



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AT

LAND TO THE REAR OF 19-21 LOWER ROAD,

STOKE MANDEVILLE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

NGR (SP 83028 10492)

DECEMBER 2019

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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological evaluation at the land to the rear of 19-21 Lower Road, Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire. (NGR SP 83028 10492) The purpose of the evaluation was for the erection of three dwellings, alongside other ancillary works. The evaluation trenches were testing for the existence of archaeological remains, especially those relating between the Late Prehistoric and post-medieval periods. Throughout the course of the evaluation, a number of undated archaeological features were uncovered, and one very tentatively dated medieval ditch, which was observed within Trenches 1 and 7.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The site is located on the west side of Lower Road and to the rear of nos. 19-21, Stoke Mandeville (NGR SP 83028 10492). The underlying geology is Gault Formation and Upper Greensand Formation (Undifferentiated) – Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone. The site is currently agricultural.

1.2 Planning Background

A planning application has been submitted to Aylesbury Vale District Council for The erection of 2 no. Dwellings (C3) and children's nursery (D1), including the provision of new access, landscaping, parking, and other ancillary works (19/03898/APP). Due to the archaeological potential of the site a programme of archaeological works is required.

1.3 Archaeological Background

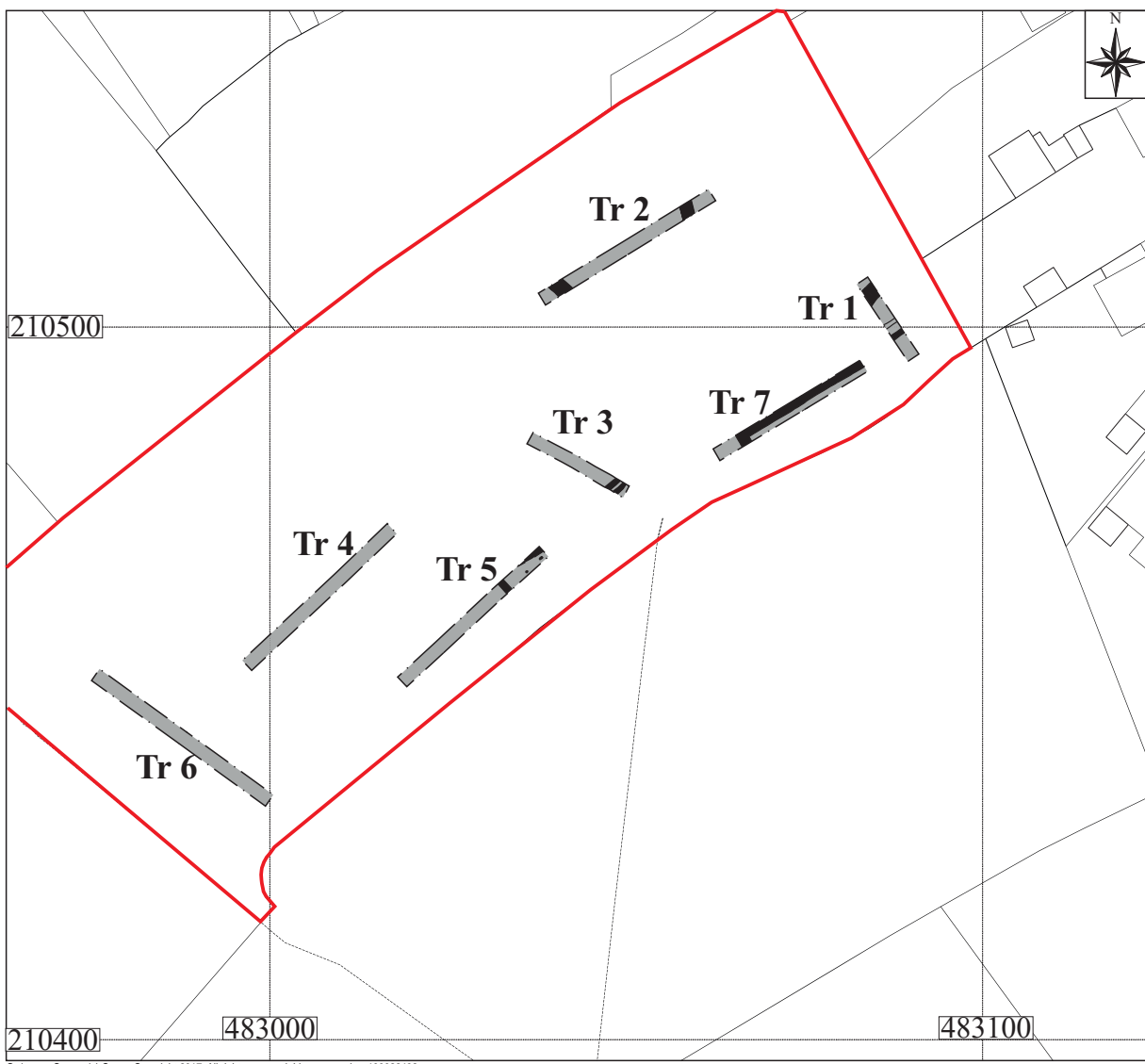
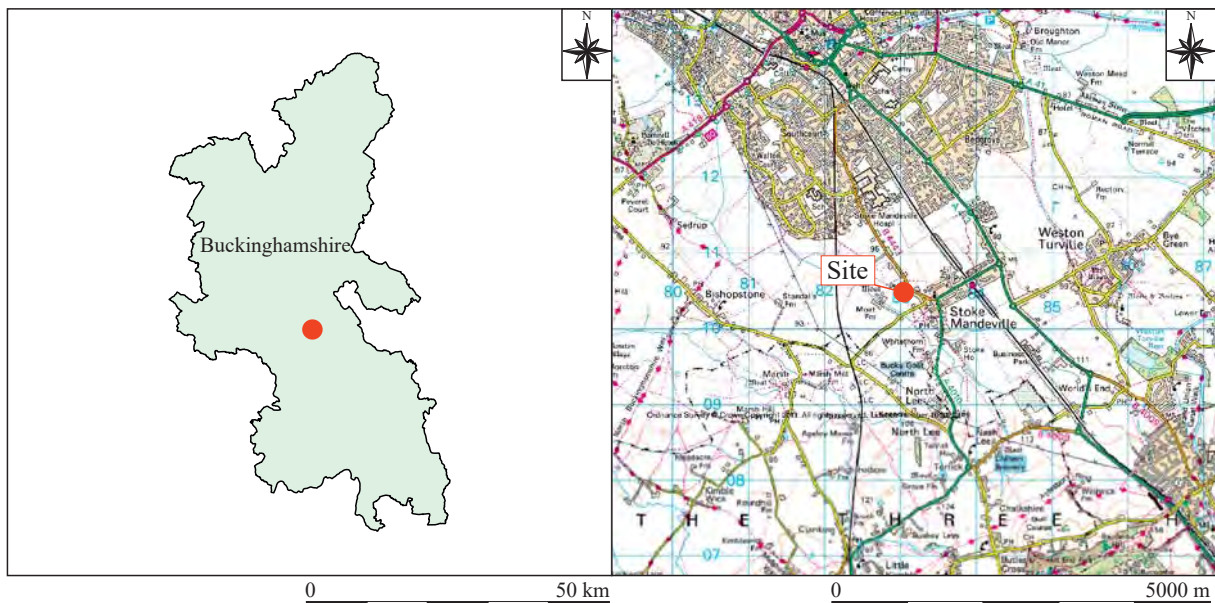
A search of the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record (MCB) and Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) Database was undertaken with a radius of 500m; the results are listed below in chronological order.

