



WYAS
**Archaeological
Services**

**Land off Shilton Road
Earl Shilton
Leicestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation by
Trial Trenching
Assessment Report

Report no. 4508
July 2026

Client: Class Q



Land off Shilton Road, Earl Shilton Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching Assessment Report

Summary

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) were commissioned by Class Q to undertake a scheme of archaeological trial trenching at land off Shilton Road, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire. The work involved the excavation of sixteen trenches targeting linear geophysical anomalies. All trenches were devoid of archaeological remains, but evidence of post-medieval/modern agricultural practices was demonstrated by plough furrows and land drains.



Report Information

Client:	Class Q
Address:	The Grey House, 3 Broad Street, Stamford
Report Type:	Assessment report
Location:	Shilton Road, Earl Shilton
County:	Leicestershire
Grid Reference:	SP 46606 98645
Period(s) of activity represented:	Post-medieval/Modern
Report Number:	4508
Project Number:	XU70
Site Code:	ESE26
Planning Application No.:	25/01161/OUT
Museum Accession No.:	X.A69.2026
OASIS No.:	archaeol11-544413
Date of fieldwork:	29/06/26-07/07/26
Date of report:	July 2026
Project Management:	Kevin Moon
Fieldwork supervisor:	Stephanie Blues
Fieldwork:	Helen Ryder
Report:	Stephanie Blues
Illustrations:	ASWYAS staff
Photography:	ASWYAS staff
Specialists:	Zoe Horn (pottery)



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Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds LS27 7JQ
Telephone: 0113 535 3007
Email: admin@aswyas.com



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Document Issue Record

Ver	Author(s)	Reviewer	Approver	Date
1.0	SB	KM	JR	July – 26

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The results and subsequent interpretation of data from archaeological trial trenching should not be treated as an absolute representation of the underlying archaeological and non-archaeological remains. Confirmation of the presence or absence of archaeological remains beyond the excavated trenches can only be achieved by further investigation of sub-surface deposits.

1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by Class Q to undertake the excavation of sixteen trenches at Land off Shilton Road, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire. The trenches were investigated between the 29th June and 7th July 2026. The work was undertaken in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by ASWYAS (Appendix 1) and approved by William Kelly, Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council (LCC).

Site location, topography and land-use

The Site occupies an area of c. 5.5 ha of agricultural land, centred on NGR SP 46606 98645 (Fig. 1). The Site is bounded to the north and east by Shilton Road, to the south by further agricultural land and to the west by a farm lane.

The Site ranges in height from 92m aOD in the northeast to 100m aOD in the southwest where a localised sharp rise is apparent. It also slopes gently west to east with a difference in height of approximately 2m (typically 95m aOD in the west to 93m OD in the east).

Soils and geology

The solid geology is recorded as Gunthorpe Member - Mudstone of the Triassic period. No superficial deposits are recorded within the Site (BGS 2026). The soils consist of slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (LandIS 2026).

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

The following archaeological and historical background has been taken from the WSI (Appendix 1), which was based on a desk-based assessment (DBA) of the Site produced by TEP (Bassir 2025). The results of a recent geophysical survey by Magnitude Surveys (Magnitude Surveys 2025) and a consultee response from William Kelly on behalf of Leicestershire County Council Archaeology – Historical and Natural Environment team, dated 6th January 2026, were also considered.

The Site lies within an area of archaeological interest. As noted in the DBA, Roman coins have been found within (HER Ref.: MLE10245) and nearby (MLE9381) the application area, with further prehistoric pottery recovered from a recent evaluation undertaken immediately south of the Site. The relative absence of archaeological information elsewhere within the immediately surrounding area is likely to reflect the fact that very little archaeological investigation has previously been undertaken here.

The results of the geophysical survey proved inconclusive with no anomalies of clear archaeological origin identified, but several anomalies of indeterminate origin were noted which may be archaeological in origin. It is noted that some types of archaeological deposit (e.g. prehistoric, early medieval and human burials) can be missed by geophysical prospection techniques.

Historic mapping indicates that the Site has remained in agricultural use from the later 1800s until the present day.

3 Aims and Objectives

The following aims and objectives have been derived from the WSI (Appendix 1).

The aim of the archaeological trial trenching was to identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of the Site and any archaeological features and deposits which are disturbed or exposed as a result of the investigations in the area of interest.

The Site-specific objectives of the archaeological trial trenching were to:

- Examine the undetermined geophysical anomalies (Trenches 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, 14 and 16);
- Examine the possible former field boundaries (Trenches 11 and 13);
- Examine anomalies that might relate to extraction activities (Trenches 1 and 7);
- Examine the artefact and ecofact potential of archaeological deposits;
- Examine the potential for archaeological remains not identified by the geophysical survey (Trenches 2, 6 and 12).

The objective of the work was to monitor the removal of top and subsoil horizons and assess the resultant areas for their archaeological potential. Any remains were then subject to archaeological excavation. Recovered artefacts were subject to analysis.

4 Methodology

The work involved the excavation of sixteen trenches, all of which measured 50m by 1.80m. The trenches were positioned to target potential archaeological anomalies identified during the previous geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2025), as well as to provide a wide sample across the remaining areas of the Site (Fig. 2). Trench 16 was shortened by 5m to avoid a hedgerow at its southern end.

All work was undertaken in accordance with accepted professional standards and guidelines (Historic England 2008; CIfA 2023), in accordance with the ASWYAS site recording manual (ASWYAS 2020) and in compliance with the WSI (Appendix 1).

All trenches were set out and the limits resurveyed using a Trimble VRS differential GPS accurate to ± 0.01 m. The trenches were opened in a controlled manner using a 360 excavator using a flat-bladed ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision. All topsoil deposits were removed in level spits (not more than 0.20m) with the topsoil and subsoil being separated to allow for re-instating in reverse order. Machining stopped at the first

archaeological horizon or natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. All excavations of archaeological deposits were undertaken manually with the stripped surface being cleaned and investigated for archaeological remains.

All trenches were devoid of archaeological feature, but plough furrows were present across the whole of the western field. A 1m slot was excavated across two plough furrows. These were undertaken to investigate the full depth, profile and fills, where possible, and to recover dating evidence from the fills. All excavated sections were, where possible, located adjacent to the trench edge in order to provide a full stratigraphic sequence.

All features were accurately recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50. Feature sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. All plans and sections include spot heights that relate to Ordnance Datum in metres.

A full written, drawn and photographic record was made of all archaeological work undertaken. An inventory of the primary archive is presented in Appendix 2 and ASWYAS currently hold the site archive in a stable and secure location.

5 Results

Below is a description of the features observed in the trenches. A concordance of all recorded contexts is presented in Appendix 3, with a trench summary table presented in Appendix 4.

All features were sealed by a loose light orangey brown silt topsoil and a malleable, mid-pinkish brown silty clay subsoil. The underlying geology comprised firm mid-pinkish brown clay with occasional small to medium pebbles (Plates 1-5).

Plough furrows

All of the trenches within the western field contained plough furrows. The furrows were aligned on an approximate north-south orientation, with an interval of between 2.50m and 3m in between each furrow (Fig. 2).

Two furrows within Trenches 10 and 11 were excavated to record their profiles. Furrow 1003 had a shallow profile (Fig. 3, S. 1; Plates 6 and 7), measuring 1m wide and 0.06m deep. The furrow contained a single fill (1004) of malleable mid-pinkish orange clayey silt with moderate pebble inclusions. One sherd of post-medieval pottery was found within the fill.

Furrow 1103 had a shallow profile (Fig. 4, S. 2; Plate 8) measuring 0.81m wide and 0.34m in depth. The furrow was cut by a field drain on its eastern side. Furrow 1103 contained a single fill (1104) of malleable mid-pinkish orange clayey silt with moderate pebble inclusions. The fill contained a single sherd of post-medieval pottery.

