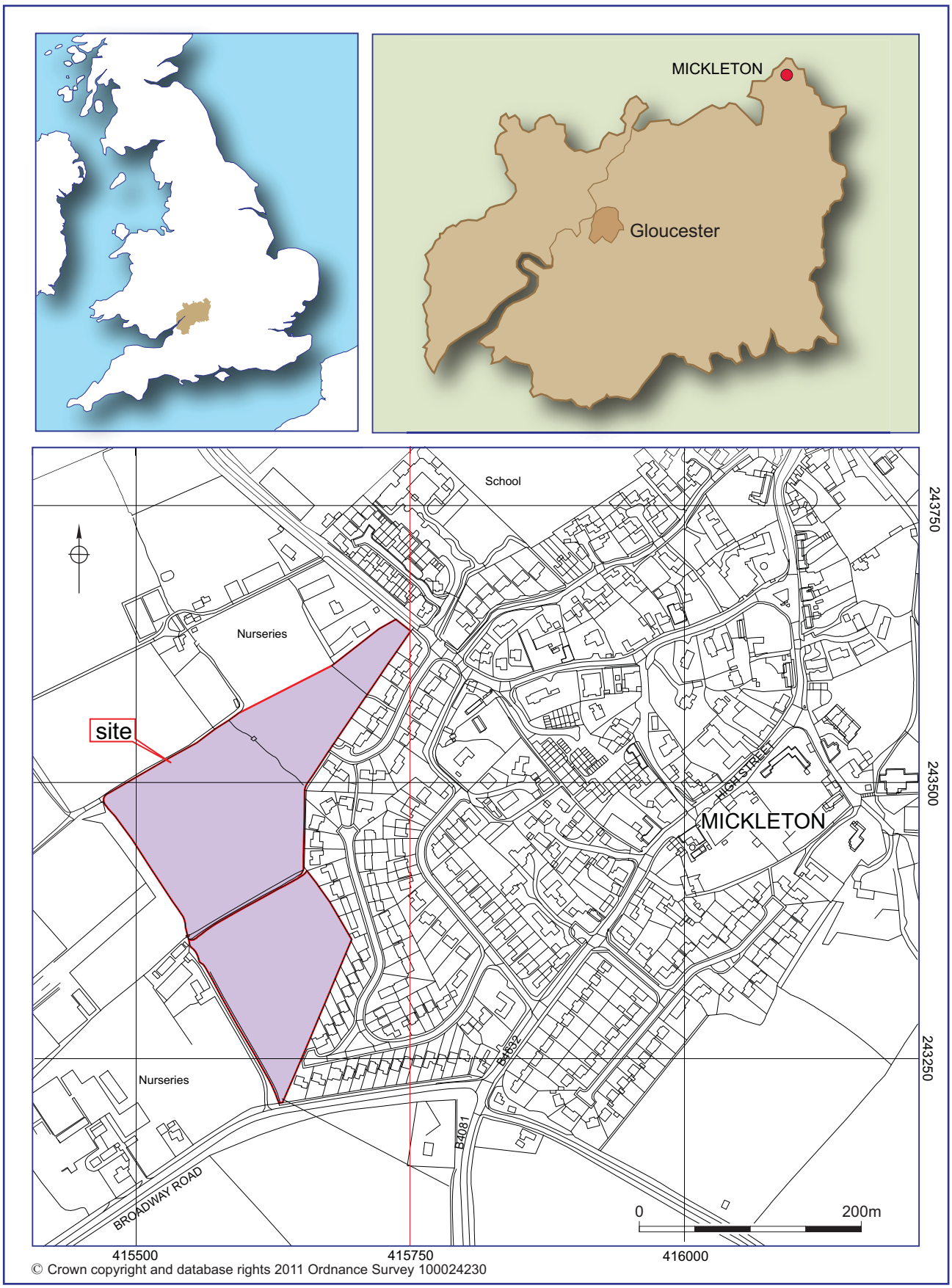