Late Prehistoric

An archaeological evaluation undertaken to the East of Lower Road, between 100 to 400m east of the site recorded a series of features that, though undated, were considered likely to be of later prehistoric date (CA 2016: centred SP 8335 1065). This included a rectilinear ditch system, pits and two curvilinear ditches that were possibly the remains of roundhouses.

A systematic field walking survey undertaken in fields c. 350m northwest of the site resulted in finds of late prehistoric pottery (MCB14564: centred SP 8276 1086).

A pointed flint flake of later prehistoric date was found in allotments approximately 150m to the southeast of the site (PAS 70636: SP 8321 1041).



Key Site boundary Evaluation trenches
 Archaeological features

Figure 1: Site location

Iron Age

An Iron Age coin of the Trinovantes tribe was found in the field to the west of the site, 13m from the site boundary (PAS 526350: SP 82971 10483). An additional Iron Age coin was found to the south of the site, though the grid reference is broad (MBC31986, PAS 301215: SP 83 10).

Roman (Romano-British)

Late Iron Age pottery sherds and Roman pottery and coins have been found at allotments approximately 160m southeast of the site (MBC22245: SP 8321 1041).

A systematic field walking survey undertaken in fields *c.* 350m northwest of the site resulted in finds of Iron Age (MBC14565) and Roman pottery (MBC14566: centred SP 8276 1086).

Medieval

The village of Stoke Mandeville was an established settlement by the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 (MBC24659: centred SP 834 104). A number of houses in the village have their origins in the medieval period and are now listed buildings.

A medieval moat is located 180m west of the proposal site (MBC1408: centred SP 82764 10419); the moat surrounds the existing house on three sides; however it has been degraded by later landscaping and infilling. A watching brief undertaken on the site indicated that the moat was kept open until the late 19th or early 20th century. A medieval or post-medieval fishpond is located immediately west of the moat (MBC1410: centred SP 82707 10439). The site of an additional medieval moat is located approximately 130m south (MBC1411: centred SP 8300 1024); this is seen as earthworks on early aerial photographs, however these have now been entirely levelled.

The site of possible medieval house platforms are located to the west of Stoke Mandeville, 370m southeast of the site (MBC7093: centred SP 8324 1015).

An archaeological evaluation undertaken *c.* 350m northwest of the site recorded a series of furrows, 6-8 metres apart and 1-2m in width (MBC14567: centred SP 82627 11043); nine sherds of medieval pottery were also recovered. Evidence of ridge and furrow has also been identified to the southwest of the site as a result of geophysical survey (MBC34209: centred SP 82586 10316).

Sherds of medieval pottery were found *c.* 230 m north (MBC2960: SP 83000 10750).

Post-medieval

The route of a turnpike runs through Stoke Mandeville (MBC34441: centred SP 79722 02765). The Wycombe-Risborough turnpike road was established in 1795, while the section from Terrick to Stoke Mandeville was added in 1822.

A copper alloy belt buckle was found *c.* 160m to the west-northwest of the site (PAS 659479: SP 8285 1056) and sherds of post-medieval pottery were found through a

field walking survey undertaken in fields *c.* 350m northwest of the site (MBC14568: centred SP 8276 1086).

Undated

Two undated ditches were recorded during an archaeological evaluation 130m southeast of the site (EBC18148: centred SP 83121 10348); though undated these were considered likely to be post-medieval or modern.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site.
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site and the depth of soil deposits that overlie these remains.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To determine the degree of complexity of any horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.

In particular:

- To determine whether the site contains prehistoric, Roman, medieval or later archaeological remains as known in the area.
- To inform the need for, and scope of, further phases of work to mitigate the impact of the development under consideration.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Buckinghamshire Archaeological Service (BAS) the archaeological advisors to Aylesbury Vale District Council.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

3.2 Methodology

The investigation was to involve the mechanical excavation of six 30m trenches each 1.65m wide. However, due to the presence of a water pipe across the centre of the

site, a sewerage pipe on the westerly boundary and the route of an unmarked footpath across the centre of the site the scheme was altered to involve two 15m trenches and four 30m trenches and one 24m trench. Each Trench was 1.9m wide.

Excavation was taken down to the top of “natural” deposits by an 8t mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket.

Features were cleaned by hand and sample excavated. The intersections of ditches were excavated to identify stratigraphic relationships. Postholes were half sectioned before being fully excavated. The spoil heaps were also examined for finds.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was also produced.

4 RESULTS (Figures 1-4; Plates 1-3)

4.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

Trench 1 was located in the north-east of the site orientated south/south-east to north/north-west. The lowest deposit identified was a natural clay deposit (1/03) which varied from a mid to light orange gravelly clay to a bluish grey clay at the far north-west end of the trench. Cut into this deposit were two ditches and a further possible linear feature.

At the south-east end of the trench (Fig.2, Trench 1) was a ditch orientated north-east to south-west 1/04. The ditch was 0.8m wide and contained a greyish brown clay fill (1/05). The ditch appeared to be the continuation of Ditch 7/08 in Trench 7 (Fig. 4, Trench 7).

At the north/north-west end of the trench was a 2.25m wide ditch, 1/07 (Fig. 2, Section 1.2), which was orientated north-east to south-west. It was greater than 1.9m in length and was filled by a very dark brown clay with frequent angular stone inclusions (1/08). Immediately to the south east of this deposit was a mixed deposit of yellowish grey clay with yellow sand patches (1/06). The deposit appeared to rise up in the section by 0.12m and may have been the remains of a bank or a ridge. The deposit continued for 1.7m to the south-east to the edge of linear feature 1/10. The feature was greater than 1.9m in length and was orientated north-east by south-west. It was recorded as 0.4m wide and was filled by a dark brown deposit (1/09). The edges of the feature were, however, not clear and a lighter grey deposit (1/11) may have defined the south-east edge of a wider ditch 0.9m in width. The excavation of 1/10 did not reveal any profile and the edges of the feature were not clearly distinguishable from the natural clay. This would suggest that what remained was a very thin layer of staining at the base of the feature or the impression of the feature produced over time by standing water.

