

**NEW FARM SITE, LAND NORTH OF STANTON LANE, STANTON UNDER BARDON,
HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

NGR:	SK 4602 1025
HBBC Planning Ref.:	APP/K2420/W/21/3279939
PCAS job no.	2727
Site code:	NSLE 23
Archive acc. code:	X.A13.2023
OASIS ID:	preconst3-517355

Prepared for
Boyer Planning
by
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July 2023



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Summary

An archaeological evaluation, consisting of fifteen 30m x 2m trenches, was undertaken in advance of the construction of farm buildings on a site to the north of Stanton Lane/Ellistown Lane in the parish of Stanton under Bardon in the Hinckley and Bosworth borough of Leicestershire. The evaluation was required as a condition of planning permission for the construction of a new farm.

The new farm site lies approximately 300m to the west of the historic core of Stanton under Bardon village: historic mapping and extant ridge-and-furrow earthworks in both fields indicate that, prior to enclosure in the late 18th century, the site lay within one of the communally strip-cultivated parish open fields. Archaeological works within the study area have retrieved prehistoric and Roman artefacts in the vicinity of the site, although no stratified material has been found.

Although earthwork ridge-and-furrow was visible on the site, no furrow profiles were identifiable in the trench sections, probably because the necessity of working with the gradient of the site resulted in trenches that ran along the furrows rather than across them. Variations in the depth of the subsoil, thought to form the furrow fills, probably indicate the position of each trench on either a ridge or a furrow. No archaeological features were seen cutting either the natural or the layer overlying it, and no finds were retrieved, indicating that no settled activity took place on or immediately around the site before the establishment of the Stanton under Bardon parish open-field system in the early medieval period.

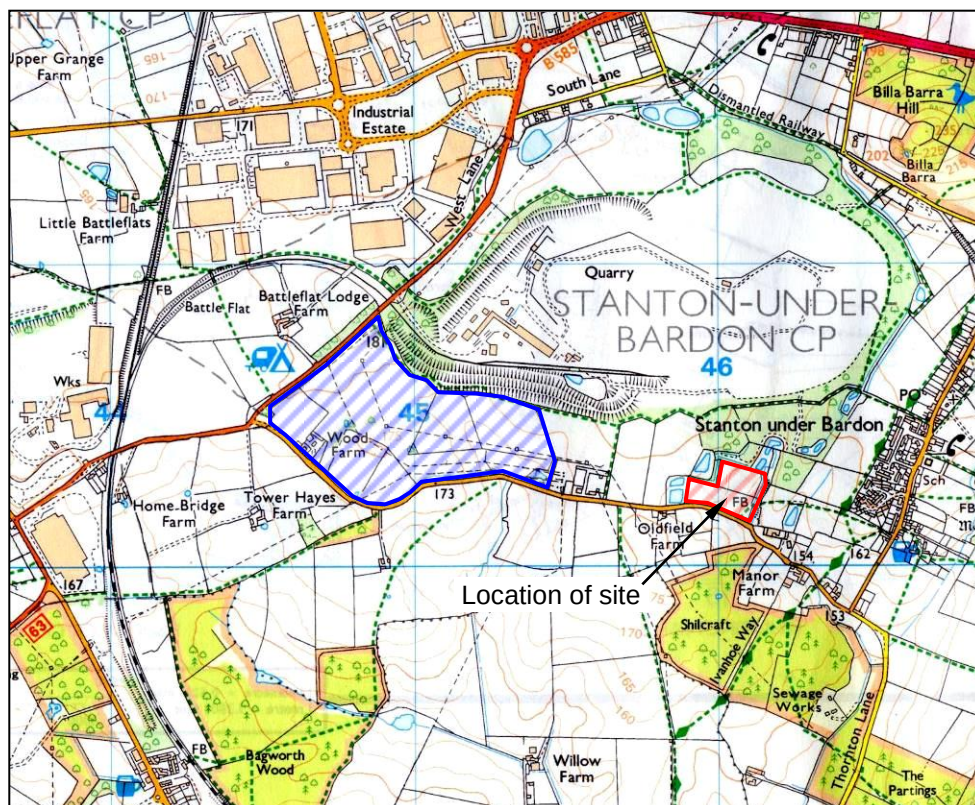


Figure 1: Location plan of the redevelopment site at scale 1:25,000. The current site of the Wood Lane farmstead, with the area of the proposed commercial and industrial development, is hatched blue, and the site of the new farmstead, on which the evaluation trenching is to take place, is hatched red. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned by Boyer Planning to undertake a scheme of archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of farm buildings on a site to the north of Stanton Lane/Ellistown Lane in the parish of Stanton under Bardon in the Hinckley and Bosworth borough of Leicestershire. The development forms part of a larger project, which involves the demolition of the farm buildings of the current Wood Farm, the construction of commercial and industrial buildings on its site, and the construction of a new farmstead on the present evaluation site (marked in red on figure 1), which lies to the east of the existing farmstead (marked in blue).

The new farm site lies approximately 300m to the west of the historic core of Stanton under Bardon village: historic mapping and extant ridge-and-furrow earthworks in both fields indicate that, prior to enclosure in the late 18th century, the site lay within one of the communally strip-cultivated parish open fields. Archaeological works within the study area have retrieved prehistoric and Roman artefacts in the vicinity of the site, although no stratified material has been found.

As the site contains known archaeological remains and may be of further archaeological interest, the implementation of an archaeological mitigation strategy was required as a condition of planning permission. The initial phase of the mitigation strategy consists of a programme of trial trenching, in order to ensure that any archaeological remains within the development area are taken fully into consideration prior to the development process, to ensure their proper recording in the county Historic Environment Record, and to determine whether any further archaeological intervention is required in order to mitigate any potential damage to the archaeological record (by preservation *in situ* or by further investigation and recording).