Land drains

Land drains were exposed in Trenches 4, 9, 15 and 16: each comprised red terracotta drainpipes.

6 Artefact Record

Pottery by Zoe Horn

Two body sherds of pottery were recovered from furrows 1003 (fill 1004) and 1103 (fill 1104). The fabric of the pottery is a hard, oxidized reddish-brown clay. This colour is typical of post-medieval redwares. The glaze on the pottery is a dark brown to black colour, which was achieved using an iron-rich slip. This type of glaze was commonly used in the post-medieval period, particularly from the 17th century onwards. This type of pottery was typically used for everyday domestic activities, such as cooking, storage, and serving food. The dark glaze not only provided a decorative finish but also made the pottery more resistant to liquids and easier to clean.

The sherds can be de-selected from the archive on completion of the project rather than being deposited at a museum.

7 Environmental Record

No deposits suitable for soil sampling were encountered.

8 Recommendations for Final Reporting

The trial trenches have been fully reported and illustrated here, with no further work recommended. No further work is required on the pottery.

9 Discussion and Conclusions

Feature visibility and reliability

Where anomalies were identified on the geophysical survey, they were largely linear in nature. These linear anomalies, however, were not observed in the trenches. Within the western field it is likely that the geophysical anomalies were either truncated by the plough furrows, or represent plough furrows themselves.

In the eastern field, possible linear and curvilinear anomalies were noted, but were not observed on Site. There was no obvious geological change to cause these results, so presumably the anomalies are the result of a variance in the overlying topsoil. The linear anomaly identified in Trench 4 was identified as a land drain.

When consulting LiDAR data and historic maps (Bassir 2025), no features were identified which could have corresponded with linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.

No discrete features were present across the Site suggesting the fields were for agricultural use rather than domestic occupation.

Dating, phasing and function

The presence of land drains and plough furrows across the Site represent the post-medieval/modern agricultural use of the landscape.

All land drains on Site comprised red terracotta drainpipes which are early modern in date (c. mid-19th to early 20th century). Towards the end of the 18th century, drainage infrastructure began to transition from drainage ditches to ceramic pipes, in order to increase drainage efficiency (Harvey 1980).

Plough furrows were present within the western field. The lack of plough furrows on the eastern field suggests that this area was used primarily for pasture rather than for arable farming.

The plough furrows were uniform in size and were consistently between 2.50m and 3m apart suggesting they were created using a modern mechanical plough. Following the Second World War (post-1945), food production was significantly scaled up meaning the horse-drawn ploughs were being swapped for mechanical ploughs. These ploughs increased efficiency and facilitated the creation of a more standardised system of furrows (Harvey 1980). The narrow furrows identified within the western field are indicative of a relatively modern date, as mechanised ploughs generally produced narrower furrows than their horse-drawn counterparts. This is because mechanised ploughing required less space for turning and manoeuvring, resulting in a more compact and regular furrow layout.

Conclusions

A scheme of trial trenching on land off Shilton Road, Earl Shilton was successful in monitoring the removal of topsoil deposits to assess the resultant trenches for their archaeological potential. All trenches were devoid of archaeological features and finds, apart from evidence of post-medieval/modern agricultural practices, demonstrated by plough furrows and land drains, recorded primarily in the western field. The absence of plough furrows within the eastern field suggests that it was used primarily as pasture, rather than for arable cultivation.

The trial trenching indicates that there is a very low potential for archaeological remains to be found within the Site. The absence of archaeological features indicates that the Site was used predominantly for agricultural purposes over an extended period, with no evidence to suggest settlement activity.

