

# Archaeological Evaluation of Land off Main Street, Middle Tysoe, Warwickshire



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## **Archaeological Evaluation at land off Main Street, Middle Tysoe, Warwickshire**

Jonathan Webster

With contributions by Laura Griffin

### **Summary**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the land off Main Street, Middle Tysoe, Warwickshire (NGR: SP 3416 4451). It was commissioned by Mr S Pendleton, who intends the construction of a residential development of nine dwellings together with new access, open space and landscape works, for which planning permission has been granted by Stratford on Avon District Council.

The site lies on the northern edge of Middle Tysoe and lies over two fields, both currently under pasture. It has previously been the subject of a Historic Environment and Archaeological Statement and a geophysical survey. The Historic Environment and Archaeological Statement identified the presence of ridge and furrow, although less well preserved than other examples within the parish and that it falls within an area of low-medium sensitivity. The geophysical survey provided a broad record of the location and extent of the ridge and furrow as well as identifying a number of other anomalies, some of which were potentially of archaeological significance.

An initial survey of the surviving ridge and furrow was undertaken using GPS surveying equipment. Following this seven trenches were excavated in locations designed to test the geophysical anomalies. The evaluation revealed archaeological remains of Romano-British and post-medieval date. A boundary formed from up to three re-cut ditches was recorded running parallel to the northern boundary of the site, in the location of a linear geophysical anomaly. Romano-British pottery was recovered from one section a ditch but others were undated. Another sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from a furrow and is therefore residual in this context.

To the south of the site immediately north of the entrance to Church Farm Court, the remains of a wall and rubble surface were recorded. These were not dated although one sherd of 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from the top of the surface. It is not thought that the wall was substantial enough to have been part of a building. The construction cut for the wall truncated another feature which though undated had a similar fill to that of the ditch from which Romano-British pottery was recovered.

Modern features recorded within the site are agricultural in origin and not considered to be archaeologically significant.

Whilst this phase of works was able to confidently demonstrate the quantity of archaeological remains present, the distinct paucity of dateable material recovered means that further investigations would be required to gain a better understanding of the character, date, extent and inter-relationship of these features.

## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the land off Main Street, Middle Tysoe, Warwickshire (NGR: SP 3416 4451). It was commissioned by Mr S Pendleton, who intends the construction of a residential development of nine dwellings together with new access, open space and landscape works at land off Main Street, Tysoe, Warwickshire for which planning permission has been granted by Stratford on Avon District Council (reference 13/03340/FUL) subject to conditions including a programme of archaeological works.

The proposed development site is considered to include heritage assets and potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application. Prior to submission of the application a Historic Environment and Archaeological Statement (HEAS; ref GPA/TYS/005) was prepared by Geoffrey Prince Associates (dated April 2003) which identified the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks on the site. A subsequent geophysical survey was carried out (Sabin and Donaldson, July 2013) which provided a broad record of the location and extent of the ridge and furrow as well as identifying a number of features apparently pre-dating them. Areas of debris and disturbance were also identified in areas along the western and southern parts of the proposed development area. A description of the ridge and furrow earthworks was also prepared by David Hall and submitted (document dated July 2013) to the planning authority, while a supplementary statement (Jackson, August 2013) considered the impact of its loss on the wider area of ridge and furrow surviving around Tysoe.

The project conforms to a brief prepared during consultation with Anna Stocks, Planning Archaeologist, Archaeological Information and Advice, Warwickshire County Council (The Curator) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (WA 2014).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008).

The event reference for this project will be provided by the Warwickshire HER on the deposition of this report and site archive. The Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service internal project reference used is P4386.

### 2 Aims

The aims of this evaluation are:

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

### 3 Methods

#### 3.1 Personnel

The project was undertaken by Jonathan Webster, who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2009 and has been practising archaeology since 2001. Finds analysis was undertaken by Laura Griffin. The Project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers. Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt.

#### 3.2 Documentary research

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) was undertaken by Geoffrey Prince Associates (dated April 2003) as part of a Historic Environment and Archaeological Statement (HEAS; ref GPA/TYS/005).

The DBA identified that although the area of investigation contained signs of ridge and furrow, they were poorly defined in comparison to other examples around the settlement of Tysoe. No evidence has previously been noted of either Prehistoric or Romano-British remains in the immediate area and whilst the village itself is thought to have early medieval origins, first recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, no evidence of activity from these periods was recorded in the area of the proposed development. Due to the proximity of the 12<sup>th</sup> Century church to the south, it has been suggested that the settlement of Tysoe may have had origins as a nucleated ribbon settlement along Main Street which then became a partially deserted medieval village at a later stage to allow the landowner more income through farming.

Field 1 of the area of investigation is known to have been in use as an orchard on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey and continued to be used in this manner until well after the Second World War, after which time it was abandoned, although a couple of pear trees were still present at the time of the current investigative works.

### **3.3 Fieldwork strategy**

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2014). The site reference number will be allocated by Warwickshire HER on deposition of this report and site archive whilst the internal site code used by Worcestershire Archaeology is P4386.

A survey of the ridge and furrow earthworks was undertaken on 22<sup>nd</sup> August using a Leica Viva netrover GS10 GPS.

The evaluation was undertaken between 27 August and 2 September 2014. After consultation with the local farmer on site, trench 2 was shortened due to a modern foul drain being located at its southwest end and trench 7 was realigned to a northeast/southwest alignment due to the presence of a water main that ran across the proposed southern part of the original trench location. In addition to the six trenches specified in the Written Scheme of Investigation, a further trench (Trench 1) was requested on the road frontage by the Curator.

The seven trenches, amounting to 378m<sup>2</sup> in area that was spread over two fields, were excavated over the site area of c. 9760m<sup>2</sup>, representing a sample of c. 4%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2. The trenches were placed to best investigate a number of geophysical anomalies recorded during the magnetometer survey undertaken by Archaeological Surveys Limited (Sabin and Donaldson 2013). The only exception being trench 3 which was placed in an area of modern disturbance that potentially masked any underlying features.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° 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). It should be noted that no deposits revealed during the course of the investigative works were deemed necessary to warrant environmental sampling at this phase. On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

### **3.4 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.

### **3.5 Artefact methodology, by Laura Griffin**

#### **3.5.1 Recovery policy**

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012; appendix 2).

### **3.5.2 Method of analysis**

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on a *pro forma* Microsoft Access database.

### **3.5.3 Discard policy**

The following categories/types of material will be discarded after a period of 6 months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):

- where unstratified
- post-medieval pottery, and;
- generally where material has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.

## **3.6 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Jonathan Webster**

### **3.6.1 Sampling policy**

Sampling was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). In the event no deposits were identified which were considered to be suitable for environmental analysis at this stage.

### **3.7 Statement of confidence in the methods and results**

The methods adopted allows for a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved with the evidence available.

## **4 The application site**

### **4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context**

The area of investigation lies within a large flat valley basin with the ground rising imperceptibly towards the hills to the east. Within the site limit itself the majority of the area, although flat, has prominent ridge and furrow although this is lost to the south and west by later ground disturbances and dumps. Much of the western edge of the investigation area rises into a mound and had clearly been artificially raised in recent history.

The underlying geology is mapped as the Charmouth Mudstone formation dating to approximately 183 to 197 million years ago in the Jurassic period (BGS 2014) and although no superficial geology is mapped, the overlying soils are noted as the Denchworth association which are pelo-stagnogleys. These comprise slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged clay soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

As mentioned above, no significant archaeological sites are known in the immediate vicinity and at the time of these investigative works only the visible ridge and furrow had been identified.

### **4.2 Current land-use**

The site is currently in use as an arable field.

## **5 Structural analysis**

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 2-6. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

The results of the earthwork survey have been translated into CAD format and will be included within the archive of this project.



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Rather than to provide a narrative of each trench in turn, and the associated repetition of data that would cause, the following analysis has split the area of investigation up into its potential phases.

#### **5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural substrate**

The natural substrate was seen across the entire investigation area at an average depth of c.105.80m (AOD-Above Ordnance Datum) and comprised mottled silty sands and clays that are typical of seasonal glacial melt and retreat that are often found in former moraine landscapes and is thought to be the result of glacial retreat after reaching its maximum southern extent around 12,000 years ago during the Pleistocene epoch (Benn and Evans 2002).

#### **5.1.2 Phase 2: Romano-British**

Romano-British pottery was recovered from trenches 6 and 7. Within trench 7 the pottery was re-deposited within the ridge and furrow and was therefore residual in this context.

In trench 6 a ditch [603] entered the Trench on a northeast/southwest alignment before turning towards the southeast. It measured at least 0.94m in width at its widest point but extended beyond the limit of excavation so that the full width could not be measured. It was 0.48m deep (105.31m AOD) with steep rounded sides that dropped onto an 'ankle-breaker' gully base. This ditch was truncated by later undated ditches [605] and [616], described below. Together these features correspond to a large, possibly segmented, linear anomaly that ran northwest to southeast, roughly parallel with the current northeast field boundary of the site. The fill of this feature was light greenish grey silt distinct from the fills of the later ditches and other ditches on the line of the anomaly recorded within Trenches 1 and 4.

