



Archaeological Evaluation Report

Land at Mulberry Farm

High Street

Stoke Golding

Leicestershire



Report Number 311

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Summary

A planning application (22/00661/FUL) is under consideration by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council for the “demolition of the existing Mulberry Farm buildings, retention of Mulberry Farmhouse and proposed erection of 25no. residential units with associated parking facilities, amenity space, landscaping, village green, pond and paddock” at Mulberry Farm, High Street, Stoke Golding.

Groundworks Archaeology produced an overarching archaeological management plan (AMP) which covered all aspects of the project. A watching brief was maintained on the demolition phase of the former poultry farm prior to undertaking the evaluation stage.

The archaeological evaluation was carried out between the 26th November 2025 and 6th January 2026. This involved the mechanical excavation under archaeological supervision of ten 30m x 2m trial trenches.

The evaluation identified general truncation across the site from the former agricultural buildings. The generally thin topsoil and lack of subsoil suggests that the site has been previously stripped, possibly when the former poultry farm was constructed. A comprehensive metal detecting survey was undertaken across the site; this only recovered modern material much of which was related to its 20th century use as a poultry farm.

Archaeological features were only identified in trenches 5 and 6. These comprised of two potentially Medieval linear ditches, a post hole and a Post-medieval pit. Given the location of these features in the south-eastern corner of the site closest to the historic settlement core, it is possible that they are related to backyard activity associated with the dwellings fronting onto High Street. Although only one sherd of pottery dating to the later Early-medieval and Medieval period was recovered from the ditches, the lack of any later material is suggestive, and it is possible that these features relate to the earliest origins of Stoke Golding.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Groundworks Archaeology was commissioned by Stronghold Homes to undertake a programme of archaeological mitigation on land at Mulberry Farm, Stoke Golding, Leicestershire. Consultee advice provided by Mr William Kelly (dated 17th July 2024) recommended a staged programme of archaeological mitigation under the overarching principle of an archaeological mitigation plan (AMP).
- 1.2 An AMP was subsequently produced by Groundworks Archaeology (Roberts 2025a) which includes a fully detailed planning background, historical and archaeological background and details regarding resourcing, data management and archive protocol etc. A WSI was also produced for the phase 2 evaluation (Roberts 2025b) which was focussed on the proposed development area. This summary report presents the results.

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The proposed development site is located in Stoke Golding, in the administrative district of Hinckley and Bosworth. It is situated approximately 4km north-north-west of Hinckley and c.7km north-north-east of Nuneaton. The site is approximately 1.1 hectares and presently occupied by one farmhouse (to be retained in the development) fronting onto the street. The rest of the site presently consists of levelled and grubbed out farm buildings. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 3972 9743 at an approximate height of 106m AOD (figure 1).

Geology

- 2.2 The British Geological Survey records the bedrock geology as the Gunthorpe Member, a mudstone sedimentary bedrock formed between 247.1 and 237 million years ago during the Triassic period.
- 2.3 Superficial deposits are recorded as the Wigston Member, a sand and gravel sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period. The northern corner of the site is recorded as the Bosworth Clay Member, a sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 480 and 423 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period.

3. Planning background

- 3.1 Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council are considering a planning application (22/00661/FUL) for the “demolition of the existing Mulberry Farm buildings, retention of Mulberry Farmhouse and proposed erection of 25no. residential units with associated parking facilities, amenity space, landscaping, village green, pond and paddock” at Mulberry Farm, High Street, Stoke

Golding. Although the proposal has been agreed in principle the decision issue is awaiting the finalisation of the S106 agreement.

- 3.2 Consultee advice provided by Mr William Kelly (dated 17th July 2024) recommended a staged programme of archaeological mitigation under the overarching principle of an archaeological mitigation plan (AMP).

3.3 The recommended condition wording was:

“1. No demolition/development shall take place/commence until the programme of archaeological mitigation has been defined within an Archaeological Mitigation Plan (AMP), which has been [submitted to and] approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the AMP, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed programme. The AMP will make provision for three fieldwork stages and their associated post-excavation requirements:

- an initial phase of archaeological attendance (including metal detecting) to be undertaken on all demolition works;
- a programme of trial trenching, and
- a final stage archaeological investigation and recording of significant archaeological remains.

Reason: To ensure satisfactory programme of archaeological mitigation and to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

2. Prior to the commencement of each stage of the AMP (condition 1 above), a written scheme of investigation (WSI), will be [submitted to and] approved by the local planning authority in writing. The WSI will define the required archaeological work, and will include a statement of significance and research objectives, and

- The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works
- The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI

Reason: To ensure each stage of the archaeological investigation is undertaken in accordance with best practice, including its investigation, recording, dissemination and archiving.”

4. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 4.1 A Heritage Impact Assessment was prepared by Allen Archaeology (Strachen and Clempson 2021) to accompany the planning application which is summarised below (and which should be read in conjunction with the AMP). An Historic Environment search was also commissioned to ensure that the background was up to date.

Prehistoric

- 4.2 There are five sites dating to the Prehistoric period within the search area. Although no definite settlement remains have been uncovered, a large amount of unstratified worked flint has been recovered, much of which appears to be heat affected, alongside charred animal bone. In 2006, fieldwork c.650m south-south-west of the proposed development site yielded a significant amount of material for a number of periods, including eight pieces of seemingly Palaeolithic flint comprising flakes, a hand axe, and two core re-cortifications amongst others. Additionally, around 300 pieces of worked flint dating from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age was discovered.
- 4.3 Excavations at Park Lodge, c.270m south of the site, in 2005, recovered a small amount of Prehistoric flint (MLE20476), with further flint pieces found in spoil reportedly dumped from Park House c.380m south-west, and near Higham Lane c.780m east of the proposed development site during fieldwalking (MLE20477 and MLE204714). Additionally, a plano-convex knife, a scraper and a flake dating to the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age were found in a garden on Hinckley Road, c.305m south-east of the site (MLE9174).