Overlying the features was a 0.2m thick deposit of firm mid to dark reddish brown clay loam (1/02) which was identified as a lower ploughsoil. Deposited above this was a 0.15m to 0.35m deposit of mid to dark reddish brown, friable clay loam, identified as the current ploughsoil (1/01).

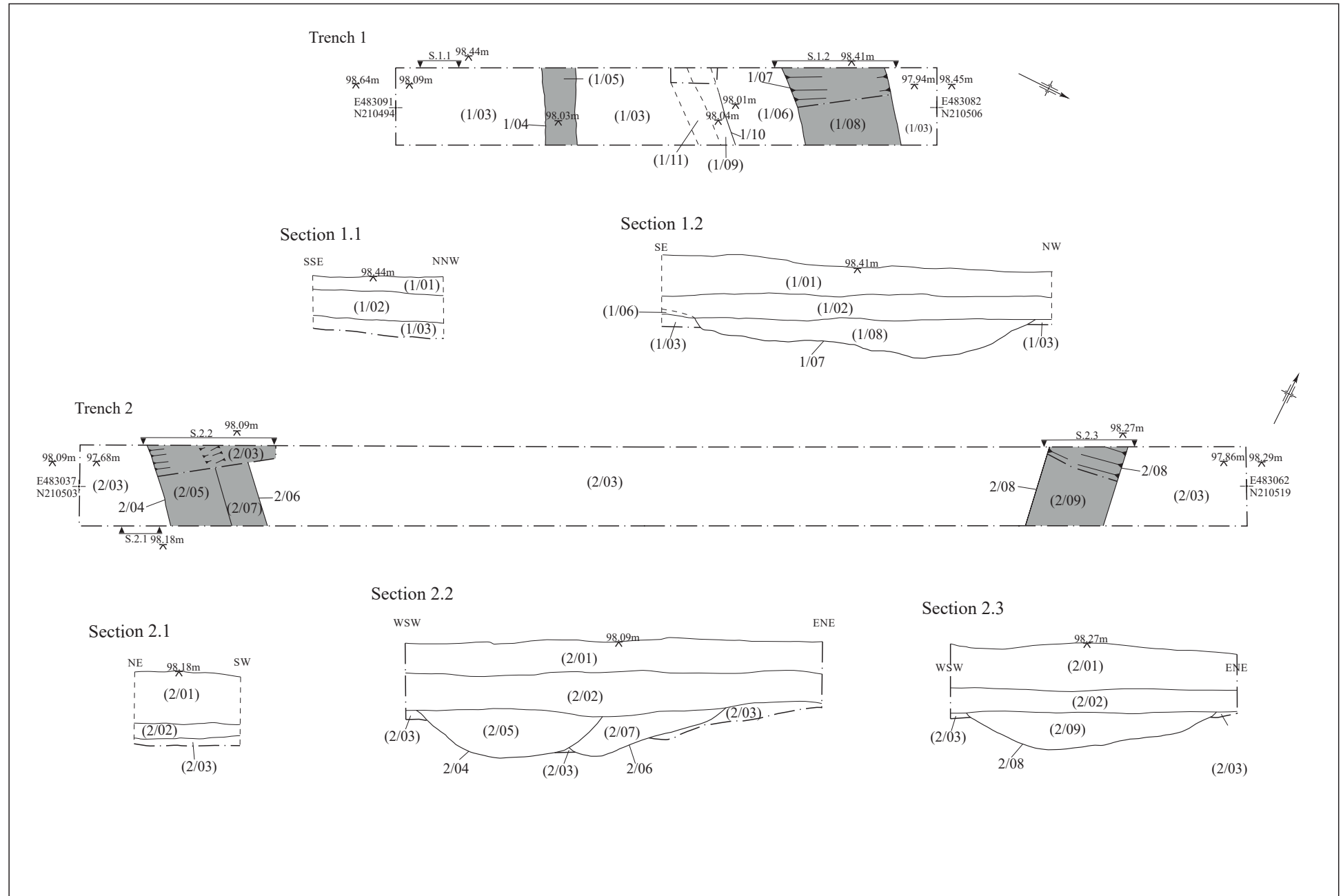


Figure 2: Trenches 1 and 2, with Sections.



4.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 2; Plate 1)

Trench 2 was orientated east/north-east by west/south-west. The lowest deposit in trench 2 was a natural deposit of light orange clay with frequent flint gravel inclusions (2/03). It measured greater than 0.08m in depth.

Three ditches were identified cut into the natural; 2/04, 2/06 and 2/08 (Fig. 2, Sections 2.2 and 2.3). The earliest of these features was a shallow ditch 2/06. This feature was located in the south-western corner of the trench, and was orientated north-west by south-east. It was truncated by a later ditch 2/04, at its south-western edge. Ditch 2/06 measured greater than 2m in length, greater than 1.20m in width and 0.30m in depth. It had a gradual break-of-slope at the top at the north-eastern edge, with gradual, regular sides and a gradual break-of-slope at the base. The base itself was concave. This feature was partially overcut, and the section face has been caught at an oblique angle.

Ditch 2/06 had a single fill of firm, dark-grey, silty-clay (2/07). It had inclusions of frequent small-medium sized angular flints, and the composition was comprised of <25% silt. The properties of this deposit indicate that it was the result of natural deposition, rather than a deliberate one. This feature likely represented a small interior field boundary.



Plate 1: Trench 2. North-east view.

Truncating ditch 2/06 on the south-western edge was ditch 2/04 (Fig. 2, Section 2.2). This feature was also orientated north-west by south-east. It measured greater than 2m in length, 1.37m in width and 0.38m in depth. It had a moderate break-of-slope at the top, with regular, moderate sides and a gradual break-of-slope at the base. The base was regular and slightly concave in shape. This feature was a potential recut of the

earlier ditch, 2/06, as it was on the same alignment and appears to be of a similar shape. This may have been the result of a period of disuse.

Ditch 2/04 had a single primary fill, consisting of a firm, dark grey silty clay (2/05). The composition was comprised of <20% silt. It had inclusions of frequent small-medium angular flints. This deposit was very similar to fill (2/07), of the earlier ditch 2/06, only the colour and the distribution of silt were different. It is likely that deposit (2/05) was the result of similar, natural deposition processes, rather than a deliberate one.