The evaluation was carried out according to current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2021 revision;
- Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CIFA) Code of Conduct, 2019 revision;
- CIFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations, 2020 revision;
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE ver. 1.2, 2015).

The results of the evaluation will be used to assess the archaeological potential of the site and to inform a scheme of archaeological mitigation, if the results show one to be necessary, which will be presented in support of the reserved matters planning application for this project.

2.0 Location and Description (figs. 1 and 2)

The parish of Stanton under Bardon is in the Hinckley and Bosworth borough of Leicestershire: Stanton under Bardon village lies approximately 12km south-east of Ashby-de-la-Zouch and 12km north-west of central Leicester, within the southern edge of the 'Thringstone/Markfield Quarries and Settlement' Character Area of the Charnwood Forest Landscape Character Assessment. This area is recorded as highly settled, with a number of linear villages and scattered farms: mineral extraction occupies the majority of the area, with small areas of mixed arable and pastoral farmland, heathland and woodland. Watercourses flow through the settlements and small field ponds are scattered throughout the area, with larger bodies of water associated with the numerous active and historic quarries. Fields tend

to be located on settlement edges and around the peripheries of the quarries, with the pattern consisting of small, regular fields (FPCR, 2019).

The proposed redevelopment site is located to the west of the village and to the south of Cliffe Hill Quarry, on the north side of the road known as Stanton Lane towards the west and as Ellistown Lane towards the east. The entire application area consists of two separate parts, with the larger western part including c. 31.5 hectares of agricultural land and the existing farmstead of Wood Farm (area hatched blue on fig. 1). The scheme of evaluation trenching set out in this WSI is to take place in the smaller eastern part (area hatched red on fig. 1). The site consists of two rectangular pasture fields with east-to-west axes, totalling 2.88 hectares: the southern field extends further to the west than the northern field, so the site is roughly L-shaped (plates 1-3). A public footpath runs across the south-eastern corner of the southern field. The fields are separated by a hedge, and bounded by hedges and trees, with woodland areas and a number of small lakes (probably flooded workings) to the north-west and north; they are immediately surrounded by agricultural land, with the New Cliffe Hill Quarry further to the north and the village of Stanton under Bardon approximately 300m to the north-west. Earthwork ridge-and-furrow, aligned east-to-west parallel to the road and the long-axis field boundaries, was observed in both fields during a site visit made during research for the DBA (Lane, 2020; MSA, 2021; fig. 3).



Plate 1: General shot of the northern field, looking north-west from the eastern end of Trench 14. Earthwork ridge-and-furrow is visible in the distance on the right-hand side of the picture.

At the commencement of the fieldwork the site was under rough grass, which appeared to have been mown for hay earlier in the summer. Earthwork ridge-and-furrow was visible at ground level only in the western end of the northern field, possibly because the high angle of the midsummer sun was impeding visibility.



Plate 2: General shot of the larger southern field, looking east from the western end of Trench 3.



Plate 3: General shot of the western end of the southern field, looking west from the eastern end of Trench 3.