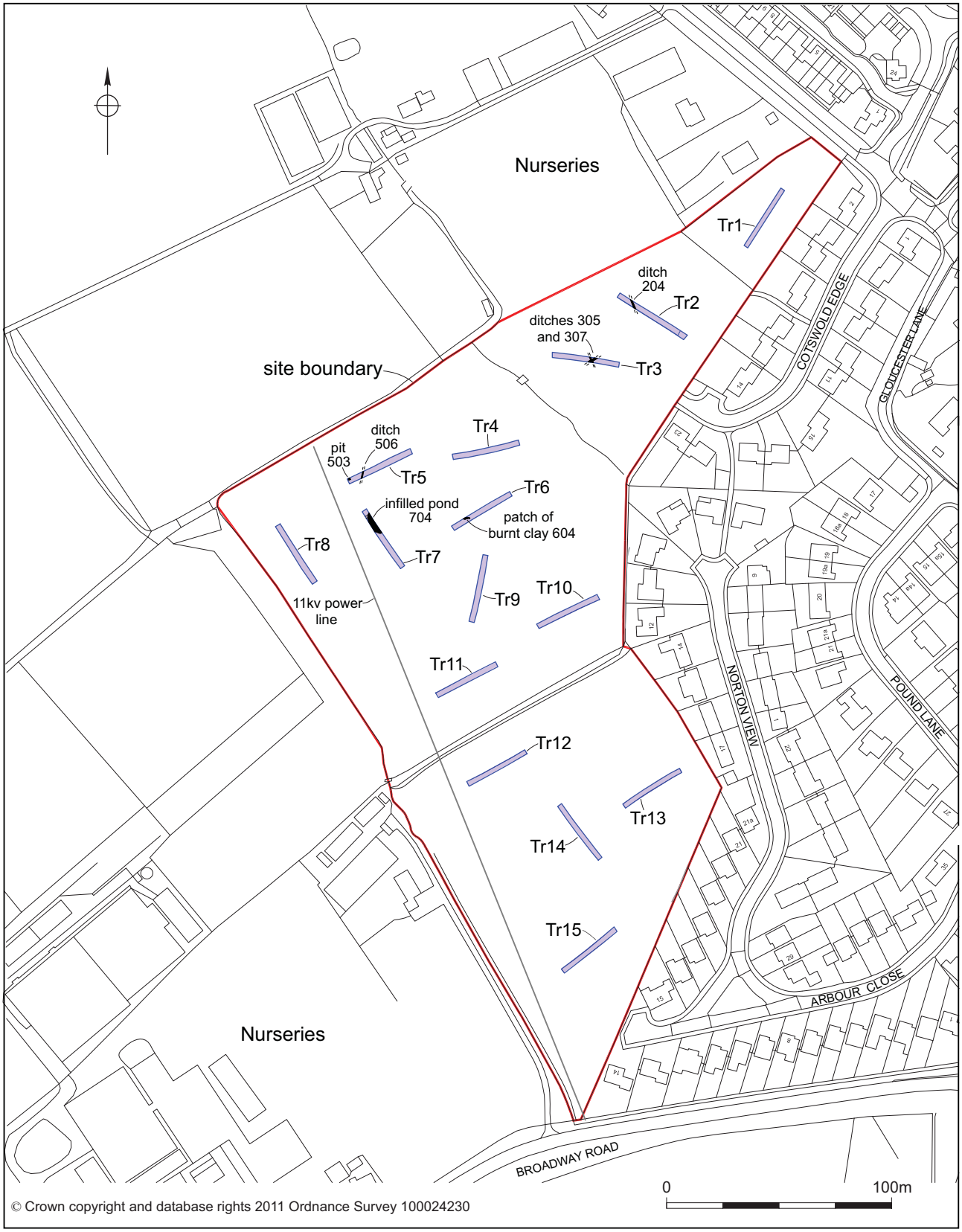
Figures