A third ditch, 2/08 (Fig. 2, Section 2.3), was identified in the north-eastern area of trench 2. It was orientated north by north-west to south by south-east. It measured greater than 2m in length, 0.70m in width and 0.30m in depth. The ditch had a gradual break-of-slope at the top and at the break-of-slope at the base. The sides were moderate at the west/south-western edge, and more gradual to the north/north-east. The base was regular and slightly concave.

Ditch 2/08 had a primary fill of compact, dark brown silty clay (2/09). It had inclusions of infrequent, small-medium sized angular flints, and the composition was comprised of <10% silt. This deposit was notably different to deposits (2/05) and (2/07) elsewhere in trench 2, as it had a greater concentration of clay and was more compact. However, this deposit was also likely the result of a natural deposition, indicating further periods of use and disuse.

Overlying the archaeological features was a 0.34m thick deposit of firm, blackish-brown, silty clay (2/02). This was identified as a lower ploughsoil. The latest deposit was a 0.38m thick layer of friable, dark-brown sandy-silt (2/01). This was identified as the modern plough soil.

4.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Trench 3 was located centrally within the site towards the southern boundary, and was orientated west/north-west by east/south-east (Fig. 3, Plan 3). The earliest deposit identified in this trench was a light to mid-orangey-brown clay (3/03) (Fig. 3, Section 3.2). It had inclusions of frequent small-medium sized stones, and measured greater than 0.06m in depth. It was identified as the natural geology, and was observed throughout the full extent of the trench.

Cut into the natural layer were two ditches, 3/05 and 3/07 (Fig. 3, Sections 3.1 and 3.2), which ran parallel with one another. Additionally, it is likely that one of these ditched continued south-west into trench 5 (Fig. 3), but it remains unclear. Ditch 3/07 was located in the south-westernmost extent of trench 3. It measured greater than 2m in length, greater than 0.90m in width and 0.17m in depth. It had a gradual break-of-slope at the top and at the base. The sides were shallow and regular, with a concave base. This ditch was filled by a firm, mixed, mid-grey clay (3/06). It had inclusions of very frequent small-medium sized angular stones. This deposit was very similar to deposit (3/04), of the nearby ditch 3/05.

Ditch 3/05 (Fig. 3, Section 3.1), had the same alignment as ditch 3/07, and was located roughly 0.30m to the west/north-west. It was similar in shape and size to ditch 3/07, measuring greater than 2m in length, 0.85m in width and 0.14m in depth. Ditch 3/05 had a gradual break-of-slope at the top and at the base. It had shallow, regular

sides and a concave base. It contained a fill of firm, mixed, mid to dark grey clay (3/04). It had inclusions of very frequent, small-medium sized angular stones. Animal bone was also found and retained from this deposit. The clear similarities between these two features indicates that they may have been contemporary with one another and were both likely backfilled by the same natural deposition process.

Overlying the ditches was a deposit of firm, mid to dark grey clay (3/02). It measured 0.15m in depth and contained inclusions of frequent, small-medium sized angular stones. This was identified as a layer of subsoil. The latest deposit was a friable, mid to dark reddish-brown clay-loam (3/01). It had inclusions of rare, medium-sized angular stones and measured 0.36m in thickness. It was identified as the modern ploughsoil.

4.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

Trench 4 was located towards the south-western area of the site. It was orientated north-east by south-west. The earliest identified deposit was a firm, blueish-grey clay (4/03) (Fig. 3, Section 4.1). It measured greater than 0.11m in thickness. This was identified as the natural geology, which was observed throughout the full extent of the trench.

Overlying deposit (4/03) was a firm, blackish-brown, sandy-silt clay (4/02). It contained inclusions of frequent, moderately sized angular flints. It measured 0.08m in thickness, and was observed throughout the full extent of the trench. It was identified as being a disturbed natural/subsoil layer.

The latest deposit was a friable, dark brown sandy-silt (4/01). It measured 0.41m at its maximum thickness, and was observed throughout the trench. It was identified as being the modern plough soil. Trench 4 contained no archaeological features.

4.5 Trench 5 (Fig. 3; Plate 2)

Trench 5 was located towards the southern edge of the site area, and it was orientated north-east by south-west. The earliest recorded deposit within this trench was a firm, greyish-blue clay (5/02). It measured greater than 0.14m in thickness, and it was identified as being the natural geology. This layer was observed throughout the full extent of the trench. Cut into the geology were two postholes; 5/03 and 5/05 (Fig. 3, Sections 5.2 and 5.3), and two ditches; 5/07 and 5/10 (Fig. 3, Sections 5.4 and 5.5). These features were clustered together towards the north-eastern extent of the trench.

Posthole 5/03 (Fig. 3, Section 5.2) was located at the north-easternmost extent of trench 5. It was 0.40m south-east of ditch 5/10, and roughly 2.3m to the north-east of posthole 5/05. Posthole 5/03 measured 0.55m in length, 0.20m in width and 0.20m in depth. It was sub-oval shaped, with a sharp break-of-slope at the top and at the base. It had steep, regular sides, and a concave base. This posthole was filled by a firm, dark blackish-brown, clayey-silt (5/04). It had inclusions of frequent charcoal flecks. The presence of charcoal suggests that this feature may have once housed a wooden post, and that it likely burned away, rather than be removed deliberately. This fill is very similar to deposit (5/06), of the nearby posthole 5/05. The water table was also particularly high in this corner of trench 5.



Plate 2: Trench 5. South-west view.

Posthole 5/05 (Fig. 3, Section 5.3) was located 2.3m to the south-west of posthole 5/03. It measured 0.35m in length, 0.28m in width and 0.06m in depth. This was a very shallow sided feature, with a moderate break-of-slope at the top, with a gradual break-of-slope at the base. The base itself was mostly flat, with a very slight concave shape. This posthole was filled by a firm, dark blackish-brown clayey-silt (5/06). It had inclusions of frequent charcoal flecks. This was a very similar deposit to (5/04) of the other nearby posthole. Their similarities and their close proximity may suggest that these two postholes were contemporary features, possibly housing a small wooden fence for an interior boundary or pen.

Ditch 5/10 (Fig. 3, Section 5.5) was located within the northern corner of trench 5, it was orientated north-east to south-west. It measured greater than 4m in length, greater than 0.70m in width and 0.21m in depth. The full width of this feature is unclear, as it was only just caught by the trench excavation. Ditch 5/10 had a gradual break-of-slope at the top, with gradual sides that stepped slightly, becoming more moderate in shape. The break-of-slope at the base was moderate, with the base appearing to be sloping gradually, the full extent of the base is unclear.