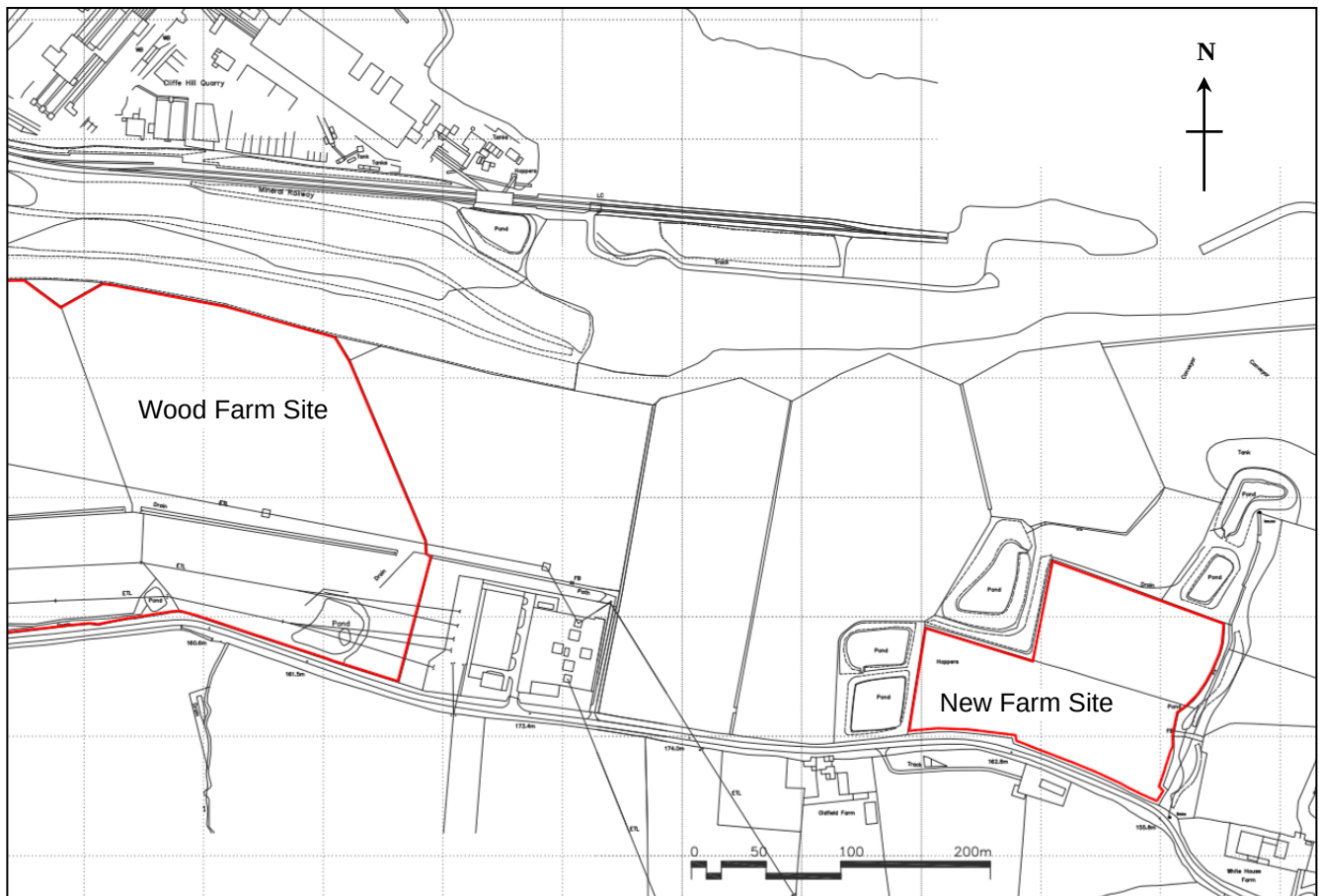


Figure 2: As-existing plan of the site at scale 1:5000. Both parts of the application area are outlined in red: the new farm site, where the evaluation took place, is to the right and the site of the existing farm to the left. Plan supplied by developer.

3.0 Topography and Geology

Stanton under Bardon lies in an area of hilly ground, dissected by the valleys of streams and small rivers. The new farm site is on an east-facing slope, falling from 170m to 160m AOD into the valley of a small stream, which divides the site from the neighbouring fields to the east (plates 4 and 5).

The solid geology of the area consists of Edwalton Member Mudstone. The site lies at the edge of a widespread drift deposit of Oadby Member Diamicton, a mixed deposit laid down by glaciation: this material was expected to be present on the western side of the site, while drift geology was expected to be absent on the eastern side (bgs.ac.uk).

4.0 Planning Background

Planning permission for a hybrid application, consisting of outline permission for the erection of buildings for storage and distribution uses and general industry, with associated infrastructure including the forming of a new access, and the demolition of the existing farmstead, as well as full permission for the erection of two replacement farm manager's dwellings and associated agricultural buildings and structures, was granted by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough council in November 2021 (planning application ref. 21/00531/HYB, allowed under appeal ref. APP/K2420/W/21/3279939). Condition 11 of the grant of planning permission, relating to the outline portion of the application, and Condition 44, relating to the full permission portion, both require a staged programme of archaeological work, to

commence with a phase of trial trenching, to be carried out before any development, including works of demolition and site clearance, takes place.



Plate 4: The eastern side of the southern field, looking west from the eastern end of Trench 7, showing the rising ground.



Plate 5: The eastern side of the site, looking east from the western end of Trench 8, showing the stream valley dividing the site from the fields to the east.

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

A full archaeological and historical background for this site, based on a search commissioned from the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (HER), forms part of an archaeological desk-based assessment for both sites, produced in 2019 and updated in 2020 (Lane, 2020).

Prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the new farm site is represented by flint artefacts dating between the Palaeolithic period and the Bronze Age, found to the north of the site, principally by fieldwalking on and around the site of the New Cliffe Hill Quarry (HER refs. MLE6064, MLE6356, MLE7059, MLE7563). The only evidence of later prehistoric activity is the find of the top stone of a beehive quern of possible later Iron Age date, found approximately 200m to the south of the site during ploughing around Manor Farm (HER ref. MLE9144).

The application site lies in an area of known Roman military and civilian activity, crossed by several roads: the projected course of the Roman road passing to the new farm site runs north-west to south-east across the northern end of Stanton under Bardon village, following the line of Coalville High Street, Hotel Street and Ashby Road, although there is no archaeological evidence for this road within the study area of the DBA (HER ref. MLE9876). Small amounts of Roman pottery have been found during fieldwalking in several places to the north and south of the site: with the find of the late Iron Age quernstone, these may suggest that a small farmstead was located in the vicinity during the later Iron Age and Romano-British period (HER refs. MLE7945-6, MLE24251).

Although there is currently no evidence for the earliest settlement, Stanton under Bardon village is thought to be of Anglo-Saxon origin, with its name deriving from the Old English words for 'stone' and 'village' (HER ref. MLE9184). The settlement was well-established by the time of the Norman Conquest: the Domesday Survey of AD 1086 records it as a manor belonging to Geoffrey de la Guerche, which included extensive arable farmland and an area of woodland, but no pastoral land, and was occupied by 18 unfree households. No other assets, such as a church or mill, are recorded (Williams and Martin, 2003, p. 643).

The extent of the medieval village is indicated by earthworks recorded around the modern village, including those of a moated manor on its east side. The village earthworks extend

along the High Street and westward around Manor Farm; the ridge-and-furrow earthworks left by the strip cultivation of the parish's open fields have been recorded in fields to the west of the village, including those of the current evaluation site, and medieval pottery included in midden material used as fertilizer has been retrieved from these fields (HER refs. MLE2939-40, MLE2950, MLE2954, MLE6795; fig. 3).

