Wessex Archaeology

OUTSEATS FARM, ALFRETON, DERBYSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Ref: 86560.01

September 2012

OUTSEATS FARM, ALFRETON, DERBYSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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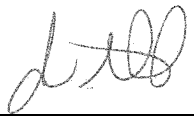
QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	**86560**	**ACCESSION CODE**		**CLIENT CODE**	**N/A**
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	**DBYMU 2012-181**	**NGR**	**SK 442414 355540**		

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
86560.01	E	ND	APN		04/09/12	S:\PROJECTS\86560 (ALFRETON, OUTSEATS FARM)\EVALUATION REPORT

*** I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL,**

OUTSEATS FARM,
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Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by GK Heritage Ltd on behalf of The Wheeldon Group Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation ahead of a planning application for housing at Outseats Farm, Alfreton, Derbyshire (NGR SK 442414 355540; hereafter the 'Site').

The Grade II* Listed Building of Carnfield Hall lies some 180m east of the Site boundary. It has been noted that the Hall is of 16th to 17th-century origin, with later remodelling and place name evidence from the 15th century, suggesting an earlier medieval date. The medieval boundary of the estate is unknown.

The evaluation trenches targeted geophysical anomalies within the Site. No archaeological features were identified, and the geophysical anomalies were likely to be the result of natural outcrops of the underlying mudstone, or depressions within that mudstone. The only natural feature of note was a shallow depression or pond. There is no archaeological evidence for settlement within the Site, and it is likely that the Site formed scrub land prior to the construction of the modern day farm. It remains unknown whether the Site lay within the boundary of the medieval Carnfield Hall estate.

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, and will be deposited in due course with Derby Museum and Art Gallery under the following Accession Number: DBYMU 2012-181.

OUTSEATS FARM
ALFRETON, DERBYSHIRE

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by GK Heritage Ltd on behalf of The Wheeldon Group Ltd, and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Guy Kendall in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Steve Baker, the Derbyshire County Council Development Control Archaeologist, and advisor to the local planning authority, for his contributions to the project.

The report was compiled by Neil Dransfield and illustrations were prepared by Chris Breeden. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Norton and Fieldwork was directed by Neil Dransfield with the assistance of Matt Weightman.

OUTSEATS FARM
ALFRETON, DERBYSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by GK Heritage Ltd on behalf of The Wheeldon Group Ltd, to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land at Outseats Farm, Alfreton, Derbyshire ('the Site'). The work was carried out in advance of a planning application for a housing development scheme, and followed a geophysical survey of the Site (ASL 2012).

1.1.2 Following discussions between Guy Kendall and Steve Baker, Derbyshire County Council Development Control Archaeologist and advisor to the local planning authority, GK Heritage produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; GK Heritage 2012) outlining the methodology for a programme of evaluation trenching. The work was required in order to investigate the archaeological potential of the Site, and to inform the extent and nature of any further work that may be required.

1.2 The Site, Location and Geology

1.2.1 The Site, centred on NGR SK 442414 355540, comprises a total of eleven fields extending over *c*. 17.5ha, bounded by Mansfield Road to the north, allotments and a housing estate to the west and to the east by the Alfreton to Chesterfield railway line. The area under evaluation consisted of three fields that formed the eastern boundary of the Site and this area also formed the extent of the geophysical survey (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 The Site is currently under pasture. Topographically the northern and southern parts of the Site slope down from around 112.5m AOD towards a small brook, lying at around 105m AOD, which runs east to west across the northern third of the Site. The Site is underlain by Pennine Coal Measures of Carboniferous Age defined as interbedded mud (sand) stone.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 General

2.1.1 The WSI for the Site (GK Heritage 2012) concluded that there are no designated heritage assets within the Site boundary. No prehistoric or Romano-British remains are noted within the development area, however; scattered evidence within the wider area does not preclude the potential for features of these periods within the Site.