Ditch 5/10 had a single fill of firm, mid-grey clay (5/09). It contained inclusions of fragmentary grit, frequent small stones and rarer medium-sized angular stones. The predominantly clay fill was likely the result of a natural deposition process, associated with the high water table that was present in this corner of the trench. Furthermore, it is likely that this ditch continued into trench 3 (Fig. 3) to the north-east, although it remains unclear.

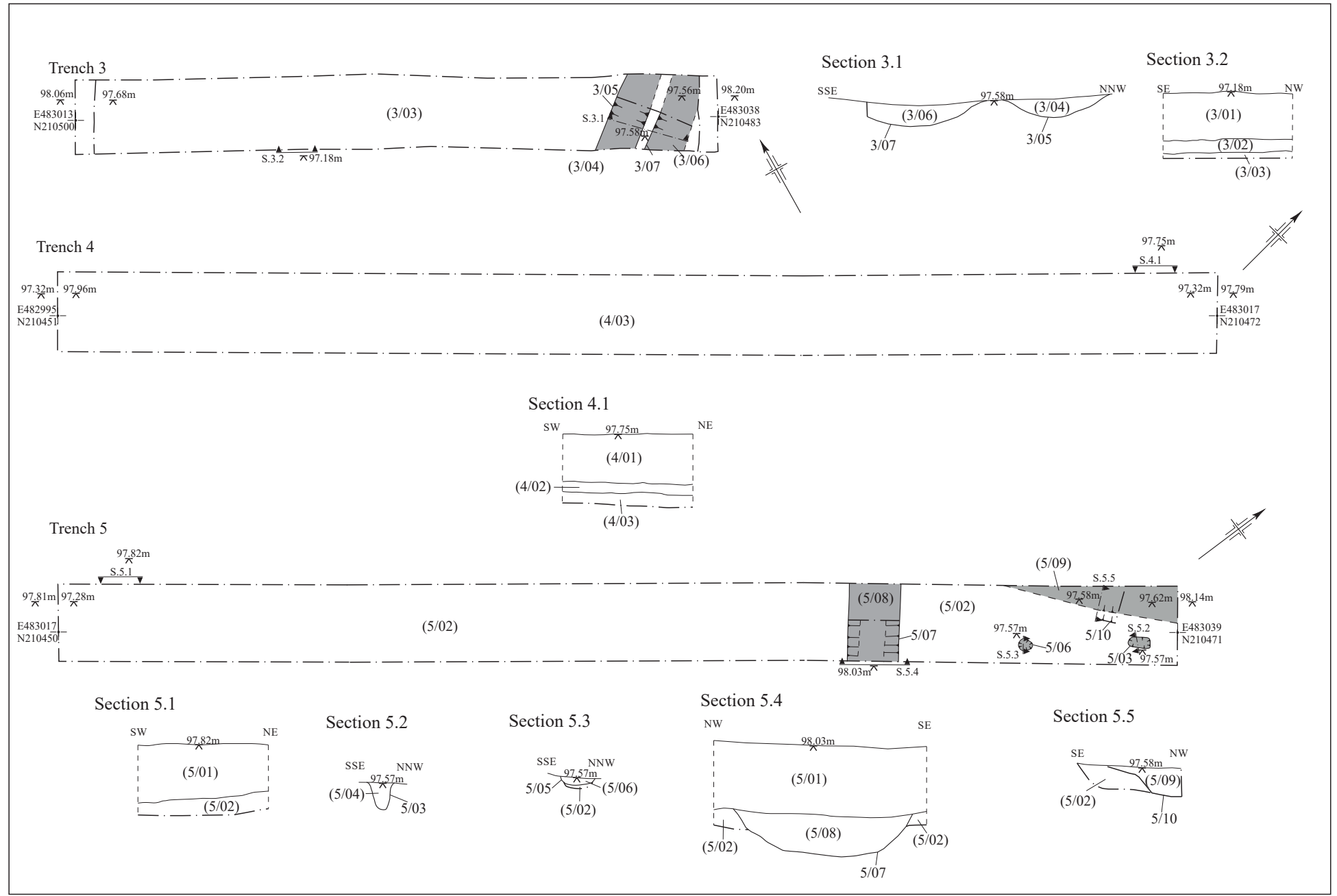
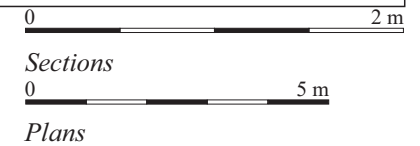


Figure 3: Trenches 3, 4 and 5. With Sections.



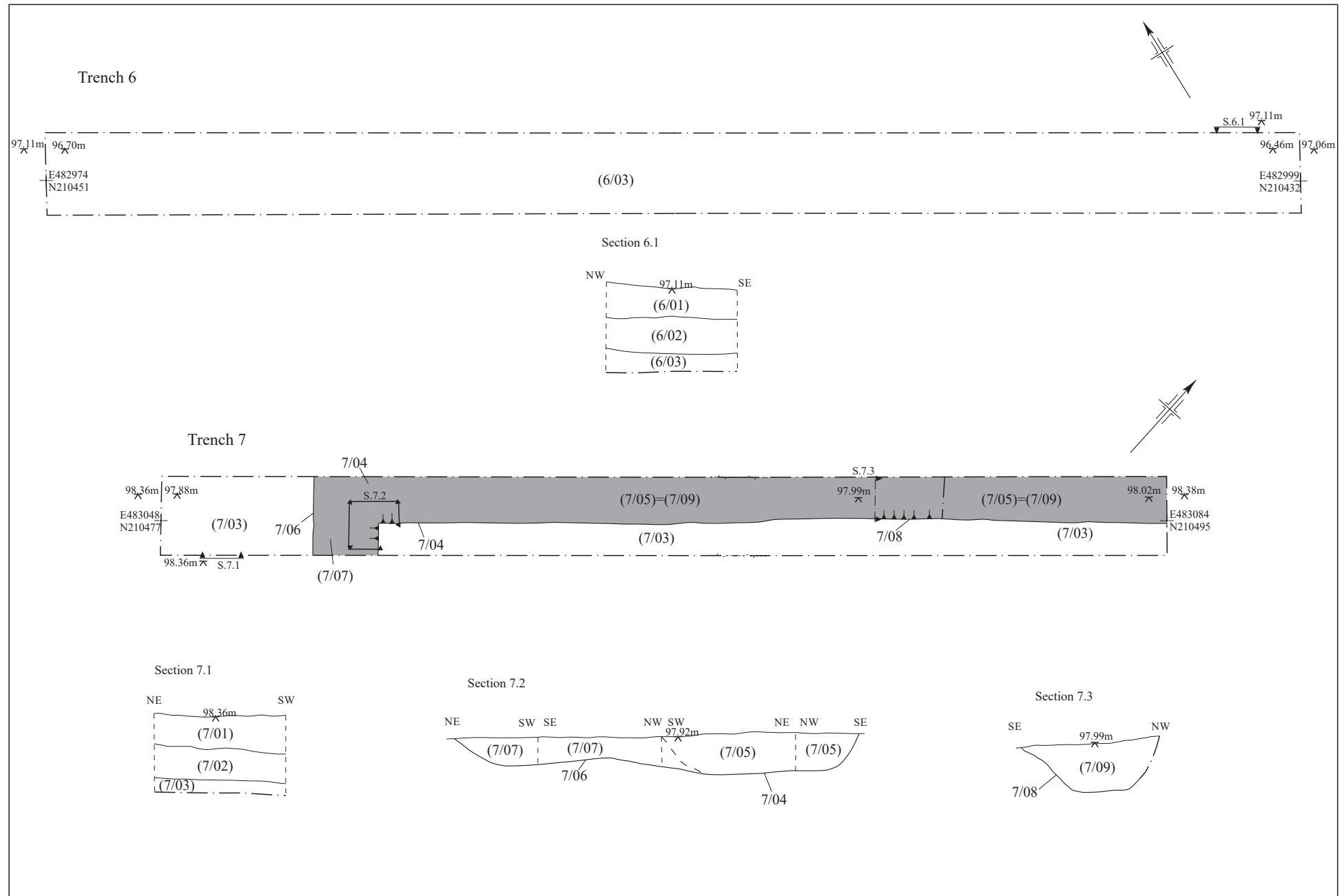
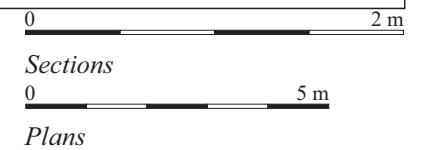


