

Archaeological evaluation of land off Watery Lane, Codsall, Staffordshire



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Archaeological evaluation of land off Watery Lane, Codsall, Staffordshire

Tim Cornah

With contributions by Laura Griffin and Alan Clapham

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt and Nina O'Hare

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken of land off Watery Lane, Codsall, Staffordshire (NGR SJ 87250 03900). It was undertaken for the Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP), on behalf of Taylor Wimpey Midlands who intends to develop the site for residential purposes, for which a planning application has been submitted.

Thirteen trenches were excavated across the site and located in order to test features identified on a geophysical survey, along with areas considered likely to contain a limited potential for archaeological features. The geophysical survey primarily identified enclosures in the south-west of the site and broadly east to west aligned features of probable agricultural origins. The enclosures relate to a 20th century field alignment and the features running across the field related to drainage and field boundaries, with those in the northern possibly part of a post-medieval water meadow system.

The trenching also identified three further undated ditches not visible on the geophysical survey. The interpretation of these is unclear although they may be part of a prehistoric field system. An area of alluvial deposits within the south-east of the site was also undated.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken of land off Watery Lane, Codsall, Staffordshire (NGR SJ 87250 03900) for the Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP), on behalf of Taylor Wimpey Midlands who intends to develop the site for residential purposes. The work was undertaken under a condition imposed on outline planning permission granted by South Staffordshire Council for the residential development of the site (reference 15/00417).

The site is considered to have the potential to contain heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application.

A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced and agreed with Stephen Dean, Principal Archaeologist at Staffordshire County Council (WA 2016).

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

2 Aims

The aims and scope of the project were to undertake sufficient fieldwork to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits beyond reasonable doubt;
- identify their location, nature date and preservation;
- assess their significance;
- assess the likely impact of the proposed development.

The evaluation only assessed heritage assets which are of archaeological interest. This project did not include consideration of Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, or historic hedgerows.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was led by Timothy Cornah (BA (hons.), MSc), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2006 and has been practicing archaeology since 2003, assisted by Jamie Wilkins (BA (hons.)), Jessica Wheeler (BA (hons.)) and Nina O'Hare (BA (hons.)). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan (BA (hons.); MA; ACIfA). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc (hons.); PG Cert; MClfA) and Nina O'Hare. Alan Clapham (MSc; PhD) contributed the environmental report, Laura Griffin (BA (hons.); PG Cert; ACIfA) contributed the finds report.

3.2 Documentary research

The background to this site has been covered previously in a desk based assessment (IS Heritage 2015), a geophysical survey report (ArchaeoPhysica 2015) and a previous archaeological evaluation report (Trent and Peak Archaeology 2015). The results of these are summarised below.

3.3 List of sources consulted

Cartographic sources

- 1849 Tithe Map for Codsall (part transcription; IS Heritage 2015)
- 1st edition, 1884, Ordnance Survey map, scale 1:10,560
- 1924 Ordnance Survey map, scale 1:10,560
- 1938 Ordnance Survey map, scale 1:10,560

Documentary sources

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Fieldwork strategy

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

Fieldwork was undertaken between 30 August and 6 September 2016.

Thirteen trenches, amounting to about 1,080m² in area, were excavated over the site area of c 75,000m², representing a sample of 1.4%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2. Trenches 1, 6 12 and 13 were placed in order to both test possible blank areas and to gain a representative sample of the site. Trenches 7 to 10 were placed in order to test a possible enclosure along with its internal space. Trenches 2 to 5 were placed so as to test east to west aligned linears along, with some spike anomalies.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under archaeological supervision, using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket. 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). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

3.5 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.

3.6 Artefact methodology, by Laura Griffin

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), with archive creation informed by *Archaeological archives: a guide to the best practice in the creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2011), and museum deposition by *Selection, retention and dispersal of archaeological collections* (SMA 1993).

3.6.1 Recovery policy

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

3.6.2 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 pro forma sheets.

Artefacts from environmental samples were examined, but none were worthy of comment, and so they not included below, nor included in the Finds Table 1 quantification.

3.6.3 Discard policy

The following categories/types of material will be discarded after a period of six 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 as having no obvious grounds for retention.

See the environmental section for other discard where appropriate.

3.7 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Alan Clapham

3.7.1 Sampling policy

Sampling was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). Samples were taken by the excavator from deposits considered to be of high potential for the recovery of environmental remains. A total of 7 samples (of between 20 and 40 litres) were taken from the site from the following contexts: 106, 110, 111, 112, 206, 804 and 1104.

3.7.2 Processing and analysis

The samples were processed by flotation using a Siraf tank. The flots were collected on a 300µm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residues were fully sorted by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammer scale. The flots were scanned using a low power stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by the author, and a seed identification manual (Cappers *et al* 2006). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (2010).

3.7.3 Discard policy

The samples will be discarded after a period of six months after the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them:

3.8 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

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

4 The site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The site is located to the north of the village of Codsall and about 6.5km to the north-west of Wolverhampton city centre. The topography of the northern half of the site is broadly flat, with the southern half sloping gently up towards the south. The wider area consists of a similarly low topography. The bedrock geology of the site is recorded as Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation with the superficial deposits as glaciofluvial deposits typically consisting of sand and gravels (BGS 2016).

The following archaeological background is summarised from the desk-based assessment (IS Heritage 2015), unless stated otherwise.

Little evidence of early prehistoric activity was recorded within the area, with that being sporadic finds such as worked flints. A cropmark enclosure c 900m to the west of the site may be of Iron Age or Roman origin (HER04019), and it certainly predates the mediaeval ridge and furrows crop marks which cross it. To the west of the village of Codsall is the probable line of a Roman road which ran to a fort to the north-east.

The village of Codsall is believed to have originated before the Norman Conquest, and is mentioned in the Domesday Survey. Its centre is likely to have been around the Church of St Nicholas to the east of the site. By the 12th and 13th centuries, the settlement may have extended as far as the junction of Church Road and Church Lane. The site is away from the village core of

this date, though Sandy Lane immediately to the south of the site is likely to be medieval in origin as it links the settlements of Codsall and Bilbrook. 500m to the north of the present site is the site of the shrunken settlement of Gunstone (HER52378). The nearby Gunstone Hall farmstead (HER54167) is probably on the site of the medieval manor associated with the settlement. The site itself is considered to have been in agricultural use, though a slightly higher potential remained along Sandy Lane at its southern border.

The post-medieval era saw the first mapping of the site, with those of 1798 and 1816 being large scale. The first detailed mapping dated to 1849 with the Tithe Map, and shows the site split into seven separate land parcels with the boundaries largely running east to west, the exception being a separate north to south aligned parcel in the south-east corner, which remains extant. The east to west boundaries were removed by 1884, with one being reinstated by 1924, along with a new north to south aligned boundary associated with two buildings next to Sandy Lane. A further small parcel was added by 1938 which was shown as under trees, and a further building added in the south-east corner of the site.

