

# Archaeological Evaluation at The Paddocks, Gaydon, Warwickshire



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Worcestershire Archaeology  
Archive and Archaeology Service  
The Hive, Sawmill Walk,  
The Butts, Worcester  
WR1 3PD

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Date: 19/2/16  
Author: Andrew Mann, [amann@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:amann@worcestershire.gov.uk)  
Contributors: Rob Hedge  
Illustrator: Laura Templeton  
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## **Archaeological evaluation at The Paddocks, Gaydon, Warwickshire**

Andrew Mann

With contributions by Rob Hedge

### **Summary**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at The Paddocks, Gaydon, Warwickshire (NGR SP365541). The works were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Spitfire Properties LLP and implemented in accordance with a condition attached to planning permission granted by Stratford-on-Avon District Council for the erection of 15 dwellings including associated landscaping, access, and parking.

Extant ridge and furrow earthworks of probable medieval date were identified during the evaluation and a possible clay pit associated with post-medieval brickworks located to the north east of the site. Three shallow ditches, which were likely to be for drainage were also identified but remain undated.

## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at The Paddocks, Gaydon, Warwickshire (NGR SP365541, Fig 1). It was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Spitfire Properties LLP and implemented in accordance with a condition attached to planning permission granted by Stratford-on-Avon District Council (Application Ref: 15/02452/FUL) for the erection of 15 dwellings including associated landscaping, access, and parking. A geophysical survey carried out on the site (Stratascan 2015) identified evidence of ridge and furrow ploughing, as well as areas of strong magnetic disturbance (Fig 2).

Correspondence with Anna Stocks (email dated 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015), Planning Archaeologist for Warwickshire County Council established the requirement for an archaeological evaluation, for which a Written Scheme of Investigation (including detailed specification) was produced (WA 2016).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

### 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 led by Andrew Mann (BA (hons.); MSc), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2004 and has been practicing archaeology since 2001, assisted by Nina O'Hare and Elspeth Iliff. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers (BA (hons.); MSc). Illustrations were prepared by Laura Templeton (BA; PG Cert; MCIfA), Robert Hedge (MA Cantab) contributed the finds report.

#### 3.2 Documentary research

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) was undertaken by CgMs Consulting Ltd (CgMs Ltd 2015). The DBA identified extant ridge and furrow earthworks across the majority of the site suggesting that it formed part of the open field system surrounding Gaydon during the Medieval period. No designated heritage assets are located within the study site and it was concluded that there was low potential for archaeological remains from all other periods to exist at the site.

#### 3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2016).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 1-2-16 and 3-2-16.

Five, 25m long trenches amounting to just over 200m<sup>2</sup> in area, were excavated over the site area of 0.6ha, representing a sample of 3.2%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 3. Trench 1 was located to target a strong magnetic disturbance identified in the geophysical survey along the eastern boundary of the site, which was interpreted as a possible in-filled pond.

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Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a wheeled excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand despite of conditions unfavourable to archaeological excavation due to extensive groundwater ingress. 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 2012a). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

The extant ridge and furrow remains were also surveyed during the evaluation.

### **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 Rob Hedge**

#### **3.5.1 Artefact recovery policy**

The finds work reported here conforms with the relevant sections of *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014; <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>), with archive creation informed by *Archaeological archives: a guide to the best practice in the creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2011; <http://www.archaeologyuk.org/archives/>), and museum deposition by *Selection, retention and dispersal of archaeological collections* (SMA 1993; <http://www.socmusarch.org.uk/publica.htm>).

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 in a Microsoft Access database.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992 and [www.worcestershireceramics.org](http://www.worcestershireceramics.org)).

#### **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 material in general, and;
- generally where material has been specifically assessed by an appropriate specialist as having no obvious grounds for retention.