#### **5.1.3 Phase 4: Medieval/ Post medieval**

Within Trench 3, a sandstone wall (322) was recorded 0.93m below the present ground level (105.73m AOD) orientated east/west. It measured 0.26m in width by 0.20m in depth (105.53m AOD). It was clearly not part of a building and is, at present, interpreted as a former field boundary wall. To the immediate north a spread of sandstone rubble (320) and (321) lay at 0.92m below the present ground level (105.72m AOD) which had a single piece of 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century pot lying on its surface. A number of ridge and furrows associated with the visible earthworks were seen in cross-section (primarily in Trenches 1, 5 and 7) with material of 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century pot being recovered.

Although a small degree of artefactual material was recovered from the ridge and furrow within both fields that ranged in date from Romano-British to 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century, it is thought that the ridge and furrow itself has a probable post medieval establishment date when viewed in association with other features that were revealed either truncating or being sealed by it. The ridge and furrow itself ran primarily northeast to southwest across the northeast half of the investigation area in field 1. Each terminated at the junction with a single ridge and furrow orientated northwest to southeast that was recorded in both Trenches 5 and 6. The orientation in field 2 was similar, although here, the quality of the extent ridge and furrow was much greater and the main focus of the alignment was at 90 degrees to field 1 with the majority of the ridge and furrow being orientated northwest to southeast.

#### **5.1.4 Phase 5: Modern**

A large number of modern pits were recorded over a number of the Trenches, many of which contained articulated sheep and bird remains and appeared to have been deposited within the last 100 years. In addition a number of small gullies associated with field drainage and services were noted that primarily were associated with feeding water troughs in the north and south corners in field 1. Trench 7 was moved to an extent in field 2 after it was revealed that a mains sewer ran across its projected line, and is now known to be the geophysical anomaly that was to be investigated. A manhole for this large service is located to the south of Trench 7 from where it appears to run towards St. Mary's school.

Finally of particular note was the presence of a large former slurry pit at the northwest end of Trench 3 that had been backfilled with modern demolition that was associated with the former farm complex. This material also spread out to the south and east creating the visible mound that was noted before investigations began.

#### **5.1.5 Phase 6: Undated**

A large number of undated features were recorded across the investigation area that, due to a lack of physical relationships and dateable material, could not be assigned to any specific phase. While it is believed that a large number of these are probably post-medieval in date, two are of potentially higher interest.

Further sections of the ditches corresponding to the linear anomaly in the northern part of the site were undated. In Trench 1, this feature was recorded as a single small 'gully' 0.40m below the present ground level, 0.44m in width by 0.14m (105.80m AOD) in depth that was truncated by the later furrow [105]. This profile was very different from those recorded in Trenches 4 and 6. In these trenches the large linear feature was recorded as three ditches that were seen to be different phases of the same boundary that had undertaken a small quantity of migration between each successive 're-cut'. In Trench 4 all three of these phases of ditch were at a depth of 105.83m (AOD) and had similar fills and no dating whilst in Trench 6 the two earliest ditch phases had the same composition as elsewhere whilst the final phase had a very distinct dark fill. As described above, Romano-British pottery was recovered from the earliest ditch [603] whilst one small sherd of very abraded and poorly made pot was recovered from the final phase, [605]. This sherd is too damaged to provide a positive identification, but it is thought to be potentially early medieval in date. Ditch [605] measured 0.30m below the present surface level (105.99m AOD), 1.91m in width and 0.59m in depth (105.40m AOD) with moderately steep sides that dropped onto a concaved base creating a U-shaped profile.

Ditch/pit [325] was recorded orientated roughly northwest/southeast in Trench 3, truncated by the construction cut for a later wall [323] and rubble spread (320). This ditch/pit had moderately sloped sides and no indication of a base at the point where the excavation had to be stopped for health and safety issues (it dropping below 1.68m below the present ground level, c.105m AOD). It is clear that this feature is relatively early and it is thought that due to the similarity in deposit composition with ditch [603] that it may even be of Romano-British date.

Gully [614] was revealed in Trench 6 to the immediate southwest of the known Romano-British ditch [603] (See below), and was recorded as being 0.44m (105.79m AOD) below present ground level, orientated northwest to southeast with a shallow U-shaped profile 0.16m deep. The single fill (613) was again very similar in composition to that seen in the known Romano-British ditch and it is currently thought that these two features maybe related and potentially contemporary in date. Unfortunately no physical relationship could be tested between the two features as the potential intersection was outside the limit of the trench excavation.

## **5.2 Artefact analysis, by Laura Griffin**

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1 and 2

The assemblage consisted of eight finds weighing 47g and came from five stratified contexts. The assemblage could be dated from the Roman period onwards (see Table 1). Using pottery as an index of artefact condition, this was generally fair with the majority of sherds displaying moderate levels of abrasion.

period	Object specific type	count	weight (g)
Roman	pottery	4	13
post-medieval	pottery	2	27
undated	iron nail	1	6
undated	?pottery	1	1

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

### Summary artefactual evidence by period

All material has been spot-dated and quantified. For the purposes of this assessment, pottery has not been quantified by specific fabric or form type but the general composition of the group has been noted and is discussed below.

#### Roman

Roman material consisted of four sherds of pottery; all were undiagnostic fragments and therefore could not be dated any more closely than to the general period. Three of these sherds (contexts 604 and 704) were of locally produced grey ware, the remaining sherd a highly abraded fragment of samian ware (context 604).

#### Post-medieval

Remaining datable pottery was post-medieval and consisted of two sherds of red sandy ware with dark brown (context 320) or black glaze (context 704). Both sherds could be dated between the late 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Undated

A small fragment of ceramic was retrieved from context 606. It has no identifiable form due to being heavily abraded and possibly burnt. However, the sandy fabric and dark grey/black colour may indicate it to be a tiny fragment of medieval pottery.

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date
320	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	3	L17C	18C
328	metal	iron	nail	1	6		
604	ceramic	earthenware	pot	3	8	M1C	4C
606	ceramic	earthenware	?pot	1	1		
704	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	24	L17C	18C
704	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	5	M1C	4C

Table 2: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

## **6 Synthesis**

### **6.1 Romano British**

At present only a single feature can be confidently attributed to the Romano-British period, and that is the first phase of the large northwest to southeast orientated ditch which is believed to be associated with a former field system. The Roman phased ditch helps to demonstrate that although not visible in the geophysical survey a turn in this boundary was present at the north of field 1 where it turns 90 degrees towards the southwest (Trench 6). In addition to this it is thought that gully [614] may also be of this early date and represent an internal division of this larger field system. Finally feature [325] is also potentially of Romano-British date although its usage and function are not known at present.

### **6.2 Medieval/Post-medieval**

The continual usage of the large northwest to southeast ditch is thought to continue into the medieval period, as it is clear that although the ditch had silted up almost entirely before the second phase of the ditch was cut and again for the final phase, the route of the boundary must still have been present in some form, although this did not stop a slight migration of route from occurring with each successive phase. As mentioned above, although pottery was recovered from the last phase of usage it was too badly degraded to be of use in dating the feature and only the physical relationship of the various phases and the overlying ridge and furrow can be used at present to try and understand a broad timeline for this clearly important feature.

To the immediate north of the Church Farm Court entrance to the field (Trench 3), a small wall and rubble spread were revealed that are at present thought to be either late medieval or early post-medieval in date although at the dating of these features is mainly speculation (a single piece of post-medieval pot being recovered from the top of the rubble spread). The construction of the wall demonstrates that it was clearly not load bearing and is thought to be associated with a former field boundary. The rubble spread is not thought to be associated directly with the wall or to represent a surface in its own right. At present it is thought that the most likely scenario is that it is a dump of material that was placed within a hollow to allow better usage of the area.

It is believed from the evidence recorded during these investigations that the ridge and furrow present in field 1 is post-medieval in origin and that the easternmost ridge in field 2 is also of a relatively late date. This has been primarily based on a combination of physical relationships with features that have been sealed by the ridge and furrow along with a small quantity of datable material from the ridge and furrows themselves.

### **6.3 Modern**

While a number of small services were recorded crossing the area the main features of modern origin were a large number of pits that had been dug, seemingly at random, across the field that contained animal remains. These pits are thought at present to have been dug at the location where the individual animal had died to bury it and remove the threat of disease to other animals in the near vicinity. These pits appear to have been dug to relatively deep depths (0.78m below present ground level for pit [107] for example).

## **7 Significance**

### **7.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site**

The evidence recovered during these investigations can be split primarily into Romano-British and Medieval/Post-medieval features and both of these phases are thought to warrant further investigation and to have the potential to be of significance.