Figure 4: Trenches 6 and 7, with Sections.



Ditch 5/07 (Fig. 3, Section 5.4) was orientated north-west by south-east, and was located roughly 3m to the south-west of posthole 5/06 and ditch 5/10. It measured greater than 1.90m in length, 1.40m in width and 0.31m in depth. It had a moderate break-of-slope at the top and a gradual break-of-slope at the base. It had regular, moderate sides and a predominantly flat base. Ditch 5/07 had a single fill of firm, mid-greyish-brown, clay-loam (5/08). This deposit was uniform throughout its extent, and is notably different to the nearby ditch 5/10.

Overlying the archaeological features was a layer of friable, dark brown sandy-silt (5/01). It had a maximum thickness of 0.55m and was identified as the modern plough soil. Unlike nearby trenches 4 and 6, trench 5 did not contain a layer of subsoil, perhaps the result of deeper ploughing in this particular area of the field.

4.6 Trench 6 (Fig. 4)

Trench 6 was located in the south-western end of the site and was orientated north-west by south-east. The earliest identified deposit was a firm greyish-blue clay (6/03) (Fig.4, Section 6.1). This deposit measured greater than 0.19m in thickness, and was identified as being the natural geology. It was observed throughout the full extent of trench 6.

Overlying the geology was a layer of firm, blackish-brown, sandy-silt clay (6/02). This was identified as being a breakdown of the geology, a horizon between the upper plough soil and the lower clay geology. It measured 0.28m in thickness and was observed throughout trench 6.

The latest deposit identified was a friable, dark brown sandy-silt (6/01). This deposit measured 0.27m in thickness and was identified as being the modern plough soil. There were no archaeological features present within trench 6.

4.7 Trench 7 (Fig. 4; Plate 3)

Trench 7 was located in the south-eastern area of the site, and was orientated east/north-east by west/south-west. The earliest recorded deposit was a firm, light brown clay (7/03). It was mottled with patches of orangey-brown sandy-clay. The deposit measured greater than 0.12m in thickness, and it was identified as being the natural geology. This was observed throughout the full extent of trench 7.

Cut into the natural geology were two ditches; 7/04=7/08 and 7/06 (Fig. 4, Section 7.2 and 7.3). Ditch 7/06 (Fig. 4, Section 7.2) was located in the south-western half of the trench, and was orientated north/north-west by south/south-east. It measured greater than 1.90m in length, 1.55m in width and 0.29m in depth. It had a gradual break-of-slope at the top and at the base. The sides were gradual in the south-western edge, and more moderate towards the south-eastern edge. The base was predominantly flat, but began to slope downwards towards the north-western extent. Ditch 7/06 had a single fill of firm, dark greyish-brown clay-loam (7/07). It had inclusions of rare small stones. This deposit was very similar to deposit (7/05)=(7/09) which was within Ditch 7/04=7/08 that lied perpendicular to the immediate north-east of this ditch, 7/06.

Ditch 7/04=7/08 (Fig. 4, Section 7.2 and 7.3) was orientated north-east by south-west, to the immediate north-east of ditch 7/06. Ditch 7/04=7/08 measured greater than 19.6m in length, greater than 1.05m in width and had a maximum depth of 0.37m. It

had a gradual break-of-slope at the top and at the base. The sides were regular and moderate, with a flat base. This ditch contained a single deposit of firm, greyish-brown clay-loam (7/05) = (7/09). It had inclusions of rare small stones. Burnt flint, animal bone and pottery were recovered from this deposit. The small pottery assemblage was tentatively dated to the medieval period. This deposit is very similar to fill (7/07), only the colour is perhaps different, as it was observed to be slightly lighter.

Due to the close similarities of the fills, there was no clear differentiation between the two ditch fills of 7/04=7/08 and 7/06. Although a possible truncation line was observed, this was only tentative, and was not identified clearly in plan. As a result, these were likely to have been contemporary ditches, demarcating the corner of a probable boundary line. Additionally, ditch 7/04=7/08 appeared to be a continuation of ditch 1/04, observed within trench 1 (Fig. 2).

Overlying the archaeological features was a deposit of firm, dark blackish-brown, sandy-silt clay (7/02). This measured 0.25m in thickness and was identified as a deposit of disturbed redeposited natural. The latest deposit was a friable, blackish-brown sandy-silt (7/01). This had a maximum thickness of 0.30m and was identified as the modern plough soil.



Plate 3: Section 7.2. North-West View.

4.8 RELIABILITY OF RESULTS

The reliability of the results is considered to be fairly good. The weather conditions on site were fair, and the archaeological features were relatively easy to identify within the clay geology. However, some areas suffered from a particularly high water-table, rendering some features difficult to excavate and record.