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

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

## **4 The application site**

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

The site is located to the north of the historic core of Gaydon and abuts the B4100 along its north eastern edge. The site slopes from the north-east (c.115m AOD) to the south-west (c.110m AOD). The solid geology of the study site comprises mudstone of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation. No superficial deposits are recorded across the study site although Mid Pleistocene Till is recorded across the higher ground to the north of the site (British Geological Survey On-line Viewer accessed February 2016). The soils are classified as of being slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acidic but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (Soilscape 24, accessed February 2015).

There are few known archaeological sites surrounding the development area. There is no confirmed prehistoric activity in the surrounding area but two potential Bronze Age barrows (MWA685) may exist c.250m to the east of the study area. Roman sites are also rare in the surrounding landscape although a Scheduled Roman Villa (NHL 1005699) is located c.740m to the south of the site.

Gaydon itself appears to have been formed during the late 12<sup>th</sup> century and was focused around the 13<sup>th</sup> century chapel (MWA9011) c.270m to the south of the site. The 19<sup>th</sup> century Church of St Giles (NHL 1184784) currently occupies the site of the former medieval chapel. It is not believed that the former limits of the medieval village extended across the site and it is thought that prior to shrinkage the village extended southwards (MWA3900). The presence of ridge and furrow within the site suggests that during the medieval period the area formed part of the open field system surrounding the village. The site appears to have remained as agricultural land throughout the post medieval period, although a brick kiln and works, visible on the 1885 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map, may have encroached on to the northwest corner of the site.

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

The site is currently pasture.

## **5 Structural analysis**

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Fig 3. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

### **5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits**

Natural deposits were observed in all trenches and consisted of firm and cohesive blueish-grey silty clays with occasional laminated mudstone fragments. This clay derived from the erosion of the underlying mudstone, identified a minimum of 0.30m below the clay. Above this was a greenish-brown, firm silty clay subsoil, that became thicker downslope, towards the south west. The subsoil measured between 0.38-0.66m thick. Although mostly sterile the subsoil contained occasional charcoal flecks and animal bone fragments. The presence of rare small to medium rounded pebbles within the subsoil, which are not derived from the natural mudstone bedrock also suggests that some glacial till may have been incorporated into this deposit increasing its thickness.

### **5.1.2 Phase 2: Medieval**

Presumed medieval extant ridge and ridge and furrow extends across much of the site in a north east to south west direction, following the natural slope of the site (Fig 3 and Plate 1). Ridge and furrow was not observed in the northern and south eastern parts of the site as these areas appear to have been levelled in the post-medieval period. A single furrow, aligned in a north west to south east direction was also seen in the south west corner of the site. Seven furrows in total were identified across the site, which were spaced approximately 8m apart (between furrow centres) and were up to 0.35m deep. All furrows transacted by the evaluation Trenches 2, 3 and 4 appeared to have cut through the subsoil. The fills of the furrows were identical to the topsoil, being mid-brown



friable silty clays, they were also of a comparable thickness (c.0.30m). Finds of post-medieval date were identified in the fill of one furrow in Trench 2.

### 5.1.3 Phase 3: Post medieval

In Trench 1 was a large pit [104] that filled the majority of the trench (Fig 3, Plates 2-3). Due to the pits size and depth it was partially excavated by machine. Only the south eastern edge of the pit was identified as the north eastern edge extended beyond the limits of the trench. This side was sloped at approximately 40° and had a slight concave profile, gradually breaking to a flat base. The pit was up to 0.65m deep and contained a lower organic clay fill, with frequent wood inclusions and numerous CBM fragments of post medieval date. Frequent CBM and clinker spreads also extended beyond the limits of the pit to the south east of the trench. These had been sealed by a re-deposited greyish-yellow firm silty clay, up to 0.60m thick, that had also filled and sealed the pit feature.

### 5.1.4 Phase 4: Undated.

In the surface of the subsoil (401) in Trench 4 there was a loose spread of medium to large angular stone fragments (506) between 0.15-0.45m thick (Fig 3, Plate 4). The stones did not appear structured and were poorly sorted suggesting that they had been dumped rather than forming a surface or wall. To the south east of the trench this spread appeared to sit upon the subsoil, but towards the north-west it gradually became thicker, suggesting the stone lay within a feature, although no obvious cut was seen. Although no finds were associated with the stones it is thought that they had been deposited here recently as the layer was very loose and unconsolidated.