The presence of at least one Romano-British dated feature within the site, and several more which are thought to be potentially Romano-British suggests that significant deposits of this date may be present within the site or immediate vicinity. Previous geophysical survey and surface finds spread

over c.1.5km to the east and northeast noted the presence of Iron Age or Romano-British enclosures (TYS 43, 44 and 69), and Romano-British coinage has been found within an otherwise undated enclosure c.1km to the south (TYS 120), all of the above point towards a landscape of dispersed enclosed settlement areas and mixed agricultural practices typical of Pre-Roman *Dobunni* tribal regimes (Morton and Holbrook 2007; Esmonde Cleary 2011).

The presence of a sandstone wall and surface may demonstrate that the site was previously occupied but may equally relate to agriculture and represent the remains of a pound or paddock.

The study area was noted as being potentially within the historic core of Tysoe, primarily due to its proximity to the medieval church. However, all the evidence recovered to date would suggest that the village may have always been an un-nucleated settlement with field systems (such as demonstrated by the proposed development site) interspersed between buildings that had been sited along the edge of the main thoroughfare in an organic ribbon development.

## **7.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site**

The importance of the potential archaeology on this site is thought to be of local and regional importance, as it could help to provide an opportunity to enhance knowledge of the regional differences in agricultural regimes and cultural values seen in this part of Warwickshire, a county that is known to lie at the boundary of three Iron Age groups, the *Dobunni*, *Catuvellauni* and *Corieltauvi*. As such, although of only limited importance in its own right, this proposed development area has a greater impact in helping to provide another example of regional diversity that can help to improve our understanding of the area at large.

It is thought that this site has the potential to cast light upon the continuation of landscape use into the post-Roman period and as such would be of value, both locally and regionally. While of limited use as an isolated example, this may help to better the understanding of the region as a whole when compared with other similar sites in the county and beyond (Hooke 2011).

## **7.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site**

At present it would appear that the archaeology is located along the northeast side of the site where it traces out the route of a former field boundary and possible internal divisions that were detected during the geophysical survey and lay at an average depth of c.0.40m below the present ground level (105.80m in Trenches 1 & 4, raising to 105.99m AOD in Trench 6). To the immediate north of the Church farm Court entrance to the field where modern overburden has sealed significant archaeological horizons at a depth of c.0.90m below the present ground level (105.73m AOD). Much of the west and southeast areas of the investigation area were shown to have been disturbed but it has been demonstrated that the potential for remains to survive under the preserved ridge and furrow is relatively high.

# **8 The impact of the development**

## **8.1 Impacts during construction**

At present the specific details of the proposed development are not known the shallow depths of the significant archaeological horizons within the site mean that they are vulnerable to damage or destruction during the excavation of foundations, service runs and landscaping associated with the construction of houses within the site.

## **8.2 Impacts on sustainability**

The NPPF emphasises the importance of sustainability (DCLG 2012, section 131).

The historic environment is a non-renewable resource and therefore cannot be directly replaced. However mitigation through recording and investigation also produces an important research dividend that can be used for the better understanding of the area's history and contribute to local and regional research agendas (cf NPPF, DCLG 2012, section 141).

## 9 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.

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the land off Main Street, Middle Tysoe, Warwickshire (NGR: SP 3416 4451). It was commissioned by Mr S Pendleton, who intends residential development of the site.*

*The site lies on the northern edge of Middle Tysoe and lies over two fields, both currently under pasture. It has previously been the subject of a Historic Environment and Archaeological Statement and a geophysical survey. The Historic Environment and Archaeological Statement identified the presence of ridge and furrow, although less well preserved than other examples within the parish and that it falls within an area of low-medium sensitivity. The geophysical survey provided a broad record of the location and extent of the ridge and furrow as well as identifying a number of other anomalies, some of which were of potential archaeological significance.*

*An initial survey of the surviving ridge and furrow was undertaken using GPS surveying equipment. Following this seven trenches were excavated in locations designed to test the geophysical anomalies. The evaluation revealed archaeological remains of Romano-British and post-medieval date. A boundary formed from up to three re-cut ditches was recorded running parallel to the northern boundary of the site, in the location of a linear geophysical anomaly. Romano-British pottery was recovered from one section a ditch but others were undated. Another sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from a furrow and is therefore residual in this context.*

*To the south of the site immediately north of the entrance to Church Farm Court, the remains of a wall and rubble surface were recorded. These were not dated although one sherd of 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from the top of the surface. It is not thought that the wall was substantial enough to have been part of a building. The construction cut for the wall truncated another feature which though undated had a similar fill to that of the ditch from which Romano-British pottery was recovered.*

*Modern features recorded within the site are agricultural in origin and not considered to be archaeologically significant.*

*Whilst this phase of works was able to confidently demonstrate the quantity of archaeological remains present, the distinct paucity of dateable material recovered means that further investigations would be required to gain a better understanding of the character, date, extent and inter-relationship of these features.*

## 10 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Steve Pendleton, the Client, Jon Rose, Amec, Anna Stocks and John Robinson, Planning Archaeologist and Assistant Planning Archaeologist, Archaeological Information and Advice, for Warwickshire County Council.

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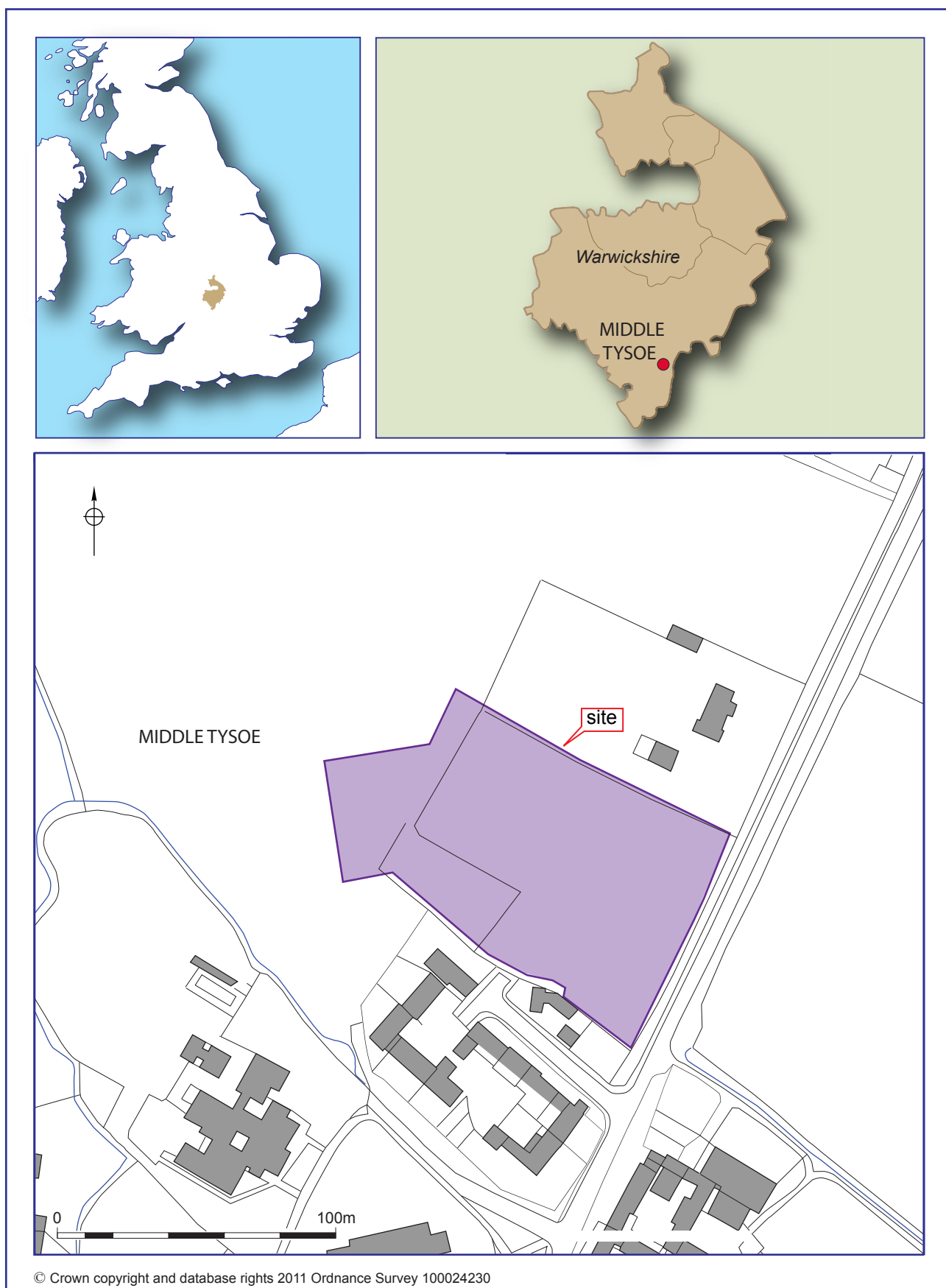
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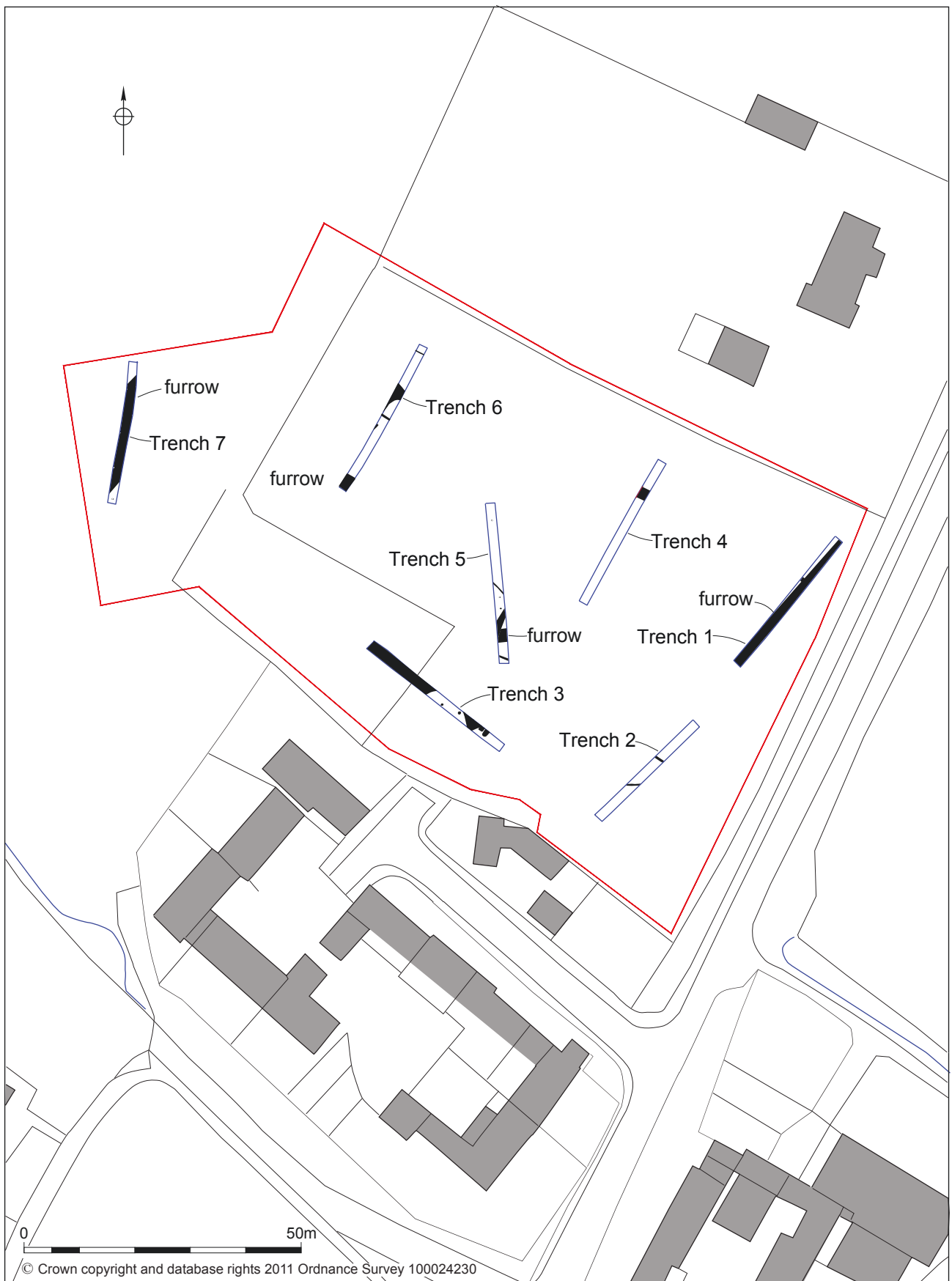