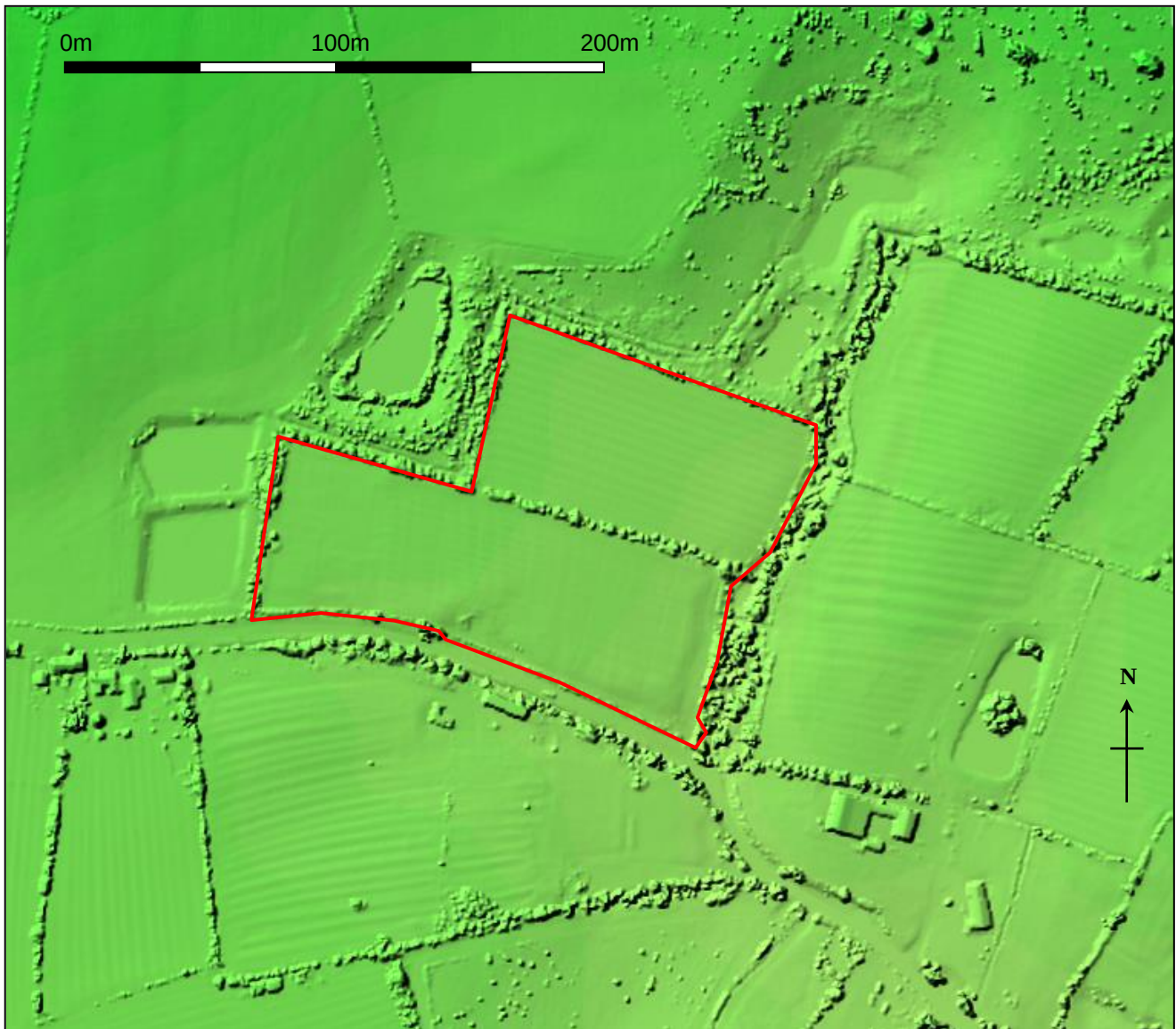


Figure 3: LiDAR survey data at scale 1:2500. Earthwork ridge-and-furrow on an east-to-west alignment is visible in the field to the south of the site and the two fields to the west, and more faintly on the site itself; north-to-south-aligned ridge-and-furrow is present in fields to the south-west.

The two fields currently making up the evaluation site are thought to have been laid out as part of Parliamentary Enclosure in 1779, although the map showing the enclosure allotments does not conform to the Enclosure Commissioners' usual conventions and is undated. The site was enclosed from Hawney Field, one of the parish open fields lying to the west of the village. The current field layout appears on all subsequent historic mapping (Lane, 2020; fig. 3), and the preservation of earthwork ridge-and-furrow on the site indicates that the fields have been used only as pasture since they were enclosed.