A number of the historic land parcel divisions show clearly on the geophysical survey (ArchaeoPhysica 2015, Figure 2), particularly those crossing Trenches 5 and 11 relating to the 1849 Tithe Map, with those crossing Trenches 7, 8, 9 and 10 relating to the enclosure first seen in 1938. Numerous further east to west anomalies are visible in the location of Trenches 2 to 4 which were interpreted as the result of cultivation, most likely ridge and furrow. Numerous further spike anomalies are visible.

Evaluation of the south and south-west portions of the site was undertaken in November 2015, with six trial trenches (Trent and Peak Archaeology 2015). No significant archaeological deposits were identified, nor finds recovered. A series of ceramic land drains were noted, along with single pit in the southernmost trench, all of which were of 20th century date. The natural geology was recorded at 0.63 and 0.81m depth. A field boundary identified in an aerial photo and as a linear anomaly in the geophysical survey was not found as a sub-surface feature, so was interpreted to have been a former hedge line.

4.2 Current land-use

The site has remained in agricultural use as two fields, though had clearly not been used for recent cultivation as the grass had grown long.

5 Results

5.1 Structural analysis

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

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

Natural deposits within all of the trenches consisted of a compact reddish orange clayey sand, deposited as part of a glacial till. Some areas had a higher red clay content which is likely to have been derived from marl deposits below.

Within Trench 12, a mixed deposit (1203) was present that consisted of light grey sand, sub-rounded pebbles and grey clay lensing (Plates 11 to 12). These were located in a shallow depression that ran in a broadly north to south direction at the southern end of the trench, turning to run north-east to south-west at the northern end. It extended past the limit of excavation in the central section of the trench. This was interpreted as a paleo channel, and contained no cultural material. Its largely sand fill did not suggest a potential for surviving environmental remains.

5.1.2 Phase 2: Undated deposits

Two broadly parallel ditches within Trench 1 [109 and 113] (Fig 5; Plates 2 and 3) ran in a north-west to south-east direction. No dating was recovered from these features, though they did contain a large amount of stones within their fills. These stones were unworked and may have been placed into the ditches to aid drainage, though this interpretation is diminished by the fact that they were not placed in a concentration, as elsewhere in a later feature on the site. The lack of dating does not suggest the presence of a nearby settlement so an interpretation of a field boundary or drainage ditch is most likely. These features were not visible on the geophysical survey.

Ditch [803] (Fig 6; Plate 4) had a similar light grey fill to those previously discussed, though its east to west alignment is similar to the Phase 4 drainage features and it lacked the stone content within its fill. This feature was also not visible on the geophysical survey but clearly extended through Trench 7.

Subsoil deposits (101, 201, 301, 401, 501, 601, 701, 801, 901, 1001, 1101, 1201 and 1301) were seen in all trenches and were clearly cut by the Phase 3 features.

5.1.3 Phase 3: Post-medieval deposits

A total of seventeen east to west aligned linear features were present across this site. Some of these may have run across multiple trenches, but this was not clear. Six of these features were excavated [207, 209, 304, 504, 506, 508, 514 and 1103] (Fig 6; Plates 5 to 10) and all except one [304] had associated drainage features within them such as ceramic land drain or central stone packing, the latter being [207]. Ditch [209] had a ceramic land drain cut in later, but on the same alignment as the ditch, whereas for the remainder, the land drains were contemporary.

The land drains indicate a late post-medieval date for these features and their drainage function. It is possible that in the northern half of the field they could have been used as part of water meadow system, given their regularity. This was particularly visible within Trench 2. This function is less likely within the southern half of the field which is slightly elevated. These features were only partially recognised on the geophysical survey. The northern excavated ditch within Trench 5 fits closely with a field boundary as seen on the 1849 Tithe and later mapping, whilst the other excavated ditch within Trench 5 aligns with a field boundary seen on the 1849 Tithe Map only.

Two further small linear features were present in Trench 1. Of these [104] was very shallow and contained coal and is likely to have related to an agricultural process, possibly a bedding trench.

Numerous further land drains were also seen across the site, both ceramic and sandstone filled.

5.1.4 Phase 4: Modern deposits

Topsoil cultivation deposits were seen across all of the trenches (100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200 and 1300). A layer within the topsoil within Trench 4 (403) demonstrates a degree of modern levelling and earth moving within this area.

A service cut and a tarmac surface were present within Trench 13 along with two modern geological test pits. Further examples of these latter existed across the site.

5.2 Artefact analysis, by Laura Griffin

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

The site assemblage totalled 17 finds (weighing 6732g) from 12 contexts (Finds Tables 1 and 2). Level of preservation, on the whole, was good with pottery sherds displaying low levels of surface abrasion and having an exceptionally high average weight of 45.4g.

The majority of the finds assemblage recovered comprised domestic refuse dating to the post-medieval and modern periods. The only exception was piece of worked flint, hinting at earlier activity in the vicinity.

period	material class	object specific type	count	weight (g)
mesolithic-early Bronze Age	stone	flint	1	5
late medieval/early post-medieval	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	46
post-medieval	ceramic	pot	5	227
post-medieval	ceramic	pipe	2	1
late post-medieval/modern	ceramic	roof tile	3	223
modern	ceramic	drain	3	1330
undated	stone	quartz	2	4900

Finds Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

5.2.1 Summary of artefactual evidence by period

All material has been spot-dated and quantified. For the finds from individual features, see Finds Table 2.

context	material class	object specific type	count	weight (g)	start date	end date	period	spot date
100	ceramic	roof tile	3	223			late post-medieval/modern	late post-medieval/modern
101	ceramic	roof tile(flat)	1	46			late medieval/early post-medieval	late medieval/early post-medieval
105	stone	quartz	1	3000			undated	-
111	stone	quartz	1	1900			undated	-
500	ceramic	pot	1	120		18C	post-medieval	18C
501	stone	flint	1	5			mesolithic-early Bronze Age	mesolithic-early Bronze Age
503	ceramic	drain	3	1330			modern	20C
505	ceramic	pot	1	4		18C	post-medieval	18C
511	ceramic	pipe	2	1		18C	post-medieval	18C
512	ceramic	pot	1	7		18C	post-medieval	18C
600	ceramic	pot	1	87		18C	post-medieval	18C
1201	ceramic	pot	1	9	M17C	L17C	post-medieval	L17C

Finds Table 2: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

Prehistoric

A flake with fine retouch was retrieved from the subsoil of Trench 5 (context 501, subsoil) and could be dated between the Mesolithic and early Bronze Age (Rob Hedge pers comm).