**Figures**



*Location of the site*

*Figure 1*



*Trench location plan*

*Figure 2*

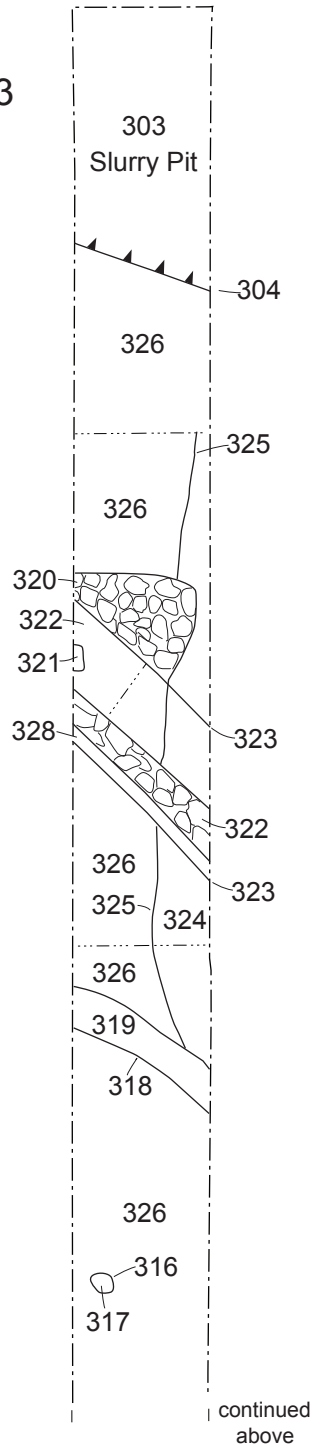


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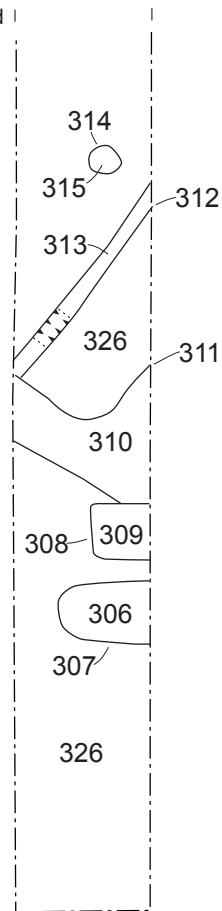
*Trench locations in relation to geophysical anomalies*

