

Archaeological evaluation off Naas Lane, Quedgeley, Gloucestershire

Worcestershire Archaeology
for Orion Heritage

November 2018



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NAAS LANE QUEDGELEY GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report



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SITE INFORMATION

Site name: Naas Lane, Quedgeley, Gloucester

Local planning authority: Gloucester City Council

Planning reference: 18/01228/OUT

Central NGR: SO 81879 12340

Commissioning client: Orion Heritage

Client project reference: PN1736

WA project number: P5480

WA report number: 2632

HER reference: -

Oasis reference: fieldsec1-333537

Museum accession number: -

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Archaeological evaluation off Naas Lane, Quedgeley, Gloucestershire

Beth Williams

Illustrations by Laura Templeton

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken of land to the south of Naas Lane, Quedgeley, Gloucestershire (SO 81879 12340). It was commissioned by Orion Heritage in advance of a proposed residential development. A planning application has been submitted.

The evaluation followed the production of a desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, both of which identified a low potential for the presence of archaeological remains within the site.

The site consists of a single pasture field on the southern edge of the civic parish of Quedgeley, which is located 3.5 miles south-west of the city of Gloucester. Fifteen 30m by 1.8m wide trenches were opened, covering an approximate area of 810m² which represents a c 2% sample of the 3.5ha site.

Despite targeting of potential archaeological features identified by geophysical survey, none of the trenches were found to contain archaeology, and no residual artefacts were recovered from the overlying soils.

Report

1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA) in November 2018 at Naas Lane, Quedgeley, Gloucestershire (NGR SO 81879 12340). This comprised fifteen evaluation trenches across one field. The project was commissioned by Orion Heritage, to support a planning application for residential development. A planning application has been submitted to Gloucester City Council (planning reference 18/01228/OUT).

The archaeological advisor to the local planning authority considers that the proposed development has the potential to impact upon possible heritage assets of archaeological interest. Previous geophysical survey on the site has identified linear trends, tentatively interpreted as potential field boundaries, plough marks or evidence of ridge and furrow.

No brief was available but a WSI and trench location plan was prepared by Orion Heritage (PN1736/2) and approved by the archaeological advisor. The evaluation conforms to the industry guidelines and standards set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists in *Standard and guidance: for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

The site is located to the south of Naas Lane on the south-easterly edge of Quedgeley, which is 3.5 miles south of the City of Gloucester. It consists of one pasture field, approximately 3.5ha in extent.

The north of the site is bounded by Naas Lane and a shallow watercourse running east to west alongside and under the lane. The site is bounded to the east by a raised railroad, to the south by a large arable field, and to the west by a small farmstead consisting of a number of buildings and small paddocks. Towards the east of the field the site is bisected by a public footpath running north to south. An additional watercourse (Shorn Brook) is located c 515m to the south of the site.

The site is situated on a gentle slope rising from 25m AOD in the north-west to 35m AOD in the south-east. The underlying geology is a liminal area between bedrock of Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation, with no superficial deposits recorded, although deposits of Cheltenham Sand and Gravel are recorded in the surrounding area (BDS 2018).

2 Archaeological and historical background

2.1 Introduction

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site was undertaken by Orion Heritage (Patrick 2018). The findings presented in the DBA are summarised below.

2.2 Prehistoric to Medieval

Recent excavations at Hunts Grove to the south of site have revealed evidence of Prehistoric and Romano-British activity. Evaluation trenching discovered an Iron Age farmstead (HER 33396), use of which possibly continued into the Romano-British period. Field system ditches and a probable stock enclosure dated to the Roman period suggest that the wider landscape was used for agricultural purposes (HER 42731 and HER 42730). The evaluation did not recover evidence of a supposed Romano-British cemetery recorded in 1857 (HER 3845), although two inhumations were discovered.

Further evidence of settlement and field systems has been recorded c 1km to the south-west of site however this has been interpreted as the eastern limit of activity and negative results from investigation to the west and south of site indicate that activity did not extend further (Oxford Archaeology 2017).