Post-medieval

All pottery retrieved from the site was of post-medieval date, with sherds from Trench 5 indicating an 18th century *terminus post quem* for the two ditches (contexts 506 and 514). All but one sherd could be identified as Midlands Blackware, the earliest being from a small cup or jar of 17th century date and the remainder coming from large open forms such as pancheons or flared bowls dating to the 18th century. The remaining sherd was also from a flared bowl form but of a paler pinkish orange fabric with a pale red slipped internal surface and occasional splashes of clear glaze and of similar date to the blackwares.

Remaining material of post-medieval date consisted of two fragments of clay pipe (context 511; ditch cut 514) and a fragment of roof tile. There is the possibility that roof tile could be of late medieval production but being of a long-lived type, it is not possible to narrow the dating any further.

Modern

Modern material consisted of three fragments of ceramic field drain (context 503; ditch cut 506) and three of high fired roof tile (context 100). All could be dated from the later 18th century onwards.

Undated

Two large lumps of igneous rock which appear to have been shaped were retrieved from the fills of two ditches in trench 1 (contexts 105 and 111). Both fills contained significant amounts of stone but these particular examples were retained because they were of a different rock type to the majority. Both are of similar size and shape and have one definite flat surface. It is uncertain what function these stones may have had, if any and, in the absence of any associated finds, they remain undated.

5.3 Environmental analysis, by Alan Clapham

The environmental evidence recovered is summarised in Environment Table 2.

Five samples of 10 litres were processed and assessed for plant remains (see Environment Table 1). Apart from small fragments of oak (*Quercus* sp) heartwood charcoal, no archaeological plant remains were recorded from the five samples. The only other biological remains noted were small fragments of burnt large animal bone in [105], although there were no pieces large enough to identify the species of animal (see Environment Table 2).

Therefore, the samples provided for assessment for archaeological environmental remains can be said to be sterile and thus can provide no information to the past economic or agricultural activities on the site.

Some small fragments of possible hammerscale were recorded from [206].

No further analysis of the charred plant remains is recommended.

Context	Sample	Sample type	Sample vol (litres)	Vol processed (litres)	Res assessed	Flot assessed
105	1	General	20	10	Yes	Yes
110	2	General	40	10	Yes	Yes
111	3	General	40	10	Yes	Yes
112	4	General	30	10	Yes	Yes
206	7	General	20	10	Yes	Yes

Environment Table 1 Samples processed and assessed for environmental remains

Context	Sample	large mammal	charcoal	hammerscale	Comment
105	1	occ	occ		Small frags of burnt bone, oak charcoal (heartwood)
110	2		occ		Occasional coal and oak charcoal (heartwood)
111	3		occ		oak charcoal (heartwood)
112	4		occ		charcoal frags too small to identify
206	7		occ	occ	Occasional coal, charcoal poorly preserved

Environment Table 2 Environmental archaeological remains from the samples processed

6 Synthesis

The archaeological background to the site recorded a low potential up until the medieval era. The prehistoric was partially characterised by sporadic finds, mostly of flint. A similar low level background of prehistoric activity was seen within the present site with a flint flake being found in the subsoil. This was dated between the Mesolithic and early Bronze Age. It is possible that three of the ditches found within the site relate to the prehistoric era, though no clear dating evidence was present. Two of them were on a noticeably different alignments to the later drainage features which were highlighted on the geophysical survey. The absence of dating material within the earliest ditches may suggest a lack of contemporary settlement, supporting their interpretation as part of field systems. The geophysical survey suggested the possibility of an enclosure of potentially prehistoric date in the south-west part of the site, but the trenching along with study of the historic mapping confirmed that the anomaly was part of a 20th century field system.

No dating was present within an area of alluvial deposits within the south-east of the site. This possible water feature is certainly not present on the historic mapping.

No deposits relating the medieval era were present, even within the vicinity of Sandy Lane where some potential was previously recognised. The remaining features were of post-medieval date and relate to both land drainage and field divisions. It is possible that these features in the northern half of the site related to a water meadow, though this interpretation is diminished by the variability in size, shape and the presence or of drainage features such as stone packing or ceramic land drains. It is likely that water meadow ditches would be more uniform and of a single phase. Environmental samples taken from one of their fills yielded no results.

6.1 Research frameworks

The site does not currently fit into any of the research frameworks as outlined within *The archaeology of the West Midlands: a framework for research* (Watt (ed) 2011).

7 Significance

The prime archaeological interest in this site relates to the two undated ditches in the north and a further ditch at the centre of the site. It is possible that these features are prehistoric in origin, though their extent and character remain largely unknown. The relative importance of these cannot therefore be clearly stated at this point. A lesser degree of interest and importance could be assigned to the possible water meadow features, also in the northern part of the site, though their interpretation as such is questionable. The field boundary and drainage features are of low interest.

8 The impact of the development

The main impact of this development will be the loss of the possible prehistoric ditches at the north and centre of the site. The extent of the impact will depend on the exact nature and extent of the development in those areas. The development will similarly impact upon the post-medieval drainage and field boundary systems, though these are of a low level of archaeological interest.

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 for the Environmental Dimension Partnership on behalf of Taylor Wimpey Midlands, of land off Watery Lane, Codsall, Staffordshire (NGR SJ 87250 03900).

Thirteen trenches were excavated across the site and located in order to test features identified on a geophysical survey, along with areas considered likely to contain a limited potential for archaeological features. The geophysical survey primarily identified enclosures in the south-west of the site and broadly east to west aligned features of probable agricultural origins. The enclosures relate to a 20th century field alignment and the features running across the field related to drainage and field boundaries, with those in the northern possibly part of a post-medieval water meadow system.

The trenching also identified three further undated ditches not visible on the geophysical survey. The interpretation of these is unclear although they may be part of a prehistoric field system. An area of alluvial deposits within the south-east of the site was also undated.

10 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Rob Johns (Principal Archaeologist, EDP), Steven Birchley (Senior Architectural Technician, Taylor Wimpey Midlands) and Steve Dean (Principal Archaeologist, Staffordshire County Council).