*Figure 3*

# Trench 3

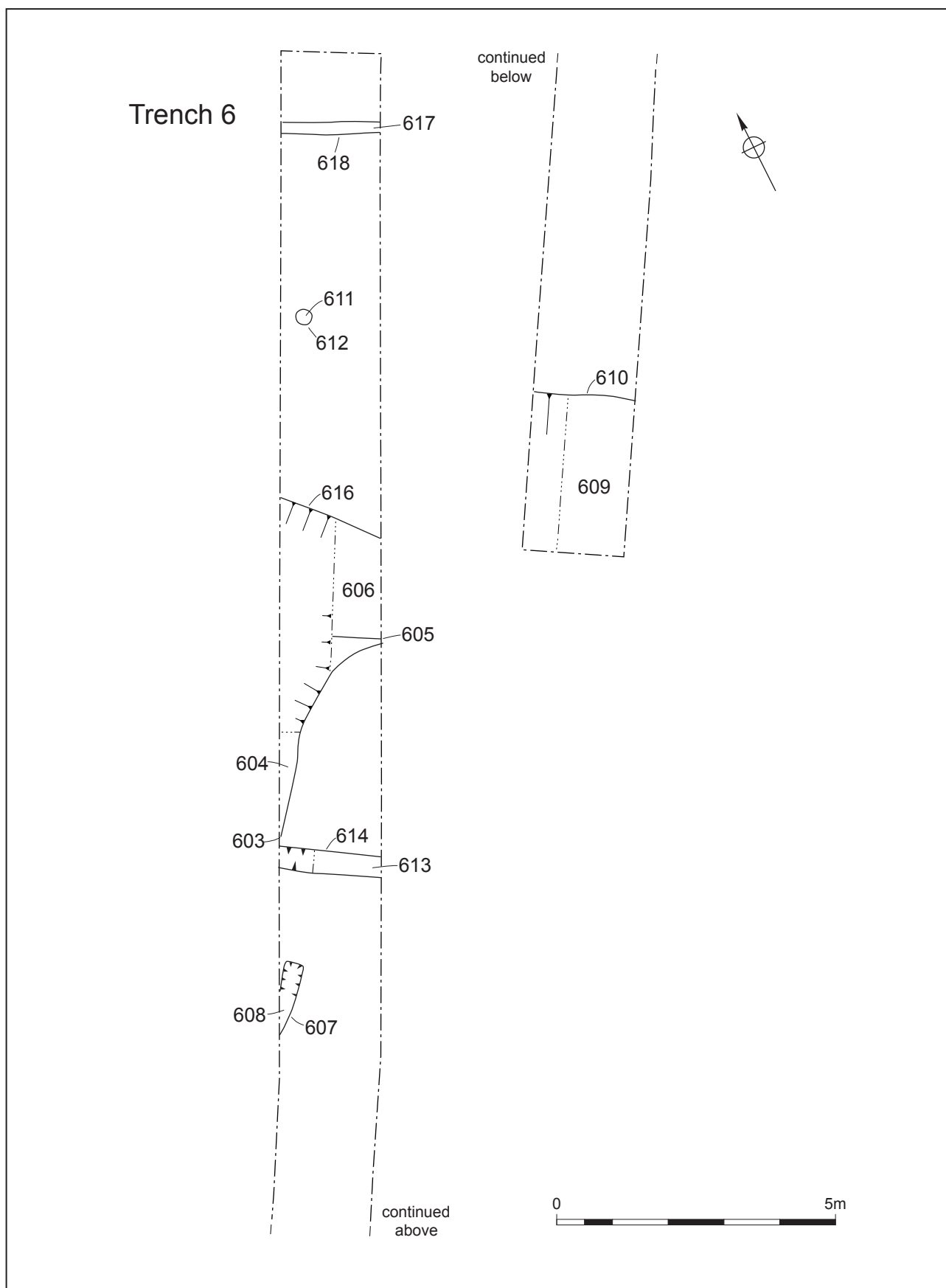


continued  
below



Trench 3: Plan

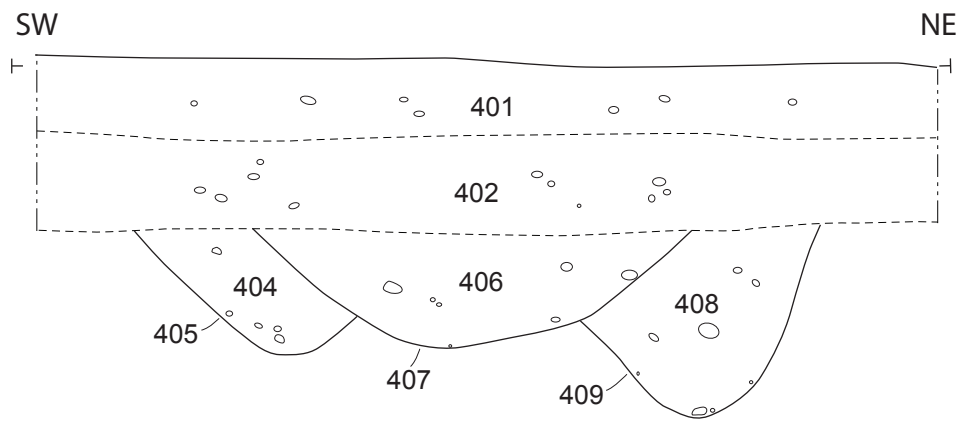
Figure 4



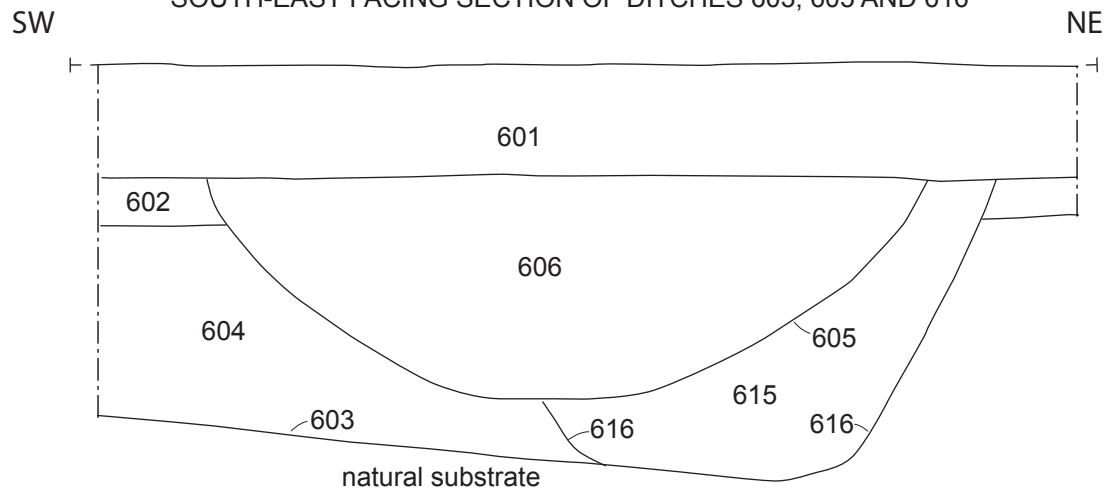
Trench 6: Plan

Figure 5

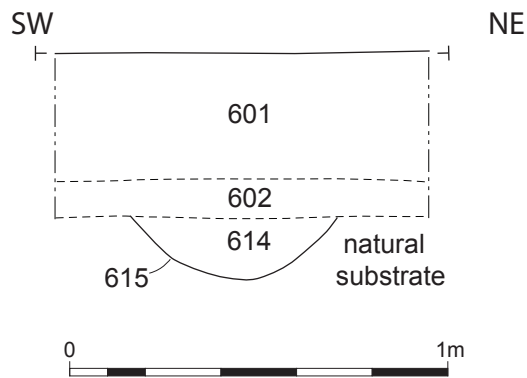
# SOUTH-EAST FACING SECTION OF LINEARS 405, 407 AND 409



# SOUTH-EAST FACING SECTION OF DITCHES 603, 605 AND 616



# SOUTH-EAST FACING SECTION OF GULLY 615



Sections

Figure 6



## Plates



*Plate 1 Rubble spread 320, wall 322 and earlier pit/linear [325]. Looking Southeast*



*Plate 2 Southeast facing section of ditches [603], [605] and [616]*

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*Plate 3 Southeast facing section of ditches [405], [407] and [409]*

## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Trench 1

Site area: Field number 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.43m

Orientation: Northeast/Southwest

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation	Trench
101	Topsoil	Layer	Moderately Compact dark blueish brown silty sand	0.27m	Humeric rich topsoil, highly disturbed by root action with very occasional rounded pea-grit and charcoal fleck inclusions throughout. Horizon with 102 very clear.	1
102	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light orangey grey silty clay	0.14m	Low level of disturbance with very occasional sub-rounded to angular cobbles to pea-grit, poorly sorted. Horizon clarity very clear and distinct.	1
103	Natural	Layer	Firm light yellowish grey silty clay	0.02m+	Contains frequent bands of light bluish grey clays throughout along with occasional pea-grit to gravels on occasion.	1
104	Furrow	Fill	Firm mid orangey red silty sand	0.23m	Occasional pea-grit rounded to sub-rounded and moderately sorted throughout. Occasional animal bone but very frequent fossils (Belemnites and bivalves [Devils Toenails]).	1
105	Furrow	Cut		0.23m	Orientated Northeast to southwest along the entire length of the trench and measuring at least 1.80m at its widest point. Gently rounded top break of slope that falls onto shallow, even sides that fall imperceptibly onto a slightly concaved base.	1
106	Pit	Fill	Firm light blueish grey silty clay	0.37m	Very frequent charcoal flecks throughout along with an entire articulated sheep carcass that although decomposed had clearly been in the ground for less than 100 years.	1
107	Pit	Cut		0.37m	Sub-rounded oval shaped pit with vertical sides that drop to a sharp break of slope onto a flat base. Feature measured at 0.43m wide by at least 0.71m in length at which point it disappears beyond the limit of excavation.	1
108	Ditch	Fill	Firm light blueish grey silty clay	0.14m	Occasional charcoal flecks and animal bone throughout. Appears to be the result of natural infilling and siltation as opposed to a deliberate backfill. Thought to be part of the geophysical anomaly that is seen running up the east side of the site and investigated in trenches 4 and 6, although if this is the case it is a much reduced or truncated portion of the feature.	1
109	Ditch	Cut		0.14m	Small linear feature orientated northwest to southeast with moderately sloping sides that drop imperceptibly onto a slightly concaved base.	1

**Trench 2**

Site area: Field number 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.51m

Orientation: Northeast/Southwest

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation	Trench
201	Topsoil	Layer	Firm mid greyish brown silty sand	0.24m	Highly disturbed by root action and humeric with clear horizon clarity with 202	2
202	Subsoil	Layer		0.28m	Very occasional charcoal flecks and sub-rounded to rounded gravels to pea-grit that were moderately sorted. Clear horizon with 203	2
203	Natural	Layer	Firm light yellowish grey silty clay	0.31m+	Occasional bands of light greyish blue silty clay along with additional bands of gravels, rounded to sub-rounded and well sorted throughout.	2
204	Ditch	Fill	Firm mid greyish brown silty sand	0.28m+	Same material as 201 although without the obvious root disturbance, contains occasional charcoal flecks throughout and a modern plastic water pipe that appears to still be in use feeding a trough in the southeast corner of the field.	2
205	Ditch	Cut		0.28m+	0.24m wide modern service orientated northwest to southeast with vertical sides that drop onto an unknown base as not fully excavated due to the presence of a modern service that appeared to still be in use.	2
206	Ditch	Fill	Firm mid greyish brown silty sand	0.31m+	As with 204, this deposit appears to be re-deposited topsoil (201) but without the obvious root action. Material contained occasional charcoal flecks throughout and a modern black plastic service pipe of unknown usage. No signal was received by the CAT scanner but was treated as live regardless.	2
207	Ditch	Cut		0.31m+	0.23m wide modern service run orientated east/west that had vertical sides that dropped onto an unknown base as the feature was not fully excavated due to the presence of a potentially live modern service.	2