2.2 Post-Medieval

2.2.1 The Grade II* Listed Building of Carnfield Hall lies some 180m east of the site boundary. It has been noted that the Hall is of 16th to 17th-century origin, with later remodelling and place name evidence from the 15th century

suggesting an earlier medieval date. Former buildings may have survived archaeologically. The medieval boundary of the estate is unknown so the extent to which the Hall's boundaries may have impacted on the Site is unknown.

2.3 Geophysical Results

2.3.1 A magnetometry survey was carried out previously (ASL 2012) over three fields and although geophysical anomalies were located, the majority of these could not be confidently interpreted. Linear and discrete features, along with patches of magnetic debris (**Figure 2**) could relate to features of agricultural origin, but it is possible that some may have been caused by early industrial activity. Although no coal or iron working is recorded within any of the survey areas, given the proximity of known workings to the south, this was not ruled out as a potential origin for some of the anomalies.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The archaeological work aimed to record the location, extent, date and character of any surviving archaeological remains within the Site.

3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 The specific objectives were to;

- Examine the range of objects that were in use, their status, presence of imports, etc.;
- Identify any geoarchaeological deposits, if possible;
- Identify the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits if revealed;
- Undertake sufficient post excavation analysis to confidently interpret archaeological features identified during Site works, and the analysis of artefacts and samples to identify the potential scope for detailed analysis in future mitigation;
- Establish the nature of the results of the geophysical survey;
- Report the results of the evaluation excavation and post excavation analysis and place them within their local and regional context and to compile and deposit a site archive at a suitable repository.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The methodology for excavation, recording and artefact analysis is detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (GK Heritage 2012) and is summarised below.

4.1.2 All machining was undertaken using a mechanical excavator (JCB 3CX) fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, and under the direct supervision of a suitably qualified archaeologist. Machining ceased at the first archaeological horizon or the level of natural geology, whichever was reached first.

4.1.3 All revealed deposits were hand cleaned and planned at an appropriate scale. Appropriate excavation was undertaken to characterise archaeological deposits, and all recording took place in accordance with standard Wessex Archaeology methodologies. No finds were recovered.

4.1.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with the relevant Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) Standard and Guidance, the IfA Code of Conduct, and other current and relevant best practice and standards and guidance (IfA 2008a and b).

5 EVALUATION TRENCH RESULTS

5.1 General

5.1.1 Fourteen evaluation trenches were excavated (**Figure 2**) covering an area of 420m^2. The trenches were targeted on geophysical anomalies identified by the magnetometry survey (ASL 2012).

5.1.2 No archaeological features were revealed in any of the fourteen trenches. Each trench was recorded on a separate trench record sheet and the revealed deposits were recorded stratigraphically. The detailed results from each trench are outlined in **Appendix 1** below.

5.2 Natural Geology and Soils

5.2.1 The natural underlying geology was a mud (sand) stone consisting of medium to large sized angular sandstone fragments, laid horizontally within a matrix of orange or yellow silty fine sand. The mudstone was predominantly located at the northern and eastern edges of the investigated area.

5.2.2 The mudstone at the north and east was overlain in patches by a greyish yellow gleyed (water-formed) clay, which formed the base natural deposit in the remainder of the trenches in the central, southern and western part of the Site. Vertical lines of dark grey shale were observed in Trenches 5, 6 and 11 and iron panned material was revealed in Trenches 7, 9 and 10.

5.2.3 A colluvial deposit consisting of a mid orangey brown fine sandy silt was observed in Trenches 5 (**Plate 1**) and 14, where the land sloped steeply towards the small brook and drain to the north-west of the Site.

5.2.4 A thin band of greyish yellow silty clay formed an interface between the natural geology and the topsoil, and may have represented a relic topsoil. The existing topsoil consisted of a mid greyish brown clayey silt and was 0.25m thick on average.

5.3 Trenches 1, 13 and 14

5.3.1 The trenches (1, 13 and 14) at the northern tip of the Site were located to examine geophysical anomalies that appeared as square enclosures or walls (**Figure 2**). No archaeological deposits were revealed. It is possible that the geophysical anomalies were the result of prominent mudstone alignments or patches of overlying clay.