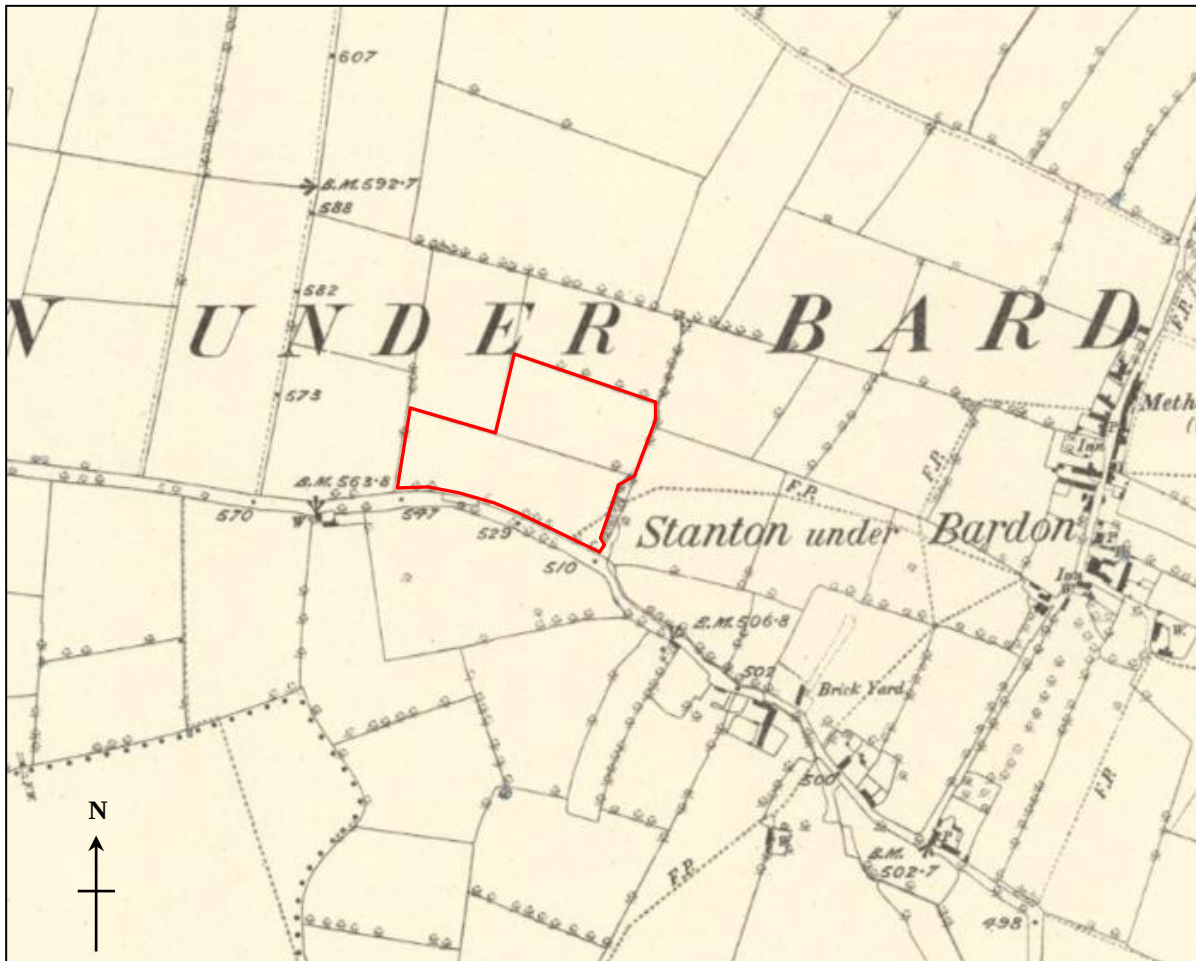


Figure 4: Extract from the 1884 1st edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey map (not reproduced to scale). The site boundaries, probably dating from Parliamentary Enclosure, correspond to those of the present day; the public footpath running across the corner of the southern field appears as a dotted line marked F. P.

6.0 Methodology

The evaluation consisted of fifteen trenches, each measuring 30m x 2m, positioned to investigate the footprints of proposed structures and landscape features and sample the areas between them while taking account of the site topography. Although the alignments of the trenches were varied as far as possible, they were laid out running generally down the slope of the site rather than along it, to avoid the risk of the machine tipping over during excavation (fig. 5).

The trenches were located on the site by GPS (Leica GS08 GPS unit receiving RTK corrections), and checked for live services both visually (for overhead cables) and by Cable Avoidance Tool (for buried services) before being machine excavated under archaeological supervision, using a 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (plate 6). The exposed surfaces were then cleaned by hand and recorded. Machine excavation was carried out by the client, who brought the machine back to back-fill the trenches after recording (with the agreement of the Senior Planning Archaeologist).

In accordance with the methodology set out in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Savage, 2023), sample sections of the trench baulks were photographed and drawn at scale 1:20 in each of the excavated trenches. Deposits were recorded on standard PCAS record sheets, and an excavation site diary was also kept; a digital photographic record of the

progress of the evaluation was made, and extracts from this are reproduced throughout this report.

The fieldwork was carried out by Stuart Weston and took place between the 12th and 15th June, 2023. Weather conditions were hot, dry and sunny throughout.

7.0 Results

A tabulated summary of all contexts recorded appears as Appendix 1.

All trenches were excavated to the surface of the natural, which in most trenches was a dark brown clay, sometimes stony. Trenches 1 and 2, which were furthest to the west, exposed a light brown sand natural. This was interpreted as the edge of the drift deposit of glacial Oadby Member Diamicton shown on geological mapping, while the other trenches encountered the weathered surface of the exposed solid geology of Edwalton Member Mudstone (Savage, 2023). In all but three of the trenches, the natural was overlain by a layer of mid-greyish-brown sandy clay, generally between 0.20m and 0.30m deep: this layer was absent in Trenches 4, 6 and 7 in the southern field, possibly a geological variation associated with the steepness and irregularity of the slope in this area, as seen on the topographic mapping and LiDAR data (figs. 3 and 5). The layer contained no charcoal or other inclusions and produced no dating evidence. No archaeological features were seen cutting either the natural or the overlying layer.

A mid-brown fine-sandy subsoil was present in all trenches: it was typically 0.10m deep, although varying in a few trenches to as shallow as 0.05m or as deep as 0.20m. This was overlain by the modern topsoil and turf, also shallow at a consistent 0.10m, reflecting the fact that the site has not been ploughed since enclosure. No artefacts were retrieved from either the subsoil or the topsoil.

8.0 Discussion and Conclusions

Although earthwork ridge-and-furrow has been identified by LiDAR mapping and was visible on part of the site at the start of the evaluation, the profiles of the furrows were not identifiable in the trench sections. This was probably due to the necessity of working with the gradient of the site, both for the medieval plough-team and the modern mechanical excavator: the cultivation strips in this furlong of the medieval open field ran roughly east to west up and down the slope, making the work easier for the plough-team while creating a pattern of furrows that would function to channel surplus water off the field in prolonged bad weather, and the same approach was forced by safety considerations on the layout of the evaluation trenches, resulting in trenches that ran along the furrows rather than across them. Trenches 4 and 5 in the southern field were closest to a perpendicular angle across the orientation of the furlong, but the ridge-and-furrow in this field appears to be particularly shallow and possibly disturbed, showing up only faintly on the LiDAR plot, and no furrow profiles could be identified either during machining or in the trench sections. However, the subsoil on the site probably also formed the furrow fill, and it is likely that the variations in its depth across the site indicate the position of each trench as either upon a ridge or within a furrow (fig. 6).



Plate 6: Working shot taken from the north-western corner of the northern field, looking east-south-east from near the western end of Trench 10. Earthwork ridge-and-furrow is visible to the south of the trench.

The absence of features or artefacts on the site indicates that no settled activity took place on or immediately around it before the establishment of the Stanton under Bardon parish open-field system in the early medieval period.