**Trench 3**

Site area: Field number 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.50m average and 1.68m max

Orientation: Northwest/Southeast

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation	Trench
301	Topsoil	Layer	Firm dark blueish brown silty clay	0.28m	Humeric and highly disturbed by root action with frequent charcoal flecks and CBM throughout with horizon with 302 and 303 very clear	3
302	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light reddish grey silty sand	0.46m	Occasional charcoal flecks and CBM inclusions throughout along with sub-rounded to rounded gravels to pea-grit, moderately sorted.	3

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation	Trench
303	Pit	Fill	Loose light whiteish grey rubble	1.33m+	Loose modern demolition associated with the removal of the farm complex to the immediate southwest. Contains very frequent metal, concrete, plastics and CBM throughout. Although primarily lying within cut 304 this material spreads to the southeast and extends 13.86m along the length of the trench becoming progressively thinner creating a 'wedge' shaped deposit	3
304	Pit	Cut		1.33m+	Cut for former farm slurry pit which was then used as receptacle for demolition of farm complex during the construction of the current church farm housing complex to the southwest. The feature had Very steep sides that became vertical at 1m below the present ground level and extending beyond the safe depth limit of excavation. Interpretation reached after discussions with local farmer.	3
305	Modern Layer	Layer	Loose dark blueish brown silty clay	0.13m	Appears to be a buried topsoil horizon that is visible from 8.75m to 13.86m as measured from the northwest end of the trench. Seen across the entire width of the trench and is wedge shaped becoming thinner to the southeast. Thickness measurement taken at its thickest point.	3
306	Pit	Fill	Firm light blueish grey silty clay	0.12m+	Contains frequent charcoal flecks throughout along with a fully articulated sheep carcass and several disarticulated Avian remains. State of bone clearly demonstrates that although no flesh remains this animal has been in the ground for less than 100 years and is thought to have been buried within the last 20 years.	3
307	Pit	Cut		0.12m+	Cut of oval shaped pit that measures 0.72m in width by at least 1.03m in length. The sides were steep, almost vertical dropping onto an unknown base as the feature was not fully excavated once its clearly modern date had been established and confirmed.	3
308	Pit	Cut		0.36m+	Rectangular shaped modern intrusion with steep, vertical sides that dropped onto an unknown shaped base as excavations were stopped once the clearly modern date of this feature was established. Feature measured 0.80m in width by at least 0.73m in length at which point it extending beyond the limit of the trench excavation.	3
309	Pit	Fill	Moderately Compact dark greyish brown silty sand	0.36m+	Contains very frequent sub-rounded to rounded gravels to pea-grit, poorly sorted throughout along with quantities of modern bailing twine and mortar chunks. Certainly thought to be late 20th century in date.	3
310	Pit	Fill	Firm mid blueish grey silty clay	0.05m+	Very occasional charcoal flecks noted throughout but more importantly modern sheep and bird remains that are clearly less than 100 years old and thought to be probably less than 20 years since deposition. Almost identical in makeup to fill 306.	3
311	Pit	Cut		0.05m+	Cut of pit/linear feature that is orientated roughly east/west with a length of at least 1.80m and a width of 1.37m with moderately steep sides that drop onto an unknown shaped base as excavation was stopped once that modern nature of the feature was established.	3

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation	Trench
312	Gully	Fill	Firm light blueish grey silty clay	0.10m	Occasional charcoal flecks throughout along with very frequent pieces of industrial clinker and slag that appear to have been used to help create voids in the fill of the deposit and aid in the drainage of the field.	3
313	Gully	Cut		0.10m	Small gully aligned roughly north to south that measured 0.21m in width by at least 1.80m in length with moderately steep and even sides that drop imperceptibly onto a moderately concaved base creating a shallow 'bowl' shaped profile. As discussed with fill 312 it is thought that this gully was used for drainage of the field.	3
314	Pit	Fill	Firm dark greyish blue silty clay	0.03m+	Very frequent charcoal flecks throughout along with a large quantity of both articulated and disarticulated animal bone (mainly avian) that had clearly been buried in recent history. Very similar in make up to fills 306 and 310 and was probably created in the last 20 years and certainly within the last 100 years.	3
315	Pit	Cut		0.03m+	Cut for modern rubbish pit 0.32m in diameter with vertical sides dropping onto an unknown base as excavation was not undertaken of this feature once its modern nature was established.	3
316	Pit	Fill	Firm mid blueish brown silty clay	0.03m+	Almost identical to 314 with large quantities of modern animal bone throughout, as such, given its clearly modern date it was not excavated any further.	3
317	Pit	Cut		0.03m+	Rounded pit feature 0.36m in diameter with steep almost vertical sides that dropped onto an unknown shaped base as excavation was stopped once the clearly modern nature of the feature was established.	3
318	Ditch	Fill	Firm mid blueish grey silty clay	0.43m+	Contains moderate gravels to pea-grit, rounded to sub-angular and poorly sorted. Slump of silty sand seen slumped along the southern edge of the feature and the fill was seen to be modern with plastic being noted throughout the fill. As such the feature was not fully excavated.	3
319	Ditch	Cut		0.43m+	Linear ditch like feature that curves across the width of the trench from northwest to east and measuring 0.57m in width with moderately sloping and even sides that dropped towards an unknown shaped base as excavation of feature was stopped once the clearly modern nature of it was established.	3
320	rubble	Layer	Compact light yellowish grey rubble	0.17m	Spread of rubble at least 0.97m in length by 1.14m in width. Possible true edges are visible to the south, east and northwest but it is not thought to be a surface in its own right due to poor build quality and at present it is thought to either represent part of a fallen wall or material placed into a depression to remove a depression created from the earlier feature 325. It is not thought that this feature directly links with wall 322 as the construction cut 323 for the wall truncates it. It is thought that it might possible be related to 321 but as this was only seen in the section this theory was unable to be confirmed or denied. A single piece of pot was found on this surface that was 17th/18th century in date although as it was not 'in' the rubble it is	3



Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation	Trench
					possible that it is earlier in date.	
321	Rubble	Layer	Compact light yellowish grey rubble	0.17m	Seemingly identical to rubble spread 320, this feature is thought to potentially be a continuation of the same, although truncated by 323. Only visible in the southwest section of the trench it measured 0.54m in width by at least 0.11m in length. Unfortunately no dateable evidence was recovered with only animal bone being recovered.	3
322	Wall	Structure	Compact light yellowish grey Rubble	0.20m	East/west aligned wall that averaged 0.26m in width by at least 1.80m in length constructed primarily by sandstone slabs that have been split along the sedimentary plane with the slabs averaging 0.16m in width by 0.20m in length and 0.06m in thickness. These slabs were placed 'on end' so that the sedimentary plane lay vertically and parallel to each other with no bonding being used and the slabs placed in a dry-stone fashion into sediment 328. Of particular note was 3 Oolithic limestone slabs that had been used in addition to the sandstone showing that the material appears to have been scavenged to an extent. It is clear that this feature was not load bearing and at present it is thought that the feature was probably used as a field boundary wall.	3
323	Construction Cut	Cut		0.38m	East/west aligned linear that measures 0.67m in width by at least 1.80m in length and is thought to be the construction trench for wall 322. The sides were recorded as being vertical and even before sharply braking onto a flat base. Given its large width in relation to the wall itself it is not known if it might represent an earlier boundary ditch that the wall then followed or if it was excavated that way to allow easier access to the foundation courses of the wall.	3
324	Ditch	Fill	Firm light greyish orange silty sand	0.28m+	Low level of disturbance with very occasional charcoal flecks and su-browned gravels throughout. At present it is not known if this feature is a large pit or ditch like feature and no dateable finds were recovered from its fill. It should be noted that the only other feature that had a comparable fill was feature 603 that contained several fragments of Romano-British pottery. Whilst it cannot be confirmed at this time that this feature is of this early date it is something that should be considered as potential.	3
325	Ditch	Cut		0.28m+	It is not known if this feature represents a ditch or large pit due to it extending beyond the trench limit of excavation. What can be said is that it measured at least 0.91m in width by at least 8.34m in length with a gradually rounded and even top of slope that dropped onto moderately steep sides that descended onto a base of unknown shape as it past the limit of safe excavation depth. As noted with fill 324, the only feature of a similar nature was linear 603 that contained several fragments of Romano-British pottery and this should be taken into account when excavating it further to see if this provisional date can be confirmed or denied.	3
326	Natural	Layer	Firm light orangey grey silty sand	0.05m+	Natural substrate with occasional bands of light blueish grey clays on throughout.	3

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation	Trench
327	Layer	Layer	Firm mid greyish red silty clay	0.29m	General spread of re-deposited natural that appears to have been used to cover feature 325 and potentially be used as a bedding layer for rubble 320 and 321. Unfortunately no datable evidence was recovered from this layer but it is thought to most likely be post-medieval in date although with no finds to prove this it could also be much earlier in date.	3
328	Ditch	Fill	Firm light yellowish grey silty clay		Fill of construction cut 323 that is thought to be the base of the wall 322. As mentioned with context 322, it is possible that this deposit might be an earlier phased fill of a ditch that the wall was a later version of. Although there is no proof for this at present. No datable material being recovered.	3