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery by Jane Timby

The archaeological work recovered two small sherds of pottery from the fill of ditch 7/08. The sherds are extremely small weighing less than 2 g with a wall thickness of 5 mm. The surface is red-brown with a grey inner core. The paste contains rounded calcareous grains ≤ 2 mm, rare flint and rounded iron > 1 mm. It is difficult to date such a small, isolated piece but the wall thickness might suggest that this dates to the medieval period. Further material would be required to corroborate or refute this tentative identification.

5.2 Flint by Simona Denis

A single fragment of burnt flint was collected from deposit 7/09, the fill of ditch 7/04. The item, weighing 11.3g, showed the typically cracked, angular surface and white/grey discolouration produced by the exposure of flint to high temperatures. Although not datable *per se*, burnt flint is commonly found in prehistoric contexts. In this period, waste chips and redundant tools were probably disposed of in camp fires or purposely used to transfer heat to water for cooking.

It is not recommended to retain the burnt flint, due to its very limited potential for further analysis.

5.3 Animal Bone by Simona Denis

A very limited assemblage of 5 fragments of animal bone, of a combined weight of 311.5g, were recovered from two deposits. The state of preservation of the items was generally fair, although extremely fragmentary.

Context	Taxon	Type	No. of Items	Weight (g)	Comments
3/04	Sheep/Goat	Tibia	1	262	Complete. Possible fine slice/point insertion marks
7/09	Small mammal	Vertebrae	1	17	
		Rib	2	5.5	
		Undetermined	1	27	
Total			5	311.5	

Table 1: Animal bone occurrence by context and type

The ovine tibia found in deposit (3/04), the fill of ditch 3/07, was the only example that preserved *Genus*-specific characteristics. The remaining items, all collected from deposit 7/09, the fill of ditch 7/04, were attributed to a ‘small mammal’ (generally comprising sheep/goat, pig, roe deer) of undetermined species (O’Connor 2003) exclusively on the basis of the size range of the fragments.

Possible fine slice or point insertion marks were observed on the sheep/goat tibia.

It is not recommended to retain the animal bone due to its very limited potential for further analysis.

6 DISCUSSION

The evaluation confirmed the existence of a number of ditches for paddocks or enclosures. Two very small sherds of pottery was found in the ditch in Trench 7 that continued into Trench 1. The pottery specialist tentatively considered that these were of medieval date based on the thickness of the sherds. No other medieval activity is known in close proximity to this site. Two medieval moated sites lie 180m west and 130m south of the site. However these are likely to be nucleated and not have paddocks or enclosures so far away from them as on this site. Therefore the sherds may be of earlier date and be prehistoric. The ditches therefore could be similar to the undated features found east of Lower Road by Cotswold Archaeology that were considered to be of later prehistoric date.

No further finds were recovered from the rest of the features during the evaluation. Additionally, the features that were uncovered were not substantial in their size, and are likely associated with small-scale agricultural activity. Settlement activity on the site should have produced more artefacts. Trenches 4 and 6, which were located in the south-western area of the site, were devoid of archaeological features.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

The project brief
Written scheme of investigation
The project report
The primary site record

Physical record

Finds

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Buckinghamshire County Museum with Accession Number AYBCM: 2019.160 with the digital archive deposited with the ADS.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Context	Type	Description	Depth	Width	Length	Finds	Interpretation	Date
Trench 1								
(1/01)	Deposit	Friable, mid to dark reddish-brown, clay-loam.	0.15m-0.35m	1.9m>	13m>	None	Plough soil	Modern
(1/02)	Deposit	Firm, mid to dark, reddish-brown, clay-loam	0.2m	1.9m>	13m>	None	Lower Plough soil.	Undated
(1/03)	Deposit	Mid to light orange gravelly clay/blueish-grey clay.	0.12m>	1.9m>	13m>	None	Natural	-
1/04	Ditch	NE-SW orientated linear feature	N/A	0.80m	2m>	N/A	Linear ditch, continuation of 7/04=7/08	Undated
(1/05)	Fill	Firm, dark greyish-brown, silty-clay	N/A	0.80m	2m>	None	Single fill of 1/04. Not excavated	Undated
(1/06)	Deposit	Mixed, yellowish-grey clay, yellow sand patches.	0.20m	1.9m	1.70m	None	Possible bank/ridge	Undated
1/07	Ditch	NE-SW orientated linear feature	0.30m	2.20m	1.90m>	N/A	Linear ditch.	Undated
(1/08)	Fill	Firm, dark brownish-black clay.	0.30m	2.20m	1.90m>	None	Fill of ditch 1/07	Undated
(1/09)	Fill	Firm, dark brown, silty-clay	N/A	0.40m	1.9m>	None	Fill of ditch 1/10	Undated
1/10	Ditch	NE-SW orientated linear feature	N/A	0.40m	1.90m>	None	Linear ditch?	Undated
(1/11)	Fill	Firm, mid grey clay. orientated linear feature	N/A	0.40m	1.90m>	None	Possible fill of 1/10, possible water mark	Undated
Trench 2								
(2/01)	Deposit	Friable, dark-brown, sandy silt	0.40m	1.9m>	28m>	None	Plough soil	Modern
(2/02)	Deposit	Firm, blackish-brown, silty clay	0.10m	1.9m>	28m>	None	Lower Plough Soil	Undated
(2/03)	Deposit	Firm, light orange clay. Frequent flints	0.10m>	1.90>	28m>	None	Natural	-
2/04	Ditch	NW-SE orientated linear feature	0.38m	1.37m>	2m>	N/A	Linear ditch. Possible recut of 2/06	Undated
(2/05)	Fill	Firm, dark grey silty-clay, <20% silt. Frequent small-medium angular flints.	0.38m	1.37m>	2m>	None	Fill of ditch 2/04	Undated
2/06	Ditch	NW-SE orientated linear feature Truncated by 2/04	0.30M	1.20m>	2m>	N/A	Linear ditch.	Undated
(2/07)	Fill	Firm, dark-grey, silty clay. Frequent small-medium angular flints	0.30m	1.20m>	2m>	None	Fill of Ditch 2/06	Undated
2/08	Ditch	N by NW-S by SE orientated linear feature	0.30m	0.70m	2m>	N/A	Linear ditch	Undated