Roman

- 4.4 Within the search area six sites date to the Roman period. Excavations at Park House, c.260m south of the development site, in 2005, revealed a piece of Roman tile which could suggest some sort of building in the vicinity (MLE20475). Furthermore, during fieldwalking that same year, 24 sherds of Roman pottery and a piece of glass were found in spoil that had apparently been dumped from the aforementioned Park House in a field c.400m south-west of Mulberry Farm (MLE20478). Additional fieldwalking events have revealed further finds of Roman pottery c.760m and c.700m south-south-west of the development site (MLE20472 and MLE20291). A sherd of Roman greyware was found on a spoil heap c.80m south of the site in the 1990s (MLE8504). To the north of the village, approximately 800m north-north-east of the site, a single Roman brooch was discovered by metal detecting close to Dadlington House Farm (MLE20612).

Early-Medieval

- 4.5 A settlement appears to have been established by the Early-medieval period, evident in the three sites dating to this period which have been identified within the search area. An Anglo-Saxon burial mound, known as a *hlaew*, has been identified through surviving earthworks approximately 380m south of the development site in the grounds of Park House. The mound stands 2m high and 14m in diameter and is surrounded by a now infilled ditch. Excavations carried out on the mound in the 1930s revealed pottery and three enamelled escutcheons from a 7th century hanging bowl. The site is a Scheduled Monument (1017678), and also contains the earthworks of two large fishponds, and a Medieval farmstead within a rectangular enclosure, and a platform believed to represent the site of a Medieval farmhouse in the south-eastern corner of the site. Several small low banks and drainage channels surround the platform, possibly representing small closes.
- 4.6 Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds were recovered from the spoil dumped from Park House, c.400m south-west of the site (MLE20480), and a spearhead which could date to this period was also recovered c.200m west of the site (MLE9171), although such items were used later too. Spear heads (and other forms of weaponry), however, have often been associated with Early-Medieval burials. The evidence seems to suggest that there was some form of settlement within the south-western part of the village during this period.

Medieval

- 4.7 The village is not recorded in the Domesday Book. This does not appear to be because there was no settlement in the village at the time, but more likely due to it being a chapelry of Hinckley township, within which it was located Hinckley is recorded under the ownership of Earl Aubrey with a population of 69 households, accommodating 42 villagers, 3 freemen, 16 smallholders and 8 slaves (Williams and Martin 2002).
- 4.8 The origin of the name Stoke Golding reveals little about the village's earlier history. According to Hoskins, *Stoke* appears to relate to a '*place*' or '*stump*' although alternative interpretations suggest the name came from a family known as *Stoke* or *de Stoke* who were living in the village in the 12th century. *Golding* does not appear to have been added to the name until the 18th century, according to documentary sources (Hoskins 1935; Stoke Golding Heritage Trail undated).
- 4.9 There are twenty sites dating to the Medieval period within the search area. These are primarily focused within two historic settlement cores that have been deduced using historic mapping and landscape maps. These are located at Dadlington, approximately 730m north-east of the site (MLE3263), and within Stoke Golding itself (MLE2908). The historic core of Stoke Golding is centred on the main thoroughfares of Main Street, Upton

Lane and High Street. The south-eastern quarter of the proposed development site lies within this presumed historic core.

- 4.10 Previous archaeological fieldwork has revealed evidence of Medieval activity within the village of Stoke Golding to the south of the proposed development site. Ditches containing Medieval pottery, reflecting boundaries dating from the 12th to 13th century onwards, were uncovered during excavations at Laburnham Cottage c.250m south-south-west of the site (MLE23399), with further ditches and gullies recorded during the Park House excavations, including the recovery of a 10th century silver penny, alongside Post-medieval features seemingly indicating continuous or at least regular use of the site (MLE16635). Further linear features, some containing 12th and 13th century Medieval pottery, have been found on Station Road (MLE16036), High Street (MLE24596) and Main Street (MLE21734), all within 300m of the proposed development site. These sites are in addition to the aforementioned Scheduled farmstead, located near to the Early-medieval burial mound in the south-west part of the village.
- 4.11 The rural agricultural history of the village is reflected in the well-preserved ridge and furrow earthworks located c.800m east of the proposed development site at the edge of the village on the west side of Hinckley Road (MLE21977). This is identified clearly on LiDAR imagery of the area. Other areas of ridge and furrow of unknown date are located around Stoke Golding, particularly in the field immediately north of the proposed development site, in fields to the west of the village, and at the southern edge of Dadlington. The Grade I listed church and churchyard of St Margaret of Antioch are located approximately 100m south of the site (MLE13096 and MLE21736). It was believed to have been rebuilt in the early 13th century as a chapel connected to Hinckley. The south aisle, Lady Chapel, tower and spire were added in the later 13th and 14th centuries.

Post-Medieval

- 4.12 Undoubtedly the most famous heritage asset in Stoke Golding, part of which falls inside the boundary of the proposed development site itself, is Bosworth Battlefield, which is designated as a Registered Battlefield (1000004). Stoke Golding is one of five parishes in which the battlefield is located, and lies on the south-eastern perimeter of it. As the location for the final defeat of Richard III during the Wars of the Roses in 1485, the battlefield remains a nationally significant site historically and archaeologically. Some stories suggest that villagers climbed up onto the roof of St Margaret's Church to watch the battle unfold. Recent research undertaken as part of the Bosworth Battlefield Survey directed by the Battlefields Trust, has identified the location of the battle to have been on the marshy terrain of Redemore Plain, c.1.7km west-north-west of the village, on the south side of Fenn Lane. Following his victory, Henry rode to

Stoke Golding to be crowned at Crown Hill, c.300m west-south-west of the proposed development site.