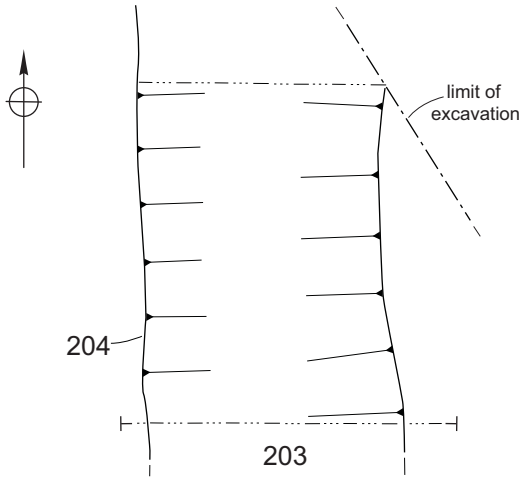


Location of the site *Figure 1*

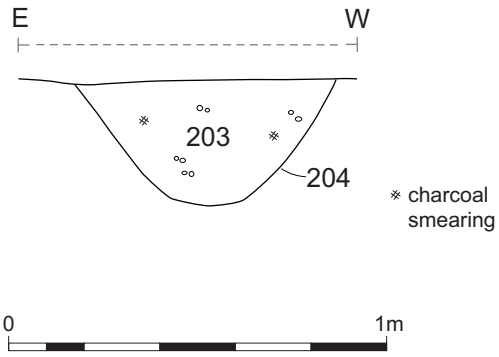


Location of trenches and features (ridge and furrow now shown) *Figure 2*

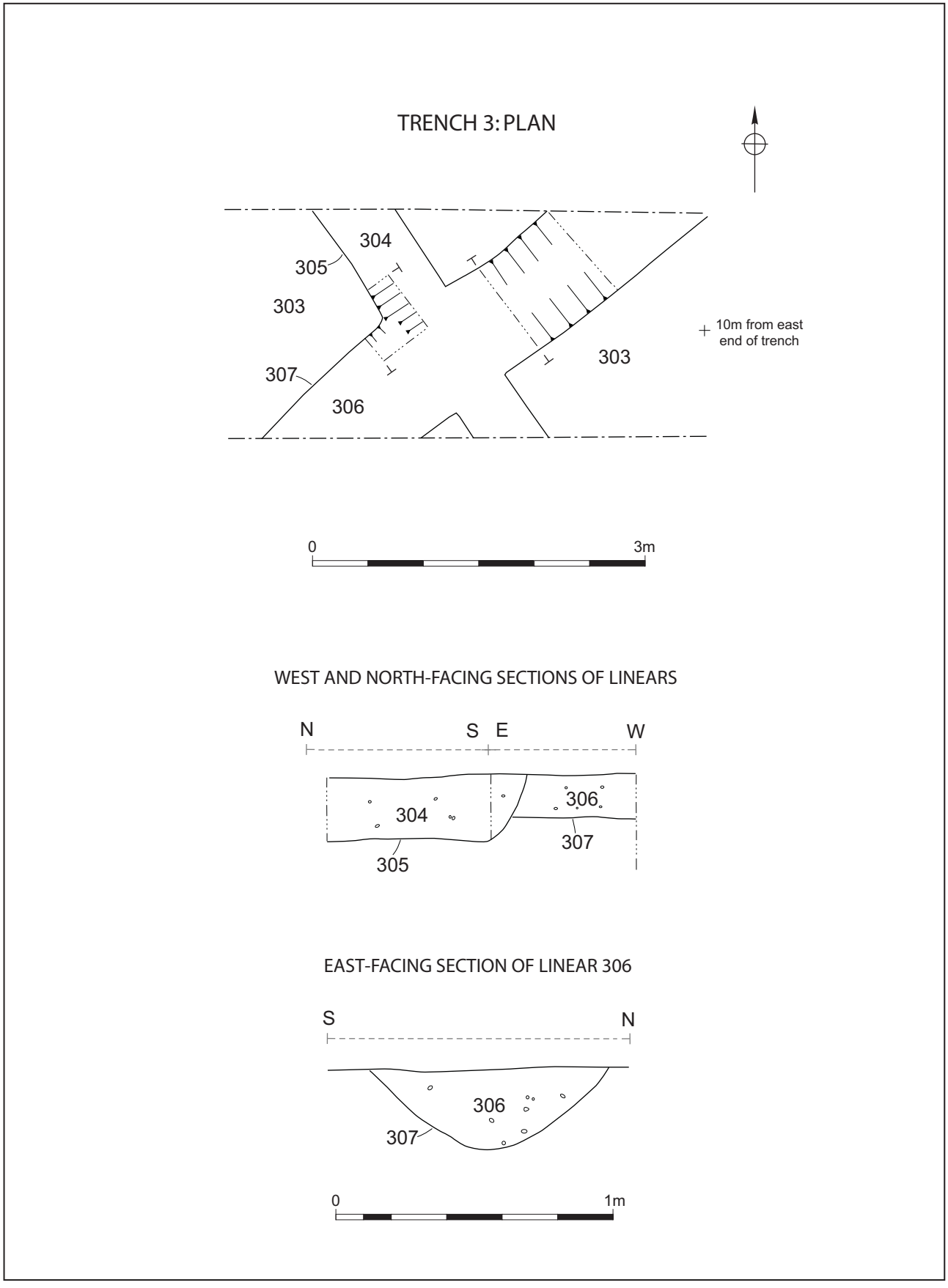
PLAN OF LINEAR 204



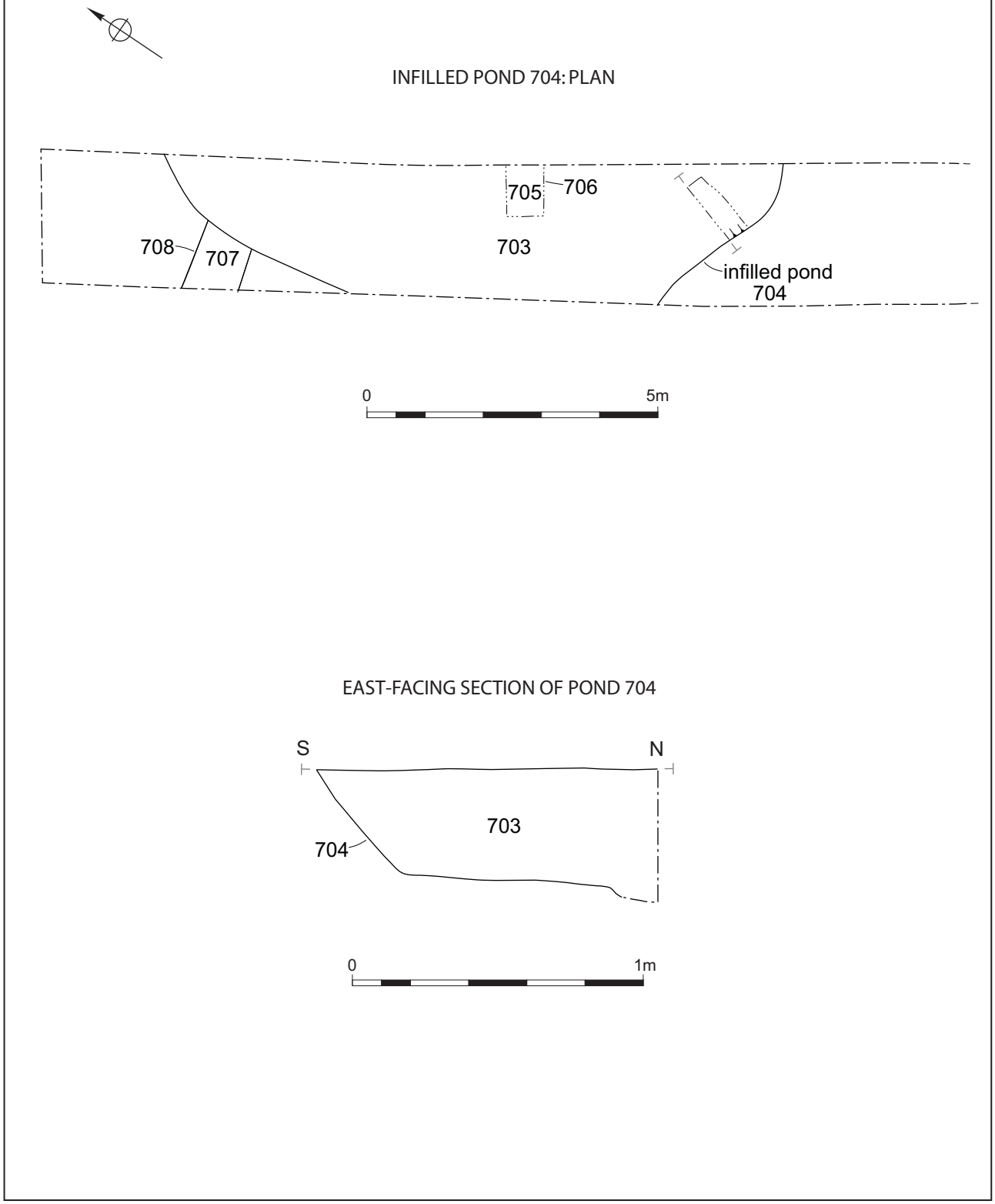
NORTH-FACING SECTION OF LINEAR 204



Plan and section of linear 204 *Figure 3*



Plan and sections of linears 305 and 307 *Figure 4*



Plan andsection of infilled pond 204 *Figure 5*

Plates

Plate. 1. North facing section of ditch 204.

Plate 2. Trench 2 facing south-east

Plate 3. Ditches 305 and 307 facing south-east

Plate 4. East facing section of pit 503.

Plate 5. Trench 7 facing south-east

Plate 6. Sondage through pond 706 facing north-east

Plate 7. Iron-rich natural deposit in Trench 13

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30.3m Width: 2m Depth: 0.70m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Greyish brown sandy clayey silt with frequent rooting and occasional charcoal flecking	0.0-0.30m
101	Subsoil	Slightly greyish orangey brown silty sandy clay with occasional rooting	0.30-0.58m
