

Archaeological Evaluation
GTX0000 Project Wide
Gartree 2

661277-0000-PEV-GTX0000-XX-RP-Y-0010

Issue Number P01

S2 – For Information

25/01/2022



Ministry of
JUSTICE

Security Classification:

OFFICIAL

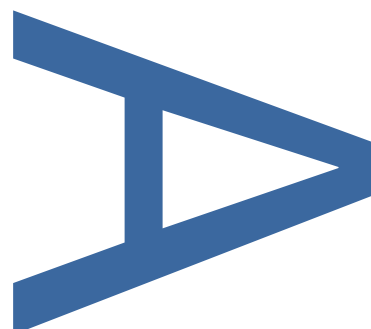
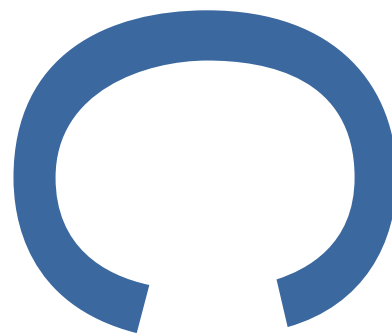
Document History

Issue	Date	Comment	Author	Chk'd
P01	25/01/22	First issue. S2 – For Information	JOQ	RRP

**LAND AT GARTREE, MARKET
HARBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE**



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



**JANUARY 2022
REPORT NO: R. 14807**

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

LAND AT GARTREE, MARKET HARBOROUGH

Type of project

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited	Project Code	K7496
	Report Number	R. 14807
Text Prepared by:	Robin Weaver	Dec '21 – Jan '22
Finds Prepared by:	Alex Beeby, Gary Taylor, Tom Lane, Karen Deighton	Jan '22
Graphics Prepared by:	Mark Roughley	Jan '22
Graphics Checked by:	Hayley Baxter	Jan '22
Project Manager Sign-off:	Tim Bradley	Jan '22

Document Version:	Date:	Checked:	Approved:
001			

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
2 Plestowes Barn,
Hareway Lane,
Barford
Warwick,
Warwickshire
CV35 8DD

Local Planning Authority: Harborough District Council

Planning Reference: 21/01600/OUT

Central National Grid Reference: SP 70449 88871

Accession Number: X.A104.2021

Report No. R14807

Written and researched by: Robin Weaver
Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project Manager: Tim Bradley

Commissioning Client: Pick Everard

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
2 Plestowes Barn,
Hareway Lane,
Barford,
Warwick,
Warwickshire
CV35 8DD

Tel: 01926 485490

E-mail: tbradley@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

©Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
January 2022

The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	2
ABSTRACT	3
1 INTRODUCTION	5
2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	8
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	10
4 METHODOLOGY	13
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE	16
6 FINDS ASSESSMENT	27
7 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS	43
8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	46
9 BIBLIOGRAPHY	47
10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES	55
11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX	66
12 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM	66
FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION	49
FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATION OVERLAYING THE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY RESULTS	50
FIGURE 3 RAF MARKET HARBOROUGH	51
FIGURE 4 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA	52
FIGURE 5 PREHISTORIC SECTIONS/PLANS	53
FIGURE 6 MEDIEVAL TO 20 TH CENTURY SECTIONS/PLANS	54

ABSTRACT

Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned by Pick Everard to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Gartree, Market Harborough, Leicestershire (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 70449 88871). The investigations were required to investigate the potential for archaeological remains ahead of a new development comprising the construction of a new Category B prison of up to 82,555sqm for which a planning application has been submitted to Harborough District Council (Planning Reference: 21/01600/OUT).

The results demonstrated that, whilst most of the site has little potential for further archaeological remains, prehistoric archaeological features were identified in an area in the east of the site. Whilst the majority of anomalies seen in the preceding geophysical survey of the site were demonstrated to be of either geological or modern origin, within the area of Trenches 12 to 16 two Iron Age features were recorded: a subcircular ditched enclosure approximately 8m in diameter and a ~60m long boundary ditch with at least one 90-degree turn and terminus. Ironworking waste, including hearth burn and furnace lining, was present alongside pottery and suggested an area of specialist activity. This area of the site was not subject to the deep truncation associated with the airfield infrastructure and preservation of the features was good. The potential for further features was identified in the immediate area of the Iron Age features, as highlighted by the geophysical survey but are presently within the badger exclusion zone to the north.

Disturbance from RAF Market Harborough, a Second World War training station, was encountered in three areas. In two locations demolition debris, including broken concrete, cables and bricks from the anticipated buildings were recorded. The area between the brook and the concrete dispersal strip featured made ground up to 2m in depth, and whilst agricultural furrows sporadically survived in two trenches within this area, the geological horizon had been truncated in many places. A small brick feature, 0.90m by 0.90m in plan, was found to be associated with the concrete dispersal strip and is probably the foundation of a square drain, light or communications point – a metal cable was discovered in the same trench. The geophysical anomalies associated with this part of the site were all modern in origin.

The remainder of the site showed evidence for extensive agricultural ridge and furrow field systems, a post-medieval dated field boundary and agricultural subsoils.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Gartree, Market Harborough, Leicestershire (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 70449 88871: Figure 1) between the 1st November 2021 and 3rd December 2021. The investigations were commissioned by Pick Everard to inform upon the potential archaeological resource and impact upon it from the construction of a new Category B prison of up to 82,555sqm within a secure perimeter fence together with access, parking, landscaping and associated engineering works, for which a planning application has been submitted to Harborough District Council (Planning Reference: 21/01600/OUT).
- 1.2 The proposed development was assessed to be within 1km of three areas of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement, two “Saxon” Early Medieval settlements, Medieval ridge and furrow field systems and a farmhouse, and a former World War II airfield (RAF Market Harborough) which was later used as a Polish resettlement camp (Orion 2021: 4.0). A geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys, 2021) of part of the site highlighted several linear and curvilinear features with archaeological potential and accordingly the Local Planning Authority (LPA) required a program of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching.
- 1.3 The definition of an archaeological field evaluation is ‘a limited programme of non-intrusive and / or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quantity and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national and international context as appropriate’ (CIFA 2014a).
- 1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Tim Bradley of Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA 2021) in consultation with Richard Clark, Team Manager (Heritage), Leicestershire County Council.
- 1.5 In addition, the archaeological evaluation by trial trenching conforms to the guidelines and standards laid down in the following documents:

- *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIFA 2014a);
- Code of Approved Conduct for the Regulation of Arrangements in Field Archaeology, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIFA 2014b);
- Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: Reading (CIFA 2014c);
- Management of Archaeological Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Morphe), Historic England: London (HE 2015);
- *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual 1*, Pre-Construct Archaeology, London (Taylor and Brown 2018);
- Fieldwork Operations Manual, Regional Variation Addendum; Warwick Office, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, Warwick (Webster 2018);
- Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 (April 2019);
- Leicestershire County Council, 2018 Generic Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Trial Trenching).

1.6 The general aims of these investigations were:

- To record the nature, extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation any archaeological remains affected by the investigation;
- To assess where appropriate any ecofactual and palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features from within the site.

1.7 And specifically to;

- Identify the potential for Iron Age and Roman remains to be present on the site, given the evidence for dispersed settlement activity in the surrounding area;
- Assess the likely impact of RAF Market Harborough on the underlying deposits, especially within the eastern area of the site;
- Assess the likely impact of the proposed development on potential archaeological remains.

- 1.8 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museum Services on completion of all phases of archaeological fieldwork.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

The site is underlain by solid geology comprising of Dyrham Formation, interbedded Siltstone and Mudstone, a Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 183 to 191 million years ago in the Jurassic Period in a local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. No superficial deposits are recorded for the area (BGS 2021). The most commonly occurring geology encountered was clay, often with spreads of mudstones and manganese (e.g. Trenches 11 and 12), and less often with linear seams of mudstones bedrock and pebbles (e.g. Trenches 16, 17 & 18). These attracted varying amounts of glaying, characterized by grey-blue silty clay (e.g. Trench 12).

2.1.1 The site is within an area of slowly permeable, seasonally wet loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage of moderate fertility (LandIS 2021: Soilscape 18). Surface water was only of minor disruption during the project, despite some wet weather, including snow – a single trench had to be relocated due to poor conditions (Trench 39).

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site is situated 900m to the south of Foxton, and 2km to the northwest of Market Harborough. The site boundaries are HPM Gartree and Gartree village to the north and northwest, the disused airbase RAF Market Harborough to the east and agricultural fields to the south and west. One small field of pasture incorporated into the site lies to the west of Welland Avenue.

2.2.2 The site is currently occupied by fenced and gated fields of pasture, large shrubs and trees, broad long-running sections of airfield concrete dispersal runways, and disused brick buildings. The eastern half of the site is generally level at 114-116m AOD, with an imperceptible downwards slope westwards towards the most western concrete dispersal strip at 110-114m AOD. Immediately adjacent to the west, lie the banks of a north to south running brook, in the middle of the site, at 106-108m AOD. In the southern part of the site, the east slope of the brook is especially steep and has a somewhat modified appearance. This is in marked contrast to the slope to the west of the brook in the direction of Welland Avenue, which rises in height more gradually to 115-117m AOD. Anecdotal evidence suggested that the land to the east of

the brook near the dispersal strip had undergone modification associated with the construction of RAF Market Harborough. This proved accurate and a significant depth of made ground recorded in several trenches within proximity to the airfield's infrastructure.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

3.1.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA; Orion, July 2021) was produced on the known historical and archaeological background of the site and immediate vicinity within 1km of the boundary of the development area, and a geophysical survey report (Magnitude, June 2021) was produced for the site. The geophysics is not referenced in the DBA and the survey should be considered alongside it. The following section is a brief overview of the key findings of the desk-based assessment, referring to figures within both documents. For more information please refer to the original reports.

3.1.2 The assessment identified no designated heritage assets within the site boundary, nor any listed buildings (Orion 2021: Chapter 4). A significant number of records in the local Historic Environments Records (HER) office database relate to the infrastructure and individual buildings of the World War 2 airbase RAF Market Harborough (7 records), of which two fall within the site boundary (Figures 2 & 3). In addition, there have been 6 previous archaeological investigations within the wider study area, 3 excavations, a program of fieldwalking, and two previous geophysical surveys, none of which have occurred within the site.

3.2 Prehistoric to Romano-British Periods (500'000BCE to AD410)

3.2.1 The desk-based assessment noted that there have been no prehistoric or Romano-British features recorded within the study area. In the wider area, the HER records Iron Age (800BCE to AD43) enclosures and ring ditches of roundhouses some 820m to the east of the site, with evidence of stock rearing (MLE19058; ELE7713). A geophysical survey associated with this site also identified the presence of possible linear and curvilinear ditches around 600m east of the study area (MLE19060).

3.2.2 Iron Age and Romano-British settlement features were excavated and recorded at two locations, 855m to the southeast of the site (ELE10743) and 920m to the southeast (ELE9884). The first of these (ELE10743) was enclosed with somewhat extensive rectilinear ditched enclosures spread over 2.6ha by the Roman period, before abandonment by the mid-3rd century. At

the second site (ELE9884), some continuity between the Late Iron Age and Romano-British period is recognized. Fieldwalking (ELE4676) 800m to the southeast recorded Late Iron Age to Romano-British pottery fragments (MLE16430) and prehistoric flints (MLE16424).

- 3.2.3 The available evidence from the HER and previous archaeological interventions indicate limited evidence for prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity of the site; known Iron Age and Iron Age to Romano-British activity was concentrated more than 800m to the southeast of the site and the known Romano-British settlement was 420m east of the site. On this basis, the site was considered to have low potential for prehistoric and Romano-British archaeology (Orion 2021: 4.8 & 4.13). Despite this, the geophysical survey highlighted linear and curvilinear features of a likely archaeological character which it was felt might represent features of the prehistoric to Romano-British period (Magnitude 2021; PCA 2021).

3.3 Early-medieval and Medieval (AD411 to AD1539)

- 3.3.1 Two known early medieval period settlements are known in the wider landscape; the present village of Lubenham, or *Lobenho* (Lubba's Hill) 1km to the south (MLE9316) and the village of Foxton, or *Foxestone* to the north, were founded in the early medieval period and feature "Saxon" period names. Both expanded during the medieval period and both now lie within conservation areas that fall largely outside of the 1km study area. The site itself was judged to have fallen between the two settlements and to have a low potential for features of the early medieval or medieval period (Orion 2021: 4.18), with agricultural furrows and possible field boundaries of the period (or later) being highlighted by the geophysical survey and historic maps.

3.4 Post-medieval and Modern (AD1540-to date)

- 3.4.1 There is little evidence for post-medieval activity within the HER and the site appears to have continued to be in the hinterlands of the medieval settlements until its modern development as RAF Market Harborough. The Parish of Foxton was formally 'inclosed' in 1770 and was already predominantly pasture; two-thirds of the parish was grasslands by 1862 (Lee and McKinley 2021). The site is more than 1km from the Leicestershire and

Northamptonshire Union canal (ML6299) and just within 1km of its conservation area (DLE679). Historic maps show very little of note beyond field boundaries, road layouts and the sites of two windmills beyond the site boundary, until the 1885 Ordnance Suvery map (Orion 2021: Figs 4-7). Here a “T”-shaped belt of trees encroaches at the southeastern boundary of the site; a water feature is seen near the center of the site (which exists today) and a footpath, now diverted to the site’s boundary, and a small rectangular feature which may be an animal shelter or pond (Orion 2021: Fig. 7). In the 1952 OS map a ‘windpump’ for water is located just beyond the northern boundary of the site, and inadequate supply of water, combined with only moderately fertile soils and poor drainage (LandIS 2021) may account for the site remaining peripheral to activity in the post-medieval period. Excepting the airfield, in most other respects field boundaries have not changed to date.

3.4.2 The eastern boundary of the site runs along the outer edge of ‘Runway No. 1’ of RAF Market Harborough (MLE15969), a training station built between 1942 and 1943 and purposed to train aircrews for Bomber Command using Vickers Wellington bombers. Three intersecting runways were built at 60-degrees to one another in a triangular pattern and it is clear from maps acquired from the RAF Museum (Orion 2021; reproduced as Figure 3, this report) that most of the buildings associated with the station were located to the west of the runways where HMP Gartree and the village of Gartree now stand.

3.4.3 However, two clusters of buildings and a northeast by southwest oriented concrete dispersal strip intersect with the trial trenches at the present evaluation stage of the archaeological works (Figure 3). One cluster held only small buildings adjacent to the dispersal strip, comprising a latrine, nissen-hut store and a ‘blast shelter’ (incorporated into record MLE15969). Within the second cluster (MLE22402), on the northside of Welland Avenue in the western part of the site, substantial buildings are mapped, including the airfield’s Operations Block, Station Offices, Crew Briefing Room, 3 blast shelters, a ‘Speech Broadcasting Building’ and a Picket Post facing the road. This cluster was later used to house Polish refugees and ex-servicemen as part of the post-war resettlement program (MLE22402).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Scope and Specifics of Excavation and Sampling

- 4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of 55 trenches: 21no. to be 50m long and 1.8m wide and 34no. to be 30m long and 1.8m wide, representing a 2% sample of the site (Figure 2). The trenches were positioned to target possible geophysical anomalies, provide even spatial coverage of the site and to avoid existing site constraints including badger setts, GeoTech works and overhead powerlines. An additional 1% contingency was stipulated, to be used to either address site specific questions, or to extend the spread and intensity of trenching if required. Following a site visit on 10th November 2021, an additional 50m trench was opened in response to a request by the Planning Archaeologist (Trench 56), and Trench 22 was also relocated to address a nearby geophysical anomaly. A further trench was relocated to avoid GeoTech works and surface water (Trench 39). The locations of all trenches are shown on Figure 2.
- 4.1.2 The work was undertaken in four phases, with excavation, fencing, recording and backfilling taking place in each, before repeating the process for the next phase. This was to address health and safety aspects of leaving large numbers of trenches open for an extended period of time. An additional ecological constraint was that the area of each trench had to be mowed at least 48 hours before any trenching commenced (Plate 1). The phases are delineated by dashed lines on Figure 2.
- 4.1.3 All machine excavation of trial trenches was carried out under constant archaeological direction by a suitably experienced archaeologist familiar with the ground conditions on the site. Machine excavation of the trial trenches will be undertaken by a mechanical excavator using a flat-bladed bucket. The excavation by machine was taken down to the top of significant archaeological level or to the top of 'natural' subsoil where no archaeological deposits were found at a higher level.
- 4.1.4 All archaeological contexts were recorded individually on context record sheets. A further, more general record of the work, comprising a description

and discussion of the archaeology, was maintained as appropriate. Context sheets were primarily filled in by the archaeologist excavating the feature or deposit.