(2/09)	Fill	Compact, dark brown, silty-clay. Infrequent small-medium angular flints	0.30m	0.70m	2m>	None	Fill of ditch 2/08	Undated
Trench 3								
(3/01)	Deposit	Friable, mid to dark reddish-brown, clay-loam. Rare medium sized angular stones.	0.36m	1.80m >	15m>	None	Ploughsoil	Modern
(3/02)	Deposit	Firm, mid to dark grey clay.	0.15m	1.80m >	15m>	None	Subsoil	Undated
(3/03)	Deposit	Light to mid orangey-brown clay. Frequent small-medium stones.	0.06m >	1.80m >	15m>	None	Natural	-
(3/04)	Fill	Firm, mixed, mid to dark grey clay. Very frequent small to medium angular stones	0.14m	0.85m	2m>	Animal Bone	Fill of ditch 3/05	Undated
3/05	Ditch	NE-SW orientated linear feature. Parallel with and on the same alignment as 3/07	0.14m	0.85m	2m>	N/A	Linear Ditch	Undated
(3/06)	Fill	Firm, mixed, mid grey clay. Very frequent small to medium angular stones.	0.17m	0.90m	2m>	None	Fill of ditch 3/07	Undated
3/07	Ditch	NE-SW orientated linear feature. Parallel with and on the same alignment as 3/05	0.17m	0.90m	2m>	N/A	Linear ditch	Undated
Trench 4								
(4/01)	Deposit	Friable, dark brown sandy-silt.	0.41m	1.90m >	28.5m>	None	Ploughsoil	Modern
(4/02)	Deposit	Firm, blackish-brown, sandy-silt clay. Frequent moderate angular flints.	0.08m	1.90m >	28.5m>	None	Subsoil	Undated
(4/03)	Deposit	Firm, blueish-grey clay.	0.11m >	1.90m >	28.5m>	None	Natural	-
Trench 5								
(5/01)	Deposit	Friable, dark-brown sandy-silt	0.55m	1.9m>	27m>	None	Ploughsoil	Modern
(5/02)	Deposit	Firm, greyish-blue clay.	0.14m >	1.9m>	27m>	None	Natural	-
5/03	Posthole	2.3m to NE of 5/05	0.20m	0.20m	0.55m	N/A	Posthole for possible fence/pen	Undated
(5/04)	Fill	Firm, dark blackish-brown clayey-silt. Frequent charcoal flecks	0.20m	0.20m	0.55m	None	Fill of posthole 5/03	Undated
5/05	Posthole	2.3m to SW of 5/03	0.06m	0.28m	0.35m	N/A	Posthole for possible fence/pen	Undated
(5/06)	Fill	Firm, dark blackish-brown clayey-silt. Frequent charcoal flecks	0.06m	0.28m	0.35m	None	Fill of posthole 5/05	Undated
5/07	Ditch	NW-SE orientated linear feature	0.31m	1.40m	1.90m>	N/A	Linear Ditch	Undated
(5/08)	Fill	Firm, mid greyish brown clay-loam.	0.31m	1.40m	1.90m>	None	Fill of ditch 5/07	Undated

		Uniform deposit.						
(5/09)	Fill	Firm, mid grey clay. Fragmentary grit, frequent small stones and rarer medium angular stones	0.21m	0.70m >	4m>	None	Fill of linear ditch 5/10	Undated
5/10	Ditch	NE-SW orientated linear feature	0.21m	0.70m >	4m>	N/A	Linear ditch	Undated
Trench 6								
(6/01)	Deposit	Friable, dark brown sandy-silt	0.27m	1.90m >	30m>	None	Ploughsoil	Modern
(6/02)	Deposit	Firm, blackish-brown sandy-silt clay.	0.28m	1.90m >	30m>	None	Subsoil	Undated
(6/03)	Deposit	Firm, greyish-blue clay.	0.19m >	1.90m >	30m>	None	Natural	-
Trench 7								
(7/01)	Deposit	Friable, blackish-brown sandy-silt.	0.30m	1.90m >	24.3m>	None	Plough soil	Modern
(7/02)	Deposit	Firm, dark blackish-brown, sandy-silt clay.	0.25m	1.90m >	24.3m>	None	Disturbed redeposited natural	Undated
(7/03)	Deposit	Firm, light brown clay. Mottled with patches of orangey-brown sandy-clay	0.12m >	1.90m >	24.3m>	None	Natural	-
7/04	Ditch	NE-SW orientated linear feature	0.37m	1.05m >	19.6m>	N/A	Linear ditch, continuation into Tr.1. 1/04. Same as 7/08	Medieval?
(7/05)	Fill	Firm, greyish-brown clay loam. Rare small stone.	0.37m	1.05m >	19.6m>	Burnt flint, animal bone and pottery.	Fill of ditch 7/04. Same as (7/09)	Medieval?
7/06	Ditch	N/NW-S/SE. orientated linear feature	0.29m	1.55m	1.90m>	N/A	Linear ditch.	Undated
(7/07)	Fill	Firm, dark greyish-brown, clay-loam. Rare small stones	0.29m	1.55m	1.90m>	None	Fill of ditch 7/06	Undated
7/08	Ditch	Same as 7/04	0.37m	1.05m >	19.6m>	N/A	Linear ditch	Medieval?
(7/09)	Fill	Same as (7/05)	0.37m	1.05m >	19.6m>	None	Fill of 7/08	Medieval?

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OASIS ID: johnmoor1-377623

Project details

Project name	19-21 Lower Road, Stoke Mandeville
Short description of the project	John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological evaluation at the land to the rear of 19-21 Lower Road, Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire. (NGR SP 83028 10492) The purpose of the evaluation was for the erection of two dwellings, alongside other ancillary works. The evaluation trenches were testing for the existence of archaeological remains, especially those relating between the Late Prehistoric and post-medieval periods. Throughout the course of the evaluation, a number of undated archaeological features were uncovered, and one tentatively dated medieval ditch, which was observed within trenches 1 and 7. However, on balance the features are more likley to be of later prehistoric date.
Project dates	Start: 02-12-2019 End: 03-12-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SMLR19 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	4219 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	AYBCM:2019.160 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	19/03898/APP - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	POSTHOLE Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AYLESBURY VALE STOKE MANDEVILLE 19-21 Lower Road, Stoke Mandeville
Postcode	HP22 5XA
Study area	130 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 483050 210500 50.986280642407 -1.311729954003 50 59 10 N 001 18 42 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 96.46m Max: 98.45m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	John Moore Heritage Services
Project brief originator	Aylesbury Vale District Council
Project design originator	JMHS
Project director/manager	John Moore
Project supervisor	Gavin Davis
Type of sponsor/funding body	client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Edgars Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Buckinghamshire County Museum
Physical Archive ID	AYBCM:2019.160
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Buckinghamshire County Museum
Digital Archive ID	AYBCM:2019.160
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Stratigraphic","other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Buckinghamshire County Museum
Paper Archive ID	AYBCM:2019.160
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Stratigraphic","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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