- 4.13 The aforementioned spoil dump from Park House, discussed in earlier paragraphs, also revealed extensive evidence of domestic occupation within the village during this period, recovering 257 sherds of pottery, and sundry items such as an Elizabethan coin, a loomweight, a gaming piece and two buckles (MLE20479).
- 4.14 A possible windmill is believed to have been located c.900m south of the proposed development site during the earlier Post-Medieval period, although it is not noted on first edition OS mapping (MLE2906). A possible prospect mound is located c.160m south of the proposed development site (MLE2907). Its steep sides, at a height of 2m, are suggestive of a Post-Medieval date.
- 4.15 The agricultural economy of the village is reflected in the number of surviving farmsteads in the study area dating from the 18th century onwards, including Grange Farmhouse c.1km west of the proposed development site (MLE13110), Crown Hill Farm c.360m to the south-west (MLE15782) and Millfield Farm c.870m to the south (MLE21972). Home Farmhouse (MLE12169) and Manor Farm (MLE20660) both lie within the historic settlement core of Dadlington, in the north-north-eastern perimeter of the search area. Grange Farmhouse and Home Farmhouse are both listed Grade II.
- 4.16 The 1814 Ordnance Survey drawing of Stoke Golding shows the core of the village extending along what is now Station Road and High Street. St Margaret's Church, and Crown Hill and the nearby farm, are also evident, as is the Ashby Canal. The proposed development site appears undeveloped, although The Birches (MLE13095) is evident immediately to the east of the site boundary. The Stoke Golding Tithe Map dating to 1844, shows little change in the size of the village. Field boundaries are more clearly visible, and there appears to have been further subdivision of some of larger fields outside the village. Field boundaries clearly depict the site of Mulberry Farm where the extant buildings are located, and the two paddocks to the north of it. The two (formerly three) redbrick cottages, located along the eastern perimeter of the proposed development site also appear to have been constructed at some point between the production of the 1814 OS drawing, and the 1844 Tithe map. These buildings, Mulberry Farmhouse, are recorded in the Neighbourhood Plan as being 'Locally Valued Heritage Assets' (NPAC 2020). Aside from these buildings, the site remains undeveloped. Park House and Crown Hill Farm are clearly identifiable, alongside The Birches, Woodyard Cottage and The Limes.

- 4.17 From the 19th century onwards the spiritual welfare of the population was catered for not only at the aforementioned St Margaret's Church, but also in the nonconformist chapels that were constructed, likely partly in response to the growing number of those employed in the hosiery manufacturing industry which, although had been established by the end of the 17th century, was growing quickly in the later Post-medieval period. The Baptist 'Zion Chapel' was built in 1853 (MLE17183), whilst a Primitive Methodist Chapel was constructed in 1855, although later replaced by another chapel in a different location (MLE25621). An Independent Chapel was also opened in Dadlington, between 1801-1802 (MLE24644).
- 4.18 Transport networks around the village improved significantly from the 18th century onwards. The road between Market Bosworth and Hinckley along the eastern edge of the village was turnpiked in 1759 to 1760 (MLE20918), and the section of the Ashby Canal which snakes around the north and western edge of the village opened in 1804, following the development of coalfields to the north (MLE8916). In terms of the railways, the Hinckley and Stoke Golding Branch Line was constructed at some point during the 19th century but was reportedly never used (MLE16050). The Ashby and Nuneaton Joint Railway, which opened in 1873 and runs west of the village in a north-north-east to south-south-west direction, saw more success, not ceasing in use until 1971, and now used in part by the historic Battlefield Line (MLE16051). A railway station and a goods shed were also built c.500m west of the site in 1873 (MLE22817 and MLE22816).
- 4.19 Alongside agriculture, Stoke Golding, like many other rural Leicestershire villages, was also an important location for framework knitting. From the 19th century, the industry became largely factory based, and three small hosiery factories were established in the village. The Hall & Sons hosiery factory, located c.300m south-west of the development site, was one such factory. It was constructed in 1882 and remained in business until 1977 when the company relocated to a larger site (MLE25622).

5. Aims and Objectives of the Project

- 5.1 The aim of the project was to determine the presence or otherwise of archaeological features within the application site, knowledge of which could be used to inform further mitigation.
- 5.2 The objectives of the project were:

To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the development site.

To determine the type, extent, condition, nature, character, quality, function, and date, of any archaeological remains encountered.

To gain information about heritage assets identified within the area of the proposed development site.

To mitigate potential threats.

To interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national context.

To provide sufficient data to formulate a suitable archaeological mitigation plan.

6. Methodology

- 6.1 The archaeological evaluation was carried out between the 26th November 2025 and 6th January 2026. This involved the mechanical excavation under archaeological supervision of ten 30m x 2m trial trenches. The trenches were laid out vis DGPS survey as specified in the WSI (see figure 2 for location plan).
- 6.2 Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording and deposits observed were recorded on standard pro-forma recording sheets.
- 6.3 Full context descriptions are provided in the trench summary which is presented in Appendix 1.
- 6.4 A digital colour photographic record was also maintained, some of which is reproduced in this report as plates 1 – 27 Appendix 2.
- 6.5 All work was carried out according to the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation, and in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) standards and guidance for archaeological evaluations, by James Roberts, Neal Pointon and Michael Blake.

7. Results

Trench 1 (Plates 1-2, 25)

- 7.1 Trench 1 was orientated east-north-east to west-south-west and was excavated to a total length of 29.4m (plates 1 and 2). It contained a simple stratigraphy of topsoil (101) overlying the natural geology (102). A sondage was excavated at the south-west end to prove natural (102).

- 7.2 The trench contained three ceramic field drains orientated north-west to south-east. No other archaeological features were present within the trench.

Trench 2 (Plates 3-4)

- 7.3 Trench 2 was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east and was excavated to a length of 20.2m (plates 3 and 4). The stratigraphy in trench 2 mirrored that of trench 1 with topsoil (201) overlying natural (202).

- 7.4 The trench contained concrete footings, a modern pit containing rubble including plate glass and plastic mesh, and a field drain orientated north-west to south-east. No other archaeological features were present.

Trench 3 (Plates 5-6, 26)

- 7.5 Trench 3 was orientated west-south-west to east-north-east and was excavated to a length of 28.3m (plates 5 and 6). The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil (301) overlying natural (302).

- 7.6 A concrete pad overlying a possible large cess pit and a modern square cut pit containing plastic and bailer twine were present in the trench. No other archaeological features were observed.

Trench 4 (Plates 7-8)

- 7.7 Trench 4 was orientated east to west and was excavated to a length of 26.4m (plates 7 and 8). It contained a simple stratigraphy of topsoil (401) overlying natural (402).

- 7.8 No archaeological features were present in the trench.

Trench 5 (Plates 9-10, 21-24, 27 and Figure 3)

- 7.9 Trench 5 was orientated north-west to south-east and was excavated to a length of 29.8m (figure 3 drawing 5; plates 9 and 10). The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil (501) overlying natural (502).

- 7.10 The trench contained two parallel linear ditches [503] and [505] orientated north-east to south-west following a visible boundary line (figure 3 drawings 1 and 3; plates 21 and 22). A post-hole [507] was also present in the trench located between the two ditches (figure 3 drawing 2; plate 24) and a shallow pit [507] which cut ditch [505] (figure 3 drawing 4; plate 23).