102	Natural	Orangey brown sandy clay with occasional patches of Blue Lias clay, and red sand. Contained very occasional cobbles and pebbles	0.58m+

Natural cut by five furrows orientated NW-SE and three modern ceramic field drains

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 35m Width: 2m Depth: 0.76m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Greyish brown sandy clayey silt with occasional rooting and small sub-angular stones	0.0-0.27m
201	Subsoil	Light grey silty clayey sand with occasional small to medium stones and charcoal flecking	0.27-0.51m
202	Subsoil	Light greyish brown clay with slight greenish hue, with occasional sub-angular stones	0.51-0.76m
203	Fill	Fill of linear [204] consisting of a light brownish grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecking and sub-angular stones. No finds	0.76-1.09m
204	Cut	Cut of linear ?gully, orientated N-S. Moderate	0.76-1.09m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		to steep sides with flat base	
205	Natural	Orangey brown sand with patches of Blue Lias clay. Contained very occasional cobbles and pebbles	0.76m+

Natural also cut by two furrows and a modern ceramic field orientated NW-SE

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m Width: 2m Depth: 0.70m

Orientation: WNW-ESE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Topsoil	Greyish brown sandy clayey silt with occasional rooting and small sub-angular stones	0.0-0.30m
301	Subsoil	Light grey silty clayey sand with occasional small to medium stones and charcoal flecking	0.30-0.51m
302	Subsoil	Light greyish brown clay with slight greenish hue, with occasional sub-angular stones	0.51-0.70m
303	Natural	Orangey brown sand with patches of Blue Lias clay. Contained very occasional cobbles and pebbles	0.70m+
304	Fill	Fill of gully [305] consisting of a light grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecking and pebbles. No finds	0.70-0.94m
305	Cut	Cut of gully, measuring 0.60m in width. Orientated N-S. Moderate to steep sides with a concave base	0.70-0.94m
306	Fill	Fill of linear [307] consisting of a light grey silty clay with occasional pebbles. No finds	
307	Cut	Cut of linear ?gully, measuring 0.86m in width. Orientated E-W. Moderate sides with a concave base	