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

Archaeological evaluation was effective in establishing that the archaeological potential of the site consists only of the visible earthworks of medieval strip cultivation. The evaluation results will be sufficient to assess the archaeological potential of the site and inform the planning and development process.

10.0 Project Archive

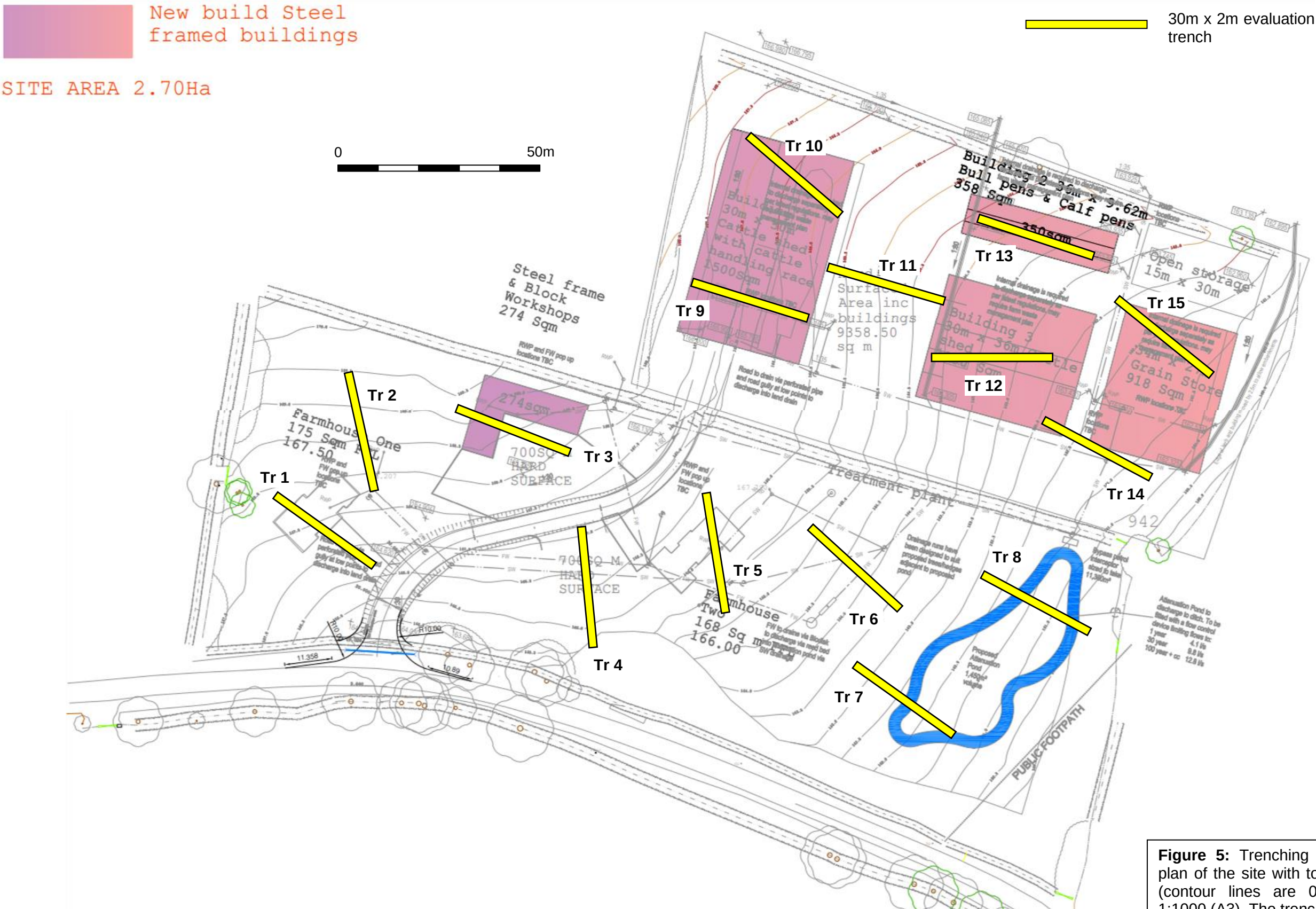
The project archive, consisting of the site recording with printed copies of this report, will be deposited with the Leicestershire County Council Museums Service, within six months of the acceptance of the report; following deposition, the archive will be available for consultation under the Leicestershire County Council Museums accession number X.A13.2023. A copy of the report will also be uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS) database, where it will be publicly accessible online, and a digital copy in pdf-a format will be supplied to the Historic Environment Record.

11.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. would like to thank Boyer Planning for this commission and for their co-operation during the site works.