Trench 6 (Plates 11-12)

- 7.11 Trench 6 was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east and was excavated to a length of 29.2m (plates 11 and 12). A sondage was dug at the south-east end to prove natural (602). The stratigraphy consisted of a rubble filled topsoil (601) overlying heavily disturbed natural (602).

- 7.12 The trench was heavily truncated for much of its length by a large modern pit which was at least 2m deep, containing a loose brick rubble. This pit immediately filled with hydrocarbon contaminated water. A ditch orientated north-east to south-west [603] and aligned to ditch [503] was observed on the edge of the truncation. However, it was not investigated as was unsafe to do so being at the edge of and within the contaminated water.

Trench 7 (Plates 13-14)

- 7.13 Trench 7 was orientated east-north-east to west-south-west and was excavated to a total length of 30.4m (plates 13 and 14). It contained a simple stratigraphy of topsoil (701) overlying the natural geology (702).
- 7.14 The trench contained a modern wall and footings along most of its length with associated dark grey staining. No archaeological features were present.

Trench 8 (Plates 15-16)

- 7.15 Trench 8 was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east and was excavated to a length of 30.2m (plates 15 and 16). The stratigraphy consisted of a topsoil with 60% building rubble (201) overlying natural (202).
- 7.16 The trench contained a field drain orientated north-west to south-east, no other archaeological features were present.

Trench 9 (Plates 17-18)

- 7.17 Trench 9 was orientated north-east to south-west and was excavated to a length of 29.8m (plates 17 and 18). It contained a simple stratigraphy of topsoil (901) overlying natural (902).
- 7.18 A field drain orientated east to west was present in the trench, no other archaeological features were observed.

Trench 10 (Plates 19-20)

- 7.19 Trench 10 was orientated north to south and excavated to a length of 30.3m. It was moved 2m to the west to avoid a mulberry tree that is being retained within the proposed development. The stratigraphy consisted of a topsoil with 30% building rubble (1001) overlying natural (1002).
- 7.20 No archaeological features were present within the trench.

8. The Finds

8.1 Pottery Paul Blinkhorn

- 8.1.1 The pottery assemblage comprised three sherds with a total weight of 12g.

It was recorded using the conventions of the Leicestershire County type series (Sawday 1994), as follows

EA10: **Modern Earthenwares**, 1800+. 2 sherds, 7g.

OL: **Oolitic Ware**, 975 – 1300. 1 sherd, 5g.

8.1.2 Both wares are common finds in the region. The sherd of OL occurred in context 504 while the two fragments of EA10 came from context 510. Both of the latter are transfer-printed refined white earthenwares.

8.1.3 Context 506 produced a fragment of unglazed flat roof-tile weighing 175g. It was somewhat abraded, 16mm thick, and in a slightly soft, fine, iron-rich orange fabric. It is a fairly typical product of the industry at Stoke near Coventry, which was active from the late 14th – 15th century (Redknapp and Perry 1996, 97).

8.2 Animal bone Dr Sheila Hamilton-Dyer

8.2.1 Excavation recovered a very small assemblage of animal bones from ditch contexts (see appendix 3 for summary table).

8.2.2 Taxonomic identifications were made using the author's modern comparative collections. All fragments were counted and were identified to taxon and element where reasonably possible. Recently broken fragments were rejoined where possible and have been counted as single specimens.

8.2.3 In total seven individual specimens were recorded from two deposits:

Ditch context 504

8.2.4 There are four bones from this fill: a gnawed and butchered cattle femoral head, a cattle-sized rib fragment, a small piece of cranium from a hornless sheep and a sheep/goat lower molar.

Ditch context 506

8.2.5 The three remains from this fill are two sheep/goat lower third molars, probably from different animals, and a large mammal radius. This bone is in poor condition with the structure breaking and spalling. The morphology best matches bovine, but although small it does not have the porous appearance expected of calf and therefore its identity is uncertain.

Discussion

8.2.6 The remains from these two features have differing condition states; that from 506 is less well preserved and consists only of two loose sheep teeth and a large mammal limbone shaft that is actively degrading. The material from 504 is in good condition. The cattle femur has a maximum caput depth of 48.7mm. This would be considered rather large for some periods, Iron

Age or Medieval for example – although within the range for large castrates and bulls. This bone is from a mature animal but shows no age or traction related pathologies that might indicate a possible older or working male animal.

9. Discussion and Conclusions

- 9.1 The evaluation identified general truncation across the site from the former agricultural buildings. The generally thin topsoil and lack of subsoil suggests that the site has been previously stripped, possibly when the former poultry farm was constructed. A comprehensive metal detecting survey was undertaken across the site. This only recovered modern material much of which was related to its 20th century use as a poultry farm.
- 9.2 The only archaeological features present within the site occurred in trenches 5 and 6. These comprised of two nearly parallel linear ditches aligned north-east to south-west [503,505], a single posthole [507] and a shallow pit [509]. It is likely that ditch [503] continued into trench 6 [603], however it was not possible to investigate [603] due to contamination.
- 9.3 Ditch [503] produced a sherd of Oolitic ware which dates from 975-1300CE suggesting a Medieval origin for this feature, while ditch [505] was undatable. Although it is tempting to interpret ditch [503] as roughly aligned with the present field boundary to the west, the alignment is sufficiently off centre to suggest that it is unrelated, while ditch [505] is certainly on a different alignment and too far south. The evidence from the animal bone assemblage was ambiguous beyond differing levels of preservation which suggests that the ditches are not contemporary. The earliest historic mapping that shows any detail is the Stoke Golding Tithe map of 1844 (figure 4). This shows subdivisions of the post enclosure landscape, none of which align with these ditches. The post hole [507] was undatable but may represent evidence for a fenceline following the ditch alignment. The pit [509] which truncates ditch [505] was datable to the Post-medieval period. Given the location of these features in the south-eastern corner of the site closest to the historic settlement core, it is possible that they are related to backyard activity associated with the dwellings fronting onto High Street. Although only one sherd of pottery dating to the later Early-medieval and Medieval period was recovered from the ditches, the lack of any later material is suggestive, and it is possible that these features relate to the earliest origins of Stoke Golding.
- 9.4 The evaluation fulfilled its aims with a high degree of confidence. The evidence for activity within the site was all within the south-eastern corner closest to the historic settlement core. With all the features concentrated in trench 5 (with one of the ditches likely continuing through trench 6). It is

likely that associated features are present within the immediate vicinity of this trench.