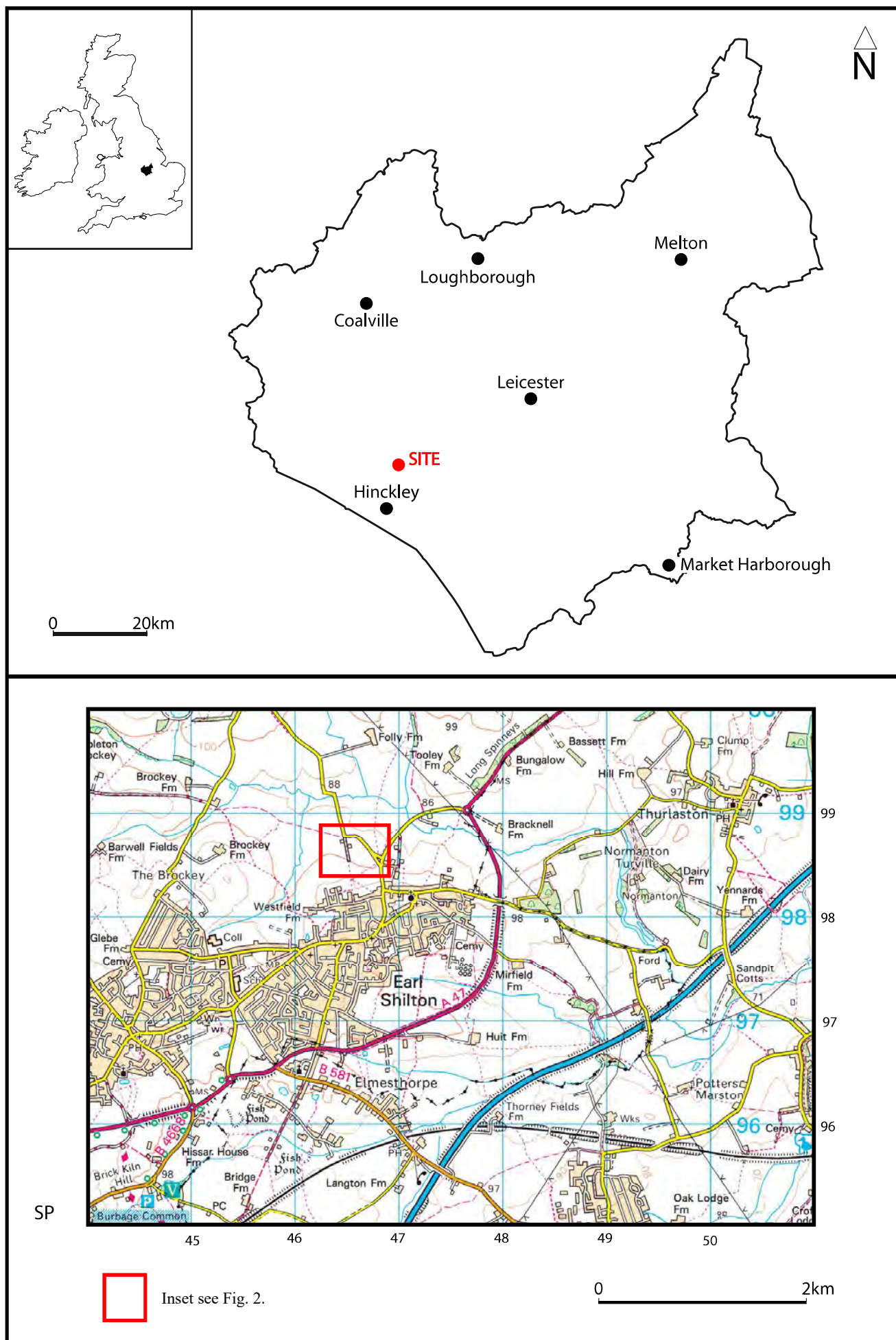
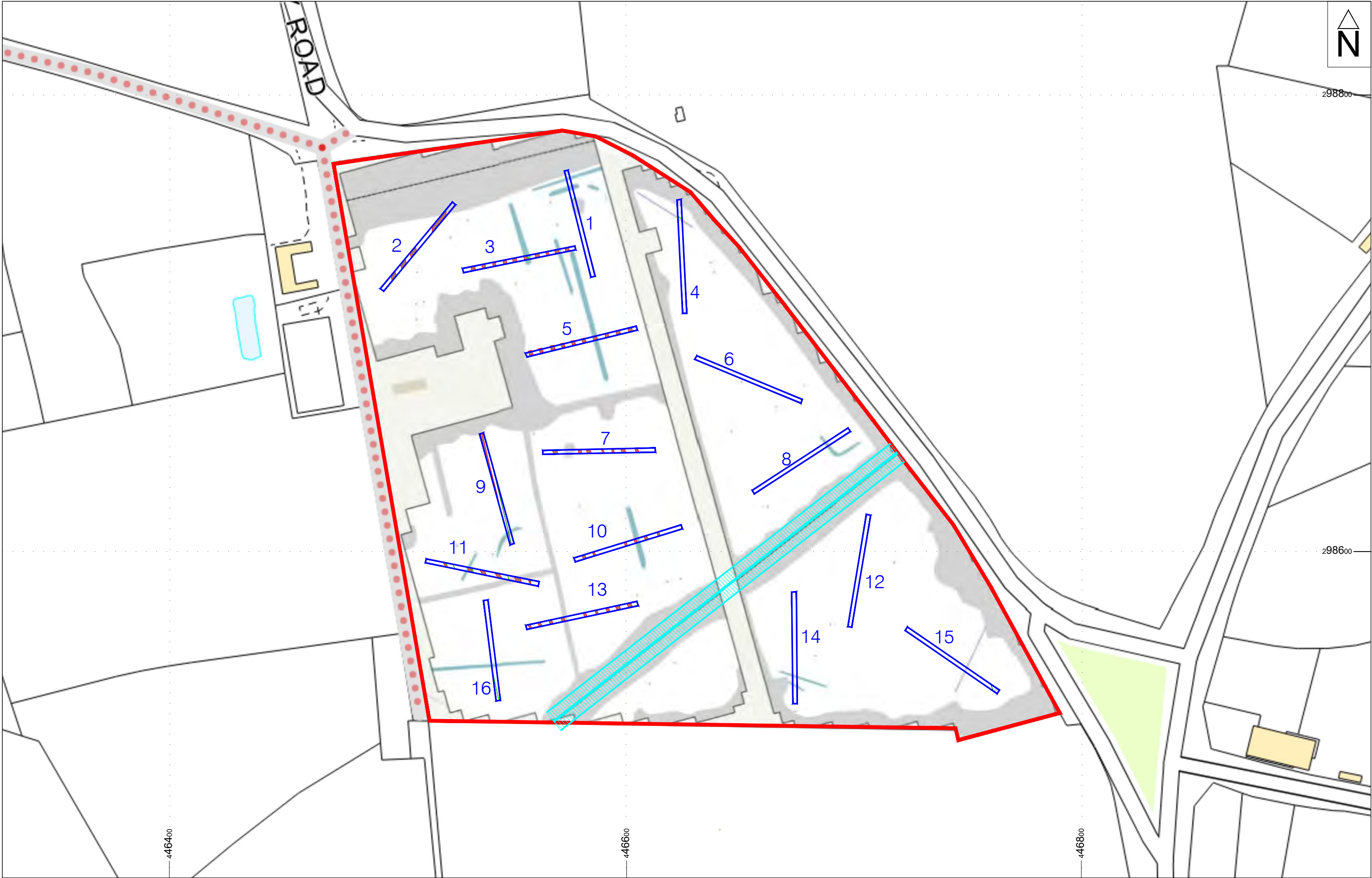
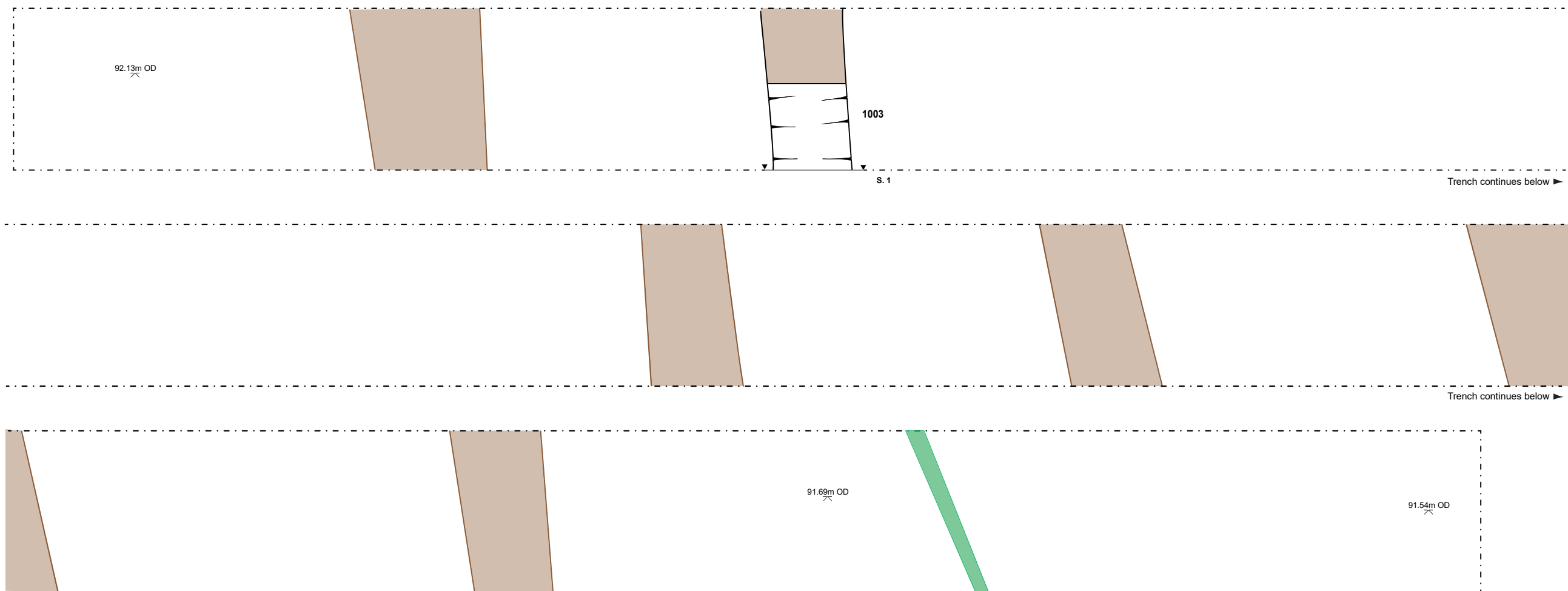


Fig. 1. Site location

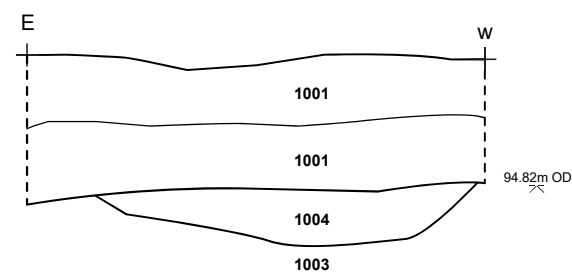
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 © ASWYAS 2026. Archaeological Services W Y A S, Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, LS27 7JQ Tel: 0113 535 3007 Email: archaeology@wyjs.org.uk www.aswyas.com	Project No. XU70		SITE BOUNDARY		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURE	 1:1500 @ A3	
	Fig. 2.		TRIAL TRENCH		LAND DRAIN		
	Site plan		SERVICE		FURROW		



S. 1



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Archaeological Services W Y A S,
Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, LS27 7JQ
Tel: 0113 535 3007
Email: archaeology@wyjs.org.uk
www.aswyas.com

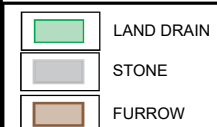
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Project Code: ESE26

Fig. 3

Trench 10

Key

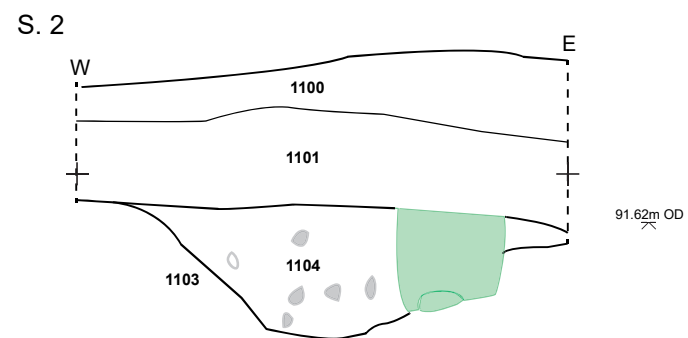
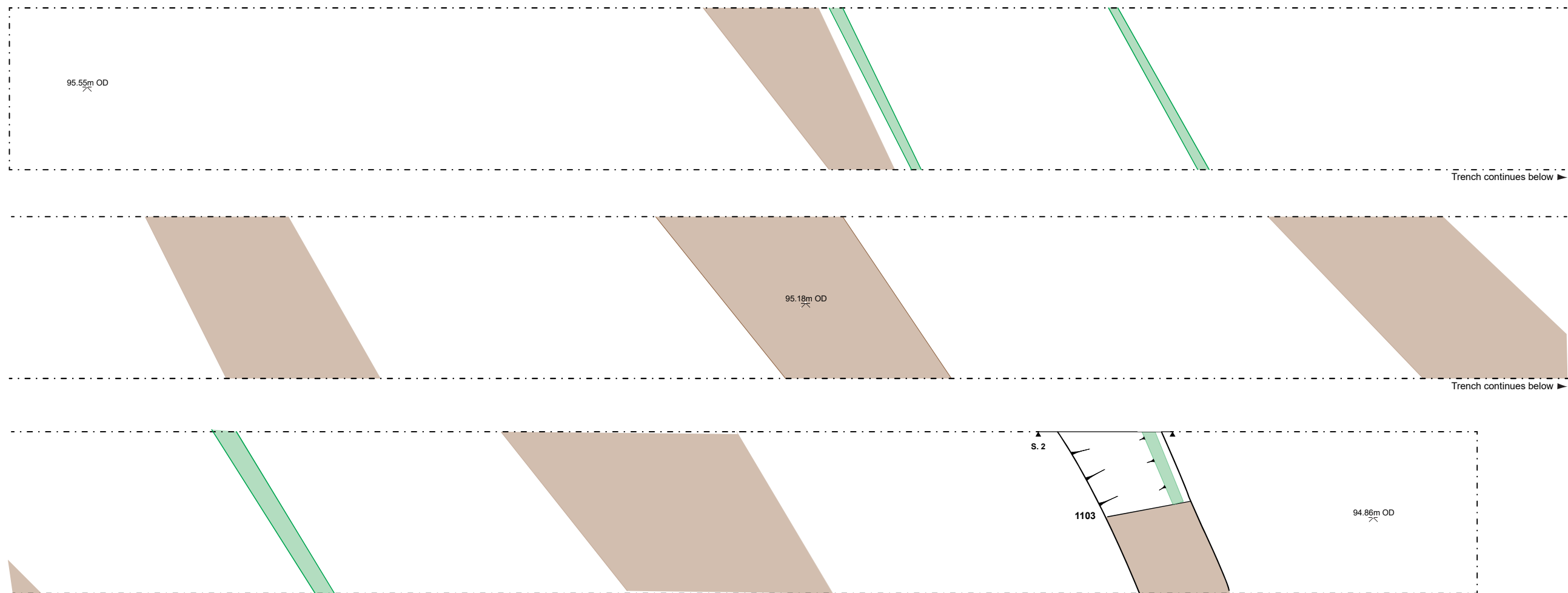


Plans

0 2m (1:50)

Sections

0 1m (1:20)



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Archaeological Services W Y A S,
Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, LS27 7JQ
Tel: 0113 535 3007
Email: archaeology@wyjs.org.uk
www.aswyas.com

Project No. XU70

Project Code: ESE26

Fig. 4

Trench 11

Key



Plans 0 2m (1:50)

Sections 0 1m (1:20)



Plate 1. Trench 4, looking north



Plate 2. Trench 13, looking east



Plate 3. Trench 3, looking west



Plate 4. Trench 3 representative section, looking west



Plate 5. Trench 14 representative section, looking west



Plate 6. Trench 10 showing plough furrows, looking northeast



Plate 7. Furrow 1003, looking south



Plate 8. Furrow 1103 and land drain, looking north

Appendix 1: Written Scheme of Investigation

Land off Shilton Road, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching

Prepared by: Archaeological Services WYAS
Nepshaw Lane South
Morley
Leeds
West Yorkshire
LS27 7JQ

Accession No.: X.A69.2026

On behalf of: Class Q

June 2026

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Document Issue Record

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<i>1.1</i>	<i>Revision</i>	<i>KM</i>	<i>WK (LCC)</i>	<i>KM</i>	<i>June 2026</i>

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) for Class Q, detailing an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Land off Shilton Road, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire (the Site) prior to a residential development with associated infrastructure (Planning Application 25/01161/OUT). The archaeological work will comply with the relevant standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA; 2020a-b, 2023) and Historic England's best practice documents (1991, 2006, 2008).
- 1.2 This document details a programme of archaeological trial trenching and has been produced to the standards laid down in Historic England's guideline publication Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Managers Guide (2006) and the MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavation (PPN3) (2008). The works specified in this document will be undertaken by ASYWAS who are a Registered Organisation with the CIfA. The project will be managed by a full member of the CIfA. All archaeological work will be carried out using appropriate expertise and the archaeologists undertaking the work will be adequately qualified. Adherence to the required quality objectives and professional standards is achieved by comprehensive staff training and the effective monitoring of all stages of work by the Senior Managers.

2. Site Location, Topography and Land-use

- 2.1 The Site occupies an area of c. 5.5 ha of agricultural land, centred on NGR SP 46606 98645. The Site is bounded to the north and east by Shilton Road, to the south by further agricultural land and to the west by a farm lane.
- 2.2 The Site ranges in height from 92m aOD in the northeast to 100m aOD in the southwest where a localised sharp rise is apparent. It also slopes gently west to east with a difference in height of approximately 2m (typically 95m aOD in the west to 93m OD in the east).

3. Geology and Soils

- 3.1 The solid geology is recorded as Gunthorpe Member - Mudstone of the Triassic period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2026) within the Site. The soils

consist of slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (Soilscape 8; LandIS 2026).

4. Archaeological and Historic Background

- 4.1 A desk-based assessment (DBA) of the Site produced by TEP (Bassir 2025) has been used to provide the summary below. The results of a recent geophysical survey by Magnitude Surveys (Johnson 2025) and a consultee response from William Kelly on behalf of Leicestershire County Council (LCC) Archaeology – Historical and Natural Environment team, dated 6th January 2026, have also been considered.
- 4.2 The Site lies within an area of archaeological interest. As noted in the DBA, Roman coins have been found within (HER Ref.: MLE10245) and nearby (MLE9381) the application area, with further prehistoric pottery recovered from a recent evaluation undertaken immediately south of the Site. The relative absence of archaeological information elsewhere within the immediately surrounding area is likely to be due to the fact that very little archaeological investigation has previously been undertaken here.
- 4.3 The results of the geophysical survey have proved inconclusive with no anomalies of clear archaeological origin identified, but several anomalies of indeterminate origin have been noted which may be archaeological. It is noted that some types of archaeological deposit (e.g. prehistoric, early medieval and human burials) can be missed by geophysical prospection techniques.
- 4.4 Historic mapping indicates that the Site has remained in agricultural use from the later 1800s until the present day.

5. Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The aim of the archaeological trial trenching is to identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of the Site and any archaeological features and deposits which are disturbed or exposed as a result of the investigations in the area of interest.
- 5.3 The Site-specific objectives of the archaeological trial trenching are:

- Examine the undetermined geophysical anomalies (Trenches 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, 14 and 16)
- Examine the possible former field boundaries (Trenches 11 and 13)
- Examine anomalies that might relate to extraction activities (Trenches 1 and 7)
- Examine the artefact and ecofact potential of archaeological deposits
- Examine the potential for archaeological remains not identified by the geophysical survey (Trenches 2, 6 and 12)

5.4 Site-specific research aims and themes will be developed and refined as the works progress, in line with the research framework for the East Midlands (Cooper 2006; Knight *at al.* 2012).

6. Methodology

- 6.1 All work will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant standards (CIfA 2023; Historic England 1991, 2006, 2008). The works will be managed by an archaeologist holding MCIfA accreditation and the evaluation will be conducted by an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeologist who will be present during all ground works. Sixteen trenches are to be excavated, all measuring 50m by 1.8m. The location of these trenches has been agreed with William Kelly. This represents a 3% coverage of the Site. An additional 1% of contingency trenching might be required by William Kelly, Planning Archaeologist for LCC.
- 6.2 The trial trenches will be opened, and the topsoil and recent overburden removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits of a maximum 0.2m thickness, by the use of an appropriate machine using a wide toothless ditching blade. Under no circumstances will the machine be used to cut arbitrary trenches down to natural deposits. Any machine work will be carried out under direct archaeological supervision and the machine halted if significant archaeological deposits are encountered. The top of the first significant archaeological horizon may be exposed by the machine but will then be cleaned by hand and inspected for features.
- 6.3 Archaeological features/deposits will be manually excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner, in order to meet the aims and objectives of this WSI.

- 6.4 No archaeological deposits will be entirely removed unless this is unavoidable in achieving the objectives of this evaluation, although all features identified are expected to be half-sectioned and the full depth of archaeological deposits assessed.
- 6.5 Features will be sample excavated employing the following strategy:
- Linear features: sufficient excavation will be carried out to investigate the depth, profile and fills of a ditch or gully and to recover dating and environmental evidence from its fills. Normally this will involve a minimum of 20% sample dispersed along the length of the feature (each sample section to be not less than 1m), With respect to trial trenches, one 1m section will be located and recorded adjacent to the trench edge. Feature intersections will always be excavated in such a way to determine a stratigraphic relationship.
 - Discrete features: pits, post-holes and other discrete features will normally be half-sectioned to determine and record their form with a minimum sample of 50% of discrete features in each area. The complete excavation of such features may be appropriate, but only following consultation with the consultant and NYHER.
- 6.6 A photographic record utilising high resolution digital data capture will be maintained during the course of the fieldwork. All digital photography will be undertaken using a high-quality camera recommended to have no less than an APS-C or DX size sensor of 12 megapixels and to be capable of generating images in TIF (v6) or unprocessed RAW format. Metric scales of appropriate size will be discreetly placed in photographs to preserve a sense scale. A register recording the details of each image will be maintained, including subject, location, date, and photographer.
- 6.7 All excavated archaeological contexts shall be fully recorded by written records, giving details of location, composition, shape, dimensions, relationships, finds, samples, and cross-references to other elements of the record and other relevant contexts, in accordance with best practice. All contexts, and any small finds and samples from them will be given unique numbers. Bulk finds will be collected by context.

- 6.8 All artefacts will be removed from the Site for assessment, and where it is appropriate, their find spots shall, if appropriate, be recorded three dimensionally. Non-modern artefacts from the excavated topsoil and subsoil will be collected. Finds material will be stored in controlled environments, where appropriate. All artefacts recovered will be retained, cleaned, labelled and stored as detailed in the guidelines laid out in the ClfA (2020b). Any necessary conservation work will be undertaken by approved conservators working to UKIC guidelines.
- 6.9 A soil-sampling programme shall be undertaken during the course of the investigation for the identification and recovery of carbonised and waterlogged remains, vertebrate remains, molluscs and small artefactual material. This will comprise the removal of a bulk sample from every securely sealed and hand-excavated context, excepting those with excessive levels of residuality or those with minimal 'soil' content. Bulk samples will comprise representative 40 litre samples. Where a context does not yield 40 litres of material, smaller (100%) samples will be taken. The post-excavation processing of all palaeoenvironmental samples will be undertaken in line with Historic England's Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (2025).
- 6.10 In the event of human remains being discovered they will, in the first instance, be left in situ, covered and protected. The Consultant and the coroner will be immediately informed, allowing them to alert the Client and archaeological advisor accordingly. The removal of human remains will only take place in compliance with the Burial Act 1857. An exhumation licence must be obtained from the Ministry of Justice prior to the removal of any remains.
- 6.11 All finds defined as 'treasure' under the Treasure Act 1996 shall be reported to HM Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996.
- 6.12 Appropriate specialists will visit the Site to advise on sampling strategies, where appropriate, and their suggested strategies will then be implemented. Further contingency provision will also be made for additional specialist advice, e.g. for finds analysis and conservation.

- 6.13 Provision will be made to recover material suitable for scientific dating. Contingency sums will be made available to undertake such dating.
- 6.14 The trenches will be reinstated in reverse order using a mechanical excavator. The arisings will then be lightly compacted by the machine bucket and/or tracks.
- 6.15 The rationale for each trench is provided in Table 1 and shown in Fig. 1.

Table 1. Rationale by trench

Trench	Rationale
1	Test two E-W orientated geophysical anomalies and an area of magnetic disturbance
2	To test an area devoid of geophysical anomalies
3	To test two N-S orientated geophysical anomalies
4	To test a NW-SE orientated geophysical anomaly
5	To test a N-S orientated geophysical anomaly
6	To test an area devoid of geophysical anomalies
7	To test an area of magnetic disturbance
8	To test a NW-SE orientated geophysical anomaly
9	To test a curvilinear geophysical anomaly
10	To test a N-S orientated geophysical anomaly
11	To test a former field boundary and a NE-SW orientated geophysical anomaly
12	To test an area devoid of geophysical anomalies
13	To test a former field boundary

14	To test two NW-SE orientated geophysical anomalies
15	To test a NE-SW orientated geophysical anomaly
16	To test an E-W orientated geophysical anomaly

7. Analysis and Reporting

7.1 Within twelve weeks of completion of the fieldwork (depending on specialist availability), an assessment report will be prepared and submitted to the Client. It will include:

- A signed quality assurance sheet detailing as a minimum: title, author, version, date, checked by, approved by;
- A non-technical summary;
- Site details, including location, OASIS reference, full dates of the work and any relevant details of the project's history;
- A Site location drawing;
- The archaeological and historical background;
- The methodology employed for the evaluation;
- The aims and objectives of the evaluation;
- The results of the evaluation (to include full description, assessment of condition, quality and significance of the remains);
- If human remains are encountered the report will include a statement that addresses the future retention of the material, including if appropriate, options for reburial;
- A statement of the significance of the results in their local, regional and national context, cross-referenced to the Regional Research Framework;
- Assessment and a statement of potential with recommendations for further work and analysis;
- Recommendations for any further mitigation by design or further fieldwork;

- The current and proposed arrangements for long term conservation and archive storage (including details of the accredited repository details);
- A list of all finds that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act and associated legislation;
- A copy of the OASIS summary report form;
- General and detailed plans showing the location of the survey area accurately positioned on an O.S. base map (at an appropriate and recognised scale);
- Detailed plans and sections illustrating archaeological features and relationships between features (at an appropriate and recognised scale);
- Colour photographic plates illustrating the Site setting, work in progress and archaeological discoveries;
- Bibliography;
- An appendix listing all the recorded features & contexts with detailed descriptions, locations and final spot dates or phasing;
- An appendix containing separate finds catalogue by context and find types. Specialist artefact assessment reports, palaeoenvironmental reports, or their equivalent; and
- A cross-referenced index of the project archive.

7.2 Digital copies of the completed draft assessment report (complete with illustrations and plates) in both Word and PDF format will be submitted to the Client (Class Q) for comment. In finalising the report, the comments of the Client and William Kelly will be taken into account. A copy of the report will also be submitted to the HER in pdf/a format, for archival purposes.

7.3 Upon completion of the work, ASWYAS will make their work accessible to the wider research community by submitting digital data and copies of reports online to OASIS (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>), in line with Leicestershire Museum Service archiving guidelines. In addition, the Site archive will be deposited with a local museum. The archiving will be undertaken in line with the guidelines outlined within The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire County Council Museum Collections (Leicestershire County Council 2024), in addition to other appropriate professional guidelines.

- 7.4 If further fieldwork is required, the results of the evaluation will be integrated into an overall report encompassing all stages of work. However, if a different contractor is employed by the Client to undertake subsequent works, then a full, formal evaluation report should be prepared and accepted by William Kelly at LCC before further fieldwork commences.
- 7.5 Results of the project, even if negative, should be submitted for publication in appropriate academic journals. As a minimum a summary of findings should be submitted to the 'Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society'.

8. Copyright, Confidentiality and Publicity

- 8.1 Copyright in the documentation prepared by ASWYAS and specialist sub-contractors should be the subject of additional licences in favour of the repository accepting the archive to use such documentation for their statutory educational and museum service functions, and to provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions.
- 8.2 Under the Environmental Information Regulations 2005 (EIR), information submitted to the HER becomes publicly accessible, except where disclosure might lead to environmental damage, and reports cannot be embargoed as 'confidential' or 'commercially sensitive'.
- 8.3 Requests for sensitive information are subject to a public interest test, and if this is met, then the information has to be disclosed. ASWYAS will initially inform CSA Environmental of EIR requirements and ensure that any information disclosure issues are resolved before completion of the work. Intellectual property rights are not affected by the EIR.
- 8.4 Unless the Consultant wishes to state otherwise, the copyright of any written, graphic or photographic record and reports will rest with the originating body (Archaeological Services WYAS).

9. Health and Safety

- 9.1 ASWYAS has its own Health and Safety policy which has been compiled using national guidelines. These guidelines conform to all relevant Health and Safety legislation.
- 9.2 In addition each project undergoes a 'Risk Assessment' which sets project specific Health and Safety requirements to which all members of staff are made aware of prior to on-site work commencing. Health and Safety will take priority over archaeological matters. Necessary precautions will be taken over underground services and overhead lines at the outset of the project. This includes an appropriate utility line search in advance on on-site works commencing.

10. Insurance

- 10.1 ASWYAS is covered by the insurance and indemnities of the West Yorkshire Joint Services Committee. Insurance has been effected with: Zurich Municipal, Zurich House, 2 Gladiator Way, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 6GB (policy number QLA-03R896-0013). Any further enquiries should be directed to: Head of Finance, Wakefield Council, Wakefield One, PO Box 700, Wakefield, WF1 2EB.

11. Monitoring

- 11.1 Access to the Site will be arranged through the Client.
- 11.2 To ensure that archaeological work is conducted in accordance with the agreed WSI, fieldwork and post-fieldwork analysis will be monitored by the William Kelly at LCC. Notification of commencement will be sent to William Kelly at least one week prior to the commencement of the fieldwork.
- 11.3 It is anticipated that at least one monitoring meeting will be held on the Site with the Client, William Kelly and ASWYAS during the course of the fieldwork. This meeting will be arranged by the Consultant. All trenches will fulfil the objectives of the WSI prior to backfilling.
- 11.4 If appropriate, the advice of the Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science at Historic England will be called upon.

- 11.5 ASWYAS will ensure that any significant results are brought to the attention of the Client and William Kelly as soon as is practically possible.

12. Resourcing

12.1 Key project personnel:

Project Management:	Kevin Moon
Project Supervisors:	TBC

12.2 Post-excavation specialists:

Prehistoric pottery:	Dr Blaise Vyner
Roman pottery:	Ian Rowlandson
Medieval pottery:	Dr Chris Cumberpatch
Ceramic building material	Dr Kevin Hayward
Flint specialist:	Ann Clarke
Environmental:	Dr Diane Alldritt
Faunal analyst:	Dr Jane Richardson
Human bone:	Malin Holst MA
Metalwork:	Gail Drinkall
Artefact conservation:	Scarlett Crow

- 12.3 The list of Archaeological Services WYAS project personnel may be subject to change depending on workload and availability.

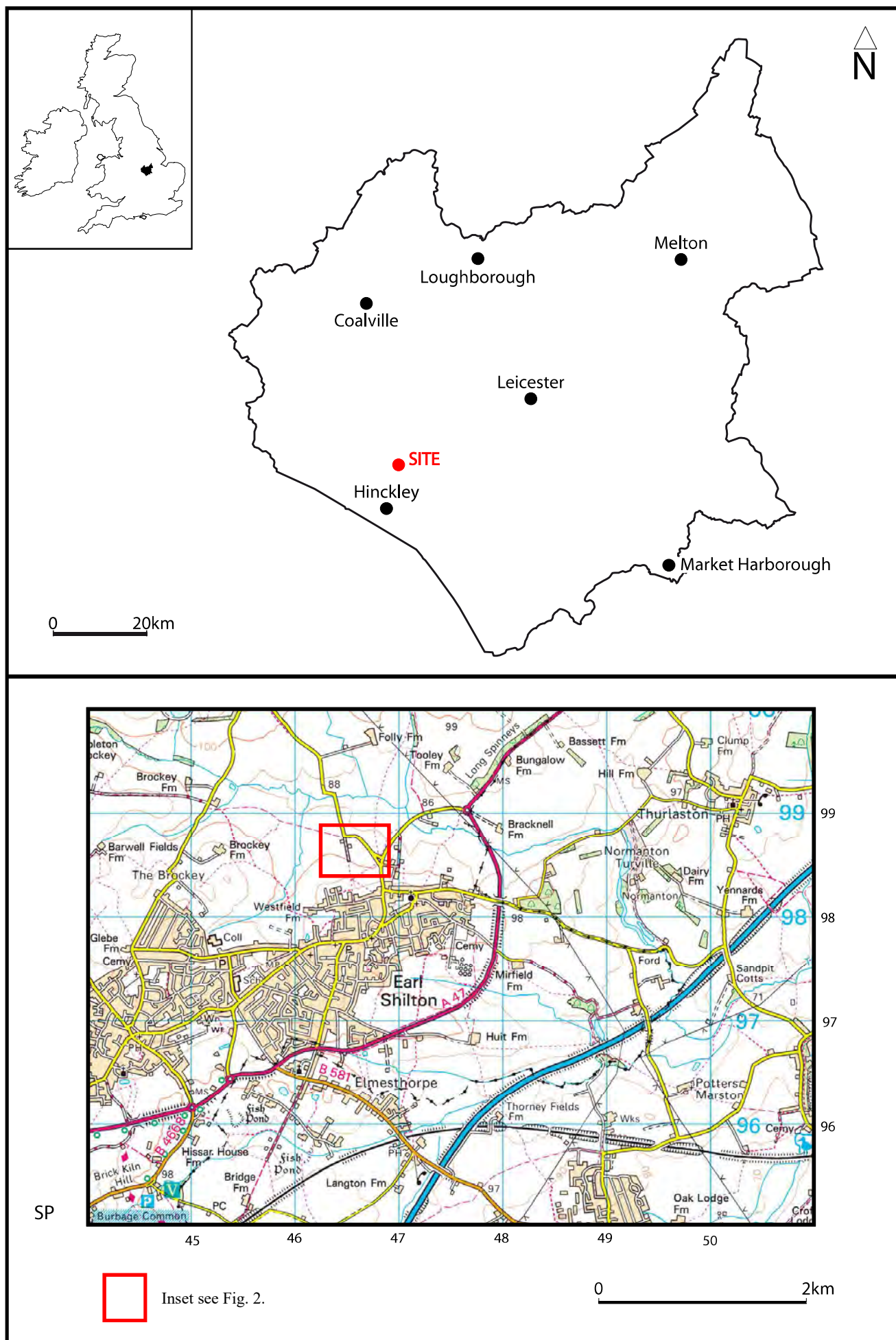
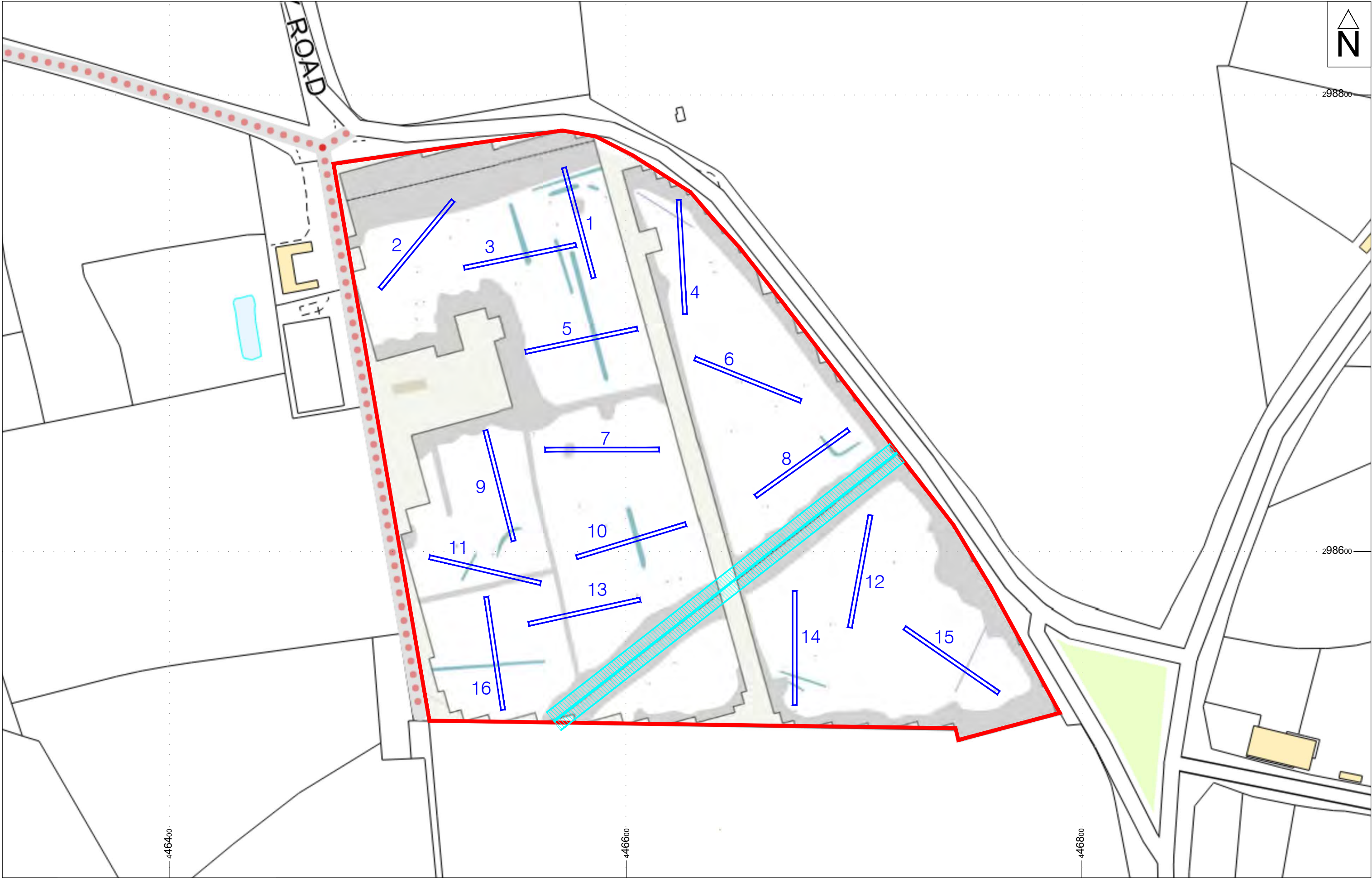


Fig. 1. Site location

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 © ASWYAS 2026. Archaeological Services W Y A S, Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, LS27 7JQ Tel: 0113 535 3007 Email: archaeology@wyjs.org.uk www.aswyas.com Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Wakefield Metropolitan District Council Licence: 100019974, 2020.	Project No. XU70		SITE BOUNDARY					 1:1500 @ A3
	Fig. 2.		TRIAL TRENCH					
	Site plan		SERVICE					

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Appendix 2: Inventory of primary archive

Phase	File/Box No	Description	Quantity
Evaluation	File no.1	Context registers	1
		Context sheets	52
		Digital photograph registers	1
		Permatrace sheets	1
		Trench record sheets	16

Appendix 3: Concordance of contexts

The following concordance represents the interpretation of the excavation team in the field. The records may have been subject to subsequent interpretation in light of post-excavation analysis of the site, including finds assessments. This later interpretation is represented in the report text.

Context	Description	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds
100	Topsoil - Trench 1	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: silt.	-	-	0.20 to 0.30	None
101	Subsoil - Trench 1	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate small to large sub-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	0.10 to 0.30	None
102	Natural - Trench 1	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal gravel pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	-	-
200	Topsoil - Trench 2	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: silt.	-	-	0.20 to 0.35	None
201	Subsoil - Trench 2	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate small to large sub-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	0.05 to 0.20	None
202	Natural - Trench 2	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal gravel pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	-	-
300	Topsoil - Trench 3	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: silt.	-	-	0.10 to 0.20	None
301	Subsoil - Trench 3	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate small to large sub-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	0.05 to 0.15	None
302	Natural - Trench 3	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal gravel pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	-	-
400	Topsoil - Trench 4	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: silt.	-	-	0.20 (avg.)	None
401	Subsoil - Trench 4	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate small to large sub-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	0.18 (avg.)	None

Context	Description	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Find
402	Natural - Trench 4	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal gravel pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	-	-
500	Topsoil - Trench 5	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: silt.	-	-	0.05 to 0.10	None
501	Subsoil - Trench 5	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate small to large sub-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	0.02 to 0.05	None
502	Natural - Trench 5	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal gravel pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	-	-
600	Topsoil - Trench 6	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: silt.	-	-	0.30 (avg.)	None
601	Subsoil - Trench 6	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate small to large sub-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	0.25 (avg.)	None
602	Natural - Trench 6	Colour: mid-brownish pink. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-angular spheroidal gravel, evenly distributed.	-	-	-	-
700	Topsoil - Trench 7	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: silt.	-	-	0.10 to 0.20	None
701	Subsoil - Trench 7	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate small to large sub-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	0.10 to 0.20	None
702	Natural - Trench 7	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal gravel pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	-	-
800	Topsoil - Trench 8	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: silt.	-	-	0.30 (avg.)	None
801	Subsoil - Trench 8	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate small to large sub-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	0.25 (avg.)	None
802	Natural - Trench 8	Colour: mid-brownish pink. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: moderate small to medium sub-angular spheroidal gravel, evenly distributed.	-	-	-	-

Context	Description	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Find
900	Topsoil - Trench 9	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: silt.	-	-	0.20 to 0.30	None
901	Subsoil - Trench 9	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate small to large sub-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	0.10 to 0.20	None
902	Natural - Trench 9	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal gravel pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	-	-
1000	Topsoil - Trench 10	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: silt.	-	-	0.10 to 0.20	None
1001	Subsoil - Trench 10	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate small to large sub-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	0.10 to 0.15	None
1002	Natural - Trench 10	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal gravel pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	-	-
1003	Cut - Furrow [1003]	Orientation: N-S. Shape in plan: regular, linear. Shape in profile: shallow. Break at top: sharp. Base: flat. Sides: gentle slope, straight.	> 1.00	1	0.06	-
1004	Fill - Furrow [1003]	Colour: mid-pinkish orange. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: clayey silt. Inclusions: moderate small to large rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	> 1.00	1	0.06	Pot (1)
1100	Topsoil - Trench 11	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: silt.	-	-	0.15 to 0.20	None
1101	Subsoil - Trench 11	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate small to large sub-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	0.15 to 0.20	None
1102	Natural - Trench 11	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal gravel pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	-	-
1103	Cut - Furrow [1103]	Orientation: NW-SE. Shape in plan: sub-linear. Shape in profile: u-shaped. Break at top: gradual. Break at base: sharp. Base: flat. Sides: moderate slope, concave.	> 1.00	0.81	0.34	-
1104	Fill - Furrow [1103]	Colour: mid-pinkish orange. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: clayey silt. Inclusions: moderate small to large rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	> 1.00	0.81	0.34	Pot (1)

Context	Description	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Find
1200	Topsoil - Trench 12	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: silt.	-	-	0.20 to 0.25	None
1201	Subsoil - Trench 12	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate small to large sub-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	0.20 (avg.)	None
1202	Natural - Trench 12	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal gravel pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	-	-
1300	Topsoil - Trench 13	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: silt.	-	-	0.10 to 0.20	None
1301	Subsoil - Trench 13	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate small to large sub-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	0.10 to 0.20	None
1302	Natural - Trench 13	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal gravel pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	-	-
1400	Topsoil - Trench 14	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: silt.	-	-	0.30 to 0.40	None
1401	Subsoil - Trench 14	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate small to large sub-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	0.25 (avg.)	None
1402	Natural - Trench 14	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal gravel pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	-	-
1500	Topsoil - Trench 15	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: silt.	-	-	0.20 to 0.30	None
1501	Subsoil - Trench 15	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate small to large sub-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	0.20 to 0.40	None
1502	Natural - Trench 15	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal gravel pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	-	-
1600	Topsoil - Trench 16	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: dry, loose. Composition: silt.	-	-	0.16 to 0.20	None

Context	Description	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds
1601	Subsoil - Trench 16	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, malleable. Composition: silty clay. Inclusions: moderate small to large sub-rounded spheroidal pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	0.20 (avg.)	None
1602	Natural - Trench 16	Colour: mid-pinkish brown. Compaction: dry, firm. Composition: clay. Inclusions: occasional small to medium sub-rounded spheroidal gravel pebbles, evenly distributed.	-	-	-	-

Appendix 4: Trench summary table

Trench	Notes	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1	Blank.	NW-SE	50	1.80	0.20 to 0.50
2	Blank. 6 furrows	NE-SW	50	1.80	0.30 to 0.40
3	Blank. 9 furrows	E-W	50	1.80	0.10 to 0.30
4	Blank. Land drain at north end of trench	N-S	50	1.80	0.55 to 0.75
5	Blank. 9 furrows	E-W	50	1.80	0.10 to 0.20
6	Blank.	NW-SE	50	1.80	0.45 to 0.70
7	Blank. 7 furrows	E-W	50	1.80	0.20 to 0.40
8	Blank.	E-W	50	1.80	0.40 to 0.80
9	Blank. 1 furrow, 1 land drain	N-S	50	1.80	0.20 to 0.30
10	Blank. 6 furrows	NE-SW	50	1.80	0.20 to 0.30
11	Blank. 6 furrows	E-W	50	1.80	0.40 to 0.65
12	Blank.	N-S	50	1.80	0.40 to 0.70
13	Blank. 9 furrows	E-W	50	1.80	0.20 to 0.30
14	Blank.	N-S	50	1.80	0.40 to 0.80
15	Blank. Two land drains	NW-SE	50	1.80	0.50 to 0.70
16	Blank. Trench shortened by 5m to avoid hedgerow. One field drain.	N-S	45	1.80	0.30 to 0.55

Appendix 5: OASIS summary

OASIS Summary for archaeol11-544413

OASIS ID (UID)	archaeol11-544413
Project Name	Trial Trench at Land off Shilton Road, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire
Sitename	Land off Shilton Road, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire
Sitecode	ESE26
Project Identifier(s)	XU70 Land off Shilton Road, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire
Activity type	Trial Trench
Planning Id	25/01161/OUT
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Archaeological Services WYAS
Project Dates	29-Jun-2026 - 07-Jul-2026
Location	Land off Shilton Road, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire NGR : SP 46606 98645 LL : 52.583623591818196, -1.313579796083071 12 Fig : 446606,298645
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Leicestershire Local Authority District : Hinckley and Bosworth Parish : Earl Shilton
Project Methodology	The work involved the excavation of sixteen trenches, measuring 50m in length. All work was undertaken in accordance with accepted professional standards and guidelines (Historic England 2008; ClfA 2023), in accordance with the ASWYAS site recording manual (ASWYAS 2020) and in compliance with the WSI. The limits of the trenches were surveyed using a Trimble VRS differential GPS accurate to +/-0.01cm. All topsoil deposits were removed in level spits (not more than 0.20m) with the topsoil and subsoil being separated. Machining stopped at the first archaeological horizon or natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. The stripped surface was cleaned and investigated for archaeological remains. No archaeological features were encountered, but the topsoil and subsoil deposits were appropriately recorded. Spot heights, that relate to Ordnance Datum in metres, were taken across the excavated areas. A full written, drawn and photographic record was made of all archaeological work undertaken. ASWYAS currently hold the site archive in a stable and secure location, but museum deposition of a negative archive is not anticipated. Instead an OASIS record has been created and all primary records will be scanned and held digitally by ASWYAS.
Project Results	A scheme of trial trenching on land off Shilton Road, Earl Shilton was successful in monitoring the removal of topsoil deposits to assess the resultant trenches for their archaeological potential. All trenches were devoid of archaeological features and finds. Evidence of post-medieval/modern agricultural practices were demonstrated by plough furrows and land drains, recorded primarily in the western field. The absence of plough furrows within the eastern field suggests that it was used primarily as pasture, rather than for arable cultivation. The trial trenching indicates that there is a very low potential for archaeological remains to be found within the site. The absence of archaeological features indicates that the site was used predominantly for agricultural purposes over an extended period, with no evidence to suggest settlement activity.

Funder	Private or public corporation Class Q
HER	Leicestershire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Kevin Moon
HER Identifiers	

Report generated on: 20 Jul 2026, 14:07

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