Other than one moated site, the HER holds no entries relating to the Saxon period within 1km of site. During the medieval period, the wider landscape was characterised by agricultural remains and moated sites (Manor Farm; NHLE 1012315; c 1km north-west; HER 4423; c 950m south-west). There is no suggestion of any settlement or farmstead extending into the site.

Ridge and furrow identified by geophysical survey (Davis 2018), aerial photography and early historic maps suggest that the site formed part of an agricultural landscape. This use may have been continuous throughout early and late medieval periods.

While there is theoretically a moderate potential for agricultural-related remains, a low potential for archaeological remains was asserted by the DBA.

2.3 Post-medieval and modern

The HER holds no entries for post-medieval or modern activity within the site and maps show the site to be located well-beyond any settlement foci.

In 1839 the site was sub-divided into narrow strips by several north-east to south-west aligned field boundaries. These were removed by 1884-6 to create the larger field that has been maintained to the present day. By this point the eastern edge of site had been bounded by the railway and a cottage had been constructed to the west. The north of the field was redefined by 1988 when Naas Lane was diverted to form the majority of the boundary.

3 Project aims

The principal aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- Determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains;
- Determine the character, extent, date, complexity, integrity, state of preservation and quality of any archaeological remains present, therefore ensuring their preservation by record; and
- To provide robust baseline information to inform the scoping of a mitigation strategy, should this be required.

The general objectives were to ensure:

- The protection and recording of archaeological assets discovered during the archaeological works;
- That any below-ground archaeological deposits exposed were promptly identified; and
- The recording of archaeological remains, to place this record in its local context and to make this record available.

4 Project methodology

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Orion Heritage (PN1736/2). Fieldwork was undertaken between 6th and 9th of November 2018.

Fifteen trenches amounting to 810m² in area were excavated over the 3.5ha site, representing a sample of c 2%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

The trenches were non-gridded and positioned to interrogate a varied sample of the site while targeting potential linear features identified by geophysical survey. Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 14 specifically targeted identified trends in the geophysical data that were believed to represent features of a potential archaeological nature.

When it was observed that the location proposed for Trench 15 in the WSI would cut through the public right of way that crosses site, an alternative location for the trench was prepared. However, on site it was determined that the right of way could be safely diverted around the trench for the brief time that the trench would be open so the original orientation was maintained.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under constant 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 determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012) and trench and feature locations were surveyed using a differential GPS with an accuracy limit set at 0.04m. On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. The project archive is currently held at the offices of Worcestershire Archaeology. Subject to the agreement of the landowner it is anticipated that it will be deposited at Gloucester Museum.

5 Archaeological results

5.1 Introduction

No features were recorded in the trenches, examples of the natural deposits seen are shown in Plates 1 - 4. The trench and context inventory is presented in Appendix 1.

5.2 Trench descriptions

5.2.1 Natural deposits across the site

In all trenches natural deposits comprised a blue grey clay weathered mudstone, overlaid by an orange reddish brown silty sand or sandy silt. These deposits are consistent with underlying deposits of Charmouth Mudstone Formation and superficial deposits of Cheltenham Sand and Gravel. The natural deposits were overlain by yellowish brown silty or sandy clay subsoil typically measuring between 0.10m to 0.30m in depth. This was overlain by mid-brown sandy silt topsoil, typically measuring 0.25m to 0.35m in depth.

There was limited truncation of deposits in some trenches by modern ceramic water field drains, on a predominantly north to south alignment. The trenches revealed no archaeological deposits, features, structure, layers or horizons, or residual finds, and the anomalies identified by geophysical survey could not be identified.

6 Significance

No archaeological remains were identified. Based on the evidence currently available, the archaeological significance of the site is considered to be negligible.

7 Discussion and Conclusions

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA) in November 2018 of land south of Naas Lane, Quedgeley, Gloucestershire (NGR SO 81879 12340). This comprised fifteen evaluation trenches. The project was commissioned by Orion Heritage in advance of proposed residential development. The project followed on from a desk based assessment and geophysical survey.

The site reflected the low archaeological potential predicted by the DBA and geophysical survey. No finds or features of non-modern date were identified.

The potential linear features identified by geophysics were not visible in the trenches. Despite suggestion from geophysical survey and historic maps that the field previously contained additional boundaries or divisions, none were seen, and no evidence of ridge and furrow or other ploughing activity was witnessed. While it is possible that features exist beyond the extent of the excavated trenches, there is considered to be a low potential for any discovery.

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved. Conditions were suitable in all of the trenches to identify the presence or absence of archaeological features. It is considered that the nature, density and distribution of archaeological features provides an accurate characterisation of the development site as a whole.

8 Project personnel

The fieldwork was led by Andrew Walsh, assisted by Beth Williams.

The project was managed by Tom Vaughan. The report was produced and collated by Beth Williams.

9 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following: Cathy Patrick (Orion Heritage), and Andrew Armstrong (Gloucester City Council).

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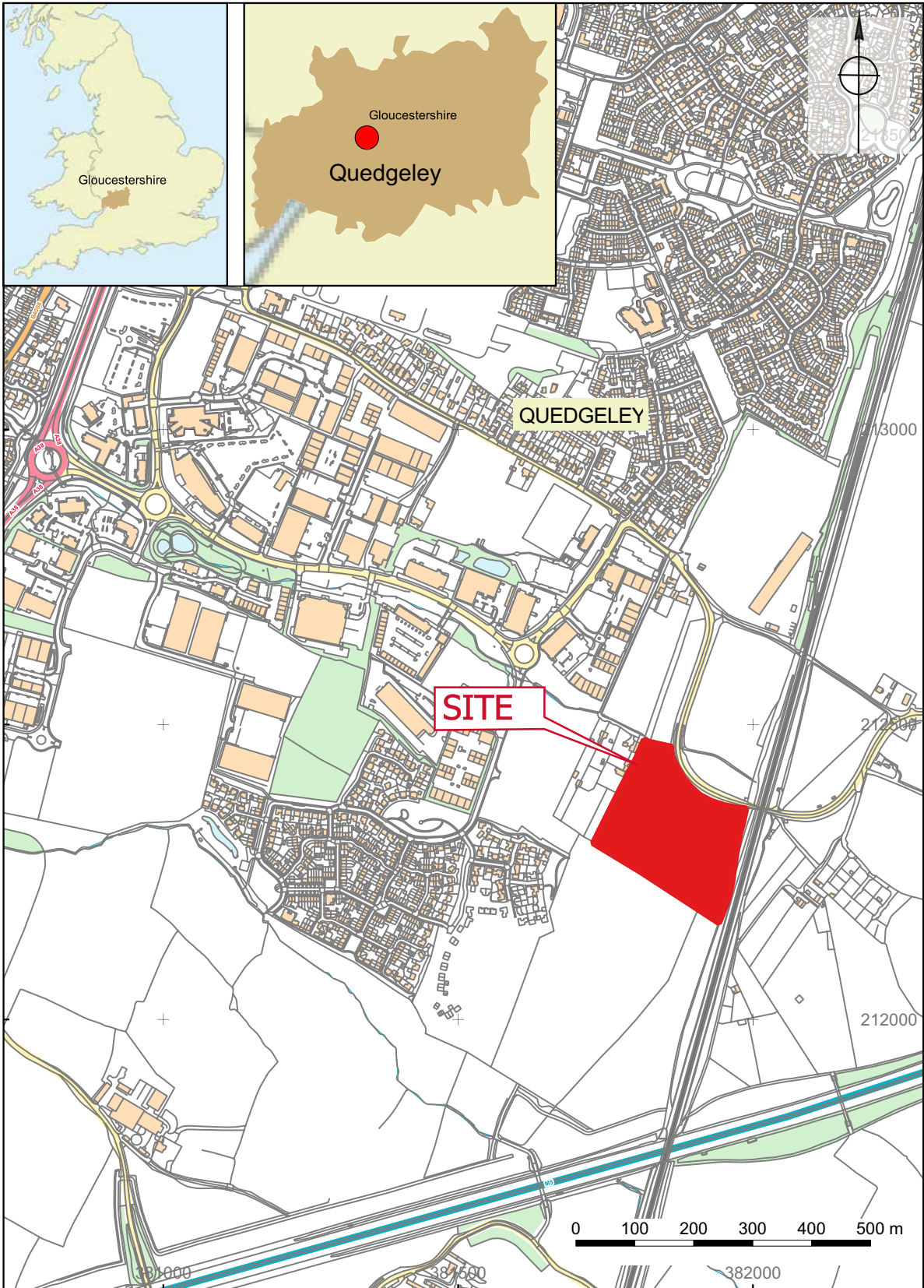
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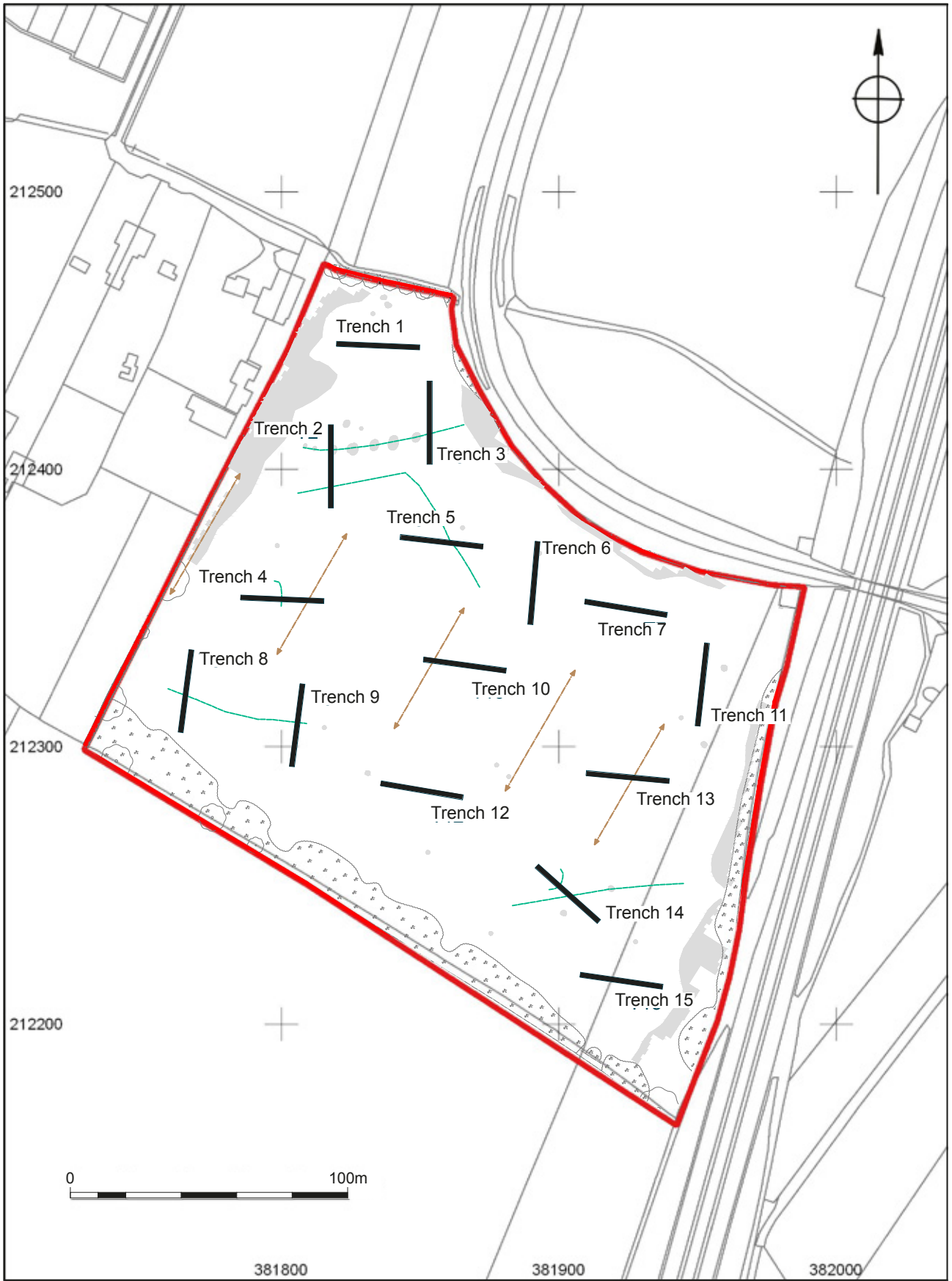
Figures



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Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench plan

Figure 2

Plates



Plate 1: Trench 10, reddish brown silty sand overlying natural blue grey clay, view west, 2x 1m scales



Plate 2: Trench 15, natural blue grey clay and weathered mudstone, view east, 2x 1m scales



Plate 3: Trench 3, typical profile of the deposits identified throughout the evaluation, 1m scale

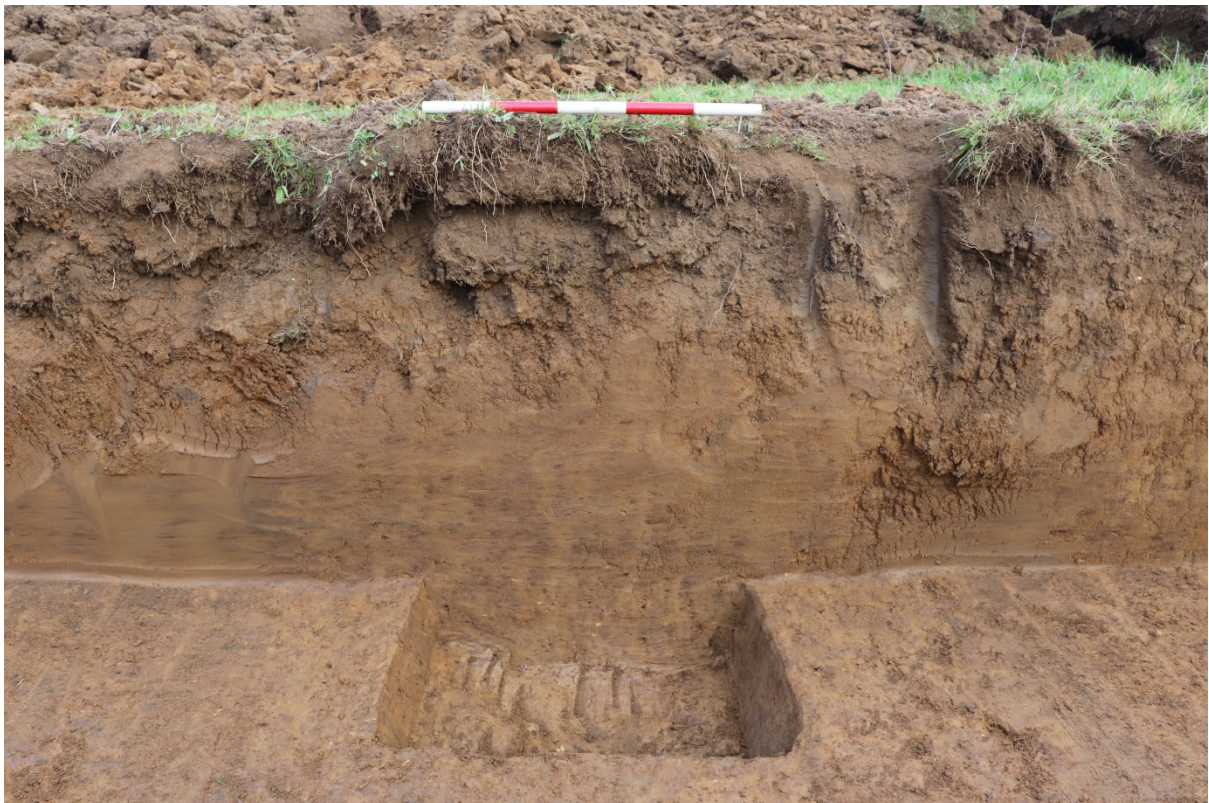


Plate 4: In Trench 8, sondage excavated within natural orangey reddish brown sandy silt, 0.5m scale

Appendix 1: Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth (Metres)
100	Topsoil	Loose mid brown sandy silt	0.28
101	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.25
102	Natural	Mix of: Compact mid yellowish blue clay, and Loose mid brown sandy silt loam And mid brown clay.	Unexcavated

Trench 2

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth (Metres)
200	Topsoil	Loose mid brown sandy silt	0.28
201	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.32
202	Natural	Mix of: Compact mid yellowish blue clay, and Loose mid brown sandy silt loam And mid brown clay.	Unexcavated

Trench 3

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth (Metres)
300	Topsoil	Loose mid brown sandy silt	0.26
301	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.24

302	Natural	Mix of: Compact mid yellowish blue clay, and Loose mid brown sandy silt loam And mid brown clay.	Unexcavated
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Trench 4

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth (Metres)
400	Topsoil	Loose mid brown sandy silt	0.26
401	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.28
402	Natural	Mix of: Compact mid yellowish blue clay, and Loose mid brown sandy silt loam And mid brown clay.	Unexcavated

Trench 5

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth (Metres)
500	Topsoil	Loose mid brown sandy silt	0.23
501	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.21
502	Natural	Mix of: Compact mid yellowish blue clay, and Loose mid brown sandy silt loam And mid brown clay.	Unexcavated

Trench 6

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth (Metres)
600	Topsoil	Loose mid brown sandy silt	0.30

601	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.18
602	Natural	Mix of: Compact mid yellowish blue clay, and Loose mid brown sandy silt loam And mid brown clay.	Unexcavated

Trench 7

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth (Metres)
700	Topsoil	Loose mid brown sandy silt	0.35
701	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.37
702	Natural	Mix of: Compact mid yellowish blue clay, and Loose mid brown sandy silt loam And mid brown clay.	Unexcavated

Trench 8

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth (Metres)
800	Topsoil	Loose mid brown sandy silt	0.26
801	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.18
802	Natural	Mix of: Compact mid yellowish blue clay, and Loose mid brown sandy silt loam And mid brown clay.	Unexcavated

Trench 9

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth (Metres)
900	Topsoil	Loose mid brown sandy silt	0.27
901	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.45
902	Natural	Mix of: Compact mid yellowish blue clay, and Loose mid brown sandy silt loam And mid brown clay.	Unexcavated

Trench 10

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth (Metres)
1000	Topsoil	Loose mid brown sandy silt	0.23
1001	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.27
1002	Natural	Mix of: Compact mid yellowish blue clay, and Loose mid brown sandy silt loam And mid brown clay.	Unexcavated

Trench 11

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: N-S

Context	Classification	Description	Depth (Metres)
1100	Topsoil	Loose mid brown sandy silt	0.28
1101	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.10

1102	Natural	Mix of: Compact mid yellowish blue clay, and Loose mid brown sandy silt loam And mid brown clay.	Unexcavated
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Trench 12

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth (Metres)
1200	Topsoil	Loose mid brown sandy silt	0.25
1201	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.23
1202	Natural	Mix of: Compact mid yellowish blue clay, and Loose mid brown sandy silt loam And mid brown clay.	Unexcavated

Trench 13

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: E-W

Context	Classification	Description	Depth (Metres)
1300	Topsoil	Loose mid brown sandy silt	0.32
1301	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.18
1302	Natural	Mix of: Compact mid yellowish blue clay, and Loose mid brown sandy silt loam And mid brown clay.	Unexcavated

Trench 14

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth (Metres)
1400	Topsoil	Loose mid brown sandy silt	0.25

1401	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.19
1402	Natural	Mix of: Compact mid yellowish blue clay, and Loose mid brown sandy silt loam And mid brown clay.	Unexcavated

Trench 15

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NW-SE

Context	Classification	Description	Depth (Metres)
1500	Topsoil	Loose mid brown sandy silt	0.26
1501	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay	0.28
1502	Natural	Mix of: Compact mid yellowish blue clay, and Loose mid brown sandy silt loam And mid brown clay.	Unexcavated

Appendix 2: Summary of project archive (P5480)

TYPE	DETAILS*
Artefacts and Environmental	None
Paper	Context sheet, Report
Digital	Database, GIS, Geophysics, Images raster/digital photography , Spreadsheets, Survey, Text

**OASIS terminology*