10. Archive

- 10.1 The records for the phase 2 evaluation will be archived with the phase 1 watching brief under accession number X.A136.2025 in accordance with The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire County Council Museum Collections (Leicestershire County Council, 2024). The digital data will be archived with the Archaeology data Service

11. Acknowledgements

- 11.1 Groundworks Archaeology would like to thank Stronghold Developments for commissioning this project. We would also like to thank Mr William Kelly for his kind assistance during the course of the project.

12. Bibliography

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Appendix 1: Trench Summary

Trench 1			
Dimensions 29.4m x 2.1m		Ground level 99.88m AOD Max Depth 0.8m	
Orientation: WSW - ENE			
Context	Type	Description	Depth
101	Topsoil	Dark brown friable clayey-silt	0.23m
102	Natural	Mid yellowish-brown firm clay with patches of freq round & sub-round stone ≤70mm	>0.6m

Trench 2			
Dimensions 30.2m x 2.1m		Ground level 103.18m AOD Max Depth 0.48m	
Orientation: NNW - SSE			
Context	Type	Description	Depth
201	Topsoil	Dark brown friable clayey-silt	0.21m
202	Natural	Mixed mid yellowish-brown firm clay & mid brownish-grey firm sandy-clay	>0.28m

Trench 3			
Dimensions 28.3m x 2.1m		Ground level 103.81m AOD Max Depth 0.92mm	
Orientation: WSW - ENE			
Context	Type	Description	Depth
301	Topsoil	Dark brown friable clayey-silt	0.3m
302	Natural	Mixed mid yellowish-brown firm clay & mid brownish-grey firm sandy-clay	>0.38m

Trench 4			
Dimensions 26.4m x 2.1m		Ground level 105.30m AOD Max Depth 0.38m	
Orientation: E - W			
Context	Type	Description	Depth
401	Topsoil	Dark brown friable clayey-silt	0.25m
402	Natural	Mid yellowish-brown firm clay with mod round to sub-angular stone ≤60mm	>0.14m

Appendix 1: Trench Summary

Trench 5			
Dimensions 29.8m x 2.1m		Ground level 106.63m AOD	
Orientation: NW - SE		Max Depth 0.60m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth
501	Topsoil	Dark brown friable clayey-silt	0.24m
502	Natural	Mid orange-brown firm sandy-clay	>0.11m
503	Cut	Linear ditch orientated NE – SW gradual b.o.s to shallow concave sides & imperceptible b.o.s to concave base >2.6m long x 0.82m wide	0.09m
504	Single fill of [503]	Mid greyish-brown soft silty-clay with mod sub-angular to sub-round stone ≤110mm & occa charcoal flecks	0.09m
505	Cut	Linear ditch orientated NE – SW sharp b.o.s to concave sides & gradual b.o.s to flat base >2.6m long x 0.93m wide	0.17m
506	Single fill of [505]	Mid greyish-brown soft silty-clay with mod sub-angular to sub-round stone ≤110mm & occa charcoal flecks	0.17m
507	Cut	Post-hole sub-circular in plan sharp b.o.s to steep concave sides & gradual b.o.s 0.39m long x 0.33m wide	0.23m
508	Single fill of [507]	Dark orangey-brown firm clayey-silt with occa sub-angular to sub-round stone ≤50mm & occa charcoal flecks	0.23
509	Cut	Shallow pit sub-circular in plan gradual b.o.s to shallow concave sides & imperceptible b.o.s to concave base 1.2m long x 2m wide	0.07m
510	Upper fill of [509]	Dark orange-brown firm clayey-silt with occa sub-angular to sub-round stone ≤30mm	0.07m
511	Primary fill of [509]	Mid orange brown firm sandy clay, re-deposited natural	0.03m

Trench 6			
Dimensions 29.2m x 2.1m		Ground level m AOD	
Orientation: NNW - SSE		Max Depth 0.75m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth
601	Topsoil	Dark brown friable clayey-silt with 40% demolition material	0.32m
602	Natural	Mid orange-brown firm sandy-clay	>0.21m
603	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch aligned to [503]	-
604	Single fill of [603]	Mid greyish-brown soft silty-clay with mod sub-angular to sub-round stone	-

Appendix 1: Trench Summary

Trench 7			
Dimensions 30.4m x 2.1m		Ground level 104.34m AOD	
Orientation: ENE - WSW		Max Depth 0.51m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth
701	Topsoil	Dark brown friable clayey-silt with 20% demolition material	0.31m
702	Natural	Mid orange-brown firm sandy-clay with frequent dark grey staining	>0.2m

Trench 8			
Dimensions 30.2m x 2.1m		Ground level 100.95m – 103.72m AOD	
Orientation: NNW - SSE		Max Depth 0.61m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth
801	Topsoil	Dark brown friable clayey-silt with 60% demolition material	0.34m
802	Natural	Mid orange-brown firm sandy-clay with frequent dark grey staining	>0.11m

Trench 9			
Dimensions 29.8m x 2.1m		Ground level 102.84m AOD	
Orientation: NE - SW		Max Depth 0.32m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth
901	Topsoil	Dark brown friable clayey-silt with 45% demolition material	0.28m
902	Natural	Mid orange-brown firm sandy-clay with frequent dark grey staining	>0.06m

Trench 10			
Dimensions 30.3m x 2.1m		Ground level 105.79m AOD	
Orientation: N - S		Max Depth 0.71m	
Context	Type	Description	Depth
1001	Topsoil	Dark brown friable clayey-silt with 35% demolition material	0.49
1002	Natural	Mid orange-brown firm sandy-clay with frequent dark grey staining & intruded building material	>0.2m