5.4 Trenches 2 to 12

5.4.1 Trenches 2-12 were targeted on possible pits and linear features, but no archaeological features were revealed. The only geophysical anomalies to be located in these trenches probably related to the underlying mudstone at the north-east end of Trenches 2 and 4 (**Plate 2**). The high magnetic disturbance at the north-west end of Trench 11 appeared to have been caused by bioturbation, probably in the form of large roots.

5.5 Trench 7

5.5.1 A natural hollow or pond (**704**) corresponded with the geophysical anomalies within Trench 7. The pond was located in the north-east half of the trench (**Figure 3**), and measured *c.*12m in length, and extended across the full width of the trench. At its deepest the pond measured 0.63m and the gently undulating base formed a shallow convex edge on the north-east side (**Figure 3**).

5.5.2 The pond was filled by a clay (**705**) that was overlain by a 0.55m thick deposit of humic material (**706**), below a mottled clay (**707**). A clay deposit (**708**) appeared to fill a hollow towards the centre of the deposit, but this may have been associated with the land drain that cut through the centre of the feature (**Figure 3**). The entire feature was overlain by a 0.22m thick deposit of silty clay (**709**), which contained a high frequency of iron panning.

6 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

6.1 Finds

6.1.1 The evaluation produced no archaeological finds.

6.2 Environmental

6.2.1 A monolith sample was taken through the fills of the pond (**704**) in order to assess the soil micromorphology of the feature. However, in light of no associated archaeological features the sample has been retained in archive, and will be discarded in due course.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Summary

7.1.1 The evaluation revealed no archaeological deposits or finds. The geophysical anomalies were likely to be the result of differences between natural mudstone and clay, and depressions in the underlying geology.

7.1.2 No evidence for the medieval estate of Carnfield Hall was seen; although the Site may have formed scrub within the estate boundaries.

7.2 Conclusions

7.2.1 The results of the evaluation indicate that the geophysical survey identified naturally occurring geological phenomena. No archaeological features were uncovered in the trenches indicating that those areas covered by the trenching are archaeologically sterile.

8 ARCHIVE AND COPYRIGHT

8.1 Archive

8.1.1 The archive will be deposited in due course with Derby Museum and Art Gallery under the following Accession Number: DBYMU 2012-181.

8.1.2 The site archive will be prepared in line with United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (2001) and English Heritage (2006) guidelines.

8.2 Copyright

8.2.1 This report, and the archive generally, may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No. 1	Ground Level (109.69m AOD):	Dimensions: 20 x 1.5m Max depth: 0.32m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
101	TOPSOIL: A mid greyish brown, clayey silt	0 – 0.2
102	SUBSOIL: A light greyish yellow, silty clay	0.2 – 0.32
103	NATURAL: Mud (sand) stone angular chunks in an orange fine particulate sand. Patches of yellow clay overlay this in small areas	0.32+

Trench No. 2	Ground Level (110.24m AOD):	Dimensions: 50 x 1.5m Max depth: 0.4m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
201	TOPSOIL: A mid greyish brown, clayey silt	0 – 0.3
202	SUBSOIL: A light greyish yellow, clayey silt	0.3 – 0.4
203	NATURAL: A marbled yellowish orange/greyish yellow, gleyed clay	0.4+
204	NATURAL: Grey mud (sand) stone. This may account for the geophysical anomaly at the N end of the trench	0.4+

Trench No. 3	Ground Level (111.31m AOD):	Dimensions: 20 x 1.5m Max depth: 0.3m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
301	TOPSOIL: A mid greyish brown, clayey silt	0 – 0.25
302	SUBSOIL: A light greyish yellow, clayey silt	0.25 – 0.3
303	NATURAL: A mottled greyish/ yellow orangey, gleyed clay	0.3+

Trench No. 4	Ground Level (113.29m AOD):	Dimensions: 20 x 1.5m Max depth: 0.5m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
401	TOPSOIL: A mid greyish brown, clayey silt	0 – 0.38
402	SUBSOIL: A light greyish orange, clayey silt	0.38 – 0.5
403	NATURAL: A greyish orange, gleyed clay	0.5+
404	NATURAL: mud (sand) stone located at the N end of the trench which may account for the geophysical anomaly	0.5+

Trench No. 5	Ground Level (111.59m AOD):	Dimensions: 20 x 1.5m Max depth: 0.27m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
501	TOPSOIL: A mid greyish brown, clayey silt	0 – 0.22
502	SUBSOIL: A light greyish orange, clayey silt	0.22 – 0.27
503	NATURAL: A greyish yellow, clay	0.27+

Trench No. 6	Ground Level (114.97m AOD):	Dimensions: 20 x 1.5m Max depth: 0.21m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
601	TOPSOIL: A mid greyish brown, firm silty clay	0 – 0.15
602	SUBSOIL: A light yellowish brown, firm silty clay	0.15 – 0.21
603	NATURAL: A mottled light greyish blue to mid brownish orange, clay	0.21+

Trench No. 7	Ground Level (115.23m AOD):	Dimensions: 20 x 1.5m Max depth: 0.91m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
701	TOPSOIL: A light greyish brown, firm silty clay	0 – 0.2
702	SUBSOIL: A light yellowish brown, firm clayey silt with occasional; charcoal flecks	0.2 – 0.28
703	NATURAL: A mottled light greyish blue to mid brownish orange, clay with moderate <20mm sandstone	0.28 – 0.91+
704	CUT: POND: A shallow depression 0.63m deep measuring >12m east to west spanning the trench width (N-S)	0.28 – 0.91
705	LOWER POND FILL: A dark yellowish orange clay with occasional blue grey streaks. Interface with the Natural	0.84 – 0.91
706	EXTERIOR POND FILL: A dark humic band outside the lowest pond depression	0.5 – 0.84
707	POND FILL: A dark bluish grey, firm humic loam with moderate re-deposited natural yellow clay	0.5 – 0.84
708	POND FILL: A mixed mid bluish grey firm silty clay overlying (707) containing occasional charcoal flecks	0.44 – 0.76
709	UPPER POND FILL: A mid bluish grey firm silty clay with frequent solidified chunks of iron panning (10 – 50mm+)	0.28 – 0.5

Trench No. 8	Ground Level (115.45m AOD):	Dimensions: 20 x 1.5m Max depth: 0.32m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
801	TOPSOIL: A light greyish brown, firm silty clay	0 – 0.2
802	SUBSOIL: A light greyish yellow silty clay	0.2 – 0.32

Trench No. 8	**Ground Level (115.45m AOD):**	**Dimensions: 20 x 1.5m Max depth: 0.32m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
803	NATURAL: A light mixed greyish/yellow orange, clay	0.32+

Trench No. 9	**Ground Level (116.97m AOD):**	**Dimensions: 20 x 1.5m Max depth: 0.3m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
901	TOPSOIL: A light greyish brown, firm clayey silt	0 – 0.18
902	SUBSOIL: A light greyish yellow silty clay	0.18 – 0.3
903	NATURAL: A mixed grey/yellow/orange, gleyed clay with iron panning evenly throughout	0.3+

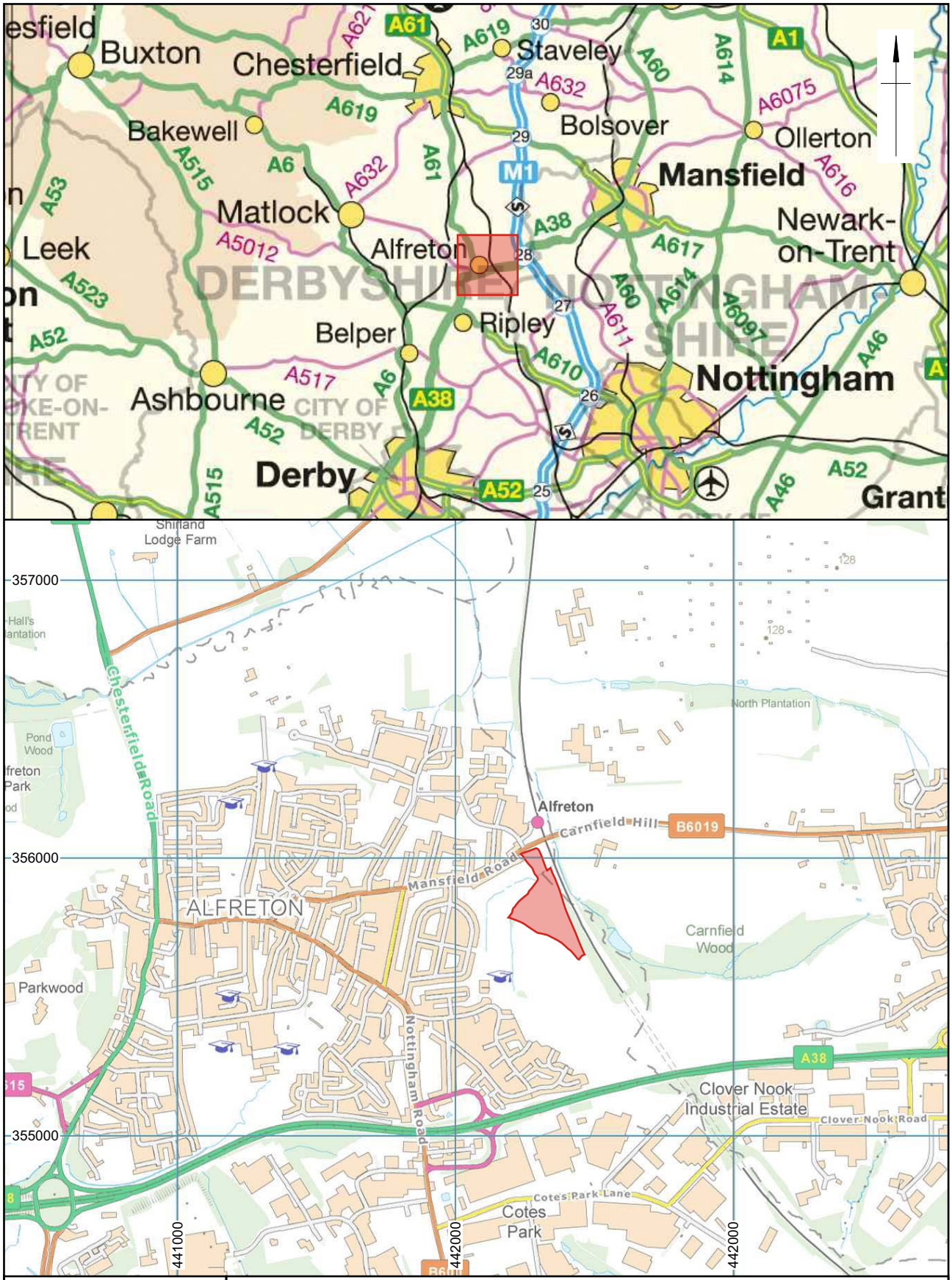
Trench No. 10	**Ground Level (119.50m AOD):**	**Dimensions: 20 x 1.5m Max depth: 0.32m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1001	TOPSOIL: A mid greyish brown, firm clayey silt	0 – 0.2
1002	SUBSOIL: A mid greyish orange silty clay	0.2 – 0.32
1003	NATURAL: A mixed grey/yellow/orange, gleyed clay with patches of iron panning	0.32+

Trench No. 11	**Ground Level (113.57m AOD):**	**Dimensions: 20 x 1.5m Max depth: 0.45m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1101	TOPSOIL: A mid orange brown, firm clayey silt	0 – 0.28
1102	SUBSOIL: A mid yellowish orange clayey silt	0.28 – 0.36-0.45
1103	NATURAL: A mixed grey/yellow/orange, gleyed clay. Contained shale plates at SE end and heavily root disturbed at NW end leaving irregular black clay patterns	0.36-0.45+

Trench No. 12	**Ground Level (108.83m AOD):**	**Dimensions: 20 x 1.5m Max depth: 0.28m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1201	TOPSOIL: A mid greyish brown, clayey silt	0 – 0.2
1202	SUBSOIL: A white/grey silty clay	0.2 – 0.28
1203	NATURAL: A predominantly greyish yellow mud (sand) stone with a greyish yellow binding clay	0.28+

Trench No. 13	**Ground Level (108.27m AOD):**	**Dimensions: 20 x 1.5m Max depth: 0.32m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1301	TOPSOIL: A mid greyish brown, clayey silt	0 – 0.22
1302	SUBSOIL: A light greyish yellow silty clay	0.22 – 0.32
1303	NATURAL: Mud (sand) stone in a fine orange silty matrix, overlain with a greyish yellow clay in several small patches	0.32+

Trench No. 14	**Ground Level (111.05m AOD):**	**Dimensions: 20 x 1.5m Max depth: 0.6m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1401	TOPSOIL: A mid greyish brown, clayey silt	0 – 0.25
1402	MADE GROUND: A mixture of clay and gravel at the SW end of the trench. Probably part of a compound during the construction of houses to the immediate	0.25 – 0.45
1403	NATURAL COLLUVIUM: Located at the SW end of the trench - a mid orangey brown fine sandy silt overlying the steep slope of the hill to the SW	0.45 – 0.6+
1404	NATURAL: Mud (sand) stone in a fine sandy silt matrix. Located at the top of the slope to the NE end of the trench	0.3+



Site boundary

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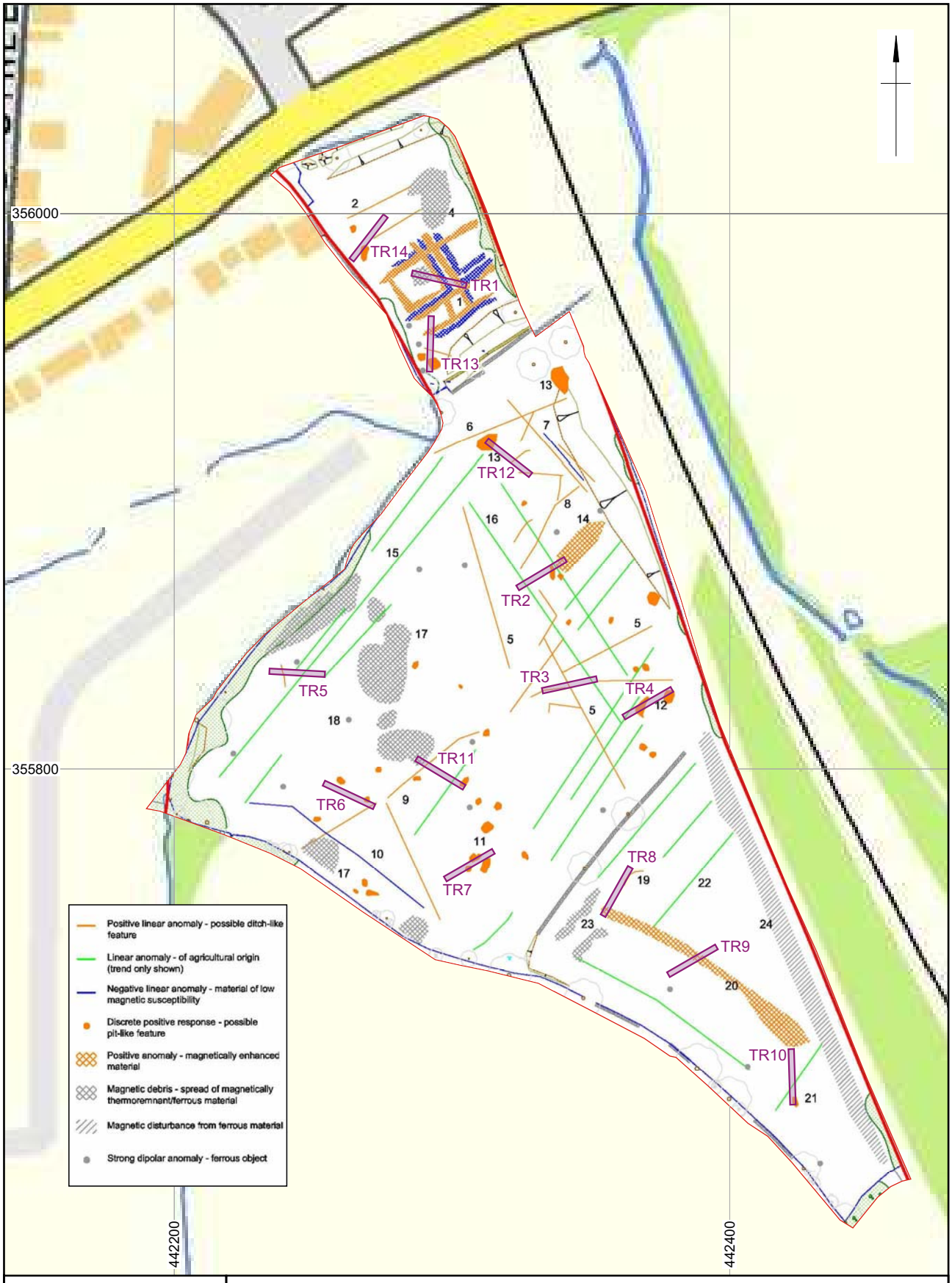
Site location

Figure 1



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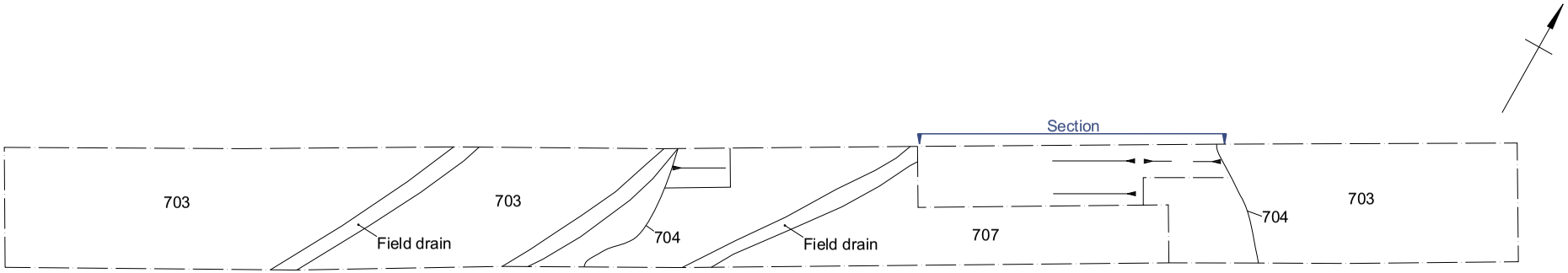
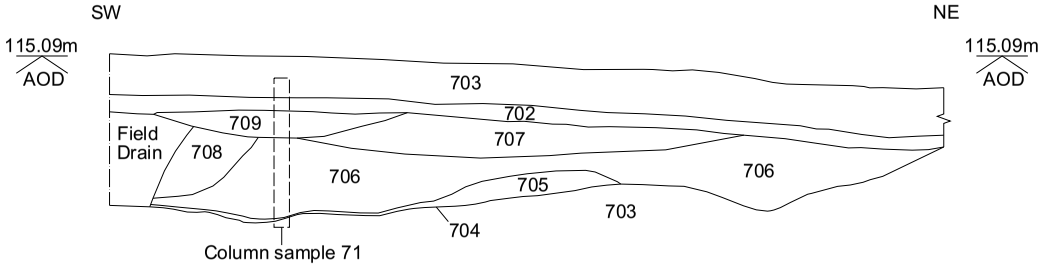
Trench location overlain onto geophysics results

Figure 2



Plan of Trench 7 1:100 0 5m



South-east facing section through feature 704 1:40 0 1

Trench 7 section showing feature 704, looking north-west

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Trench 7, plan and section

Figure 3

Plate 1: Colluvium in Trench 5

Plate 2: Mudstone in Trench 4

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