12.0 References

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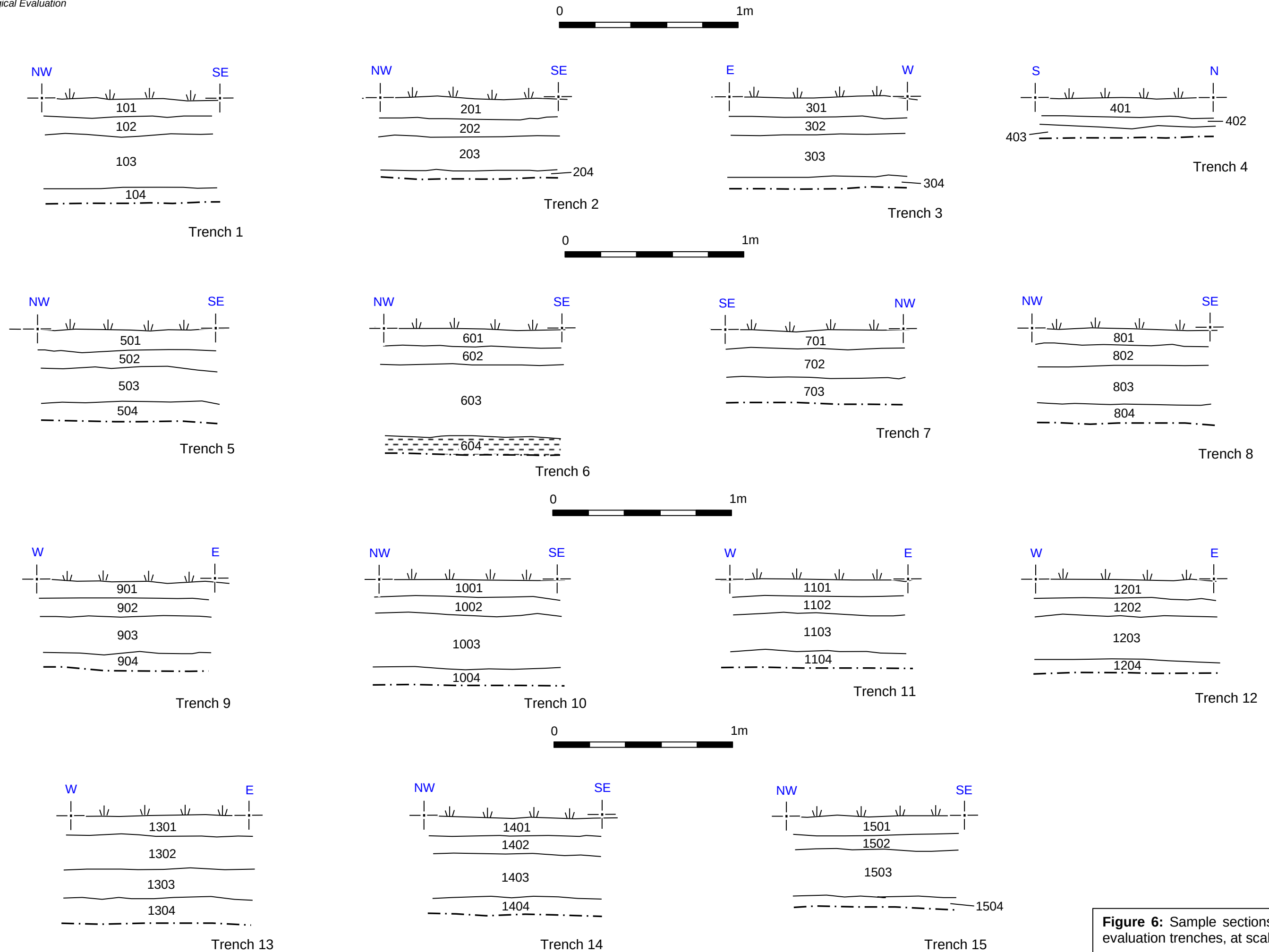


Figure 6: Sample sections in the evaluation trenches, at scale 1:20.

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context no.	Type	Description	Finds/samples/dating
Trench 1			
101	Layer	Dark brown silty sand topsoil with turf cover, 0.10m D	Modern
102	Layer	Loose mid-brown fine sand subsoil, 0.10m D, below 101	
103	Layer	Mid-greyish-brown sandy clay, 0.30m D, below 102.	
104	Layer	Light brown natural sand at base of trench, exposed to 0.08m D (not penetrated).	Geological
Trench 2			
201	Layer	Dark brown silty sand topsoil with turf cover, 0.10m D	Modern
202	Layer	Loose mid-brown fine sand subsoil, 0.10m D, below 201	
203	Layer	Mid-greyish-brown sandy clay, 0.22m D, below 202.	
204	Layer	Light brown natural sand at base of trench, exposed to 0.06m D (not penetrated).	Geological
Trench 3			
301	Layer	Dark brown silty sand topsoil with turf cover, 0.10m D	Modern
302	Layer	Loose mid-brown fine sand subsoil, 0.10m D, below 301	
303	Layer	Mid-greyish-brown sandy clay, 0.25m D, below 302.	
304	Layer	Dark brown natural clay with frequent stone fragments, at base of trench, exposed to 0.06m D (not penetrated).	Geological
Trench 4			
401	Layer	Dark brown silty sand topsoil with turf cover, 0.10m D	Modern
402	Layer	Loose mid-brown fine sand subsoil, 0.05m D, below 401	
403	Layer	Dark brown natural clay at base of trench, exposed to 0.06m D (not penetrated).	Geological
Trench 5			
501	Layer	Dark brown silty sand topsoil with turf cover, 0.10m D	Modern
502	Layer	Loose mid-brown fine sand subsoil, 0.10m D, below 501	
503	Layer	Mid-greyish-brown sandy clay, 0.20m D, below 502.	
504	Layer	Dark brown natural clay at base of trench, exposed to 0.10m D (not penetrated).	Geological
Trench 6			
601	Layer	Dark brown silty sand topsoil with turf cover, 0.10m D	Modern
602	Layer	Loose mid-brown fine sand subsoil, 0.10m D, below 601	
603	Layer	Dark brown natural clay, 0.40m D, below 602.	Geological
604	Layer	Natural mudstone and clay, at base of trench, exposed to 0.10m D (not penetrated).	Geological
Trench 7			
701	Layer	Dark brown silty sand topsoil with turf cover, 0.10m D	Modern
702	Layer	Loose mid-brown fine sand subsoil, 0.15m D, below 701	
703	Layer	Dark brown natural clay at base of trench, exposed to 0.15m D (not penetrated).	Geological
Trench 8			
801	Layer	Dark brown silty sand topsoil with turf cover, 0.10m D	Modern
802	Layer	Loose mid-brown fine sand subsoil, 0.10m D, below 801	
803	Layer	Mid-greyish-brown sandy clay, 0.20m D, below 802.	
804	Layer	Dark brown natural clay at base of trench, exposed to 0.10m D (not penetrated).	Geological
Trench 9			
901	Layer	Dark brown silty sand topsoil with turf cover, 0.10m D	Modern
902	Layer	Loose mid-brown fine sand subsoil, 0.10m D, below 901	
903	Layer	Mid-greyish-brown sandy clay, 0.20m D, below 902.	
904	Layer	Dark brown natural clay at base of trench, exposed to 0.10m D (not penetrated).	Geological
Trench 10			
1001	Layer	Dark brown silty sand topsoil with turf cover, 0.10m D	Modern