Natural also cut by two furrows and a modern ceramic field orientated NW-SE

Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 29.5m Width: 2m Depth: 0.53m

Orientation: WSW-ENE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
400	Topsoil	Greyish brown clayey silt with frequent rooting and occasional charcoal flecking	0.0-0.30m
401	Subsoil	Orangey brown silty clay	0.30-0.50m
402	Natural	Orangey brown silty clay with occasional patches of Blue Lias clay. Contained occasional cobbles and pebbles	0.5m+

Natural cut by three furrows and a modern ceramic field orientated NW-SE

Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m Width: 2m Depth: 0.60m

Orientation: WSW-ENE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
500	Topsoil	Greyish brown sandy clayey silt with frequent rooting and occasional charcoal flecking	0.0-0.28m
501	Subsoil	Slightly greyish orangey brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecking	0.28-0.50m
502	Natural	Orangey brown sandy clay with occasional cobbles and pebbles	0.50m+
503	Cut	Cut of pit, measuring at least 0.73m in width. Slightly irregular in plan and profile	0.50-0.87m
504	Fill	Orangey red silty clay burnt deposit in pit [503]. No finds	0.50-0.64m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
505	Fill	Dark grey silty clay, with frequent charcoal fragments in pit [503]. No finds	0.50-0.77m
506	Cut	Cut of linear feature, measuring 0.54m in width. Moderate sides with a concave base	0.50-0.74m
507	Fill	Fill of [506] consisting of a light brown silty clay with occasional pebbles. No finds	0.50-0.74m
508	Fill	Light greyish brown silty clay fill in pit [503]. Occasional charcoal flecking and small pebbles	0.50-0.87m

Natural also cut by three furrows and a modern ceramic field orientated NW-SE

Trench 6

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m Width: 2m Depth: 0.56m

Orientation: WSW-ENE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
600	Topsoil	Greyish brown sandy clayey silt with frequent rooting and occasional pebbles	0.0-0.22m
601	Subsoil	Slightly greyish orangey brown silty clay with occasional pebbles	0.22-0.39m
602	Subsoil	Slightly greyish orangey brown sandy clay with occasional pebbles	0.39-56m
603	Natural	Orangey brown sandy clay with occasional cobbles and pebbles	0.56m+
604	Layer	Layer of orangey red clay. Heat affected natural.	0.56

Natural also cut by four furrows and two modern ceramic field orientated NW-SE

Trench 7

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m Width: 2m Depth: 0.6m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
700	Topsoil	Greyish brown sandy clayey silt with frequent rooting and occasional charcoal flecking	0.0-0.31m
701	Subsoil	Yellowish brown sandy clay	0.31-0.53m
702	Natural	Orangey brown sandy clay with occasional patches of Blue Lias clay. Contained very occasional cobbles and pebbles	0.53m+
703	Fill	Fill of pond [704] consisting of a blueish brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and pebbles	0.53-0.98m
704	Cut	Cut of pond. Only partially exposed in but appears sub-circular in plan, measuring c10m by 2m	0.53-0.98m
705	Fill	Same as (703)	
706	Cut	Same as [704]	
707	Fill	Fill of ditch [708], comprising of a blueish brown sandy clay	0.53m+
708	Cut	Cut of ditch	0.53m+

Trench 8

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m Width: 2m Depth: 0.62m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
800	Topsoil	Greyish brown sandy clayey silt with frequent rooting and occasional charcoal flecking	0.0-0.30m
801	Subsoil	Slightly greyish orangey brown silty sandy clay with occasional rooting	0.30-0.55m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
802	Natural	Orangey brown sandy clay with occasional patches of Blue Lias clay. Contained occasional cobbles and pebbles	0.55m+

Natural cut by one field drain orientated N-S

Trench 9

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m Width: 2m Depth: 0.73m

Orientation: NNE-SSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
900	Topsoil	Greyish brown sandy clayey silt with frequent rooting	0.0-0.28m
901	Subsoil	Orangey brown silty clay	0.28-0.68m
902	Natural	Orangey brown sandy clay with very occasional patches of Blue Lias clay. Contained very occasional cobbles and pebbles	0.68m+

Natural cut by two furrows and two modern ceramic field orientated NW-SE

Trench 10

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m Width: 2m Depth: 0.92m

Orientation: ENE-WSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1000	Topsoil	Greyish brown sandy clayey silt with frequent rooting and occasional charcoal flecking and cobbles	0.0-0.36m
1001	Subsoil	Slightly greyish brown silty sandy clay with	0.36-0.67m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		occasional pebbles	
1002	Natural	Light brown sandy clay with occasional small sub-angular stones	0.67-0.92m
1003	Natural	Orangey brown sandy clay with occasional patches of Blue Lias clay, and red sand. Contained very occasional cobbles and pebbles	0.92m+

Natural (1002) cut by two furrows and one modern ceramic field orientated NW-SE

Trench 11

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m Width: 2m Depth: 0.68m

Orientation: ENE-WSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1100	Topsoil	Greyish brown sandy clayey silt with frequent rooting and occasional charcoal flecking and cobbles	0.0-0.20m
1101	Subsoil	Slightly greyish light brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles	0.20-0.48m
1102	Subsoil	Light brown silty sand with occasional small sub-angular stones	0.48-0.68m
1103	Natural	Orangey brown sandy clay with occasional patches of Blue Lias clay, and red sand. Contained very occasional cobbles and pebbles	0.68m+

Natural cut by one furrow and one modern ceramic field orientated NW-SE

Trench 12

Maximum dimensions: Length: 29.7m Width: 2m Depth: 0.6m

Orientation: ENE-WSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1200	Topsoil	Sandy silty clay, grey brown with moderate rooting	0.0-0.25m
1201	Subsoil	Slightly greyish orange-brown silty, sandy clay	0.25-0.55m
1202	Natural	Orange brown sandy clay with occasional pebbles and cobbles.	0.55m+

Trench 13

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m Width: 2m Depth: 0.6m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1300	Topsoil	Grey brown sandy silty clay with moderate rooting	0-0.34m
1301	Subsoil	Slightly orange-grey brown sandy silt containing deposits of iron rich material.	0.34-0.54m
1302	Natural	Slightly orange-brown silty sandy clay with occasional pebbles and greyish clay patches	0.54m+

Trench 14

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m Width: 2m Depth: 0.6m

Orientation: ENE-WSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1400	Topsoil	Grey brown sandy silty clay	0-0.28m
1401	Subsoil	Orange brown silty sandy clay	0.28m-0.54m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1402	Natural	Orange brown sandy clay with occasional pebbles and cobbles and patches of grey blue clay	0.54m+

Trench 15

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30.1m Width: 2m Depth: 0.58m

Orientation: ENE-WSW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
1500	Topsoil	Greyish brown sandy clay silt.	0-0.25m
1501	Subsoil	Greyish brown silty clay with dark orange mottling	0.25m-0.5m
1502	Natural	Light greyish brown clay with occasional patches of blue-grey clay	0.5m+

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive consists of:

19 Context records AS1
5 Field progress reports AS2
3 Photographic records AS3
110 Digital photographs
1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
13 Scale drawings
1 Context number catalogues AS5
15 Trench record sheets AS41
1 CD-Rom/DVDs
1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum
Clarence Street
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL50 3JT