Appendix 2: Plates



Plate.7;Trench.7.looking.west_south_west



Plate.8;Trench.7.looking.east_north_east

Appendix 2: Plates



Plate.9;Trench.8.looking.north_north_west



Plate.10;Trench.8.looking.south_south_east

Appendix 2: Plates



Plate.1, Trench.9.looking.west_south_west



Plate.2, Trench.9.looking.east_north_east

Appendix 2: Plates



Plate 3. Trench 0 looking east



Plate 4. Trench 0 looking west

Appendix 2: Plates



Plate.65;Trench.1looking.north_west



Plate.76;Trench.1looking.south_east

Appendix 2: Plates



Plate.77;Trench. looking.north_north_west



Plate.78;Trench. looking.south_south_east

Appendix 2: Plates



Plate.79;Trench. looking.east_north_east



Plate.70;Trench. looking.west_south_west

Appendix 2: Plates



Plate.70; Trench. looking.south_south_east



Plate.70; Trench. looking.north_north_west

Appendix 2: Plates



Plate.70 Trench.9 looking.north_east



Plate.70 Trench.9 looking.south_west

Appendix 2: Plates



Plate.76;Trench.76.looking.south



Plate.86;Trench.76.looking.north

Appendix 2: Plates



Plate.87;North_east.facing.sample.section.ditch.[069]



Plate.88;North_east.facing.section.ditch.[060].(board.incorrect)

Appendix 2: Plates



Plate.89;South_west.facing.section.ditch.[060].™.pit.[060].(board.incorrect)



Plate.80;North_west.facing.section.post_hole.[060]

Appendix 2: Plates



Plate.80;South_south_east.facing.sample.section.trench.7



Plate.80;South_south_east.facing.sample.section.trench.9

Appendix 2: Plates



Plate.80 North_east.facing.sample.section.trench.1

Appendix 3: Animal Bone Summary Table

Record	Site	Feature	Context	NISP	Taxon	Element	Side	Part	%	Fusion	condition	Comments
1	MFS25		504	1	cattle	femur	L	p	15	PF	good	slight gnawing, oblique chop through shaft, quite large - caput 48.7mm
2	MFS25		504	1	sheep	skull frontal	L	mt	15		good	portion over eye, hornless, possibly axilly chopped
3	MFS25		504	1	sheep/goat	lower molar 3	R	w	90		in 2 pieces	Grant wear stage h
4	MFS25		504	1	cattle-size	rib		mt	5		fair	slight gnawing
5	MFS25		506	1	sheep/goat	lower molar 3	L	w	90		good	not pair, slightly different age, stage g
6	MFS25		506	1	sheep/goat	lower molar 3	R	w	90		in 2 pieces	not pair, Grant wear stage f
7	MFS25		506	1	?cattle	radius	L	m	30		poor, brittle, in pieces	breaking and spalling, small but seems rather well formed for calf
total				3								

SH-D part code key: W-whole, P-proximal, D-distal, M-midshaft, N-cranial, A-caudal, E-medial, T-lateral, V-ventral
 SH-D butchery code key: k-knife cut, c-chop, r-repeated, h-through, *-across, +-oblique, o-vertical, mg&-axial

Appendix 4: OASIS Summary

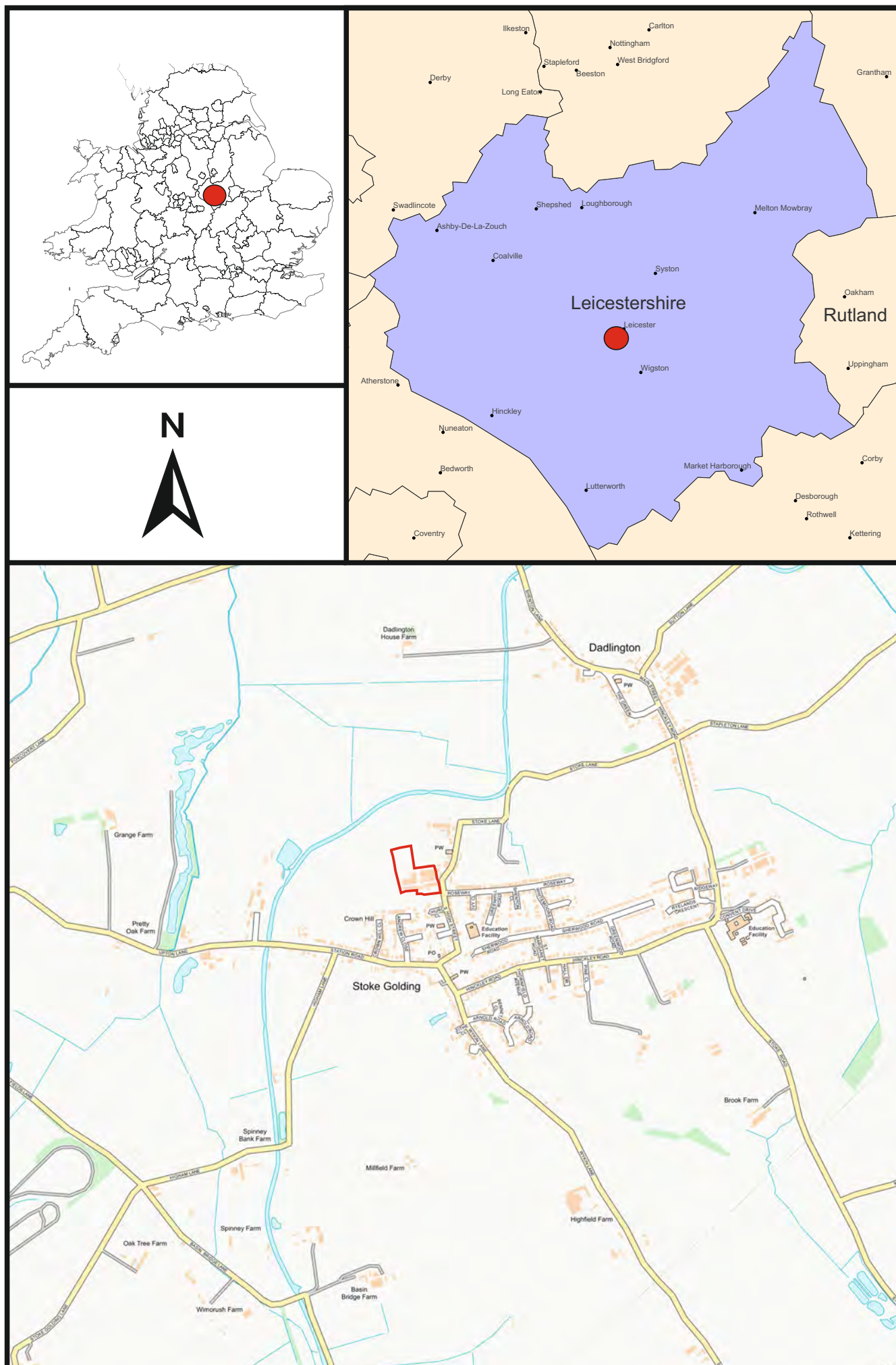
OASIS ID (UID)	groundwo2-540833
Project Name	Evaluation at Land at Mulberry Farm, High Street, Stoke Golding,
Sitename	Land at Mulberry Farm, High Street, Stoke Golding,
Sitecode	MFS25
Project Identifier(s)	
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	22/00661/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Groundworks Archaeology
Project Dates	26-Nov-2025 - 06-Jan-2026
Location	Land at Mulberry Farm, High Street, Stoke Golding, NGR: SP 39720 97430 LL: 52.57324673337092, -1.415348505046968 12 Fig: 439720,297430
Administrative Areas	Country: England County/Local Authority: Leicestershire Local Authority District: Hinckley and Bosworth Parish: Stoke Golding
Project Methodology	The evaluation involved the mechanical excavation under archaeological supervision of ten 30m x 2m trial trenches. The trenches were laid out vis DGPS survey as specified in the WSI. Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording and deposits observed were recorded on standard pro-forma recording sheets. Full context descriptions are provided in the trench summary which is presented in Appendix 1 of the report. A digital colour photographic record was maintained, some of which is reproduced in the report as plates 1 – 27 Appendix 2. All work was carried out according to the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation, and in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Appendix 4: OASIS Summary

	(ClfA) standards and guidance for archaeological evaluations, by James Roberts, Neal Pointon and Michael Blake.
Project Results	The evaluation identified general truncation across the site from the former agricultural buildings. The generally thin topsoil and lack of subsoil suggests that the site has been previously stripped, possibly when the former poultry farm was constructed. A comprehensive metal detecting survey was undertaken across the site. This only recovered modern material much of which was related to its 20th century use as a poultry farm. The only archaeological features present within the site occurred in trenches 5 and 6. These comprised of two nearly parallel linear ditches aligned north-east to south-west [503,505], a single posthole [507] and a shallow pit [509]. It is likely that ditch [503] continued into trench 6 [603], however it was not possible to investigate [603] due to contamination. Ditch [503] produced a sherd of Oolitic ware which dates from 975-1300CE suggesting a Medieval origin for this feature, while ditch [505] was undatable. Although it is tempting to interpret ditch [503] as roughly aligned with the present field boundary to the west, the alignment is sufficiently off centre to suggest that it is unrelated, while ditch [505] is certainly on a different alignment and too far south. The evidence from the animal bone assemblage was ambiguous beyond differing levels of preservation which suggests that the ditches are not contemporary. The earliest historic mapping that shows any detail is the Stoke Golding Tithe map of 1844. This shows subdivisions of the post enclosure landscape, none of which align with these ditches. The post hole [507] was undatable but may represent evidence for a fenceline following the ditch alignment. The pit [509] which truncates ditch [505] was datable to the Post-medieval period. Given the location of these features in the south-eastern corner of the site closest to the historic settlement core, it is possible that they are related to backyard activity associated with the dwellings fronting onto High Street. Although only one sherd of pottery dating to the later Early-medieval and Medieval period was recovered from the ditches, the lack of any later material is suggestive, and it is possible that these features relate to the earliest origins of Stoke Golding. The evaluation fulfilled its aims with a high degree of confidence. The evidence for activity within the site was all within the south-eastern corner closest to the historic settlement core. With all the features concentrated in trench 5 (with one of the

Appendix 4: OASIS Summary

	ditches likely continuing through trench 6). It is likely that associated features are present within the immediate vicinity of this trench.
Keywords	Boundary Ditch - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Rubbish Pit - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Post Hole - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation Stronghold Homes Ltd
HER	Leicestershire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	James Roberts
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums; Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;



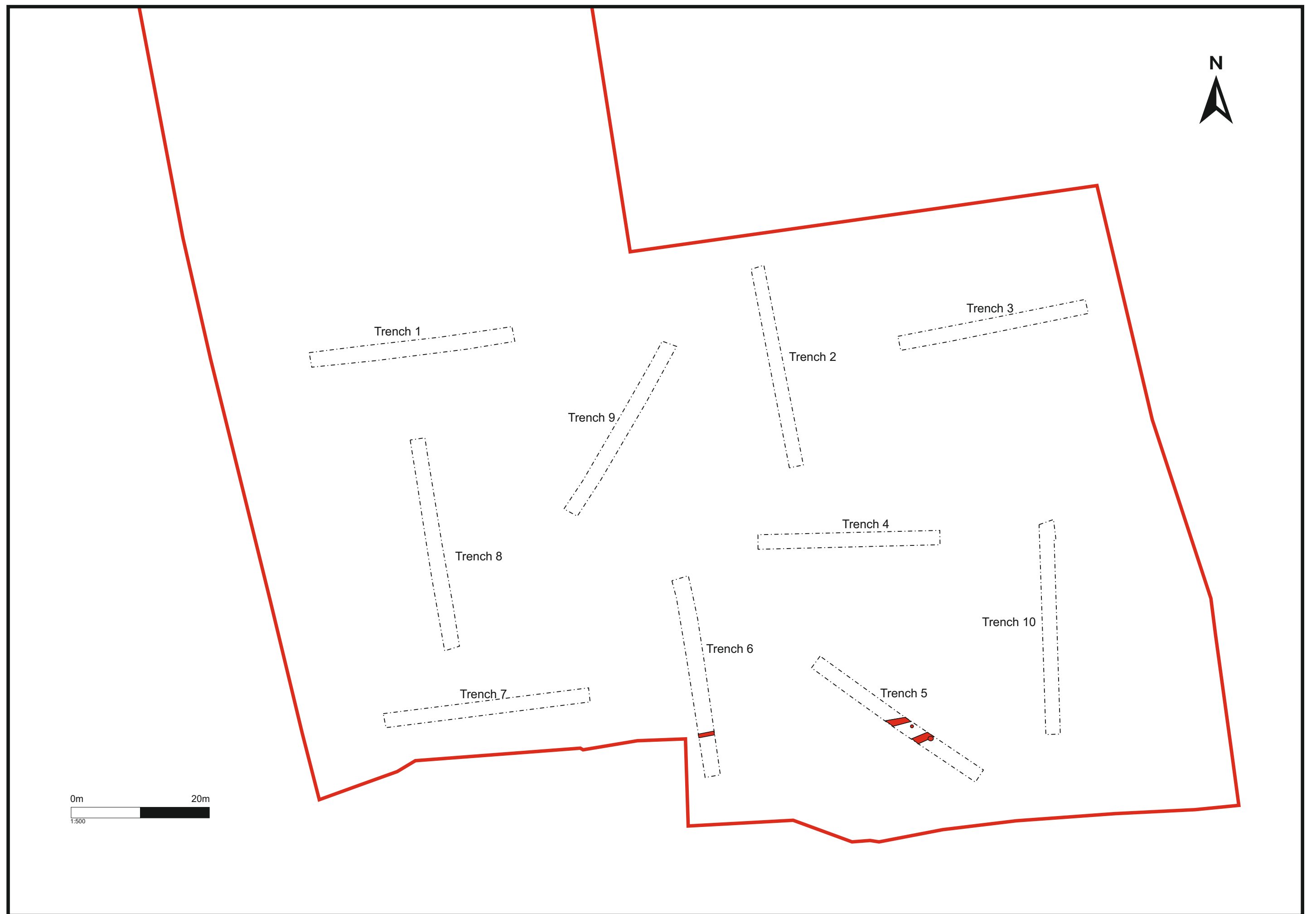


Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

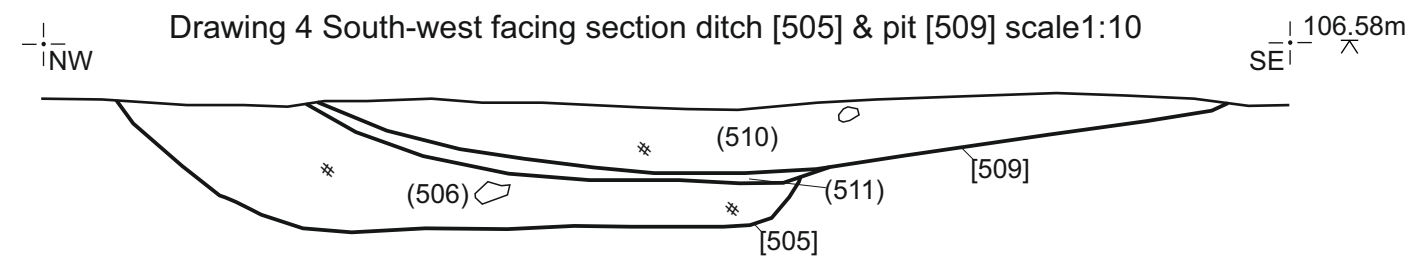
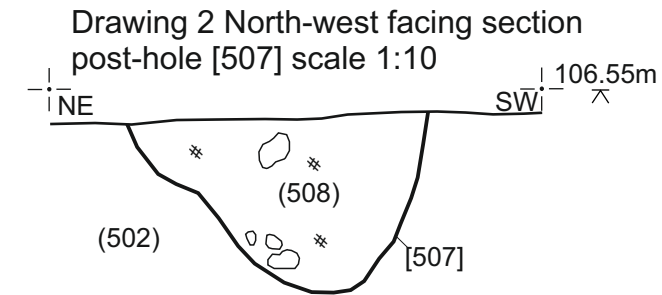
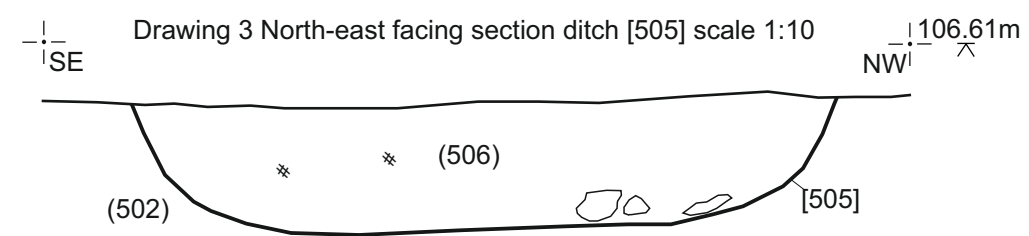
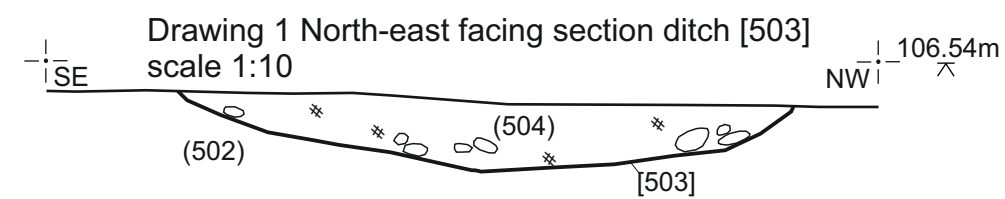
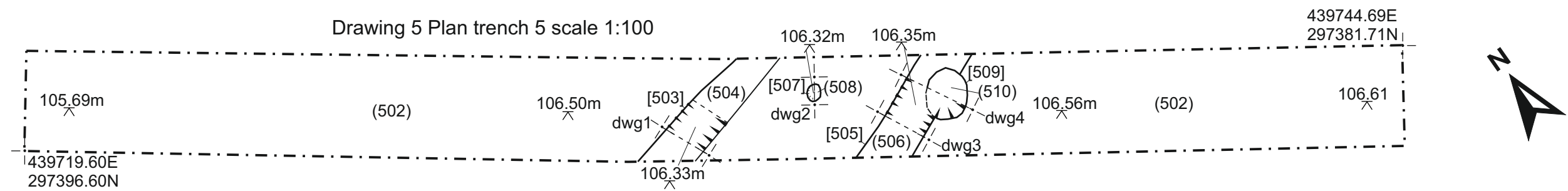


Figure 3: Archaeological Trench Plan and Sections



Figure 4: Stoke Golding Tithe Map 1844