Beneath the subsoil in Trenches 2, 4 and 5 were three possible ditch features (203, 403 and 503) that appeared to be beneath and on the same alignment as furrows that cut into the subsoil above (Fig 3, Plates 5-7). These features appeared to lie beneath the subsoil and no cuts were observed through the overlying material to suggest they were associated with the furrows, confirming they predate the furrows that are of probable medieval date.

These features were filled with sterile clays that were indistinguishable to the above subsoil, but which provided a good level of clarity against the blueish-grey natural. The ditches were approximately 90% excavated and no associated finds were identified. Two of these ditches (203 and 403) were very shallow, between 0.16-0.18m deep with similar undulating, concave profiles the third [503] being potentially deeper.

Ditch [503] was aligned north-east to south-west and may have been up to 0.37m deep, based upon its western stepped edge, which gradually broke to a shallow concave base. A corresponding eastern edge of similar depth and form was however not identified. The base of this ditch was comparable in depth (c.0.17m) to the other possible ditches (203 and 403). Again this feature was filled with a firm clay indistinguishable from the above subsoil (504). Although the conditions during the excavation were not ideal due to the ingress of ground water the clarity between the fills of these features and the natural was sufficient to confirm their authenticity. Whether they are of anthropogenic origin or not does however remain debatable.

## 5.2 Artefact analysis, by Rob Hedge

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

The assemblage came from four stratified contexts and could be dated from the post-medieval period onwards (see Table 1). Condition of the assemblage was generally fair with the majority of artefacts displaying moderate levels of abrasion.

Period	Material class	Material sub-type	Object type	Count	Weight (g)
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	2	28
post-medieval/modern	ceramic		brick	2	87
post-	ceramic		land drain	3	1520

medieval/modern					
modern	ceramic		brick/tile	3	17
modern	ceramic		land drain	4	202
modern	ceramic		pot	1	5
modern	ceramic		sanitary ceramic	1	56
modern	metal	iron	nail	1	46
undated	bone	animal bone	mammal bone	2	30
			Totals	19	1991

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

Broad period	Fabric code	Fabric common name	Count	Weight (g)
Post-medieval	CRW	Creamware	2	28
Modern	MO	Mocha Ware	1	5
		<b>Totals:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>

Table 2: Quantification of the pottery by fabric

### 5.2.1 Summary artefactual evidence by period

For the finds from individual features, including specific types of pottery, consult Tables 3 and 2 in that order and in combination.

#### Post-medieval

Two sherds of later 18<sup>th</sup> century creamware (fabric CRW) are the only definitive evidence for pre-19<sup>th</sup> century activity. Three large 'horseshoe' land drains with 'feet' corresponding to type 7 in the Museum of English Rural Life's typology (MERL nd, 4) are thought likely to be late 18<sup>th</sup> century in date but may possibly stretch into the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Modern

A single small sherd of a fine 19<sup>th</sup> century mochaware (fabric MO) mug is an unusual occurrence: such vessels are far less common in the West Midlands than contemporary transfer-printed wares, although in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century mocha ware mugs and jugs are used in the area as certified units of measure (Carpentier and Rickard 2001). A number of fragments of extruded cylindrical land drains post-date 1840.

Context	Material class	Material sub-type	Object type	Fabric code	count	weight(g)	Start date	End date	tpq date range
106	bone	animal bone		0	2	32	0	0	
106	ceramic		pot	55	1	2	1075	1400	
200	bone	animal bone		0	2	32	0	0	
200	ceramic		pot	22	1	10	120	400	
203	bone	animal bone		0	1	16	0	0	

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

### 5.2.2 Finds summary

The assemblage is consistent with low levels of domestic activity in the vicinity of the site, with the majority consisting of material pertaining to 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century land drainage. The assemblage is not considered of sufficient archaeological value to be selected for retention.