Context no.	Type	Description	Finds/samples/dating
1002	Layer	Loose mid-brown fine sand subsoil, 0.10m D, below 1001	
1003	Layer	Mid-greyish-brown sandy clay, 0.30m D, below 1002.	
1004	Layer	Natural mid-grey compact clayey sand at base of trench, exposed to 0.10m D (not penetrated).	Geological
Trench 11			
1101	Layer	Dark brown silty sand topsoil with turf cover, 0.10m D	Modern
1102	Layer	Loose mid-brown fine sand subsoil, 0.10m D, below 1101	
1103	Layer	Mid-greyish-brown sandy clay, 0.20m D, below 1102.	
1104	Layer	Dark brown natural clay at base of trench, exposed to 0.10m D (not penetrated).	Geological
Trench 12			
1201	Layer	Dark brown silty sand topsoil with turf cover, 0.10m D	Modern
1202	Layer	Loose mid-brown fine sand subsoil, 0.10m D, below 1201	
1203	Layer	Mid-greyish-brown sandy clay, 0.25m D, below 1202.	
1204	Layer	Dark brown natural clay at base of trench, exposed to 0.05m D (not penetrated).	Geological
Trench 13			
1301	Layer	Dark brown silty sand topsoil with turf cover, 0.10m D	Modern
1302	Layer	Loose mid-brown fine sand subsoil, 0.20m D, below 1301	
1303	Layer	Mid-greyish-brown sandy clay, 0.16m D, below 1302.	
1304	Layer	Natural mid-grey compact clayey sand at base of trench, exposed to 0.14m D (not penetrated).	Geological
Trench 14			
1401	Layer	Dark brown silty sand topsoil with turf cover, 0.10m D	Modern
1402	Layer	Loose mid-brown fine sand subsoil, 0.10m D, below 1401	
1403	Layer	Mid-greyish-brown sandy clay, 0.25m D, below 1402.	
1404	Layer	Natural mid-grey compact clayey sand at base of trench, exposed to 0.15m D (not penetrated).	Geological
Trench 15			
1501	Layer	Dark brown silty sand topsoil with turf cover, 0.10m D	Modern
1502	Layer	Loose mid-brown fine sand subsoil, 0.10m D, below 1501	
1503	Layer	Mid-greyish-brown sandy clay, 0.25m D, below 1502.	
1504	Layer	Dark brown natural clay at base of trench, exposed to 0.05m D (not penetrated).	Geological

Appendix 2: OASIS Summary

OASIS Summary for preconst3-517355

OASIS ID (UID)	preconst3-517355
Project Name	New Farm Site, Land North of Stanton Lane, Stanton under Bardon, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough, Leicestershire: Archaeological Evaluation Report
Sitename	New Farm Site, Land North of Stanton Lane, Stanton under Bardon, Leicestershire
Sitecode	NSLE 23
Project Identifier(s)	Land North of Stanton Lane, Stanton under Bardon
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	APP/K2420/W/21/3279939
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	PCAS Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	12-Jun-2023 - 14-Jul-2023
Location	New Farm Site, Land North of Stanton Lane, Stanton under Bardon, Leicestershire NGR : SK 46020 10250 LL : 52.68799175945486, -1.320614362494562 12 Fig : 446020,310250
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Leicestershire District : Hinckley and Bosworth Parish : Stanton-under-Bardon
Project Methodology	The evaluation consisted of fifteen trenches, each measuring 30m x 2m, positioned to investigate the footprints of proposed structures and landscape features and sample the areas between them while taking account of the site topography. Although the alignments of the trenches were varied as far as possible, they were laid out running generally down the slope of the site rather than along it, to avoid the risk of the machine tipping over during excavation. The trenches were located on the site by GPS (Leica GS08 GPS unit receiving RTK corrections), and checked for live services both visually (for overhead cables) and by Cable Avoidance Tool (for buried services) before being machine excavated under archaeological supervision, using a 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The exposed surfaces were then cleaned by hand and recorded. Machine excavation was carried out by the client, who brought the machine back to back-fill the trenches after recording (with the agreement of the Senior Planning Archaeologist). In accordance with the methodology set out in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation, sample sections of the trench baulks were photographed and drawn at scale 1:20 in each of the excavated trenches. Deposits were recorded on standard PCAS record sheets, and an excavation site diary was also kept; a digital photographic record of the progress of the evaluation was made, and extracts from this are reproduced throughout this report.

Project Results	In all but three of the trenches, the natural was overlain by a layer of mid-greyish-brown sandy clay, generally between 0.20m and 0.30m deep: this layer was absent in Trenches 4, 6 and 7 in the southern field. The layer contained no charcoal or other inclusions and produced no dating evidence. No archaeological features were seen cutting either the natural or the overlying layer. Although earthwork ridge-and-furrow was visible on the site, it was not identifiable in the trench sections. This was probably due to the necessity of working with the gradient of the site, both for the medieval plough-team and the modern mechanical excavator: the cultivation strips in this furlong of the medieval open field ran roughly east to west up and down the slope, making the work easier for the plough-team while creating a pattern of furrows that would function to channel surplus water off the field in prolonged bad weather, and the same approach was forced by safety considerations on the layout of the evaluation trenches, resulting in trenches that ran along the furrows rather than across them. The variations in subsoil depth across the site probably indicate the position of each trench within either a ridge or a furrow. The absence of features or artefacts on the site indicates that no settled activity took place on or immediately around it before the establishment of the Stanton under Bardon parish open-field system in the early medieval period.
Keywords	
Funder	Private or public corporation Developer
HER	Leicestershire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Leigh Brocklehurst
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums;