

**Land at Burroughs Road, Ratby, Leicester, Leicestershire, LE6 0XZ**

**Archaeological Evaluation Trenching & Earthwork Survey Report**

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Lagan Homes

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## Summary

*PCAS Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Lagan Homes to undertake archaeological evaluation trenching and an earthwork survey on land at Burroughs Road, Ratby. This was to inform an application for mixed-use development.*

*The site lies on the western periphery of Ratby, on the terraces of the River Soar where prehistoric and Romano-British remains have been found in the wider landscape. Settlement in the historic core of Ratby probably dates from the post-Roman period, with ridge and furrow earthworks surviving in many modern fields within and surrounding the site. The earthwork survey targeted three areas of these earthworks in the southern half of the site that have been identified as the best-preserved in the area.*

*Geophysical anomalies were accurately interpreted as ridge-and-furrow, modern field boundaries and land drains. Unidentified anomalies corresponded to either furrows or minor variations within the natural geology.*

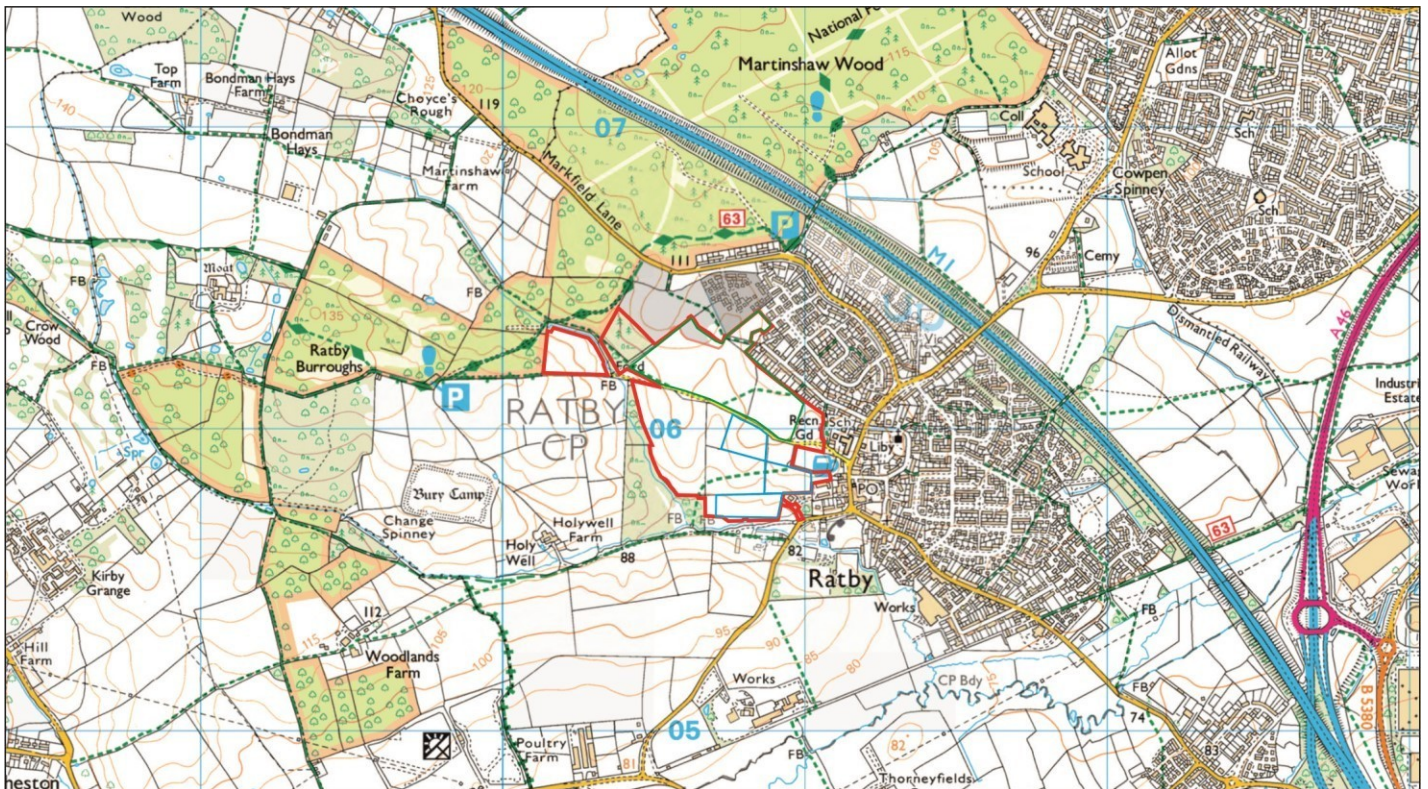


Figure 1: Location plan of the site at scale 1:25000. The application area is marked in red. OS mapping. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

## 1.0 Introduction

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by Lagan Homes to undertake archaeological evaluation trenching and an earthwork survey on land at Burroughs Road, Ratby, where a mixed-use development is proposed.

This report details the results deriving from archaeological evaluation trenching that took place in accordance with current best practice and national guidance, including:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2012, revised 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2023;
- Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CIFA) Code of Conduct, revised 2014, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022;
- CIFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation, revised 2014, 2020, 2023;
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE ver. 1.2, 2015)

## 2.0 Location and Description

Ratby is a village and civil parish in the Hinkley and Bosworth district of Leicestershire. It lies on the west side of the M1 just northwest of Leicester on the banks of the River Soar.

Burroughs Road extends north-westwards out of the village core and Main Street. The site straddles the road, encompassing approximately 80 acres of land.

The approximate centre of the site is at SK 50760 06176.

## 3.0 Topography and geology

The solid geology of the area is varied. The majority of the site to the north of the road is underlain by Edwalton Member Mudstone, described as red-brown and greenish grey mudstone and siltstone, overlain by Thrussington Member Diamicton. The majority of the south of the site and the valley of the River Soar is underlain by Gunthorpe Member Mudstone, red-brown mudstone with subordinate dolomitic siltstone and fine-grained sandstone. The boundary is marked by a thin band of Cotgrave Sandstone, and there are no recorded overlying deposits on these geologies (<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/>).

Ratby lies on the north bank of the River Soar, on a variable south-facing slope with levels at around 100mOD recorded in the northern half of the site.

## 4.0 Planning Background

An outline planning application (with all matters reserved apart from access) for a phased mixed-use development comprising of approximately 470 dwellings (use Class C3) and provision of 1FE primary school (use Class F1) and associated operations and infrastructure, including but not limited to site re-profiling works, sustainable urban drainage systems, public open space, landscaping, habitat creation, internal roads/routes and upgrades to the public highway has been submitted to Hinckley and Bosworth District Council: application ref 24/00914/OUT.

The Leicestershire County Council Senior Planning Archaeologist has alerted to the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks in several fields across the site. In the southern half of the site are three areas of earthworks, to be surveyed as part of this phase of archaeological works.

Evaluation on the north side of Burroughs Road was focused on an area where residential development alongside a primary school is proposed. The parcel of land at the eastern end of the evaluation is excluded, as this is currently a children's play area, while land to the west is a willow plantation and meadow which will be retained within the proposals and therefore any buried remains here are to be preserved *in situ*.

It is intended that further evaluation will take place on land south of Burroughs Road post-determination through planning condition and after consideration of the ridge and furrow in this area. These works will require a separate archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation.

## 5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

A desk-based assessment with integral earthwork assessment (Catanzaro, 2024) and geophysical survey (Whittingham, 2024) have been prepared in association with the proposed development. These documents were available to all undertaking fieldwork and post-excavation assessment. A summary is included here as follows:

Early activity in the area is usually found along gravel terraces associated with rivers, therefore the River Soar and its tributaries are potentially a focus for such activity: low densities of flint artefacts found close to Ratby provide residual evidence for this. Evidence of activity in the Neolithic and Bronze Age is also rare in the study area, with environmental remains suggesting the riverbanks were wooded. Settlement does not appear to have been established until the Iron Age, with a univallate hillfort being recorded close to Holywell Farm, southwest of the development site. Investigations just north of the current evaluation have revealed two ditches yielding late Iron Age – Romano- British pottery, interpreted as part of a field system that likely extends into the site (Cotswold Archaeology, 2023). A single undated ditch on a NE-SW alignment was exposed during trenching of the area currently being developed beyond the northwest corner of the site (Katsifas, 2021), and trenching at Desford Lane was negative, apart from a large modern feature (Wolf, 2021)

The LHER records a potential Roman road extending through the northwest part of the site, towards the regional settlement at modern Leicester (Ratae), but no evidence of a corresponding linear feature of this type has been identified by geophysics and the exact route of this road has not been confirmed.

Settlement at Ratby likely dates from the early medieval period, based on place-name evidence which suggests that a Danish camp or settlement perhaps associated with the Roman city of Ratae existed to the southeast. The Domesday survey records a manor held by Hugh de Grandsmenil including the households of 10 villagers and 5 smallholders, with 1 slave and 1 priest, land for 6 ploughs and a mill (Williams, 2003). The Church of St. Philip and St. James in the historic core of Ratby dates from the 13th century (LB1074093). Cropmarks of a possible moated enclosure are noted on the LHER adjacent to the south side of Burroughs Road, within the development site, but the interpretation of this as a medieval manor site is in doubt, as no medieval material was recovered during fieldwalking in the vicinity, and LiDAR and geophysics have not revealed any potential features here.

In the agricultural fields west of Ratby are several areas of earthworks of ridge and furrow, the relics of medieval farming practices. There are two areas on the north side of Burroughs Road; one being an area of rough grass on the northwest which is planned as the Phase 1&2 development compound, and the other is a willow plantation on the western side of the development that will remain as is. In the three fields in the southern half of the site, Lidar data shows well preserved ridge and furrow - the subject of the earthwork survey.

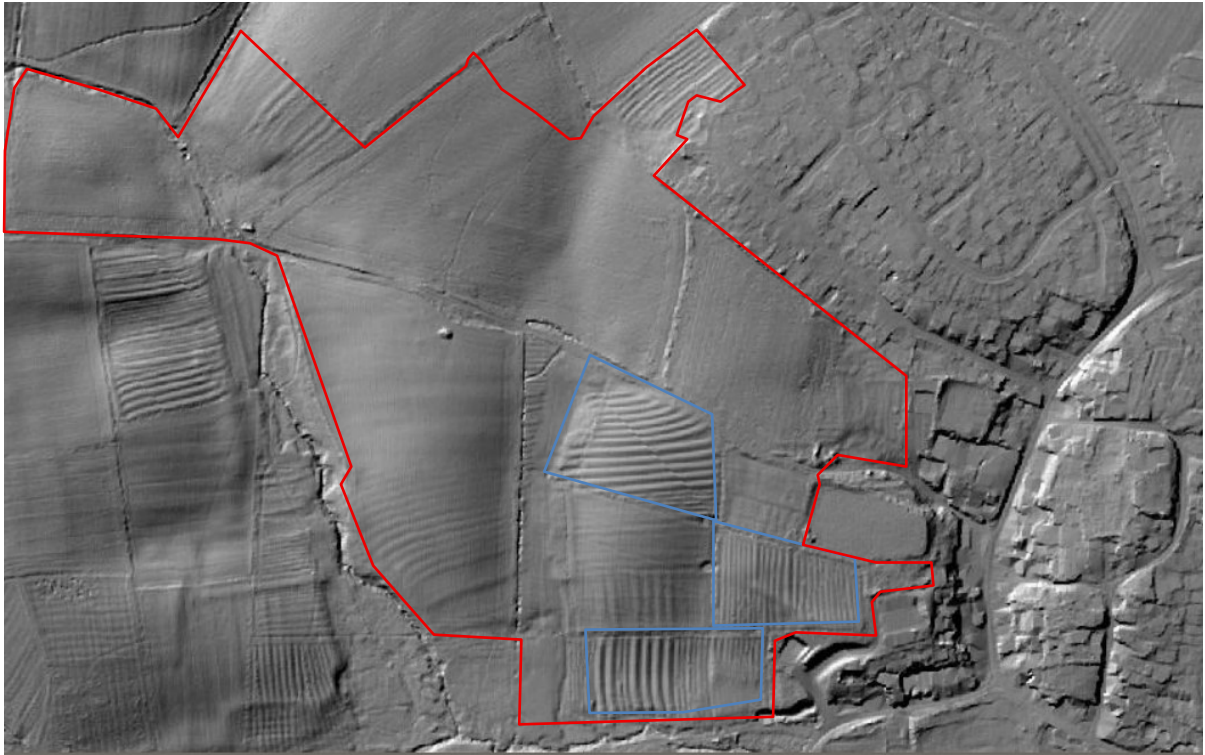


Figure 2: LiDAR survey of the west of Ratby shows the ridge and furrow earthworks in the area of the site. Site outlined in red, areas of earthwork survey in blue. Not to scale.

The Enclosure of the parish in 1773 changed the field system. The field west of Ratby was known as a Burrough Field, so named on the Enclosure map, and shows a road running through the north of the site. Burroughs Road is a later addition, roughly following a field boundary. In the inter-war period, part of the north of the site was used as allotment gardens.

### Geophysical Survey

The site (available areas – approximately 24.4 hectares) was subject to geophysical survey by Phase Site Investigations (Whittingham, 2024; Fig. 4&5). Ridge and furrow type responses were recorded, with other linear or curvilinear responses that did not correspond with ridge and furrow and seemingly indicating other phases of activity. Geophysics in the western field (Area 1) found a roughly N-S aligned former field boundary which divided ridge and furrow-type anomalies on perpendicular alignments, suggesting these were contemporary elements of the medieval field system. Fragmented linear responses crossing the site were on alignments differing from the ridge and furrow, and part of a rectilinear enclosure complex was identified in the southeast corner of this area, potentially reflecting palimpsest landscape remains. There were a small number of discrete responses; possibly pits or ferrous materials in the soil. In Area 2, probable pit clusters and further linear features not associated with the ridge and furrow were identified.

## 6.0 Methodology

The evaluation involved the investigation of sixty 30m x 1.80m trenches that were positioned to scrutinise the results of geophysical survey in Areas 1 & 2. This constituted a 4% sample of these areas.

The earthwork survey targeted three parcels of land where the LHER records ridge and furrow earthworks; identified as being in good condition. Topographic surveys determine the relative locations of points on the ground surface by measuring horizontal distances,

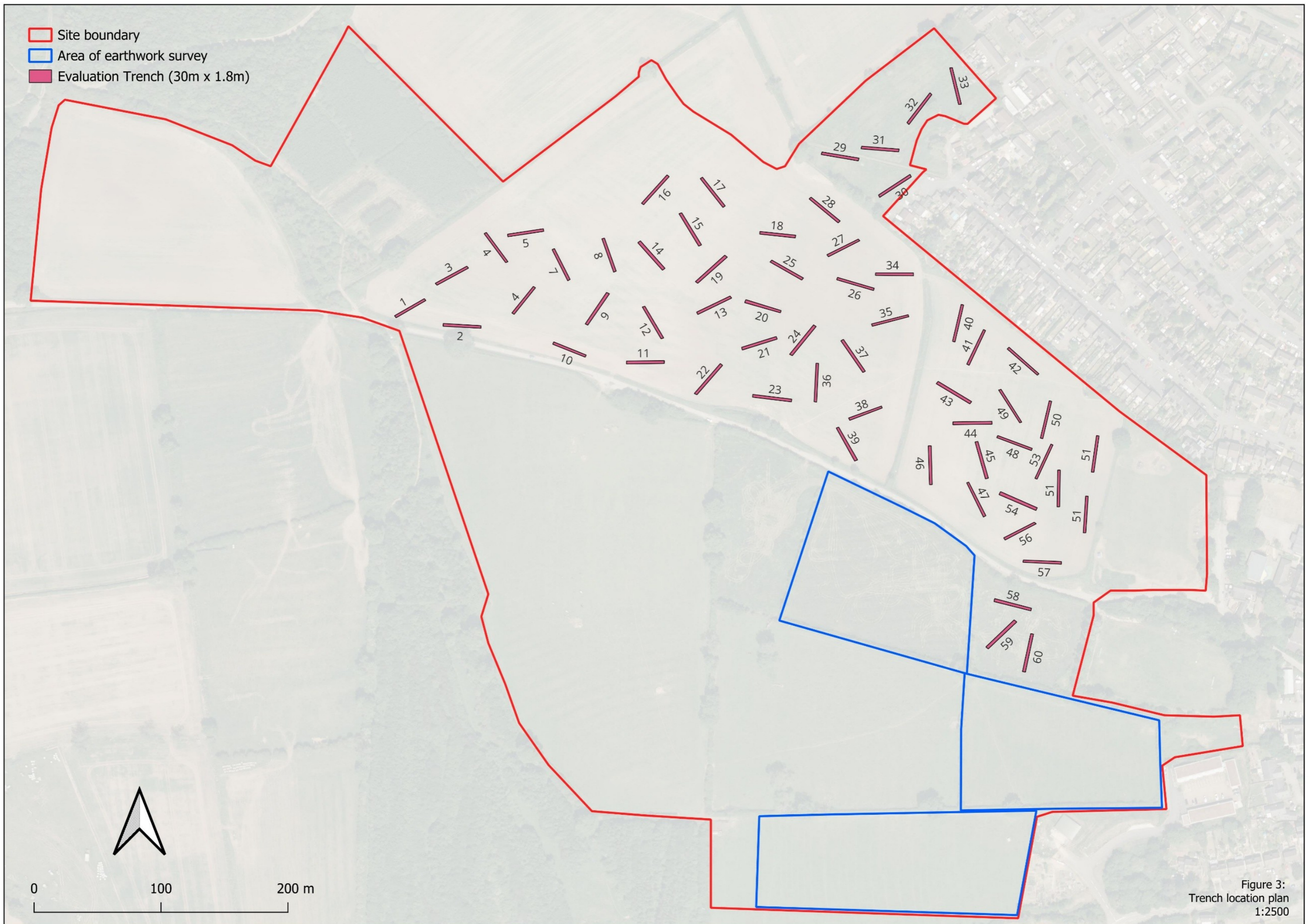
differences in elevation and directions. The survey was carried out in accordance with guidelines published by Historic England (2nd edition, 2017).

The purpose of the evaluation was to gather information in order to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits.

Trenches were opened under archaeological supervision to the first archaeologically significant horizon, the maximum safe working depth, or the natural geology, whichever was encountered first. Archaeological deposits encountered were then cleaned and defined by hand.

Where identified, archaeological features were to be examined sufficiently to determine their date, character and survival condition and then recorded by measured plan and section drawings at appropriate scales (1:20), incorporating Ordnance Survey datum heights.

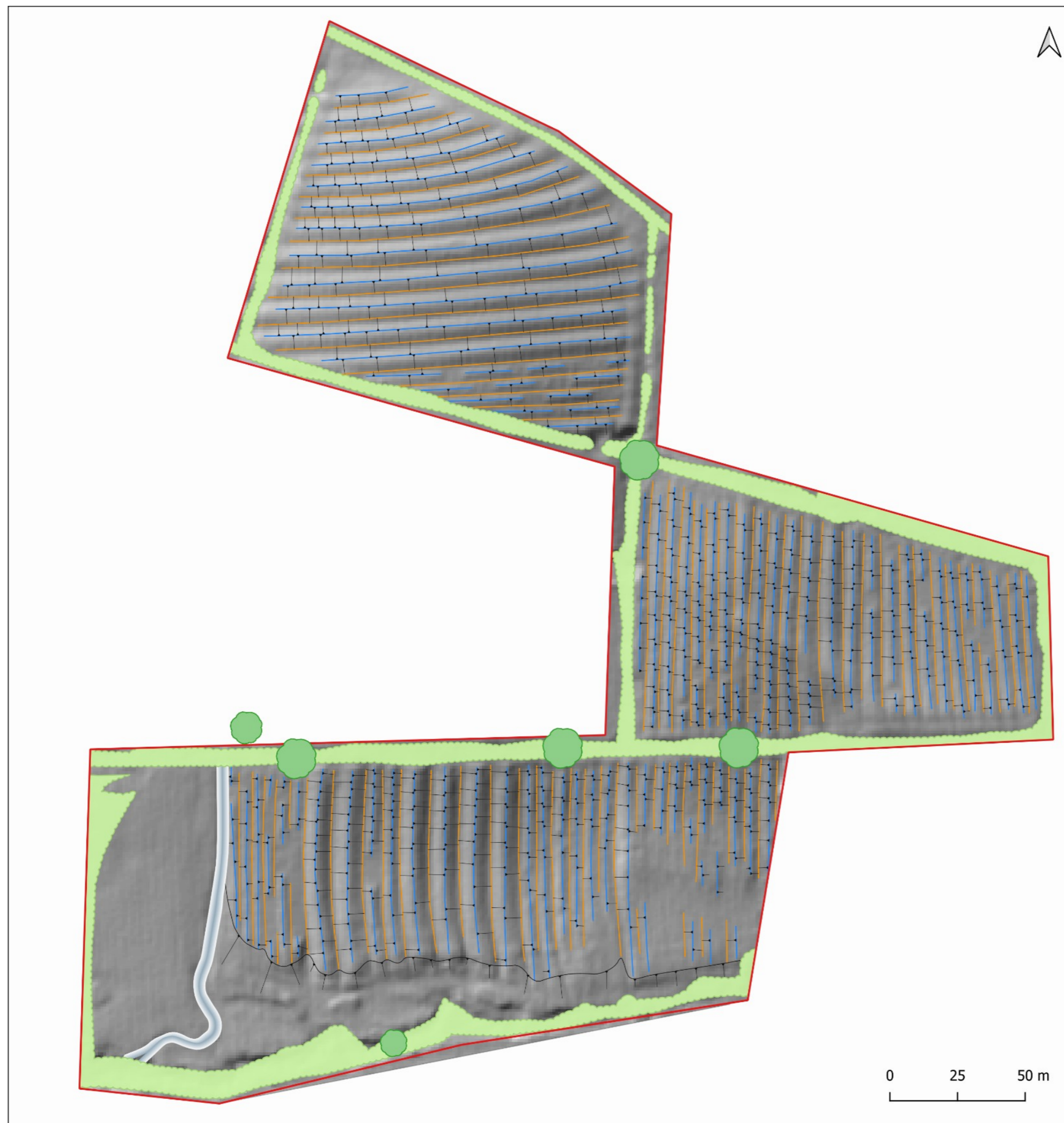
A written record of each significant stratigraphic horizon and archaeological feature was made using standard PCAS context recording forms. These were supplemented by a narrative account in the form of a site diary. An online record of the project data was initiated with the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS database) before fieldwork commenced, and completed at the end of the project, including an uploaded digital copy of the report.





- Site boundary
- Tree
- Vegetation
- Ridge
- Furrow
- Break of slope
- Slope
- Probable palaeochannel

Figure 4:  
Earthwork survey  
1:1500



- Site boundary
- Tree
- Vegetation
- Ridge
- Furrow
- Break of slope
- ↗ Slope
- Probable palaeochannel

Figure 5:  
Earthwork survey over LiDAR composite DTM 1m (1:1500)

## 7.0 Results

A full context summary list appears as Appendix 1, and several photographs are included throughout the text.

The evaluation revealed no archaeological features pre-dating the medieval ridge-and-furrow systems identified across the site. Natural geology across the site comprised of grey-brown clay overlying mudstone. Geophysical anomalies were accurately interpreted as ridge-and-furrow, modern field boundaries and land drains. Unidentified anomalies corresponded to either furrows or minor variations within the natural geology. The earthwork survey produced corresponding results showing ridge and furrow.

### *Trenches 1 to 7*

These trenches were positioned on the western side of the evaluation area, situated on a west-facing slope. Evidence for an east-west aligned ridge-and-furrow system—curving southwest to follow the topography—was recorded across all trenches. Natural geology was encountered at depths of 0.30–0.40 m and comprised of a grey clay, consistent with the anticipated mudstone deposits.

Geophysical anomalies were sparse in this part of the field; those present corresponded either to furrows or to minor variations in the natural geology. A strong linear response detected on the western edge of the site is likely to reflect a modern underground service.



Plate 1: View of Trench 4 (Looking NW)



Plate 2: View of Trench 5 (Looking W)

#### *Trenches 8–17, 19 and 22*

These trenches were located on an undulating plateau to the west of the evaluation area. The east–west orientated ridge and furrow was again evident. A single shallow modern linear feature containing batteries and spent shotgun cartridges was identified; this corresponds to a former field boundary shown on 1950–70 Ordnance Survey maps.

Natural geology was reached at 0.30–0.40 m and consisted of grey clay, consistent with the expected mudstone.



Plate 3: View of Trench 17 (Looking SE)



Plate 4: Representative section of Trench 9 (Looking W)

#### **Trenches 18, 20, 21, 23 - 25 and 28**

These trenches were positioned along the slopes and base of a dry valley. A substantial colluvial deposit was recorded at the foot of the slopes and mechanically excavated at the northern (Trench 18) and southern (Trench 23) ends of the valley, where it exceeded 1.2 m in depth. The colluvium was archaeologically sterile, containing no charcoal or artefactual material.

The remaining trenches along the valley base (20, 21, 25 and 28) were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60 m below ground level. Several land drains were encountered at this depth.



Plate 6: Representative section of Trench 18, showing deep colluvium layer (looking N)



Plate 7: View of Trench 20 (looking E)

#### *Trenches 29–33*

These trenches were located to the north of the evaluation area within rough ground characterised by dense grass and vegetation. Multiple northeast–southwest aligned ridge-and-furrow earthworks were present, making excavation difficult due to stability issues for the JCB 3CX wheeled excavator.

In the southeast of this area, Trench 30 exposed a modern dump layer beneath the vegetation, between 0.20 and 0.40 m thick. With no discernible cuts, it appears that the deposited material—modern ceramics, metalwork, CBM, coal and other burnt waste—was placed either in a broad shallow pit or directly on the ground surface.



Plate 8: View of Trench 32 (Looking S)



Plate 9: Representative section of Trench 33 (Looking N)

#### *Trenches 26–27 and 34–39*

These trenches were situated on the eastern side of Area 1, on the shallow slopes east of the dry valley. Ridge-and-furrow was again present; however, here it was aligned north–south, not east–west, suggesting that the valley formed a boundary between two separate field systems. No additional archaeological features were identified. Natural geology was exposed at depths of 0.30–0.40 m.



Plate 10: View of Trench 26 (looking SE)



Plate 11: Representative section of Trench 35 (looking NW)

#### *Trenches 40–57*

These trenches were located within Area 2. According to the landowner, the field had historically been used for the disposal of hardcore and other waste materials. This is consistent with the geophysical survey, which showed some extensive strong anomalies. Fragments of hardcore and large iron objects were visible on the surface. Ridge-and-furrow in this area was aligned east–west, indicating a third field system.



Plate 12: View of Trench 40 (looking N)



Plate 13: Trench 35 representative section (looking NW)

#### *Trenches 58–61*

These trenches were positioned south of Burroughs Road in an area previously suggested as the potential location of a moated enclosure. Excavation revealed only ridge-and-furrow, which was not visible at the surface, suggesting that the putative enclosure visible on LiDAR represents a post-medieval or early modern landscape modification that had subsequently levelled earlier earthworks.

The eastern portion of this area, containing Trench 61, could not be investigated due to the presence of overhead high-voltage cables.



Plate 14: View of Trench 58 (looking W)



Plate 15: Representative section of Trench 58 (looking N)

## 8.0 Earthwork Survey Results (Figure 4)

Predictably, the topographic survey recorded a series of well-preserved earthworks across three adjoining areas, all enclosed within modern field boundaries. The remains consisted predominantly of ridge-and-furrow cultivation earthworks, with natural topographic features including a probable palaeochannel.

### ***Northern Area***

The northern area is characterised by a single block of ridge-and-furrow extending across most of the enclosure. The ridges are straight to gently curving and aligned predominantly north-west to south-east, with minor variation in orientation where the cultivation adapted to the irregular field boundary. The ridges are closely spaced and relatively uniform in height and profile. No internal headlands or subdivision boundaries were picked up, indicating that the area likely functioned as a single cultivation unit.

### ***Central Area***

The central area contains a similarly well-preserved block of ridge-and-furrow, here aligned north-south. The earthworks are regular and consistent in spacing, though slight changes were noted where the natural slope exists.

## **Southern Area**

The southern area comprises the most extensive zone of ridge-and-furrow, aligned predominantly north-east to south-west. The cultivation earthworks terminate along a topographic hollow, mapped as a probable palaeochannel in the western part of the field. The earthworks respect this feature, suggesting that it formed a visible impediment at the time of ploughing.

## **9.0 Conclusion**

The evaluation results indicate that the site has been subject to continuous agricultural use from the medieval period onwards, with multiple phases of ridge-and-furrow cultivation identified across the landscape. The differing orientations of this - east-west in the west and north-south in the east - suggest that the dry valley formed a long-standing boundary between at least two historic field systems. A third alignment recorded in Area 2 further evidences a complex agricultural history, with field divisions shifting over time in response to changing land-use practices.

No evidence for earlier (pre-medieval) activity was identified at the site, and the substantial colluvial deposits within the valley appear to have resulted from natural slope processes rather than human occupation. The absence of artefactual material within these deposits reinforces the interpretation that this part of the landscape remained largely undeveloped.

Modern activity, including dumping, drainage installation, and recent field boundaries, accounted for the few non-agricultural features that were encountered.

The earthwork survey produced similar results, showing ridge-and-furrow earthworks across all three areas. These are consistent with late medieval or post-medieval open-field cultivation. The consistent spacing, straight alignments, and adaptation to topography indicate a single broad phase of agricultural use. No evidence was identified for earlier phases of land use.

Overall, the evaluation trenching and earthwork survey demonstrates that the site has low potential for significant archaeological remains pre-dating the medieval period. The landscape appears to have functioned primarily as agricultural ground.

## **10.0 Effectiveness of Methodology**

Intrusive evaluation was an appropriate method for gathering further information about the site's archaeological potential, suggesting that the chances of archaeology being present, other than described in this report, are low.

The body of data produced by this evaluation will be sufficient to inform the planning and development process

## **11.0 Acknowledgements**

PCAS Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Lagan Homes for this commission.

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## Appendix 1: Context Summary

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Context Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	(100)	Topsoil	Mid brown-grey silty clay. Friable and relatively loose.
1	(101)	Natural	Firm grey-brown clay mudstone
2	(200)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
2	(201)	Natural	Same as (101)
3	(300)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
3	(301)	Natural	Same as (101)
4	(400)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
4	(401)	Natural	Same as (101)
5	(500)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
5	(501)	Natural	Same as (101)
6	(600)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
6	(601)	Natural	Same as (101)
7	(700)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
7	(701)	Natural	Same as (101)
8	(800)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
8	(801)	Natural	Same as (101)
9	(900)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
9	(901)	Natural	Same as (101)
10	(1000)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
10	(1001)	Natural	Same as (101)
11	(1100)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
11	(1101)	Natural	Same as (101)
12	(1200)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
12	(1201)	Natural	Same as (101)
13	(1300)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
13	(1301)	Natural	Same as (101)
14	(1400)	Topsoil	Same as (100)

14	(1401)	Natural	Same as (101)
15	(1500)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
15	(1501)	Natural	Same as (101)
16	(1600)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
16	(1601)	Natural	Same as (101)
17	(1700)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
17	(1701)	Natural	Same as (101)
18	(1800)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
18	(1801)	Colluvium	Mid red-brown silt colluvial deposit. Identified at the base of the valley.
18	(1802)	Natural	Same as (101)
19	(1900)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
19	(1901)	Natural	Same as (101)
20	(2000)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
20	(2001)	Colluvium	Same as (1801)
20	(2002)	Natural	Same as (101)
21	(2100)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
21	(2101)	Colluvium	Same as (1801)
21	(2102)	Natural	Same as (101)
22	(2200)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
22	(2201)	Natural	Same as (101)
23	(2300)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
23	(2301)	Colluvium	Same as (1801)
23	(2302)	Natural	Same as (101)
24	(2400)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
24	(2401)	Colluvium	Same as (1801)
24	(2402)	Natural	Same as (101)
25	(2500)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
25	(2501)	Colluvium	Same as (1801)
25	(2502)	Natural	Same as (101)
26	(2600)	Topsoil	Same as (100)

26	(2601)	Natural	Same as (101)
27	(2700)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
27	(2701)	Natural	Same as (101)
28	(2800)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
28	(2801)	Colluvium	Same as (1801)
28	(2802)	Natural	Same as (101)
29	(2900)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
29	(2901)	Natural	Same as (101)
30	(3000)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
30	(3001)	Natural	Same as (101)
31	(3100)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
31	(3101)	Natural	Same as (101)
32	(3200)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
32	(3201)	Natural	Same as (101)
33	(3300)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
33	(3301)	Natural	Same as (101)
34	(3400)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
34	(3401)	Natural	Same as (101)
35	(3500)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
35	(3501)	Natural	Same as (101)
36	(3600)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
36	(3601)	Natural	Same as (101)
37	(3700)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
37	(3701)	Natural	Same as (101)
38	(3800)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
38	(3801)	Natural	Same as (101)
39	(3900)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
39	(3901)	Natural	Same as (101)
40	(4000)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
40	(4001)	Natural	Same as (101)

41	(4100)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
41	(4101)	Natural	Same as (101)
42	(4200)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
42	(4201)	Natural	Same as (101)
43	(4300)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
43	(4301)	Natural	Same as (101)
44	(4400)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
44	(4401)	Natural	Same as (101)
45	(4500)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
45	(4501)	Natural	Same as (101)
46	(4600)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
46	(4601)	Natural	Same as (101)
47	(4700)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
47	(4701)	Natural	Same as (101)
48	(4800)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
48	(4801)	Natural	Same as (101)
49	(4900)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
49	(4901)	Natural	Same as (101)
50	(5000)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
50	(5001)	Natural	Same as (101)
51	(5100)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
51	(5101)	Natural	Same as (101)
52	(5200)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
52	(5201)	Natural	Same as (101)
53	(5300)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
53	(5301)	Natural	Same as (101)
54	(5400)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
54	(5401)	Natural	Same as (101)
55	(5500)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
55	(5501)	Natural	Same as (101)

56	(5600)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
56	(5601)	Natural	Same as (101)
57	(5700)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
57	(5701)	Natural	Same as (101)
58	(5800)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
58	(5801)	Natural	Same as (101)
59	(5900)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
59	(5901)	Natural	Same as (101)
60	(6000)	Topsoil	Same as (100)
60	(6001)	Natural	Same as (101)

## Appendix 2: OASIS

OASIS ID (UID): preconst3-539433

Project Name: Evaluation, Analytical Earthwork Survey at Burroughs Road, Ratby

Activity type: Evaluation, Analytical Earthwork Survey

Sitecode(s): RBRE 25

Project Identifier(s): Land at Burroughs Road, Ratby, Leicester, Leicestershire, LE6 0XZ

Planning Id: 24/00914/OUT

Reason for Investigation: Planning: Between application and determination

Organisation Responsible for work: PCAS Archaeology Ltd

Project Dates: 03-Nov-2025 - 21-Nov-2025

HER: Leicestershire HER

HER Identifiers: [no data]

**Project Methodology:** The evaluation involved the investigation of sixty-one 30m x 1.80m trenches that were positioned to scrutinise the results of geophysical survey in Areas 1 & 2. This constituted a 4% sample of these areas. The earthwork survey targeted three parcels of land where the LHER records ridge and furrow earthworks; identified as being in good condition. Topographic surveys determine the relative locations of points on the ground surface by measuring horizontal distances, differences in elevation and directions. The survey was carried out in accordance with guidelines published by Historic England (2nd edition, 2017).

**Project Results:** The evaluation results indicate that the site has been subject to continuous agricultural use from the medieval period onwards, with multiple phases of ridge-and-furrow cultivation identified across the landscape. The differing orientations of this - east-west in the west and north-south in the east - suggest that the dry valley formed a long-standing boundary between at least two historic field systems. A third alignment recorded in Area 2 further evidences a complex agricultural history, with field divisions shifting over time in response to changing land-use practices. No evidence for earlier (pre-medieval) activity was identified at the site, and the substantial colluvial deposits within the valley appear to have resulted from natural slope processes rather than human occupation. The absence of artefactual material within these deposits reinforces the interpretation that this part of the landscape remained largely undeveloped. Modern activity, including dumping, drainage installation, and recent field boundaries, accounted for the few non-agricultural features that were encountered. The earthwork survey produced similar results, showing ridge-and-furrow earthworks across all three areas. These are consistent with late medieval or post-medieval open-field cultivation. The consistent spacing, straight alignments, and adaptation to topography indicate a single broad phase of agricultural use. No evidence was identified for earlier phases of land use. Overall, the evaluation trenching and earthwork survey demonstrates that the site has low potential for significant archaeological remains pre-dating the medieval period. The landscape appears to have functioned primarily as agricultural ground.

Keywords:

Archive:

Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums;

Reports in OASIS:

Bell, T., (2025). Evaluation, Analytical Earthwork Survey at Burroughs Road, Ratby. Saxilby: PCAS Archaeology Ltd.