4.1.5 Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Significant archaeological features were drawn in plan at a scale of 1:20. All detailed plans and sections are to be related to the 1:100 or 1:1250 plans. The 1:1250 and 1:100 plans were accurately related to the National Grid. All plans and sections were levelled with respect to OD. All plans and sections were drawn on polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled.

4.1.6 All photos were taken using a digital SLR camera with sensors exceeding 12 mega pixels.

4.1.7 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit (or equivalent) with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better. Each point was recorded in relation to the OSGB36 geod model and coded to an internal PCA database to provide a dataset which records feature type, context number, associated drawing numbers and any other information that may be relevant. This survey provides a three-dimensional geo-referenced visual representation of the archaeology present. Where features were determined to require more detailed illustration, these were undertaken by hand and drawn in relation to a feature specific geo-referenced baseline and drawn at an appropriate scale on polyester based drafting film and labelled in relation to a site specific drawing register.

4.2 Archive and Reporting

4.2.1 The site archive, including all project records and cultural material produced by the project, will be prepared in accordance with *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire County Council Museum Collections* (Leicestershire County Council 2013), and with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (UKIC 1990), and “*Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*” (Archaeological Archives Forum 2011).

- 4.2.2 On completion of all aspects of the project PCA will arrange for the archive to be deposited in accordance with the provisional arrangements made with Leicestershire County Council Museum Services at the onset of fieldwork. Any alternative arrangements will be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist and the Local Planning Authority.
- 4.2.3 An Accession number has been issued for the project: **X.A104.2021.**

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section describes the results of the evaluation trenching and organizes findings under the following headings: 1) archaeologically blank trenches and trenches with significant geological and natural features, 2) trenches with prehistoric archaeological features, 3) trenches with minor post-medieval agricultural features and layers and, 4) trenches showing airfield infrastructure and other modern features. For further details of individual contexts descriptions please see Appendix 2.

5.2 Blank trenches and geological and natural features

5.2.1 The following trenches were archaeologically blank or held geological or natural features which were highlighted by the geophysical survey: Trenches 7, 9-11, 15, 19-21, 23, 24, 39, 43, 45, 47, and 52-56.

5.2.2 **Trench 7** was typical of those entirely blank trenches to the east of the site, within the space between airfield runways (Plate 2 & Figure 2). The trench was oriented east-west and the geological substrate was seen at 113.12m AOD and was a brownish orange firm clay (**703**), 0.31m below the present ground level. This was overlain by an undated greyish brown clay subsoil, (**702**), which was only 0.11m thick and sealed by a greyish brown silty clay topsoil, (**701**), which was 0.20m thick.

5.2.3 On the western side of the brook, Trench 45 also represented a typical sequence for this area. Here the geological substrate was seen at 111.60m AOD and was a firm mid-orangey grey clay (**4503**) with light blue-grey mottle, with occasional round stone inclusions. This was overlain by (**4502**), a layer of mid-orangey grey, silty clay subsoil with rare pebble inclusions 0.20m thick, followed by (**4501**), a mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, 0.17m thick.

5.2.4 Several geological features matched signals mapped in the geophysical report (Figure 2) and these were targeted by the distribution of the trenches to the east of the dispersal strip, where they occurred (especially in Trenches 7-25). The features were identified against a general background of clay and were

of two principal kinds. First, mudstone bedrock (Trench 18, Plate 3), which tended to result in a weak response (labelled with a pale blue line in the survey). Second, a purpleish black-blue clay with dense orange and black manganese spreads or clusters (e.g. Trench 13; Plate 4). These latter were outlined in purple in the geophysical survey to denote a strong geophysical response.

- 5.2.5 In **Trench 11**, for example, the geological layer **(1103)** was encountered at 112.27m AOD (0.43m below the present ground level) in the eastern part of the trench and was light brownish grey silty clay. In the western half of the trench, however, was a coarse manganese-rich mid-brownish orange clay with frequent rounded and angular pebbles at a similar elevation. A test pit was machine dug a further ~0.50m through this material, to 111.76m AOD, to confirm that this was non-archaeological (Plate 5). **(1103)** was overlain by **(1102)**, a mid-greyish brown silty clay 0.15m thick, which was sealed by **(1101)**, a mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, up to 0.28m thick.
- 5.2.6 **Trench 10** revealed a blueish grey spread of silty material **(1004)** in a location corresponding to a large purple subcircular signature in the geophysical survey. A test pit was hand dug and it was discovered that this material was sterile natural silting overlaying the geological clay **(1003)** – at 112.60m AOD – to a depth of only 0.21m thick (Plate 6). This was sealed by a clay subsoil **(1002)** and silty clay topsoil **(1001)**, and probably represents the natural silting up of an undulation in the geological substrate.

5.3 Prehistoric Archaeological features: Iron Age

- 5.3.1 **Trench 12** was positioned to examine an area of strong geophysical response which was mapped as a subcircular ring with a small number of linear spurs, connected or in proximity (Figure 2).
- 5.3.2 The geological substrate **(1203)** was recorded at around 112.92m AOD and was an orangey brownish silty clay with grey mottling. The geology was only 0.29m below the present ground surface and was affected by rooting in places.
- 5.3.3 Cut through **(1203)** towards the south of the trench was **[1204]**, an east-west

oriented ditch, which was 0.96m deep and 1.60m wide at the top with steeply sloping sides and a narrow “V”-shaped, flat base at ~112.00m AOD (Figure 5: Section 12.1; Plate 7). This was filled at the base by **(1205)**, a light greyish blue silty clay deposit only 0.30m deep, formed by natural processes. This was overlain by a more substantial, dark greyish blue, orange-flecked silty clay **(1206)** which was firm and contained pottery sherds of Iron Age date. This deposit was 0.66m thick and filled the remainder of the ditch; its similarity to the geological clay indicated that it was produced by a period of natural siltation.

- 5.3.4 Fill **(1205)** was cut by **[1207]**, an undated “U”-shaped re-cut along the northern edge of the original feature, on the same alignment as **[1204]**. **[1207]** was only 0.39m deep but was 1.04m wide at the top with moderately steep sides and a concave base. The re-cut ditch was filled by a firm light greyish blue, dark-orange-flecked silty clay without cultural material, **(1208)**.
- 5.3.5 Overlaying **(1208)** was a narrow, 0.14m thick layer of light brownish grey silty clay subsoil **(1202)** and a light brownish grey clayey silt topsoil, **(1201)**.
- 5.3.6 The second ditch within **Trench 12** was 7.5m metres to the north on the same east-west alignment. This was recorded as ditch **[1209]**, a near identical cut with a moderately steep sided “V”-shaped profile of the following dimensions: 0.61m deep by 1.28m wide (Plate 8). The base of this feature was located at 112.41m AOD. A 0.23m thick light greyish blue silty clay **(1210)** represented the primary fill of the ditch, which was the same as **(1205)** in its particulars and in being undated. This was sealed by fill **(1211)**, a mid-greyish blue silty clay 0.38m thick which held a small number of pottery sherds of Iron Age date and a small number of fragmentary animal bones and part of a tooth.
- 5.3.7 Fill **(1211)** was truncated by a land drain along the same alignment, which precluded the possibility of identifying a later recut to the ditch as recorded in the northern slot.
- 5.3.8 **Trench 13** recorded a linear cut **[1304]**, with a steep sided “V”-shaped profile and a flat base 0.30m wide, which cut **(1303)** to a depth >0.84m: the base of this feature lay at 112.65m AOD. The feature was clearly a ditch and was at least 2.5m wide and >1.50m long (Figure 5, Section 13.1; Plate 9). This

- contained one deposit of blueish grey silty clay with occasional rounded pebbles, **(1305)**, which held 320g of ironworking slag.
- 5.3.9 This deposit was truncated by a possible agricultural furrow **[1306]**, which had a similar alignment. This was only 0.37m deep but 3.70m wide and had a gradual slope and a concave base. The mid-blueish grey silty clay with red flecks **(1307)**, held a small amount of pottery, 40g of slag and a piece of worked prehistoric flint which may conceivably have originated from the underlying ditch fill. Alternatively cut **[1306]** may represent a recut of the earlier ditch rather than an agricultural furrow as recorded on site.
- 5.3.10 Within **Trench 14** the greyish-yellow and compact brown-grey clay geological substrate **(1403)** was seen at 113.01m AOD.
- 5.3.11 This was cut by north-northeast by south-southwest oriented ditch **[1410]**, which was at least 0.36m deep and 0.87m wide (Figure 5, Section 14.1; Plate 10). This feature had a steep to moderately steep “V”-shape profile and a rounded base, which was 1.04m below the present ground level at 112.37m AOD, and represented a continuation of ditch **[1304]** to the north.
- 5.3.12 The base and western side of the ditch was overlain by **(1409)**, a firm mid-brownish grey clayey silt which held ironworking slag and small pieces of animal bone. Overlaying this fill was **(1408)**, a firm greyish yellow clay deposit at least 0.20m thick which was described as a deliberately introduced backfill.
- 5.3.13 Fill **(1408)** was cut by **[1407]**, a recut of the ditch with a moderately steeply sloping “U”-shaped profile with a moderate break of slope to a broad, rounded base: this was 0.44m deep and 1.82m wide. This later ditch was filled by a single fill, **(1406)**, a firm mid-orangey grey clayey silt, which held a concentration of pottery fragments, much of which had degraded, and some small animal bones.
- 5.3.14 Fill **(1406)** was cut by **[1405]**, a further “U”-shaped recut to the ditch, 0.36m deep and 0.87m wide which had moderately steeply sloping sides and a concave base. This was filled by **(1404)**, a firm light brownish grey clayey silt which contained Iron Age pottery sherds and 325g of ironworking slag. Fill **(1404)** was overlain by **(1402)**, a compact yellow-brown silty clay subsoil of 0.25m thick, which lay beneath **(1401)**, a brownish-grey clay silt 0.16m thick.

- 5.3.15 A land drain ran alongside the archaeology and was seen to truncate **(1402)** (Plate 10, left-hand side).
- 5.3.16 **Trench 16** was positioned to target a linear geophysical anomaly with a strong response.
- 5.3.17 Geological substrate **(1603)** was recorded at 112.59m AOD and was a grey-yellow compact clay with brown-grey mottle.
- 5.3.18 This was cut by **[1605]**, the terminus of an east-west ditch, with the terminus at the west (Plate 11). In plan, the feature had straight sides over 1m long and 1.38m wide and ended with a sub-square terminus with rounded corners. The profile was a broad “V”-shape with moderately sloping to steeply sloping sides and a well-defined narrow, concave base at least 0.52m deep at 112.11m AOD. It was filled by **(1604)**, a firm mid-blueish grey silty clay, apparently formed by natural siltation that held Iron Age pottery sherds and a small number of animal bone fragments.
- 5.3.19 The fill **(1604)** was sealed by **(1602)**, a compact yellow-brown silty clay subsoil 0.29m thick; the topsoil was **(1601)**, a brownish grey clay silt 0.14m thick.

5.4 Medieval to Post-Medieval Archaeological features

- 5.4.1 Agricultural features across the site were typically represented by shallow and wide furrows.
- 5.4.2 Furrow **[804]** (Trench 8 in the east of the site) and furrow **[4203]** (Trench 43 towards the west) were typical of the type and both held post-medieval dated finds. In the eastern part of the site, **[804]** was encountered in proximity to three other furrows on the same east-west alignment (Figures 2 and 6).
- 5.4.3 Furrow **[804]** cut substrate **(803)** to a depth of only 0.16m, despite being 1.29m wide, and had the gradual profile and flat base indicative of agricultural furrows. The fill was **(805)**, a firm mid-yellowish brown silty clay which contained a fragment of clay pipe stem. **(805)** was overlain by **(802)**, a dark greyish brown silty clay subsoil that was 0.15m thick and overlain by a mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil **(801)**, which was 0.20m thick.
- 5.4.4 To the west of the brook, furrow **[4203]** was also encountered in an area of furrows (see Figure 2; Plate 12), and in this area these were aligned northwest

by southeast to east-west trend. In Trench 42 the mid-orangey grey silty clay, **(4202)** was cut by furrow **[4203]** to a depth of 0.33m and was 2.17m wide with gradually sloping, concave sides and a concave base: the orientation was approximately east-west. This was filled by **(4204)**, a compact mid-brownish grey silty clay which contained rare flecks of charcoal and fragments of pottery and CBM dated to the mid-17th to 18th century. Unusually, this deposit was overlain by topsoil only.

- 5.4.5 All the furrows that were surveyed and excavated were orientated in the directions suggested by the geophysical survey. A further furrow held dateable finds: furrow **[2804]** from Trench 28 (central area of site) was east-west oriented at a low elevation near the brook at 107m AOD (Figure 6). This was filled by **(2805)**, a compact light greyish blue, orange mottled silty clay with occasional manganese inclusions and a piece of glazed pottery dated from the late 17th to 18th century. This furrow lay within an area affected by the construction of the airfield dispersal strip (see below) and was overlain by **(2802)**, a made ground 0.58m thick comprising a mixture of light blue and orange-grey clays, in turn overlain by topsoil **(2801)**.
- 5.4.6 A single field boundary ditch was encountered on the site. In Trench 3, the geological substrate **(303)**, was recorded at 112.80m AOD and was a light brownish yellow silty clay. This was cut to a depth of 0.29m by **[304]**, a 1.16m wide ditch with moderately steeply sloped sides and a concave base (Figure 6). Given the location within the trench and the profile of this feature, it was assumed to be the targeted field boundary. The feature was east northeast by west northwest oriented, which contrasted to the prevailing trend of the furrows in this area which are approximately southeast-northwest. Field boundary **[304]** was filled by **(305)** a firm, mid-blueish grey clayey silt which contained a piece of glazed pottery, again 17th to 18th century in date. This was overlain by **(302)** a mid-greyish brown silty clay subsoil, 0.10m thick and a light brownish grey clayey silt topsoil, **(301)**, which was 0.28m thick.
- 5.4.7 Right across the site was a rather homogenous yellowish brown or orangey brown to orangey grey clay to silty clay subsoil. Secure dating was possible from unabraded pottery sherds, and tile fragments from the following contexts:

(102), (202), (4002) and showed a consistently post-medieval date.

5.5 Modern Features and Airfield Infrastructure

5.5.1 The desk-based assessment identified two clusters of buildings and a northeast by southwest oriented concrete dispersal strip within the site boundary (Figures 2 & 3). These three locations were investigated by Trenches 26-33 (between the dispersal strip and the brook), Trenches 34 and 35 (a small cluster of buildings at the north of the site) and Trenches 50 and 51 (Operations Block cluster, north of Welland Avenue). This section will discuss each in turn.

5.5.2 **Trenches 26-33**, between the brook and the dispersal strip, recorded a range of different depths of overburden.

5.5.3 **Trench 28** was positioned to run east-west at 90-degrees to the slope above the brook. The geological level **(2804)** was encountered at 109.54m AOD nearest the dispersal strip and at 107.72m AOD by the brook. Significantly, the depth of made ground was seen to have a sloping profile built up with a moderately steep slope immediately above the brook creating something like a level plateau at the end nearest the dispersal strip, at a similar elevation to the concrete surface (background in Plate 13); this effectively defined an 'edge' to the made ground.

5.5.4 The geology in Trench 28 was **(2803)**, a light brownish grey silty clay with blue mottle. A previously described, agricultural furrow **[2804]** (Figure 6 and Plate 13) cut this horizon and the fill **(2805)** was overlain by **(2802)**, a layer of made ground 0.58m thick, which comprised a mix of light blue to orange-grey clay and mid-grey silty clay. This diminished to the east and at the eastern end. A north-south modern land drain of asphalt crush (identified by the geophysics with a purple line) cut **(2802)** (see Plate 13) and was overlain by a narrow topsoil and turf layer **(2801)**. There was no agricultural subsoil present.