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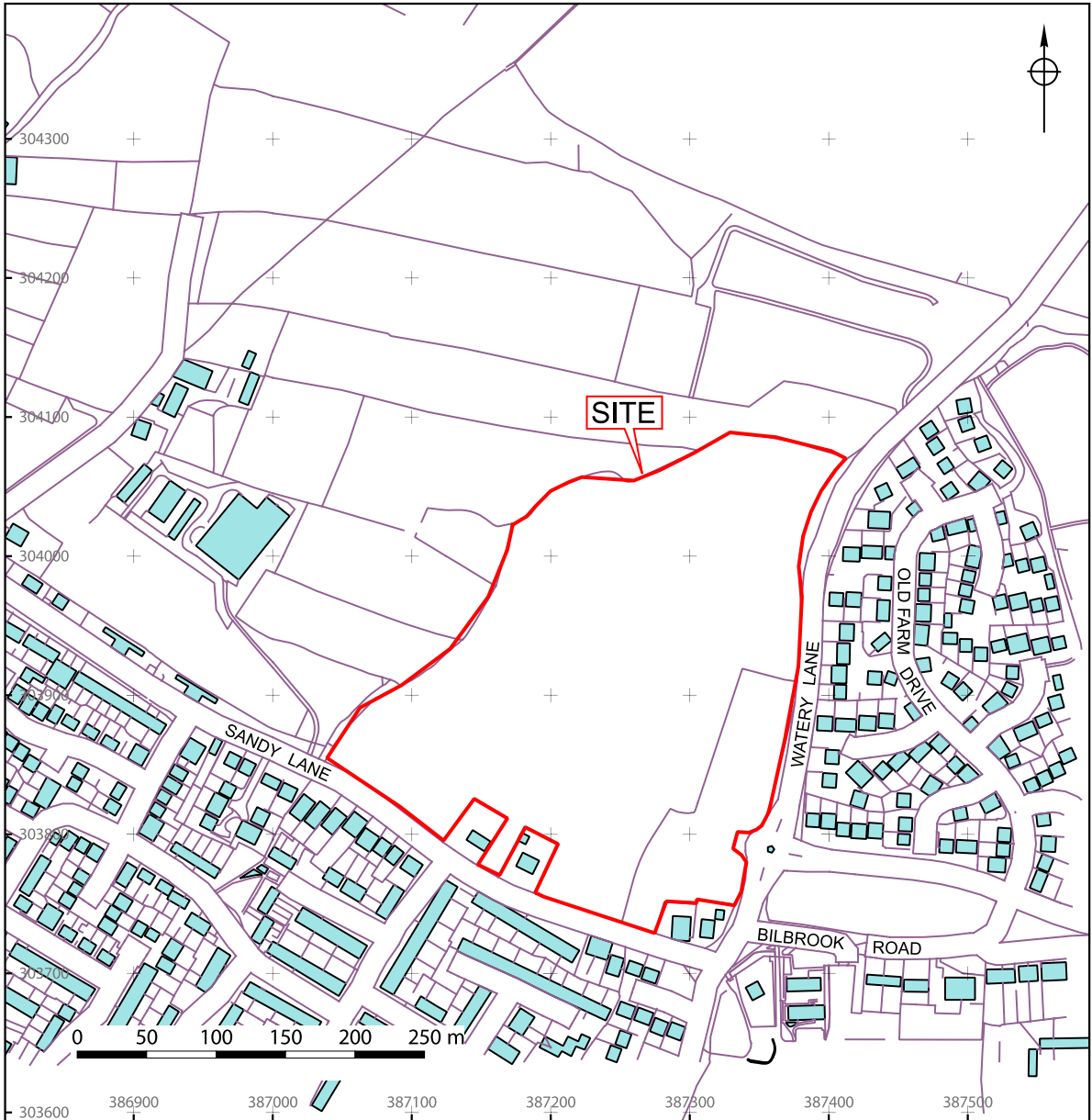
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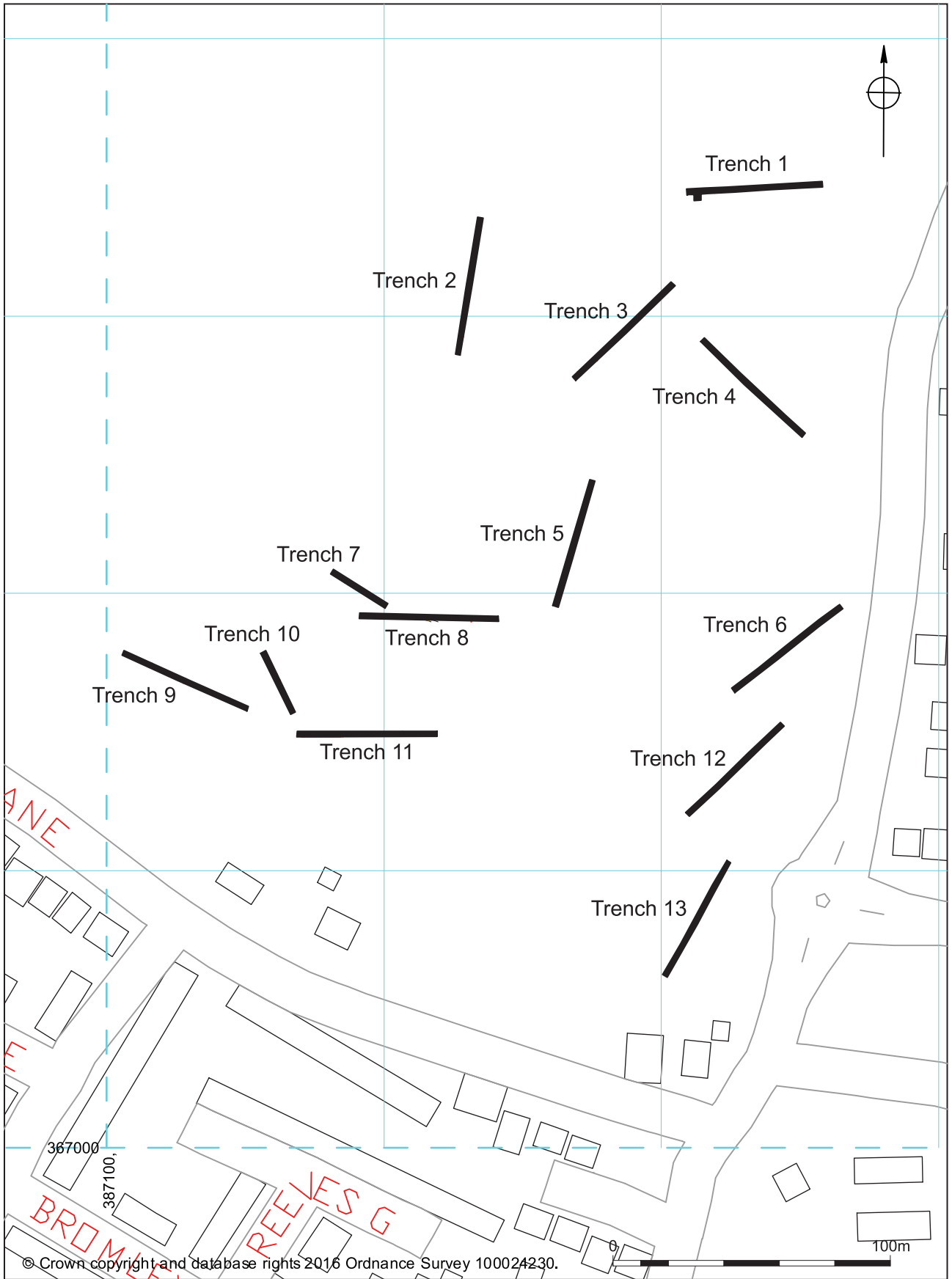
Figures



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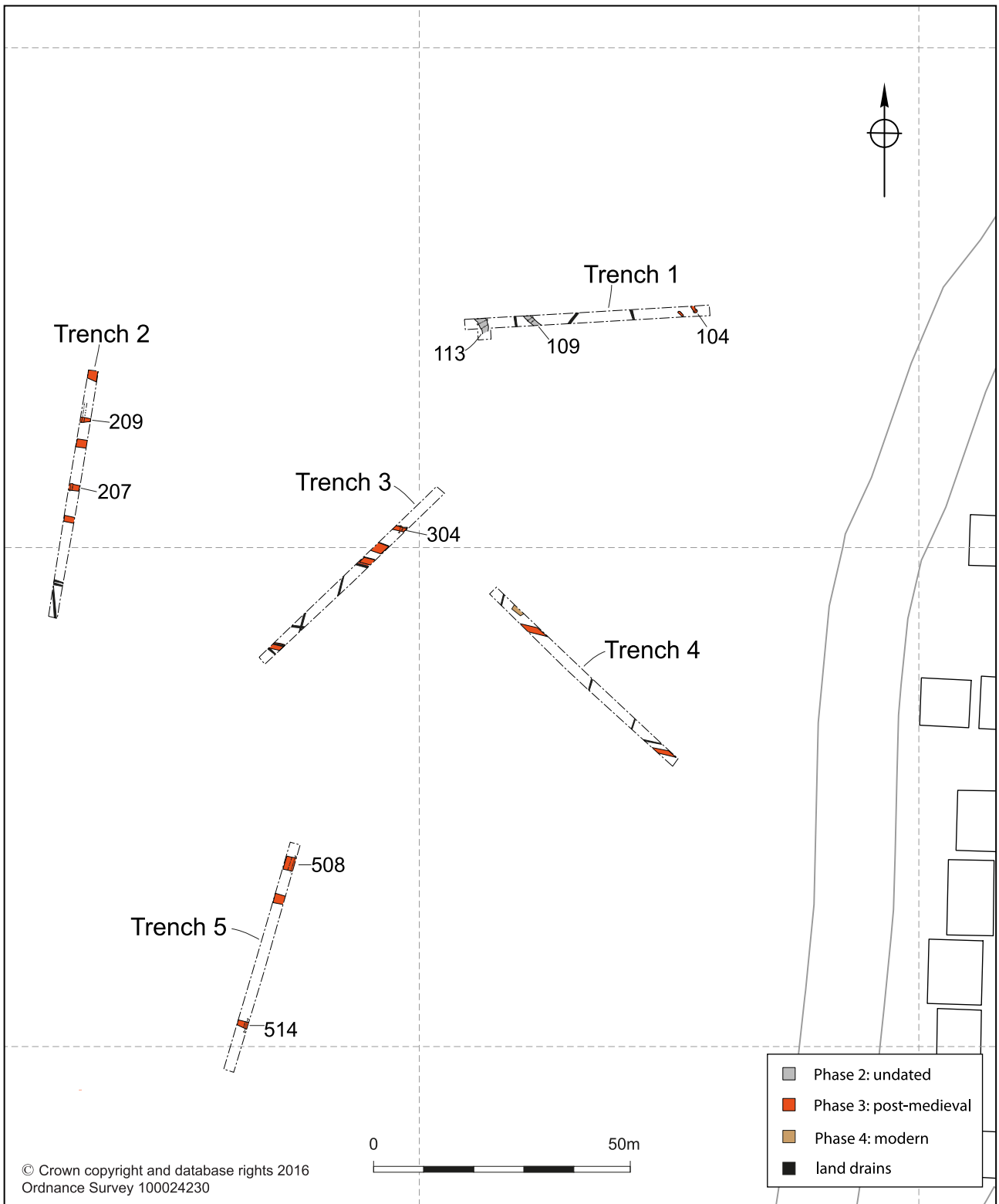
Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench locations

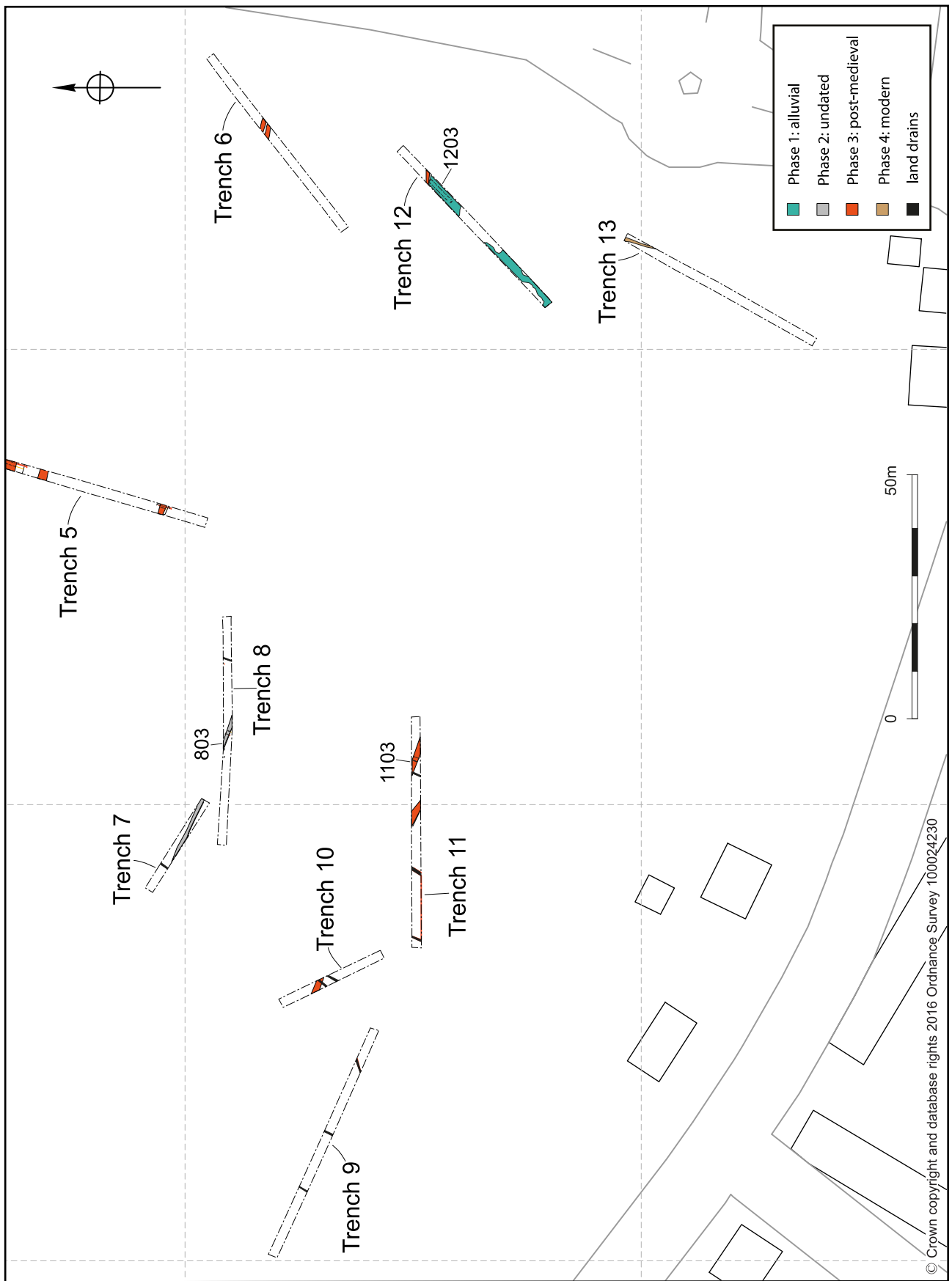
Figure 2



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Trenches 1-5 feature locations

Figure 3

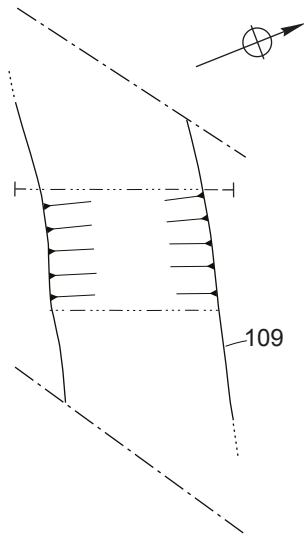


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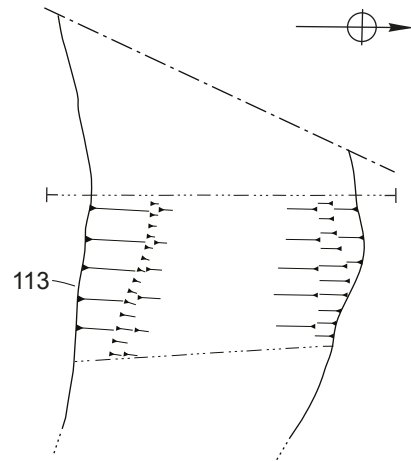
Trenches 6-13 feature locations

Figure 4

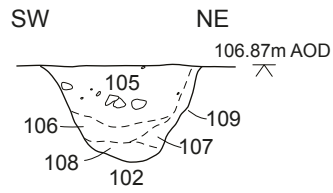
DITCH 109: PLAN



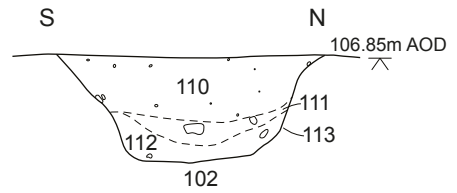
DITCH 113: PLAN



DITCH 109: SECTION

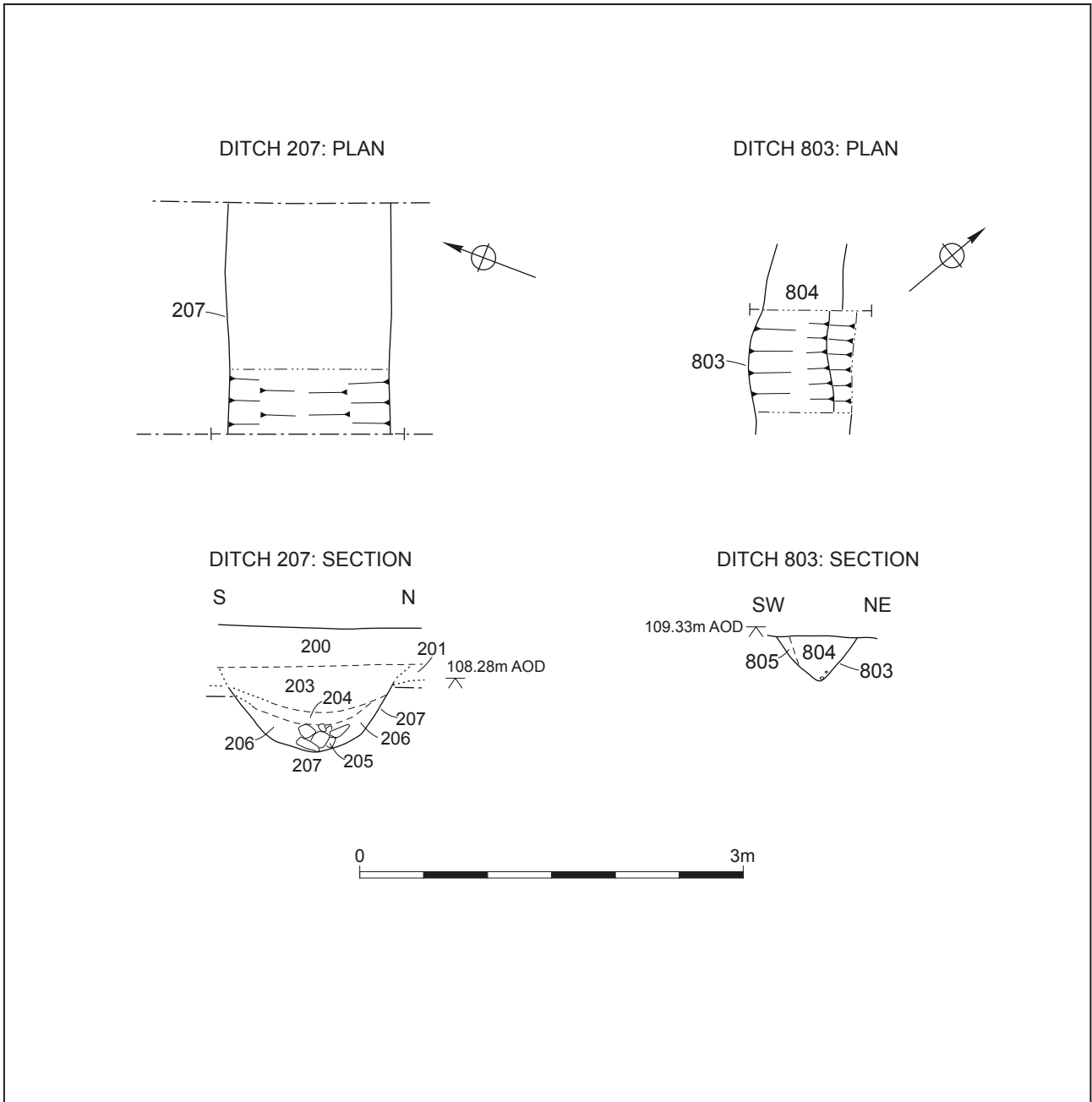


DITCH 113: SECTION



Ditches 109 and 113: plans and sections

Figure 5



Ditches 207 and 803: plans and sections

Figure 6

Plates



Plate 1 The site, looking south



Plate 2 Ditch 109, looking north-west



Plate 3 Ditch 113, looking north-west



Plate 4 Ditch 803, looking north-west



Plate 5 Ditch 207, looking west



Plate 6 Ditch 209, looking west



Plate 7 Ditch 304, looking east



Plate 8 Ditches 506 and 508, looking north-east



Plate 9 Ditch 504, looking east



Plate 10 Ditch 1103, looking east



Plate 11 Alluvial deposit 1203, looking south-west



Plate 12 Alluvial deposit 1203, looking north-west

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Main deposit descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.47m

Orientation: NEE - SWW

Context	Classification	Description	Depth of deposits
100	Topsoil	Topsoil, Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	0.29m
101	Subsoil	Subsoil, Moderately Compact mid brownish grey clayey sand	0.18m
102	Natural	Natural glacial till, Compact mid reddish orange clayey sand	
103	Ditch	Fill of [104] - resembles a bleached out buried subsoil with some natural in-wash.	0.13m
104	Ditch	Indistinct feature that may be several pits and/ or a ditch terminus intercutting. Possibly bedding features related to the site's previous use as a plantation.	0.13m
105	Ditch	Upper, relatively sterile fill of ditch [109] containing abundant large cobbles and a dubious fragment of quern stone. Friable mid greyish brown silty sand	0.41m
106	Ditch	Grey sandy fill of ditch [109] - appears waterlogged due to clayey basal fill (108) below. Soft mid orangey grey silty sand	0.16m
107	Ditch	Slump of re-deposited natural down NE edge of ditch [109], Moderately Compact light greyish orange silty sand	0.18m
108	Ditch	Fairly sterile clay basal fill of ditch [109]., Moderately Compact mid greyish orange silty clay	0.13m
109	Ditch	Cut of U shaped ditch containing multiple sterile fills, of which upper fill contains abundant cobbles.	0.65m
110	Ditch	Upper fill of ditch [113] - possibly a deliberate backfilling. Soft dark yellowish brown silty sand	0.43m
111	Ditch	Middle fill of ditch [113] - contained a piece of stone similar to those often used as quern stones, although it was not obviously worked. Similar to (105) in ditch [109] and also appears to have formed via siltation. Moderately Compact mid brownish yellow silty clay	0.15m
112	Ditch	Waterlogged clay basal fill of ditch [113] - likely to have formed via puddling. Moderately Compact dark bluish grey sandy clay	0.25m
113	Ditch	Cut of wide ditch with steep sides, a flat base and U shaped profile at south end of trench. Potentially prehistoric and contemporary with ditch [109].	0.72m
114	Linear	Fill of possible linear [115]	
115	Linear	Possible linear aligned NW-SE	
116	Pit	Fill of possible pit [117]	
117	Pit	Possible pit	

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.47m

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth of deposits
200	Topsoil	Topsoil - Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	0.29m
201	Subsoil	Subsoil - frequent sub-rounded stones and frequent manganese. Moderately Compact mid orangey brown silty sand	0.18m
202	Natural	Glacial till natural.	
203	Ditch	Fill of post-med drainage ditch. Soft light grey silty sand	0.30m
204	Ditch	Fill of post-med drainage ditch. Soft light yellowish brown silty sand	0.08m
205	Ditch	Dump of sub-angular sandstone blocks in the base of ditch [207]. Used as a crude form of drainage.	0.23m
206	Ditch	Basal fill, either side of crude drainage (205) in post-med ditch [207]. Soft greyish brown silty sand	0.18m
207	Ditch	Post-medieval drainage ditch. One of five seen on the geophysics in this area.	0.65m
208	Ditch	Fill of post-med drainage ditch. Soft greyish brown sandy silt	0.50m
209	Ditch	Post-med drainage ditch possibly part of a water meadow system. Runs broadly east-west.	0.50m
210	Layer	Layer - very similar to subsoil so is likely to be the same. Just slightly deeper to the north of ditch [209]. Moderately Compact	0.29m

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.57m

Orientation: SW-NE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth of deposits
300	Topsoil	Topsoil - same as (100).	0.32m
301	Subsoil	Subsoil - frequent sub-rounded stones and frequent manganese. Moderately Compact mid orangey brown silty sand	0.25m
302	Natural	Natural glacial till - same as (202).	
303	Ditch	Post-med drainage ditch fill. Soft mid greyish brown silty sand	0.21m
304	Ditch	Cut of post-med drainage ditch.	0.21m

Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.43m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth of deposits
400	Topsoil	Topsoil - same as (100).	0.30m
401	Subsoil	Subsoil - same as (301); but in the area where it is disturbed, there is a bleached blue-grey sand mixed in.	0.13m
402	Natural	Glacial till natural - same as (302) but a red clay marl is visible in south-easter edge of trench circa 3m from the end.	
403	Layer	Layer seen strongest on western side of trench but also elsewhere. Sits between topsoil (400) and subsoil (401). Fades into a dark blackish brown in places. Moderately Compact greyish black silty sand	0.13m

Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.42m

Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth of deposits
500	Topsoil	Topsoil - same as (100).	0.22m
501	Subsoil	Subsoil - same as (101).	0.20m
502	Natural	Mid reddish orange and yellowish grey silty sands with glacial till stones, with some red marl clay patches. Natural mixed glacial till. Compact mid reddish orange silty sand	
503	Ditch	Upper fill of ditch [506]. Deliberately backfilled and containing a dump of broken land drain fragments which slope in from the northern-most edge. Sandy fill with poorly assorted stones. Soft dark orangey brown silty sand	0.37m
504	Ditch	Darker fill in centre of ditch [506]. Sits above basal fill (505). Possible a backfilled topsoil, hence the darker colour. No finds. Soft dark greyish brown clay silt	0.15m
505	Ditch	Likely basal fill of ditch [506]. Not fully excavated because it contained two working hore-shoe land drains. Drains were side by side and still in use. Both contemporary with each other. Pot sherd in this fill may help date. Clay may have been deliberate. Moderately Compact dark orangey brown silty clay	0.25m
506	Ditch	Cut of large ditch at northernmost end of trench 5. Very similar to [514] - land drains at the bottom. Likely dug for drainage / land drains. Pot should help date this ditch but it is very clearly post-medieval. Likely contemporary with [510] and [514]. Tr	0.77m +
507	Ditch	Sandy, fairly sterile fill of ditch [508], which is truncated by later, much bigger ditch [506]. Probably backfilled with subsoil like deposit. No finds or dating. Moderately Compact mid orangey brown silty sand	0.32m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth of deposits
508	Ditch	Cut of ditch at northern end of trench 5. Very shallow and truncated by later ditch [506]. Very small, follows same alignment - possibly a field boundary or drainage which was replaced with [506]. Cuts subsoil so likely to be post-med too.	0.32m
509	Ditch	Fill of ditch [510] Unexcavated. Soft mid brownish grey silty sand	
510	Ditch	Unexcavated. Cut of ditch which also runs roughly east-west, same as ditches [506], [508], and [514] in trench 5. Likely contemporary with these and likely also contains a land drain.	
511	Ditch	Upper fill of drainage ditch [514]. Sits below topsoil and abuts subsoil (501) where [514] cuts it. This is possibly a redeposited subsoil. Clay pipe may date it, but may be residual. Moderately Compact mid orangey brown silty sand	0.22m
512	Ditch	Largest, thickest fill in middle of ditch [514]. One small abraded pot sherd may help date, but may be residual. Appears deliberately backfilled after drain was inserted. Soft dark orangey brown clay silt	0.41m
513	Ditch	Probable basal fill of ditch [514]. Contains large horse-shoe land drain. Only partially excavated because land drain still in use (a lot of running water!). Possibly deliberate clay deposit to seal land drain. Quite wet. Colour suggests anaerobic conditions. Moderately Compact dark blueish grey silty clay	0.15m +
514	Ditch	Cut of drainage ditch in southern end of trench 5. Similar and probably contemporary to ditch [506] and [510]. On same alignment as these ditches in trench 5. Large horse-shoe land drain located in bottom of ditch. No cut for this drain is visible so it	0.75m +

Trench 6

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.60m

Orientation: SW-NE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth of deposits
600	Topsoil	Topsoil - same as (100).	0.32m
601	Subsoil	Subsoil - same as (1201).	0.28m
602	Natural	Natural glacial till - same as (1201).	
603	Ditch	Fill of ditch [604]. Rare charcoal flecks, sub rounded pebbles. Unexcavated. Compact mid brownish grey sandy clay	
604	Ditch	Cut of probable field boundary ditch which runs NW-SE. Unexcavated.	
605	Ditch	Fill of ditch [606]. Same as (603).	
606	Ditch	Cut of probable field boundary ditch to north of [604], also NW-SE. Unexcavated.	

Trench 7

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.53m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth of deposits
700	Topsoil	Topsoil - same as (100).	0.31m
701	Subsoil	Subsoil containing frequent manganese flecks and subrounded pebbles. Moderately Compact mid brownish orange silty sand	0.22m
702	Natural	Glacial till natural. Some patches of red marl clay. Abundant stones and gravels. Frequent manganese. Moderately Compact mid orangey brown silty sand	0.31m

Trench 8

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.61m

Orientation: W-E

Context	Classification	Description	Depth of deposits
800	Topsoil	Topsoil - same as (100).	0.36m
801	Subsoil	Subsoil - same as (101).	0.25m
802	Natural	Glacial till natural - same as (102) but with a higher concentration of red marl patches.	
803	Ditch	Possible post-med boundary or drainage ditch. Not seen on mapping. Date can only be assumed as no dating evidence found. On a different alignment to other definite field boundaries observed in this field.	0.35m
804	Ditch	Fill appears to be the product of natural siltation during use of ditch. Stones not concentrated although larger ones at the base. Fill mixed with surrounding naturals. Compact mid blueish grey silty sand	0.35m
805	Ditch	Natural slumping of naturals into ditch from southern side. Likely water aided. Compact mid reddish brown sandy clay	0.24m

Trench 9

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.44m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth of deposits
900	Topsoil	Topsoil - same as (100).	0.32m
901	Subsoil	Subsoil - same as (101).	0.12m
902	Natural	Glacial till natural - same as (702).	0.32m

Trench 10

Maximum dimensions: Length: 25m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.49m

Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth of deposits
1000	Topsoil	Topsoil - same as (100).	0.20m
1001	Subsoil	Subsoil - same as (701)	0.29m
1002	Natural	Glacial till natural - same as (702)	
1003	Ditch	Cut of ditch - unexcavated.	
1004	Ditch	Fill of ditch [1003] - unexcavated.	

Trench 11

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.52m

Orientation: W-E

Context	Classification	Description	Depth of deposits
1100	Topsoil	Topsoil - same as (100).	0.25m
1101	Subsoil	Subsoil - same as (701).	0.27m
1102	Natural	Natural glacial till - same as (702).	
1103	Ditch	Ditch feature cut to install land drain. Could have been pre-existing and the land drain added later, but is on perfect alignment so less likely. Post-medieval in date. Similar feature to the west but unexcavated. It is on the same alignment - assumed to	0.46m +
1104	Ditch	Backfill of ditch using material excavated for installation of land drain - mixed clay naturals seen only at top of fill. Immediate and deliberate action. Moderately Compact mid greyish brown silty sand	0.46m +
1105	Ditch	Ditch - unexcavated.	
1106	Pit	Possible pit - unexcavated.	0.25m

Trench 12

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.57m

Orientation: SW-NE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth of deposits
1200	Topsoil	Topsoil - same as (100).	0.25m
1201	Subsoil	Subsoil. Moderately Compact mid brownish orange silty sand	0.32m
1202	Natural	Sand and red marl clay with glacial till natural. Moderately Compact mid reddish orange sand	
1203	Layer	Palaeochannel deposit - curve of old stream can be seen as earthwork; trench goes through two sections of channel as it curves round. Machine slot through it shows deposits to be fairly homogenous (with slight colour lenses) and relatively shallow. Soft light whiteish grey silty sand	0.26m
1204	Ditch	Fill of ditch [1205] - unexcavated.	
1205	Ditch	Cut of probable drainage ditch on northern edge of palaeochannel (1203). Aligned NW-SE. Unexcavated.	0.25m

Trench 13

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Depth: 0.56m

Orientation: SW-NE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth of deposits
1300	Topsoil	Topsoil - same as (100).	0.44m
1301	Subsoil	Subsoil. Moderately Compact mid orangey grey silty sand	0.12m
1302	Natural	Glacial till natural with some red clay marl patches.	

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

- 32 Context records AS1
- 2 Field progress reports AS2
- 2 Photographic records AS3
- 160 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 20 Scale drawings
- 1 Sample number catalogues AS18
- 13 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:

The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery
Bethesda Street
Hanley
Stoke on Trent
ST1 3DW

Tel: Stoke on Trent (01782) 232323