#### Trench 4

Site area: Field number 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.48m

Orientation: Northeast/Southwest

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation	Trench
401	Topsoil	Layer	Firm mid blueish brown silt loam	0.23m	Occasional sub-rounded gravels to pea-grit, moderately sorted. Good horizon clarity noted with 402.	4
402	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid orangey brown silty clay	0.25m	Subsoil with good horizon clarity with 403	4
403	Natural	Layer	Firm mid greyish orange sandy clay	0.49m+	natural substrate	4
404	Ditch	Fill	Compact light greenish brown silty clay	0.34m	Occasional sub-rounded gravels to pea-grit, moderately sorted along with rare charcoal flecks seen throughout. No datable material recovered although some animal bone recovered. The fill of this ditch suggests that it was deposited through low energy natural siltation processes over an unknown period of time. It is thought that it is likely to have been over several years although the lack of laminations or strata makes this proposition unable to prove. No slumping was noted and it should be noted that this material was almost identical in its makeup to the later 406 that made up the fill of the later phased ditch 407. It is interesting to note that three phases of ditch was seen in trench 6 as is the case here and that one of them was confirmed as dating to Romano-British in date. Unfortunately it is not possible to match which phase of ditch in trench 6 matches which here and although no provisional date can be ascribed it is thought at present that this phase of ditches maybe Romano-British to Medieval in date.	4
405	Ditch	Cut		0.34m	Northwest to southeast orientated linear measuring at least 0.67m in width by at least 1.8m in length with a gentle slightly concaved slope that drops onto a concaved base. Thought	4

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation	Trench
					to be a phase of field boundary that has migrated slightly over time. It is not known if this ditch is earlier, contemporary or later than ditch 409 although it is thought most likely that this section represents three phases of the same ditch as opposed to a parallel set of ditches. As mentioned with fill 404 these three ditches are thought to match with the three ditches seen in trench 6, one of which contained material dating to the Romano-British period although it is not possible to pair up which feature relates to which at this time. It is thought most likely at present that these ditches are probably Romano-British to Medieval in date although this cannot be fully ascribed as it is speculation at best with the present level of evidence.	
406	Ditch	Fill	Firm light greenish brown silty clay	0.30m	Very similar in makeup with 404 although with less gravel and pea-grit inclusions. No tips or laminations were noted but it is thought that as with 404 that this deposit was the result of natural low energy over an unknown period of time.	4
407	Ditch	Cut		0.30m	Cut for northwest to southeast linear ditch that is thought at this time to be a former field boundary that predated the ridge and furrow and was present on the geophysical survey. This ditch is the last phase of what is thought to be at least three phases of usage. It should be noted that these three features are almost identical to three ditches seen in trench six although the fill of the last phase [605] is very different to that seen here and as such it would be wrong to state at this time that these features are definitely the same feature, even though it seems highly likely that they are.	4
408	Ditch	Fill	Firm light greenish brown silty clay	0.49m	Similar in make up to fills 404 and 406 this fill is thought to represent a low energy natural infilling through siltation over an unknown period of time. No laminations were noted nor any slumping that might help to provide a rough timescale. As mentioned with the other related features of this group, these three ditches are thought at present to represent three phases of the same field boundary that migrated to a small degree over time.	4
409	Ditch	Cut		0.49m	Cut for northwest to south east ditch that had steep near vertical sides that dropped onto a steep concaved base, the ditch measured at least 0.75m in width by at least 1.80m in length. As mentioned above it is thought that this ditch was part of a field boundary that predated the present ridge and furrow and contained at least three phases of activity with a slight degree of migration occurring over time. Whilst it is clear that it predates ditch 407 it cannot be ascertained if it is earlier, later or contemporary with ditch 405. This group of features is also thought to have been seen in trench 6 although it is not possible at present to match features exactly and more work is clearly needed to get a full understanding of the features' development and date range.	4



**Trench 5**

Site area: Field number 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.64m

Orientation: North/South

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation	Trench
501	Topsoil	Layer	Friable dark greyish blue silty sand	0.36m	Humeric soils with frequent disturbance from root action apparent. Moderate gravels to peagrit, angular to subrounded and poorly sorted was noted. The horizon clarity with 502 was very clear and distinct	5
502	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid reddish grey sandy clay	0.28m	Occasional charcoal flecks throughout and moderate gravels to pea-grit, angular to sub-rounded and poorly sorted. Horizon clarity with 503 very clear and distinct.	5
503	Natural	Layer	Firm light orangey grey silty clay	0.03m	As with the natural substrate seen elsewhere across the investigation area this natural had bands of light blueish grey silty clays throughout.	5
504	Drain	Fill	Firm dark blueish brown silty clay	0.12m+	Not fully excavated due to presence of modern black plastic field drain that appeared to still be in use.	5
505	Drain	Cut		0.12m+	Northwest to southeast orientated modern field drain measuring 0.30m in width by at least 1.80m in length with vertical sides that drop onto an unknown base as this feature was not fully excavated once its visibly modern nature was established. All indications would suggest that this feature was excavated using a machine bucket.	5
506	Furrow	Fill	Firm mid blueish brown silty clay	0.29m	Contained moderate charcoal flecks and occasional gravels to pea-grit, angular to sub-rounded and poorly sorted. Appears to have been deposited through gravitational slump of topsoils into the base of the furrow from the associated parallel ridges that was furthered by plough action during the lifetime of the ridge and furrow.	5
507	Furrow	Cut		0.29m	Northeast to southwest aligned furrow base with moderately steep sides that drop evenly with a rounded break of slope onto a slightly concaved base.	5
508	Furrow	Fill	Firm dark reddish grey silty sand	0.32m	As with 506 this deposit is thought to be the result of slumped topsoil that has been derived from the surrounding ridges that was further exacerbated by the use of plough during the period in which the ridge and furrow was in use.	5
509	Furrow	Cut		0.32m	Furrow orientated northwest to southeast is almost identical to all the furrows noted elsewhere during these archaeological investigations except that it is set at a 90degree angle to them. As shown by the survey undertaken during these works, this furrow marks the end of the furrows and is thought to demarcate the end of the field as much as providing a place for the plough to turn around and help with the drainage of the furrows itself. It is thought to be roughly contemporary with the other furrows although it was interesting to note	5

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation	Trench
					that furrow 507 was noted as being clearly later and suggests that the ridge and furrow was still being used and cleaned even after this feature began to go out of use.	
510	Ditch	Fill	Firm mid blueish grey silty sand	0.26m+	Feature not fully excavated once a modern blue plastic water-pipe was revealed. Thought to be the seen pipe seen in trench 2 in feature 205.	5
511	Ditch	Cut		0.26m+	Northwest to southeast orientated modern service that measured 0.30m in width by at least 1.80m in length. Trench appears to have been excavated by machine with vertical sides that dropped onto an unknown shaped base as excavation was ceased once the clearly modern nature of the feature had been established. Thought to be a continuation of service run 205.	5

## Trench 6

Site area: Field number 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.50m

Orientation: Northeast/Southwest

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation	Trench
601	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid blueish brown silty sand	0.29m	Numeric topsoil highly disturbed by modern root action with occasional charcoal flecks and poorly sorted angular to sub-rounded gravels to pea-grit. Horizon with 602 very clear.	6
602	Subsoil	Layer	Firm mid reddish orange silty sand	0.21m	Frequent gravels to pea-grit, angular to sub-rounded and poorly sorted. Also occasional charcoal flecks throughout. Horizon clarity crisp and clear.	6
603	Ditch	Cut		0.48m	Linear that runs northeast to southwest before turning 90degrees within the trench to continue southeast. Unfortunately the full size of the feature isn't known as it is either truncated by later features (see below) or extends beyond the trench limit of excavation but it can be said at present that the feature measures 0.94m+ in width by 4m+ in length with steep even sides that drop to a moderately rounded break of slope and small plateau before dropping again onto a moderately sloped sides that finish with a slightly concaved 'ankle-breaker' base 0.38m+ in width. It is thought that this feature was used in association with field system demarcation as opposed to being the edge of a settlement due to the lack of material when compared to a typical feature of this date. At present it is thought that gully 614 maybe related due to the similarity in fill type but due to a lack of physical relationships and dating this cannot be proved or denied at present	6
604	Ditch	Fill	Firm light greenish grey silty clay	0.48m	Occasional charcoal flecks noted along with iron panning stains throughout. Contained Romano-British pot dated to between the 1st and early 3rd centuries AD. Deposition appears to be the result of natural infilling of sediment over an unknown period of time. It is thought that it is likely to have been over several seasons but no laminations or	6

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation	Trench
					planing was noted. Neither was there any evidence to suggest that the ditch had ever been cleaned. This feature has been truncated by two later ditches and it is thought at present that this may represent a continuum of field boundary over at least three phases. Unfortunately the pottery recovered from the last feature was to abraded to provide a conclusive provisional date.	
605	Ditch	Cut		0.59m	Linear ditch feature orientated roughly northwest to southeast with moderately steep sides that drop imperceptibly onto a slightly concaved base, the feature measuring 1.91m in width by at least 1.80m in length. Thought to be a former field boundary that predated the current ridge and furrow and part of a long linear feature noted during the geophysical survey and seen again as three ditches in trench 4. However the fill of this ditch is very different to that seen elsewhere along the route of the feature and as such it is impossible to match up the features with any certainty. Although a small amount of pottery was recovered from this fill it was to highly abraded to be positively identified.	6
606	Ditch	Fill	Firm dark blueish brown silty clay	0.59m	Containing frequent charcoal flecks and poorly sorted gravels to pea-grit, angular to sub-rounded throughout. Thought to be the result of a deliberate backfill as opposed to a natural infilling this deposit is different to any other seen during the course of the investigations. Although a single piece of pottery was recovered from this fill in association with several animal bone fragments it was so highly abraded that no provisional date could be established.	6
607	Gully	Cut		0.12m	Due to its location at the edge of the trench excavation area it is not known if this feature is the terminus to a gully or an elongated pit although with the present evidence, a gully terminus seems to be more likely. Measuring 0.16m in width by at least 0.76m+ in length with moderately steep sides that drop imperceptibly onto a moderately steep concaved base. No dating was recovered from this feature with the only material seen being animal bone, but this seemed to be of an advanced age and is certainly not similar to the modern carcass remains seen elsewhere across the site. All that can be said at present is that this feature predates the ridge and furrow.	6
608	Gully	Fill	Firm mid greyish brown silty sand	0.12m	Contains moderate quantities of charcoal flecks and moderately sorted gravels to pea-grit, angular to sub-rounded throughout. It is thought at present that the fill is the result of a slump of material as opposed to a natural siltation or deliberate backfill. Unfortunately no dateable material was recovered and only animal bone was noted. All that can be said at present in regards to a provisional date is that it predates the ridge and furrow.	6
609	Furrow	Fill	Firm light blueish grey sandy silt	0.14m	Occasional charcoal flecks noted throughout. Deposit appears to be the result of a low energy natural siltation combined with a slumping of material from the southwest in association with the ridges that are present there. This feature is the same furrow feature noted in trench 5 and seen during the topographic survey of the site and is believed to represent the edge of the	6

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation	Trench
					former field and to have acted as a place to turn the plough around and help in the assistance of drainage from the furrows during their lifetime. Although no datable evidence was recovered from this fill it is believed from physical relationships seen elsewhere that this ridge and furrow is probably of a post-medieval date.	
610	Furrow	Cut		0.14m	Base of furrow feature orientated northwest to southeast and identical to furrow 509 seen in trench 5. Noted as measuring 1.53m+ in width by at least 1.80m+ in length. As noted above this furrow is set at a right angle to the others at the end of their extent and is thought to represent the field edge that allowed the plough to be turned whilst at the same time helping to provide drainage to the furrows during their lifetime. Although no datable evidence was noted it is thought that these features are of a probable post-medieval date given their association with other features elsewhere across the investigation area.	6
611	Posthole	Fill	Firm mid reddish grey silty clay	0.07m	Very occasional charcoal flecks and angular to sub-rounded pea-grit noted throughout. No dating evidence recovered associated with this feature and it is thought that this material was deposited through natural infilling as opposed to a deliberate backfill. Due to the lack of associated features little can be said in regards to its potential use at the present time.	6
612	Posthole	Cut		0.07m	0.39m diameter 'posthole' with vertical sides that drops sharply onto a flat base. Thought to be of probable post-medieval date although this cannot be proven at the present time. Due to a lack of associated features it is impossible to ascribe a specific activity or feature type to this small posthole/pit at the present time. All that can be said at present is that it appears to predate the ridge and furrow in date.	6
613	Ditch	Fill	Firm light orangey grey silty clay	0.16m	Contains very occasional charcoal flecks and is very similar in composition to 604. It is thought that this deposit was produced by natural siltation over an unknown period of time and this cannot be further reduced due to a lack of laminations that might help to provide a rough guideline to the processes and timescales involved. As with 604 it is thought that this feature might be Romano-British in date however due to a lack of datable material or physical relationships this feature has to remain undated at present although further work would be recommended to try and establish the date and nature of this feature.	6
614	Ditch	Cut		0.16m	Northwest to southeast linear feature measuring 0.53m in width by 1.80m+ in length with moderately steep sides of an even nature that drop imperceptibly only a moderately steep concaved base. Due to its position and orientation in relation to feature 603 along with the similar nature of the respective fills it is thought that this ditch/gully might be a contemporary part of the same structure, however due to a lack of physical relationships within the excavation area and no datable material being recovered from this fill, this theory has no evidence to back it and must remain speculation at this present time. As such further work is required to answer this postulation.	6

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation	Trench
615	Ditch	Fill	Firm light blueish grey silty clay	0.81m	Occasional charcoal flecks and moderate poorly sorted gravels to pea-grit, angular to sub-rounded throughout. It is thought that this deposit is the result of natural infilling of the feature over an unknown period of time with no laminations or banding noted that might help to provide a rough idea over seasonal processes. This feature is the middle ditch in a phase of three ditches that run along roughly the same route and was seen in the geophysical survey and picked up again in trench 4. The earliest phase of this ditch feature that this phase partially truncates contained fragments of Romano-British pottery whilst although the latter phase also contained pottery it was unable to be positively identified due to its highly abraded nature. It is thought that this feature represents the continuation of a field boundary with a slight migration over time. It should be noted that no evidence of cleaning was noted in this fill.	6
616	Ditch	Cut		0.81m	Northwest to southeast aligned ditch that measures at least 1.18m+ in width and 1.80m+ in length with steep sides that drop onto a moderately concaved bottom break of slope onto a flat base 0.47m in width. This ditch feature is the 2nd phased ditch in a sequence of three ditches that appear to demonstrate three phases of the same field boundary with a small degree of migration noted between phases. This ditch cuts through the earliest phase that contained Romano-British material and is cut by a later ditch, which, while containing pottery, it was to highly abraided for a provisional date to be provided. As such all that can be said at the moment is that this ditch feature is dated at some point between the later Romano-British period and before the development and usage of ridge and furrow on the site.	6
617	Gully	Fill	Firm mid blueish grey silty clay	0.13m	Occasional charcoal flecks and poorly sorted angular to sub-rounded gravels to pea-grit throughout. Although no dateable material was recovered from this feature and it appeared that it was sealed by the subsoil it is thought that due to the profile that it is of a modern date being mechanically excavated by a machine. Although no service run was found at its base it is almost identical to service runs seen in other trenches and is thought to have been associated with drainage.	6
618	Gully	Cut		0.13m	Vertically sided gully feature that drops sharply onto a flat base orientated northwest to southeast and measuring 0.30m in width by at least 1.80m+ in length. Being parallel to the modern boundary of the site and the profile of this feature that suggests that it was excavated by machine both point to the fact that this feature is modern in date even though it was sealed by the subsoil. Its profile and make up are identical to service runs seen elsewhere on the site although it should be noted that no plastic pipe or other service was noted within the fill. As such it is thought to represent a feature associated with the drainage of the field.	6
619	Natural	Layer	Firm light orangey grey silty clay	0.04m+	Natural substrate	6

**7**

Site area: Field number 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25m Width: 1.80m Depth: 0.46m

Orientation: Northwest/Southeast

Context	Feature type	Context_type	Description	Height/Depth	Interpretation	Trench
701	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid blueish grey silty sand	0.26m	Topsoil that has been heavily disturbed by modern root action with poorly sorted angular to sub-rounded gravels to pea grit throughout . Despite this its horizon clarity is still crisp and clear.	7
702	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light orangey grey silty sand	0.20m	Very occasional charcoal flecks and gravels to pea grits, angular to sub-rounded and poorly sorted. Low level of disturbance noted and horizon clarity very good.	7
703	Natural	Layer	Firm light orangey grey silty clay	0.05m+	Natural substrate	7
704	Furrow	Layer	Firm light blueish grey silty sand	0.26m	Contains a moderate quantity of charcoal flecks throughout. This deposit is part of the easternmost ridge of this second field that is set at 90degrees to the other ridge and furrow within the field and is thought to represent a field boundary orientated southwest to northeast. It contained a combination of material of both Romano-British and post-medieval date. This material was removed via mechanical excavator to see if any features underlay it but none were noted.	7

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## **Appendix 2 Technical information**

### **The archive (Project Code P4386)**

The archive consists of:

- 05 Field progress reports AS2
- 01 Photographic records AS3
- 87 Digital photographs
- 13 Scale drawings
- 07 Matrix sheets AS7
- 13 Trench record sheets AS41
- 01 Box of finds
- 01 CD-Rom/DVDs
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Warwickshire Museum  
The Butts  
Warwick Warwickshire, CV34 4SS  
Tel. Warwick (01926) 412500

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