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## 6 Synthesis

### 6.1 Medieval

The only probable medieval features on site are the extant remains of ridge and furrow. These cover approximately 50% of the site and are more extensive than appear on the geophysical survey. These earthworks have however been extensively damaged by post medieval landscaping to the north and south of the site. These remains confirm that the site formed part of the open field system around Gaydon during the medieval period and form part of a much wider area of ridge and furrow that has been recorded around Gaydon as part of the National Mapping Project. The change of ploughing direction suggested at the site also mirrors the broad alignment of the surrounding ridge and furrow. Where to the east it appears to be aligned north-east to south-west and to the west of the site the ridge and furrow appears to be broadly aligned north-west to south-east.

### 6.2 Post medieval

The large pit feature [104] in Trench 1 appears to have been backfilled before 1885 as it does not appear on the first edition OS map (dated 1885). It is not clear, however, when the feature was excavated. It is possible given the organic nature of the fill the pit, is actually a pond, which had existed for some time, but that had been backfilled with building demolition rubble, including bricks, quarry tiles and ceramics. It is however possible the pit was excavated as part of the brick works located immediately to north east of the site. Another large pit can also be seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map (dated 1885) approximately 150m to the north, probably a quarry pit associated with the brick works. Although the limits of the pit were not established, based upon the geophysical survey the pit may be up to c. 0.80x0.90m in size covering up to a quarter of the site.

### 6.3 Modern

Although not confirmed the rubble spread (506) seen in Trench 5 is thought to be modern, given its un-consolidated nature. The topsoil in this part of the site also contained a lot of modern rubbish and ash spreads suggesting the area had been a rubbish dump/bonfire area. The lush vegetation in this part of the site also suggests that water probably pooled here in the wetter months and it is thought the stone may have been dumped to level the site and create a harder standing. Modern activity and disturbance can also be seen in this part of the site on the 2007 and 2010 aerial photos (Google Earth, accessed 4-2-16).

### 6.4 Undated

The three possible ditches in the bases of trenches 2, 4 and 5 remain undated. Their alignment beneath the medieval furrows, albeit separated by the subsoil, appears to be coincidental. It is possible they are drainage ditches as they were all located in the wetter parts of the site where ground water was at its highest. However, given the lack of cultural material or charcoal in the ditches it is very unlikely that they were associated with any settlement. As their fills are indistinguishable from the subsoil it also suggests that they were not extant for long.

## 7 Significance

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

The extant ridge and furrow remains are the most interesting features on site but are of only local significance. It is possible that the large pit feature to the north of the site is associated with the nearby brick kilns but there was no evidence for any associated structures or other kilns. The organic remains in the pit are also of limited interest as they are likely to be mixed and contaminated due to the frequent dumping of rubbish into the feature. The three possible ditches appear pre-medieval in date but they are only likely to be drainage ditches and the lack of finds in them or across the site generally suggest that there has been no occupation of any period in this area.

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

The ridge and furrow earthworks and pit remains are only of local interest as they relate to the agricultural regimes of the local area during the medieval period and the local brick works during the post-medieval period respectively.

## **8 The impact of the development**

### **8.1 Impacts during construction**

During the construction phase the extant ridge and furrow will be destroyed. The pit identified in the north of the site is also likely to be partially damaged, however the potential ditches, sealed below the subsoil may survive (depending on the construction methods and landscaping) as they were approximately 0.80m below the ground surface.

### **8.2 Impacts on sustainability**

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). There is however little archaeological interest in the site and further investigations are unlikely to contribute further to local research agendas.

## **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 on behalf of CgMs Consulting Ltd at The Paddocks, Gaydon, Warwickshire (NGR ref SP36554). The site included extant ridge and furrow earthworks of probable medieval date, a possible clay pit associated with post-medieval brickworks which abutted the site and three shallow ditches of unknown date, which were likely to be for drainage.*

## **10 Acknowledgements**

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Steven Weaver (CgMs Consulting Ltd) and Anna Stocks (Warwickshire Planning Archaeologist).