5.5.5 **Trench 29** was positioned near-parallel to the dispersal strip and occupied the level 'plateau' of made ground at 114.09m AOD. Here, the geology was recorded at around 109.64m AOD and an agricultural furrow **[2905]** was identified and excavated. **[2905]** cut the geology to a depth of only 0.10m on an east-west alignment and may have been horizontally truncated by the

overlying 20th century activity. The furrow held a mid-yellowish grey silty clay deposit (**2906=2910**), which was seen either side of a ceramic land drain **[2907]**, which cut it on the same alignment to a depth of 0.20m. The fill of the furrow was overlain by 0.47m of made ground (**2902**), comprising light to mid-brown to light brownish grey silty clay, which was sealed by a topsoil/turf layer (**2901**), only 0.08m thick. There was no agricultural subsoil present.

5.5.6 **Trench 30** fell outside of the areas of made ground and preserved an agricultural subsoil, (**3002**). The geological layer (**3003**) was seen between 107.35m AOD and 108.53m AOD and was a mid-brownish yellow silty clay. This was overlain by an agricultural subsoil of mid-brownish grey silty clay (**3002**), which was cut by a narrow modern land drain comprising asphalt crush which was overlain by a band of topsoil/turf (**3001**), 0.08m thick which was dark greyish silty clay.

5.5.7 **Trench 31**, to the immediate north, was also at a relatively low elevation but in fact had a thin layer of made ground (**3102**) overlying the geological layer (**3103**), and no agricultural subsoil was present. The geology was encountered at around 108.00m AOD and was a compact light greyish orange silty clay with blue streaks and was overlain by a mid-brownish grey silty clay made ground (**3102**) with manganese inclusions which was compact and typically around 0.30m thick. This was cut by a north-south orientated modern ditch **[3104]** which was 1.20m wide and at least 0.42m deep with steeply sloping concave sides. The fill (**3105**) was a firm mid-blueish grey to greyish orange silty clay with frequent red bricks, metal and plastic inclusions and was anticipated by the geophysical survey as a purple vertical line. The overlying topsoil was (**3101**), a 0.17m thick layer of mid-grayish brown silty clay.

5.5.8 The four remaining trenches between the brook and the dispersal strip held very deeply stratified made ground. Trenches 26 (Plates 14 & 15), 27, 32 and 33 (Plate 16) identified the geological substrate at between 0.88m below the present ground level (the northeastern part of Trench 32; at 110.30m AOD) and approximately 2m depth (the southern end of Trench 26 at approximately 106.50m AOD). There was no agricultural subsoil present in Trenches 26, 27, 32 or 33. The overburden was generally very mixed in composition,

occasionally being loose, and only rarely contained modern materials such as bricks and coke or coal fragments. The composition tended to be redeposited geological clay in near horizontal layers but often featured inclusions of different clay material (e.g. Plate 14) and inclusions of natural cobble- and boulder-sizes ironstone geology. The inclusions made the material unstable and for safety reasons trenches were tested with machine dug test pits, photographically recorded and immediately backfilled.

5.5.9 **Trench 32** was of note due to its proximity to the concrete airfield dispersal strip and a small brick feature **{3206}** (Plate 17). The geological horizon **(3205)**, of light orangey grey silty clay, was encountered adjacent to the concrete at only 0.88m below the present ground level at 110.30m AOD. However, the made ground increased in depth as the trench was excavated southwesterly and the edge of an overlaying mid-blueish grey silty clay with manganese inclusions **(3304)**, appeared in plan a few metres from the northeast end (Plate 17). The edge of this manganese-rich deposit may have been picked up by the geophysical survey (denoted by a violet curvilinear) but a metal cable was also seen here.

5.5.10 Made ground **(3304)** was 0.28m thick over the geology at the northeastern end of the trench and was overlain by **(3303)**, a layer of light yellowish grey silty clay 0.26m thick with occasional ironstone inclusions, which also held brick fragments, a nail and some clay pipe stem. This was in turn overlain by **(3202)**, a made ground of mid-brownish grey silty clay with ironstone inclusions which was 0.24m thick. This layer was overlain by **(3308)**, a compaction of angular grey pebbles which supported brick feature **{3206}**, which was 0.90m by 0.90m in plan and concreted into **(3308)**. These were together overlain by the concrete dispersal strip **(3207)** and the topsoil **(3201)** below the level of the concrete surface, which suggested that **{3206}** and **(3208)** were foundations, rather than upstanding structures.

5.5.11 The depth of made ground in the two areas where buildings were anticipated also often exceeded 1.20m. Moreover, large concrete blocks and broken concrete were found in the made ground in Trenches 35 and 50.

5.5.12 In **Trench 35** (Plate 18), the made ground **(3502)** contained large cobbles and

large concrete block fragments at around 0.50m below the ground present level within a mid-brown clay which also held brick fragments and decayed timbers. Two parallel modern land drains filled with asphalt crush cut **(3502)** were likely to reflect the responses identified within the geophysical survey. There was no agricultural subsoil present.

5.5.13 **Trench 34** immediately to the northwest uncovered a geological horizon **(3403)** at 11.30mAOD which was orange-brown clay. This was overlain by a ~0.35m thick subsoil **(3402)** which may be original but held frequent small fragments of concrete and brick fragments and ironstone pebbles unsorted throughout; two ceramic land drains were also seen in the base of the trench and in the subsoil.

5.5.14 A similar pattern was seen in the narrow field to the north of Welland Avenue. **Trench 50** recorded the geological horizon **(5003)** at 116.53mAOD. This was overlain by a subsoil **(5002)**, a mid-yellowish grey silty clay, which contained CBM fragments and charcoal and was 0.35m thick. This was cut by **[5004]**, a truncation measuring 1.80m long and indeterminate width and depth, filled by **(5005)**. A layer of topsoil, **(5001)**, sealed the sequence.

5.5.15 **Trench 51** straddled the slope of an apparently built-up part of the field and made ground accounted for this earthwork. The geological substrate was encountered, in the lower part of the field, at 119.38m AOD and was a mid-light blueish grey silty clay with very occasional ironstone pebbles. This was cut at the north end of the trench by a northwest by southeast aligned edge of an agricultural furrow, **[5104]** which was at least 0.15m deep and was filled by **(5105)**, a dark brownish grey silty clay with red brick/tile fragments and some charcoal. Around 10m of the furrow's edge was seen in plan before it was obscured by the increasing depth of the overlaying made ground **(5102)**. This was a mid-yellowish grey slightly silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and brick fragments, which was 0.30m thick at the north end of the trench and at least 1.20m below the present ground level for the rest of the trench. At depth boulder-sized broken concrete blocks and bricks were observed. There was no agricultural subsoil present and **(5102)** was overlain by **(5101)**, a mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil.

5.5.16 **Trench 22** was positioned to target an apparently square-shaped strong

geophysical signal at the site's southeastern boundary, adjacent to Runway No. 1. The geological substrate **(2204)** was found at 111.70m AOD and was a light greyish blue silty clay. This was overlain by **(2203)**, a large discrete layer, about 5m by 1.60m, of dark grey to black tarmacadam crush, with occasional LBC brick fragments and half-bricks which was at least 0.07m thick (Plate 20). This material resembled those modern field drains in which a tarmac or asphalt crush was encountered.

5.5.17 The topsoil was generally clay-heavy right across the site and held similar material to the subsoil, along with more obviously modern materials including broken ceramic land drains (early 20th century), pieces of plastic, and nylon string. It is evident that the topsoil has been disturbed, perhaps even removed and replaced in many areas of the site, especially to the east and northeast of the brook.

6 FINDS ASSESSMENTS

The Prehistoric Pottery

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

The material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the P.C.R.G. (1997), using the classification system suggested in Knight, 1998. A total of 26 sherds from approximately 15 vessels, weighing 189 grams, was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out, viewed and weighed. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 3 below, whilst a summary of the pottery listed by fabric group is shown in Table 1.

Condition

The pottery is in a very fragmentary condition, suggesting some level of redeposition is likely. Sherds from at least five vessels are abraded whilst all of the shell tempered pieces are heavily leached of their calcareous content. Sherds from four vessels have internal sooting patterns suggestive of usage over a hearth or fire.

Results

Table 1 below shows a summary of the pottery recorded, listed by primary inclusion type and then modal frequency of the occurrence of these inclusions (after Knight 1998).

Table 1, summary of the prehistoric pottery

Primary Inclusion	Cname	Full Name	NoS	NoV	W(g)
Iron	FECF	Common fine Iron	1	1	13
	FEMM	Moderate medium iron	1	1	9
Mica	MICF	Common fine mica	1	1	3
Oolite	OOCM	Common medium oolite	1	1	23
Shell	SHSF	Sparse fine shell	1	1	2

	SHSM	Sparse medium shell	5	2	49
	SHMM	Moderate medium shell	1	1	19
	SHCF	Common fine shell	3	3	13
	SHCM	Common medium shell	6	3	40
	SHAM	Abundant medium shell	6	1	18
Total			26	15	189

Provenance

Pottery was recovered from deposits within five trenches, these were numbers 12, 13, 14, 16 and 36. Table 2 below shows the origin of the material.

Table 2, the origin of the pottery

Tr	Context	Cut	Feature Type	Date	NoS	NoV
12	1206	1204	Ditch	Iron Age	4	2
	1211	1209	Ditch	Iron Age	9	4
13	1307	1306	Furrow	Iron Age	1	1
14	1404	1405	Ditch	Iron Age	8	4
	1406	1407	Ditch	Iron Age	1	1
16	1604	1605	Ditch	Iron Age	2	2
36	3602		Subsoil	Prehistoric?	1	1
Total					26	15

Range

The assemblage is dominated by shell tempered fabrics with a variety of shell inclusion sizes and abundancies. A small number of additional pieces with mica and ferruginous grits as principle inclusions were also recorded, whilst a further fragment in an oolitic tempered fabric from the subsoil in Trench 36 (3602) is unusual. This oolitic sherd is difficult to place within any period, it is crudely formed and handmade it may be Iron Age or post Roman, perhaps early medieval, in date.

The assemblage is made up almost entirely of small leached or abraded body sherds, with just a single rim fragment noted, (deriving from ditch [1405]) and no basal sherds. Vessels are generally crudely finished types with thick body walls, although some finer sherds are also present.

The pottery is broadly Iron Age in date with sherds recovered from Ditches [1204] in Trench 12, [1405], in Trench 14, and furrow [1307] in Trench 13, displaying haphazard external linear scoring; a treatment typical of Iron pottery in the East Midlands. Vessels

treated in this way are often referred to as “scored ware” (c.f. Elsdon 1992). The period when this treatment was current is unclear and a subject of some debate. However Sheila Elsdon considers the origin of the tradition to be found in the lower Nene Valley between the late 4th and 3rd century BC with production of pottery treated in this way continuing into the 1st century AD. (Elsdon 1992, 83). The pottery is likely to be domestic waste from nearby habitation.

Potential

There is no further potential for further work. The material should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage. There is good potential for the recovery of further pottery in the areas of Trenches 12, 13, 14 and 16.

References

Elsdon, S., 1992, East Midlands Scored ware. *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* **LXVII** pp 83-91.

Knight, D., 1998, *Guidelines for the Recording of Later Prehistoric Pottery from the East Midlands* (unpublished report)

P.C.R.G., 1997, *The Study of Late Prehistoric Pottery: General Policies and Guidelines for the Analysis and Publication*, Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group Occasional Papers 1 and 2.

Abbreviations

BS	Body sherd/s
CXT	Context
No.	Number
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
PH	Prehistoric
Tr	Trench
W(g)	Weight (grams)

The Post Roman Pottery

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

A total of 14 sherds from 14 individual vessels, weighing 173 grams, were recorded. The material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001), using the system and period definitions devised for the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit (Young *et al.* 2005). The pottery codenames (Cname) used to catalogue the material are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Leicestershire (Sawday, unpublished).

Methodology

The material was laid out and weighed by individual context. The pottery was then examined visually and under x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The assemblage includes pottery of medieval to modern date.

Condition

The pottery is in a mixed but generally relatively fragmentary state although only two sherds are notably abraded.

Results

Table 1, the Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Description	Form	Part	Comment	Date (AD)	NoS	NoV	W(g)
102	EA10	Modern whiteware	?	Flake	Abraded	Mid-19th-20th	1	1	1
102	EA2	Glazed red earthenware	Drinking vessel/ jug	Base		Mid-16th-18th	1	1	66
102	EA6	Brown/black glazed earthenware	?		Abraded	17th-18th	1	1	1
202	SW4	Staffordshire white salt glazed ware	Flat	BS		18th	1	1	4
202	EA10	Modern whiteware	?	BS		Mid-19th-20th	1	1	3
202	SP3	Leicester splashed ware 3	Jug	BS		12th-M13th	1	1	1
305	FR	Frechen stoneware	Closed	BS		17th-18th	1	1	1
1215	EA5	Imitation mottled ware	Bowl?	Base		Late 17th-18th	1	1	6

Cxt	Cname	Description	Form	Part	Comment	Date (AD)	NoS	NoV	W(g)
2805	EA6	Black glazed earthenware	Bowl?	BS		Mid-17th-18th	1	1	9
2805	EA3	Mottled ware	Drinking vessel	BS		Late 17th-18th	1	1	6
2805	EA7	Staffordshire slip ware	Press moulded dish	Rim; BS	Friiled rim; brown slip trailed on cream	Late 17th-18th	2	2	30
4002	EA5	Imitation mottled ware	?	BS		Late 17th-18th	1	1	4
4204	EA2	Brown/glazed earthenware	Jar or bowl	BS	Ticknall type	Mid-17th-18th	1	1	41
Total							14	14	173

Provenance and Date

Pottery was recovered from seven trenches, including numbers 1,2,3,12, 28, 40 and 42. Table 2 below shows the origin of the material along with a context spotdate derived from examination of the pottery. Two sherds came from ditch features, whilst the reminder came from subsoil deposits or (probable) furrows.

Table 2, the provenance and date of the material

Tr	Context	Cut	Deposit/feature Type	Latest Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
1	102	-	Subsoil	Mid 19th to 20th	3	3	68
2	202	-	Subsoil	Mid 19th to 20th	3	3	8
3	305	304	Ditch	17th-18th	1	1	1
12	1215	1214	Ditch	Late 17th to 18th	1	1	6
28	2805	2804	Furrow?	Late 17th to 18th	4	4	45
40	4002	-	Subsoil	Late 17th to 18th	1	1	4
42	4204	4203	Furrow	Mid 17th to 18th	1	1	41
Total					14	14	173

Range

There is a range of later post-medieval to early modern dated pottery, as well as single sherd of medieval date. The assemblage includes common domestic types of their respective periods.

As well as two pieces of modern dated (mid 19th to 20th century) factory made whiteware (EA10), there is a range of later post-medieval pottery including varieties of black, brown and manganese glazed earthenwares (EA2, EA5 and EA6) (likely to be

local products of the Midlands), and Staffordshire type white salt glazed, slipped and mottled wares (SW4, EA7 and EA3). There is also a single piece of Frechen stoneware from Germany (FR). Forms include drinking vessels, bowls, dishes and flatwares. Most of the pottery can be dated to the 17th or 18th century, which is significant, suggesting an episode or episodes of dumping on the site during that period.

There is a single sherd of medieval date; a very small piece from a jug in Leicester Splashed ware (SP3). The item was recovered from the subsoil in Trench 2 (202).

Potential

Whilst the material provides dated evidence of activity on the site, there is limited potential for further work on the assemblage. The group is largely comprised of common post-medieval pottery types and is not worthy of long-term retention; it can be discarded

References

Sawday, D., Unpublished, *A Post Roman Pottery Type Series for Leicestershire*.

Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

Abbreviations

BS	Body sherd
Cxt	Context
No.	Number
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W(g)	Weight (grams)

The Slag

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Fragments of slag weighing approximately 661g were recovered. Some of the groups comprised of small fragments and, as a result, none of these pieces were counted.

Results

Table 1, The slag

Context	Material	Description	Wt(g)	Context date
1305	slag	Iron smithing slag, including plano-convex hearth bun	252	Iron Age?
1307	slag	Iron smithing slag	40	Iron Age?
1404	slag	Iron smithing slag, including furnace lining	325	Iron Age?
1409	slag	Iron smithing slag	44	Iron Age?

Provenance

The items were recovered from ditch fills (1305, 1404, 1409) and a furrow fill (1307).

Discussion

The assemblage is comprised entirely of iron smithing slag and the group includes a piece of furnace lining. The slag dust associated with the material contains occasional flakes of hammerscale, produced during the smithing of blooms and billets. Smithing slags are generally not very distinctive in terms of periods of production, but the nature of this material suggests it is Iron Age or Saxon; the association with Iron Age ceramics supports the earlier date.

Potential and Recommendations

The slags suggest iron smithing at the site, probably during the Iron Age. It is of moderate potential and significance and should be retained for archive storage.

Abbreviations

No. Number

Wt(g) Weight (grams)

The Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2002), using the codes and system devised for the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit (unpublished). A total of 38 fragments weighing 3287g were recorded.

Methodology

The material was laid out counted and weighed. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 1 below. Firing condition (oxidation/reduction) and principle inclusions are recorded in the archive table (Table 1), with quartz sand size recorded as fine, medium or coarse.

Condition

The ceramic building material includes pieces of abraded and undiagnostic material alongside fragments of fresh and modern brick and tile.

The fired clay includes a very high proportion of weathered fragments. There is just one fresh fragment of fired clay, this piece, which came from (1406), retains an area of original surfacing.

Results

Table 1 below shows a full archive catalogue list of the material.

Table 1, the ceramic building material and fired clay

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Description	Date	NoF	W(g)
1	102	MODDRAIN	Modern drainage pipe			M19th-E20th	3	64
2	202	CBM	Ceramic building material	Oxidised; Fine; Fe; mica	Abraded; no surviving surfaces	Roman or Post Roman	1	6

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Description	Date	NoF	W(g)
12	1206	FCLAY	Fired clay	Oxidised +OX/R; fine; mica	Abraded; no surviving surfaces; DAUB?; linear impression	Undated	2	5
12	1206	FCLAY	Fired clay	Oxidised; fine; Fe	Abraded; no surviving surfaces	Undated	1	1
12	1206	FCLAY	Fired clay	Oxidised; fine; vesicular	Abraded; DAUB?	Undated	1	3
12	1206	FCLAY	Fired clay	OX/R; Fine; Fe; mica	Abraded; no surviving surfaces; DAUB?	Undated	1	19
12	1211	DAUB	Daub	Oxidised; +OX/R; Fe; mica	Abraded; highly fired; linear impressions	Undated	12	54
14	1404	FCLAY	Fired clay	Oxidised; vesicular	Abraded; soft; poorly mixed clay; DAUB?	Undated	1	8
14	1406	FCLAY	Fired clay	Oxidised; medium sandy; Fe; mica	Fresh; area of smoothed surface - OBJECT?	Undated	1	48
14	1406	FCLAY	Fired clay	Oxidised +OX/R; fine-medium sandy	Linear impressions; DAUB?; Abraded; no surfaces	Undated	3	46
14	1406	FCLAY	Fired clay	Oxidised; Fine; Fe; mica	Abraded	Undated	1	5
14	1408	FCLAY	Fired clay	Oxidised; fine; Fe; mica	Soft; sooted	Undated	1	32
29	2904	MODBRK	Modern brick		Abraded; dry pressed	M19th-20th	1	348
29	2904	MODFLOOR	Modern floor tile			M19th-E20th	1	194
29	2906	CBM	Ceramic building material	Oxidised; fine sandy; Fe; mica	Abraded; FCLAY?	Undated	1	17
32	3203	MODBRK	Modern brick		Painted on one stretcher face?; dry moulded; impressed with "-THI..."	M19th-20th	1	1973
34	3402	BRK	Handmade brick	Oxidised; fine; Ca; Fe	Abraded flake	19th?	1	297
36	3601	MODBRK	Modern brick		Dry pressed brick; abraded flakes	M19th-20th	2	89
36	3601	CBM	Ceramic building material	Oxidised; fine	Flake	Undated	1	6
42	4204	CBM	Ceramic building material	Oxidised; fine sandy; Fe	Post-medieval brick?; abraded; no surfaces	Post-medieval?	2	72
Total							38	3287

Provenance

The material was recovered from deposits within Trenches 1, 2, 12, 14, 29, 32, 36 and 42. All the fired clay came from Trenches 12 and 14. The origin of the material is identified in Table 2 below, alongside a spotdate derived from examination of the items, for each context.

Table 2, the provenance and date of the material

Tr	Cxt	Cut	Deposit/ feature type	Latest date of the material (century AD)	NoF
1	102		Subsoil	Mid-19th to early 20th	3
2	202		Subsoil	Roman or post Roman	1
12	1206	1204	Ditch	Undated	5
12	1211	1209	Ditch	Undated	12
14	1404	1405	Ditch	Undated	1
14	1406	1407	Ditch	Undated	5
14	1408	1410	Ditch	Undated	1
29	2904		Natural subsoil	Mid-19th to early 20th	2
29	2906	2905	Furrow	Undated	1
32	3203		Layer (made ground)	Mid-19th to 20th	1
34	3402		Subsoil	19th?	1
36	3601		Topsoil	Undated	3
42	4204		Furrow	Post-medieval?	2
Total					38

Range

A total of 24 fragments of fired clay and 14 pieces of ceramic building material were recovered. The fired clay came exclusively from ditch features in Trenches 12 and 14; these trenches produced no ceramic building material.

Fired Clay

The fired clay assemblage is largely comprised of small abraded and undiagnostic fragments in a restricted range of silty oxidised fabrics with occasional white mica and red ferruginous inclusions. Twelve pieces from Ditch [1209] are likely to be daub, whilst a fragment from Ditch [1407] has an area of smoothed surface, this may derive from the surface of an oven or kiln type structure, or it may be a piece of a roughly formed object such as an item of kiln furniture. The remainder of the material is undiagnostic of form but may include elements of structural daub or oven, kiln or heath lining. Whilst most the material is relatively well fired, there is no material which could be said to be conclusively connected to metalworking activity on the site.

Ceramic Building Material

There is a range brick, tile and drainage pipe, with small quantities recovered from six trenches. Most if not all of the diagnostic material is of 19th to 20th century date. This is likely to be demolition debris, some of which may have been brought to the areas of the trenches as hardcore to consolidate the surface of nearby field entranceways.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The fired clay should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage. The ceramic building material can be discarded.

References

~ 2002, Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material, version 3.3 [internet]. Available at:

https://www.archaeologicalceramics.com/uploads/1/1/9/3/11935072/ceramic_building_material_guidelines.pdf

The Flint

By Tom Lane

Introduction

Three flints from an evaluation at Gartree, Leicestershire (Site X.A104.2021), were submitted for assessment. All were found in secondary contexts.

Condition

All pieces were moderately abraded. No conservation measures are required ahead of deposition in a museum or similar repository.

Results

Table 1, the flint

Context	Description	No	Wt(g)	Date
1201	Core fragment. Bladelet core. Non-Patinated. 37 x 22 x 17mm	1	17	Mesolithic
1307	Flake. Waste. Cortex on much of Dorsal surface. Also, some flake scars. Slightly orangey-coloured flint. 27 x 20 x 9mm	1	5	Prehistoric
2602	Flake. Waste flake. Squat. Cortex on striking platform and distal end. The natural breakage on one lateral edge may have allowed temporary ad-hoc use as a point or awl but there is no evidence of any secondary working. Non-Patinated. 22 x 45 x 6mm	1	7	Prehistoric

Range & Potential

Three flints were located and submitted for assessment. All were from secondary contexts, topsoil (1201), a fill of a plough furrow (1307) and made ground (2602). The core from (1201) is of Mesolithic origin, but the other two are flakes and lack typologically diagnostic characteristics to enable close dating.

The collection is too small to warrant further analysis. However, should further work take place on the site the presence of struck flint there should be noted and provision made for further collection and analysis.

Abbreviations

No. Number

Wt(g) Weight (grams)

The Animal Bone

By Karen Deighton

Introduction

A small quantity of animal bone was collected from six contexts during the excavation.

Method

The material was analysed using standard zooarchaeological methods (see references) and recorded on to a Microsoft Access database.

Condition

Preservation was extremely poor, with only teeth surviving to be identified to taxa. The small quantity of bone present in contexts [1202] and [1404] was heavily fragmented and abraded, that in [1404] could be categorised by approximate size only and that in [1202] not at all (see table below).

Taxa present

Table 1, taxa by context (MNI)

Context	Cut	type	Cattle	Cattle size	Horse	Indeterminate	Total
202	-	Layer			1		1
1202	-	Layer				1	1
1404	1405	Ditch	1	1			2
1406	1407	Ditch	1				1
1409	1410	Ditch	1				1
1604	1605	Ditch	1				1
Total			4	1	1	1	7

Potential, significance, and recommendations

The potential and significance of the assemblage are severely prejudiced by its very poor preservation. No further work is recommended.

References

Schmid, E 1972 Atlas of animal bones London: Elsevier press

The Clay Tobacco Pipe

By Gary Taylor

Introduction and Methodology

The clay pipe was analysed in accordance with guidelines prepared by Davey (1981). Two fragments of clay pipe weighing a total of 3g were retrieved.

Condition

The clay pipe is in moderate-good condition but one of the pieces is abraded.

Results

Table 1 below shows a fully summary of the results.

Table 1, the clay pipe archive

Cxt	Bore diameters, /64"						Total	Wt(g)	Comments	Context date
	9	8	7	6	5	4				
805				1			1	1	Mouthpiece, abraded	17 th century
3203						1	1	2	stem	19 th century
Totals				1		1	2	3		

Provenance

The clay tobacco pipes were recovered from furrow fill (805), and a layer of made ground (3203). They are likely to be a fairly local products, perhaps made in nearby Market Harborough.

Discussion

A small quantity of clay tobacco pipe stem fragments was recovered. These are of 17th and 19th century date.

Potential and Recommendations

Slight dating evidence, and indications of smoking at the site, are provided by the clay tobacco pipe.

No further work is required, and the material could be discarded.

References

Davey, P, 1981 Guidelines for the processing and publication of clay pipes from excavations. *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales* **4**, 65-88

Abbreviations

Wt(g) Weight (grams)

Metal and Miscellaneous Finds

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Three metal items and one other item, together weighing a total of 348g were recovered.

Results

Table 1, the metal and miscellaneous finds

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt(g)	Context date
101	Copper alloy	Cap from fuel tank or possible filter, agricultural machinery	1	231	Early-mid 20 th century
102	Iron	Rod, apparently circular cross-section, one terminal has flattened chisel end; possible screw-driver shaft?	1	18	Post-medieval?
3203	Iron	Possible nail	1	37	
3402	Road surfacing material	Road surfacing material	1	62	Modern, 19 th -20 th century
Totals			4	348	

Provenance

The items were recovered from topsoil (101), subsoils (102) and (3402) and a layer of made ground (3203).

Discussion

A piece of agricultural machinery, the cap from a vehicle fuel tank of perhaps filter, was recovered from topsoil (101). It probably dates from the first half of the 20th century. A possible screw-driver shaft and nail were also found, these being retrieved from (102) and (3203), the former is likely to be post-medieval in date. A piece of modern road surfacing material came from subsoil (3402).

Potential and Recommendations

The finds are probably entirely of post-medieval to modern date and are of limited potential and significance. No further work is required, and the items can be discarded.

7 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The basic depositional sequence on the site is represented by: 1. Geological clay, mudstone and manganese layers, 2. The Iron Age period (see Figures 4 & 5), 3. Medieval/post-medieval furrows and field boundaries (Figure 6), 4. The Subsoil, 5. Early 20th century ceramic land drains, 6. RAF Market Harborough (Figures 3 & 6).
- 7.2 The natural substrate was encountered at varying depths across the site, dependent on the natural topography with respect to the elevated land above the brook and the slopes of the brook, which showed a fall in the height at the geological level, and the considerable effect of the airfield. In the eastern part of the site (Trenches 1-9) and the central areas west of the brook (Trenches 36-39, Trench 52 and Trenches 41-49) the geological substrate was typically between 0.30m and 0.50m below the present ground level. The geology was hard or firm clay with some rounded pebbles within it and tended to be orangey brown or yellowish-brown clay with some blueish grey or pale grey elements. A modest variation in this colouration was seen in trenches adjacent to the brook where the geology was often manganese-rich. This may be explained by these location's proximity to the brook where long term waterlogging and mineralization processes are more likely. These variations did not attract a geophysical signal.
- 7.3 Two large prehistoric ditch features were identified; one an Iron Age subcircular enclosure (**[1204]** and **[1209]** – Trench 12) with good potential for further enclosing ditches to the immediate east and southeast, and an area demarcated by a substantial north northeast by south southwest oriented ditch with a "V"-shaped profile (**[1304]**, a continuation of **[1410]**), with two westwards aligned spurs at each end – at least one of which deliberately ended with a terminus **[1605]**. That the feature is associated with ironworking nearby, and dates to the Iron Age, is significant and raises the potential of nearby anomalies with the same strong geophysical signature that lie within the ecological exclusions zone to the immediate north of Trenches 12 and 13.
- 7.4 Agricultural features across the site were typically represented by shallow and wide furrows. All the furrows that were surveyed and excavated were

- orientated in the directions suggested by the geophysical survey. Dating evidence suggest the ridge and furrow was active well into the post-medieval period.
- 7.5 The relatively wide margin of 0.30-0.50m of overburden covering the geological substrate is generally explained by the presence or absence of a clay subsoil, which was broadly uniform in appearance with agricultural furrows and always overlay the fills of furrows, frequently with only moderate horizontal clarity. The general date range of the subsoil – later post-medieval – corresponds to our understanding of the shift in land use in the parish from medieval ploughing to post-medieval pasture during which period potentially shallow ridge and furrow earthworks broke down and siltation formed an overlaying subsoil.
- 7.6 Between the brook and the dispersal strip the undisturbed natural horizon only survived in limited areas. The signals mapped by the geophysical survey in this area were explained by modern features, typically land drains containing tarmacadam crush, but also a modern ditch and some cables. The made ground showed clear signs that ground reduction had taken place in many areas; for example, in Trenches 26, 28, 29, 32 and 33 where no agricultural subsoil was seen and in the majority of trenches the geological layer had also been truncated. The made ground between the brook and the dispersal strip appeared to be redeposited geology and may have come from areas beneath the runways.
- 7.7 The small brick feature **{3206}**, was found to be associated with the concrete dispersal strip and is probably the foundations of a square drain, light or communications point – a metal cable was discovered in the same trench, but this was inconclusive.
- 7.8 At the north end of the site within Trench 35 demolition debris was recorded, most likely from the known airfield buildings there. In Trench 50 very large blocks of concrete were exposed as well as an old cable trench. It is likely that these too, were part of the associated Operations Block buildings. However, the same trench, and Trench 51 also featured agricultural furrows which suggests that the truncation by structures in Trenches 50 and 51 were quite localized. It seems likely that the main buildings lay rather closer to the

retained concrete access strip in the field.

Whilst the majority of the site identified limited potential for archaeological deposits or features, an apparently contained but significant area of archaeological survival was recorded within the area east of the dispersal strip focused on Trenches 12 to 16. Middle Iron Age ditches, possibly including an enclosure, and associated pottery and ironworking waste have been recorded. The evaluation and preceding geophysical survey indicate that this activity is limited in extent to Trench 16 to the south and west, up to approximately 20m to the east of Trench 12, but may also extend to the geophysical anomalies to the north of Trenches 12 and 13 in the current badger exclusion zone. Whilst this area has not been subject to truncation associated with the airfield infrastructure and later 20th century activity, the features are relatively close to the present ground level at 0.30-0.40m – typically 112.57m AOD-113.08m AOD – and would be impacted by the groundworks proposed within this area of the site. It is therefore anticipated that further archaeological mitigation will be required within this zone.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Pick Everard for commissioning the work and Wates for facilitating the fieldwork on site. PCA are also grateful to Richard Clark, Team Manager (Heritage), Leicestershire County Council, for his advice and for monitoring the work. The author would also like to thank the project team: Gareth Morgan, Nathaniel Bidgood-Shelley and Martha Carruthers. Illustrations were produced by Mark Roughley. Finds analysis was conducted by Alex Beeby, Gary Taylor, Tom Lane and Karen Deighton. The author would also like to thank Jim for mowing the trench areas and sharing much local knowledge. The project was managed by Tim Bradley.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

9.1 Printed Sources

Brown, D.H. 2011 *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum

CIFA. 2014a *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

CIFA. 2014b *Code of Approved Conduct for the Regulation of Arrangements in Field Archaeology*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

CIFA. 2014c *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*, Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists, Reading

Cooper, N (ed), 2006 *The Archaeology of the East Midlands, An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph **13**,

English Heritage. 2005 *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*, English Heritage, London

English Heritage. 2007 *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes: A Guide to good recording practice*, English Heritage, Swindon

English Heritage. 2011 *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*, English Heritage, London

Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031.

HE. 2015 *Management of Archaeological Research Projects in the Historic Environment*, (MoRPHE), Historic England, London

HE. 2017. *Military Structures: Listing Selection Guide*, Historic England, London

J M Lee and R A McKinley 2021, 'Foxton', in *A History of the County of Leicestershire: Volume 5, Gartree Hundred* (London, 1964), pp. 90-96. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/leics/vol5/pp90-96>

[accessed 15 December 2021].

Leicestershire County Council, 2018 Generic Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Trial Trenching).

Magnitude Surveys, 2021 Geophysical Survey Report Raven – Geophysical Survey, Magnitude Surveys Ref: MSSP976

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2021 *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021)

Orion Heritage, 2021 Gartree 2, Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, Report Reference PN2765/DBA/3.

PCA 2021. Land at Raven, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation. Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, October 2021.

Perrin, K *et al.* 2014 *A Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe, EAC Guidelines 1*, Europae Archaeologia Consilium: Namur

Stace, C. 2010 *The new Flora of the British Isles, 3rd edition*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

Taylor, J. and Brown, G. 2018 *Fieldwork Induction Manual: Operations Manual 1*, Pre-Construct Archaeology, London, Unpublished internal document

Webster, J. 2018 *Fieldwork Operations Manual Regional Variation Addendum; Warwick*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, Warwick, Unpublished internal document

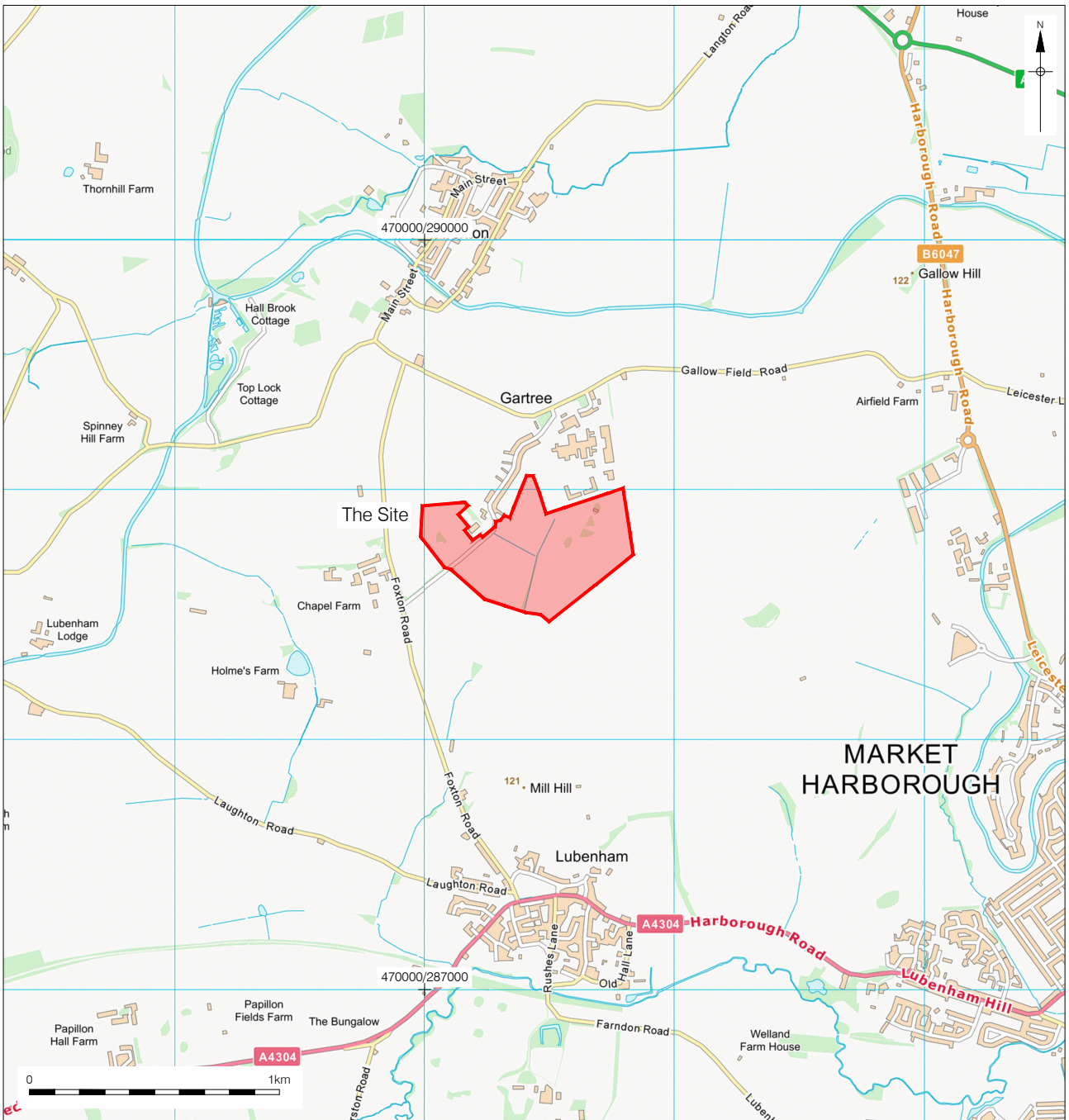
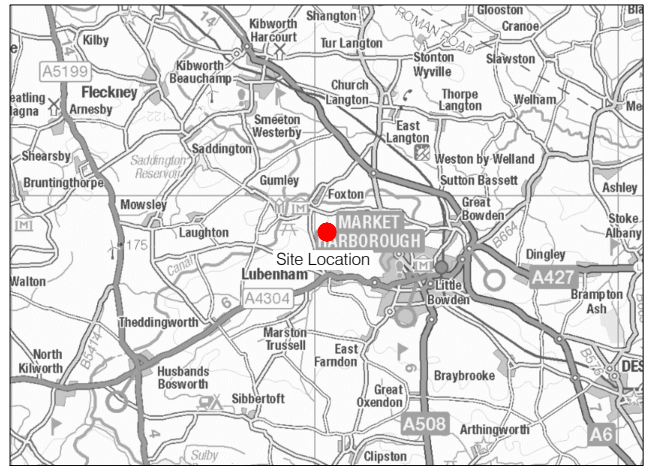
9.2 Websites

1) British Geological Survey (Date accessed: 02/12/2021)

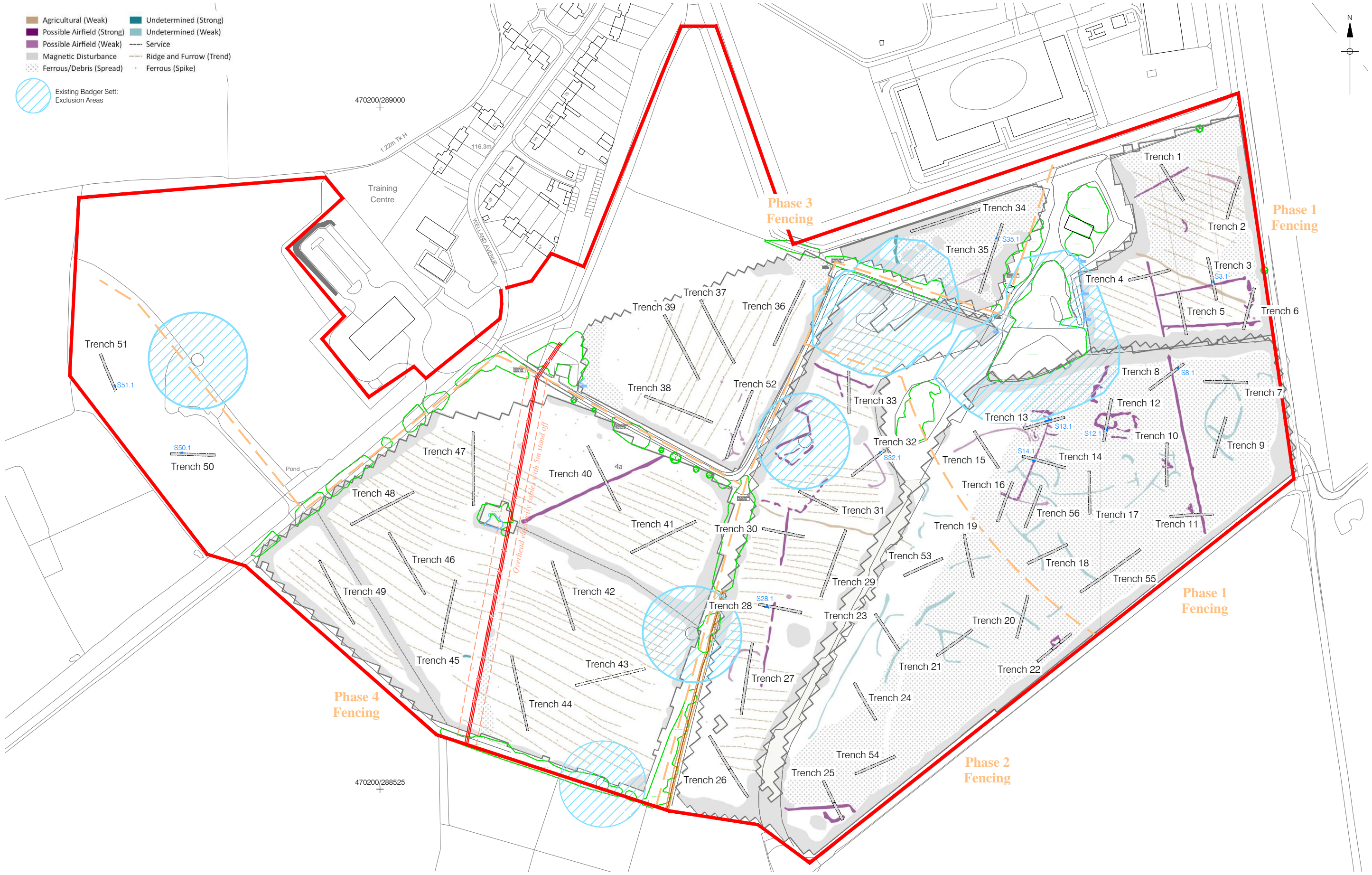
[Geology of Britain viewer - British Geological Survey \(bgs.ac.uk\)](https://www.bgs.ac.uk/geology-of-britain-viewer/)

2) LandIs: Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute Soilscales (Date accessed: 02/12/2021) <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/>

3) British History Online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/leics/vol5/pp90-96> (Date accessed: 15/12/2021).



- Agricultural (Weak)
- Undetermined (Strong)
- Possible Airfield (Strong)
- Undetermined (Weak)
- Possible Airfield (Weak)
- Service
- Magnetic Disturbance
- Ridge and Furrow (Trend)
- Ferrous/Debris (Spread)
- Ferrous (Spike)
- Existing Badger Sett: Exclusion Areas



0 100m

Figure 2
 Detailed Site and Trench Locations overlain on Geophysical Survey results
 1:2,500 at A3



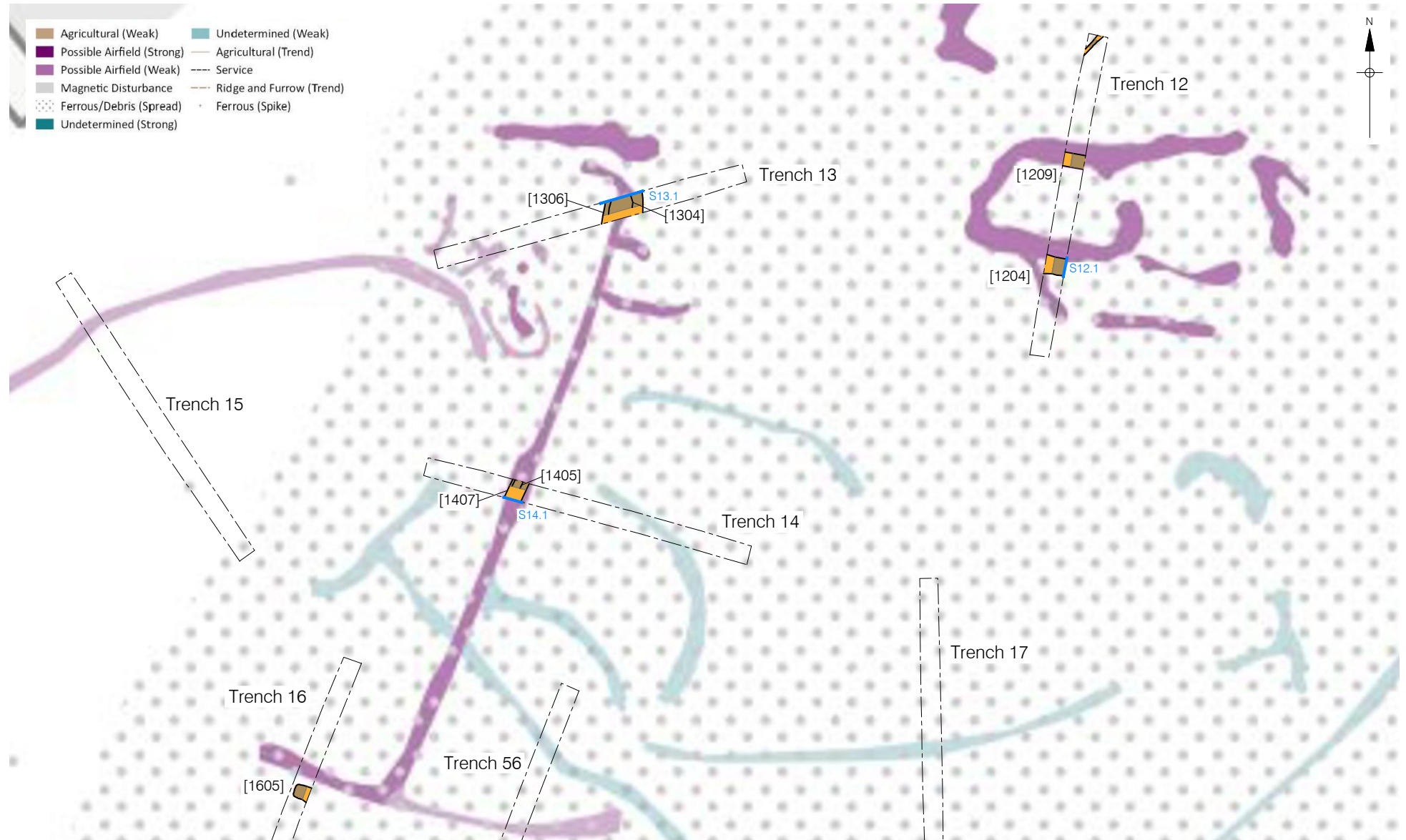
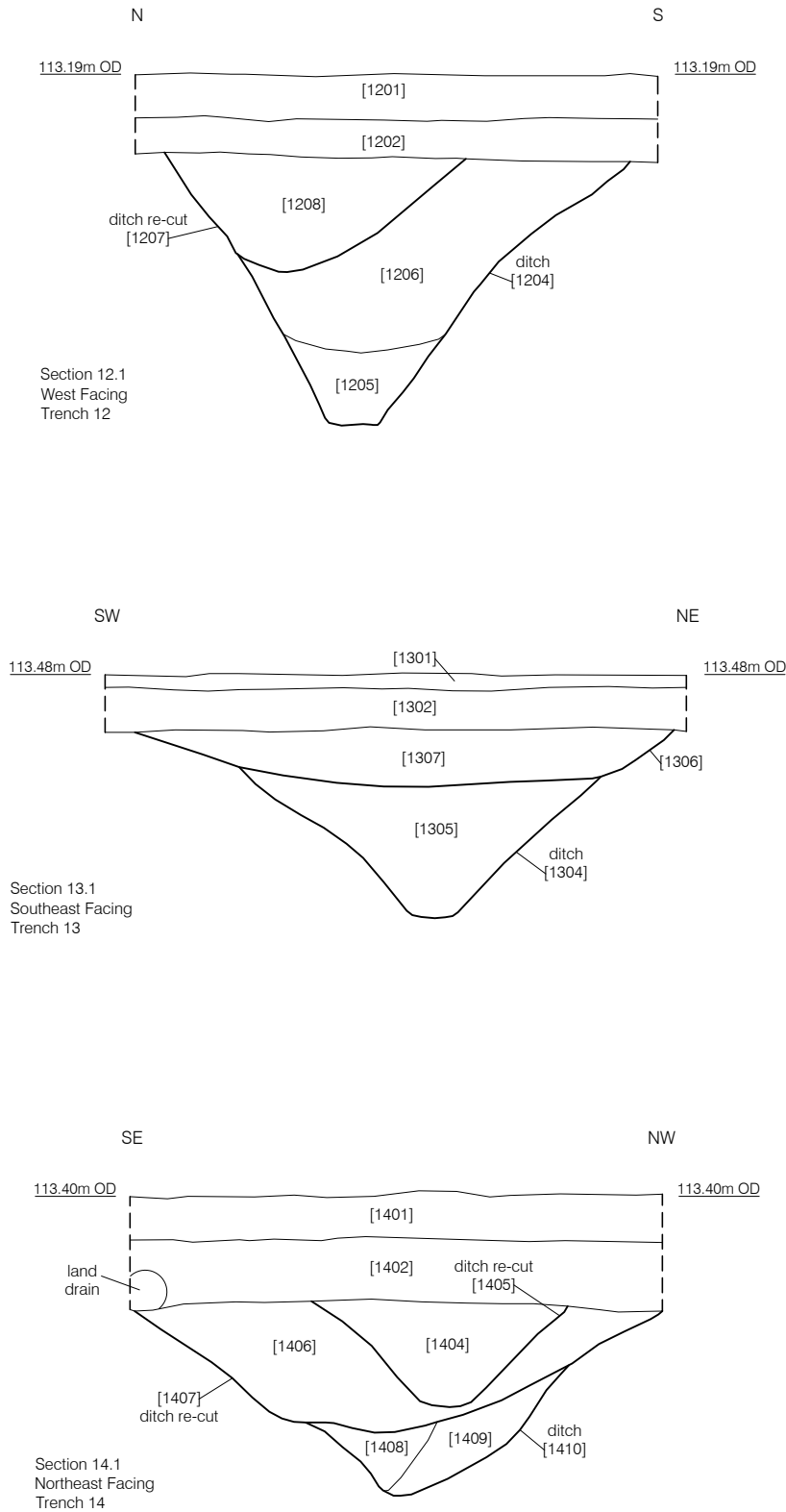
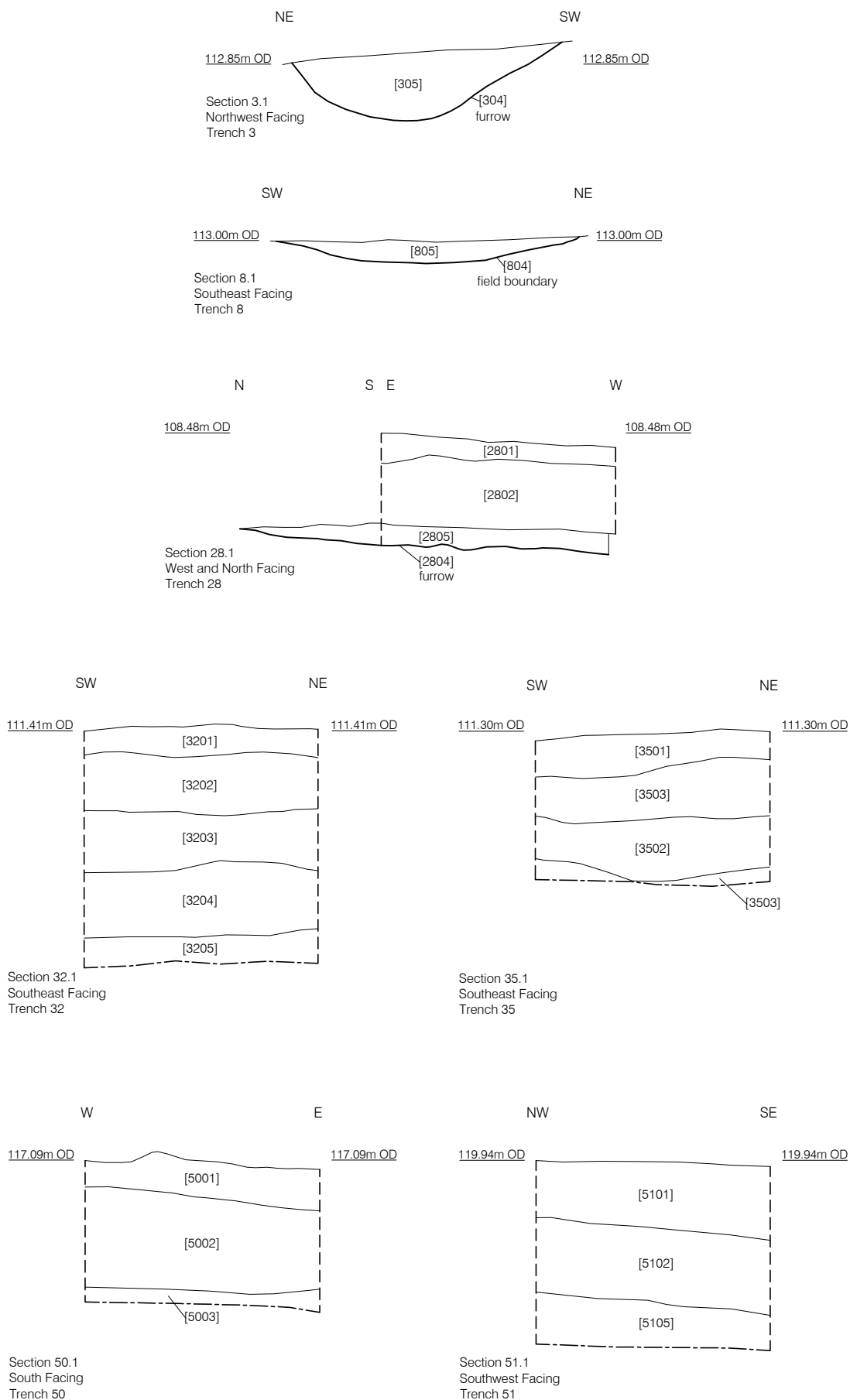


Figure 4
Detailed Plan of features in the Archaeological Area overlain on the Geophysical Survey Results
1:500 at A4





10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: The stipulated ecological mowing undertaken for every trench (Trench 2, Looking southwest).



Plate 2: Trench 7, showing the typical appearance of the geological substrate, in this case **(703)**, underlying subsoil **(702)** and topsoil/turf **(701)** (1m scale; looking east).



Plate 3: The mudstone bedrock (**1802**) in Trench 18, which registered a weak geophysical signal and is represented by a pale blue line in Figure 2 (1m scale; looking east). NB. The geology in this trench lay directly under the topsoil and the bedrock seam was 0.22m below the present ground level.



Plate 4: The contrast between geological clay (foreground) and purple, manganese-rich geology (background) in Trench 13: see also Plate 9 (1m scale; looking ENE).



Plate 5: Test pit in Trench 11 demonstrating the non-archaeological nature of the manganese which, in this case, corresponded to a large strong geophysical (purple) anomaly in the geophysical survey (1m scale; looking south).



Plate 6: Sterile blueish grey natural deposit (**1004**) within Trench 10 (1m scale; looking east).



Plate 7: An elevated view of ditch **[1204]** and recut **[1207]** showing the straight, steeply sloping sides and pointed base (Section 12.1). The recut is located below the red part of the scale. See also Figure 5 (1m scale; looking east).



Plate 8: Ditch **[1209]**, which lies ~7.5m north of **[1204]** and **[1207]** (1m scale, looking east).



Plate 9: Iron Age ditch **[1304]**, overlain by a potential furrow **[1305]**, subsoil **(1302)** and topsoil **(1301)** (see Figure 5). The ditch contained much ironworking slag in its single fill and the potential furrow's fill held slag and a prehistoric worked flint.



Plate 10: The Iron Age ditch **[1407]**, which is part of the “L”-shaped feature seen in Trench 13 and 16, and also contained ironworking slag in two of its deposits (1m scale; looking south).



Plate 11: The terminus of the east-west ditch spur which probably connects to [1304] and [1407]. This feature held only a small amount of pottery and no ironworking waste.



Plate 12: Agricultural Furrow [4203], looking northeast (1m scale).



Plate 13: Trench 28 which revealed agricultural furrow [2804] at the western end, overlain by 0.58m of made ground (2802) which diminished in thickness to the east, creating a moderately steep bank above the brook and a 'plateau' uniform in elevation to the concrete dispersal strip (background of the shot). A modern land drain of asphalt crush is seen in the middle ground beyond the excavated furrow (Looking east; 1m scale).



Plate 14: The composition of the made ground in Trench 26, which was typical of that in Trenches 27-30 and 32 & 33 (1m scale).



Plate 15: The test pit in Trench 26 which revealed a blue clay geological material (**2605**) at around 2m below the present ground level, which is presumed to be the geological horizon (1m scale).



Plate 16: The test pit in Trench 33 which revealed a blue-grey clay geological material with an orange hue (**3303**) at around 1.60m below the present ground level, which is presumed to be the geological horizon (1m scale)



Plate 17: View along Trench 32 showing the concrete dispersal strip (3207) and the underlying brick foundations of a small structure {3206} and pebble deposit (3208) in the foreground, with made ground (3202, 3203 & 3204) in the sides of the trench in the centre of the image overlaying geology (appearing yellow in the image) (3205). In the middle ground and the rear of the trench is made ground (3204), which increases in depth from this point and thickened to around 1.30m below the present ground level (looking southwest; 1m scale).



Plate 18: The northern end of Trench 35 held a layer of made ground, **(3502)**, which contained cobble- and boulder-sized broken blocks of concrete (Looking south; 1m scale).



Plate 19: A cable within Trench 50 which is probably associated with the Operations Block buildings nearby (Looking east; 1m scale).



Plate 20: Made ground/dump of tarmac or asphalt crush in Trench 22 (Looking southeast; 1m scale).

11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Trench 1

Length: 30m Width: 1.5m Orientation: NNW-SSE
 Depth: 0.49m – 0.78m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
100	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
101	Layer	Light brownish, grey clayey silt.	0.27m	Topsoil
102	Layer	Light brownish grey, silty clay.	0.4m	Subsoil Finds of medieval and post medieval pot/CBM.
103	Layer	Dark brownish grey, silty clay.	N/A	Natural

Trench 2

Length: 30m Width: 1.5m Orientation: N-S
 Depth: 0.44m – 0.79m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
200	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
201	Layer	Light brownish grey, clayey silt.	0.22m	Topsoil
202	Layer	Light greyish brown, silty clay.	0.52m	Subsoil
203	Layer	Light brownish yellow, silty clay.	N/A	Natural
[204]	Cut	Linear feature. Moderately sloping sides with a flat base. Orientation – E-W.	L – 1m+ W – 2.14m D – 0.6m	Cut of furrow diffusing into the subsoil meaning horizons are difficult to see, but does seem to cut the subsoil.
205	Fill	Mid greyish brown, firm compaction with rare rounded stones and moderate charcoal.	L – 1m+ W – 2.14m D – 0.6m	Fill of furrow [204]. No finds or dating material but [204] seems to cut the subsoil.

Trench 3

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NNW-SSE
 Depth: 0.45 – 0.69m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
300	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
301	Layer	Light brownish grey, clayey silt.	0.28m	Topsoil
302	Layer	Mid greyish brown, silty clay.	0.1m	Subsoil
303	Layer	Light brownish yellow, silty clay.	N/A	Natural
[304]	Cut	Linear feature sloped sides with a concave base. Orientation - ENE-WSW	L – 1m+ W – 1.16m D – 0.29m	Cut of ditch. Ditch forming field boundary. Visible on geophys. Single pot shard found in (305)
305	Fill	Mid blueish grey. Firm clayey silt.	L – 1m+ W – 1.16m D – 0.29m	Fill of ditch [304]. Single pot shard found.

Trench 4

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: E-W
 Depth: 0.42m – 0.74m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
400	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
401	Layer	Mid brownish grey. Clayey silt.	0.20m	Topsoil
402	Layer	Light brownish grey, silty clay.	0.25m	Subsoil
403	Layer	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay.	N/A	Natural

Trench 5

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: N-S
 Depth: 0.41m – 0.56m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
500	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
501	Layer	Light brownish grey. Clayey silt.	0.22m	Topsoil
502	Layer	Light brownish grey, silty clay.	0.14m	Subsoil
503	Layer	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Firm compaction.	N/A	Natural

Trench 6

Length: 30m Width: 1.7m Orientation: NNE-SSW
 Depth: 0.33m – 0.45m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
600	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
601	Layer	Light brownish grey. Clayey silt. Firm compaction. Spreads of burnt tarmac.	0.20m	Topsoil
602	Layer	Light brownish grey. Silty clay.	0.15m	Subsoil
603	Layer	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Firm compaction	N/A	Natural

Trench 7

Length: 30m Width: 1.7m Orientation: E-W
 Depth: 0.35m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
700	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
701	Layer	Light brownish grey. Clayey silt.	0.20m	Topsoil
702	Layer	Light brownish grey, silty clay.	0.11m	Subsoil
703	Layer	Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. Firm compaction	N/A	Natural

Trench 8

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NE-SW
 Depth: 0.24m – 0.47M

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
800	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
801	Layer	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay.	0.2m	Topsoil
802	Layer	Dark greyish brown. Silty clay.	0.15m	Subsoil
803	Layer	Mid brownish yellow. Silty clay	N/A	Natural
[804]	Cut	Linear feature with shallow sides and a flat base. Orientation – E-W	L – 1m+ W – 1.29m D – 0.16m	Cut of furrow. Single secondary fill.
805	Fill	Mid yellowish brown. Silty clay with firm	L – 1m+ W – 1.29m	Fill of furrow [804] Single secondary fill.

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
		compaction.	D – 0.16m	Clay pipe found in fill.

Trench 9

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NE-SW

Depth: 0.37m – 0.42

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
900	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
901	Layer	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay.	0.20m	Topsoil
902	Layer	Dark greyish brown. Silty clay.	0.13m	Subsoil
903	Layer	Light brownish yellow with greyish blue flecks. Silty clay.	N/A	Natural

Trench 10

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NNE-SSW

Depth: 0.11m – 0.41m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1000	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
1001	Layer	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay.	0.11m	Topsoil
1002	Layer	Dark greyish brown. Silty clay.	0.30m	Subsoil
1003	Layer	Light brownish yellow with greyish blue flecks. Silty clay.	0.18m	Natural
1004	Layer	Light greyish blue. Silty clay, firm compaction. Moderate manganese inclusions.	0.21m	Natural silting layer

Trench 11

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

Depth: 0.33m – 0.98m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1100	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
1101	Layer	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay.	0.28m	Topsoil
1102	Layer	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay.	0.15m	Subsoil
1103	Layer	Light brownish yellow	N/A	Natural

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
		with greyish blue flecks, plus mid brownish orange. Silty clay.		