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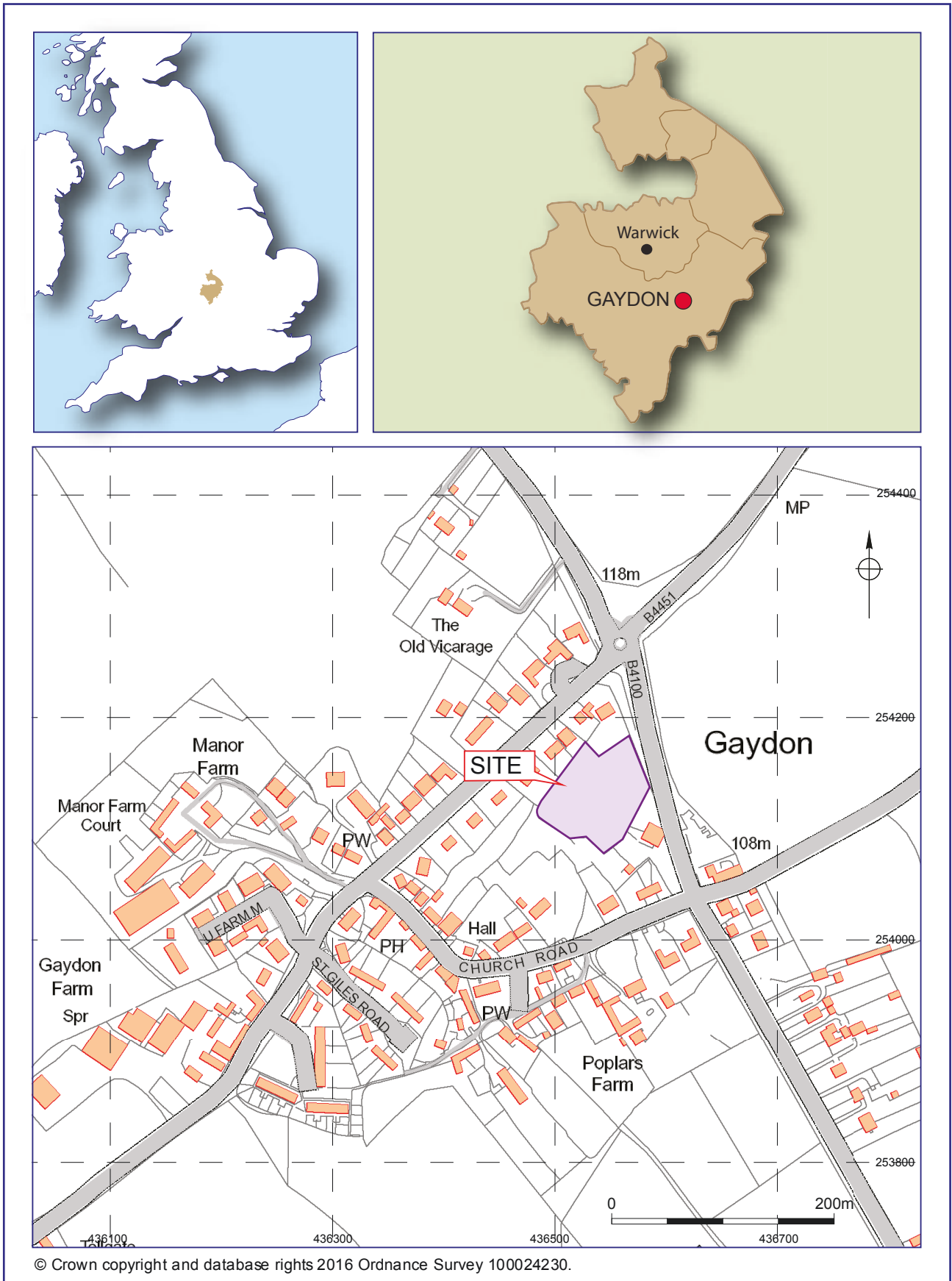




## Figures

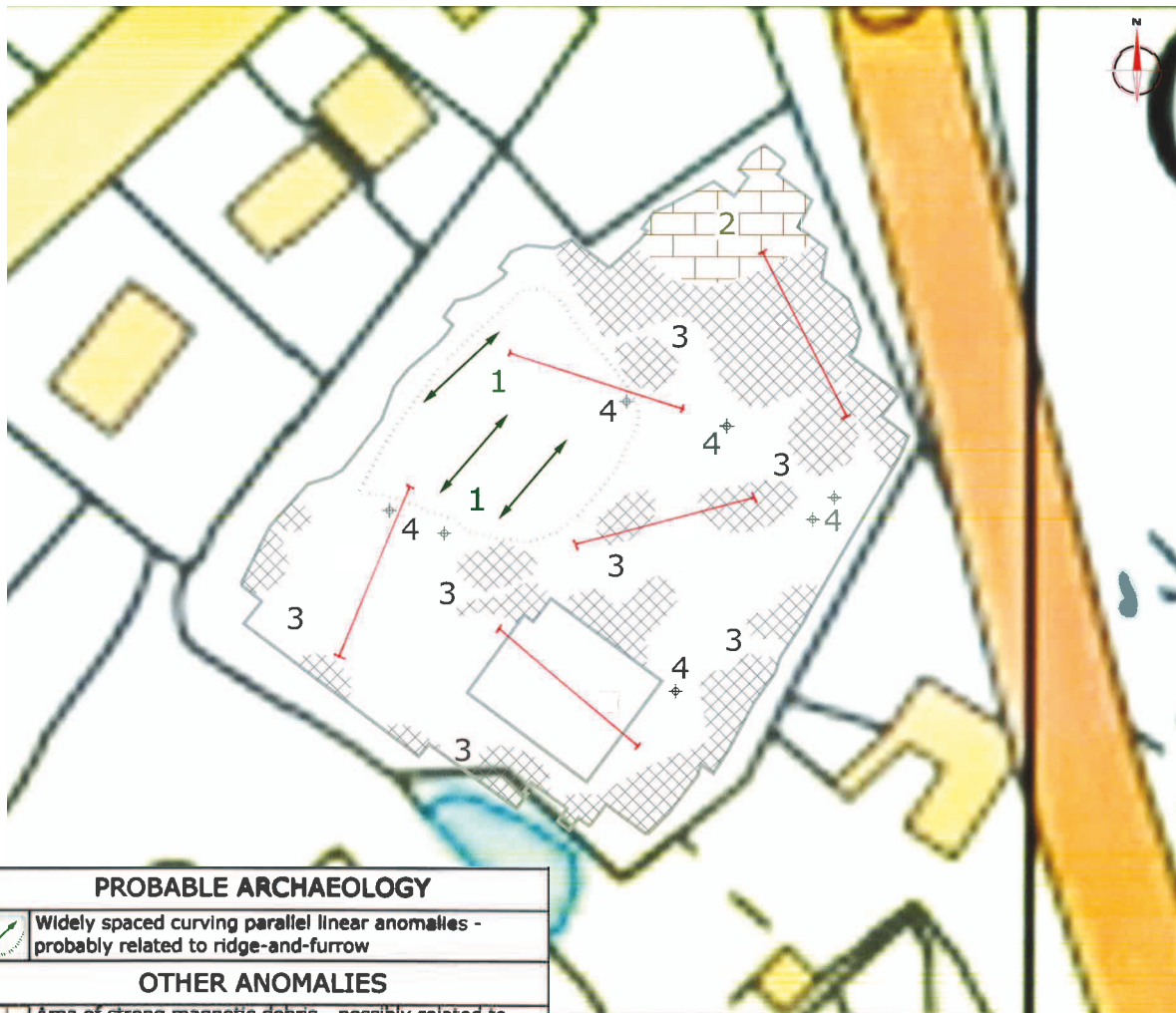
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





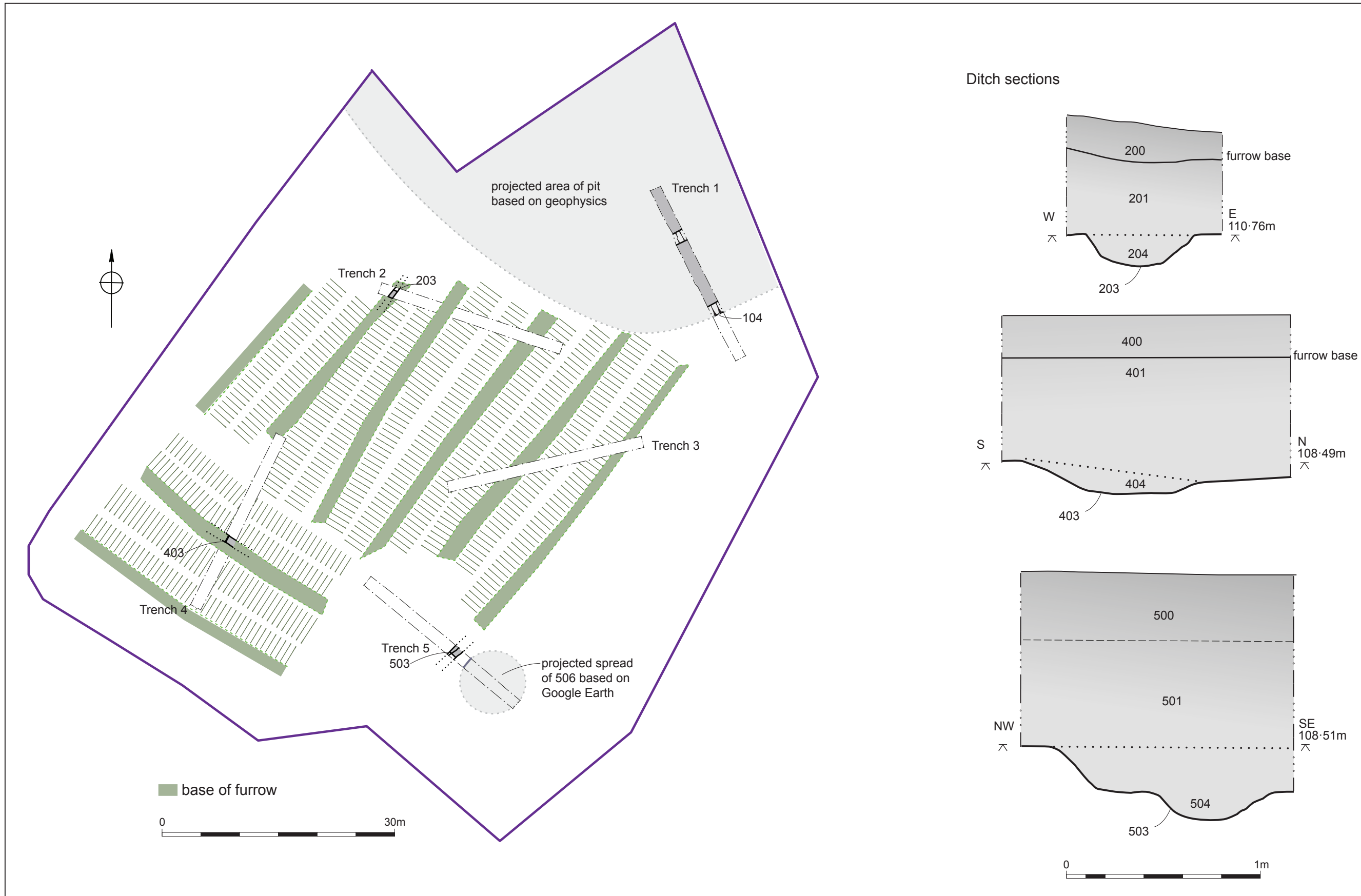
Location of the site

Figure 1



PROBABLE ARCHAEOLOGY	
	Widely spaced curving parallel linear anomalies - probably related to ridge-and-furrow
OTHER ANOMALIES	
	Area of strong magnetic debris - possibly related to former pond visible on historic mapping, pre-1900
	Linear anomaly - probably related to pipe, cable or other modern service
	Linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain
	Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
	Strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground
	Scattered magnetic debris
	Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin
	Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object

scale approx 1:1000



Survey, trench plans and sections

Figure 3

**Plates**





*Plate 1: Ridge and Furrow undulations in Trench 2, facing south west.*



*Plate 2: Pit [104] facing north east, showing rubble backfill (105) and clay capping (101).*

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*Plate 3: Pit [104] facing north west.*



*Plate 4: Rubble spread (506) over subsoil (501).*





*Plate 5: Linear ditch [203] facing south west.*



*Plate 6: Linear ditch [403] facing east.*

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*Plate 7: Linear ditch [503] facing north east.*



## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.0m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.60-2.00m

Orientation: NNW-SSE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth/Thickness
100	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid brownish-grey silty clay.	0.20m
101	Layer	Re-deposited compact light greyish-yellow silty clay with occasional small-medium rounded stone.	0.60m
102	Layer	Friable dark orangey red CBM rubble and clinker.	0.30m
103	Natural	Compact light blueish-grey clay.	0.10m +
104	Pit	Pit with approximately 45° concave side, gradually breaking to a flat base. Minimum of 18m long.	0.65m
105	Pit fill	Fill of Pit [104]. Friable dark brownish black soft organic clay silt, with frequent CBM fragments.	0.65m +

### Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.0m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.76m

Orientation: NW-SE

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth/Thickness
200	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid brownish-grey silty clay	0.26m
201	Subsoil	Compact light greyish-yellow silty clay with occasional small-medium rounded stone.	0.38m
202	Natural	Compact light blueish-grey silty clay	0.16m +
203	Ditch	Probable ditch aligned E-W, with moderate concave sides breaking gradually to a concave base. 0.55m wide.	0.16m
204	Ditch fill	Fill of ditch [203]. Compact light greyish-yellow, firm, silty clay	0.16m

### Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.0m Width: 1.60mm Depth: 0.84mm

Orientation: E-W

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth/Thickness
300	Topsoil	Moderately Compact mid brownish-grey silty clay	0.28m
301	Subsoil	Compact light greyish-yellow silty clay with occasional small-medium rounded stone.	0.66m
302	Natural	Compact light greyish-blue, firm, silty clay	n/a

### Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.0m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.81m

Orientation: NE-SW

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth/Thickness
400	Topsoil	Moderately Compact mid brownish-grey silty clay.	0.22m
401	Subsoil	Compact light greyish-yellow silty clay with occasional small-medium rounded stone.	0.54m
402	Natural	Compact light greyish blue silty clay.	0.19m
403	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned NW-SE, with shallow sloping concave sides gradually breaking to a slightly concave base. 0.90m wide.	0.19m
404	Ditch Fill	Fill of ditch [403]. Compact light greyish yellow silty clay.	0.19m

**Trench 5**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25.0m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.86m

Orientation: NW-SE

## Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth/Thickness
500	Topsoil	Moderately compact mid greyish-brown silty clay.	0.28m
501	Subsoil	Compact light greyish-yellow silty clay with occasional small-medium rounded stone.	0.55m
502	Natural	Compact light blueish-grey silty clay.	0.38m
503	Ditch	Probable ditch base aligned NE-SW, with a stepped western edge, breaking to a concave base. No eastern edge visible. Minimum of 1.20m wide.	0.16-0.37m
504	Ditch fill	Compact light greyish yellow silty clay.	0.16-0.37m
506	Layer	Loose and friable light yellowish-grey silty clay with frequent medium-large angular stone.	0.10-0.45m

## **Appendix 2 Technical information**

The archive consists of:

- 10 Context records AS1
- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 2 Photographic records AS3
- 5 Black and white photographic films
- 70 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 4 Scale drawings
- 5 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 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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