Trench 12

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Orientation: NE-SW

Depth: 0.31m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1200	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
1201	Layer	Light brownish, grey clayey silt.	0.15m	Topsoil
1202	Layer	Light brownish grey, silty clay.	0.14m	Subsoil
1203	Layer	Dark brownish grey, silty clay.	N/A	Natural
[1204]	Cut	Linear feature with steep sloping sides and a flat base, orientated E-W.	L – 1m+ W – 1.6m D – 0.96m	Ditch running E-W. V-shaped ditch, synonymous with Romans so possibly a Roman feature.
1205	Fill	Light greyish blue. Silty clay, firm compaction. Inclusions of moderate charcoal.	L - 1m+ W - 0.54m D - 0.3m	Lower fill of ditch [1204]. No finds or dating material.
1206	Fill	Dark greyish blue with orange flecks. Silty clay, firm compaction with moderate inclusions of charcoal.	L - 1m+ W - 1.35m D – 0.66m	Upper fill of ditch [1204]. Iron age pot found.
[1207]	Cut	Linear feature with moderate sloping sides and a concave base, orientated E-W.	L – 1m+ W – 1.04m D – 0.39m	Re-cut of ditch [1204]
1208	Fill	Light greyish blue with dark orange flecks. Silty clay, firm compaction with inclusion of single medium sized rounded stone.	L – 1m+ W – 1.04m D – 0.39m	Fill of ditch [1207]. Single secondary fill.
[1209]	Cut	Linear feature with steep sloping sides and a flat base, orientated WNW-ESE.	L – 1m+ W – 1.28m D – 0.61m	Cut of ditch which runs parallel to [1204]. Land drain running on the same alignment as [1209] which cuts (1211)
1210	Fill	Light greyish blue with yellow flecks. Silty clay, firm compaction with rare inclusions of large, rounded stones.	L – 1m+ W – 0.66m D – 0.23m	Lower fill of [1209]. Secondary fill.

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1211	Fill	Mid greyish blue. Silty clay, firm compaction with rare inclusions of medium rounded stones and moderate charcoal.	L – 1m+ W – 1.28m D – 0.38m	Upper fill of ditch [1209]. Cut by land drain [1212].
[1212]	Cut	Linear feature with steep sides and a V-shaped base, orientated WNW-ESE.	L – 1m+ W – 0.41m D – 0.25m	Cut of land drain.
1213	Fill	Mid greyish blue. Silty clay, firm compaction.	L – 1m+ W – 0.41m D – 0.25m	Fill of land drain [1212]
[1214]	Cut	Linear feature with moderate sloping sides and a concave base, orientated NE-SW.	L – 1m+ W – 0.3m D – 0.06m	Shallow cut of linear.
1215	Fill	Dark blueish grey. Silty clay, firm compaction.	L – 1m+ W – 0.3m D – 0.06m	Fill of ditch [1214]. Single secondary fill. Piece of post-medieval pot found.

Trench 13

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Orientation: ENE-WSW

Depth: 0.22m – 0.57m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1300	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
1301	Layer	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay.	0.12m	Topsoil
1302	Layer	Mid brownish grey, silty clay	0.29m	Subsoil
1303	Layer	Light orangey brown, silty clay. Firm compaction with inclusions of ironstone and manganese.	0.30m	Natural
[1304]	Cut	Linear feature with steep / straight sides and a flat base, orientated N-S.	L – 1m+ W – 2.5m D – 0.84m	Cut of large V-shaped ditch truncated by furrow [1306]. Feature is situated near to ditches [1204] and [1209].
1305	Fill	Mid blueish grey. Silty clay, firm compaction with rare inclusions of large rounded stones.	L – 1m+ W – 2.5m D – 0.84m	Fill of ditch [1304]. Single secondary fill.
[1306]	Cut	Linear feature with shallow sloping sides and a concave base.	L – 1m+ W – 3.7m D – 0.37m	Cut of furrow, truncates and sits on top of ditch [1304]. Pot found in furrow but is likely from

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
				the ditch below.
1307	Fill	Mid blueish grey with red flecks. Silty clay, firm compaction.	L – 1m+ W – 3.7m D – 0.37m	Fill of furrow [1306]. Single secondary fill.

Trench 14

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: E-W
 Depth: 0.36m – 0.51m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1400	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
1401	Layer	Mid brownish grey. Clayey silt, friable compaction	0.16m	Topsoil
1402	Layer	Mid yellowish brown. Silty clay, firm compaction.	0.25m	Subsoil
1403	Layer	Light greyish yellow clay plus brownish grey gravelly clay. Firm compaction.	N/A	Natural
1404	Fill	Light brownish grey. Clayey silt with firm compaction.	L – 1m+ W – 0.87m D – 0.36m	Fill of ditch [1405]. Single fill, natural infilling. Iron age pot, CBM and Fe slag recovered.
[1405]	Cut	Linear feature with moderate steep sides and a concave base, orientated N-S.	L – 1m+ W – 0.87m D – 0.36m	Cut of ditch with a single fill. Possible boundary of small industrial area.
1406	Fill	Mid orangey grey. Clayey silt, firm compaction.	L- 1m+ W – 1.82m D – 0.44m	Fill of ditch [1407]. Single fill and natural infilling with a charcoal-rich dumping lens. Iron age pot, CBM, bone and Fe slag recovered.
[1407]	Cut	Linear feature with moderately sloping sides and a concave/flat base, orientated N-S	L- 1m+ W – 1.82m D – 0.44m	Cut of ditch. Re-cut of [1410]
1408	Fill	Bright greyish yellow. Clay of a firm compaction	L – 1m+ W – 0.34m D – 0.20m	Upper fill of ditch [1410]. Redeposited natural fill, potentially sealing (1409). CBM, pot, bone and Fe slag recovered.
1409	Fill	Mid brownish grey firm compacted fill. Clayey	L – 1m+ W – 0.27m	Lower fill of ditch [1410].

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
		silty composition plus inclusions of charcoal.	D – 0.26m	CBM, pot, bone and Fe slag recovered.
[1410]	Cut	Linear feature with steep sides and a concave base, orientated N-S.	L – 1m+ W – 0.66m D- 0.24m	Cut of ditch. Possibly an original boundary ditch for small scale industrial area to the NE.

Trench 15

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NW-SE
 Depth: 0.48m – 0.53m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1500	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
1501	Layer	Mid brownish grey. Clayey silt, friable compaction	0.16m	Topsoil
1502	Layer	Mid yellowish brown. Silty clay, firm compaction.	0.28m	Subsoil
1503	Layer	Light greyish yellow clay plus brownish grey gravelly clay. Firm compaction.	N/A	Natural

Trench 16

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: N-S
 Depth: 0.47m – 0.58m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1600	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
1601	Layer	Mid brownish grey. Clayey silt, friable compaction	0.14m	Topsoil
1602	Layer	Mid yellowish brown. Silty clay, firm compaction.	0.29m	Subsoil
1603	Layer	Light greyish yellow clay plus brownish grey gravelly clay. Firm compaction.	N/A	Natural
1604	Fill	Mid blueish grey. Silty clay, Firm compaction.	L – 1m+ W- 1.38m D- 0.52m	Fill of terminus [1605]. Natural infilling. Iron age pot and animal bone recovered.
[1605]	Cut	Linear feature (terminus) with	L – 1m+ W- 1.38m	Cut of ditch. Possibly part of a

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
		moderate steep sides and a concave base.	D- 0.52m	boundary for small industrial area alongside [1410].

Trench 17

Length: 30m Width: 1.5m Orientation: N-S

Depth: 0.45m – 0.55m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1700	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
1701	Layer	Mid brownish grey. Clayey silt, friable compaction	0.13m	Topsoil
1702	Layer	Mid yellowish brown. Silty clay, firm compaction.	0.27m	Subsoil
1703	Layer	Light greyish yellow clay plus brownish grey gravelly clay. Firm compaction.	N/A	Natural

Trench 18

Length: 30m Width: 1.7m Orientation: NE-SW

Depth: 0.25m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1800	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
1801	Layer	Light brownish, grey clayey silt.	0.25m	Topsoil
1802	Layer	Dark brownish grey, silty clay.	N/A	Natural

Trench 19

Length: 30m Width: 1.5m Orientation: N-S

Depth: 0.52m – 0.58m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1900	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
1901	Layer	Mid brownish grey. Clayey silt, firm compaction	0.15m	Topsoil
1902	Layer	Mid orangey grey. Silty clay firm compaction	0.28m	Subsoil
1903	Layer	Mid greyish orange and blueish grey.	N/A	Natural

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
		Firm compaction, clay.		

Trench 20

Length: 30m Width: 1.7m Orientation: N-S
 Depth: 0.48m -0.52m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2000	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
2001	Layer	Mid brownish grey. Clayey silt, firm compaction	0.14m	Topsoil
2002	Layer	Mid orangey grey. Silty clay firm compaction	0.25m	Subsoil
2003	Layer	Mid greyish orange, clay plus mid blueish grey clay. Both firm compaction	N/A	Natural

Trench 21

Length: 30m Width: 1.5m Orientation: SE-NW
 Depth: 0.43m – 0.49

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2100	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
2101	Layer	Dark brownish grey. Clayey silt	0.14m	Topsoil
2102	Layer	Light brownish grey. Silty clay. Firm compaction	0.32m	Subsoil
2103	Layer	Orangey brown clay. Firm compaction	N/A	Natural

Trench 22

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NE-SW
 Depth: 0.35m -0.60m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2200	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
2201	Layer	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, firm compaction. Very rare inclusions of	0.12m	Topsoil

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
		stone.		
2202	Layer	Mid yellowish grey. Silty clay with patches of orangey blue grey clay. Firm compaction.	0.29m	Redeposited layer
2203	Layer	Dark greyish black thin layer of eroded tarmac likely dating back to World War Two airbase.	0.07m	Layer of tarmac
2204	Layer	Light greyish blue. Silty clay. Firm compaction.	0.06m	Natural

Trench 23

Length: 30m Width: 1.7m Orientation: NW-SE
 Depth: 0.50m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2300	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
2301	Layer	Mid brownish grey. Clayey silt, firm compaction	0.10m	Topsoil
2302	Layer	Mid greyish silty clay. Firm compaction. Occasional inclusion of rounded ironstone.	0.15m-0.20m	Subsoil
2303	Layer	Blueish grey silty clay with orangey brown clay. Occasional inclusion of iron stone.	0.15m	Natural

Trench 24

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: SE-NW
 Depth: 0.35 – 0.51m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2400	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
2401	Layer	Mid brownish grey. Clayey silt. Firm compaction with rare inclusions of stone.	0.14m	Topsoil
2402	Layer	Mid blueish grey. Silty clay. Firm compaction with	0.20m	Subsoil

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
		very rare inclusions of stone.		
2403	Layer	Light orangey grey with blue streaks. Silty clay. Firm compaction.	0.10m	Natural

Trench 25

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: SE-NW
 Depth: 0.32 – 0.66m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2500	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
2501	Layer	Mid brownish grey. Clayey silt. Firm compaction with rare inclusions of stone.	0.13m	Topsoil
2502	Layer	Mid blueish grey. Silty clay. Very rare inclusions of stone.	0.30m	Subsoil
2503	Layer	Light orange and blueish grey. Silty clay. Firm compaction.	0.10m	Natural
[2504]	Cut	Linear feature with sloping concave sides and an uneven/undulating base, orientated SW-NE	L – 1.8+ W- 0.56M D- 0.09M	Cut of very shallow linear feature/ possible furrow or plough scar.
2505	Fill	Mid blueish grey. Silty clay. Firm compaction.	L – 1.8+ W- 0.56M D- 0.09M	Fill of linear [2504] Secondary fill of possible furrow. Formed by natural process of erosion and infilling.

Trench 25

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NW-SE
 Depth: 0.63m – 1.3m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2600	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
2601	Layer	Mid brownish grey. Clayey silt.	-	Topsoil

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
		Firm compaction.		
2602	Layer	Orangey brown and blueish grey. Potentially alluvial due to hill wash. Silty clay.	-	Made ground Finds of flint.
2603	Layer	Mid blueish grey with orange streaks. Silty clay. Moderately firm compaction.	-	Made ground
2604	Layer	Light yellowish grey clay and mid greyish blue with orange streaks. Firm compaction. Inclusions of brick and charcoal. (deliberate backfill, likely dumped from area 1 where subsoil was removed to flatten area for ww2 airbase)	0.53m	Made ground
2605	Layer	Blueish clay.	N/A	Natural

Trench 27

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: N-S
 Depth: 0.25m-0.57m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2700	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
2701	Layer	Mid brownish grey. Clayey silt, moderately compact.	0.25m	Topsoil
2702	Layer	Mid orangey grey. Silty clay. Firm compaction.	0.32m	Subsoil
2703	Layer	Light blueish grey with orangey greystreaks. Silty clay. Firm compaction	N/A	Natural

Trench 28

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: E-W
 Depth: 0.44m-0.71m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2800	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2801	Layer	Mid brownish grey. Clayey silt. Loose compaction.	0.13m	Topsoil
2802	Layer	Mix: - Light blue and orange grey clay and mid grey silty clay. (deliberately dumped layer like in trench 26).	0.58m	Made ground
2803	Layer	Light beige grey with blue with blue streaks, silty clay. Firm compaction.	N/A	Natural
[2804]	Cut	Linear feature with shallow sloping concave sides and a flat base, orientated NE-SW.	L – 1.95m+ W- 1.20m D- 0.20m	Cut of shallow linear. Likely to be a furrow.
2805	Fill	Light greyish blue with orange streaks. Silty clay. Firm compaction with rare inclusions of manganese, glazed pot and fragment of red brick.	L – 1.95m+ W- 1.20m D- 0.20m	Secondary fill of possible furrow [2804]. Likely formed by natural process of erosion and silting. Contained glazed pot.

Trench 29

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NE-SW
 Depth: 0.30m-0.74m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2900	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
2901	Layer	Mid greyish brown, silty clay.	0.08m	Topsoil
2902	Layer	Light brownish grey. Silty clay.	0.2m	Made ground
2903	Layer	Mid brownish brown, silty clay.	0.27m	Subsoil
2904	Layer	Light brownish yellow, silty clay.	N/A	Natural
[2905]	Cut	Linear feature with shallow sloping sides and a flat base, orientated NW-SE	L – 1m+ W – 0.55m D- 0.1m	Cut of furrow. Truncated by land drain [2907]. Same feature as [2909]
2906	Fill	Mid yellowish grey. Silty clay, firm compaction.	L – 1m+ W – 0.55m D- 0.1m	Fill of furrow [2905]. Secondary fill.
[2907]	Cut	Linear feature with steep / sharp sides and a flat base.	L- 1m+ W- 0.29m D- 0.2m	Cut of land drain.
2908	Fill	Mid blueish grey silty clay. Firm compaction.	L- 1m+ W- 0.29m D- 0.2m	Fill of land drain [2907].

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
[2909]	Cut	Linear feature with shallow sloping sides and a flat base, orientated NW-SE.	L- 1m+ W- 0.36m D- 0.1m	Cut of furrow. Same as [2905].
2910	Fill	Mid yellowish grey silty clay. Firm compaction.	L- 1m+ W- 0.36m D- 0.1m	Fill of furrow [2909]. Same as (2906).

Trench 30

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: E-W
 Depth: 0.24m-0.80m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
3000	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
3001	Layer	Dark greyish brown. Silty clay.	0.08m	Topsoil
3002	Layer	Mid brownish grey. Silty clay.	0.35m	Subsoil
3003	Layer	Mid brownish yellow. Silty clay.	N/A	Natural

Trench 31

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: E-W
 Depth: 0.58m-0.87m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
3100	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
3101	Layer	Mid greyish brown. Silty clay, firm compaction.	0.17m	Topsoil
3102	Layer	Mid brownish grey. Silty clay, firm compaction with inclusions of manganese.	0.31m	Deposited layer. Made ground.
3103	Layer	Light greyish orange with blue streaks. Silty clay, firm compaction	0.20m+	Natural
[3104]	Cut	Linear feature with steep concave sides. Base unknown as feature was ruled out as modern so was not fully excavated.	L- 1.8m W- 1.20m D- 0.42m	Cut of modern ditch as filled with bricks, plastic and metal. Cuts made ground (3102) which is likely from WW2 airbase.
3105	Fill	Mid blueish grey with patches of light	L- 1.8m W- 1.20m	Deliberate backfill of modern ditch [3104],

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
		greyish orange. Silty clay, firm compaction with frequent inclusions of red brick, metal and plastic inclusions at bottom of fill	D- 0.42m	contains red brick, metal and plastic at bottom of fill.

Trench 32

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: SW-NE
 Depth: 0.24m-0.80m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
3200	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
3201	Layer	Mid greyish brown. Clayey silt.	0.10m	Topsoil
3202	Layer	Mid brownish grey, silty clay with inclusions of iron stone.	0.24m	Deposited layer. Made ground.
3203	Layer	Light yellowish grey. Silty clay with inclusions of iron stone, iron nail and clay pipe.	0.26m	Deposited layer. Made ground
3204	Layer	Mid blueish grey. Silty clay with inclusions of manganese.	0.28m	Deposited layer. Made ground.
3205	Layer	Light orangey grey. Silty clay.	0.13m+	Natural
3206	Structure	Red brick square structure.	L- 230mm W- 120m D- 60mm	Square brick structure likely associated with WW2 airbase. Fill within square is very loose suggesting it is hollow.
3207	Layer	Grey concrete surface with frequent inclusions of gravel.	N/A	Concrete layer. Overlays (3208)
3208	Layer	Deposit of angular pebbles, probably lies within an unseen cut for 3206.	N/A	Layer/deposit

Trench 33

Length: 30m Width: 1.7m Orientation: N-S
 Depth: 1m-1.8m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
3300	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
3301	Layer	Greyish brown. Silty clay.	0.10m	Topsoil
3302	Layer	Layers of redeposited geology, contains occasional brick and broken ceramic land drain. Occasional charcoal, ironstone, pebbles and rare appearance of branches.	1.6m	Made ground
3303	Layer	Blueish grey with orange tinge clay.	0.10m	Natural

Trench 34

Length: 30m Width: 1.7m Orientation: N-S
 Depth: 0.55m-0.75m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
3400	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
3401	Layer	Mid brown clay. Loose compaction with occasional inclusions of pebble and brick fragment.	0.10m	Topsoil
3402	Layer	Greyish brown clay. Firm compaction. Rare inclusion of rounded pebbles.	0.1m	Subsoil
3403	Layer	Orangey brown clay. Inclusions of manganese powder/grit. Cut by land drain.	N/A	Natural

Trench 35

Length: 50m Width: 1.7m Orientation: N-S
 Depth: 0.44m-0.88m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
3500	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
3501	Layer	Mid brown silty clay. Inclusions of gravel and medium rounded pebbles.	0.20m	Topsoil
3502	Layer	Mid brown clay with frequent inclusions of brick fragments and pebbles.	0.30m	Subsoil
3503	Layer	Dark brown clay. Inclusions of smaller pieces of iron stone and concrete.	0.10m	Subsoil (2)
3504	Layer	Greyish brown clay. Inclusions of powdered manganese.	N/A	Natural

Trench 36

Length: 50m

Width: 1.8m

Orientation: NE-SW

Depth: 0.45m-0.76m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
3600	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
3601	Layer	Mid brownish grey. Silty clay, firm compaction with rare inclusions of chalk.	0.23m	Topsoil
3602	Layer	Light orangey grey. Silty clay. Firm compaction. Contained glazed pot, possibly from Iron / Bronze age.	0.27m	Subsoil
3603	Layer	Light blueish grey with orange streaks. Silty clay, firm compaction with rare inclusions of manganese.	N/A	Natural
[3604]	Cut	Linear feature with shallow sloping concave sides and a flat base, orientated NE-SW.	L- 1.34m+ W- 0.80m+ D- 0.22m	Cut of shallow linear feature, likely a furrow. Seems to continue along full length of trench.

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
3605	Fill	Light blueish and orangey grey. Silty clay, firm compaction with rare inclusions of medium rounded stones.	L- 1.34m+ W- 0.80m+ D- 0.22m	Secondary fill of furrow [3604]. Formed by natural process of erosion and silting.

Trench 37

Length: 50m Width: 1.70m Orientation: Northwest – southeast
 Depth: 0.50m max.

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
3700	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
3701	Layer	Grey brown silty clay, loose, no incs., root affected	0.10m thick	Topsoil
3702	Layer	Yellowish brown silty clay, firm	0.15m thick	Subsoil
3703	Layer	Yellow to orangey brown clay, firm, poor upper horizon with (3702), cut by land drains and 5 possible furrows	>0.25m; 108.36m AOD	Geological substrate

Trench 38

Length: 38m Width: 1.80m Orientation: East – West
 Depth: 0.50m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
3800	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
3801	Layer	Mid-greyish brown silty clay, compact, no incs.	0.14m thick	Topsoil
3802	Layer	Mid-blueish grey silty clay, compact, no incs.	0.26m thick	Subsoil
3803	Layer	Mid-brownish grey with blue streaks silty clay, compact, no incs.	107.54m AOD	

Trench 39

Length: 50m Width: 1.70m Orientation: Northwest – Southeast
 Depth: 0.35-0.50m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
3900	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
3901	Layer	Grey brown silty clay, soft, root affected	0.05-0.10m thick	Topsoil

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
3902	Layer	Orange-brown clay, firm, moderate horizon with the underlaying	0.20m thick	Subsoil
3903	Layer	Orangey brown clay with grey mottle, occasional manganese pebbles, gravels and pea grit, weathers to brown	108.98m AOD	Geological substrate

Trench 40

Length: 50m Width: 1.80m Orientation: Northwest – Southeast
 Depth: 0.30-0.60m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
4000	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
4001	Layer	Mid-brownish grey silty clay, compact, rare small stones	0.35m thick	Topsoil
4002	Layer	Mid-yellowish grey silty clay, moderate manganese incs., compact	0.20m thick	Subsoil
4003	Layer	Light to mid- orangey grey with blueish streaks, silty clay, moderately firm	108.86m AOD	Geological substrate
4004	Cut	Linear straight in plan, shallow with uneven base; dimensions 0.38m wide, 1.10m long, 0.06m deep	0.06m deep	Roots or animal burrow
4005	Fill	Light blueish grey silty clay, compact, no inclusions, formed by natural silting	0.06m thick	As above

Trench 41

Length: 50m Width: 1.80m Orientation: Northeast – Southwest
 Depth: 0.48m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
4100	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
4101	Layer	Mid-greyish brown silty clay, compact, rare small stone inclusions, no apparent subsoil	0.40m	Topsoil
4102	Layer	Light yellowish orange with blue streaks, silty clay, rare manganese incs., compact	107.40mAOD	Geological substrate

Trench 42

Length: 50m Width: 1.80m Orientation: Northwest – Southeast
 Depth: 0.62m max.

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
4200	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
4201	Layer	Same as (4101)	0.29m thick	Topsoil
4202	Deposit	Same as (4102)	113.90mAOD	Geological substrate
[4203]	Cut of furrow	Linear, sloping concave sides, concave base, east-west orientation, 0.33m deep, 2.17m wide, 1.80m long	0.33m deep	Cut for furrow part of a sequence that runs across the entire field
(4204)	Fill	Compact mid-brownish grey silty clay, rare charcoal and rare CBM fragments and 1 piece of pot	0.33m thick	Natural silting of agricultural furrow

Trench 43

Length: 50m Width: 1.60m Orientation: East – West
 Depth: 0.55m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
4300	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
4301	Layer	Same as (4101)	0.31m thick	Topsoil
4302	Layer	Mid-orangey brown silty clay, compact	0.19m thick	Subsoil
4303	Layer	Same as (4102)	106.65mAOD	Geological substrate

Trench 44

Length: 50m Width: 1.70m Orientation: North – South
 Depth: 0.42m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
4400	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
4401	Layer	Same as (4101)	0.31m thick	Topsoil
4402	Layer	Mid-orangey brown silty clay, compact	0.19m thick	Subsoil
4403	Layer	Light yellowish grey clay with blueish streaks, compact		Geological substrate

Trench 45

Length: 50m Width: 1.60m Orientation: North – South
 Depth: 0.48m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
4500	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
4501	Layer	Same as (4101)	0.17m thick	Topsoil
4502	Layer	Mid-orangey brown silty clay, compact	0.20m thick	Subsoil
4503	Layer	Same as (4403)	111.60m AOD	Geological substrate

Trench 46

Length: 50m Width: 1.60m Orientation: Northwest – Southeast
 Depth: 0.41-0.68m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
4600	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
4601	Layer	Same as (4101)	0.17m thick	Topsoil
4602	Layer	Mid-brownish grey silty clay, compact	0.29m thick	Subsoil
4603	Layer	Light greyish yellow silty clay, compact	112.00m AOD	Geological substrate

Trench 47

Length: 50m Width: 1.60m Orientation: North – South
 Depth: 0.33-0.69m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
4700	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
4701	Layer	Same as (4101)	0.14m thick	Topsoil
4702	Layer	Mid-orangey brown silty clay, compact	0.23m thick	Subsoil
4703	Layer	Same as (4102)	106.63mAOD	Geological substrate

Trench 48

Length: 50m Width: 1.60m Orientation: Northeast – Southwest
 Depth: 0.35-.073m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
4800	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
4801	Layer	Same as (4101)	0.17m thick	Topsoil
4802	Layer	Mid-orangey brown silty clay, compact	0.24m thick	Subsoil
4803	Layer	Same as (4102)	113.25mAOD	Geological substrate

Trench 49

Length: 50m Width: 1.60m Orientation: Northwest - Southeast
 Depth: 0.22-0.44m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
4900	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
4901	Layer	Same as (4101)	0.11m thick	Topsoil
4902	Layer	Mid-orangey grey silty clay, compact	0.20m thick	Subsoil
4903	Layer	Same as (4102)	113.03mAOD	Geological substrate

Trench 50

Length: 30m Width: 1.60m Orientation: East - West
 Depth: 0.38-0.60m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
5000	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
5001	Layer	Mid-brownish grey silty clay, compact, rare CBM and charcoal	0.18m thick	Topsoil

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
		incs.		
5002	Layer	Mid-yellowish grey silty clay, compact, rare CBM and charcoal incs.	0.35m thick	Subsoil
5003	Layer	Mid-orangey grey with light blueish grey streaks, compact, moderate stone inclusions	116.53mAOD	Geological substrate
5004	Cut or depression	1.80m long, unclear width and depth	N/a	
5005	Layer	Mid-yellowish grey silty clay, compact, frequent bricks, large broken blocks of concrete, tarmac fragments, not excavated	At least 0.10m thick	Madeground and demolition material

Trench 51

Length: 30m Width: 1.60m Orientation: North - South
 Depth: 0.55-1.18m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
5100	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
5101	Layer	Same as (5001)	0.32m thick	Topsoil
5102	Layer	Same as (5002)	0.30m thick	Madeground/demolition materials
5103	Layer	Mid/light blueish grey silty clay, compact, rare ironstone	119.38mAOD	Geological substrate
5104	Cut of furrow	One edge, straight linear northwest by southeast trend, cuts (5103), truncated above by (5102)	At least 0.15m deep	Agricultural furrow, part
5105	Fill	Dark brownish grey silty clay, moderate charcoal, red brick inclusions, compact, overlain/cut by (5102)	0.15m thick	Natural silting

Trench 52

Length: 50m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NE-SW
 Depth: 0.30m-0.85m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
5200	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
5201	Layer	Mid brownish grey. Silty clay, firm compaction.	0.35m	Topsoil
5202	Layer	Mid/light orangey grey. Firm compaction	0.1m	Subsoil
5203	Layer	Mid light greyish beige, silty clay, firm compaction.	N/A	Natural

Trench 53

Length: 30m Width: 1.5m Orientation: SW-NE
 Depth: 0.55m-0.75m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
5300	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
5301	Layer	Mid brownish grey, clayey silt, firm compaction.	0.14m	Topsoil
5302	Layer	Mid orangey grey, silty clay, firm compaction.	0.26m	Subsoil
5303	Layer	Mid greyish orange / blueish grey clay. Firm compaction.	N/A	Natural

Trench 54

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: SW-NE
 Depth: 0.45m-0.58m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
5400	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
5401	Layer	Dark brownish grey, clayey silt. Moderately firm compaction with rare inclusions of stone.	0.13m	Topsoil
5402	Layer	Light blueish grey, silty clay, firm compaction.	0.22m	Subsoil
5403	Layer	Light orangey grey with blue streaks. Firm compaction.	0.18m+	Natural

Trench 55

Length: 50m Width: 1.5m Orientation: NE - SW
 Depth: 0.41m-0.45m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
5500	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
5501	Layer	Mid brownish grey, clayey silt, firm compaction.	0.14m	Topsoil
5502	Layer	Mid orangey grey, silty clay, firm compaction.	0.26m	Subsoil
5503	Layer	Light brownish orange clay / light orangey grey clay. Frequent inclusions of ironstone and manganese.	N/A	Natural

Trench 56

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NE - SW
 Depth: 0.20m-0.36m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
5600	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	N/A
5601	Layer	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, firm compaction.	0.15m	Topsoil
5602	Layer	Light yellow grey with pale blue, silty clay, firm compaction.	0.21m	Subsoil
5603	Layer	Light greyish blue / orangey grey. Silty clay, firm compaction.	0.13m+	Natural

12 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

Summary for preconst1-503703

OASIS ID (UID)	preconst1-503703
Project Name	Archaeological Evaluation at Land at Gartree, Market Harborough, Leicestershire
Activity type	Archaeological Intervention
Project Identifier(s)	Land at Gartree, Market Harborough, Leicestershire
Planning Id	21/01600/OUT
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	01-Nov-2021 - 03-Dec-2021
Location	Land at Gartree, Market Harborough, Leicestershire NGR : SP 70449 88871 LL : 52.4932096955543, -0.963805784155041 12 Fig : 470449,288871
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Leicestershire District : Harborough Parish : Lubenham
Project Methodology	An archaeological trial trench evaluation comprising 55 trenches: 21no. to be 50m long and 1.8m wide and 34no. to be 30m long and 1.8m wide, representing a 2% sample of the site. The trenches were positioned to target possible geophysical anomalies, provide even spatial coverage of the site and to avoid existing site constraints including badger setts, GeoTech works and overhead powerlines.
Project Results	The results demonstrated that, whilst most of the site has little potential for further archaeological remains, prehistoric archaeological features were identified in an area in the east of the site. Whilst the majority of anomalies seen in the preceding geophysical survey of the site were demonstrated to be of either geological or modern origin, within the area of Trenches 12 to 16 two Iron Age features were recorded: a subcircular ditched enclosure approximately 8m in diameter and a ~60m long boundary ditch with at least one 90-degree turn and terminus. Ironworking waste, including hearth burn and furnace lining, was present alongside pottery and suggested an area of specialist activity. This area of the site was not subject to the deep truncation associated with the airfield infrastructure and preservation of the features was good. Further potential features were identified in the immediate area of the Iron Age features, as highlighted by the geophysical survey but are presently within the badger exclusion zone.
Keywords	Ditched Enclosure - IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
HER	Leicestershire HER - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

PCA

PCA CAMBRIDGE

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN

t: 01223 845 522

e: cambridge@pre-construct.com

PCA DURHAM

THE ROPE WORKS
BROADWOOD VIEW
CHESTER-LE-STREET
DURHAM DH3 3AF

t: 0191 377 1111

e: durham@pre-construct.com

PCA LONDON

UNIT 54, BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD, BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD

t: 020 7732 3925

e: london@pre-construct.com

PCA NEWARK

OFFICE 8, ROEWOOD COURTYARD
WINKBURN, NEWARK
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NG22 8PG

t: 01636 370410

e: newark@pre-construct.com

PCA NORWICH

QUARRY WORKS, DEREHAM ROAD
HONINGHAM
NORWICH NR9 5AP

T: 01223 845522

e: cambridge@pre-construct.com

PCA WARWICK

2 PLESTOWES BARN, HAREWAY LANE
BARFORD, WARWICK
WARWICKSHIRE CV35 8DD

t: 01926 485490

e: warwick@pre-construct.com

PCA WINCHESTER

5 RED DEER COURT, ELM ROAD
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO22 5LX

t: 01962 849 549

e: winchester@pre-construct.com

